INTERESTING SELECTIONS

FROM

ANIMATED NATURE,

WITH

ILLUSTRATIVE SCENERY;

DESIGNED AND ENGRAVED

BY

WILLIAM DANIELL, A.R.A.

VOL. I.

LONDON:

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This volume, as the title indicates, contains a miscellaneous assemblage, formed chiefly from animated nature, intended to present faithful and characteristic representations of such agreeable or interesting objects as have been thought capable of a picturesque illustration; to which are added some examples of vegetable productions, that, either from their beauty or rarity, appear worthy of particular attention. No scientific order has been observed in arranging it, and in making the selection from materials that are not new, it has been carefully remembered that variety is a primary source of delight. But though the matter itself cannot have the recommendation of novelty, the mode of displaying it, here adopted, is not common; for by placing the different subjects apparently in situations and under circumstances where they are usually seen in nature, a new interest is communicated even to familiar objects, and an air of truth given to all, much more impressive than without such local accompaniments.

In executing this part of his task, the Artist has availed himself of his knowledge of foreign scenery, acquired by a long residence abroad, particularly in oriental climates: a circumstance which, he ventures to hope, has added to the truth and variety of his illustrations. And as no information relative to natural history can be of any value which is not authentic, wherever it has been practicable, he has himself drawn the different articles immediately from original specimens; and, in the few instances where that could not be done, such authorities have been invariably resorted to as are acknowledged to be the best.

A plan of this kind, it is true, promises no complete illustration of any particular branch of natural history: yet the general view it presents, assisted by the charm of variety, may hold forth stronger allurements to the early study of that science than more profound and regular works; and though adding little to the sum of existing knowledge, it may be, in its effect, both useful and agreeable as a new effort of imitative art, serving to diffuse what is already known, to revive recollection, to awaken curiosity, and to keep alive sentiments of admiration and reverence for the works of the Deity.

To each engraved example a description is subjoined, briefly pointing out in what manner they have been classed by the learned, where they are commonly to be found, and, occasionally, some of their more striking peculiarities of character and habit. But should any of these selections excite a desire for more extensive information, the numerous authors who have copiously dilated upon every part of nature, will abundantly supply what might here be thought deficient. It may not indeed be improper to state, that a concise, though most satisfactory account of whatever has been introduced into this volume, is given in Wood's Zoography, published in the course of the last year; and to which Mr. Daniell provided illustrations, executed nearly in the same stile, and on the same plan as those which follow.

SUBJECTS CONTAINED IN THE FIRST VOLUME.

ZEBRA.

Designed & Engraved by Wm. Daniell & Published by Messrs. Cadell & Davies London. May 1.1812.

THE ZEBRA.

Equus Zebra. Linn.

Le Zebre. Buff.

Zebra. Penn. Hist. Quad. 1. p. 13. Shaw. Gen. Zool. 2. p. 438. pl. 217.

The size of the zebra is between that of the horse and the ass. He is regularly striped with black and yellow; the female with black and white. The bands are so uniform, and accurately separated, that the whole body of the animal has the appearance of being artificially adorned, in the most elegant manner, with ribands.

The zebra, in its manners and disposition, is vicious and indocile; no attempts hitherto made to tame it have succeeded; nevertheless as animals equally wild and vicious have been forced to acknowledge the power of man, and submit to his will, why should not the zebra, at some future time, be added to the list of domestic quadrupeds. Barrow, in his African travels, gives the following instance of this animal's indocility. "At the Landrosts of Zwellendam, I saw a male and female zebra, that, while young and attended to, were said to have been mild and docile; but by neglect, and probably by teasing, they had become exceedingly vicious. One of the English dragoons persisted in mounting the female. She kicked and plunged, and laid herself down, but to no purpose; the man kept his seat; till taking a leap from the high bank of the river, she threw both herself and the rider into the water; but still keeping hold of the bridle, she dragged him to the shore, when walking up quietly to him, she put her head down to his face, and completely bit off his ear."

The zebra inhabits Africa, from Æthiopia to the Cape of Good Hope.

SHARK.

Designed & Engraved by Wm. Daniell & Published by Messrs. Cadell & Davies London March 1 1807.

THE SHARK.

Squalus Carcharias. Linn.

Le Requin. Bloch.

White Shark. Shaw. Gen. Zool. 5. p. 322. pl. 148.

If we were permitted with impunity to penetrate the deep, and, at leisure, watch the nature and manners of its numerous inhabitants, we should be astonished at the depredations of particular species; and at the success with which some employ force, and others address, to secure their prey.

The shark stands foremost among those which are formed for destruction; he is by far the fiercest of the finny tribe; he is the tiger of the seas; his voracity knows no bounds, and his appetite is insatiable. In the warmer parts of the ocean, he prowls about in search of prey, and swallows, almost indiscriminately, whatever comes within his reach: his terrific mouth is capable of great extension, and his capacious stomach is too often the receptacle of human bodies.

