

to them; for Boars whet their tusks against they fight. And the Elephant knowing that one of his teeth is doubled with digging at the roots of trees to get meat, keepeth the other sharp, and touches nothing with it, preserving it for his combat with the Rhinocerot his



The craft of the Rhinocerot about to fight with the Elephant.

enemy; but the craft of the Rhinocerot is very remarkable, that being in continuallenmity with the Elephant, at the time when he prepares for the battail, he whets his horn against a rock, as if it were with a whetstone; nor (if he can chuse) will he strike any other part of the Elephant but the belly, because he knows that part of the Elephant is so tender, that it may be easily pierced. This beast is in length equall to the Elephant, but in height he is inferior unto him, by reason of the shortness of his seet; he is of a palish yellow colour, and sull of many spots.

Of Cocks.

Cocks are kingly and martiall Birds.

Ocks are kingly Birds, and therefore Nature hath adorned them with a comb, as with a princely Diadem; and wherefoever they come, their magnanimity and courage makes them kings. They fight with their beaks and their spurs, and with their martiall voice they fright the Lion, who is otherwise the king of beafts.

Of Conies.

Conies have raught us undermining. Onles have taught us the art of Undermining the earth, whereby the most losty Cities and structures reaching the very skies, are by taking away their foundation levelled with the ground.

Marcus Varro writes, that in Spain there was a town, and that no mean one, which standing on a sandie ground, was so undermined by a company of Conies, that all the houses tumbling and falling down to the ground, the inhabitants were fain to depart and seek new dwellings.

Of Wolves.

The deceits and ambushes of Wolves. En have learnt the arts of waging War from the Wolves, for they come out by troops, and lye in ambush near the towns which they have appointed, and then one of them runs unto the town and provokes the dogs. And making as if he run away, incites the Dogs to follow him, untill he hath gotten them unto the place where their ambush lyeth, which on a sodain appeareth, and rusheth out upon them. And so they kill and eat all, or as many of the dogs as they are able to catch.

Of the Fox.

The craft of the Fox.

IN subtilty and craft the Fox exceedeth all other beasts: when in the chase the Dogs are at his heels, he berays and bepiffes his tail, and swings it in the face and eys of the Dogs that follow him, and so blinding them, in the mean time gets ground of them. To fetch the Hens down from their pearch, he hath this devise, he shakes and swings his tail upwards and downwards, as if he meant to throw it at them; which they fearing tumble down, and he takes up one of them for his prey. His wariness when he passeth over a River that is frozen, is wonderfull; for he goes softly to the bank, and lays his ear to listen, if he can hear the noise of the water running under the ice. For if he can, back he goes, and will not venture to pass over. The knowledg of which thing he could never meerly by his subtilty and craft attain unto, but that of necessity he must have some faculty of reasoning joined with it; which by discourse, and by proving one thing by another, arrives at this Conclusion: whatsoever is liquid and maketh a noise, is in motion; whatsoever liquid is in motion, is not concrete and frozen; that which is not concrete and frozen, is liquid; what soever is liquid, will not bear a heavier body; what soever will not bear a heavier body, cannot with safety be adventured on; and therefore back again must I go, and not pass over this River. Of Swine.

The Fox feems to reason with himself.

His Sorites.

Straight make a stand; and marshalling their forces, haste all, as if they had been warned by the sound of a martiall trumpet, to the assistance of their fellows.

Of the fishes Scarus and Anthia.

The love of Fishes one to another. PLutarch reports of the Scari, that when one of them chances to swallow a hook, and be taken, the rest of the same kind come to his rescue, and shearing the Line with their teeth, set him at liberty. But the readiness of the Anthia to the mutual assistance of one another, is yet more manisest; for by casting the Line upon which the hook hangeth on their back, with the sharpness of their fins they cut it as under, and so set free themselves and their captived fellows.

Of the Pilot-fish.

There is great kindness between the Pilot-sish and the Whale; For although in bulk of body the Whale so far exceed him, yet he leads the Whale, and goes always before him