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FOR THE YEAR 1792.

VOLUME THE FOURTH.



L O N D O N

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attempted three times to rise in reply, but at last fainted and fell on his seat. The duke of Cumberland, lord Temple, and lord Stamford, caught him in their arms. His lordship was conveyed as soon as possible to his favourite villa at

Hayes in Kent, where he languished till the 11th of May, 1788, when he died. A public funeral was ordered, at which the representatives of the nation attended, and four thousand pounds per annum was granted to his family out of the civil list.

REVIEW OF HISTORICAL BOOKS.

THE ANIMAL KINGDOM, OR ZOOLOGICAL SYSTEM OF THE CELEBRATED SIR CHARLES LINNÆUS. BY R. KERR, F. R. & A. S. S. E. 4to. VOL. I. PART I. 10s. 6d. MURRAY. 1792.

THIS translation has been carried on with the utmost possible attention to accuracy and fidelity of version, and to uniformity and perspicuity of language. The translator has shunned, as much as the nature of the subject would allow, the employment of technical terms, having yet endeavoured to use English words in so precise and definite a manner as to serve every useful purpose of more recondite technical expressions. It is taken from the last edition of the *Systema Naturæ* of Linnæus, as lately published, by the learned professor Gmelin of the university of Goettingen; and has received large and numerous additions, which have been collected by the translator, from the writings of such zoologists, voyagers, and travellers, as had not fallen under the observation, either of the great Linnæus, or of his excellent successor.

A very cursory inspection will show at once, to such readers as are in any degree acquainted with the original, that what is now submitted to the public, is not, by any means, a mere translation; for, although every thing that is contained in Dr. Gmelin's edition of the *Systema Naturæ* be retained with the most scrupulous exactness, and consequently a great deal more than is in any of the Linnæan editions, very large additions have been made to the present translation, from zoological writers of eminence, whose works the last learned editor had then no opportunity to consult,

In the systematic part of the work, the translator seems to have availed himself of every advantage to be derived from the observations of later naturalists, and particularly from Mr. Pennant. If he proceeds in the same manner, this body of English natural history will be the most accurate and complete of any one that has yet appeared. The number of species are greatly increased, the varieties in general carefully distinguished, the synonyms numerous, and the references accurate. We shall transcribe a specimen or two.

ORANG-OUTANG.

“ THIS animal has no tail. Is of a rusty brown colour; the hair on the fore-arms is reversed, or stands upwards; and the buttocks are covered with hair.

“ It inhabits the island of Borneo.— Is about two feet high, and walks mostly erect: The body and limbs are universally covered with brown hair, about an inch long, which is thinly interspersed with reddish hairs; the hair on the fore-arms, towards the wrists, is reversed, or lies with its points turned towards the elbow; the buttocks are covered with hair: the head is round, having a naked forehead; the margin of the mouth is hairy; the eye-lashes are black, the upper being longer and thicker than those below; and a range of transversely placed hair occupies the place of eye-brows: the nose is very short, and is covered with down: the palms of the hands are smooth, and the thumb is shorter than the palm; the feet resemble those of man; except that the great toes are considerably shorter than the others, which are very long.

“ Much as this species resembles mankind, even possessing the *os hyoides*, it must still be referred to the genus

genus of ape, with which it agrees in wanting the flat round nail on the great toes, and in the structure of the larynx: besides these circumstances, it is evident, from the direction of the muscles, and from the whole figure of the skeleton, that this animal is not designed by nature for an erect posture."

ONE-HORNED RHINOCEROS.

"IT inhabits between and near the tropics, in marshy places, being found in Bengal, Siam, Cochin-China, Quangû in China, in the islands of Java and Sumatra, and in Africa.—This animal is mentioned in the book of Job under the name of *Reem*, and was not unfrequently exhibited in the public fights of animals in the Roman games; yet was unknown in Europe during a long series of years, no specimens having been seen before the sixteenth century. It lives on thorns and other spinous plants, and is fond of wallowing in the mire; may be tamed in some degree, and becomes mild, unless when provoked; but, when enraged, will even overturn trees with its violence. The male voids his urine and copulates backwards: the sight of this animal is weak, but its hearing, and sense of smelling, are remarkably acute: in stature and magnitude of body, except that the legs are shorter, this animal equals the elephant, but falls vastly behind in sagacity and docility; in form, in manners, and in its grunting voice, it comes nearer to the hog genus, especially the Ethiopian species. The skin is so hard that it resists the effects of arrows, swords, or even of musket balls, which rebound from it without doing injury; it is entirely naked, except the tail and ears; it is divided by several folds, or transverse plaits, which are very conspicuous and regular in their situation; 1st, behind the head; 2d, on the shoulders; 3d, from the back down the loins, before the thighs, and along the belly; 4th, cross the thighs: these allow of motion to the skin, which is hard and inflexible like a shell or coat of armour; the inside of the plaits being composed of a very soft pliable skin; the skin on the belly is soft, like that within the plaits; the flesh is coarse, spongy, and hardly eat-

able; the tongue is soft and smooth; the horn is fibrous in its texture, surrounded with coarse hair at the root, is conical, and tapers to a sharp point, and is sometimes three feet long: in adults there are no fore-teeth, but in young animals, a few solitary straggling cutting teeth are found, which stand at considerable distances from each other; the feet have each three hoofs, which are placed on the fore part; the tail is small, narrowing towards the point, and only reaches to about the middle of the hind legs."

AMERICAN ELEPHANT.

"IN America, on the banks of the Ohio, are found, several feet below the surface, in a marshy place called Big-bone swamp, great numbers of tusks and grinders, supposed by many to belong to the elephant: but the grinders are totally different, being covered uniformly with enamel, and furnished with a double row of high conic processes, like those of carnivorous animals; whereas those of the elephant are composed of alternate perpendicular layers of bone and enamel, and are ribbed transversely on their upper surfaces, like those of graminivorous quadrupeds: hence the species must be entirely different; and Mr. Pennant has chosen to suppose that they have belonged to an unknown species of this genus, which he names the American elephant. Hist. of Quad. ii. 71. These teeth and bones are likewise found in Peru and Brasil. Mr. Pennant and Dr. Gmelin assert, from various authorities, that the fossil bones and teeth, so often found in Siberia, must be referred to the true elephant; and various hypotheses have been devised, to explain in what manner this inhabitant of the torrid zone should have wandered to the sixtieth degree of north latitude for a grave. Where such great authorities are on one side, my feeble voice will scarcely be heard on the other; but I can safely assert, that all the grinders engraved in the supplemental vol. ix. of Smellie's Translation of Buffon, and all those which I have seen in various cabinets, under the name of fossil, from America and Asia, exactly resemble those which Mr. Pennant at-