He assidiously follows ships in warm climates, and swallows whatever falls overboard. It has been remarked, that, like the lion, he constantly prefers the flesh of a Negro to that of an European; therefore the slave ships, in their passage from the coast of Africa to the West Indies, are generally attended by many of these monsters, and the mortality which then prevails, from disease and despair, give them but too many opportunities of indulging their voracity.

The shark measures from fifteen to twenty-five, and even thirty feet, in length; the mouth is planted with several rows of teeth, which the shark can erect or depress at pleasure: the tail is exceedingly strong, and so active that the sailors, to prevent mischief, are careful to cut it off as soon as the fish is taken.

BETEL TREE.

Designed & Engraved by Wm. Daniell & Published by Mess.rs Cadell & Davies London March 1.st 1807.

THE BETEL TREE.

Areca Catecu. Linn.

L'Arec de L'Inde. Lam.

Betel Tree. Wood's Zoography, 3. p. 246. pl. 6.

This tree yields a nut which is in great request among the inhabitants of hot countries. It is not used alone, but mixed with the leaf of a kind of pepper, after being sprinkled with quick lime. This delectable composition is in general use in India, where it is introduced in all companies; and it is probable that it will there continue to be musticated as tobacco is in Europe, till something nastier is discovered. The constant use of the betel is so destructive to the teeth, that the Indians often lose them before they are thirty years old.

The betel tree is a species of palm, of a tall, straight, and slender form, with a bunch of pinnated leaves at the top. A cluster of nuts, each about the size of a hen's egg, grows under the leaves; and between the outward bark and the kernel, there is a fibrous pulp called *pinang*, which the natives occasionally mix with their betel.

GREAT BOA.

Designed & Engraved by Wm. Daniell & Published by Messrs. Cadell & Davies London. March 1st 1807.

THE GREAT BOA.

Boa Constrictor. Linn.

Le Devin. Lacepede.

Great Boa. Shaw. Nat. Misc. 2. pl. 52. Wood's Zoography, 2. p. 81. pl. 5.

There are perhaps no accounts more susceptible of exaggeration than those which relate to the size of serpents. The imagination, strongly impressed and violently agitated by the appearance of a terrific object, is always disposed to trespass on the truth. Thus it has happened that travellers, while treading the deserts of Africa, and the wilds of America, in composing their descriptions, have sometimes consulted their fears, rather than their judgement, and have lengthened serpents to fifty, eighty, or a hundred feet, that seldom exceed fifteen, twenty, or twenty-five.

The great boa, which is a native of Africa and South America, is the largest of the species; it grows to a monstrous size, and sometimes measures nearly thirty feet in length. Its bite is not venomous, but when pressed for food it conceals its hideous form from suspicion, and attacks, with equal voracity, men and animals. When about to seize its prey, it raises itself on its tail, and, with frightful hissings, darts on its object with inconceivable rapidity. The animal is immediately constrained between the convolutions of its body, and either pressed to death, or swallowed by the serpent alive. In the isle of Banda a woman was found entire in the body of one of these monsters.

The great boa was held by the antient Mexicans in religious veneration. They respected his size, and dreaded his strength; he was regarded as a celestial minister, and was distinguished by a name signifying emperor, or powerful.

TURTLE.

Designed & Engraved by Wm. Daniell & Published by Messrs. Cadell & Davies London March 1807.

THE TURTLE.

Testudo Mydas. Linn.

La Tortue Franche. Lacepede.

Green Turtle. Shaw. Gen. Zool. 3. p. 80. pl. 22. Wood's Zoography, 2. pl. 11.

When we reflect on the nature of reptiles: when we consider that their blood is almost cold; that the circulation is but slowly carried on; that they can live for months without food; that they have few accidents to fear, and that their injuries are soon repaired; we cease to be surprised that animals so organized, should be remarkable for longevity. The tortoise has been known to live above a century, and the turtle to reach the age of eighty years.

The green turtle, which derives its name from the colour of its fat, is a native of the West Indies, where many vessels are engaged for the sole purpose of catching them. The persons employed in the business go out in little boats, and land, in the evening, on the islands where they expect to meet with success. They watch in silence, and by moonlight; and, when the turtles are returning from their nests, intercept their passage to the sea, and turn them on their backs.

The turtles never entirely leave the water, except it be to lay their eggs. In the month of April, according to Catesby, they crawl above high water mark, and dig a hole two feet deep in the sand, where in one night they will drop above a hundred eggs. The eggs are about the size of tennis balls, and equally round; they are lightly covered with sand, and left to be hatched by the sun: in about twenty-five days the young turtles are seen to rise out of the sand, and crawl towards the sea.

The flesh of the turtle is a well known delicacy, which has, for several years, been highly esteemed in this country. The shell is employed for ornamental purposes.

EGRET.

Designed & Engraved by Wm. Daniell & Published by Messrs. Cadell & Davies London May 1 1802.

THE EGRET.

Ardea Garzetta. Linn.

L'Aigrette. Buff.

Little Egret. Lath. Syn. 5. p. 90. Bew. Birds. 2. p. 45.

