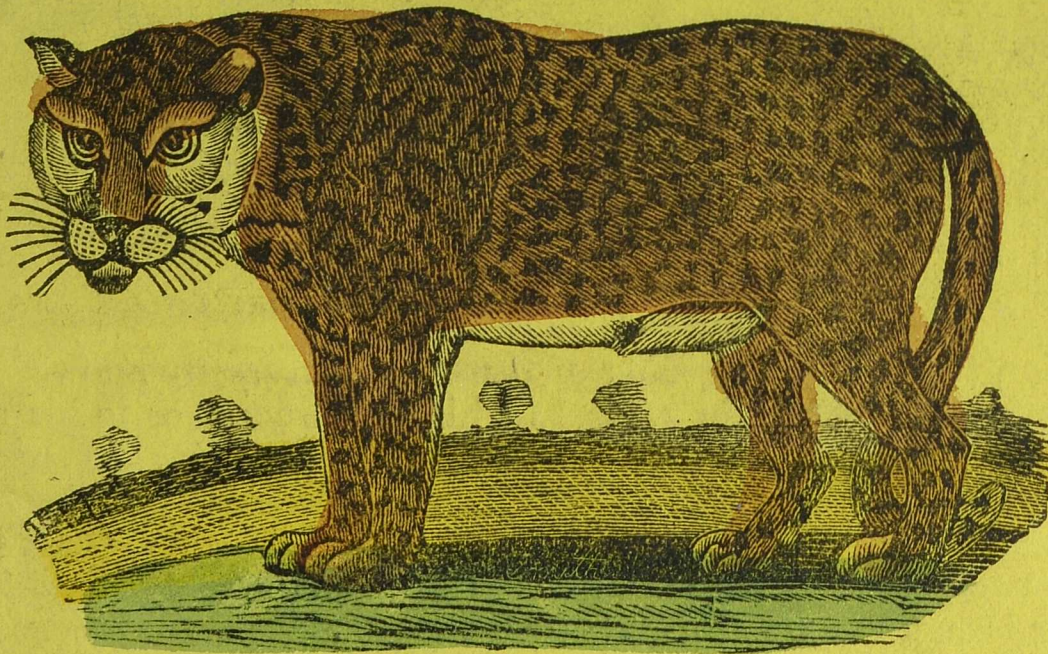


THE
NATURAL HISTORY
OF
BEASTS.

PART 1.

