

**The gigantic giraffe or camelopard, the gensbok, or ibex of the Egyptians, the bontibok, and the gazelle : neither of which were ever before brought to the continent of America, and but barely seen in any part of the civilized world ...**

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# The Living Wonder of the World!!!

*This Exhibition* will open on Tuesday June 11th 1839, in COURT STREET,  
adjoining the Court House, Boston. Open from 9 A. M. to 9 P. M.

THE  
**GIGANTIC GIRAFFE**  
OR  
**CAMELOPARD,**  
THE  
**GENSBOK, OR IBEX OF THE EGYPTIANS,**  
**THE BONTIBOK, AND THE GAZELLE.**

NEITHER OF WHICH WERE EVER BEFORE BROUGHT TO THE CONTINENT OF AMERICA, AND BUT  
RARELY SEEN IN ANY PART OF THE CIVILIZED WORLD.

ADMITTANCE 25 CENTS, CHILDREN UNDER TEN YEARS, HALF PRICE.



THE GIRAFFE, OR CAMELOPARD.

This stupendous, majestic, and beautiful animal, which is exquisitely depicted in the above masterly engraving, by Mr. Adams of New York, is acknowledged to be the greatest wonder of the animal kingdom. It is not only the tallest of all known creatures, but the rarest and most singular character. It has been the great desideratum of naturalists in all ages, and but few specimens have been seen for the last thousand years. It was known to the Persians about two thousand years ago, having been brought as a present to Dydaspes, father of Darius I., several centuries before the Christian Era, by Abyssians, who brought it from the interior of Africa, where alone it has ever been found.

After this we hear no more of it until it was exhibited to the Romans, by Julius Caesar. From that period, until within a few years, its existence has been deemed fabulous, and the wonderful descriptions of it by Pliny, Strabo, and others, though in no wise exceeding the truth, tended to confirm the idea that it was a creation of poetic fiction; nor was this impression entirely removed from the minds of scientific naturalists until about ten years ago, when two living specimens were presented to the kings of England and France, by the late Dey of Algiers. The specimen now exhibited to the American people, is one of the two brought to this country by Macomber, Welch, & Co. who have been employing expeditions into the heart of Central Africa for five years past, and at an immense expense to obtain them.



The average height of a full grown South African Giraffe, is 20 feet, though some have been seen in their native wilds, upwards of 21 feet. The length from the tip of the tail to the head, is 20 feet; girth, 13 feet; length of fore leg, 8 feet 2 inches; hind leg, 8 feet. The one here exhibited, although but thirty two months old, is 16 feet high, and should the climate prove favorable to its health, it will yet grow several feet taller. The Giraffe, is a gregarious, herbaceous, and ruminating quadruped, entirely *sui generis* in its structure and some of its habits. In its general contour, it unites several traits of the ostrich, the antelope, the camel, and the stag. The curve of its towering neck, which sometimes gives it a height of more than twenty feet, throws the grace of the swan into the disproportionate elongation of the ostrich. Its delicately moulded head, greatly improved upon that of the camel, has much of the shapely beauty of the antelope, whilst its rich and full black eye, fringed with long silky lashes, rivals that of the famed gazelle. Its forelegs are as admirably symmetrical as those of the stag, and are as long from the cloven hoof to the joint of the shoulder, as the neck is from its base on the shoulder to its junction with the head. The great depth of the shoulder, from the camel-like protuberance which crowns it, to the joint of the clavicle, usually creates the impression that the fore legs of this quadruped are most disproportionably long when compared with its hind legs, especially as the line of its back descends from the neck to the tail, in an angle nearly equal to that presented by a stag thrown upon its haunches. In reality, however, the fore and hind legs are within two inches of the same length.

The front aspect of this creature, presenting an orbicular, double convex chest, resting upon its long perpendicular legs, and surmounted by a soaring neck which bears the creature's gentle and vivaciously expressive head high above its wondering beholders, the privileged occupant of a loftier sphere of vision, is unique and striking. This extraordinary elevation of the neck and head, viewed in connection with the gigantic dimensions of the whole frame, produces an impression of mighty stature and agility combined, such as no other animal can convey, and which invariably exceeds expectation. The large dark spots which dapple its soft, sleek skin, are not like those of the leopard, although it is indebted to these for a moiety of its ancient and still common name of Camelopard. They are rather square and irregularly angular than circular, and are arranged with much regularity. On the head are two small blunt horns, about six inches in length, tipped with small tufts of erect hair, and standing nearly parallel to each other. It has another protuberance, besides these, midway between them on the frontal bone, but not much elevated, and two others on the occipal, on each side of the mane, as if this remarkable creature was originally designed to have five horns. The ears are beautifully formed, and the animal having an acute sense of hearing turns them with spirited flexibility in the direction of distant sounds. The male and female differ so little in appearance from each other that they can scarcely be distinguished at a distance of twenty paces. The prevailing color of both, when young, is that of a brownish red, which deepens with increased age. The female has four teats, bears one foal at a birth, and gestates a whole year.