The white silky feathers on the back of the egret have long been esteemed for their elegance. They formerly decorated the turban of the Sultan, and the helmet of the warrior: they have since that time filled a gentler office; they have appeared in the head dress of the ladies, and have added grace to beauty.

The egret is not larger than a common sized fowl: it has a black bill, and the back of the head is crested: all the plumage is pure white, and the long feathers consist of a single delicate shaft, from which proceeds fine threads as soft as silk.

This bird is almost a general inhabitant of the temperate and warm parts of the globe. They were once common in England, but are now extinct. They are found in different parts of America, in Asia, and in Africa. In Egypt they frequent the low and swampy places. Sonnini remarks that their feet are not all of the same colour; some are black, others greenish, and most yellow. He frequently observed them on the date trees, near the banks of the Nile, where they roost in great numbers, and form, with their white plumage, a pleasing contrast to the green foliage of the palms.

ALPACA.

Designed & Engraved by Willm. Daniell & Published by Messrs. Cadell & Davies London May 1.1812.

THE ALPACA.

Camelus Paco. Linn.

Le Paco. Buff.

Pacos. Penn. Hist. Quad. 1. p. 137.

The alpaca is an elegant, lively animal; it carries its head erect, and is graceful in its motions; its body is covered with long wool of silky softness: upon the neck and shoulders it is white; on the body and rump it is rusty brown beneath, with darker locks on the outside, the ears and fore legs are spotted, the hind legs are black, the hoofs are deeply divided, and separate when the animal walks. The lip is bifid, and there are no teeth in the upper jaw. The skin feels dry and harsh. The alpaca now * exhibiting in London is three feet six inches high at the shoulder; four feet long, and five feet and a half from the crown of the head to the ground.

This animal is an inhabitant of Peru, and lives among the Andes. Its wool is extremely fine, and the natives work it into stuffs as resplendent as silk. It is found in small troops on the mountains; is easily tamed, and when domesticated, is occasionally used as a beast of burthen, but is chiefly esteemed for the sake of its fleece.

* April 1812.

MANGROVE.

Designed & Engraved by Willm Daniell & Published by Messrs Cadell & Davies London March 1.1807.

THE MANGROVE.

Rhizophora Gymnorhiza. Linn.

Le Paletuvier des Indes. Lam.

Mangrove. Rheed. Hort. Malab. 6. pl. 31. 32. Wood's Zoography, 3. p. 143. pl. 4.

The chief singularities in the mangrove tree consist in its unburied roots, and pendent seed vessels: the former support the stem some feet above the ground, and diverge in every direction, so as to produce an almost impenetrable thicket: the latter are distinguished by a mode of germination, very different from the usual course of nature, and highly deserving of notice.

The fruit produces a single seed enclosed in an oval capsule, which, when ripe, begins to germinate without falling from the tree. A little radicle makes its appearance from the top of the capsule, from whence it proceeds in the form of a ligneous fibre, till it is more than a foot long. In this state the seed hangs pendent, till by its weight, added to the continual oscillations to which it is subject from the slightest breath of air, it is disengaged from the capsule and falls to the ground. The mangrove grows in places perpetually moist, the seed falls perpendicularly, its sharp end sticks in the mire, and its parts of fructification then unfold in the usual manner.

The mangrove tree does not usually rise above twelve feet high: it grows in marshy places, generally within the influx of the Indian ocean, and where the tide can readily wash its stem.

WHALE.

Designed & Engraved by Willm. Daniell & Published by Messrs. Cadell & Davies London, March 1, 1807.

THE WHALE.

Balæna Mysticetus. Linn.

La Baleine-Franche. Bloch.

Common Whale. Shaw. Gen. Zool. 2. p. 478. pl. 226. Wood's Zoography, 2. p. 123. pl. 6.

We learn from the history of Kamtschatka that the fat of the whale was considered as a first rate delicacy, and forced down the throat of the visitor with a savage officiousness that would not admit of a refusal. This beastly hospitality is now become obsolete. Formerly, as a mark of respect to a guest, the host set before him as much food as would serve ten people. Both were stripped naked: the host refused politely to touch a bit, but compelled his friend to devour what was set before him, till he was quite gorged; and at the same time heated the place, by incessantly pouring water on hot stones, till it became insupportable. When the guest was crammed up to the throat, the generous landlord on his knees, stuffed into his mouth a great slice of whale's fat; cut off what hung out, and cried, in a surly tone, *tana,* or there! by which he fully discharged his duty; and, between heating and cramming, obliged the poor guest to cry for mercy, and a release from the danger of being choked by the noble welcome.

The whale feeds on different kinds of marine worms, and sea weeds. Its eyes are remarkably small in proportion to its size, which is prodigious. The female is strongly attached to her young. A whale will yield from thirty to seventy butts of blubber, and is worth from four hundred to a thousand pounds.

BASALTIC COLUMNS.

Designed & Engraved by Wilt.m Daniell & Published by Mess.rs Cadell & Davies London March 2. 1807.