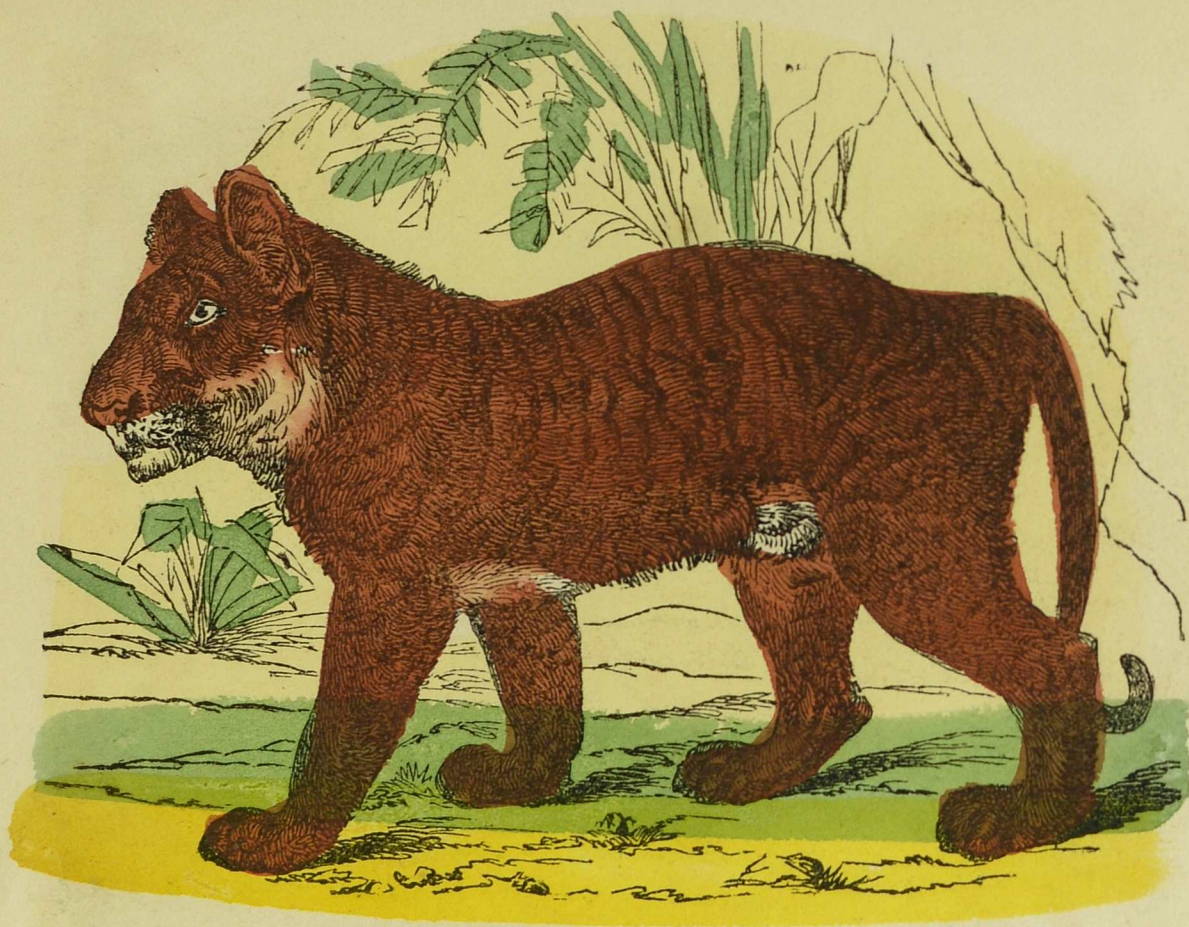


LONDON: PUBLISHED BY J. BYSH,
157 & 158, ALBANY ROAD, OLD KENT ROAD.



THE LION.

To the lion the title of the King of Beasts is universally allowed; and it must be confessed, whether in respect to his appearance, or to his conduct, he has the best claim to the dignity which has been bestowed upon him. This noble animal is a native of Africa and Asia, in which countries he grows to an enormous size. He is sometimes found of the length of six or eight feet, but is usually not more than half that length. He is a long-lived animal, having been known, in this country, to attain the age of seventy. He has a striking figure, a majestic gait, a terrific voice, and a compact well-proportioned form. Such is his strength, that he can break the back of a horse with a stroke of his paw, and throw a strong man to the ground with the sweep of his tail! and he is no less agile than strong. He has a very broad face, supposed to bear some resemblance to that of man, surrounded with a large mane, which gives him a very majestic air. His eyes are bright and fiery, and his tongue is beset with prickles similar to cat's claws.



THE TIGER.

If beauty could give precedence, the tiger (which the ancients considered as the peacock of quadrupeds) would be reckoned the first of beasts; in fact, no quadruped can be more beautiful than this animal; the glossy smoothness of his hair, which lies much smoother, and shines with greater brightness, than even that of the leopard, the extreme blackness of the streaks with which he is marked, and the bright yellow colour of the ground which they ^{adversify}, at once excite the admiration of every beholder. To this beauty of colouring is added an extremely elegant form, much larger, indeed than of the leopard, but more slender, more delicate, and bespeaking the most extreme swiftness and agility. This, however, is all that can be said in his praise. In size he exceeds the lion, which he will not shrink from attacking; but he has none of the noble qualities of the lion. He delights in blood, and seems to kill for the mere pleasure of killing. His strength is so enormous, that he can carry off a horse or a buffalo without his speed being apparently diminished. He has even been known to drag out of a quagmire a buffalo, which several men had been unable to remove. It has been asserted that the tiger is the only animal whose spirit seems untameable that neither violence nor flattery, can prevail in the least on its stubborn nature.



THE TIGER

It hardly needs to be said, that the tiger (which the ancients considered as the monarch of beasts) would be reckoned the first of beasts; in fact, no quadruped can be more beautiful than this animal; the glossy smoothness of his hair, which lies much smoother, and shines with greater brightness, than even that of the leopard, the extreme blackness of the streaks with which he is marked, and the bright yellow colour of the ground which they adorn, at once excite the admiration of every beholder. To this beauty of colouring is added an extremely elegant form, much larger, indeed than of the leopard, but more slender, more delicate, and resembling the most extreme swiftness and agility. This, however, is all that can be said in his praise. In size he exceeds the lion, which he will not shrink from attacking; but he has none of the noble qualities of the lion. He delights in blood, and seems to kill for the mere pleasure of killing. His strength is so enormous, that he can carry off a horse or a buffalo without his speed being apparently diminished. He has even been known to drag out of a quagmire a buffalo, which several men had been unable to remove. It has been asserted that the tiger is the only animal whose spirit seems undiminished by the violence of his battery, can prevail in the least on its sub-

