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tes illustrative of natural history...

THE COMMON WEASEL.—*Mustela vulgaris.*

The length of the Common Weasel is rather more than eight inches. Its body is long, and feet short: the teeth and claws are extremely sharp. Its colour is reddish brown above, white beneath. It is a quick, watchful animal, and a great enemy to rats, mice, moles, and small birds. It sometimes makes free with partridges, young hares, rabbits, and chickens; but it may be said to do more good than harm when the rats and mice, and other vermin which it kills, are taken into account. Indeed the blame thrown upon the Weasel for robberies in the farm-yard and hen-roost is often due to the Stoat, or Ermine Weasel, which is a bold and destructive little creature. The Common Weasel is an expert climber, and surprises birds in the nest, sucks the eggs or carries off the young; but its chief objects of prey are the field-mouse and the mole. These it follows in their runs, finding its way into small holes, and among the close and tangled herbage of coppice, thickets, and hedge-rows. It hunts by scent, when it loses sight of the object of its pursuit, and will take the water and swim after it, if necessary. It is, however, itself, sometimes attacked by hawks. Mr. Bell* relates the following fact, which shows that violence and rapine, even when accompanied by superior strength, are not always a match for the ingenuity of an inferior enemy.

At Bloxworth, in Dorsetshire, a kite was seen to pounce on some object on the ground, and rise with it in its talons. The kite, however, soon began to show signs of uneasiness, and was evidently endeavouring to force from it with its feet something which gave it pain, when suddenly both fell to the ground. The gentleman who had watched the circumstance, on drawing near, saw a Weasel, apparently unhurt, run away from the kite, which was quite dead, with a hole eaten through the skin under the wing, and the large blood-vessels of the part torn through." The Weasel will stoutly defend her young, against any enemy, and die rather than desert them. The Weasel is mentioned in the Scriptures as an unclean animal.†

* British Quadrupeds, 8vo. p. 145, 1837.

† Lev. xi. 29.

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THE ROEBUCK.——*Cervus capreolus.*

The Roebuck, which is the smallest of the Deer kind, was formerly an inhabitant of Wales, and of the northern parts of England; but it is now very rare in these places, and is chiefly found in Scotland. It is fond of mountainous districts, while the Fallow-Deer delights in wooded plains, and the Stag in extensive forests. It differs also from them in its domestic habits, being kind and constant to its mate, as its chosen companion for life: "so that," as Mr. Bell observes, "the Turtle-Dove has no longer the exclusive claim to be considered as the honoured emblem of the virtue of conjugal constancy." These animals are not often met with in large numbers, but are seen two or three together; they are extremely cautious, and make use of their fine sense of smelling, as well as hearing, to warn them of an enemy. As they are quick at discovering the approach of man, one way by which their pursuer deceives them, is to hold some lighted peat in the hand, as the animals are accustomed to the smell, and less guarded in proceeding towards the spot. Their cry has a sound between the bleating of a sheep and a bark; at night this cry may be heard at a great distance. They are very active, and bound without much seeming effort across a space of nearly twenty feet. When closely hunted, or suddenly startled, their speed is wonderfully great, and the action of their body and limbs beautiful. The usual method of killing them is to send hounds into the woods, and men to beat the covers; the tracks or passes being guarded by the shooters. Another mode sometimes adopted is to walk quietly through their haunts in the early dawn, and endeavour to get within shot of them, which, however, is no easy matter.

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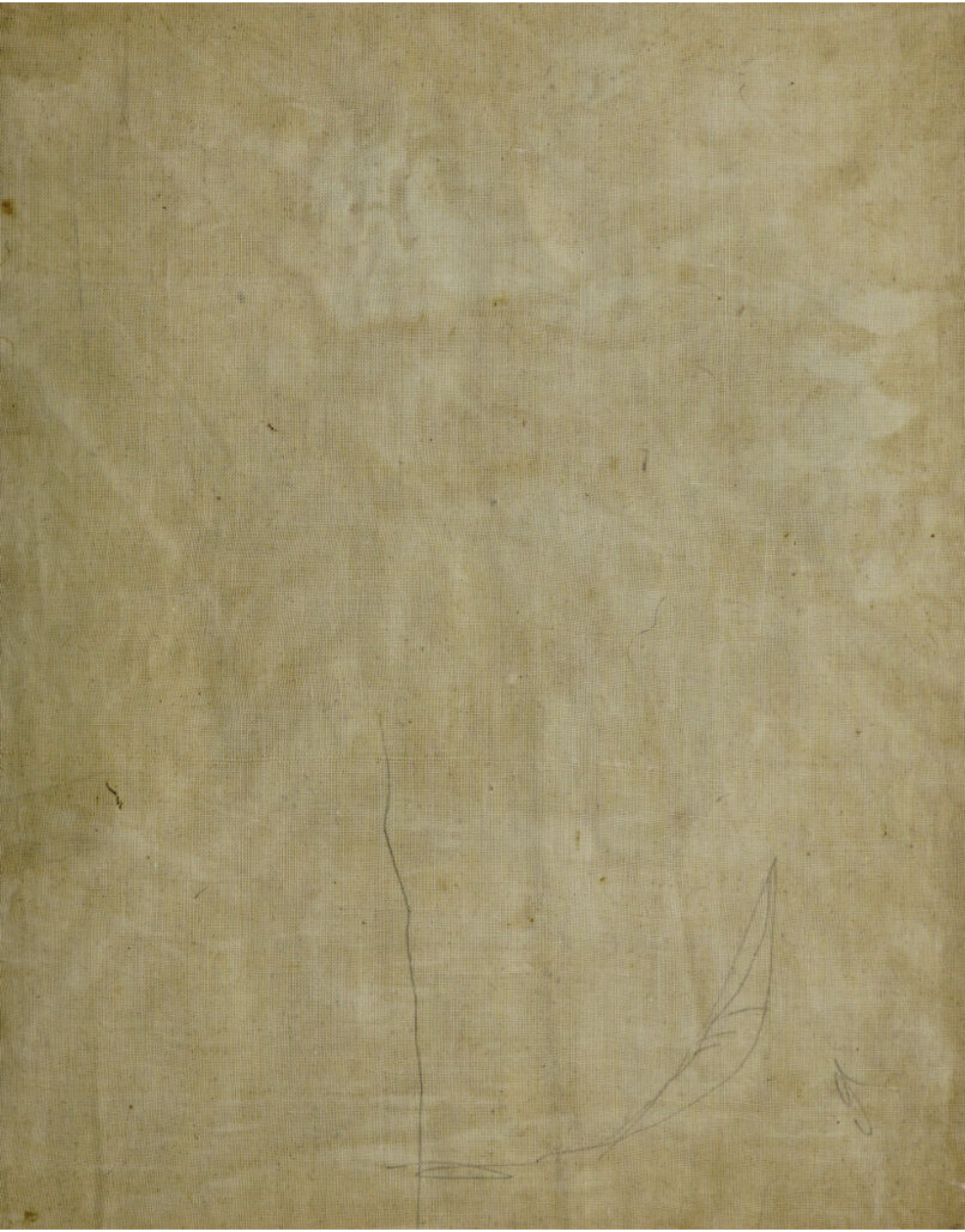

THE COMMON GREY PARROT.——*Psittacus erythacus.*

The species of the Parrot kind are very numerous, being widely spread over Asia and Africa, and some parts of America. The beauty of the scenery in those warm countries in which they abound is much increased by the rich varied plumage, and lively movements, of the several birds of this family, to which belong the Macaw, the Cockatoo, and the Parroquet. They live chiefly on fruit and seeds; though, when kept in a cage, they will occasionally eat both flesh and fish. The Parrot has four toes, two before and two behind, with which it climbs, and which answer the purpose of hands for holding its food, and carrying it to its mouth, in the same manner as squirrels and monkeys use their front paws. There is another habit common to parrots: in climbing or creeping they fasten by the bill, the upper division of which is moveable, and use their feet only as secondary aids.

The bird represented above is well known for its amusing ways in imitating the human voice. It listens with attention, and strives to repeat words; it dwells constantly on some syllables, which it has heard, and seems to set itself tasks, endeavouring each day to recollect its lesson. The accuracy with which parrots, after careful training, are known to utter long sentences, is surprising. Some curious instances of this are related in Bingley's Animal Biography, and in other books. He gives a particular description of one which had been bought by a gentleman at Bristol for one hundred guineas, and for which the purchaser was offered five hundred guineas a year, for the purpose of exhibition. It was a great talker, could whistle a variety of tunes, and beat time with all the exactness of a scientific musician. Its death was announced in the General Evening Post for October 9, 1802. Dr. Goldsmith tells a story of King Henry the Seventh's parrot, which fell out of the window of a room in the palace at Westminster, into the Thames, and at once called aloud, as it had heard people do, "A boat! twenty pounds for a boat!" A waterman passing, took it up, and saved the poor bird's life; and, on a question arising as to the amount to be paid to the man as a reward for restoring the Parrot, it was appealed to, when it instantly screamed out, "Give the knave a grost!" Locke, in his Essay on the Human Understanding, relates a still more extraordinary anecdote, which is quoted by Bingley, of a conversation held with a Parrot in the Brazilian language.

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THE JERBOA.——*Dipus Gerboa.*

This pretty little creature is a native of Egypt, Barbary, Syria, the eastern Deserts of Siberia, and some parts of Tartary. It is about eight inches in length, is very active, and in moving, generally uses its hind legs only. On the approach of danger it takes high leaps, and by its great swiftness often escapes powerful enemies. It is a lively, but timid animal, feeds entirely on vegetables, and burrows in the ground like a rabbit. It is fond of warmth, making its bed of the finest and most delicate herbage; and, wrapping itself up close in hay at the approach of cold weather, sleeps during the greater part of the winter. The flesh is reckoned a delicacy by the Arabs. Some writers suppose that this is the "mouse" of Holy Scripture, in which it is spoken of as unclean,* and forbidden as an article of food. When the lords of the Philistines desired to make a trespass-offering, as an acknowledgment that they had offended the God of Israel by bringing His ark from its proper place, their diviners enjoined the offering of such images as represented the evils from which they were delivered. Among these were "five golden mice,"—"images of your mice that mar the land."† "This," says Bishop Patrick, "was also a custom among the ancient heathens, to consecrate to their gods such monuments of their deliverances as represented the evils from which they were freed."

* Levit. xi. 29; see also Isaiah lxvi. 17.

† 1 Sam. vi. 4, 5.

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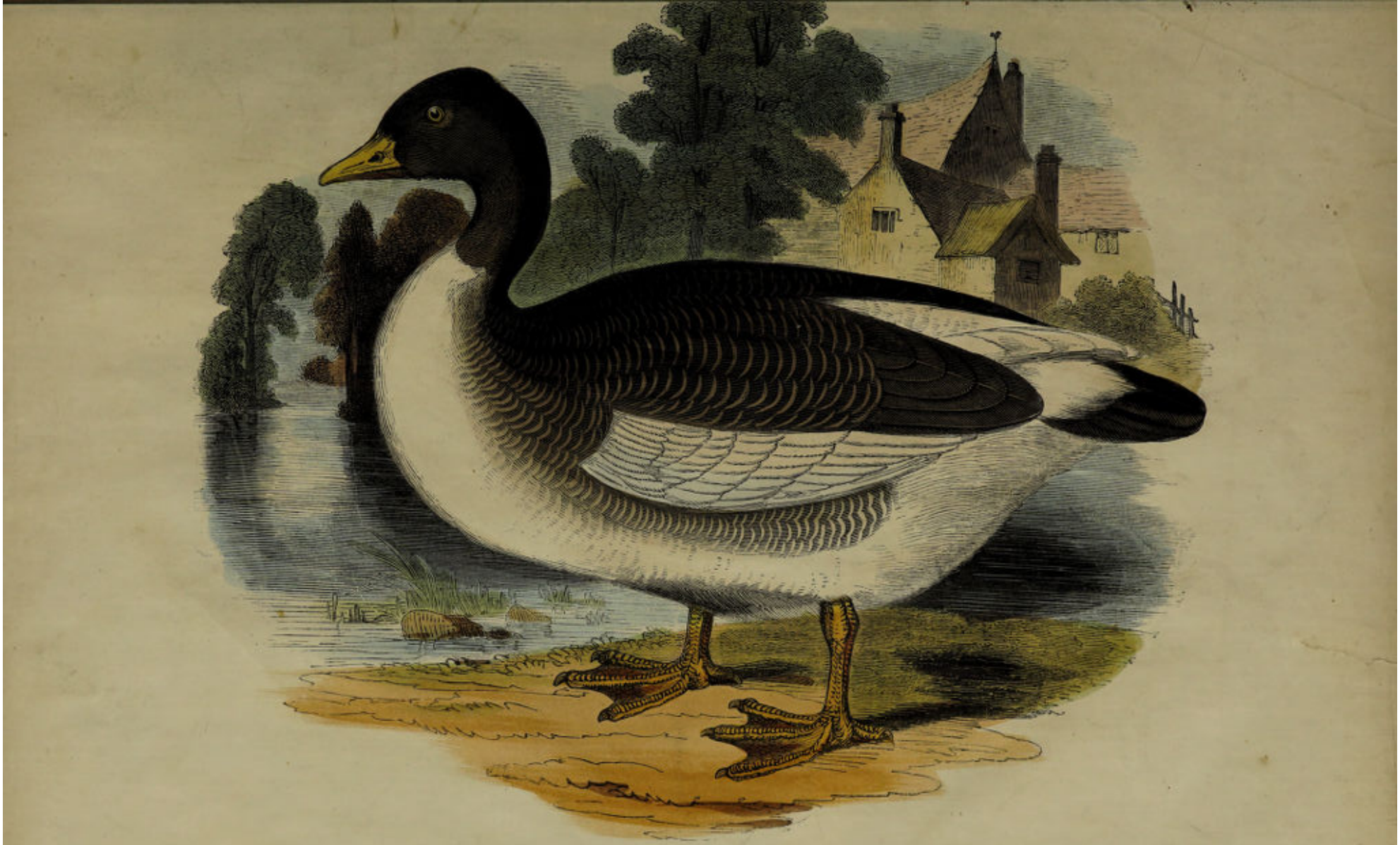

THE COMMON GOOSE.——*Anas domesticus.*

The order of *web-footed* birds consists of those which are evidently calculated for swimming, having their toes connected with a web extending nearly to the nails. Our common tame Goose is of great service to man in various ways. It is valuable as an article of food, while its quills and feathers serve many important uses; though, since the general introduction of steel pens, its quills are in less request in this country than they formerly were. Geese are kept in vast quantities in the fens of Lincolnshire, and are sent from thence to London, when ready for market, in droves of from two to nine thousand. Persons who keep flocks of these birds in the country generally pluck them for feathers and quills four or five times in a year, and thus find them very profitable. The old geese submit with tolerable patience to this cruel operation, but the young ones are clamorous and unruly. Cottagers and others, living near commons, can turn the rearing of a few geese to good account. But besides the pecuniary worth of the Goose, it has certain qualities which ought to have secured it from the contempt in which, for its alleged stupidity, it is often held: it shows constancy and affection, not only to its own species, and to other birds and animals, but particularly to man; and it is not improbable that these qualities, which were known to the ancients, might have rendered it an object of high esteem, and occasioned its being consecrated to Juno, the queen of their idol gods. We learn from Livy, that, 2230 years since, some of these birds saved the citadel of Rome from the invasion of the Gauls, who during the night had nearly succeeded in obtaining an entrance within the walls. But the geese commenced a loud cackling, and awakened the Romans in time to force the enemy to retire.

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THE CAPE BUFFALO.——*Bos Caffer.*

This animal is of the Ox tribe: it is a native of South Africa, and is well known among the inhabitants of that country for its savage disposition and enormous strength. Happily, as agriculture and population have been extended, this creature has become less an object of terror than formerly among the natives and settlers of the Cape colony; but it still finds a shelter in the large forests and jungles of the eastern districts. Skulking in one of these jungles, the Buffalo watches the traveller, as he is passing, and suddenly rushes out upon him. In this way, when in a mischievous temper, he will assail a party of men with their horses. It is stated by the Swedish traveller Sparrman, and others, that if one of these Buffaloes kills a man by tossing and goring him with its horns, it will stand over him for a long time, trampling upon him with its hoofs, pressing him with its knees, mangling the body with its horns, and stripping off the skin with its rough and prickly tongue. It appears, however, that the animal shows this shocking ferocity chiefly when in a state of irritation, at certain seasons of the year, or when it has been provoked by hunters. The Hottentots pursue this dangerous and dreadful sport on foot, and, from their lightness and activity, generally succeed in escaping injury and despatching their prey. It is said, that the hide of this Buffalo is so thick and tough, that, in some parts, a common musket-ball will not penetrate it. Tin is therefore mixed with lead in preparing the balls designed for this purpose. Like the hog, it is fond of wallowing in the mire. Its flesh is lean, but juicy, and of a high flavour. The Hottentots cut the flesh into slices, smoke it, and broil it on the coals. The strongest and best thongs for harness are made of the hide.

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THE TURKEY.——*Meleagris Gallopavo.*

This useful bird was not known in Europe till about three hundred years ago, when it was brought from America to France. It was imported into England in the reign of Henry the Eighth, and soon became a favourite article of food, especially at the Christmas season. Turkeys are reared in great numbers in Norfolk, Suffolk, Devonshire, and some other counties, whence they are sent to the London markets. In their wild state, in North America, Turkeys herd together in large flocks, but, like the native Indians, they are every year becoming more scarce, having been driven from their former haunts by those who have taken possession of the land. Severe discipline is exercised in these flocks by the old birds, particularly the males, which seem to govern the youngers with great authority. "The young males," says Bishop Stanley, "are called gobblers, and are compelled to live by themselves; for if they venture to approach their seniors, they are sure of being severely punished: many are killed on the spot by repeated blows on the skull." The hunting of birds of this species is a frequent diversion of the natives of Canada. When they have discovered a number collected together, they send a well-trained dog into the midst of them. The birds no sooner perceive their enemy, than they make off at full speed, and with such swiftness, as to leave the dog behind. He however follows, and at last forces them to take shelter in a tree, where they sit exhausted, and incapable of further exertion, till the hunters knock them down with long poles, one after another. Their food consists chiefly of acorns, berries, and insects. The male bird is proverbially of an angry and excitable disposition. The female is generally more mild and gentle; she is often seen with a large family around her; but, though so large and powerful a creature, she gives them very little protection against the attacks of any mischievous animal that comes in her way. She warns them to take care of themselves, but does not, like the common hen, willingly encounter danger for their sakes.

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THE COMMON DUCK.——*Anas Boschas, (Domestic variety.)*

This is one of the tribe of swimmers. There are many species of the Duck; but the bird represented above is so familiar to all that it is not necessary to describe it. It appears, from the statements of good naturalists, that cottagers and others who rear ducks would do well to prevent the young ones from swimming until they are more than a month old, water not being necessary for them for some time; and that the ducklings should be fed upon barley-meal, or curds, and kept in a warm place at night. Of all people in the world, the Chinese are said to be the most skilled in the management of poultry, particularly of ducks; many persons at Canton earning their livelihood merely by bringing them up: some buy the eggs and trade with them; some hatch them in ovens, and others attend on the young ones. Ducks, like geese, have a strong sense of affection; in illustration of which, Bishop Stanley tells the following pleasing anecdote:—"A clergyman had a very fierce and noisy house dog, within the length of whose chain it would have been dangerous for a stranger to have ventured; but, notwithstanding his apparently savage disposition, a brood of ducklings, reared in the yard in which he was kept, soon became so fond of him, that whenever, from his barking, they apprehended danger, they would rush towards him for protection, and seek shelter in his kennel."

The same writer concludes his history of Ducks with an account of the decoys, which are formed of wicker-work and netting, and by means of which, through the help of tame birds called Decoy Ducks, and dogs trained for this purpose, vast numbers of wild fowl are taken every year.

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THE SWORD-FISH.——*Xiphias Gladius.*

This is a large and powerful fish, sometimes weighing a hundred pounds and more. It is found in the Mediterranean. It will attack almost any living creature that happens to fall in its way. It derives its name from the formidable weapon, of the substance of bone, which extends like a sword from its upper jaw, and with which it destroys its prey. The Sword-Fish and whale are said often to come to battle; and the only protection which the whale has against his enemy, is to dive to the bottom, in order to protect the under part of his body, or else to swim away, and so escape. The force with which the Sword-Fish uses its tremendous weapon is astonishing. In 1725, when his Majesty's ship Leopard, after her return from the coast of Guinea and the West Indies, was refitted for the channel service, in stripping off her sheathing, the shipwrights found in the lower part of the vessel a portion of the sword or snout of one of these fish. On the outside this was rough, and not unlike seal-skin; the broken end appeared like coarse ivory. The weapon pointed from the ship's stern towards the head; the fish must therefore have followed and overtaken the ship while sailing. It had penetrated the sheathing, an inch thick, passed through the planking, three inches thick, and beyond that four inches into the timber. The workmen declared that, with a hammer of a quarter of a hundred weight, it would have required nine blows to drive in a substance of the same kind, although the fish had effected it by a single thrust.

The captain of an East-Indiaman, in a letter to Sir Joseph Banks, gives an account of a similar attack upon his own ship, so that the whole length of the sword was embedded in the ship.

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THE COMMON RAT.——*Mus Decumanus.*

The common brown Rat is now so generally met with wherever man dwells, that its original country cannot be ascertained, although there is reason to believe that it comes from a warmer country than our own. It was probably brought hither by means of merchant vessels from some Southern or South-Eastern country; Pennant imagines from the East Indies. In Paris it made its appearance about the middle of the eighteenth century, and in England some years earlier. It is sometimes, by a strange mistake, called the Norway Rat, as if it had been an original native of that country; whereas, when the name was first applied to it, this creature was not known even to exist in Norway. Its habits are mischievous and offensive, causing serious injury to the property of the farmer, the merchant, the tradesman, and the mariner; and infesting equally the dwellings of the rich and poor. We find, to our cost, that it will eat almost anything it can get; and after eating its fill, will carry off provisions to its retreat. The secresy of its place of abode, between the walls of houses, and under the flooring of cellars, and its ingenuity in avoiding detection, render it a difficult enemy to dislodge; particularly as young ones are produced, from time to time, in large numbers. Mr. Bell says, "It digs with great facility and vigour, making its way beneath the floors of our houses, and often excavating the foundations of a dwelling to a dangerous extent. There are instances of Rats fatally undermining solid masonwork, or burrowing through dams which had for ages served to confine the waters of rivers and canals." Their ravages on the carcases of horses, in the horse slaughter-house at Montfauçon, near Paris, are said to be astonishing. An official report to the French government stated, "that the carcases of horses killed in the course of a day, (and these sometimes amounted to thirty-five,) are found the next morning picked to the bone."* There are some good traits in this animal which are called forth by kindness; and it has frequently been tamed. In a large cage, containing, cats, rats, rabbits, guinea-pigs, starlings, an owl, a hawk, and several small birds, five fine brown rats were seen, in February 1843, nestling for warmth under a handsome brindled cat, which was watching and accommodating them as if she had been their mother. This interesting collection is called "The happy family." The Rev. Mr. Ferryman, of Iping, Sussex, saw a number of black Rats (a different species from the above) migrating from one place to another. Among them, or rather in the rear, was "an old blind Rat which held a piece of stick at one end in its mouth, while another Rat had hold of the other end of it, and thus conducted his blind companion." This anecdote is told by Mr. Jesse, from the information of Mr. Ferryman.