BASALTIC COLUMNS.

He who travels to discover the wonders of nature, and unravel her mysteries, will not readily find any thing more likely to arrest his attention, or better calculated to give scope to conjecture, than the gigantic columns of basaltes. These singular productions are formed of a blackish-grey stone, of a very firm texture, and sounding under the hammer like brass. They are crystalized bodies alike in substance but differing in shape; most of them are hexangular, but some are prismatic, and others have four, five, and sometimes seven sides. They vary greatly in size, being found from a few inches to three or four feet in diameter, and from five to fifty or sixty feet high. Every pillar is formed of several pieces, which rest one upon the other, and have either a concave or convex surface.

The theory of the primitive formation of these singular bodies is involved in much obscurity. Naturalists are divided in their opinions, and each party has an equal claim to superiority; where certainty is not to be obtained, every one feels himself justified to support his conjecture, and hitherto every attempt to fathom the causes which in some period of this globe's existence have contributed to produce such wonderful effects, has failed.

Basaltic columns are found in several parts of Europe, and America.

CROCODILE.

Designed & Engraved by Wilm. Daniell & Published by Mess.rs Cadell & Davies London March 1.st 1807.

THE CROCODILE.

Lacerta Crocodilus. Linn.

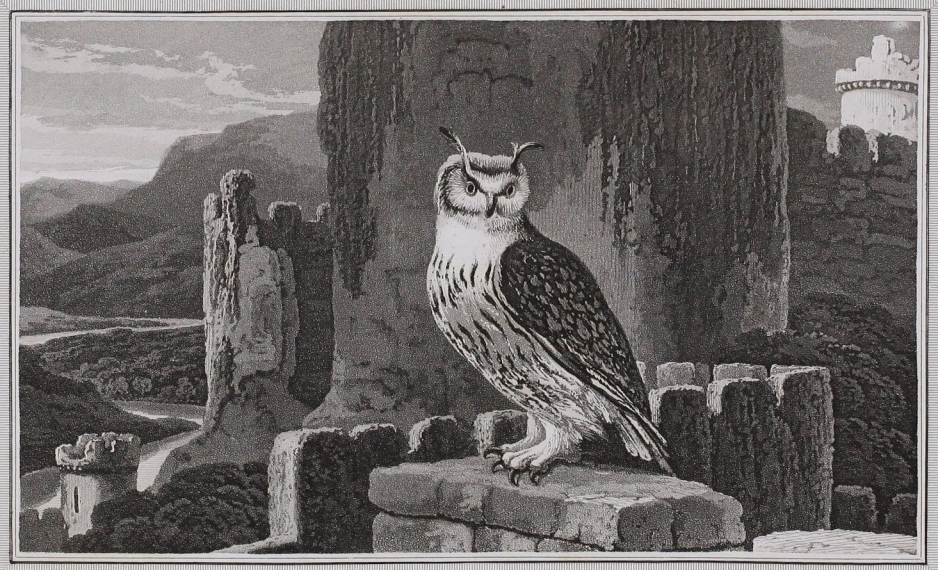
Le Crocodile. Lacepede.

Crocodile. Shaw. Gen. Zool. 3. p. 184. pl. 55. Wood's Zoography, 2. p. 42. pl. 3.

The earth would soon be overspread from the vast fertility of the reptile tribe, if it were not for their numerous enemies, which, by destroying their eggs and their progeny, continue to preserve the equilibrium which Providence has ordained among the different kinds of animals. The fecundity of the crocodile is happily checked, in its earliest state, by the ichneumon and the watchful vulture, which destroy the eggs as soon as they are layed.

The hippopotamus, the tiger, and the cougar, destroy many of their young, and the Africans will attack them when full grown. The Negro advances towards his enemy armed with a short piece of hard wood, or a rod of iron about ten inches long, and pointed at both ends: this he grasps by the middle, and with it gags the crocodile. When the creature feels himself wounded, he plunges into the water, and soon dies from suffocation.

The crocodile inhabits the large rivers of the warmer regions: it is found from ten to twenty five feet in length: it commonly feeds on fish, but will often attack large animals, and sometimes even man himself: the female lays her eggs in the sand, at different times, to the number of about a hundred in a year: in thirty-five days the young are hatched, solely by the heat of the sun. The Indians esteem the eggs and flesh of the crocodile as excellent food.



GREAT EARED OWL.

Designed & Engraved by Wm. Daniell & Published by Messrs. Cadell & Davies London March 1 1807.

THE GREAT EARED OWL.

Strix Bubo. Linn.

Le Grand Duc. Buff.