Its ordinary food is the foliage of trees, and particularly the leaves of a species of *mimosa*, called by the natives *kameel-doorn*; but it will eat those of the oak, the briar, and nearly all others of an astringent flavor, showing a decided preference for those that are also aromatic. In its domesticated state, it will eat hay, clover and fine straw, like the horse; but, in the absence of its natural green food, it is found necessary to supply it occasionally with esculent roots and juicy fruits. Its tongue is very long and black, coated with a hard impervious skin, and possessing a tapering contractibility, admirably adapted to its gathering its favorite food from among the involved and formidably prickly branches of the *mimosa*. Its ordinary speed is equal to that of a high bred horse, and the length of its majestic strides when in full career, perhaps exceeds the powers of any other animal. Although timid at the approach of man, it defends itself with much valor against the attacks of inferior animals, and even of the lion, kicking powerfully with its heels or rearing on them and striking with its fore feet with great rapidity and precision. Such is the force of a blow from its extremely long legs, that it has been known to split the skull of a lion in pieces.



PURSUIT AND MANNER OF CAPTURING THE GIRAFFE.

In the freedom of its native plains, and when roving in those splendid herds in which it is chiefly seen, with its unrestrained disposition and powers in full display, the Giraffe is an animal of transcendent magnificence and interest. Exquisitely gifted with the senses of sight, scent, and hearing, the approach of the hunter never fails to startle the browsing groups from their woodland retreats, and to send them, with their lion-like tails arched high upon their haunches, in full speed over the vast level plains in which they rove. Having acquired a distance which commands a good circuit of view, the collected herd wheel round, lifting their lofty necks to the highest stretch, until some tall and patriarchal chieftain of the troop, gives the signal for farther



retreat, or for a dignified and more leisurely return to the clusters of trees on which they feed. If the hunter is bent upon pursuit, he will now breathe his steed awhile, knowing that its speed and bottom will soon be taxed to the utmost point. When prepared for the start, he spurs forward, with his *lasso*, or noosed rope, ready coiled in his right hand for the exercise of his skill. He soon finds that the immense strides of his noble game are leaving him far behind, and he has recourse to the stratagem which his experience has taught him is indispensable to his success. In common with all other wild and timid animals, when pursued, the Giraffes direct their course to the windward. The hunter, aware of this, turns his horse three or four points from the line of their course, as if intending to pass them far ahead; and thus, whilst they keep their eye upon him as the pursued rather than the pursuer, they insensibly approach him—the diagonal line of his course converging to them; and he comes into the midst of the herd, notwithstanding their superior speed, because they have to run a distance equal to about one third of a circle more than their wily foe has to perform in the same time. If the hunter has well husbanded the strength of his horse, he now dashes toward some particular Giraffe—always selecting the smallest—which he hopes to capture; and throwing the noose of his *lasso* over its head, instantly leaps from his horse, before the Giraffe has run out the length of the long coil which he holds loosely in his hand. The first full tension of the rope, tightens the noose round the neck; every struggle increases the suffocating pressure, and the captive falls back upon his haunches and reels to the ground. The hunter, still keeping the rope moderately strained, approaches the exhausted animal, leaps astride its head, and using its long neck as a lever for the control of its body, firmly holds the creature down until the Hottentot *achter* rider, who has perchance been thrown out in the chase, comes up with other cords to bind the captive for its destination. But this operation is less easily completed than contemplated. Hursting every restraint and springing from the ground, the gallant prisoner, though a mere foal, but a few months old, will often become furious in defence of its freedom, striking at the hunter with its fore feet, and even pursuing him to the bush or tree behind which he usually retreats until the captive's limbs are entangled in multiplied coils. A wagon is then brought from the hunter's encampment—often six or seven hours journey distant—and water, welcome water, not often to be found on the open and arid plains, is brought to assuage the thirst of man and beast—a thirst, of which those who have not hunted the swift Giraffe, in the merciless glare of a torrid sun, can form but a slight idea.



VIEW OF THE ENCAMPMENT AND MODE OF DOMESTICATING THE GIRAFFE.

As soon as the Young Giraffes are brought to any settlement or encampment where a supply of milk can be obtained to wean them, large pits eight or ten feet deep are dug to place them in, as they would be likely to injure themselves by springing about in wooden buildings. Here they are fed with milk, juicy roots, fruits and esculent branches of trees for several months, and are taught to eat such other food as can perhaps only be procured on their journey to their ultimate destination. In this way they are taught to eat out of the hand of their keepers, and out of baskets tied to the roof of the covered wagons, to which they are to be fastened on their future march, and in which they are to be carried if unable to walk.

When the Giraffes are sufficiently domesticated and trained to unusual food in the manner above stated, the expedition which has captured them prepare to return to their home. For this purpose the wagons are repaired, the oxen yoked, and the horses and cords placed under their respective conductors. Before crossing those immense arid plains which sometimes afford no water in several days journey, skins are filled with water, which is husbanded with scrupulous economy as the greatest treasure the earth can there afford. Such Giraffes as are so far domesticated as to follow the wagons, are fastened to them by a halter round the head and a basket or box of leaves or roots is fixed to the covering of the wagon, at a convenient height for the animal to feed, as shown in the next engraving. Other wagons follow in the train with the baggage of the party; and in this way passing through many perils, are frequently impeded by the avarice or hostility of innumerable savage tribes who often thus for the first time behold the face of a white man, the expedition perform their toilsome and dangerous journey toward the Cape of Good Hope.