* See Jesse's Gleanings, Second Series.

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THE FLAMINGO.——*Phœnicopterus ruber.*

This is a very extraordinary bird. Its legs are of a great length, and so slender that at a little distance the one leg on which it usually stands is not easily seen, and the bird seems stationary in the air. It hatches its eggs, sitting astride on a nest of raised earth, as its long legs prevent its adopting any other position for that purpose. The common species, represented above, is sometimes more than six feet in height, and above four feet long from the bill to the tail. Its plumage varies in colour, according to the age of the bird. In the third year, when it is full-grown, the back is of a purple red, and the wings of a bright rose colour. Bishop Stanley, in his account of the Flamingo, notices the "almost broken and deformed appearance of the beak," and the manner in which the creature feeds, by turning its head, and scooping up the soft substances on which it preys, using the upper mandible as a sort of spoon. These birds were once known on the coasts of Europe, but are now chiefly found in America, and certain parts of Africa. In some of the wild and solitary tracts of America, they live in a state of society, which cannot but excite our wonder. It is said that they are always met with in flocks, and that they form in file for the purpose of fishing, having quite a soldier-like appearance. They are accustomed to establish sentinels for common safety; and whether reposing in ranks, or fishing, one of them always stands on the watch with his head erect. If any thing alarms him, he sets up a cry like the sound of a trumpet, when the flock moves off with great rapidity, but in a settled order of flight. The ancient epicures admired the flesh of the Flamingo, especially its tongue; but the tongue is said to be oily, and of an unpleasant flavour to modern palates. Attempts have been made to domesticate this bird, but in our climate it soon languishes and dies. One of them lost a leg by an accident, and afterwards walked with the other, using its bill and neck like a crutch. The down is useful. The Indians make bonnets of the feathers. The Sardinians form the bone of the leg into a flute.

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THE SYRIAN GOAT.—*Capra Hircus, var.*

The general appearance and habits of the Goat are nearly the same in all countries. It loves to feed on the tops of hills, and prefers the elevated and rugged parts of mountains. It finds sufficient nourishment on dry and barren spots. Goats are so active, that they leap with ease among the precipitous rocks of the country which they inhabit. They render great service to mankind; their flesh being salted for winter provision, and their milk is used for the making of cheeses. The flocks in which they congregate are from ten to twenty in number. The Syrian Goat is distinguished by its long pendulous ears, which, according to Russell, in his Natural History of Aleppo, are sometimes upwards of a foot in length.

Dr. E. D. Clarke, on his road from Jerusalem to Bethlehem, met an Arab with a goat which he led about the country for exhibition. He had taught this animal, while he accompanied its movements with a song, to mount upon little cylindrical blocks of wood, placed successively one above the other, and in shape resembling the dice-boxes belonging to a backgammon-table. "In this manner," says he, "the Goat stood first upon the top of one cylinder, then upon the top of two, and afterwards of three, four, five, and six, until it remained balanced upon the top of them all, elevated several feet from the ground, and with all its feet collected upon a single point, without throwing down the disjointed fabric upon which it stood. The practice is very ancient. It is also noticed by Sandys. Nothing can show more strikingly the tenacious footing possessed by this quadruped, upon the jutty points and crags of the rocks; and the circumstance of its ability to remain thus poised may render its appearance less surprising, as it is sometimes seen in the Alps, and in all mountainous countries, with hardly any place for its feet, upon the sides, and by the brink of the most tremendous precipices. The diameter of the upper cylinder, on which its feet ultimately remained until the Arab had finished his ditty, was only two inches, and the length of each cylinder was six inches."

Frequent reference is made in Scripture to the Goat. Jacob, by the direction of Rebecca, fetched "two good kids of the Goats,"* to dress for his father Isaac. "The high hills are a refuge for the wild Goats."† In the Proverbs we find an allusion to their milk.‡ Under the Mosaic law the Goat was selected and offered in sacrifice, as typical of the death of Christ.

* Gen. xxvii. 9. † Psalm civ. 18. ‡ Prov. xxvii. 27.

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THE REDBREAST.——*Sylvia Rubecula.*

Who is not acquainted with Robin? and who does not wish to know more of its habits? Some of the earliest rhymes which we loved to hear in childhood are about this interesting little bird. We see it in the field, the wood, and the garden; and there is scarcely a hedge without a Redbreast. The whole length of the bird is five inches and three quarters. In summer it feeds on worms, various insects, fruit, especially cherries, and such berries as it can find. In winter it appeals to man, in its own gentle, yet confident manner, for food; for in that dreary season, when the ground is covered with snow, and worms are difficult to be got at, and there is no fruit, and berries are scarce, it is glad to receive a welcome in a hospitable country-house, or a nice snug cottage, and to be invited to share the crumbs which are freely thrown for it to pick up. With a full dark eye, and sidelong turn of the head, and sagacious inquiring look, enters Robin, while the family are at breakfast: they see him with pleasure, and scarcely stir till he has gained more confidence: this he soon does, when kindly welcomed;

" then hopping o'er the floor,
Eyes all the smiling family askance,
And pecks, and starts, and wonders where he is."*

The nest of the Redbreast is formed of moss and dried grass, lined with hair, and sometimes a few feathers. The eggs are from five to seven in number, white, spotted with pale reddish brown. As to his singing, White of Selborne tells us that "Redbreasts sing all through the spring, summer, and autumn. In the two former seasons their voices are drowned, and lost in the general chorus. In the latter their song becomes distinguishable." The notes are sweet and plaintive, but not powerful. Be it known, however, to our young readers, that there is one quality in the Redbreast for which he must be blamed: he is too much in the habit of fighting with other birds.

* Thomson.

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THE QUAIL.——*Perdix Coturnix.*

This is the smallest bird of the poultry tribe. It is well-known in Europe, but migrates, on the approach of cold weather, to a warmer climate, proceeding to the African coast, and as far as Arabia and Persia. It is a courageous and quarrelsome bird. Taking advantage of these qualities, the Athenians of old diverted themselves with the exhibition of Quail-fighting; but they abstained from eating the flesh. We, on the contrary, esteem this bird a delicacy, but never encourage it to fight.

Modern travellers illustrate the account given in the Scriptures of the vast numbers of Quails, and the mode of drying them for food. After referring to the book of Numbers xi. 31, 32, the reader will peruse with interest the following extract from Stade's Travels in Turkey:—"Near Constantinople, in the autumn, the sun is often nearly obscured by the prodigious flights of Quails, which alight on the coasts of the Black Sea, near the Bosphorus, and are caught by means of nets spread on high poles, planted along the cliffs, some yards from its edge; against which, the birds, exhausted by their passage over the sea, strike themselves and fall. In October 1829, the Sultan sent orders to his admirals to catch four-hundred dozen; in three days they were collected, and brought to him alive, in small cages." The Egyptians take them at harvest-time by thousands in nets, and, having stripped off their feathers, dry them in the burning sand, after which they are worth but one penny a pound. The object of the Israelites, therefore, in spreading them round the camp, was to dry them. The Psalmist, in his exhortation to praise God for his providential care of the Israelites, by feeding them in the wilderness, says: "The people asked, and He brought quails, and satisfied them with the bread of heaven."*

* Psalm cv. 40.

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THE CORMORANT.——*Carbo Cormoranus.*

These birds are found on many of our sea-coasts, and are common in the isles of Scotland. They build their nests on the highest parts of the cliffs that hang over the sea. They are proverbial for their voracity, each Cormorant devouring three or four pounds of fish a day, which is about half the average weight of the bird. Like most birds living on fish, however, its digestion is extremely rapid, and it requires a proportionably larger supply of food. If deprived of this, it soon dies. On the Western coast of the Hebrides, in severe gales, when no fish are to be got, these poor birds are to be seen huddled together in their caves and crevices, perishing with hunger. The talent for fishing possessed by some of this species is turned to good account by the crafty Chinese fisherman, who fastens an iron ring round the bird's neck, so that it cannot swallow: thus prepared, he sits quietly in his boat till he sees a fish, when the bird is tossed into the water; it presently rises with the fish, which is taken out by the boatman, who then waits for another chance. Thus it appears that the Cormorant may be easily tamed. Bishop Stanley mentions a couple which were kept as "pets," and were found to be quiet enough except when pressed by hunger. One day a gentleman's servant, who went in to look at them, had on a pair of red plush breeches, which instantly caught their attention. These they probably mistook for raw meat, which was their ordinary food: they consequently made such a furious charge upon the poor young man, that the owner was obliged to attack them with a stick, and even then could not keep them off without difficulty. They were at last sent away for killing a favourite pointer.

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R. CLAY, PRINTER, BREAD STREET HILL.

THE GOLDEN EAGLE.——*Aquila Chrysaëtos.*

This rapacious bird is found in various parts of Europe, building its nest in clefts of rocks, or on lofty trees, and sweeping the country round in search of the living animals on which it feeds. It is met with in North America, and is said to be also an inhabitant of Asia Minor and North Africa. It is properly classed among British birds, as it is occasionally seen in some parts of England, and is more common in Scotland, and the Scottish isles. Mr. Mudie, in his "Feathered Tribes of the British Islands," mentions "the higher glens of the rivers that rise on the south-east of the Grampians, the high cliff called Wallace's Craig, on the northern side of Lochlee, and Craig Muskeldie," as places frequented by the Golden Eagle. The flight of this bird is very majestic and powerful. Mounting to a great height, it descends upon its victim with overwhelming rapidity and force, and, if it be not too heavy, bears it off in its talons to its nest. This nest is a flattened platform, several feet square, and consists of strong sticks fastened together. The length of a full-grown male Eagle is nearly three feet; the female is still larger. From the great strength and size of the bird, it preys with ease on fawns, lambs, hares, and other game, sometimes on fish, but rarely on any thing which it finds dead. One of them boldly descended in the sight of some sportsmen in the neighbourhood of Ben-Lomond, and, notwithstanding their shouts and threats, carried off a Red Grouse which they had slightly wounded.

The female bird is said to be very attentive to her young ones, until they are able to take care of themselves. The allusions to the Eagle in the Bible are frequent. God's care of His people is set forth, in the song of Moses, under the following similitude: "As an Eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings; so the Lord alone did lead him."*

* Deut. xxxii. 11, 12.

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R. CLAY, PRINTER, BREAD STREET HILL.

THE PEREGRINE FALCON.——*Falco peregrinus.*

This species is called Peregrine, from a Latin word signifying *a foreigner*, because it has been found in very distant parts of the world. The Peregrine Falcon is more common in Scotland than in England. In this country it makes its nest on the high cliffs near the Needle Rocks, in the Isle of Wight. It is met with in Devonshire and Cornwall, and is said to be also an inhabitant of rocky situations in Ireland. It is this species which is generally used at the present day by persons who still occasionally pursue the diversion of hawking,—an ancient sport, in which one bird is taught to attack and destroy others. Its extraordinary powers of flight, as well as its habits, are thus illustrated by Walton, in his "Complete Angler:"—"In the air, my noble, generous Falcon ascends to such a height as the dull eyes of beasts and fish are not able to reach to; their bodies are too gross for such high elevation; but from which height I can make her to descend by a word from my mouth, which she both knows and obeys, to accept of meat from my hand, to own me for her master, to go home with me, and be willing the next day to afford me the like recreation." So many were honest Izaak Walton's excellences, that his indifference to the sufferings undergone by animals for the amusement of "the contemplative man," cannot but strike the thoughtful reader of his work. The female Peregrine is called the Falcon, from her greater size, power, and courage, and is usually flown at herons and ducks: the male Peregrine, being much smaller, sometimes one-third less, is called the Tercel, or Tiercel, and is more frequently flown at partridges, magpies, &c. The whole length of a full-grown Peregrine Falcon is from fifteen to eighteen inches. Sir John Sebright, in his "Observations on Hawking," says, that a well-stocked heronry, in an open country, is necessary for this sport, which may be witnessed in its greatest perfection at Didlington, in Norfolk, the seat of Lord Berners, formerly Colonel Wilson.

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R. CLAY, PRINTER, BREAD STREET HILL.

THE COMMON PORPOISE.——*Phocæna Communis.*

Animals of the kind called *Cetacea*, such as whales, dolphins, and porpoises, living as they do in the sea, were formerly arranged under the order of fishes; and even Linnæus, following Ray, classes them so; but their structure and habits, when scientifically considered, entitle them to a place among British quadrupeds, inasmuch as these creatures have all the essential characters of mammiferous animals: they have warm blood, and a complete double circulation; they breathe the air by means of true lungs; they bring forth their young alive, and nourish them tenderly and carefully with their milk. The Porpoise is the most common of the class of *Cetacea* in our seas. Its name is derived from the French, *Porc-poisson*, which answers to the term sometimes given to it, of Sea-Hog, or Hog-Fish. These animals make their appearance in herds of various numbers, playing and tumbling with much agility. On the approach of a storm, when the sea begins to be disturbed, they may be seen taking their pastime, as if enjoying that state of the ocean which is so threatening to the helpless mariner. They then show their black backs above the surface, and either in sport or pursuit of their prey, sometimes leap out of the water. The Porpoise is found in several latitudes, and chiefly frequents our coasts in the Autumn and Spring. On the western coasts of Ireland, and among the Western Islands of Scotland, they are met with in vast numbers. They ascend our rivers in pursuit of fish, and have frequently been seen in the Thames above London-bridge. They are sometimes caught for the sake of their oil. Two were taken in the Wareham river, which together yielded sixteen gallons. One of them was found to have milk, which tasted salt and fishy. The total length of the Porpoise is from four to eight feet.

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THE SKY-LARK.——*Alauda arvensis.*

ALL the members of the Lark tribe are musical. The Wood-Lark has a sweet and plaintive tone, but its voice has neither the power nor the variety of the Sky-Lark, which is more generally known, being an inhabitant of most, if not all, the countries of Europe. "In early spring," says Mr. Yarrell, "its cheerful and exhilarating song, fresh as the season, is the admiration of all. The bird rises on quivering wing, almost perpendicularly, singing as he flies, and gaining an elevation that is quite extraordinary; yet so powerful is his voice, that his wild joyous notes may be heard distinctly, when the pained eye can trace his course no longer. An ear well tuned to his song can even then determine by the notes, whether the bird is still ascending, remaining stationary, or on the descent. When at a considerable height, should a hawk appear in sight, or the well-known voice of his mate reach his ear, the wings are closed, and he drops to the earth with the rapidity of a stone. Occasionally the Sky-Lark sings when on the ground; but his most lively strains are poured forth during flight; and even in confinement, this would-be tenant of the free air tramples his turf, and flutters his wings while singing, as if muscular motion were with him a necessary accompaniment to his music."

The food of this bird consists of grain, seeds of grasses, various insects, and worms. The nest is generally placed on the ground, sheltered by a tuft of herbage, or a clod of earth; the eggs are four or five in number, of a greyish-white, tinged with green, and mottled with darker grey and ash-brown. The parent-birds are strongly attached to their young: instances are known, not only of a Sky-Lark encountering danger for the sake of its helpless brood, but removing the eggs to some other spot for safety.

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S. CLAY, PRINTER, BREAD STREET HILL.

THE TURTLE-DOVE.——*Columba Turtur.*

The Turtle-Dove is one of the smaller species of this pleasing family, to which belong all the different varieties of the common pigeon, the carrier-pigeon, and many others. Its note is tender and plaintive. It is very kind and constant to its mate, and has often been adduced as an emblem of domestic affection. It builds its nest with a few dry sticks in the boughs. The Dove is spoken of in many parts of the Bible. Noah sent a Dove out of the ark, to ascertain whether the waters of the flood had abated.* The Dove was accounted clean by the law of Moses, and was appointed, on certain occasions, as an offering to the Lord. Thus, we read of "a pair of turtle-doves, or two young pigeons."† It formed one of the articles of merchandise which were improperly allowed to be sold in the Temple at Jerusalem; the traffic in them, within the courts of God's house, having called forth the holy indignation of His blessed Son.‡ The Psalmist says of those who are restored by God's mercy to goodness and happiness, that "they shall be as the wings of a dove, covered with silver, and her feathers with yellow gold;" and in his troubles he said, "Oh that I had wings like a dove! for then would I flee away, and be at rest."§ The Jews, when lamenting the calamities they were suffering for their sins, are represented by Isaiah, as mourning "sore like doves." In the above three passages the inspired writers have used similitudes taken from the beauty of plumage, the rapidity of flight, and the plaintiveness of voice peculiar to these birds. And as to the gentleness of their disposition, Christ, in giving his disciples rules of conduct, when in the midst of their enemies, said, "Be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves;"‖ that is, Act with the prudence and watchfulness of serpents, but cultivate at the same time the innocence and simplicity of the Dove.

* Gen. viii. 8, 9. † Luke ii. 24. ‡ Matt. xxi. 12. § Psalm lv. 6. ‖ Matt. x. 16.

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R. CLAY, PRINTER, BREAD STREET HILL.

THE HADDOCK.——*Gadus Æglefinus.*

This fish is almost as well known as the common cod; and from the quantities taken round the coast, and the ease with which the flesh can be preserved, it is a fish of great value. Besides frequenting the coast of Great Britain, the Haddock may be traced nearly all round the shores of Ireland. The largest seen for some years past, was taken in Dublin Bay, it having weighed sixteen pounds. The most common weight of a Haddock is from two to four pounds. Haddocks swim in innumerable shoals. Along the Eastern coast, from Yarmouth to the Tyne, they are caught with long-lines and hand-lines. The most attractive baits are pieces of herring or sand-launce. Along our Southern shore they are frequently taken with the trawl-net. Their food is small fish of various kinds. Some which were kept confined in a salt-water preserve, became so tame, that they ate limpets, one after another, from the hand. Mr. Yarrell, in his History of British Fishes, has the following remark in allusion to the name of Onos, or Asinus, which is supposed to have been given by the ancients to this fish. "The dark mark on the shoulder of the Haddock very frequently extends over the back, and unites with the patch of the shoulder on the other side, forcibly reminding the observer of the dark stripe over the withers of the ass. The superstition that assigns the mark on the Haddock to the impression left by St. Peter with his finger and thumb, when he took the tribute-money * out of a fish of this species, has been continued to the whole race of Haddocks ever since the miracle, and may possibly have had its origin in the obvious similarity of this mark on the same part of the body of the Haddock, and of the humble animal which bore the Saviour. That the reference to St. Peter is erroneous, is shown by the fact, that the Haddock does not exist in the sea of the country in which the miracle was performed." This superstition would not have been alluded to here, but for the circumstance of the Haddock being sometimes called St. Peter's fish.

* Matt. xvii. 27.

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R. CLAY, PRINTER, BREAD STREET HILL.

THE COMMON TROUT.——*Salmo Fario.*

The Trout is a well-known inhabitant of most of the rivers and lakes of Great Britain. It is a voracious feeder, but so vigilant, cautious, and active, that much skill and patience are necessary for taking it. Its food generally consists of flies, though worms and small fish are eagerly devoured by it. Mr. Stoddart, a writer on Angling, mentions an interesting experiment, which was made some years ago in the South of England, in order to ascertain the effect of different kinds of food on this fish. "Some Trout were placed in three separate tanks, one of which was supplied daily with worms, another with live minnows, and the third with those small dark-coloured water-flies which are to be found moving about on the surface under banks and sheltered places. The Trout fed with worms grew slowly, and had a lean appearance; those nourished on minnows, at which they darted with great voracity, became much larger; while such as were fattened upon flies only attained in a short time prodigious dimensions, weighing twice as much as both the others together," although the quantity of food swallowed by the fly-eaters was not so great. Trout sometimes reach a vast size, and are said to live to a great age. One was caught at Salisbury, in January, 1822, in a small stream, branching from the Avon, which weighed twenty-five pounds; but this was an extraordinary specimen. They are met with of good size in the Thames near Kingston and Hampton Court, Shepperton and Chertsey. Some deep pools in the Thames above Oxford afford excellent Trout. "Few persons," says Mr. Yarrell, "are aware of the difficulty of taking a Trout, when it has attained twelve or fourteen pounds weight: it is very seldom that one of this size is hooked and landed except by a first-rate fisherman. Such a fish, when in good condition, is considered a present worthy of a place at a royal table." The Trout is fond of its own particular place in the stream; and the peasants, in Devonshire and elsewhere, frequently catch the fish with their hands, the water being rendered turbid. This they call "tickling Trout."

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THE COMMON CARP.——*Cyprinus Carpio.*

It is not known when Carp were first brought into England, but they are mentioned in the "Boke of St. Albans," which was printed by Wynkyn de Worde, in 1496. The old couplet is certainly incorrect, which says,

"Turkies, Carps, Hops, Pickerell, and Beer,
Came into England all in one year,"

as both turkies and hops were unknown till upwards of twenty years after the date above mentioned. In this country, the Carp inhabits ponds, lakes, and rivers; preferring in the lakes, those parts where the current is not strong, and thriving best where the ground is soft and marly. They probably eat scarcely anything in winter, and are supposed to bury themselves in mud. White, in his Natural History of Selborne, says: "In the garden of the Black Bear inn, Reading, is a stream or canal running under the stables and out into the fields on the other side of the road. In this water are many Carps, which lie rolling about in sight, being fed by travellers, who amuse themselves by tossing them bread; but as soon as the weather grows at all severe, these fishes are no longer seen, because they retire under the stables, where they remain till the return of Spring. Mr. Jesse says of some Carp and Tench, which were kept by him in a small piece of water, "They were soon reconciled to their situation, and ate boiled potatoes in considerable quantities; and the Carp seemed to have lost their original shyness, eating in my presence without any scruple." This fish, when out of water, is exceedingly tenacious of life. It is said to be a practice in Holland to keep Carp alive for three or four weeks, by hanging them in a cool place with wet moss in a net, and feeding them with bread soaked in milk. The animal is refreshed, now and then, water being thrown over it. Carp are in season for the table from October to April; and, as Mr. Yarrell remarks, "they are greatly indebted to the cook for the estimation in which they are held."

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R. CLAY, PRINTER, BREAD STREET HILL.