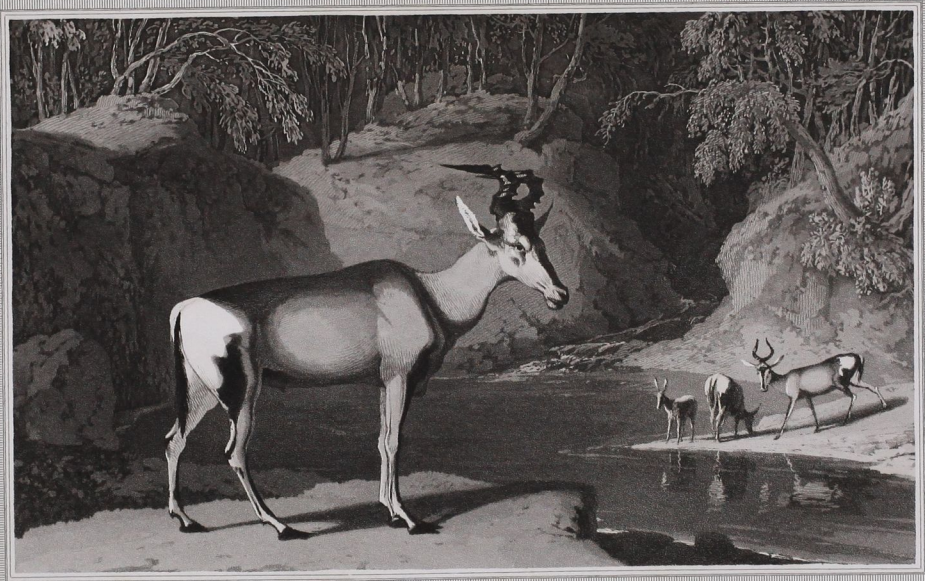
Great Eared Owl. Penn. Brit. Zool. 1. No. 64. pl. 19. Wood's Zoography, 1. p. 408. pl. 18.

Nothing can be more opposite than the natural disposition and manners of those birds which live by rapine, and prey upon flesh, and those which depend for their subsistence on the various fruits of the earth. The former are gloomy, obdurate, and ferocious; they are accustomed to carnage, are but slightly attached to their young, and, like robbers, lead a roving, solitary life. The latter, on the contrary, are generally gay and cheerfull; possess all the softer feelings of maternal attachment, and live in peace and harmony with their offspring.

The declining of the sun below the horizon; the stillness which prevails in the evening; and the decreasing light that bids other birds retire to roost, are so many signals for the owls to leave their hideing places and begin their depredations. They continue their silent flight but an hour in the evening, and the same in the morning; except on moonlight nights, which are so congenial to their nature, that they then pursue their prey for several hours together, and procure abundance of provisions.

The great eared owl is the largest of the genus. Its haunts are among rocks, on old deserted towers near mountains: it seldom descends to the plains, or settles upon trees, but generally confines itself to solitary churches and ancient castles. It preys on young hares, rabbits, moles and mice; which last it swallows entire, digesting the fleshy parts, and returning the hair, bones, and skin, rolled up in a ball.

It makes a nest near three feet in diameter: the female lays one, two, and sometimes three eggs; the young are very voracious.



HART-BEEST.

Designed & Engraved by Wm. Daniell & Published by Messrs. Cadell & Davies London May 1.1812.

THE HARTEBEEST.

Antilope Bubalis. Linn.

Du Bubale. Buff.

Cervine Antelope. Penn. Hist. Quad. 1. p. 102. pl. 15.

These antelopes are common in Barbary, and in the interior of the Cape of Good Hope: they are seen running in great herds, with a swiftness which no animal can surpass. They are generally met with in the plains, and may be known by their noise (like sneezing) long before they are approached. Their flesh is good: the Hottentots cut it into thin slices, which they dry in the sun, and eat with other meat instead of bread.

The hartebeest, in external appearance, resembles both the ox and the stag. In size and figure, particularly in the shape of its limbs, it is like the stag; its horns are permanent; its head is like that of the ox, but the part which most strikingly resembles that animal is the muzzle.

The females have only two teats, and but one fawn commonly at a birth: they bring forth in September and sometimes in April. The female is smaller than the male, and is entirely of a tawny colour, except a black streak on the nose.

FAN-LEAVED PALM.

Designed & Engraved by Willm. Daniell. & Published by Messrs. Cadell & Davies London March 1. 1807.

THE FAN-LEAVED PALM.

Borassus Flabellifer. Linn.

Le Rondier Lontar. Lam.

Fan-leaved Palm. Wood's Zoography, 3. p. 274. pl. 8.

This species of palm, which grows in different parts of India, is crowned with a bunch of fan-shaped leaves, each of which is five or six feet long. It is singular that the tree produces fruit but once in its duration; nature seems to be exhausted in the effort, fructification is soon followed by decay, and the once flourishing palm gradually becomes a lifeless trunk.

This tree, like several of the palms, possesses many virtues, some of which are real, others imaginary. The Indians tap its trunk and draw from it a sweet liquor susceptible of vinous fermentation: of the wood, which is durable, they build their houses, and make many articles of furniture: the leaves serve for thatch, for mats, and to make screens and parasols; when cut into small pieces they are also used instead of writing paper. The fruit, which is very large and ligneous, is highly prized by the inhabitants of the Maldives, from its supposed power to preserve the possessor against all kinds of poison. The conviction of its virtue is impressed upon the minds of their neighbours, who pay the islanders handsomely for their imaginary security.

