

SIGHTS AND WONDERS IN NEW YORK.

INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS.

READER, pray lend me your attention,
While with much brevity I mention
Some of the wonders of creation,
Scattered throughout each clime and nation.
Of every other quadruped
The elephant stands at the head ;
All other beasts that roam the field,
To him in bulk and strength must yield.
Then comes the huge rhinoceros,
With elk, and gnu or hornéd horse ;
The tall giraffe and buffalo,
And camels which o'er deserts go ;
The llama, zebra, deer, and goat,
And swiftly-bounding antelope ;
And monkeys so much like a man,
Especially the orang-outang !
Lions, tigers, leopards rare,
The grizzly and the polar bear ;
Panthers, hyenas, wolves, and foxes,
Such as are kept in cage or boxes ;
Sable, ermine, marten, lynx,
Beaver, otter, muskrats, minks.
And birds there are in every land,
From Alpine rocks to desert sand :
The ostrich, eagle, vulture, hawk,
And crane with legs too long to walk ;
Likewise swans, both black and white,
And paroquets with plumage bright ;
And every kind of singing-bird
That eye hath seen or ear hath heard :
All fish that in the ocean swim,
From monstrous shark to herring trim ;
Whale, walrus, porpoises, and seals,
And spurious ones, like snakes and eels !
The ichneume and crocodile,
Found near the banks of Egypt's Nile ;
Serpents and reptiles, insects, all,
That walk or swim, or fly or crawl ;
Choice specimens of antique art
From Pompeii's long-buried mart ;
Or mummy, long in darkness hid
In catacomb or pyramid ;
Or works of yet more modern dates,
From foreign climes or our own states—
As marble statue, plaster bust,
Armor of steel unsoiled by rust ;
Portraits of great and noble men—
Columbus, Franklin, Howard, Penn,
Or of the great illustrious one,
Our own belovéd Washington

Uncle Find-out, to inquiries relative to the lion, informed his nephews that the lion was of the cat-species, and the strongest of animals feeding upon flesh. Such was the power of his foot, that a single blow was enough to crush in the sides of a horse; and he could knock down the strongest man with a blow of his tail. He could clear thirty feet at a bound, and drag with ease the largest bullock. His roar was like distant thunder. His flesh was eaten by the Hottentots; and a tribe of Arabs, between Tunis and Algiers, lived almost entirely upon it. That the American lion, another species of the cat, was better known by the name of the cougar, one of which was also before them.



He said that the zebra was a most elegant animal, scarcely tameable; his skin beautifully soft, adorned with riband-like stripes. In the female, these stripes were alternately black and white, and in the male, brown and yellow. His voice resembled the hunter's horn. Numerous troops of them were often seen grazing on the extensive plains of the Cape of Good Hope.

Having viewed these different specimens, they next entered upon the bat and armadillo tribes, among which were the leather-winged bat of North America, and the great-eared bat of Europe; the armadillos, of South America, curiously armed with hard, shelly plates, and very beautiful specimens of these curious animals. The great vampire bats of Java attracted much of their attention, and the more so, from the fact, that their uncle informed them they were in the habit of sucking the blood of other animals while they were asleep. That there were several species, also, of them, in the United States.

Uncle Find-out being somewhat fatigued, sat himself down, and told his nephews they could amuse themselves, while he rested himself a little. They accordingly proceeded to examine the following: The nine-banded armadillo of South America; the Brazilian weazel, of South America; the cast ant-eater, male and female; the Patagonian cavy; the pouched rat, of Florida;

the sea-otter, of South America ; the chameleon, of Africa ; the lynx, of North America ; the Guinea-pigs, of South America, which they considered very beautiful indeed ; the crested cavy, of South America ; the musk-rats of North America ; sea-otters, of North and South America ; the raccoon and opossum, of North America ; the crested porcupine ; and, for the first time, the real striped pig, presented by Mr. Justice Merritt, which, barring the stripes, was evidently a descendant of swinish royalty ; the bay lynx, of North America ; the three-toed sloth ; the Canadian porcupine ; the Brazilian porcupine. The Java musk, a very delicate little animal, was occupying their attention, when their uncle, clapping his hand upon their shoulders, aroused them from their contemplations, and called their attention to the Brazilian and royal Bengal tiger, a rhinoceros, with horn perfect, and a large African elephant.



In answer to some inquiries, Uncle Find-out said, the tiger alluded to was more fierce than the lion, and equalled him in size and strength, as well as ferocity ; his hair was rough and yellow above, with transverse black stripes ; that he was an inhabitant of the jungles, in India, and committed the greatest ravages—

That the African elephant inhabited Africa, from Senegal to the Cape of Good Hope ; that it was more fierce than the Indian elephant, its tusks much longer, and that the female had them as long as the male—that in Siam there was a species of white elephant, which was held in great religious veneration—that the mammoth and mastodon were extinct species of the same class—that the rhinoceros was remarkable for the thickness of his skin, and that several species were known in India and Africa.

At length the boys read the following : “ General Tom Thumb’s carriage and horses,” and they almost wished they had been as small as the general, and when their uncle gave them a little history of the general’s travels, and the number of ladies’ kisses he had received, they wondered a bit of the gen-