THE HARE.——*Lepus timidus.*

This well-known animal is found throughout Europe. It has no weapons of defence; but it is exceedingly timid, and has a quickness of sight and hearing, as well as a swiftness of foot, which are calculated to protect it from its enemies. Its chief enemy is man, who is tempted by these very qualities to obtain a poor triumph over the harmless creature, by destroying it for the purposes of sport. "Whatever excuses may be found for the pursuit of the Fox, on the score of necessity, as ridding the country of a noxious animal—an excuse, however, which can scarcely be made by those who forbid its destruction by any other means—no such excuse can be made for *this* sport; whilst the degree of danger and difficulty is scarcely sufficient to invest it with enough of excitement to conceal its character of cowardice and cruelty. It is true that coursing is in a degree less cruel, as the poor trembler's agony is comparatively short-lived; but it appears to me that mercy and humanity can scarcely consist with the ardent love of either variety of a sport, the whole interest of which depends on the intense exertion to which a helpless and defenceless creature can be driven by the agonies of fear and desperation."*

The Hare feeds on vegetables only, and sometimes does great injury in fields, gardens, and young plantations. Having made its *form*, or bed, it remains on it during the day, leaving it at night to seek its food, and constantly returning, unless caught or killed; hence, it is said, proverbially, that the wounded Hare *goes home* to die. Its colour helps to conceal it amidst the brown dusky vegetation of heaths and woods; and by the same admirable wisdom of the Creator, those species of the hare which inhabit the snowy regions of the North become wholly white in winter. It is not difficult to tame hares; and in a domestic state they are very amusing. The poet Cowper gives an interesting account of three tame hares, which he called, Puss, Tiny, and Bess, and which he kept long under his care. The Hare was reckoned an unclean animal among the Jews.†

* Bell's British Quadrupeds.

† Deut. xiv. 7.

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THE RATTLE-SNAKE.——*Crotalus Horridus.*

This poisonous reptile is found in the continent of America. Its venom is said to be more virulent than that of any creature of the same class; but happily it seldom employs its fatal power, except when induced by hunger, or for the purpose of self-preservation. It is extremely sluggish, and generally avoids the sight of man. The poison is inserted into the body of its victim by means of two long, sharp-pointed teeth or fangs, which grow, one on each side of the upper jaw. The root of each fang rests on a kind of bag, containing a certain quantity of liquid poison; and when the animal bites, a portion of this fluid is forced through an opening in the tooth, and lodged at the bottom of the wound. Another peculiarity of the poison-teeth is, that, when not in use, they turn back, as it were, upon an hinge, and lie flat in the roof of the animal's mouth. Some persons have imagined that the Rattle-Snake has a power of fascinating its prey. The idea probably arose from the circumstance of the smaller animals, on which this snake subsists, becoming so terrified at the sight of their frightful enemy, as to lose their self-possession when in its presence. Its name is given to it on account of the wonderful apparatus with which its tail is furnished. This consists of a series of hollow, horn-like substances, placed loosely one against the other, in such a manner as to produce a rattling noise when the tail is shaken; and as the animal, when intending an attack, gives a tremulous action to the tail, timely notice is afforded of the threatened danger. It is said that the number of pieces of which this rattle is formed indicates the age of the snake, as a fresh portion grows every year. The mechanism of the jaw of most serpents is very wonderful, allowing them, from its vast power of expansion, to swallow animals of great comparative size. Like all other creatures which swallow their prey whole, the teeth appear to be formed chiefly for preventing its escape, and not for the purposes of mastication. The effect of music upon snakes is very powerful, and is often employed by the serpent-charmers of India. Viscount Chateaubriand relates, that, in July 1791, in Upper Canada, he saw a native appease the anger of a Rattle-Snake, and even cause it to follow him, by the music of his flute. This reminds us of the words of the Psalmist, when, speaking of the wicked, he says, "Their poison is like the poison of a serpent; they are like the deaf adder that stoppeth her ear; which will not hearken to the voice of charmers, charming never so wisely."*

* Psalm lviii. 4, 5.

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R. CLAY, PRINTER, BREAD STREET HILL.

THE COCK.——*Gallus Domesticus.*

This beautiful bird is generally supposed to have been first brought from Persia. It is now sometimes met with in a wild state in the forests of India, and in some of the oriental islands. Like most of the poultry tribe, the bird before us is bold and resolute. "We know an instance where a barn-door Cock became the terror of his little domain. Accustomed to be fed by his owner, he shortly began to express his disappointment, by very determined attacks, if his master happened to pass him without the accustomed offering. On one occasion he actually struck a piece out of a strong kerseymere gaiter, and repeated the attack in spite of some severe kicks which it was found necessary to inflict in self defence. Nothing daunted, though occasionally kicked several yards, like a football, he would still come on as fiercely as ever for three or four times. During one of these assaults, he received an injury which lamed him for a week; but no sooner had he recovered than he became as pugnacious as ever."*

Men have sometimes taken a shameful advantage of the temper and habits of these birds for the purposes of cruel sport. Happily for the cause of humanity, and the credit of this country, the savage diversion of cock-fighting, which was once very prevalent, is but little practised; it being now generally considered as cowardly as it is barbarous. The abominable custom of throwing at these birds on Shrove Tuesday was another reproach to some classes of our countrymen. In a Tract on this subject, which was formerly circulated in large numbers by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, is the following passage, which may prove a valuable lesson to those who are guilty of any species of cruelty to animals: "Cowardice and cruelty generally go together; whereas generosity and humanity are the proofs of a brave and dauntless mind. It hath pleased God, of his great bounty, to give us all the creatures for our use and service, but we have not permission to abuse any of them; *A righteous man*, saith the Scripture, *regardeth the life of his beast.*"†

The courage of the hen is chiefly shown in taking care of her chickens. She is then equally fearless and tender in defence of her helpless brood. These qualities are adduced by way of illustration, in an affecting and awful manner, in St. Luke xiii. 34. The male bird is mentioned in the New Testament, on the occasion of St. Peter's third denial. The "Cock-crowing" was one of the four watches of the Jews.‡

* Stanley's History of Birds, vol. ii. chap. iv. † Prov. xii. 10. ‡ Mark xiii. 35.

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R. CLAY, PRINTER, BREAD STREET HILL.

THE NIGHTINGALE.——*Sylvia Luscinia.*

The Nightingale is universally allowed to be the most delightful singer of all the tribe of Warblers. This is a very extensive tribe of birds, most of which migrate, at the approach of cold weather, to warmer climates than ours. The Nightingale usually visits England in the beginning of April, and leaves it in August or September. It has been so long celebrated for the charms of its music, that the idea of harmony seems associated with its name. It begins its song in the evening, and often continues it during the whole night. Its fondness for a particular place is remarkable. It is said that during several weeks together, it will, if undisturbed, perch on the same tree, and from thence pour forth, evening after evening, its beautiful notes. The Nightingale is a solitary bird, and, often as it is heard, is comparatively seldom seen. The colour of its plumage is such as to prevent its being easily discovered on a branch. Hence it has been elegantly styled "the sober-suited songstress." The head and back are of a pale tawny colour, dashed with an olive hue; the throat and breast are of a glossy pale ash colour; the tail of a reddish brown; the eyes are large and bright. The length of the bird is about six inches. It feeds on insects. Mr. Bingley observes, "It is very remarkable that all the gay and brilliant birds of America should be entirely destitute of that pleasing power of song which gives so peculiar a charm to the groves and fields of Europe." The same writer informs us, that a caged nightingale continues its season of singing for a much longer period than those which he heard abroad in the Spring, and that it sings more sweetly than they. The famous anatomist, John Hunter, carefully dissected several Nightingales, and found the muscles of the organ of voice exceedingly strong. In the best singers these muscles were the strongest.

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R. CLAY, PRINTER, BREAD STREET HILL.

THE BOA CONSTRICTOR.——*Boa Constrictor.*

The Boa Constrictor is a tremendous kind of serpent, different species of which are met with in the East Indies, in Africa, and in some parts of South America. This enormous reptile is often found to measure thirty feet in length. Its colour is of a dusky yellow, marked with large brown spots, bordered with black; the scales are round, small and smooth. In its native country it lies hidden in thickets, whence it suddenly rushes out, and, raising itself upright, attacks man or beast without distinction. One of these creatures had been waiting for some time near the brink of a pool, in expectation of its prey, when a buffalo approached, unconscious of the presence of so terrible an enemy. The serpent having darted upon the poor animal, began to wrap it round in its folds; and at every turn, the bones of the buffalo were heard to crack. Unable to escape, it struggled and roared, but could not get free, till, its bones being crushed to pieces, and the whole body reduced to a mere mass, the serpent untwined itself in order to swallow it at leisure. To do this the more easily, it licked the body all over. It then gradually swallowed it at one morsel, the buffalo being three times as thick as itself. The bite of this snake is not venomous; but the creature is scarcely less mischievous on this account, so great is its cunning, boldness, and strength. There is at this time (1843) one of them in the Surrey Zoological Gardens, which some time since attacked its keeper, coiling itself about him. Had it not been for timely and powerful aid, on his calling for help, he would most probably have soon been killed. Mr. Cops, one of the keepers of the animals in the Tower of London, was, some years since, attacked by a Boa Constrictor, and rescued in the same way.

THE WOLF.——*Canis lupus.*

This animal is of the dog tribe; but it is generally larger, and more strong and muscular than the dog. The outward marks of difference, however, are not so str
s those of temper and habits. It has no good qualities, and has therefore been generally detested and feared. The only part about it of use and value is its skin. T
oet Thomson has, in a few words, drawn a just picture of this savage creature :—

"Cruel as death, and hungry as the grave;
Burning for blood, bony, and gaunt, and grim!"

In countries where Wolves are numerous, whole droves flock down from the mountains, or out of the woods, and join in the work of havoc and mischief. They att
he sheepfold, enter the villages, and carry off sheep, lambs, hogs, calves, and even dogs. The horse and the ox are frequently overpowered by their numbers, and s
himself sometimes becomes their victim. They are most terrible in winter, when the cold is severe, the snow on the ground, and their usual food difficult to procure. T
re found in most countries of the old and new continent. Captain Franklin met with some white wolves in his voyage to the Polar Seas. In Europe their num
re much diminished, in consequence of the increase of population, and the extension of agriculture. They were once very formidable in England. King Edgar, w
began to reign A.D. 959, took great delight in hunting Wolves, and encouraged his subjects to destroy them; and when it appeared that many of them had taken re
in the woods and mountains of Wales, he changed a heavy tax which had been imposed on one of the Welsh princes into a tribute of 300 wolves' heads. After
general description, it must be added, that, by care and kindness, Wolves have sometimes been so tamed, and altered in disposition, as to be rendered even affectio
to man. Mr. Bell, in his History of British Quadrupeds, under the description of the Dog, states an interesting case of a Wolf, which, on seeing him, and others wh
it knew, would come to the front of the cage, to be fondled, and bring its young ones forward also, that they might share in the kindness shown towards it.

Reference to the Wolf is made in several passages of Holy Scripture. The first mention of it is in Gen. xlix. 27, in which the dying patriarch Jacob says of
youngest son, "Benjamin shall ravin as a Wolf," &c., a passage which the history of the tribe of Benjamin sufficiently explains. The reader will find other allus
to the same animal in Isaiah xi. 6; Jer. v. 6; Ezek. xxii. 27; Hab. i. 8; Zeph. iii. 3; Matt. x. 16; Luke x. 3; John x. 12; Acts xx. 29.

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THE PARTRIDGE.——*Perdix cinerea.*

In England, France, and other parts of Europe, there are beautiful varieties of this valuable bird. The red-legged Partridge is now completely naturalized in this country, being common in Norfolk and Suffolk. In America there are other sorts peculiar to that part of the globe. The common Partridge, which we know so well, usually builds in corn-fields; however, it sometimes chooses a very different kind of nursery, as, for instance, a hay-stack. The eggs are frequently destroyed by weasels, stoats, crows, magpies, and other animals; but when the parent-birds have their young ones safe about them, their care of them is wonderful. They lead them out to feed; they point out to them the proper places for their food, and assist them in finding it by scratching the ground with their feet. It happens that at the time when these little birds most require help, the several species of ants are to be easily met with; and on these they satisfy their hunger, as well as on worms and flies.

The Rev. G. White, in his account of Selborne, has some interesting remarks on the attention shown by this and other birds to their helpless brood:—"The more I reflect on the instinctive affection of animals for their young, the more am I astonished at its effects. This affection quickens the invention, and sharpens the sagacity of the brute creation. Thus a hen, just become a mother, is no longer the placid bird she used to be; but, with feathers on end, wings hovering, and clucking note, she runs about like one possessed. Mothers will throw themselves in the way of the greatest danger, to defend their young. A Partridge will tumble along before a sportsman, in order to draw away the dogs from her helpless covey. In the time of nest-building the most feeble birds will assault the most rapacious. All the swallows and martins of a village are up in arms at the sight of a hawk, whom they will persecute till he leaves the district." What a lesson do the inferior creatures often furnish to the human race! And how inexcusable are they, who, with reason and revelation offered as their guides, unnaturally neglect their offspring in childhood and youth, showing themselves, not only indifferent to the present support and comfort of their children, but to their religious condition as immortal beings intrusted to parental care!

To "hunt the Partridge in the mountains," is alluded to in the Holy Scripture, as customary in the time of Saul;* and Bishop Stanley, in his History of Birds, gives us a curious account, from Franklin's "Constantinople," of the manner in which Partridges are taken in the present day by the Arabs of Mount Lebanon.†

* 1 Sam. xxvi. 20.

† Familiar History of Birds, Vol. ii. p. 3. Ed. 1840.

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THE INDIAN OX.——*Bos Taurus, var. Indicus.*

This is one of the many varieties of the Ox: the different species resemble each other, in having a divided hoof, living on vegetable substances, and chewing the cud. The chief particular in which the animal represented above differs from the common Ox is the hump on the shoulders. The hump is chiefly composed of fat, and has sometimes been known to weigh fifty pounds. This is reckoned very good as food; indeed it is the most delicate part. The varieties of these creatures are met with over the whole of southern Asia, the islands of the Indian Archipelago, and the eastern coast of Africa, from Abyssinia to the Cape of Good Hope. They are of different sizes and colours; some being as large as a common cow, others not larger than a mastiff dog. That of the smaller kind is generally called the Zebu. In all these countries, the creature supplies the place of an Ox, both as a beast of burden, and an article of food. In some parts of India, it serves instead of a horse, being either saddled and ridden, or harnessed in a carriage, performing in this manner journeys of considerable length. The usual distance which it can travel is from twenty to thirty miles a day. All the species are treated with great regard and veneration by the Hindoos, who hold it sinful to deprive them of life: a select number of these animals are never allowed even to labour, but have the privilege of straying about the towns and villages, taking their food wherever they please, or receiving it from the hands of the natives. The Ox is frequently mentioned in Holy Scripture. The wealth of the patriarchs consisted in a great degree of cattle. Abraham and Jacob are recorded to have been rich in cattle.* Job had five hundred yoke of Oxen, besides camels, sheep, and asses.† The Ox was considered by the law of Moses to be clean, and was much used by the Jews in their sacrifices. It is alluded to by the Prophets: Isaiah contrasts its sagacity and gratitude with the folly and unthankfulness of the people with regard to God: "The Ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib; but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider."‡ When the Son of God became man, and dwelt on earth, one of the first acts of His ministry was to clear the temple at Jerusalem of "those that sold Oxen, and sheep, and doves." . . . "He drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the Oxen."§ St. Paul reminds the Corinthians, "It is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the Ox that treadeth out‖ the corn."¶

* Gen. xxiv. 35, and xxx. 43. † Job i. 3. ‡ Isaiah i. 3. § John ii. 14, 15. ‖ Heb. *thresheth*. ¶ Deut. xxv. 4. 1 Cor. ix. 9.

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THE COMMON WHALE.——*Balæna Mysticetus.*

The usual length of the Common Whale is from 50 to 60 or 65 feet, and its greatest circumference from 30 to 40 feet. The head is very large, being about 16 or 17 feet long, by 10 or 12 broad, and measuring about one-third of the entire length of the fish. There are no teeth. The layers of whalebone, which fill the cavity of the mouth, are arranged in two rows, of about three hundred each. These act as strainers for the prey on which the animal lives. When a Whale is taking food, its vast mouth being opened, large quantities of small fish and sea-insects are enclosed; and, on the mouth being shut, the water passes away, leaving these caught, as in a sieve, for the purposes of the creature's nourishment. The whalebone is a very valuable and well-known article of commerce; but the chief object of pursuit in Whale-fishing is the oil which is found in the blubber or fat. For this object, a great many vessels are sent every year to the Northern Seas, particularly to Davis's Straits. The blubber of a Whale, sixty feet long, will yield more than twenty tons of pure oil. The dangers which attend the pursuit of this species, as well as of the Cachalot, or Spermaceti Whale, are truly frightful. Some of the men employed in the service fall victims to the intense cold of an Arctic winter, or to the combined effects of cold and hunger. The vessels are occasionally wrecked by icebergs; and accidents occur in the act of attacking the Whale, which, on finding itself struck with the harpoon, often lashes violently with its tail, and destroys the boat, or sinks rapidly into the deep, causing a whirlpool which may prove fatal to the whalers. The female of this species, like most others of the Whales, is much attached to her young, and is ready to rush on danger, and even death, to rescue or defend her helpless charge. Thus if a young one is harpooned, the mother generally follows, as if to help, but in fact almost always to perish with it. The Whale has usually but one young one at a time. The young Whale, at its birth, is about ten or twelve feet long. Mention is made of the Whale in several parts of Holy Scripture. See Gen. i. 21; Ezek. xxxii. 2; Matt. xii. 40.

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THE BADGER.——*Meles Taxus.*

This animal is classed among British quadrupeds, it being still found in many parts of England and Scotland; it is, however, nowhere very common, and in some places has become rare. It is a sleepy, heavy creature, living chiefly in holes in the earth, which have been dug by itself for its abode. In the evening, or during the darkness and silence of the night, it leaves its cell, and roams about for food. This consists of various roots, earth-nuts, beech-nuts, fruits, birds'-eggs, some of the smaller quadrupeds, frogs, and insects. Buffon states that it digs up wasps' nests for the sake of the honey. The Badger possesses amazing strength of jaws, and has great muscular power; while its strong leathery hide and rough long hair, render it a dangerous enemy to engage with. It was in consequence of these qualities, that the cruel custom of Badger-baiting was formerly practised in country towns and villages. The poor animal was placed in a small tub, barrel, or kennel, and there baited by dogs of various kinds. This sport, as it was called, often proved as cruel to the dogs, as to the creature attacked by them. Happily this, and other brutal amusements, which tend to harden the hearts of the spectators, are now scarcely known in this country. The practice alluded to, appears to have given rise to the verb, "To Badger;" which means to worry and annoy. The above particulars are chiefly taken from "British Quadrupeds," by Professor Bell. He informs us, that he had, for some time, in his possession, a Badger, which soon became a great favourite, and showed great attachment to him and the household. "It followed me like a dog, yelping and barking with a peculiar sharp cry, when he found himself shut out of the room in which I happened to be sitting. He was accustomed to come into the dining-room during dinner, of which he was generally permitted to partake; and he always ate his morsels in a very orderly manner. He was in fact a gentle, affectionate, good-tempered fellow, and very cleanly withal." The usual length of the Badger, exclusive of the short tail, is two feet three inches.

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THE PERCH.——*Perca fluviatilis.*

THERE is scarcely a river or lake of any extent in this country, in which the Perch is not found in abundance. It occurs in Ireland, in most of the lakes of Scotland, in those of the North of England, and also in Wales. In rivers, it prefers the side of the stream, to the rapid parts of the current, and feeds upon insects, worms, and various small fish. So bold and voracious are Perch, that in a few days after some had been placed in a pond in Bushy Park, Mr. Jesse says, they came freely and took worms which he held out to them from his hand. The flesh of this fish is firm, white, and of good flavour. A Perch of three pounds weight is considered a fish of large size. Perch have, however, been taken, weighing four pounds each, from Richmond Park ponds. One was taken from the Birmingham Canal, weighing six pounds. Others of even greater size are stated to have been caught; and Pennant records his having heard of one that was taken in the Serpentine River, Hyde Park, that weighed nine pounds. The Perch, though very common, is one of the most beautiful of our fresh-water fish; its form being elegant, and its colours brilliant and striking. Izaak Walton says, "The Perch is a very good, and a very bold biting fish; he is one of the fishes of prey, that, like the Pike and Trout, carries his teeth in his mouth, which is very large; and he dare venture to kill and devour several other kinds of fish. He has a hooked or hog-back, which is armed with sharp and stiff bristles, and all his skin armed or covered over with thick, dry, hard scales; and he hath, which few other fish have, two fins on his back. He is so bold, that he will invade one of his own kind."

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THE ELK.——*Cervus Alces.*

The Elk, or Moose Deer, is a native of Canada and Nova Scotia. It is also found in Lapland, Norway, Sweden, Russia, Siberia, and part of Tartary. It is unable to exist in temperate regions, and thrives in a cold climate. The fossil remains of a very large kind of Elk have been found in England and Ireland; but the largest of this species was met with, in a fossil state, in the Isle of Man. The Elk often grows to the size of a large horse. It is more awkwardly formed than the rest of the Deer kind; the head being larger, the neck short, the shoulders high, and the front legs long. This animal feeds on moss, and on the twigs, buds, and small branches of trees. It is generally inoffensive: but it is hunted in winter in Canada; and, when wounded, it becomes fierce and dangerous. It is said, that, on being first discovered by the huntsmen, the creature falls down, for a few moments, as if, through fear, it had lost the power of motion. Some persons have thought that, on such occasions, it was seized with epilepsy; and, on this account, the hoof was formerly used for epileptic fits! This notion, however, no longer prevails. The flesh of the Elk is considered light and nourishing food. The skin is strong, and makes excellent leather.

