

ART. X. *Supplement à l'Histoire Naturelle de Mr. de Buffon. Tome sixieme. pp. 405. and plates. Elmsly.*

THIS eloquent, very amusing, and most times very accurate describer of the manners and habits of animals, proceeds in his supplement (to which Mess. Allamand, Forster, Gmelin, Pallas, and other natural historians of known eminence have contributed) in the following manner.

The Tapir or Maipouri*. Additional observations on the animal, and the dissection of one,—a very accurate plate taken from one that dyed at Paris.

The Elephant, the Hippopotamus and the Camel. New facts in a second Letter from Mr. Blés; new facts relating to the coupling of the Elephant. Three modes of taking them.—The tame used to beat the wild when they are refractory, and the tame female sent amongst the herds of the wild, and used as a decoy. The wild live in a state of separate society, every herd keeping to itself. When they are to pass rivers, those with the largest teeth cross first, seem to explore the shore, and when it is safe give a signal to the rest with their Proboscis. They then pass in a file, and seem to hand the young from one to the other. There are some solitary elephants, who are admitted into no society, and are extremely fierce, so that when whole troops disperse at the sight of man, these wait for, attack, and force him to kill them. These are all males, and 'tis doubtful whether they have any intercourse with the other sex.—Race of small elephants, not larger than an heifer, said to exist in Ceylon.—Account of elephants' grinders, larger than any elephant now alive; and bones found in Switzerland, near Befort.—Camels formerly indigenous in Siberia, but now looked upon as such monsters, that the people of Yakutz, who had sent for some under the idea that they would be useful in travelling, sent them away soon after, on the small-pox breaking out amongst them, as the cause of the mischief.—Print of a little elephant sucking its mother by the mouth.

* In general I have kept the French names.

The Horse. Extract of a letter from Dr. Forster. No wild horses at St. Helena's, and but few tame ones born on the Island, on account of the large pastures of oxen, which it is supposed they would hurt. The wild horses in the continent of Asia, between the Volga and the Sea of Japan, probably the produce of tame horses who have run wild. They generally go in companies, but you now and then meet a single one, who has been kicked out for being dangerous, in which case he commonly tries to inveigle away the young colts of the first troop he can get at, and so becomes the chief of a new company. These animals have a very good nose, and scent a man at a mile and a half distance—Accurate description of them.

The Czigitai, the Onagre, and the Zebra. Extract of a letter from Dr. Forster, containing descriptions, &c. which proves, that these are different animals, and also that there is a variety in the Zebra. Story of Lord Clive's Zebra being impregnated by an ass painted like a Zebra.

Oxen. Mistake with regard to the falling off of the horns, set right by Dr. Forster.

The Aurochs and the Bison. The Auroch only to be found in Muscovy, those in Russia and on the confines of Lithuania having perished in the last war; but the Bison still common in Moldavia, as appears from Prince Demetrius Cantemir's description of Moldavia.—The European oxen, the American Bisons, and the Asiatic Bœuf a Bosse, to be considered as distinct races, though they intermix in the breed. A print and description of the head of the musk ox, from Baffin's Bay is the same as the animal described by Charlevoix, and different from the Bison described by Buffon, Supplement Tom. iii. Plate 5. Bisons still to be found (according to Dr. Forster) in the parks of Scotland, but from long domesticity have lost the fine mane described by Boethius.

Gignere solet ea sylvæ boves candidissimos, in formam leonis jubam habentes.

Buffalo. A very long, curious, and deep and ingenious criticism of Monsignor Caetani, of Rome, to shew that

that the Buffalo was known to the Greeks and Romans, and Jews; and that he is a native of Italy, and not of Africa—with Mr. Buffon's reply.—Monsignor Caetani, who has an estate in the Pomptine marshes, and is obliged by the Pope's Bulls to keep the land untilled for the use of the Buffaloes, intends to procure musk from the excrement of the animal, in the same manner as Sal Ammoniac is procured in Egypt from the urine and excrement of the Camel.—Buffaloes have an aversion to red, have very strong memories, remember the name given them in a sort of sing-song, and stop on hearing it, though in the midst of a herd of two or three thousand—no milking the female without repeating this name—nor even then without having her young near—or, if he is dead, another young Buffalo covered with his skin.—Fryar Bacon has observed, there was a species of cows which would not suffer themselves to be milked, unless you sang to them.—An entertaining account of the various uses and habits of the animal, and of the terrible epidemic distemper amongst them called the *Barbone*, from the principal seat of it being between the chin and the throat.—Mr. Buffon wishes this useful animal could be naturalized in France, as it has been lately in Russia, and proposes many provinces in which it could be done.—He thinks they are as useful as oxen in all respects, that their services would be particularly felt at the times of the distempers amongst that cattle.

Hippopotamus. Two prints, the one of the male, the other of the female, taken from drawings of the animals killed by Captain Gordon: 21 killed in a few hours in the interior parts of Africa, 450 miles from the Cape, where they are very common. Anatomical description of them. They eat no fish, but go out into the sea, though never very far from the shore: fight terribly with each other, but are afraid of man, who must walk very fast to keep up with them—bear only one young.—Accurate description of them.