OSTRICH.

Designed & Engraved by Willm. Daniell, & Published by Messrs. Cadell & Davies London March 1 1807.

THE OSTRICH.

Struthio Camelus. Linn.

L'Autruche. Buff.

Ostrich. Willughby, p. 149. pl. 25. Lath. Syn. 5. p. 6. pl. 71. Wood's Zoography, 1. p. 460. pl. 21.

The Egyptians have a singular custom of suspending the eggs of the ostrich from the roofs of their mosques. When a copt priest says mass, he always has opposite to him a lamp burning between ostrich's eggs, to remind him of attention to his ministry; like the ostrich, which, according to the common opinion of the country, never neglects her eggs. The same custom is observed in the interior of Africa, by the Mahometan negroes; except that the eggs are placed on the top of their mud towers, above their mosques, instead of withinside.

The ostrich inhabits Africa. The male is glossy black; the female dusky grey. They make their nest in the sand, and the male and female sit upon the eggs by turns. The male is frequently seen in company with four or five females, and the eggs which each female lays are then hatched collectively, and sometimes sixty or seventy are said to have been found in one nest.

The ostrich subsists entirely on vegetables, such as grass, fruits, grain, &c. It will also swallow leather, copper, iron, stones, and other substances equally hard. This remarkable propensity has given Cleaveland an opportunity to commend the digestion of the Scots.

The Scots knights errant fight, and fight to eat,
Their ostrich stomachs make their swords their meat.

ROSTRATED CHÆTODON.

Designed & Engraved by Wm. Daniell & Published by Messrs. Cadell & Davies London March 1st 1807.

THE ROSTRATED CHÆTODON.

Chætodon Rostratus. Linn.

Le Bec-Alongé. Bloch.

Rostrated Chætodon. Shaw. Gen. Zool. 4. p. 337. pl. 47. Wood's Zoography, 2. p. 162. pl. 8.

This long beaked fish has a very singular manner of taking its prey. It feeds on flies, and when it perceives one of those insects on the plants which border the stream, it approaches very slowly till it arrives, as near as possible, in a straight line with its object. It then remains immoveable, with its eyes fixed on the fly, and its mouth even with the surface of the water. When the fish has taken its aim, it shoots a drop of water from its beak, with such unerring dexterity, that the fly is always struck into the stream, and immediately swallowed.

When Mr. Hommel, governor of the hospital of Batavia, first heard of this singular fish, he, with a very pardonable degree of scepticism, was desirous to ascertain the truth of the above account. He therefore ordered some of these fish to be put into a tub of water, and, when they had become reconciled to their new situation, he pinned a fly to the end of a stick, and placed it by the side of the tub. Every thing succeeded to his wish, and he had the satisfaction to see the fish vainly endeavour to dislodge the fly, by continually shooting their drops of water, without ever missing their mark.

It inhabits the rivers of India, and is about eight inches long.

CAMEL.

Designed & Engraved by Wm. Daniell & Published by Messrs. Cadell & Davies London. March 1. 1807.

THE ARABIAN CAMEL.

Camelus Dromedarius. Linn.

Le Chameau. Buff.

Arabian Camel. Penn. Hist. Quad. p. 129. pl. 23. Bew. Quad. p. 140. Wood's Zoography, 1. p. 70. pl. 3.

The camel, of all domestic animals, bears the strongest marks of antient servitude. The species has been so completely subjected, that not one is to be found in the enjoyment of independence and liberty; and we have strong reason to believe, that the defects of its conformation, and the callosities on its limbs, are rather the melancholy consequences of slavery, than the works of nature.

In Turkey, Persia, Arabia, Egypt and Barbary, the transportation of merchandize is almost exclusively confined to camels. These animals are loaded according to their strength, but if too great a charge is imposed, they will utter lamentable cries, and continue to lie on the ground till part of the burthen is removed. Their docility is admirable: at the first sign from their master, they bend the knee and sink to the ground to receive their load: after which they rise without assistance, and quietly follow their conductor across the desert. If at any time they droop from fatigue, they are animated to fresh exertion by the song of the camel driver, which is continued till they arrive at the resting place.

The camel is the only animal that has a fifth stomach, or reservoir for water. This stomach is of sufficient capacity to contain fluid enough for their support for many days, and they are careful to fill it at every watering place.

The camel lives from forty to fifty years, and annually sheds its hair. The only difference between the Arabian camel (or dromedary) and the Bactrian kind is, that the former has one bunch on the back, and the latter two. The Bactrian camel is as useful to the Tartars, as the single-bunched is to the Arabians.

INTERIOR OF A SALT MINE.

Designed & Engraved by Wm. Daniell & Published by Messrs. Cadell & Davies London March 1.1807.

THE INTERIOR OF A SALT MINE.