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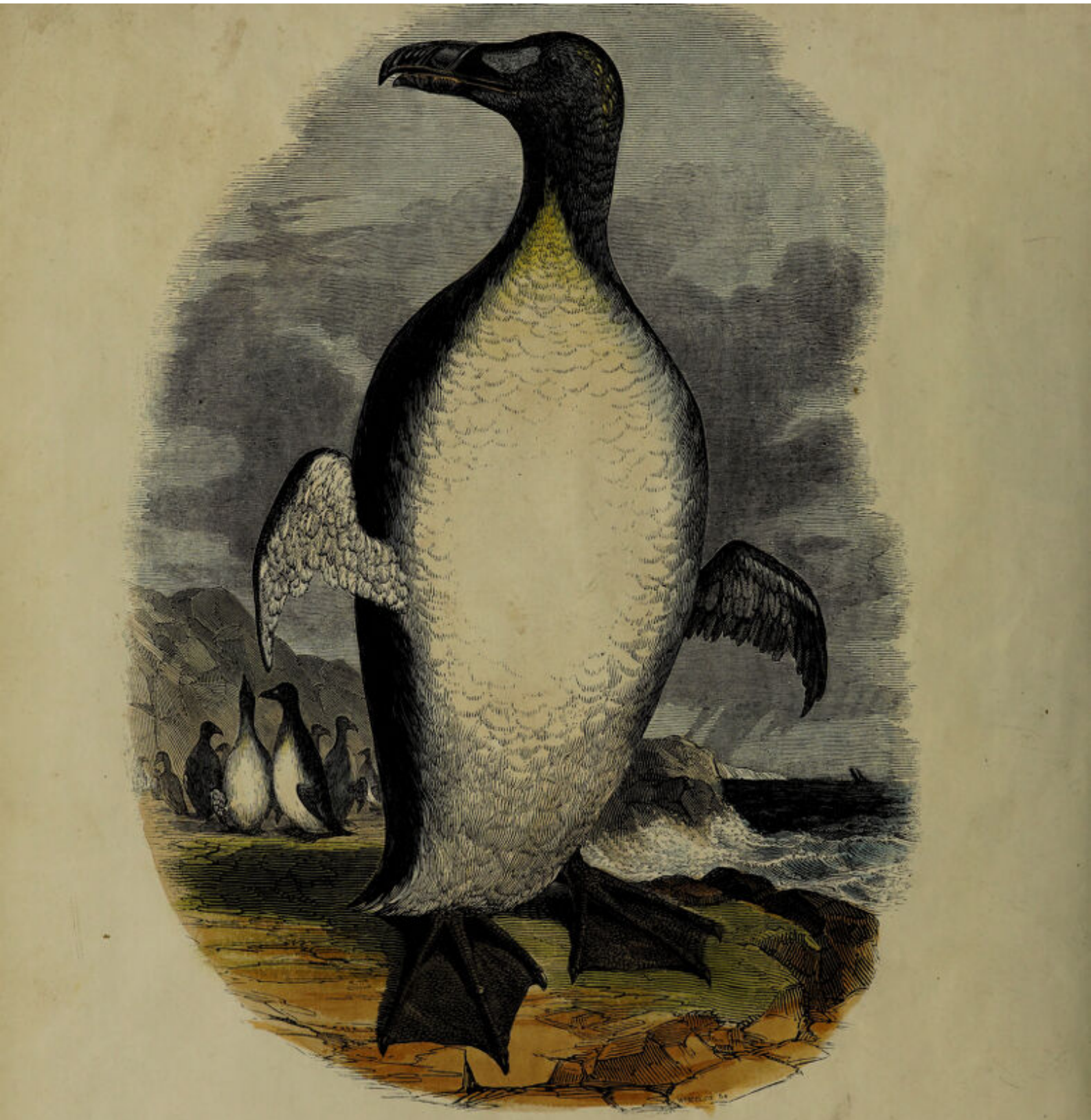

THE PENGUIN.——*Alca impennis.*

This bird has such small and short wings, that it would in vain try to fly. But these wings, though small, are of great use to it when it seeks its food. The Penguin is fond of fish, and moves with amazing swiftness, by help of its wings, under water, in search of its food. It passes the chief part of its life on or in the sea; and, being usually very fat, it does not suffer from remaining a long time in a wet and cold state. When on land, flocks of these birds may be seen walking upright in a formal, stately manner, holding their heads high. They look, from a little distance, like a company of soldiers. As the feathers on the breasts of some of the species are beautifully white, with a line of black running across, they have sometimes been compared, when seen afar off, to a number of children with white aprons tied round their waists with black strings. The Penguin loves a cold climate. It sleeps very sound, and is extremely tenacious of life. The female lays a single egg. She makes a slight hollow in the earth, just large enough to prevent her egg from rolling out. The manner in which the Penguins and Albatrosses, with a few other species of sea birds, lay out together a piece of ground, (four or five acres,) for their nests, and superintend their charge, is given in Bishop Stanley's work on Birds, vol. ii. p. 276, &c. Edit. 1840. Some Penguins in the South Sea Islands are called Hopping Penguins, and Jumping Jacks, from their habit of leaping quite out of the water, sometimes to the height of three or four feet, on meeting with any check in their course through the sea.

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R. CLAY, PRINTER, BREAD STREET HILL.

THE CRAB.——*Cancer Pagurus.*

The animals of the Crab tribe live chiefly in the sea. They are, however, amphibious, living on land, as well as in water. The common Crab, represented above, which is sometimes called the Black-Clawed or Eatable Crab, is valuable as an article of food, and is found in great quantities, and of various sizes, on the rocky coasts both of Europe and India. Many are brought to the London market from the coasts of Devonshire and Dorsetshire, as well as from other parts of the country. The species of this creature are very numerous. Some Crabs weigh several pounds, others only a few grains. The most remarkable circumstance in their history is the changing of their shells and broken claws at certain periods. At these times they retire among the hollows of the rocks, and under large stones. A Crab generally shows great timidity, and is very expeditious in effecting its escape from its enemies. If suddenly alarmed, it will, like the spider, pretend to be dead, and will watch an opportunity to sink itself into the sand, keeping only its eyes above ground. Crabs are naturally quarrelsome, and frequently fight among themselves. Their claws are then terrible weapons, with which they lay hold of each other's legs; and wherever they seize, it is difficult to make them give up their hold; and if a claw be lost in the combat, it will be renewed from the joint at which it was broken off. They are very tenacious of life. It is said that they will live, confined in the pot or basket in which they have been caught, for months together, without any other food than that which is collected from the sea-water.

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THE ESQUIMAUX DOG.——*Canis Familiaris, var.*

The Esquimaux are a people inhabiting the remote parts of North America. They have no fixed abode, but rove from place to place. Their chief employment is hunting and fishing; and they keep a great many large, well-trained dogs, which are used to drag their sledges over the hard snow in winter. The Esquimaux Dog is as valuable to these rude tribes as the rein-deer is to the Laplander. When drawing a sledge, the dogs have a simple harness of deer or seal-skin going round the neck, with a single thong leading over the back, and attached to the sledge as a trace. A number of dogs are thus yoked to the sledge, which sometimes contains several persons, who are thus drawn, at the rate of seven or eight miles an hour, over a large tract of ground,—perhaps sixty miles a day. It appears, by an interesting account given by Sir E. Parry of his Second Voyage, that the most spirited and sagacious dog is selected as the leader in this remarkable team, and is generally placed from eighteen to twenty feet from the fore part of the sledge; the hindmost dog, which is the least efficient, being harnessed at about half that distance; so, that when ten or twelve are running together, several are nearly abreast of each other. The driver sits low on the front of the sledge, with his feet overhanging the snow on one side, and having in his hand a strong and flexible whip, which is a necessary article to keep the dogs properly to their work, though the actual application of it is seldom necessary; as the leader understands his master's voice, and turns to the right hand or to the left accordingly. If the driver wishes to stop the sledge, he calls out "Wo, woa!" just as our carters do. When he has succeeded in stopping his dogs, he stands up, with one leg before the foremost cross-piece of the sledge, till, by means of laying the whip gently over each dog's heard, he has made them all lie down.

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THE MAGPIE.——*Corvus Pica.*

The Magpie may be known from other birds of the Crow kind by the mixture of white and black on its breast and wings, by its long tail, and the bright and varied hue of its feathers. It is a loud, troublesome, and restless bird. It can be taught to imitate the human voice. No food comes amiss to the Magpie. It lives on worms and insects, and even on small birds. It often perches on the back of a sheep, or an ox, picking out the insects that lodge there, and chattering all the time, apparently to the great annoyance of the animal on which it trespasses. It is fond of hiding pieces of money and articles of dress. Its nest is generally very curious, on account of the manner in which the parent birds fence it round with briars and thorns, to keep off the foxes, cats, and hawks, which might else assail the young brood. Stanley, in his History of Birds, mentions some anecdotes of a pair of Magpies which had settled near a house in the north of Scotland. He says, "The female was observed to be the more active and thievish of the two, and withal very ungrateful; for although the children about the house had often frightened cats and hawks from the spot, yet she one day seized a chicken, and carried it to the top of the house to eat it, when the hen immediately followed, and having rescued the chicken, brought it safely down in her beak: and it was remarked, that the poor little bird, though it made a great noise while the Magpie was carrying it up, was quite quiet, and seemed to feel no pain, while its mother was carrying it down." A more favourable trait appears in the following circumstance which occurred in Essex: "Some boys having taken four young ravens from a nest, placed them in a waggon in a cart-shed. About the same time these cruel boys happened to destroy the young of a Magpie, which had built its nest near the cart-shed; when the old Magpie, hearing the young ravens cry for food, brought some, and constantly fed them till they were given away by the boys."

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THE RAVEN.——*Corvus Corax.*

The Raven is the largest bird of the Crow kind. It is a native of every region, and can bear heat or cold alike. "Go where you will," says Bishop Stanley, "over the face of the wide world, and the well-known hoarse croak of the Raven is still to be heard." It generally builds its nest in a high tree, and lays five or six eggs at a time. It is a bird of prey, feeding chiefly on small animals and carrion. Young rabbits, ducks, chickens, eggs, &c. are sometimes devoured by it. When brought up young, the Raven becomes very familiar, and exhibits many amusing qualities which make mirth for a whole neighbourhood. It is a forward, sly, prying, active creature. It may be instructed in the art of fowling like the hawk, taught to fetch and carry like the spaniel, and even to speak like the parrot. The Raven is a sad thief, and is said to have been detected in the act of secreting silver spoons in its lurking-place. It has, however, several good qualities which often make it deservedly a great favourite. We may glean a valuable lesson of kindness and compassion from the following anecdote of a Raven, that lived many years at the Red Lion Inn, Hungerford. The story is told in the Gentleman's Magazine, and quoted in Handcock's Essay on Instinct, as well as in Stanley's History of Birds.*

"Coming into the inn yard," says the narrator, "my chaise ran over and bruised the leg of my Newfoundland dog; and while we were examining the injury, Ralph, the raven, was evidently a concerned spectator; for the minute the dog was tied up, under the manger, with my horse, Ralph not only visited him, but brought him bones, and attended on him with particular and repeated marks of kindness. I observed it to the ostler, who told me that the bird had been brought up with a dog, and that the affection between them was mutual. Ralph's poor dog after a while broke his leg, and during the long time he was confined, Ralph waited on him constantly, carried him his provisions, and scarcely ever left him alone. One night by accident the stable door had been shut, and Ralph had been deprived of the company of his friend the whole night; but the ostler found in the morning the door so pecked away, that, had it not been opened, Ralph, in another hour, would have made his own entrance. Several other acts of kindness were shown by this bird to dogs in general, but particularly to maimed or wounded ones."

The Psalmist, proclaiming the wisdom and goodness of God as evinced in the works of the creation, and in His providential care of the creatures of his hand, says: "He giveth to the beast his food, and to the young Ravens which cry."† And the answer to the question in Job, "Who provideth for the Raven his food?"‡ may be reverently answered in the words of Psalm cxlv. 15, 16: "The eyes of all wait upon Thee, O Lord, and thou givest them their meat in due season. Thou openest thy hand, and filest all things living with plenteousness."

* See also *Saturday Magazine*, No. 44. † Psalm cxlvii. 9. ‡ Job xxxviii. 41.

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FIN WHALE OR RORQUAL.——*Balænoptera Boöps.*

THE RORQUAL is the largest of all Whales, and consequently of all animals now existing. It sometimes reaches the enormous length of eighty or even a hundred feet. Its food consists not only of the small animals on which the common Whale subsists, but also of fish of considerable size. The blubber of the Rorqual does not in most instances yield oil in sufficient quantities to make this powerful and active creature a great prize to the Whale-fishers. Its habits are different from those of the common Whale. It is less quiet in its movements, seldom lying motionless on the surface of the water, but making way at the rate of about five miles an hour. When struck by the harpooner, the suddenness of its descent is such as very frequently to break the line. At other times, the rapid rising of the wounded creature for breath, the violent movements which its agony occasions, the brandishing of its vast tail, or the whirlpool produced by its sinking, have either of them been known to cause the destruction of the boats within its reach. The Rorqual is occasionally met with on the shores of our islands, and in the northern seas it is very common. It is often seen off the coast of Zetland and Orkney, and now and then descends to the more southern parts of our seas. The enormous skeleton which was exhibited, in a temporary building erected for it, near the Royal Mews, Charing Cross, a few years ago, belonged to this species. It had been towed into the harbour of Ostend. The following are the measurements of that specimen:—Total length, 95 ft.; breadth, 18 ft.; length of head, 22 ft.; length of spine, 69 ft. 6 in.; breadth of tail, 22 ft. 6 in. The weight of it when taken, was 249 tons, or 480,000 pounds, and 4,000 gallons of oil were extracted from the blubber.

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THE EEL.—*Anguilla Vulgaris.*

Eels are found in fresh water in almost every part of the world. Three or four different species of this valuable fish are known of in our own country. The London market is principally supplied from Holland, by Dutch fishermen. There are two companies in Holland, which are said to have five vessels each. The vessels are built with a capacious well, in which large quantities of Eels are preserved alive till wanted. One or more of these vessels may be generally seen off Billingsgate; the others go to Holland for fresh supplies, each bringing a cargo of from 15,000 to 20,000 pounds weight of live Eels. Eels and salmon are the only fish sold by the pound weight in the London markets. Eels are averse to cold; there are none in the Arctic Regions, none in the rivers of Siberia, the Wolga, or the Danube. In milder regions the Eels, during the cold months of the year, remain imbedded in the mud; and large quantities are often taken by spears, in the soft soils of harbours, and banks of rivers, from which the tide recedes, leaving the surface exposed. The fish bury themselves twelve or sixteen inches deep to avoid the cold. Mr. W. Yarrell, in his History of British Fishes, informs us, that the passage of young Eels up the Thames at Kingston, in 1832, commenced on the 30th April, and lasted till the 4th May. Some notion may be formed of the quantity of these, each about three inches long, that pass up the Thames in the Spring, from the circumstance that it was calculated that from 1600 to 1800 passed a given point in one minute. This passage of young Eels is called Eel-*fare* on the banks of the Thames; *Fare*, being the Saxon word signifying, to travel. Thus a traveller is called a way-*faring* man; the charge for travelling is called a *fare:* hence also the word, thorough*fare*. Eels occasionally quit the water, when the grass is wet, and go short distances overland to search for frogs, or other food, or to change their situation to more suitable streams. They are very voracious feeders at certain times in the year; and have been seen sometimes eating vegetable matter, aquatic plants, &c. Ely is said to have been so named from the quantity of Eels there, and from the rents being formerly paid in this fish; Elmore, on the Severn, obtained its name, from the large number of Eels. These fish are in great request in many other countries. Ellis, in his Polynesian Researches, says: "In Otaheite Eels are great favourites, and are tamed and fed until they reach an enormous size. These pets are kept in large holes, two or three feet deep, partially filled with water. On the sides of the pits they generally remained, except when called by the person who fed them. I have been several times with the young chief, when he has sat down by the side of the hole, and, by giving a shrill sort of whistle, has brought out an enormous Eel, which has then moved about the surface of the water, and eaten with confidence out of its master's hand."

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THE WHITE SHARK.——*Carcharias Vulgaris.*

This fish is the terror of mariners in most of the warm countries of the globe. It is fierce and voracious, and swims with amazing swiftness and ease. There are several species of Shark; and even the smaller ones are dreaded by fish much larger than themselves; but the White Shark, which grows to a large size, and sometimes weighs between 3,000 and 4,000 pounds, is considered the most terrible. The body is long, covered with a hard skin; the head large; the mouth wide; the upper jaw armed with six rows of sharp triangular teeth, and projecting far beyond the lower jaw, which has four rows of teeth, sharper than those above. The fish before us uses these dreadful weapons with a strength and ferocity that have often proved fatal to human beings; persons while swimming having been seized and devoured by Sharks. It is a fortunate circumstance for those who are endeavouring to avoid its attacks, that its mouth is placed so low as to oblige the creature to turn on its side before it can make sure of its prey. In this short interval an active and courageous swimmer has frequently made his escape. It is said that in the Pearl Fisheries of South America, the Negro diver, in order to defend himself from these monsters of the deep, carries with him into the water a sharp knife, which, if the fish offers to assault him, he endeavours to strike into its belly, on which it generally makes off. The late Sir Brook Watson was swimming at a little distance from a ship in Montego Bay, in the West Indies, when he saw a Shark approaching him. He instantly cried out for assistance, and a rope was thrown; but while the men were drawing him into the boat, the animal darted at him, and in a moment tore off his leg. This painful scene is represented in a good painting in the Hall of Christ's Hospital. The White Shark, the Blue Shark, the Fox Shark, and some other species, which are more or less formidable, are occasionally met with on the British Coast; most of them are well known in the Mediterranean; and they are great wanderers. The Basking Shark is harmless. The White Shark will attend a ship, in expectation of what may be thrown overboard, and will readily take a piece of flesh fastened as bait on an iron crook. When it is drawn upon deck, the sailors' first act is to chop off its head, to prevent mischief from its great strength and violence. Its flesh, though coarse, is sometimes eaten by the men on a long voyage.

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THE HOUSE SPARROW.——*Fringilla domestica.*

The common Sparrow is met with throughout the year, finding a home among the habitations of men; the royal palace, and homely cottage, being alike subject to its intrusion. The Sparrow, however, which is reared in the smoky city, and is so bold and familiar, affords but a poor example of the colours that adorn the bird when seen in the cottage-garden, or at the farmer's barn-door. The nest of the Sparrow is formed under the eaves of tiles, in holes or crevices in the wall, or in any hollow place which will allow of sufficient room for the mass of hay and feathers collected for the dwelling of its family. Sometimes the nest is fixed in a tree near a house. So fond is this bird of warmth, that large quantities of feathers are used even to line a hole for it, on the inner side of the thick thatching of a barn; and it has been seen collecting feathers in winter, and carrying them away to its home. The young are fed with soft fruits, tender vegetables, and insects, particularly caterpillars; and so great is the number of these destructive insects consumed by the parents and their brood, that it is a question whether the good thus performed does not produce a balance in the bird's favour, against the grain and seeds which it requires at other seasons of the year.

The great attachment of the parent birds to their offspring, has been frequently noticed. It is stated, that a few years since, a pair of Sparrows which had built in a thatched roof of a house at Poole, were observed to pay their visits to the nest, long after the time at which the young birds generally take flight. This unusual circumstance continued throughout the year; and in the winter, a gentleman, on mounting a ladder, found one of the poor little birds detained a prisoner, by means of a piece of string or worsted, (part of the nest,) which had got accidentally twisted round its leg. Being thus prevented from obtaining its own food, it had been sustained by the constant exertions of its parents. The Psalmist alludes to the Sparrow as finding a shelter in the sanctuary;* and in another Psalm, when in affliction and solitude, he says: "I watch, and am as a Sparrow, alone upon the house-top."†

* Psalm lxxxiv. 3.

† Psalm cii. 7.

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THE SWALLOW.——*Hirundo rustica.*

"The Swallow," says Sir Humphry Davy, "is one of my favourite birds, and a rival of the nightingale; for he glads my sense of seeing, as much as the other does my sense of hearing. He is the joyous harbinger of the best season; he lives a life of enjoyment among the loveliest forms of nature. Winter is unknown to him; and he leaves the green meadows of England in autumn, for the myrtle and orange groves of Italy, and for the palms of Africa. The first appearance of the Swallow is very early in April, and its departure is at the close of the summer. This bird being very rapid in its flight, and able to continue long upon the wing, is supposed to migrate as soon as the weather becomes too cold for it to remain in our climate. The quantity of insects devoured by Swallows is very large. Small spiders, floating about in the air, form a considerable article of food to the Swift, which is one of the sorts of the bird before us. Bishop Stanley, in his History of Birds, says: "It is a common weather rule, that when Swallows fly low there will be rain, but when high it will be fair. The reason may be easily guessed. They feed entirely upon insects: and the flight of insects depends, in a great degree, on the state of the air. If it is clear and dry, they rise; if moist, or likely to be so, they keep nearer the ground." White, in his History of Selborne, admirably describes the process by which, in the month of May, the Window-Swallow, or Martin, builds its nest. The crust or shell of this nest is formed of mud or loam, and is tempered and wrought together with little pieces of straw, to make it tough and tenacious. Speaking of the gradual advance of the work, he says: "Thus careful workmen, when they build mud walls (informed at first, perhaps, by this little bird), raise but a moderate layer at a time, and then desist; lest the work should become top-heavy, and so be ruined by its own weight. Allusion is made in Holy Scripture to the Swallow, as observing "the time of its coming,"* and as finding "a nest for herself" in the sanctuary.†

* Jer. viii. 7.

† Psalm lxxxiv. 3.

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THE CART HORSE.——*Equus Caballus.*

The Horse, under proper care and control, is a most active and useful servant to man. When well-treated, this powerful creature will shrink from no reasonable share of labour, and will obey the voice, and often even the mere look of its master. Many of our readers must have observed these qualities in the Cart Horse, and noticed the ease with which an intelligent driver may direct his loaded waggon or dray through crowded streets, and narrow lanes, or *back* it down a gateway, in which there appears to be scarcely room; all this being done without the application of the whip to the willing and sturdy animal. The welfare of the Horse is, in a great degree, connected with our own; and it is therefore surprising that it should be so ill-used as it sometimes is. Those persons who are cruel to animals, either by beating them passionately, or putting them to work which is too heavy for them, seem to forget that such conduct is reproved in Scripture: "A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast."*

It must be remembered, that, as the Horse possesses amazing strength, and has no reason to guide it, we ought not to trust our lives and limbs to its disposal, without a sufficient check on its movements. Its dangerous nature, when uncontrolled, is adverted to by the Psalmist, who draws from it a lesson on violence and stubbornness among men: "Be ye not like to horse and mule, which have no understanding; whose mouths must be held with bit and bridle, lest they fall upon thee."† It is thought that the Horse was first brought under the service of man by the Egyptians. The earliest mention of it is made in the book of Genesis as belonging to the time of Joseph. When the famishing inhabitants of Egypt had spent their money in the purchase of corn, "they brought their cattle to Joseph; and Joseph gave them bread in exchange for horses, and the flocks, &c."‡ Jacob, in his dying address to his sons, says, "Dan shall be a serpent by the way, an adder in the path, that biteth the horse heels, so that his rider shall fall backward."§ And on the removal of the body of Jacob by his son Joseph from Egypt to Canaan for burial, it is recorded: "There went up with him both chariots and horsemen."‖

* Prov. xii. 10. † Psalm xxxii. 10. ‡ Gen. xlvii. 17. § Gen. xlix. 17. ‖ Gen. l. 9.

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THE PELICAN.—*Pelicanus Onocrotalus.*

This bird, which is found in Asia and Africa, affords an illustration of the wonderful works of God in the creation. The bill of the Pelican, frequently sixteen or eighteen inches long, has attached to its lower portion a pouch, which extends for some distance down the fore part of the neck. The fish on which the creature preys are immediately stowed away in this pouch in sufficient quantities for a meal, not only for itself, but often also for its family. Having collected its store, it retires to some neighbouring rock to satisfy its craving appetite. The pouch, when stretched to its utmost, contains from two to three gallons of water. The old birds are by its means enabled to bring home food for their young, emptying it into their throats by pressing the bill upon the breast—an action which has given rise to the erroneous opinion that the Pelican feeds its young with its blood. In the same manner the males feed the females when the latter are sitting on the eggs. These birds build their nests in the rocks, and inhabit solitary places, near the sea, or in the neighbourhood of rivers or marshes. When in search of food, they dart upon the fish from a great height. In a state of captivity, they are, like most of the tribe of swimming birds to which they belong, contented, harmless, and familiar. Their flesh is said to be unpalatable. The Pelican is mentioned in the Old Testament as an unclean bird,* which might not be eaten by the Jews. It is a bird of lonely habits. David, in his afflicted and solitary state, compares himself to a "Pelican in the wilderness."†

* Leviticus xi. 18.