Rhinoceros. Plate of the African Rhinoceros as described by Captain Gordon.—Has a smooth skin, without any of the folds which make the Asiatic Rhinoceros seem

like an animal covered with a coat of mail; Governor Plellenberg killed a dozen of them with fire-arms---All those about the Cape have two horns, but doubtful whether these are so mischievous as to bear and beat down every thing as Kolbe pretends, as you may easily shake them by taking hold of the hinder parts and pulling them,---in fact they do much more harm with the feet than with the horns.—Anatomical description.—Dr. Parsons's plate, Phil. Transf. n. 471, very accurate.

Kwagga or Couagga. Animal hitherto not described,—of a species between the horse and the Zebra, or perhaps between the Zebra and the wild ass.—Found in the interior parts of Africa—described---and conjectured to be a race produced by the wild white horse, or the wild ass and the Zebra, but has a greater affinity to the horse than to the Zebra—Captain Gordon saw two herds of them, and has got one for the Prince of Orange's Menagerie (supposed to be the most worth seeing in Europe, from the number of animals in it from Africa and the East Indies)—Plate of a colt.—Mr. Buffon observes, a little appearance of contradiction in Captain Gordon's account, he having first said, that the peasants of the Cape put them in a cart, and that they draw very well, and then saying that he could not procure an adult one, and was forced to take up with a colt, but if they are put in a cart and draw very well, adult ones must have been plenty.

Gnou or Niou. An animal from the interior part of Africa, but lately known to Naturalists—Account of two drawings, one sent by Lord Bute, and the other by Mr. Queraut, who had seen it at the Cape,—Plate taken from a drawing rather more accurate, sent by the Viscount Venerosi Perciolini, commandant of the Island Groise—Account of it by Dr. Forster, and by Professor Allamand, who has described it from one sent to Holland, a plate of which is accordingly inserted.

This animal, and many others, is a proof how well Africa deserves its denomination of rich in monsters, i. e. in animals, not to be found any where else—Description

cription does great honour to Captain Gordon, who has gone farther into the interior parts of Africa than any other European, having performed a journey of upwards of 200 leagues across an uncultivated country, and with no other provision than the vegetables which his companion (probably a negroe) told him he might eat, or what he could knock down with his gun—has been richly paid for his pains by the wonders he has seen, and the spoils he has brought home.

The Gnou has the horns, and strength of head of the bull, the lightness of the stag, and the beautiful, bushy mane and tail of the horse.—of the size of an ass—covered with short hairs like a stag—has two black horns, about nineteen inches long, &c. &c. is not very tame—lives on vegetables, and may be the animal described by Lobo, under the name of Wild-Horse, and by the monk Cosmas*, under the name of Bull Stag—Mr. D'Allamand gives reasons why he would have suggested it might be the Ippelaphus of Aristotle, if Mr. de Buffon had not shewn that animal to be the same as Pliny's Tragelaphus and the Stag of the Ardennes—Mr. A. thinks we shall some time or other become acquainted with the Unicorn, who inhabits the same country, and whom many writers say they have seen, though others treat its existence as a fable.—A plate from Mr. Allamand, the most accurate hitherto known.

Nilgaut. Plate of the male, and another of the female, taken from the living animals at the King of France's palace of La Muette, in 1774;—probably Kolbe's African stag.—Would be of use in France, if it could be introduced there, as it would afford good tallow, and thicker and firmer flesh than the goats. [See the description of the animal by Dr. Hunter, Phil. Trans. vol. lxi.]—Account of slight differences between the English and French animals.

Canna. Mentioned by Kolbe as a species of the rein-deer, but has different horns—One of the largest

* See in Thevenot's Selection de divers Voyageurs curieux, the description of Indian Plants and Animals by the Hermit Cosmas.

cloven
web-footed animals known in the Southern parts of Africa—Eight feet two inches long, five feet high, and six feet seven inches in circumference behind the fore legs, and five feet nine behind the hind legs—Described by Captain Gordon, who says there are no animals who shed their horns known in the Southern parts of Africa—Go in herds of fifty or sixty, but there are seldom two males to be seen in a herd of females—Not the Oryx of Pliny, as Mr. Pallas has supposed, because it is found in none of the parts of the globe which the ancients were acquainted with—Description of one seen at the Cape by Dr. Forster.

Condoma or Coesdoes. Figure of the animal from a fine skin sent home from the Cape—The same animal as the *Strepsiceros* described by Caius: A beautiful animal, not like a stag, but finer—has the bray of an afs,—described by Mr. Klochner, and the dimensions given—Has some resemblance to the wild goat described by Kolbe, but likewise some differences.

Bubalus. Two figures of the animal,—the latter taken from a living animal by Mr. Allamand, the most accurate—very numerous near the Cape, and certainly the *Bubalus* of the ancients, and the *Buselaphus* of Caius—called *Canna* by the Hottentots, and *Cicama* by the Caffres—run faster than horses, and have a cry like a sneeze—the inhabitants of the Cape eat very thick steaks cut off of it.

The Koba and Kob. Called by some travellers the great and small brown cow, but very near the species of the *Bubalus*. Mr. Pallas says it is the Antelope, which comes nearest the stag; but the horns he has given are probably those of a very young one, as Mr. Buffon's dimensions come nearer the truth,