Salt is very abundantly diffused by nature, both on the surface and in the interior parts of the earth. There are many salt lakes, independent of the quantity dissolved in the ocean, whose bottoms are incrusted with this mineral, and mines of considerable extent that appear to be inexhaustible. In the county of Chester, near Northwich, the beds of salt are found from 80 to 140 feet below the surface of the earth, and from 20 to 35 yards in thickness. In working the mine the men hew pillars of salt out of the rock, to sustain the roof, and then separate, by explosion with gunpowder, what they intend to raise. The mine at Wilton is 108 yards in diameter; its roof is supported by twenty-five pillars, each containing 294 yards of solid rock salt; the whole area of the pit includes 9160 superficial yards, being little less than two acres of land.

But the principal salt mines of Europe, are situated in Hungary and Poland. At Wiclitska, about two miles from Cracow, there is a famous mine into which you descend by six different wells, to the depth of 150 or 200 feet. In the interior, there are chapels excavated in the salt, where mass is celebrated at certain times of the year. The crucifix, altar, and various ornaments, are carved out of the salt. Travellers are let down into the mine by ropes, and guided through the different windings and passages, by men bearing torches or lamps. These mines have been excavated since the year 1251, and the workmen are relieved every eight hours. They are perfectly dry, except a small spring of fresh water which ripples along the bottom

GNOO.

Designed & Engraved by Willm Daniell & Published by Messrs Cadell & Davies London. May 1 1812.

THE GNOO.

Antilope Gnu. Linn.

Gnou. Buff.

Gnou. Penn. Hist. Quad. 1. p. 70.

"I have seen," says M. de Querhoent, "in the menagery of the Cape, a quadruped which the Hottentots call *nou*: the colour of its coat in general is deep brown; but there is a part of the mane, as well as the tail, and some long hairs about the eyes, which are white. In size it rather exceeds a large stag; it was brought to the Cape from the interior of the country, where the species is very common, and fed on bread, barley, and grass."

This is a faithful description of the gnoo, and is confirmed by Forster, who saw one at the Cape which was kept in a stable and fed with bread and cabbage leaves. It was reckoned tame, yet it would neither suffer itself to be caressed or even handled, without striking with its horns or feet. When unmolested it was very gentle and quiet: it ruminated: it delighted to walk in the court yard, but when the heat of the sun was intense, retired to the shade, or into its stable.

The gnoo is scattered over the interior of Africa, and Abyssinia; and it is supposed that the animal called *bull stag* by the Indians, and *horse stag* by the Chinese, is no other than the gnoo. The male in his wild state is as savage and mischievous as a buffalo.

KING FISHER.

Designed & Engraved by Wm. Daniell & Published by Mess.rs Cadell & Davies London March 1 1807.

THE KINGFISHER.

Alcedo Ispida. Linn.

Le Martin-pêcheur. Buff.

Kingfisher. Penn. Brit. Zool. No. 88. pl. 38. Bew. Birds, 2. p. 19. Wood's Zoography, 1. p.

Buffon describes the kingfisher as having all the shades of the rainbow, the brilliancy of enamel, and the glossy softness of silk. All the middle of the back, with the upper surface of the tail, is of a brilliant light blue, which in the sun has the play of sapphire, and the lustre of turquois stone; green is mixed on the wings with blue, and most of the feathers are terminated and dotted with the tints of beryl; the head and upper part of the neck are dotted in the same manner, with lighter specks on an azure ground.

The kingfisher flies with great rapidity, screaming with a shrill voice as it traces the windings of the rivulet. It is disposed to retirement, and will sit for hours, in some unfrequented spot, on a branch which projects over a stream. It feeds on fish, and dives perpendicularly into the water after its prey, which it beats to death on the bank before it swallows.

It makes its nest in a hole close to the water, and lays from five to nine snow-white eggs.

The days of peace, called halcyon days, originated in this little bird. Aristotle supposed the halcyon, or kingfisher, to be common on the Sicilian seas, and that during the few days which it sat, in the depth of winter, the mariner might sail in perfect safety.

Amidst our arms as quiet you shall be,
As *halcyons* brooding on a winter sea.

DRYDEN.

AFRICAN BIRDS NESTS.

Designed & Engraved by Will.m Daniell & Published by Mess.rs Cadell & Davies London March 1.st 1807.

AFRICAN BIRDS NESTS. Pl. 1.

The social union of birds cannot be called complete, till they are mutually engaged in the important task of providing a place of safety for their future progeny. This task is effected in different ways, and in different situations. Some birds occupy holes excavated in the earth; others lodge in clifts of rocks, or on the tops of mountains. Many fix their nest on reeds, in shrubs, within unoccupied houses, under roofs, on the tops of trees; or suspend it from the end of a flexible branch. The plate which accompanies this description represents one of the last mentioned contrivances, which is peculiar to birds of hot climates, and instinctively practised for the security of the young against their numerous enemies.