† Psalm cii. 6.

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THE LIZARD.——*Lacerta agilis.*

The common Lizard, or, as it is sometimes called, the nimble Lizard, is the most gentle and inoffensive of all the tribe to which it belongs. Like the others of that tribe, its head and body are covered with scales. The tail is generally much longer than the body. Beneath the throat there is a kind of collar, formed of nine plates or scales. The length of the animal is usually from 5½ to 6½ inches. Professor Bell, in his "History of British Reptiles," gives the following graphic account of the Lizard before us: "This agile and pretty little creature is the common inhabitant of almost all our heaths and banks in most of the districts of England, and extending even into Scotland; it is also one of the few reptiles found in Ireland. On the continent its range does not appear to be very extensive. It is not found in Italy, nor, I believe, in France, and is probably confined, in a great measure, to our own latitude. Its movements are beautifully gracile, as well as rapid; it comes out of its hiding-place during the warm parts of the day, from the early spring till autumn has far advanced, basking in the sun, and turning its head with a sudden motion the instant that an insect comes within its view; and darting like lightning on its prey, it seizes it with its little sharp teeth, and instantly swallows it. Thus it will often take a great many of the smaller insects." The eggs are not placed in the sand to be hatched by the warmth of the sun, as is the case with the sand-lizard, but the young are produced alive, fully formed, able to run about, and very soon afterwards to take their own food. The Green Lizard, which differs from the above, is frequently met with on the continent. It is said that when this animal perceives the approach of a serpent, it is extremely agitated, and runs about as if in terror. These marks of fear have been considered by some persons as instances of attachment and regard to mankind; as if the little creature meant to warn them of the presence of the venomous reptile. Hence we sometimes read of the Premonitory Lizard.

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THE CONDOR.——*Vultur Gryphus.*

THE CONDOR was very imperfectly known to naturalists until the beginning of the present century. Exaggerated statements were made of the enormous size and rapacious habits of this species of Vulture; but a modern traveller, Baron von Humboldt, in describing the bird such as it really is, has corrected the accounts which had been received, and which had found a place in several useful and interesting works of Natural History. It is chiefly met with in South America, inhabiting lofty and snow-covered mountains, at an elevation of from 10,000 to 15,000 feet above the level of the sea; and when driven by hunger, descending into the plains, which it quits as soon as it has satisfied its appetite, as if unable to endure the heavier atmosphere and warmer climate below. Though there is no sufficient authority for the stories of the Condors having carried off young children, and even attacked men and women, the boldness and ferocity of these birds are extraordinary. Two of them, acting together, will frequently attack a puma, a llama, a calf, or even a full-grown cow. They will follow up the poor animal, allowing it no respite, but tearing it with their beaks and talons, till it falls, worn out with fatigue and loss of blood. After feasting with disgusting greediness on their prey, they are often unable to fly.

The Indians, for sport, sometimes place in sight of a troop of three or four Condors the carcase of a horse or cow, by way of food. As soon as the birds have finished their meal, and cannot use their wings, the hunters appear, armed with a lasso, or rope, which they slip round the birds' necks, and catch them. M. Humboldt states that the Condor is very tenacious of life. He saw one strangled with a lasso, and hanged on a tree, the Indians pulling it violently by the feet for several minutes; but on the removal of the lasso, the bird got up, and walked about as if unhurt. It was afterwards shot at four paces off, with three pistol balls, all of which entered its body; but it kept its legs till a ball struck its thigh. This act was exceedingly cruel, and therefore admits of no defence; but it proves the creature's tenacity of life. M. Humboldt met with none the extent of whose wings exceeded nine feet. The greatest authentic measurement is scarcely more than fourteen feet. The author of the illustrated work, entitled, "The Gardens and Menageries of the Zoological Society," says:—"The fine male Condor figured at the head of this article, is as quiet and resigned as any of the other birds of prey in the collection."

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THE WHITE BEAR.—*Ursus maritimus.*

No greater proof can, perhaps, be found of the wisdom and design of the great Author of creation, in whom "we live, and move, and have our being,"* than is afforded by the evident adaptation of the form and character of animals to the element and climate in which they chiefly live, and to the peculiar circumstances in which they are placed. It is almost impossible not to notice this in the instance of the Polar Bear; so great is the difference between it, and the species known as the Brown Bear, which is an inhabitant of the land. The creature represented above appears well fitted for a dwelling amidst the ice, and on the sea, in the intensely cold regions in which it passes its life. It is distinguished from its more inland relative by a nearer approach to the make of the otter, and other amphibious beasts of prey. This distinction can only be alluded to; there being no room for a description of particulars in this short account, beyond the observation, that the Polar Bear has much longer feet, the soles being clothed with long hair, by which a firm footing on the ice is the better secured. Its manners and habits are marked with a still greater difference. Instead of seeking the covert of the forests, it prefers situations such as the unsheltered summit of an iceberg, which would be death to most other creatures: or it will sit, watching at the openings of the frozen deep, for seals and other animals, which rise for air; and seizing them with its short black claws, will devour them with avidity. Dead whales, or portions of fish, are, however, its favourite prey. When such diet is not to be got, it subsists on vegetable food. Of the vast numbers seen by our adventurous countrymen, in recent northern expeditions, the largest appears to have been one, the length of which is stated by Captain Lyon, at 8 feet 7½ inches, and its weight at 1,600lbs. Some affecting anecdotes are recorded of the tender attachment of the female Bear to her young. She would, it is said, rather die, than desert her helpless charge. What reproofs, or rather what lessons, do the ways of some animals convey to the unkind and thoughtless of our own race!

* Acts xvii. 28.

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THE DOLPHIN.——*Delphinus Delphis.*

MANY interesting, but fabulous stories, are told of the Dolphin in the writings of the ancient classic authors. Any peculiar traits in the character of an animal formed sufficient grounds for those who had "gods many, and lords many,"* to assign to it supernatural qualities and attributes; and thus "the beasts that perish"† had their share with the heathen divinities in the homage and estimation of men. These remarks are true of the Dolphin, whose habits have probably given rise to the strange tales which have been invented respecting it. Professor Bell says: "The excessive activity and playfulness of its gambols, and the evident predilection which it evinces for society, are recorded by every mariner. Numerous herds of them will follow and surround a ship in full sail with the most eager delight, throwing themselves into every possible attitude, and tossing and leaping about with elegant and powerful agility, for no other apparent purpose than mere pastime." It is, however, as he adds, "a voracious, and even gluttonous animal;" and the eagerness with which it follows a ship may in some measure arise from the hope of obtaining food.

The amiable and pious Bishop Heber, in his Journal of a Voyage to India, has the following memorandum, on Sunday, July 13, 1823 (about a month after he had embarked from England for his diocese). "We had divine service on deck this morning. A large shoal of Dolphins were playing round the ship, and I thought it right to check the harpoons and fishing-hooks of some of the crew. The wanton destruction of animal life seems to be precisely one of those works by which the sanctity and charity of our weekly feast would be *profaned*. The seamen took my reproof in good part, and left the mizen-chains, where they had been previously watching for their prey."

Its flesh was formerly considered a delicacy, and served up like that of the porpoise, with a sauce composed of crumbs of bread, sugar, and vinegar; but these animals are now excluded from the kitchen. The female Dolphin brings but a single young one, which she nurses and suckles with great tenderness and care. The mother lies partly on one side, to enable both herself and her young one to breathe easily, while the suckling is going on. The milk is plentiful and rich. The general length of the full-grown Dolphin is from six, to eight or nine feet. The outward orifice of the organ for hearing is scarcely larger than a pin-hole.

* 1 Cor. viii. 5. † Psalm xlix. 12.

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THE WALRUS.

This extraordinary animal, which is sometimes called the Morse, the Sea-cow, or the Sea-horse, is found, like the seal, only in the colder regions. It frequently visits the shore, or the ice, and remains there for days together, until driven back to the sea either by fear or hunger. At the first approach of danger, it makes for the element in which it lives and moves with still greater comfort and freedom than on dry land. Its timid disposition, or love of society, induces it to associate in herds. These are found by the hunters to the number of forty, eighty, or one hundred together. They are often killed on land at Spitzbergen, and other northern coasts, with spears, for the sake of their oil, and the ivory of their tusks. The capture of the Walrus on land is less frequent than formerly, partly, perhaps, from the reduction in its numbers, and partly from its having been taught greater caution by its ingenious pursuer, man. It is ranked with the seals among carnivorous, or flesh-eating animals; and fish, probably, forms a portion of its food; but Professor Bell notices the form and structure of its jaw-teeth, which "are calculated rather to bruise the half-pulpy mass of marine vegetables, than to hold and pierce the slippery hardness of the fish's scaly cuirass." The canine teeth, directed downwards, are extremely long and powerful, and valuable for the creature's defence. The Walrus is, at its birth, about the size of a pig of a year old. Two or three instances are on record of the Walrus having been found on the coasts of Britain.

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THE KANGAROO.——*Macropus giganteus.*

This interesting and good-tempered animal inhabits New South Wales, and some of the islands between that continent and South-eastern Asia, and has as yet been discovered in no other part of the globe. It is fond of wandering about among the grass, and feeds on green herbage, roots, and hay. The greatest peculiarity in the form of the Kangaroo, consists in the extreme disproportion of its limbs; the front legs being short and weak, while the hind ones are very long and muscular. It goes entirely on its hind legs, making use of its fore-feet only for digging, or bringing its food to its mouth. It is very timid at the sight of men, who sometimes hunt it with dogs: on these occasions the animal takes amazing leaps, of upwards of twenty feet in length, springing over bushes seven or eight feet high, or going progressively from rock to rock. It carries its tail at right angles with its body when it is moving; and when it alights, often looks back. The tail of the Kangaroo, which is very large, and remarkably thick at its base, helps to support the animal when in a nearly erect posture. In this position it is supported, as if on a tripod, by the joint action of the hind legs and the tail. It is quiet and harmless, until attacked; but when obliged to use the means which Providence has given for its defence, it sometimes not only inflicts blows on dogs so severe as to oblige them to desist from pursuing it, but with the short claws of its hind feet lacerates the bodies of its assailants in a shocking manner. Its flesh is said, by the colonists who have eaten it, to be good and wholesome; but it would not, probably, be used for food where there was not a scarcity of provisions. Many of our readers may have seen specimens in collections in this country. There were two in the Royal Park at Windsor, which were afterwards in the Tower, and which appeared to be but little affected by the difference of climate.

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THE AMERICAN TAPIR.

This curious creature is chiefly found in South America, and belongs to the *pachydermatous tribe*, which is so called from the extreme thickness of the skin of the animals which compose it. The hog is of this order. The skin of the Tapir is so thick and tough, that Sonnini, the traveller, says he has frequently fired at one crossing a river with her young, without causing her to turn aside from her direction, although he could see the impression made by the ball on her hide. With this coat of mail the Tapir can clear for itself a path through the thickest woods, and snap in two a cord strong enough to stop a bull in its course. The most common mode of taking the Tapir, is to attract it by an imitation of its voice, which is like a whistle, and so to bring it close to the huntsman's shot. The American Indians sometimes use poisoned arrows, and occasionally dogs, for securing this prey. The flesh, though coarse and dry, is much esteemed by the natives. Its most common food consists of wild fruits, buds, shoots, and young plants; when pressed by hunger it will eat almost any thing, such as rags, dirt, and even pieces of wood, and small stones. One of them is stated to have gnawed in pieces a silver snuff-box, which was left in its way, and swallowed its contents. The Tapir is about as large as a calf of six months old. Its body is heavy. Its ears are small. The nose and upper lip are extended into a moveable proboscis, at the extremity of which are the nostrils. It is not a mischievous animal, but quiet and good-tempered, unless assailed by huntsmen and their dogs, when it defends itself with great courage. Sonnini speaks of tame ones strolling at liberty through the streets of Cayenne, visiting the neighbouring woods, returning in the evening to the houses where they are fed, and showing attachment to such persons as are kind to them.

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THE WILD BOAR

The Wild Boar still infests many parts of Europe, and was formerly found in the woods and forests of Britain. Among the severe forest-laws in force in the reign of William the First, there was one by which any found guilty of killing the stag, the roe-buck, or the Wild Boar, should have their eyes put out! and sometimes the penalty appears to have been a painful death. This savage and dangerous animal is met with in Asia; it is a favourite object of the chase in India, and is also said to be an inhabitant of Syria, and the northern parts of Africa. It is one of the quadrupeds mentioned in Holy Scripture. The Psalmist, lamenting the miseries of the Church, which, under a beautiful figure, he compares to a goodly vine, rifled and trodden under foot, complains—"The Wild Boar out of the wood doth root it up; and the wild beasts of the field devour it."* It feeds on vegetables, fruit, and different kinds of grain; though when stimulated by hunger, it does not reject the flesh of animals. The male lives alone and apart, amidst the thickest retreats of the forest, lying concealed during the day, and roaming about in the evening in search of food. The females, on the contrary, unite in large herds with their young, for the purpose of mutual defence. When attacked, the older and stronger ones form a line against the enemy; the younger and weaker portion of the herd being placed in the rear; and it is found that the females, though generally quiet and harmless, defend their young with the most determined courage. The chase of the Wild Boar has for centuries been much followed in Germany, and considered the more exciting in consequence of its dangerous character. This kind of hunting has furnished a glowing but painful subject for the pencil of the artist. The long, curved, and sharp tusks of the animal, wielded by the strong muscles of his brawny neck, are capable of tearing open the body of his enemy, the horse, at a single blow. When once at bay, the Boar becomes furious. He turns indiscriminately on his persecutors; and the hunter himself is in no little jeopardy, if he be on foot, or his horse has been disabled. The common hog, or pig, one of the most useful animals reared in Great Britain and Ireland, derives its origin from the savage and powerful creature represented above. The ordinary length of the head and body of a Wild Boar of four years old, is three feet, the head being nearly a foot in length.

* Psalm lxxx. 13.

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THE HERRING.——*Clupea Harengus.*

The common Herring visits our shores chiefly in the autumn; it is then in its best state as an article of food. The fishing for it, which is a matter of vast national importance, is carried on with great spirit for certain periods, in different parts of Great Britain and Ireland. "And here," observes a naturalist, "we cannot but admire the order of Divine Providence, by whom this and several other species of fish are brought to the shores, within the reach of man, at the time when they are in their highest perfection, and best fitted to be his food." Brought into the market in large numbers, and at a moderate price, immense quantities of them are eaten; and from their fine and delicate flavour the consumption of them is general among all classes. In this country, Yarmouth, in Norfolk, is the great and ancient mart of Herrings. Considerable portions of them are salted, and are then called bloaters. They are very plentiful along the Yorkshire coast, and swarm among the Orkney and Shetland islands during the summer months. Many are caught on the coasts of Essex and Kent in the nets used for taking sprats. In the London market, they are most esteemed in October and November. The usual mode of fishing for Herrings is by drift-nets, which are suspended by the upper edge from a thick rope, called the drift-rope, by various shorter and smaller ropes, called buoy ropes. Skill is necessary in the use of these nets, that they may hang perpendicularly in the water, with the meshes square, smooth, and at a proper depth; for according to the wind, tide, situation of their food, and other causes, the Herrings swim at various depths below the surface. The drift-rope is attached at one end to a large buoy, the fishing boat retaining the other end, so that the nets are kept strained in a straight line. This is done during the night. The fish, roving in shoals in the dark through the water, hang in the meshes of the nets, which are large enough to admit them beyond the gill covers and pectoral fins, but not large enough to allow the thick part of the body to pass through. In the morning the nets are hauled in, and the fish secured. Mackerel and pilchards are caught in a similar manner. The Herring is a very capricious fish, seldom frequenting long the same place.

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THE GUINEA-PIG.——*Cavia Cobaya.*

This little creature, the length of whose head and body is generally between ten and eleven inches, is otherwise called, *the Restless Cavy*. Indeed, it does not appear that it is mentioned by any naturalist as being a native of Guinea. The country from which it originally came, is the southern part of South America. It is now very common as a domesticated British quadruped. Its pretty red and black marks, on the pure white fur with which it is covered, added to its quiet and inoffensive habits, make it attractive, especially to children. Its qualities, however, when we examine them, are not valuable. Scarcely ever at rest, it has no intelligence, and cannot be taught; while its tameness is the effect of stupidity rather than good temper. Its flesh is never eaten in this country, and its fur is so harsh as to be unfit for use. Some persons keep Guinea-Pigs for the purpose of getting rid of rats, which are supposed, though without sufficient proofs, to have a particular dislike to the animal before us, and to quit in digust the cellar, or stable, in which it is kept. In the wilds of South America, Guinea-Pigs are taken in considerable numbers by the natives for the flesh, which they think excellent. The animal has neither speed nor sagacity to escape the attacks of beasts or of birds of prey.

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Price ½d Plain; 1d. Coloured.

THE JACKAL.——*Canis Aureus.*

This mischievous and ill-favoured creature is a native of Asia and Africa. In the warmer regions of those parts of the world, it takes the place of the wolf, resembling that formidable animal both in its temper and appearance. Unlike the sullen solitary wolf, however, or the skulking fox, the Jackal joins in company with his species in troops, which burrow together in the earth, hunt together, and unite for their mutual defence. These dangerous bands not only prey upon the smaller quadrupeds, and domestic poultry, but attack larger animals. They frequently follow in the train of more noble beasts, and make a meal off the remains of carcases which have been partly devoured by the lion, the tiger, or the leopard. The Jackal, it has been thought, is in the habit of finding prey for his superiors in the desert or the forest; and he is thence sometimes called the lion's provider.

Though fierce and shy in a wild state, the Jackal, when taken, becomes mild and docile. In a description of the Tower Menagerie, in 1829, it is said of the Jackal: "The specimen in the Tower is remarkably quiet: it is a male, and has been a resident for upwards of three years."

The Jackal is supposed by some to be mentioned in the Old Testament under the name of the fox,—an opinion in some degree supported by a passage in the tenth and eleventh verses of the sixty-third Psalm:—"These also that seek the hurt of my soul, they shall go under the earth: let them fall upon the edge of the sword, that they may be a portion for foxes." The Hebrew word translated fox, means an animal which burrows or makes holes in the earth. Now the fox does not prey upon dead bodies; but in those countries in which Jackals abound, it is found necessary to dig the graves very deep, and to cover them over with thorns to prevent the bodies from being dug up and devoured.

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THE PIKE.——*Esox lucius.*

This well-known fish, which is now common throughout Europe, was some centuries ago very rare in England. Edward the First, who regulated the prices of fish which were then brought to market, fixed the value of Pike at a higher rate than fresh salmon, and more than ten times as high as the finest turbot or cod. Pike are frequently specified among the dainties served up at great feasts subsequently to that date. They were so much esteemed in the reign of Henry the Eighth, that a large one sold for double the price of a house-lamb in February, and a small Pike for more than a fat capon. The Pike is strong, fierce, and active; swims swiftly, and occasionally darts along with amazing velocity. Its growth, when the creature is well supplied with food, is extremely rapid; and as the digestion is quick, and the appetite almost insatiable, it is an expensive fish to maintain. The voracity of Pike is proverbial. They feed upon roach, gudgeon, and such fish as they can swallow; and if these fail, they will eat any small prey they may meet with, whether alive or dead. Mr. Yarrell records an instance of one seizing the head of a swan, when she put it under water: the fish gorged so much of it that both bird and fish were killed. A mule on being brought to water was caught by the lips by a hungry Pike, which was thus drawn out of the water before it could disengage itself. A woman, while washing clothes in a pond, had her foot bitten by one; and they have sometimes darted at men's hands held over the side of a boat. Pliny considered the Pike likely to attain a longer life, and a larger size, than any fresh-water fish. Gesner says, that in the year 1497, a Pike was taken at Hailbrun, in Suabia, with a brazen ring attached to it, on which was an inscription in Greek to the following effect, "I am the fish which was first put into this lake by the hands of the governor of the universe, Frederick the Second, October 5, 1230." This makes the fish 267 years old: it is said to have weighed 350 pounds. The lakes of Ireland and Scotland afford large Pike, the former having produced some of seventy pounds: but Izaak Walton quaintly says, "Such old or very great Pikes have more in them of state than goodness; the smaller or middled-sized Pikes being by the most and choicest palates observed to be the best meat."

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THE LOBSTER.——*Homarus vulgaris.*

These creatures live in the sea, and are found on most of the rocky coasts of Great Britain. They feed on small fish, and any animal matter they may find. Some are caught with the hand, but the greater number in pots. These are traps made of twigs, in the form of wire mouse-traps, and when properly baited, and placed, will be found to contain several lobsters. The Lobster-pots are fastened to a cord sunk in the sea, their place being marked by pieces of cork. The Lobster holds its eggs under the broad tail until they are hatched. Like the rest of the crab tribe, Lobsters are said to cast their shells once a year; and if a claw be lost, another claw, though not so large, will grow in its place. The pincers of one of the claws are furnished with knobs, and those of the other are sharper, and more in the form of a saw. With the former pincer the animal keeps hold of the stalks of sea-plants, and with the latter it cuts and minces its food. It is more dangerous for a person to be seized by the cutting claw than the other. Under water the Lobster is able to run very swiftly on its legs or small claws; and if alarmed it can spring tail foremost to a surprising distance, almost as swiftly as a bird can fly. Large quantities of this favourite shell-fish are supplied, especially in the summer months, for the several markets.

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THE FLYING FISH.——*Exocetus volitans.*

THERE are several instances of a kind of Flying Fish having been taken on different parts of the British coast. A shoal of them was seen in August 1825, off Portland, taking long and frequent flights as if pursued by some of their enemies of the deep. One threw itself on the shore of Helford river, near Falmouth, which measured sixteen inches in length; the pectoral fins, with which it has the power of raising itself into the air, being eight inches and a half long. This remarkable animal chiefly inhabits the seas of hot climates, and is found in large quantities in New South Wales. Pennant states, that the Flying Fish in its own element is perpetually harassed by the Dorados and other fish of prey. If it endeavours to avoid them by having recourse to the air, it either meets its fate from the gull or the albatross, or is forced down again into the mouth of the fish which keep pace with its flight. Shoals of Flying Fish sometimes fall on board vessels. The most usual height to which they ascend above the surface of the water, is two or three feet, but they sometimes rise fifteen or eighteen feet high. It is an error to call them Flying Fishes; they do not in reality fly, but only leap into the air, where they cannot remain or support their weight as long as they will. Their flesh is well-flavoured, and is sometimes eaten by the sailors on a long voyage.