This Giraffe was captured, with others, by Mr. John Clayton, agent of Maconber, Welch, & Co. the proprietors, in the Great Kaliharri Desert of South Africa, in Lat. 25 30 S. and Lon. 25 E. In the course of these journeys, extending nearly to the tropic of Capricorn, and far deeper into the unexplored regions of Central Africa than any other civilized traveller had ever penetrated, Mr. Clayton captured many Giraffes; but it was not until his expedition of 1835 and '6, that he succeeded in bringing any of them alive to Cape Town. Of eleven which he caught on this occasion, seven died in the course of his return, in consequence of bruises incurred in their struggles, and the long deprivation of water and milk, which, during a journey of 1200 miles could only be obtained at stages far distant from each other. Of the four which he brought to the Cape, one died from an abscess, and another from





**MODE OF TRAVELLING WITH THE GIRAFFE FROM THE INTERIOR TO THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.**

an injury received in putting it on board the vessel for exportation. The two survivors arrived in this country from the Cape on the 7th of June, 1838, in the barque Prudent, after a voyage of fifty-one days, and when landed they had cost the proprietors upwards of \$30,000. The one here exhibited is a female, and is thirty-two months old. She is a very fine specimen for her age. Being a native of a very warm climate, which has no extreme variations of temperature, it will be necessary to remove her to the most Southern States of the Union before the heat of summer becomes materially diminished; and so sensitive are they to all atmospheric changes, that their location must be regulated by the progress of the seasons. They are the only Giraffes that have ever been brought into any civilized country by the enterprise of individual citizens, and there are but two kingdoms of Europe which can boast of possessing any living specimen. The intelligence and national pride of the American people will doubtless appreciate and remunerate the adventurous undertaking.

There is a Smaller Species of the Giraffe found in Egypt, though they are never known to stand more than fifteen feet high when full grown, and they do not exceed two thirds the size of the Real Giraffe from South Africa. The Giraffe offered for Exhibition in this bill is but 32 months old, and is many feet taller, and much heavier than any full grown Egyptian Giraffe ever seen.

This rare and costly Exhibition also contains

**THE GENSBOK, OR THE IBEX OF THE ANCIENTS—THE FABLED UNICORN OF OLD.**

This also is a most rare and extraordinary animal, brought from the interior of Africa, and never before seen either in this country or in Europe. It belongs to the antelope genus, but is more remarkable than any other species for the peculiar marks on its skin, the vivid brightness of its colors and the length of its incurved horns. Its ground color is of an ashy blue, with jet black and snowy white stripes on its sides, back, legs, and head. Its horns are far longer than those of any other animal of the antelope kind, curved backward from the head, having about twenty rings reaching half way to the points, which are slender and very sharp. It is a gentle creature except when attacked by a beast of prey, and then it is a match for the lion. The Gensbok darts at the crouching lion, with the velocity of lightning, and drives its long horns instantly through the body. It is not uncommon in the African forests to find the Gensbok and the Lion lying dead together, the latter being pierced through with the long horns, and the former torn to death by the claws of the expiring lion.

**THE BONTIBOK OF THE ANTELOPE TRIBE.**

This elegant creature is a rare variety of the gazelle species, never before brought to America. It inhabits the vast plains of Central Africa, and migrates in herds of hundreds or thousands together, in search of pasture and water, according to the season. The foremost part of these immense solid columns, are generally fat, and afford delicious food to the hunter; but the hindmost having to live upon the scanty herbage left by the locust-like hosts that precede them, are generally very thin. The Bontibok is the most agile and fleet of all gazelles, and is beautifully variegated with white, black, and reddish-fawn colors, curiously and effectively disposed. When pursued, the whole herd will seem to be flying in the air, from their constantly leaping over each others heads, at great heights.

**THE DARK-EYED GAZELLE.**

The most beautiful of all the ruminating tribe of animals in form and symmetry the beau ideal of perfection in all nature's handicraft. The "lustrous dark eye," to which, in metaphor, the ancient poets so often allude, and to which the oriental lover is made to compare his mistress' "beaming orbs." This is the only one of the species ever seen in this country.

The Proprietors in offering this rare, beautiful, and interesting assemblage of animals to the public, for the present low price of admission, feel great pleasure in their belief, that no exhibition heretofore offered, though ever so extensive, combines the same interest that has been uniformly excited in the thousands who have visited this establishment, during its sojourn in the United States, the entire collection being so unique, and an object of such universal curiosity, it cannot fail to fill the mind of the spectators with wonder and admiration. The Public are assured that it is more than probably the last opportunity that will again occur for years of visiting these rare animals.

*This Exhibition will remain no longer than Saturday, June 22d.*