THE OX

In Great Britain the ox is the only horned animal that will apply his strength to the service of mankind; and, in general, is more profitable than the horse for the plough or the draught. There is scarcely any part of this animal without its use; the skin is made into various kinds of leather; the hair is mixed with lime for plastering; the bones are made use of as a substitute for ivory, and being calcined, are used by the tanner as an absorbent to carry off the base metals in retting silver, &c.; combs, and many other articles, are made of the horns; we are supplied with candles from the tallow; and from the feet is procured an oil of great use in preparing and softening leather; besides the well-known benefits derived from butter, milk and cheese; its blood, gall, and liver, have their respective uses in medicine and pharmacy. Under the term oxen may be named different species, such as the Bison, Buffalo, Yak, and the Gaur. The domestic ox was originally bred from the buffalo and the Indian ox, and is considered in its prime at the age of three years, living generally to the age of fourteen. In Scotland, they are black and very small compared to the English ox.



THE OX.

In Great Britain the ox is the only horned animal that will apply his strength to the service of mankind; and, in general, is more profitable than the horse for the plough or the draught. There is scarcely any part of this animal without its use: the skin is made into various kinds of leather; the hair is mixed with lime for plastering; the bones are made use of as a substitute for ivory, and being calcined, are used by the refiner as an absorbent to carry off the baser metals in refining silver, &c.; combs, and many other articles, are made of the horns; we are supplied with candles from the tallow; and from the feet is procured an oil, of great use in preparing and softening leather; besides the well-known benefits derived from butter, milk and cheese; its blood, gall, and liver, have their respective uses in manufacture and medicine. Under the term oxen may be named different species, such as the Bison, Buffalo, Yack, and the Gayal. The domestic ox was originally bred from the buffalo and the Indian ox, and is considered in its prime at the age of three years, living generally to the age of fourteen. In Scotland, they are black and very small compared to the English ox.



THE GOAT.

The goat seems, in every respect, more fitted for a life of savage liberty than the sheep. It easily attaches itself to man, and seems sensible to his caresses. It is also stronger and swifter, more courageous, and more playful, lively, capricious, and vagrant : it is not easily confined to its flock, but chooses its own pastures, loves to stray remote from the rest. It chiefly delights in climbing precipices, in going to the very edge of danger ; it is often seen suspended upon an eminence hanging over the sea, upon a very little base, and even sleeps there in security. Nature has, in some measure, fitted it for traversing these declivities with ease ; the hoof is hollow underneath, with sharp edges, so that it walks as securely on the ridge of a house, as on the level ground. It is a hardy animal, and very easily sustained, and seems better pleased with the neglected wild, than the cultivated fields of art ; it chooses the healthy mountains, or the shrubby rock ; its favourite food is the tops of boughs, or the tender bark of young trees.

The gazelles, now termed antelopes, constitute a very numerous race. No less than twenty-eight species of this beautiful genus are described in Dr. Turrill's translation of Linnæus. They inhabit (two or three species excepted) the hottest parts of the globe; or at least those parts of the temperate zone that lie so near to the tropics as to form a doubtful climate. None, therefore, except the arctic and the alpine, are to be met with in Europe; not a single species has been yet discovered in any part of the new world. Their proper climate seems therefore to be those of Africa and Asia. The antelopes are animals generally of an elegant and active make; of a restless and timid disposition; extremely vigilant; of great swiftness; and most of their bounding so high and elastic, as to strike the observer with astonishment. Some species of antelopes form herds of two or three thousands, while others keep in small groups. The white antelope is the size of a small cow; with straight tapering horns, very long, acute, and black; it has a nose like a cow's, with a tufted tail. It is milk-white, except the markings on the face and limbs, which are of a reddish colour.



THE ANTELOPE.

The gazelles, now termed antelopes, constitute a very numerous race. No less than twenty-eight species of this beautiful genus are described in Dr. Turton's translation of Linné. They inhabit (two or three species excepted) the hottest parts of the globe; or at least those parts of the temperate zone that lies so near to the tropics as to form a doubtful climate. None, therefore, except the saiga and the chamois, are to be met with in Europe: notwithstanding the warmth of South America is suited to their natures, not a single species has been yet discovered in any part of the new world. Their proper climate seems therefore to be those of Africa and Asia. The antelopes are animals generally of an elegant and active make; of a restless and timid disposition; extremely watchful; of great vivacity; remarkably swift and agile; and most of their boundings so light and elastic, as to strike the observer with astonishment. Some species of antelopes form herds of two or three thousands, while others keep in small troops. The white antelope is the size of a small cow, with straight tapering horns, very long, acute, and black; it has a nose like a cow's, with a tufted tail. It is milk-white, except the markings on the face and limbs, which are of a reddish colour.