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R. CLAY, PRINTER, BREAD STREET HILL.

THE COD FISH.——*Gadus Morrhua.*

The common Cod Fish is excellent as an article of food: and it is taken in vast numbers, in various seas. In this country it is found all round the coast: it abounds among the islands to the north and west of Scotland, and is also met with near the shores of Ireland. In the United Kingdom alone this fish, in the catching, curing, and selling, affords employment and profit to many thousands of persons. Cod Fish feed near the ground, in deep water, on various small fish, worms, &c. Thirty-five crabs, none less than the size of a half-crown piece, have been taken from the stomach of one Cod. These fish are therefore taken with lines and hooks. About 500 have been caught on the banks of Newfoundland in ten or eleven hours, by one man; and eight men, fishing for the London market, off Dogger Bank, on the coast of Holland, in twenty fathoms of water, have taken 1600 Cod in one day. The Dogger Bank fish are highly esteemed. They are brought in vessels, called store-boats, having wells, in which the fish are preserved alive. Boats of this kind are said to have been first built at Harwich in 1712. They remain as low as Gravesend, where the water is sufficiently salt to keep the fish living; if they were brought higher up, the fresh water would kill the fish. Cod are in the best state for eating in the cold months of the year. Vast quantities are salted.

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THE COMMON VIPER.——*Vipera Berus.*

The Common Viper is the only poisonous reptile which is a native of this country. It is often known by the name of the Adder. It is found in sandy heaths, among dry woods, on banks, and in waste places. It is met with more frequently than the common snake in Scotland. In Ireland it has never been seen. It is naturally feared on account of its venom, which, by the pressure of its tooth, it drops into the wound that it has made. The bite and the insertion of the venom are the work of an instant, producing severe symptoms, and sometimes death itself in warmer climates. "In this country," says Professor Bell, "I have never seen a case which ended in death." The remedies usually employed for this injury, are the outward application of sweet oil, and ammonia taken in proper quantities inwardly. The Viper feeds on field-mice, shrews, frogs, and small birds. It is very greedy, and sometimes takes into its mouth more than it can swallow. One was found on Poole Heath, Dorsetshire, in a dying state, in the act of trying to swallow a mouse which was too large for it, the skin of the Viper's neck being so over-stretched, as to have burst in several places. The Viper, like most other venomous serpents, is born alive. It immediately shows its mischievous nature, the little reptile being easily enraged, and putting itself at once into a posture of defence.

The Psalmist, in describing the nature of the wicked, says: "They are as venomous as the poison of a serpent; even like the deaf adder, that stoppeth her ears."* The Messiah's complete victory over our spiritual enemies, seems to be predicted in another Psalm: "Thou shalt go upon the lion and adder; the young lion and the dragon shalt thou tread under thy feet." †

* Psalm lviii. 4.

† Psalm xci. 13. (See Bishop Horne's Commentary.)

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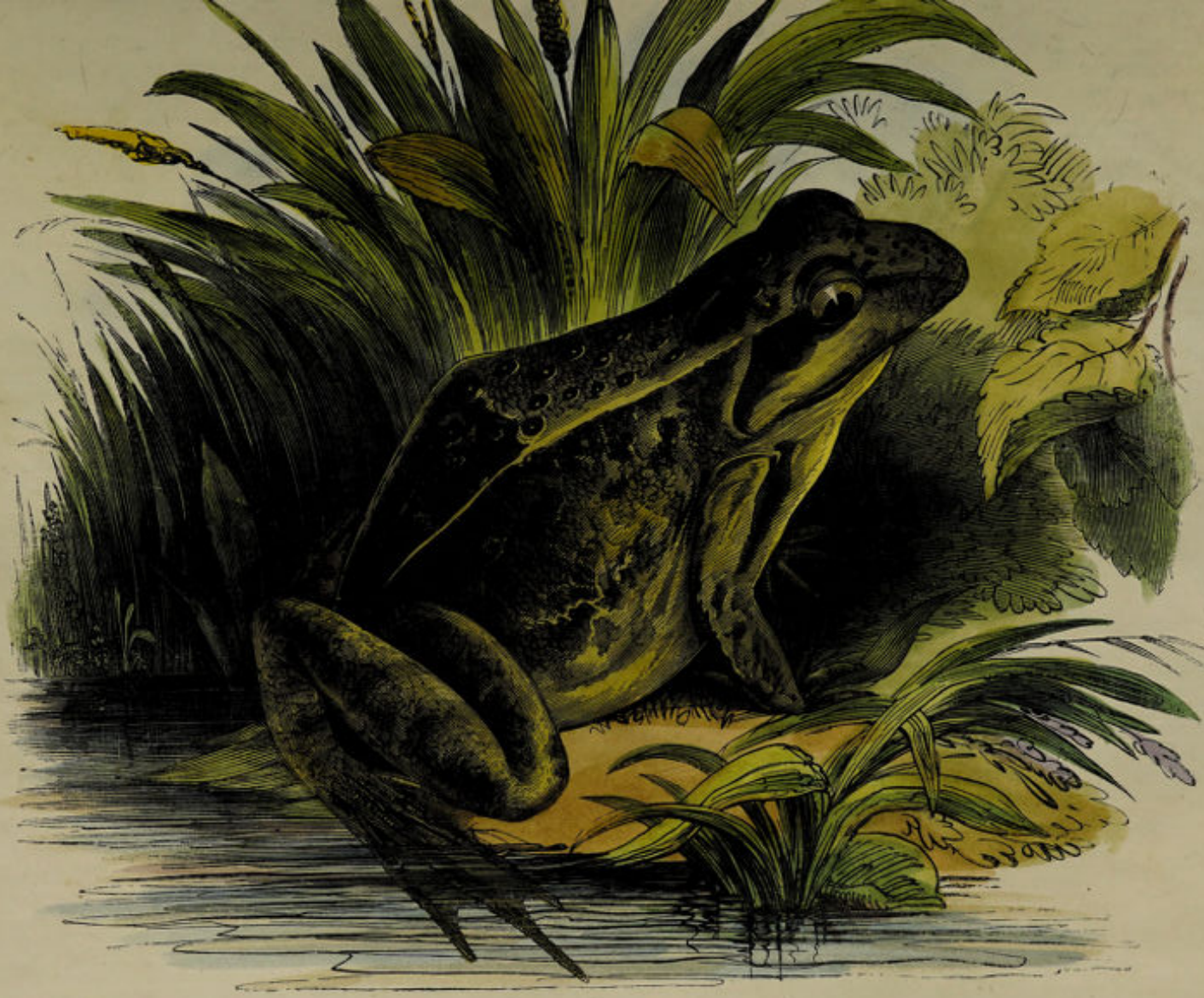

THE FROG.

This harmless and useful animal is found in almost all parts of the kingdom. Wherever there is a river or a pond, frogs are to be met with; and when great numbers are collected together, their croaking may often be heard from a great distance. They are most noisy in the season of spring, when they begin again an active life, having passed the winter months in a state of torpor, without moving or feeding. After their long sleep they feed very heartily. Their food consists of various kinds of insects, and of small slugs, which they swallow whole. Thus the frog is a valuable aid to the gardener and farmer. One of the plagues which visited Egypt, on account of Pharaoh's wickedness, consisted of vast quantities of frogs which covered the land.* This little reptile may be tamed. Dr. Wm. Roots had one in a domestic state, which "partook of the food given it by the servants. During the winter seasons, he regularly came out of his hole in the evening, and made for the hearth in front of a good kitchen fire, where he would continue to bask, and enjoy himself, till the family retired to rest. A sort of intimacy existed between him and a favourite old cat, under whose warm fur the frog frequently nestled, whilst the cat appeared extremely jealous of interrupting the comforts and convenience of the frog. This curious scene was often witnessed by many besides the family."

* Exod. viii. 6.

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THE TURTLE.——*Chelonia imbricata.*

The above cut represents the Hawk's-bill Turtle, which is so called from the resemblance which its horny beak bears to the bill of the hawk. The plates with which this Turtle is covered form the beautiful substance known by the name of Tortoise-shell. There are thirteen of these plates on the back, which lie one over the other, like the tiles of a house, at least one-third of each overlapping the one behind it. The manner in which the tortoise-shell is softened, or polished, and so rendered fit for use and ornament, is very curious, the effects being produced chiefly by means of heat. The Hawk's-bill Turtle is found about the islands and coasts both of the Indian and Atlantic oceans. Turtle of this species have also been taken on some occasions on the shores of Great Britain. They feed on sea-weed, crabs, and various kinds of shell-fish. When not engaged in feeding they are often seen floating, without the slightest movement, on the surface of the sea, as if asleep; they are then easily approached and taken. At other times their progress through the water is exceedingly rapid. The feet, which are formed like oars, propel the animal with great force. "The Green and Hawk-bill Turtle," says Audubon, "remind you, by their celerity, and the ease of their motions, of the progress of a bird in the air." The young Turtles are hatched from eggs which the female lays in the sand at certain seasons. These eggs are perfectly round, and are much esteemed as articles of food. The Green Turtle is highly valued for its flesh, which is wholesome, as well as richly-flavoured. There are other species of Turtle, called the Loggerhead, and the Trunk Turtle, or, as it is sometimes called, the Leathery Turtle.

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R. CLAY, PRINTER, BREAD STREET HILL.

THE SWAN.——*Cygnus Olor.*

This graceful creature is one of the large tribe of swimming birds, and is distinguished from the rest of the family of ducks, by the great length of its neck. It lives almost always upon the water, and prefers open lakes. It feeds chiefly on water-plants, which it is enabled to reach by means of its long neck; for it seldom if ever plunges its whole body beneath the surface. It also eats frogs, snails, and several kinds of insects. It is fond of bread, biscuit, and all kinds of grain, and in winter is chiefly kept on the same kind of food as is given to ducks and geese. When kindly treated it is as gentle in its temper and habits as it is majestic and elegant in form; but when annoyed, and compelled to defend itself, it is a powerful enemy. Its large size, and vast muscular power give it a great advantage in this case. Though it never molests the small water-fowl that inhabit its domains, it is said to have sometimes fought and repelled the eagle, when that bird has shown a disposition to disturb it. Bingley gives an account of a Swan which, while sitting on her eggs among reeds at the water's edge, saw a fox swimming towards her. She instantly darted into the water, and having kept him at bay for some time, drowned him, and then returned to her nest. Swans are very long lived. Instances are mentioned of this bird having reached the age of a hundred years, but it is difficult to ascertain the truth of the statement.

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R. CLAY, PRINTER, BREAD STREET HILL.

THE COMMON HERON.——*Ardea cinerea.*

Birds of this species are most common in England, France, and Holland. They are found in Russia and Poland; and not only in Europe, but in other parts of the world, they being birds of passage. The common Heron is upwards of three feet in length; and its wings expanded measure about five feet. It does not, however, weigh more than three pounds and a half; and it can therefore mount very high in the air. In winter when its food is scarce, the bird becomes so thin that it seems to be little else than feathers and bones. It feeds on fresh-water fish, particularly the young fry of carp and trout. In seeking its prey, it wades gently into the water, and stands in it up to its knee, (for it is fond of resting on one foot,) quietly watching the approach of fish, which it generally swallows whole. The time of fishing is chiefly before sunrise, or after sunset. Herons are sometimes shot when fishing. Another mode of taking them is to place a fish on a hook at the end of a line, in parts which they are known to frequent, when the bird is hooked by seizing the fish. When falconry was in fashion, flying the hawk at the Heron was very frequent. Herons build their nests on lofty trees, and more especially oaks, near to streams and marshes. The ancient Jews counted this bird unclean, it being enumerated among the creatures which might not be eaten.*

* Lev. xi. 19.

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THE OSTRICH.—*Struthio Camelus.*

These large birds are seen in flocks in the sandy deserts of Africa and Asia, and have sometimes been mistaken at a distance for cavalry. The Ostrich is different from birds in general in its manners and habits. Its wings are too small to raise it from the ground; its neck is covered with hair; its voice is a kind of mournful lowing; and it grazes on the plain with the zebra and other beasts. But though its wings are small, they are very useful in increasing its speed; for when the wind blows in the direction which it is taking, it always flaps them. The Arabians hunt it on horseback for its plumage, beginning their chase with a gentle gallop. It then continues advancing, but not very rapidly, until it is worn out with fatigue; when, finding that it cannot escape, it either turns in despair on the hunters, or hides its head, and meets its fate. Ostriches may be tamed with little trouble; and few creatures are then more useful than they. The feathers which they cast are very valuable; their eggs are used for food and ornament; their skins for leather; their flesh is eaten; and they are moreover sometimes employed as horses. During Dr. Adamson's residence at Podor, a French factory on the southern bank of the river Niger, he saw a large Ostrich so tame, that two little black children were placed both together on its back, and carried by it several times round the village. It afterwards carried two men with great speed. "It would," he says, "have distanced the fleetest race-horses that ever were bred in England." The Ostrich is gentle towards persons to whom it is accustomed, but fierce to strangers. Its powers of digestion are wonderful. It will swallow with voracity, rags, leather, wood, iron, or stone. "I saw one," says Dr. Shaw, "that swallowed, without any seeming inconvenience, several leaden bullets, as they were thrown upon the floor, scorching hot from the mould!"

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THE STARLING.——*Sturnus vulgaris.*

Few birds are more generally known than the Starling. It is an inhabitant of almost all climates, and is common in every part of England. It is a familiar bird, and easily trained. Its natural voice is strong and hoarse; but it may be taught to repeat short sentences, and to whistle tunes. During the winter, Starlings collect in vast flocks in the morning and evening, and may be known at a distance by their whirling flight, forming circles as they approach. They make a chattering noise when they assemble and disperse. They are fond of society, and are sometimes seen in company with redwings, fieldfares, and even with owls, jackdaws, and pigeons. They feed chiefly on snails, worms, and insects; they also eat various kinds of grain and seed, and are said to be very fond of cherries. In a state of confinement they will eat small pieces of raw meat, or bread soaked in water. The female Starling builds a simple nest of straw and twigs, &c., in the hollows of trees, rocks, or old walls, and sometimes in cliffs overhanging the sea. She lays four or five eggs; and the nest is often placed so high that it impossible for cruel boys to get at it to rob the poor bird of its young.

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R. CLAY, PRINTER, BREAD STREET HILL.

THE KITE.—*Milvus Ictinus.*

The Kite is of the falcon tribe, and is a bird of prey, feeding entirely on animal food. There are a great many species of this tribe, but the Kite is easily known, even when at a distance on the wing, by its long and forked tail. It is about twenty-six inches in length. The flight of this large bird is very graceful and easy. It soars to a great height, making circles as it mounts in the air. In its mode of taking its prey, it differs from falcons and hawks in general, by pouncing upon it on the ground. The kind of creatures which it eats makes this habit necessary. Twenty-two moles have been found in the nest of a kite, besides frogs and unfledged birds: it preys also on leverets, mice, snakes, and young game. In consequence of its fondness for this latter dainty, gamekeepers are always glad to kill it, so that it is rare in many parts of England. Like the sparrow-hawk, it frequently visits the poultry-yard; but the hen, like a good mother, is so bold in guarding her chickens, that she often drives the cruel Kite away before it can steal one of them. This bird sometimes takes fish out of rivers, and carries them to its nest. The nest is formed of sticks, and lined with feathers and other soft materials, and is usually placed in the forked branch of a tree in a thick wood. Two or three eggs, of dingy white, marked with a few brown spots, are laid early in the season. The nest is well defended by the parent Kite. A boy who climbed up to one, had a hole pecked through his hat, and one hand severely wounded, before he could get at the young birds. The Kite was reckoned an unclean bird among the Jews, and might not be eaten.*

* Lev. xi. 14.

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R. CLAY, PRINTER, BREAD STREET HILL.

THE ZEBRA.—*Equus Zebra.*

Zebras are chiefly found in the southern parts of Africa. Herds of them are sometimes seen grazing on the vasts plains which lie north of the Cape of Good Hope. They are, however, so quick-sighted, wild, and fleet, that it is very difficult to take any of them alive. Attempts have been made to tame this beautiful animal, so as to make it like other creatures of the horse tribe, useful as a beast of draught or burden: but such attempts have been hitherto vain. There was one in the Tower of London in 1814, when wild beasts were kept there. This Zebra, which was a female, would carry her keeper a little distance, but would then become restive, and kick violently. When angry she plunged, and tried to seize him with her teeth; and she was always savage towards strangers. A very fine male Zebra perished in the flames at the Lyceum in the Strand, some years ago, when that theatre was burnt down. He was more docile than most of his species, and once allowed himself to be ridden quietly from the Strand to Pimlico. But he had been born and reared in Portugal, his parents having been partly tamed.

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THE RACE-HORSE.——*Equus Caballus*.

The Horse has been the servant of man from very early times. The first mention of this fine animal in the Bible, occurs at the time that Joseph was in Egypt. The inhabitants having spent their money in corn, "brought their cattle unto Joseph, and Joseph gave them bread in exchange for horses, &c."* Soon after this we find Jacob, in his dying address to his sons, saying, "Dan shall be a serpent by the way, an adder in the path, that biteth the horse heels, so that his rider shall fall backward."† Many other notices of the horse are met with in Holy Scripture. There is a fine description of one in the book of Job.‡ In England horses appear to have been always highly valued. Julius Cæsar, who landed in Kent fifty-five years before Christ, records their fine stature and good training. The native British stock was improved by the introduction of fine specimens from Spain, and more recently from Arabia, and other eastern countries. The best race-horses, more especially, will be found to have sprung from an Arabian origin. The whole riches of an Arab of the desert frequently consist of his beautiful horse. He does not tie it up, but lets it feed at large round his habitation. Being treated with kindness, the creature will come running the moment it hears its master's voice, and will lie down in the midst of his children without hurting them. If the rider happens to fall, his horse will stand still instantly, and not stir till he has mounted again.

* Gen. xlvii. 17. † Gen. xlix. 17. ‡ Job xxxix. 19—26.

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THE SHEEP.——*Ovis Aries.*

This is one of the most useful and interesting animals in our collection. It is perhaps also the most defenceless, and ought to be very kindly treated. We all know the value of its flesh for our food, its wool for our clothing, its fat for giving us the means of light in the dark winter nights, its skin for leather. In Wales, and in the highlands of Scotland, its milk supplies butter and cheese. Sheep bred on the mountains show much boldness and agility in leaping from crag to crag, venturing, in sport, or for food, to small and narrow ledges, from whence it would seem almost impossible for them to make their way back. They are found in most parts of the world. The flavour of the Welsh sheep, which run wild about the mountains, is very fine; but the Sheep appears to have been brought to the highest state of perfection in England. The Dorset breed is esteemed handsome. The Southdown Sheep is highly valued. This last takes its name from a vast tract of downs formed by a range of chalk hills, extending more than sixty miles in length, through part of the counties of Sussex, Surrey, and Kent. Sheep, as well as shepherds, are often mentioned in the Bible. Abel was a keeper of sheep. Abraham had sheep; and Job possessed large flocks of them. David kept his father's sheep, and rescued one of the lambs from a lion and a bear. The lamb was employed as a sacrifice for an atonement among the Jews; and the lamb slain at the feast of the Passover was a type, foreshowing the death of Christ, who is called "our Passover," and who was "sacrificed for us." Good Christians are sometimes called sheep in Holy Scripture, on account of their harmless and useful lives.

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THE NYL GHAU.—*Antilope pictus.*

The Nyl Ghau is a kind of antelope, and is a native of India. It is one of the beasts which were hunted by the Mogul emperor, Aurung-zebe,* during his journey from Delhi to his summer residence in Cashmeer. The male Nyl Ghau is larger and more robust than the stag. The female is much smaller than the male, and is of a lighter and more slender form. She has no horns, nor any hump on the shoulders. The colour of the animal is a pale reddish brown, marked with spots and patches of white. There is one of these creatures now in the gardens of the Zoological Society, London. It is gentle and familiar, licking the hands of those who offer it bread, and suffering itself to be fondled without showing any fear. There are, however, times at which its temper is violent. When angry, and intending to attack, it falls suddenly on its front knees, shuffles onward to within a few paces of the object of its resentment, and then darting forward, butts with its head in a most resolute manner. Like most other creatures, it is best managed by kind treatment.

* Aurung-zebe, called the Great Mogul, reigned in Hindostan, from the year 1658 to 1707.

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THE REIN-DEER.——*Cervus Tarandus.*

This animal is of great use to the inhabitants of Lapland, which is a country covered with snow for about three quarters of the year. What a blessing the Rein-Deer must be in those cold and dreary regions! Its flesh supplies the people with good food: they make cheese of its milk, warm clothing of its skin, bow-strings and threads of its sinews. Its antlers, or horns, are made into glue, and its bones into spoons and other articles. But this is not all; the Laplanders travel from place to place in sledges with the help of the Rein-Deer. A couple of these swift creatures yoked together will carry their masters 112 English miles in a day. In the language of Lapland, "they will change his horizon three times in the twenty-four hours;" that is, they can traverse three times the length they can see at starting. The sledge is formed like a boat; the traveller is tied into it, and is conveyed rapidly along by night as well as by day, being directed in his course by observing the stars, and the quarter from which the wind blows. Accidents are of rare occurrence. The food of the animal, consisting of mosses, and the buds of evergreens, and other Arctic plants, is generally obtained with little trouble. But God is very kind in giving food to the Rein-Deer, when, owing to the deep and hard snow, there seems to be nothing for them to eat. He has furnished them with strong horns, with which they dig into the earth, and there find *lichen*, or moss, for food. If this food should be so deep under the snow, that they cannot reach it, they are not left to starve, as they can then generally get some of the moss which grows on the Lapland pine-trees.

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THE ARABIAN CAMEL, OR DROMEDARY.——*Camelus Dromedarius.*

THE CAMEL is one of the most useful creatures with which we are acquainted. GOD, in his wisdom, has created it in a manner suitable to the countries in which it is found, and to the purposes for which its help is required by man. The Arabs calls it "the ship of the desert;" for it enables them to pass safely over the vast and trackless wastes of Arabia and Northern Africa in a very wonderful way. These travellers are often many days in the desert without finding a spring of water. If, then, the patient Camel had not some unseen means of support, it would perish under its heavy load. It has four stomachs; and in one of these the animal can store up a quantity of water before it sets off on its journey; and when this water is wanted, the Camel can make use of it to refresh itself and moisten its food. It bears hunger surprisingly well, and is satisfied with a few dates or beans when its regular meal cannot be had. Its broad and tough feet are suited to the soft sand; as they may be spread out when necessary. When the hot sands are blown up by the wind, the creature can close its nostrils, and is thus spared a great deal of pain and injury. The Arabian Camel, or Dromedary, has a single hump: this animal has been employed from the earliest times as a beast of burden. The Dromedary measures from five to seven feet high. It is gentle and teachable when kindly treated. What a hard-hearted person must that be who would ill-use any dumb animal, especially one whose services have been so long and so willingly given to man! This kind of Camel is frequently alluded to both in the Old and New Testament. We read in the xiith chapter of Genesis, that Abraham had Camels. Part of the substance of Job was 3,000 Camels, Job i. 3. "The bunches of Camels" are noticed by Isaiah, xxx. 6. John the Baptist had his raiment of Camel's hair. Matt. iii. 4. The Bactrian Camel has two humps: it is confined to central Asia and Tartarian China.

