

PHILOSOPHIC ESSAYS

ON THE

MANNERS OF VARIOUS

FOREIGN ANIMALS;

WITH OBSERVATIONS ON THE

LAW S AND C U S T O M S

O F S E V E R A L

E A S T E R N N A T I O N S.

WRITTEN IN FRENCH BY

M. FOUCHER D'OBSONVILLE,

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away with ease: the wild male Buffalo will dart at his enemy, but if he be alone he is almost always vanquished.

I have seen the Lions upon the banks of the Tigris, and among the mountains of Curdistan (*f*), and one especially, which they assured me was of the strongest fort; but as he did not appear to be above four feet high, and as they said, those in the other parts of India only grew to about the same size, I am persuaded, that notwithstanding his valour, he is not capable of efficaciously resisting a royal Tiger in his full state of vigour. The species of Lion which wanders in some parts of Africa, and which is said to attain to five feet in height, is perhaps the only one that can match the royal Tiger.

Among the animals on which he preys, those that, unless wounded or provoked, he does not molest but with great precaution, are the wild Buffalo, the Elephant,

(*f*) The Lion is called *Chir* and *Arstaun*, in Persian.

and

and the Rhinoceros (*g*). If he is alone he seldom attacks them, at least not till famine has whetted his fury.

I was once present at a terrible combat between an Elephant and a royal Tiger in the camp of Hyder Ali. This prince, one of those among others to whom the French commandant general had sent me on political affairs, did me the honour to invite me to this spectacle (*b*): the Tiger, not yet in full force, for he did not appear to be above four feet high, was brought and fastened to a stake by a chain, round which he could turn freely; on the other side a strong Elephant, and well taught, conducted by his cornac, entered the amphitheatre, which was enclosed by a triple rank of lance-men: the action, when it began, was furious, but at last the Elephant was victorious, after he had received two deep wounds. But it is not possible to judge of the agility, the strength, or the

(*g*) The name of the Rhinoceros is *Djuinra*, in Indostan.

(*b*) See Remarks, N° III.

Naturally gentle and circumspect, the Elephant is never cruel from temper, or from a stupid and ferocious brutality, like the wild Buffalo and the Rhinoceros. It is, generally, with difficulty, that he is provoked to combat with, or assault, animals; and though in other respects obedient, he refuses, at first, with horror and obstinacy. I have no doubt, but this is sometimes timidity; but it would be wrong to suppose this universal. Those that have testified so great a dislike to kill a feeble kid, which has been presented to them, in order to accustom them to the shedding of blood, have, nevertheless, fought with address and vigour, when they have been decidedly provoked.

An anecdote of which M. le Baron de Lauriston was a witness of, is very proper to give an idea of the sensible and benevolent character of the Elephant. During the last war, his zeal, and certain circumstances, conducted him to Laknaor, the capital of the Soubah, or viceroyalty of that name, at a time when an epidemic distemper occasioned the

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