THE FOX.

The fox has ever been famous for his cunning and his arts, and he partly merits his reputation. Without attempting to oppose either the dogs or the shepherds, without attacking the flock or alarming the village, he finds an easier way to subsist, or gains by his address what is denied to his strength or courage. Patient and prudent, he waits the opportunity for depredation, and varies his conduct with every occasion. He generally keeps his kennel at the edge of a wood, and yet within an easy journey of some neighbouring cottage. From thence he listens to the crowing of the cock, and the cackling of the domestic fowls. He scents them at a distance; he siezes his opportunity, conceals his approach, creeps slyly along, makes the attack, and seldom returns without his booty, If he be able to get into the yard, he begins by levelling all the poultry without remorse; and carrying off a part of the spoil, hides it at some convenient place, and again returns to the charge. Taking off another fowl in the same manner, he hides that also but not in the same place; and this he practises for several times together, until the approach of day, or the noise of the domestic, gives him warning to retire. The she-fox produces but once a year, and seldom has more than four or five cubs at a litter. She goes with young about six weeks. The term of their lives is about twelve or fourteen years.

THE FOX.

The fox has ever been famous for his cunning and his arts, and he partly merits his reputation. Without attempting to oppose either the dogs or the shepherds, without attacking the flock or alarming the village, he finds an easier way to subsist, or gains by his address what is denied to his strength or courage. Patient and prudent, he waits the opportunity for deception, and varies his conduct with every occasion. He generally keeps his kennel at the edge of a wood, and yet within an easy journey of some neighbouring cottage. From thence he listens to the crowing of the cock, and the cackling of the domestic fowls. His scent is keen at a distance; he seizes his opportunity, conceals his approach, creeps slyly along, makes the attack, and seldom returns without his booty. If he is able to get into the yard, he begins by leveling all the poultry without remorse; and carrying off a part of the spoil, hides it at some convenient place, and again returns to the charge. Taking off another fowl in the same manner, he hides that also but not in the same place; and this he practices for several times together, until the approach of day, or the noise of the domestic fowls gives him warning to retire. The she-fox produces but once a year, and seldom has more than four or five cubs at a litter. She goes with young about six weeks. The term of their lives is about twelve or fourteen years.



THE DOG.

Of all carnivorous quadrupeds the dog has every reason to claim the preference, being the most intelligent of all known quadrupeds, and the acknowledged friend of mankind. Independent of the beauty of his form, his vivacity, force, and swiftness, he is possessed of all those internal qualifications that can conciliate the affections of man, and make the tyrant a protector. A natural share of courage, and an angry and ferocious disposition, renders the dog, in its savage state, a formidable enemy to all other animals : but these readily give way to very different qualities in the domestic dog, whose only ambition seems the desire to please ; he is seen to come crouching, to lay his force, his courage, and all his useful talents at the feet of his master ; he waits his orders, to which he pays implicit obedience : he consults his looks, and a single glance is sufficient to put him in motion ; he is more faithful even than at the most boasted among men ; he is constant in his affections, friendly without interest, and grateful for the slightest favours : much mindful of benefits received, than injuries offered, he is not driven off by unkindness ; he still continues humble, submissive, and imploring ; his only hope to be serviceable, his only terror to displease ; he licks the hand that has been just lifted to strike him, and at last disarms resentment by submissive perseverance.



THE BADGER.

The legs of this animal are so short, that its belly seems almost to touch the ground; this, however, is a false appearance, caused by the length of the hair, which makes the body, seem much more bulky than it really is. It is a solitary, stupid animal, that seeks refuge remote from man, and digs itself a deep winding hole, with great assiduity; its legs being very strong, and its claws stiff, and horny. It seldom ventures far from its habitation, as it runs but slowly, and can find safety only in the strength of its retreat. When surprised by dogs at some distance from its hole, it falls upon its back, combats with desperate resolution, and seldom dies unrevengeed on its enemies. It is asserted by naturalists, that this animal is carnivorous, and that nothing that has life can come amiss to it. This, however, is quite a mistake, as the badger's principal food is roots, fruits, snails, and worms. It sleeps the greater part of its time, and is particularly fat during the winter season. Its hole is remarkably clean; and when the female brings forth, she makes a comfortable warm bed of hay, at the bottom of the hole, for the reception of her young. She brings forth in summer, generally to the number of three or four, which she feeds at first with her milk, and afterwards with such petty prey as he can surprise.



THE GIRAFFE.