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THE RABBIT.——*Lepus Cuniculus.*

This animal, though like the hare in some respects, differs from it in size, and in its habits and manner of living. It finds a shelter in deep holes of its own digging. These are called burrows, which it inhabits during the day, and quits about twilight to feed. A large piece of uneven ground, called a rabbit-warren, may sometimes be seen, everywhere pierced with burrows, containing innumerable families of Rabbits. When these creatures confine themselves to sandy tracts, and uncultivated portions of land, they may be allowed to increase in numbers; but they are great enemies of the farmer and the gardener, when permitted to find their way among corn and plants. The damage they do in plantations of young trees, as well as in corn-fields, is often very extensive. They are, however, food for several beasts and birds of prey, as well as for man; besides which, their fur is an important article of commerce; so that great havoc is constantly made among them by the gun, the trap, and other means.

The creature called in the Bible the Coney, is supposed to have been in many respects like the Rabbit. "The conies are but a feeble folk, yet they make their houses in the rocks."* By this God teaches us that though persons may not have great strength of body, they may generally be able to do something for themselves.

* Prov. xxx. 26.

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THE PORCUPINE.

This animal is not covered with hair, but chiefly with hollow tubes, like the quills of feathers. These quills are from ten to fourteen inches long, sharp pointed, and thickest in the middle. They seem to be given to the wearer for its own defence. They lie nearly flat upon the body, and incline backward; but when irritated or alarmed, the creature can raise them suddenly, by certain muscles, in such a manner as to secure it from the strongest and most violent foes. The quills on the tail make a loud rustling noise whenever the animal shakes them. It never begins a quarrel; but when put upon its guard, not even the lion ventures to attack it. Its thus "bristling up" at the slightest appearance of danger, has led to its being called "the *fretful* porcupine." It is a native of many parts of Asia, and of Africa generally; it is also found wild in Italy; and there are other species known. The Indians hunt it for its quills and flesh. It sleeps almost all the day in its lonely burrow, which it quits only in the evening in search of food. This consists chiefly of roots, buds, and fruits. When tamed it is a dull but peaceable animal, showing scarcely any signs of intelligence, and but little disposition to become familiar.

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THE MOLE.——*Talpa Europæa.*

The force of instinct is seen in no animal more clearly than in this little quadruped. Its means of happiness, and the works which it performs under great disadvantages, afford amazing proofs of the wisdom and kindness of the great Creator. Constant toil in the cold and dark earth is its lot; which, however, when we consider its form and powers, is doubtless one source of its comfort and happiness. The strength of the shoulder-bones, the legs, and the paws, renders it expert in digging; while its long muzzle is fitted not only for bringing its food to its mouth, but also for boring the earth. Its acute sense of smell is very useful in enabling it to discover its food, and avoid its enemies; this sense, together with that of hearing, making its deficiency as to sight of less consequence. So slight is the outward appearance of eyes, that the Mole has been said to be blind; but this is not the case, as has been proved by experiment. The dwelling which a Mole generally forms for itself under a hillock, is a curious structure, containing galleries and a chamber, the latter having a passage from it to the high road, for the purpose of safety. A full account of this remarkable fortress, accompanied with an engraving of it, and of the Mole's hunting-ground around it, appears in Professor Bell's work on British Quadrupeds. This animal's chief food is the earth-worm; it is also fond of mice, birds, lizards, and frogs.

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THE CAT.——*Felis domestica.*

The effects of careful training in softening the temper and improving the manners may be observed in the Cat. The wild Cat of this country has been called, from its fierce habits, the British Tiger; while the tame Cat, which is represented above, is a gentle creature, and often becomes a favourite with each member of the family in which it lives. It is fond of warmth, and likes to lie close to the fire during the winter. It is fond of being noticed, and, when caressed by those who are kind to it, shows its pleasure by purring. Its sleep is very light, being disturbed by the slightest noise. If frightened, or attacked by dogs, it raises its back and shows its teeth; the hair stands out from the skin; the tail appears suddenly to increase in size; and the animal utters a harsh and disagreeable growl. Its use in destroying rats and mice is well known. These it seizes suddenly, having watched its opportunity, and concealed its design by slow and stealthy steps. It is so fond of fish, that, much as it dislikes to wet its feet, it has sometimes been known to seek this food in water. It is attached to the places to which it is accustomed, and has been known to travel some miles, and even cross rivers to return to its own dwelling. It has the character of loving places more than persons; but if well treated this animal is grateful and affectionate. Pennant relates, that Henry Wriothsley, earl of Southampton, having been confined for some time in the Tower, on a charge of high treason, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, was surprised by a visit from his favourite Cat, which reached him, as it was said, by descending the chimney of his apartment.

The Cat is a very kind mother, and shows much attention to its kittens. It has also been seen to nurse with great tenderness the young of other animals, whose nature is different from its own, such as hares and squirrels.

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THE JAGUAR.

This is a fierce and powerful animal of the cat kind, and may be compared to the leopard in some respects; but his body is thicker, his limbs are shorter and more muscular, and he is of a more clumsy form: the spots also on his skin are much larger than on the leopard. The Jaguar is a native of South America, in the warmer parts of which country his cruel and savage habits, like those of the lion and tiger in other parts of the world, render him an object of terror and dislike. He is found almost all over the southern division of the American continent; but he is now seldom met with in the neighbourhood of towns, partly owing to the ravages which he commits among the flocks, and partly on account of the high price given for his skin; both these causes occasioning his destruction. He is cowardly as well as violent. Watching secretly for his prey, and darting upon it unawares, he strikes it to the ground, and then bears it away to a place of safety, where he devours it at leisure. When driven by hunger he will attack man, but is alarmed at any show of resistance, and has a great dread of fires, which are sometimes lighted to keep him off. He is very expert at climbing trees, fastening his sharp claws into the bark as he ascends. He frequently measures from four to five feet from the nose to the root of the tail.

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THE FOX.——*Vulpes Vulgaris.*

THERE is no creature so frequently mentioned for its cunning as the Fox. Its sly and suspicious appearance agrees with its habits and manners. Crafty to a wonderful degree, it thrives by nightly theft; and since the period in which wolves abounded in this country, the Fox has been the worst pest among the young lambs and the poultry. Its plan generally is to form its burrow near a wood, in the neighbourhood of some village, or well-stocked farm; it then prowls abroad at night, and having scented its prey, moves forward, trailing its body along the ground. It leaps over walls, or creeps in underneath, and having reached the objects of its attack, puts them all quickly and silently to death. These it hides under bushes or herbage, or carries off to its kennel. If other food fails it, it makes war against birds, rats, field-mice, serpents, lizards, toads, and moles, and in this respect is often found useful to the farmer. We must not omit to mention the tenderness with which the female Fox watches over her young and provides for their wants. This maternal feeling has often been found to prevail over the natural wiliness of her character.

When pressed by hunger, the Fox devours roots and insects, and even shell-fish. In France and Italy it does great mischief by feeding on grapes. Its taste for these luxuries has been noticed in the ancient and well-known fable of "The Fox and the Grapes,"—words which have since passed into a proverb. The various tribes of animals seem to be leagued against the Fox; and it is probable that its race would have been long ago extinguished in England, were it not required for the chase. It affords pastime to the huntsman: but we have no right to distress and torment any animal for our sport. Its fur is valuable.

We find this animal referred to in the New Testament in very affecting terms. Our Lord, in alluding to the privations which He underwent for man's sake, said, "Foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man hath not where to lay his head."* The craftiness and rapacity of Herod are reproved in the words, "Go ye, and tell that Fox, &c."†

* Matt. viii. 20.

† Luke xiii. 32.

THE SHEPHERD'S DOG.—*Canis familiaris.*

The faithful Dog is not only the servant of man, but also his friend and companion. So many good qualities meet in the character of this animal, that volumes full of interesting accounts might be written on the habits and history of the several species; and certainly none surpass the Shepherd's Dog in courage, fidelity, perseverance, and affection for its master. Some writers have thought that this race is the original one from which all the other varieties of dogs have sprung. Whether Buffon and others be right in this opinion, we will not argue. Certainly the creature before us is of an excellent stock, perhaps it is of the most ancient. Its performances might seem to betoken little less than human intelligence; and even the young dogs of this breed, before they have been trained, appear ready to perform the services of their elders, or as the shepherds says, "A thorough-bred one will take to them naturally." The services of the sheep-dog must have been noticed by most of our readers. On the moors and mountain-sides of Scotland and Wales, and on the widely-extended downs of Wiltshire, vast numbers of sheep are committed, with confidence, to the care of a single dog. In Scotland particularly, where the flocks are liable to be lost in snow-wreaths, this watchful guardian is always on the alert, and almost always successful in preventing its helpless charge from coming to mischief. It is curious also, in the crowded streets of the city, and other parts of the metropolis, to notice the quickness with which the drover's dog catches its master's wishes from his looks, and then directs the flock accordingly, or brings the troublesome part of it into order.

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THE COMMON SEAL.——*Phoca Vitulina.*

Writers on Natural History have remarked that the form of this animal's head indicates much intelligence; and facts which have been recorded confirm the remark. M. Frederic Cuvier mentions a Seal which readily obeyed the orders given to it by its master, to whom it appeared to be exceedingly attached. It would rise on its hinder feet, shoulder a stick as a musket, lie down on the right or left side, and perform several other feats. The docility of Seals is no new discovery. Pliny, a Roman naturalist, who flourished A. D. 66,* and wrote in Latin, says of them, "They receive discipline; they know people by their look and voice; they answer to their names." They are stated by Low, in his *Fauna Orcadensis*, to have a large share of curiosity: for if people are passing near them in a boat, they often come close to it, or follow it; and when they hear loud talking, they put on looks of wonder and inquiry. They are exceedingly valuable to the Greenlanders, who use their flesh for food, and their fat for oil. The skin not only serves for clothing, but as a covering for boats. In this country the skin is tanned for various purposes. It is sometimes dressed with the fur on, and made into caps.

They are classed among British quadrupeds, being found in the Orkney and Zetland isles. They also occasionally frequent the Tees, and commit havoc among the salmon. Lord Teignmouth, in his Sketches of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, says that these animals breed in immense quantities on a small rocky island called the Stacks of Skerries. In the centre of the island is a lake, on the banks of which the Seals are found basking in multitudes with their young. As soon as they are alarmed by the prospect of their enemies, they congregate, form a body, and scuttle away across the land towards the sea. The men divide, and charge the retreating column on both flanks with large sticks. A blow on the nose of the Seal instantly destroys the animal. Many of them are taken in nets.

* This writer, who, besides other works, composed a Natural History in 37 books, perished from the effects of an eruption of Vesuvius, which curiosity had led him to witness too near to the scene.

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THE ELEPHANT.——*Elephas Indicus.*

The Elephant is found in Asia and Africa. It is generally about nine feet high, though it often reaches a greater height. It can root up large trees, and can also pick up a sixpence or a needle with its trunk. When it wants to drink, it fills its trunk with water, and empties it into its mouth. The two large tusks, one on each side of the trunk, are ivory. These are given for the animal's defence. The ships of Tarshish brought every three years, for king Solomon, ivory, or, as it is called in the margin of the Bible, Elephants' teeth.* Some writers think that the description of the animal called in the book of Job,† Behemoth, refers to the Elephant. Elephants are very intelligent, and grow fond of those who treat them kindly. They are much used by princes in India in war and hunting. One of these animals can carry a small building like a tower, with ten or twelve men in it. The driver rides upon its neck, and gives it the word of command. If the Elephant arrives at ground that appears insecure, it will not venture on till it has tapped and tried it with its trunk. It feeds on hay and vegetables, and is fond of sweetmeats, and the smell of flowers.

* 1 Kings x. 22. 2 Chron. ix. 21. † Job xl. from verse 15 to the end.

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THE MACKEREL.——*Scomber Scomber.*

The Mackerel has been supposed by some writers on Natural History to be a fish of passage, and to make long voyages, northward or southward, according to the season. But this seems to be a mistake. The Mackerel is now found on some parts of our own coast, in every month of the year. It approaches nearer to the shore at certain times than at others; and this law of its nature enables man to take it in vast numbers as a valuable article of food. If Mackerel always remained in the deeper parts of the sea, little could be done in fishing for them; but roving along the shore, as they do, in large shoals, millions are caught, which yet form but a small portion, compared with the tens of millions that escape the net or the line. The usual bait is a piece of red cloth, or a portion of the tail of the Mackerel. In May 1807, the first Brighton boat-load of Mackerel sold at the rate of seven shillings each fish. In 1808, they were sold at Dover at sixty fish for a shilling! The general size and flavour, as well as the beautiful colours, of this fine fish are too well known to need a description. The Mackerel feeds on small fish. Young Mackerel are called Shiners.

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THE STURGEON.——*Acipenser Sturio.*

This is a sea-fish, but at certain seasons makes its way into the rivers. It is found on various parts of our coast, and when caught in the Thames is considered a royal fish, and due to the Sovereign. It is of large size, seldom measuring less than three or four feet in length. The largest Sturgeon ever known of in Great Britain was taken in the river Esk, and weighed 460 pounds. In the northern parts of Europe this fish is much more common than with us, and is a great article of commerce. Caviar is made of the roe; isinglass is formed of one of the membranes; and the flesh, when well cooked, is delicate, having a taste like veal. Bingley calls the Sturgeon "clumsy and toothless," and tells us, that it hides its large body among the weeds in the water, only showing the tendrils which grow near the creature's mouth. These tendrils look like worms; and the small fish and sea-insects, on approaching, intending to feed upon them, are sucked into its mouth. When the Sturgeon is caught in a net, it makes scarcely any resistance.

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THE SALMON.——*Salmo Salar.*

Salmon inhabit both fresh and salt water; they quit the sea at certain seasons, and advance up the rivers sometimes for hundreds of miles. In thus ascending a stream, their progress is not easily stopped. They throw themselves up heights many yards above the level of the water; and when they have missed their aim, and perhaps hurt themselves in the attempt, they make new efforts. Where the water is low, or sand-banks oppose them, they place themselves on one side, and in that position work themselves over into the deep water beyond. It is in falling back, however, that the fish are frequently taken by the inhabitants, who place baskets near the edge of the pool for the purpose of catching them in their descent. This custom prevails in Ireland and Scotland. There are many ways of taking Salmon while pursuing their course up the streams;—as by nets, or by building across the water weirs or dams, which prevent the advance or return of the fish. Spearing Salmon, either by daylight or torch light, is also practised in the north. The spear with which the fish is struck in the act of leaping is barbed like a fish-hook, and is very effectual in taking the prey. In London, a Thames Salmon, when fortunately met with, obtains an extremely high price. The Severn Salmon are also much esteemed.

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R. CLAY, PRINTER, BREAD STREET HILL.

THE COMMON SNAKE.——*Coluber Natrix.*

THERE are many species of this reptile. They are very common in England, and are to be found in most of the countries of Europe. The Snake represented above is perfectly free from any poisonous quality. It is generally from three to four feet in length. It lives in our woods, heaths, and hedgerows, especially near water, and feeds upon young birds, eggs, mice, &c.; but chiefly upon frogs. It generally seizes the frog by the hind leg, and then, by degrees, swallows it whole. Professor Bell says he has heard a frog distinctly utter its peculiar cry several minutes after it had been swallowed by the Snake. He adds, "The common Snake is easily tamed, and may be made to distinguish those who caress and feed it. I had one which knew me from all other persons; and when let out of his box would immediately come to me, and crawl under the sleeve of my coat, where he was fond of lying perfectly still, and enjoying the warmth. He would come to my hand for a draught of milk every morning at breakfast, which he always did of his own accord; but he would fly from strangers, and hiss if they meddled with him."

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R. CLAY, PRINTER, BREAD STREET HILL.

THE CROCODILE.——*Crocodilus niloticus.*

The Crocodile is a native of Asia and Africa, and is hatched from an egg. It is one of the animals called amphibious, because it can live either in water or out of it. It is a very fierce and mischievous creature: it always shows its teeth, and has a large mouth, and angry-looking eyes. It is sometimes twenty or thirty feet long, and has a hard covering of skin like armour, over the back, so that a musket ball cannot pierce it. The whole animal appears as if covered with curious carved work. The Crocodile lies waiting quietly by the banks of rivers in Egypt, and other parts of Africa; and when it sees a dog, or other animal near enough, it snatches it, and swallows it, as it dives down again into the water. When it is hungry, it comes up for more food. Sometimes it floats on the top of the water, and takes into its mouth such fish as come within its reach. As soon as a young crocodile gets out of its egg, it goes towards the water: but it is often eaten up by the ichneumon, or by birds. The Crocodile's egg is thought to be good food, and is eaten by many natives of Africa.

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THE TOAD.——*Bufo vulgaris.*

This reptile generally measures about four inches in length, and has an unsightly appearance. It crawls about very slowly; so that when attacked by cruel men or boys, it has but little chance of escape. One reason for its being disliked is, that it is considered by many persons to be offensive and venomous; whereas, it is not only harmless, but useful, and has been known to become fond of those who treat it with kindness. Its use consists in clearing away insects and worms. It may be so tamed, as to suffer itself to be taken up into a person's hand to feed. One of these creatures frequented, for thirty-six years, a small opening under the steps of the hall door of a gentleman's house in Devonshire. It would come out of its hole in an evening when a candle was brought, and on being carried into the house, would take its meal in the presence of persons who came to see it fed. After having been kept so long, it was at length destroyed by a tame raven, which, seeing it at the mouth of its hiding-place, pulled it out, and so wounded it that it died. Strange stories are told of Toads having been found alive inclosed in blocks of stone and marble, and in the trunks of trees, where it is conjectured they must have lain for centuries. Professor T. Bell doubts whether these accounts are to be believed.

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THE WOODCOCK.——*Scolopax rusticola.*

The Woodcock has a very fine flavour, and is, on this account, often sold at a much higher price than birds of a larger size. It is not usually a native of Great Britain, but comes over to this country from Norway, Sweden, Lapland, or some other Northern region, as soon as the frost begins in those cold parts of the world. These birds arrive among us at about the end of October, but not in great numbers till November and December. When they have had bad weather in their passage, they have sometimes been so much tired and weakened, as to allow themselves to be taken with the hand, on their alighting near the coast. They live on worms and insects, which they search for with their long bills in the soft ground. They feed principally by night. Most of them leave this country about the end of February, or the beginning of March. They proceed to the coast; and if the wind be fair, they set out at once in large flocks; but if it be against them, they will wait in the neighbouring woods and thickets for a favourable change.

In the means and facilities of flight possessed by these birds strong proofs are afforded of the wisdom and power of the divine Creator. His provision for the flight of birds awakens the attention and admiration of every thoughtful and well-disposed mind. "If," says Dr. Roget, "the excellence of a mechanic art be measured by the difficulties to be surmounted in the attainment of its object, none surely would rank higher than that which has accomplished the flight of a living animal. No *human* skill has yet contrived the construction of an *automaton*, capable, by the operation of an internal power, of sustaining itself in the air, in opposition to gravity, for even a few seconds, and far less of performing in that element the evolutions which we daily witness."

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THE WHITE STORK.——*Ciconia alba.*

The Stork is in some places almost tame: it walks about the streets, and is very useful in clearing them of filth: it also removes reptiles from the fields. On account of these qualities it is much esteemed in Holland; and we find from ancient writers, that some nations not only protected the Stork by their laws, but even had a superstitious regard for it. There were other reasons for the respect with which this bird was treated; namely, the dutiful attention it pays to its parents, its kindness to its mate, and the care it bestows on the education of its offspring. A story is told in Holland, that, when the city of Delft was on fire, a female Stork attempted several times, but in vain, to carry off her young ones; and, finding she was unable to effect their escape, suffered herself to be burned with them. This is seen in the above plate. These birds are inhabitants of no particular part of the globe. They are birds of passage, migrate in large flocks, and show great exactness in the time of their leaving Europe for more genial climates. Allusion is made in Holy Scripture to their instinctive obedience to their Creator's laws; and contrasts with this the neglect of God shown by sinful men on whom He had bestowed the higher gifts of reason and conscience. "Yea, the stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times, and the turtle, and the crane, and the swallow, observe the time of their coming; but my people know not the judgment of the Lord." Jer. viii. 7. Bishop Stanley says, "So punctual are the arrival and departure of the various migratory birds, that to this day the Persians as well as Arabs often form their almanacks on their movements."

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THE EMEU.——*Casuarius Novæ-Hollandiæ.*

These birds are widely spread over the southern part of New Holland, and the neighbouring islands. They are met with at Port Philip, and King George's Sound. Their food consists almost wholly of fruits, roots, and herbage; they are quite harmless, except when attacked. The length of the legs, and the powerful muscles in the thighs, enable this bird, like the ostrich, to run very swiftly; and as it is exceedingly shy, it is not easily overtaken, or brought within gun-shot. It is sometimes coursed for sport; being pursued by well-trained dogs, which run up abreast, and make a sudden spring at the creature's neck. This, however, is a cruel amusement. We have no right to seek our pleasure in a dumb creature's pain. Dogs, in general, are afraid of attacking the Emeu, partly on account of the severe injuries which it is able to inflict by striking out with its feet. It is said that it will break the small bone of a man's leg by this sort of kick. Some parts of this bird are good for food. The eggs are large: great quantities of them are eaten by the natives of Australia during the hatching season. There are some fine specimens of this bird in the gardens of the Zoological Society, in the Regent's Park.

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THE PEACOCK.——*Pavo cristatus.*

The Peacock is more ornamental than useful. His flesh is of a good flavour; but his form is so elegant, and his plumage so fine, that he is generally kept with great care in the grounds of his owners in the country, for the sake of his beauty; and there he may often be seen, walking with firm and slow steps along the gravel walks, or perched upon a wall, while he holds up his head, and spreads his richly-coloured train, as if waiting to be admired. Though this bird is very beautiful, his cry is harsh and unpleasant. Like other birds of the Poultry kind, the Peacock feeds on corn; his favourite food is barley; but he does not refuse to eat insects or tender plants; nor, when hungry, is he at all particular in his diet. Peacocks are found wild in Asia and Africa; but the largest and finest are met with in India. They are mentioned in Holy Scripture, as forming part of the cargoes of the fleet which carried treasures to the court of King Solomon; "Once in three years came the navy of Tharshish, bringing gold, and silver, ivory, and apes, and peacocks," 1 Kings x. 22; 2 Chron. ix. 21. Their plumage is also alluded to in the book of Job; "Gavest thou the goodly wings unto the peacocks?" Job xxxix. 13.

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THE OWL.——*Strix flammea.*

The Barn Owl is a very useful bird; for it clears off the mice from the corn, and from the fields, almost as well as a cat would do. It lives for the greatest part of the year in barns, or hay-lofts, or lonely places. It sometimes takes up its abode in an old ruin, or the tower of a church, or in a hollow tree; and when the dusk comes on, away it flies after its food. It seldom goes out in the day time, because it cannot see properly in the light; and if it does go out in the day, other birds will tease and torment it. We may sometimes hear it at night, hooting or screaming as it goes its rounds. When it sees a mouse in the field, it drops down upon it, and carries the little creature up in its claws to its nest. This is the way it feeds its young ones. We have spoken now of the English Barn Owl, which generally weighs about twelve ounces, and has its legs covered with down, like wool. There are other kinds of Owls in different parts of the world; such as the Horned Owl, the Short-Eared Owl, the Smooth-Headed Owl, and the Spectacle Owl. This last-mentioned Owl comes from South America.

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THE HARPY EAGLE.——*Harpyia Destructor.*

This noble bird, the most magnificent of the Eagle tribe, is distinguished from other eagles, by the shortness of its wings, the great robustness of its legs, and the extraordinary curve of its beak and talons. Linnæus, quoting from Hernandez, says, that it is equal in size to a common ram, and that it is able to split a man's skull with a single blow of its beak. We are also told, that it carries off in its talons, fawns and other young quadrupeds, and that it is so bold as to attack even man himself. A specimen in the possession of the Zoological Society of London is stated to have been found in South America, but to have been rare in that part of the world. Indeed when its tremendous powers of destruction are considered, it appears to be a happy circumstance that the creature is nowhere common. Living in solitude in the depth and darkness of the thickest forests, it is seldom disturbed by the eye of curiosity. In captivity there is little to distinguish its manners from those of other birds of its tribe. One taken from the nest, became so tame as to suffer its head to be handled and scratched; but in its passage towards Europe, it was killed, as was supposed, by the sailors, whose monkeys it had destroyed. The animals having approached too near its cage, were seized by its powerful talons, and speedily devoured.

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THE HIPPOPOTAMUS.——*Hippopotamus Amphibius.*

The word Hippopotamus is from the Greek, and means a River-horse. The animal before us is amphibious; that is, it can live both in water and on land. It measures upwards of ten feet in length, and its girth is often nearly nine feet. Its body is very large, fat, and round; its legs short and thick; its head large; its mouth extremely wide; its teeth of great strength and size; its eyes and ears small. The Hippopotamus is found about the rivers of Africa. If pursued on land, it takes to the water, plunges in, and sinks to the bottom. It cannot continue long there without rising to the surface to breathe; but this, when threatened with danger, it does very carefully, so that the snout can scarcely be seen above water. If wounded, it will rise and attack boats or canoes furiously, and often sink them by biting pieces out of their sides. During the night it leaves the rivers, to go and feed on sugar-canes, rushes, millet, or rice. The caution of this animal is so great, when on land, that it is difficult to catch it by snares or other means. The best mode is said to be to watch it at night behind a bush close to its path, and as it passes, to wound it in the tendon of the knee-joint, by which the creature is lamed, and rendered incapable of escaping from the hunters.

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17.]

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THE ASS.—*Equus Asinus.*

The Ass is a patient, gentle animal, that does a great deal of useful work, and hurts nobody. It is contented with the coarsest grass or hay, or thistles by the road side, and will labour well, though kept to a small allowance of food. It treads very carefully, and is a safe animal for mounting or descending high hills. It is often treated very ill by cruel and cowardly persons. The nature of the Ass is not so lively as that of the horse; but allowance ought to be made for this; and if the creature is a little stubborn, unkindness will make it more obstinate still. The Scripture says: "A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast." * The Wild Ass of the East, such as is mentioned by the prophet Jeremiah,† is a very fine, swift-footed, and bold creature, quite different from the Ass which we see in our own country. The Ass is useful in many ways. The milk is used for consumptive and delicate persons. The skin is made into leaves for pocket-books, and the tougher part of the skin is made into shagreen, for spectacle-cases, &c. As this animal is well known, it only remains to give a short anecdote of one, told by the Rev. W. Bingley, in his *Animal Biography*.

"An old man who for many years sold vegetables in London, employed an Ass to convey his baskets from door to door. He was very kind in feeding it frequently, and gave the poor industrious creature handfuls of hay, or pieces of bread or greens by way of refreshment or reward. The old man had no need of a stick to beat it; and seldom did he even lift his hand against it, to drive it on. This kind treatment was noticed, and he was asked whether his beast was not apt to be stubborn. 'Ah! Master,' he replied, 'IT IS OF NO USE TO BE CRUEL; and as for stubbornness, I can't complain, for he is ready to do any thing, or go any where. I bred him myself. He is sometimes playful and skittish: and once ran away from me; and while more than fifty people were after him, laughing and trying to stop him, he suddenly turned back of himself, and never stopped till he ran his head kindly into my bosom.'"

* Prov. xii. 10. † Jer. ii. 24.

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THE AMERICAN BISON.——*Bos Americanus.*

The Bison is generally of a larger size than our common Ox, and is so strong, that when he runs through the woods from his pursuers, he often brushes down trees as thick as a man's arm. These animals are met with throughout the wild and distant parts of North America, where they are the chief food of the natives. Captains Lewis and Clarke saw vast numbers of Bisons assembled on the banks of the Missouri. "Such was their multitude, that though the river, including an island over which they passed, was a mile in length, the herd stretched, as thick as they could swim, completely from one side to the other." The same travellers state, that they saw a moving mass of these creatures, to the amount of twenty thousand, darkening the plains. When attacked they generally take to flight; but they often become the prey of wolves and bears, and still more frequently are destroyed by the savage tribes of Indians, who would not know where to find support, if this article of food should fail. A large, fierce-looking Bison was, a few years since, shown in London, and other places, under the name of the Bonassus.

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THE GOAT.——*Capra Hircus.*

The Goat is a strong, active, hardy animal. In Wales it is found very wild, and roaming over the most rugged parts of the mountains and rocks, in search of food, or in sport. It keeps its footing on the smallest point on which its feet can possibly rest, and takes leaps from one ledge to another, with a certainty of alighting safely, however dangerous the attempt may appear. It thus finds food where other creatures cannot venture, among the heights of the Alps and Pyrennees. Besides this, it eats with a relish certain plants which to most animals would be hurtful, such as hemlock, henbane, foxglove, &c. It is easily tamed, and becomes fond of man, showing much pleasure in his society, and being kind and playful to those who caress it. Many persons keep Goats in stables, with an idea that they are good for the health of horses. It is likely that they promote the good temper of their companions. Now good temper and cheerfulness tend to health; and it is a fact that a horse often shows great attachment to a Goat. The hair of the Goat is very useful in making shawls, and other articles of dress; its skin is made into Turkey or Morocco leather; and the skin of the kid, or young Goat, becomes the softest and most beautiful leather for gloves.

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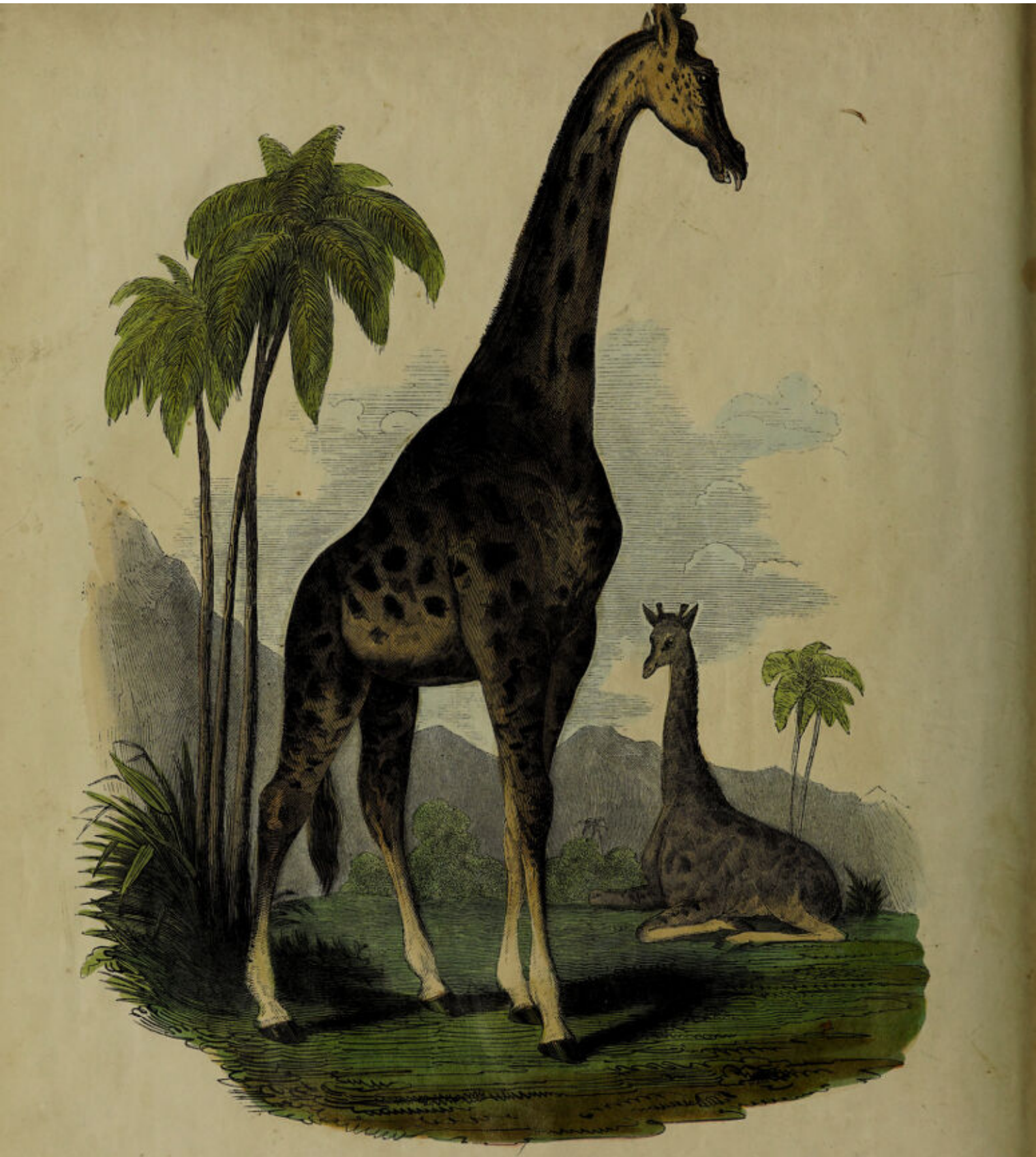

THE GIRAFFE.——*Camelopardalis Giraffa.*

This is a graceful, mild, and gentle creature. When standing with its head and neck erect, the Giraffe measures sixteen or eighteen feet in height; and this is its usual position, except when grazing. It feeds chiefly on the leaves of trees, which it can easily reach; but in browsing from the ground, it is obliged to stretch apart its front legs. In preparing to lie down, it kneels like a camel. When pursued, it trots so fast that even a good horse is scarcely able to overtake it, and it has an advantage in being able to keep on its course for a long time without taking rest. It is found on the plains of Africa, and is sometimes attacked by lions and other beasts of prey; and, though it might at first sight appear defenceless, we are told that "by its kicks it frequently wearies, discourages, and distances even the lion." The use of the little tufted horns with which its head is adorned is not known. The flesh of the young Giraffe is said to be good food. The Hottentots hunt this animal, and are said to be fond of its marrow.

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THE LLAMA.——*Auchenia Glama.*

The Llama is generally about four feet and a half high, and nearly six feet in length. Its usual weight is about 300 pounds. It is a native of the Cordilleras of the Andes, and is still more frequently found in Peru and Chili. Llamas live together in herds of one hundred or two hundred each, and feed on a peculiar kind of grass or reed that covers the mountains on the sides of which they dwell. While they can procure green herbage, they are never known to drink. They are mild and tractable animals, and are used in many parts of South America to carry burdens. They were formerly employed in the ploughing of land. Like the Camel, they lie down to be loaded; and, when they are wearied with much labour, no blows will induce them to proceed. Although very gentle if well-used, the Llama easily takes offence at any insult, and then it has a bad habit of spitting at the person with whom it is angry. This animal is slow and careful in moving when it is under control, or when loaded with baggage; but among it own native hills or valleys it has a swifter pace than an excellent horse.

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THE BEAVER.—*Castor Fiber.*

This is a very useful animal, as it furnishes a valuable kind of fur; and its habits and manners show so much industry and method, that it is well worthy of notice. Beavers take up their abode on the banks of rivers or ponds, and build their own dwellings with pieces of timber, which they have gnawed off the branches of trees, and with clay, which they have dived for, mixing with it such sticks and stones as they can find. This task they perform with their front paws and their mouth, working always by night, until a comfortable house is prepared. In summer they feed either on the bark of trees, or on the green herbage, and the berries which grow in the neighbourhood; but in winter their food is almost entirely confined to the bark, of which they lay in a large stock before the frost begins. Willow, poplar, and birch, are their favourite kinds. Beavers are very affectionate animals, and seem to feel deeply the loss of a companion. They are taken in large numbers in North America, for the sake of their fur, vast quantities of which are procured from Canada, and other places, by the Hudson's Bay Company. Mr. Broderip gives a pleasing account of a Beaver, which arrived in this country in 1825, and which was rendered quite domestic while in his possession. When called by its name, "Binny," it generally answered with a little cry, and drew near to its master. The manner in which it showed its building propensities within doors is very remarkable. The account is too long to be inserted here. It liked to dip its tail in water. "If his tail was kept moist, he never cared to drink; but if it was kept dry, it became hot, and the animal appeared distressed, and would drink a great deal."

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THE HEDGE-HOG.——*Erinaceus Europæus.*

This is a British quadruped. It is often found in hedges; and its head and face are shaped like a hog; and hence it has received its name. Its length, from the tip of its snout to the end of its tail, is between nine and ten inches. Its body is covered above and at the sides with sharp prickles, about an inch long, which protect it from cruel dogs, and sometimes from more cruel boys. For, when this poor harmless creature finds danger to be near, it rolls itself into a kind of ball; and then the enraged dog may fly at it, and bark, and roll it about with his paws; but the armour which its Maker has given it generally keeps it from harm. The food of the Hedge-Hog is various: it eats insects, worms, slugs, and snails; and not only these, but frogs, toads, mice, and even snakes. Like most other wild animals, it spends the greatest part of the day in sleep, and hunts about very busily for its food during the night. It is easily tamed, and, when kept in a house, will eat bread and milk out of the same plate with a dog or cat. It is sometimes used in kitchens in London, for the purpose of ridding them of black-beetles, which it eats very quickly, running about all the time, as soon as everything is quiet at night. It is said to do mischief, however, among game, by eating the eggs; and even to enter a hen-house, and, turning the hen off her eggs, to begin eating them.

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THE BROWN BEAR.——*Ursus Arctos.*

This is a savage animal, and has great strength of body. It lives chiefly in forests, and feeds indiscriminately on animal and on vegetable substances, and sometimes on honey. Some creatures of this kind which have been brought to England have shown a preference for animal food. The Brown Bear was formerly a native of all parts of Europe; but this is not the case now. In the Alps he is still common, as well as in the woods of Bohemia, Poland, and Russia. He is covered with a thick coat, of long, soft, woolly hair, suited to the cold climate in which he is born. It is said that Bears never attack man, unless they are provoked; but when enraged, they are terribly fierce. They then raise themselves upon their hind feet, and try to squeeze their enemy between their fore legs, which are exceedingly powerful. Though their form appears clumsy, they climb trees, and swim with ease and skill. When tamed, they are sometimes taught to dance; but great cruelties are inflicted in teaching them this practice. The Bear is useful to man in many ways after its death. The people of Kamtschatka make many articles of clothing from its skin and fur; its flesh is good for food; its fat is used instead of oil; its shoulder-blades are formed into sickles for cutting grass, &c. Besides this kind of Bear, there is the American Black Bear, and the White, or Greenland Bear.

The Bear is frequently mentioned in Scripture as a formidable creature. David tells Saul that "there came a lion and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock"* belonging to his father Jesse. The ferocious quality of the she-bear, when robbed of her whelps, is alluded to.† But the most remarkable passage respecting this animal is found in the Second Book of Kings, in which we read, that when some little children mocked Elisha, a prophet of the Lord, and used ill language towards him, "there came forth two she-bears out of the wood, and tare forty and two children of them."‡

* 1 Sam. xvii. 34. † 2 Sam. xvii. 8; Prov. xvii. 12. ‡ 2 Kings ii. 24.

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THE LEOPARD.——*Felis Leopardus.*

This is one of the animals of the cat kind. Its strength of muscle, and sharp teeth and claws, give it great advantage over the creatures on whose flesh it feeds. These are generally antelopes, monkeys, and the smaller quadrupeds. No sooner is the victim within its reach, than, suddenly bursting forth from its lurking-place, or changing its slow, stealthy pace into a furious bound, it darts with the speed of lightning on its prey. It is an excellent climber, and pursues monkeys among the branches with great success. On quitting the remains of the carcase, to which it never returns, it seeks out some lonely spot where it may sleep off the effects of its meal; nor does it wake till hunger excites it to another attack. The Leopard is a native of Southern Asia, and of nearly the whole of Africa. It joins with much outward beauty, a fierce and sly disposition, and habits extremely cruel. This character of the animal is alluded to by the prophet Jeremiah, who, in predicting the judgments of God upon the Jews for their perverseness, says, "A leopard shall watch over their cities: every one that goeth out thence shall be torn in pieces, because their transgressions are many," &c.* In reference to the dreadful power of evil habits, the same sacred writer has the following passage: "Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil."† It is refreshing to turn to the beautiful representation given by Isaiah of the peaceable nature of Christ's kingdom: "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf, and the young lion, and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them." ‡

* Jer. v. 6. † Jer. xiii. 23. ‡ Isaiah xi. 6.

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THE TIGER.—*Felis Tigris.*

THERE is no four-footed creature more beautiful than the Tiger; but there is none more violent or dangerous. Its coat has stripes of black on orange-yellow; and it is like a cat, though much larger and stronger, and has a long handsome tail. The largest Tigers are natives of India, where it is found living among bushes or in the long grass, in places called *jungles*. It seizes its prey when it is hungry; and has sometimes taken off men, to tear to pieces, and to eat. The people in the villages of India are very much frightened when they hear that a Tiger is in the neighbourhood. In springing upon any animal it gives a dreadful roar. It runs very fast. Tigers have often been brought to England; but it is very difficult to tame them. They are sometimes hunted in India; this is dangerous sport.

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THE LION.——*Felis Leo.*

The strength and courage of the Lion are so great, that he has been called the king of the beasts. His height is from three to four feet; his length from six feet to nine. His colour is tawny yellow. The mane is darker than the rest of the hair on his body. He is a native of the southern parts of Asia, but is more common in Africa, where he grows to the greatest size, and appears in all his strength and fierceness. He roams about in the forests seeking for prey, and sometimes utters a roar so loud, that it sounds like distant thunder. The prophet says: "The Lion has roared, who will not fear?"* This animal is sly and skulking like a cat, when intending to make an attack; he crouches under the long grass, or behind a mound, watching for some beast that may come for meat or drink; and then, though the creature should be larger than himself, he springs upon it with a sudden bound, and seizes it with his sharp strong claws. Lions sometimes live to a great age: one, which was called Pompey, died in London in 1760, aged seventy years. Humane treatment will make these creatures gentle. Many instances are known of their attachment to those who have shown them kindness; and a Lion has sometimes permitted a little dog to live with him, on friendly terms, in the same cage. Allusions to the Lion are very frequent in Holy Scripture. The strength, the boldness, and the destructive qualities of the animal are all noticed. See Psalm civ. 20; Prov. xxviii. 1, xxx. 30. St. Peter says: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour; whom resist stedfast in the faith."†

* Amos iii. 8. † 1 Pet. v. 8, 9.

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THE STRIPED HYÆNA.——*Hyæna vulgaris.*

The Hyæna is generally of the size of a large dog. It is a gloomy, ill-looking animal, with eyes of a wild and savage expression, and its manners and habits correspond with its appearance. There is the striped Hyæna, and the spotted Hyæna, the one being marked with black stripes, the other with black spots. In their own countries, as Turkey in Asia, Syria, Persia, and many parts of Africa, Hyænas live in caverns and rocky places, and prowl about in the night to feed on the remains of dead animals, or on whatever living prey they can seize. When other food fails, they live on plants and the tender shoots of trees. Their cry is loud and disagreeable. It is like the moaning of a human voice; and some of the inhabitants of the Cape of Good Hope say that the creatures thus sometimes deceive people, and succeed in carrying away lambs, calves, and sheep from the folds. Bruce, in his travels in Abyssinia, says—"The Hyæna was the plague of our lives, the terror of our night-walks, and the destruction of our mules and asses, which, above every thing else, are his favourite food." Few instances have occurred of the Hyæna being tamed. Mr. Pennant, however, says he saw one as tame as a dog: and Buffon mentions a tame Hyæna which was shown at Paris. But such an animal, though seemingly tame, is not to be depended upon, and should be treated with great caution.

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THE RHINOCEROS.——*Rhinoceros indicus.*

The Rhinoceros is a very large beast; the general height is about eight feet, but the Elephant is often larger. The Rhinoceros has a horn on its nose. This horn is sometimes three feet long. The creature, when left to itself, is quite quiet and harmless; but if any one tries to hurt it, it is very savage; and it is dangerous, because it is strong, and can run fast. The wounds which it may receive are said to heal soon. The skin is dark-coloured, and is so hard and tough, that bullets of lead, when fired at it, have been flattened against it: but it is said that iron bullets will go through the skin. Different species of Rhinoceros are found in India, Africa, and in the islands of Java, Sumatra, &c. The flesh is sometimes eaten in Ceylon, and other places; and the skin, flesh, hoofs, and teeth, are used in medicines.

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THE LONG-EARED BAT.——*Plecotus auritus.*

THERE are no fewer than twelve species of Bats known as natives of Great Britain; and, if these curious creatures could be more easily caught, it is likely that some other species of the same family would be found to belong to this country. They are classed among the British quadrupeds; but they are unlike any other quadrupeds, inasmuch as they are formed for the purpose of very rapid flight. The length of the head and body of the common Bat is rather less than two inches; while the extent of its wings is upwards of eight inches. It has a quick and flitting motion, chasing through the air the gnats and other insects upon which it feeds. Sleeping during the day in the most retired places, in the hollows of trees, or hanging by its claws from the bark, or concealing itself in ruined buildings, or in the roofs of ancient churches, it avoids the glare of daylight; but when the shades of evening come on, and hunger tempts the timid animal from its lurking-place, it is brisk and lively enough. In winter these remarkable creatures are in a torpid state. They crowd together in vast numbers under the ro houses and churches, in caverns, &c., holding not only by the walls or ceilings of their dwelling, but by each other; being collected so closely together that it would seem scarcely possible so many to be contained in so small a space.

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