This hanging nest is very artfully formed by the blue creeper, *certhia cærulea,* Linn. It is composed, on the outside, of dry stalks of grass, or similar materials, and lined with down within. In its shape it exactly resembles a *retort,* and the bird suspends it from some weak twig, at the end of a branch, which hangs over water. The opening is from below, but the eggs are placed in the globular part at the top: the bird has, therefore, to climb a funnel-shaped tube of a foot in length, before it can reach the nest. In this position these birds procure abundance of equatic insects for food, and, at the same time, secure their little ones against the monkeys, snakes, and lizards, which dare not venture to the end of the slender branch.

PAPER NAUTILUS.

Designed & Engraved by Wm. Daniell & Published by Messrs. Cadell & Davies London March 1 1807.

THE PAPER NAUTILUS.

Argonauta Argo. Linn.

L'Argonaute Papyracé. Bosc.

Paper Nautilus. List. Conch. pl. 554, 555. Wood's Zoography, 2. p. 558. pl. 20.

We may easily imagine that a bark so thin, and fragile, as the paper nautilus, is but ill calculated to resist the roughness of the sea; we accordingly see it only in fine weather, when the Mediterranean, for a certain distance, is sometimes studded with milk white shells, skimming its surface in every direction. The inhabitant of the shell is provided with eight arms, six of which are used as oars and two as sails; it is extremely timid, and on the rising of the wind, or the approach of any danger, it immediately skrinks into its shell and sinks to the bottom.

The art which this creature displays in navigating its slender bark, might be thought fabulous, if we had not sufficient authority to establish the fact. Pliny was the first who described the skill of the paper nautilus, and those who have followed him, have confirmed his description. This little sailor is even supposed to have suggested, by his manœuvres, the art of navigation among the ancients.

"Learn of the little nautilus to sail,
Spread the thin oar, and catch the driving gale."

POPE.

BANYAN TREE.

Designed & Engraved by Wm. Daniell & Published by Messrs. Cadell & Davies London March 1.1807.

THE BANIAN TREE.

Ficus Religiosa. Linn.
Le Figuier de Bengale. Lam.
Banian Tree. Wood's Zoography, 3. p. 311. pl. 10.

Among a simple and unenlightened people, every remarkable deviation from the general order established by nature, is apt to be regarded with superstitious reverence, and honoured for virtues which it does not possess. The banian tree, from its singular growth, has for ages been venerated by the Hindoos as an emblem of the Deity. Near this tree the most esteemed pagodas are erected, and under its shade the Bramins celebrate their religious rites. It spreads its branches in every direction, and sends from them young fibres, from time to time, which, reaching the earth, take root and increase to large trunks, like the parent tree. Thus is vegetation continually renewed without the assistance of seeds, and in this manner does the banian tree continue to multiply its stems, till it, in time, forms a cool recess, with beautiful walks, and lovely vistas, impervious to the hottest beams of a tropical sun.

In the hollow trunk of one of these trees, mentioned by Tavernier, there is an idol, and a Bramin appointed to attend it. The idolaters who visit the tree, give alms of rice, and other grain, to the Bramin; who in return marks the forehead of all his visitors with a kind of vermillion, by which they are secured from the power of evil spirits, and placed under the immediate protection of their god.

CAVE OF FINGAL

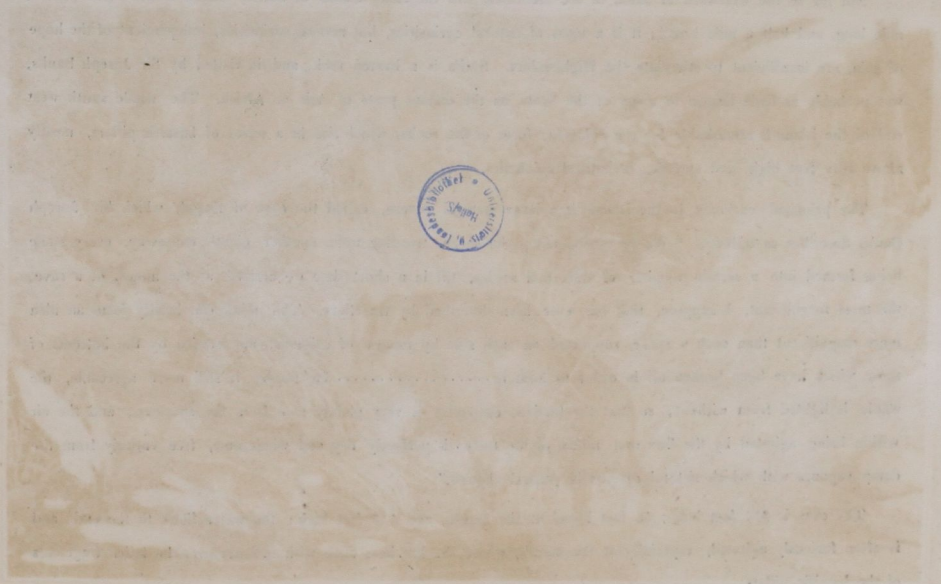
Designed & Engraved by Wm. Daniell. & Published by Messrs. Cadell & Davies London March 1. 1807.

THE CAVE OF FINGAL.

Not far to the westward of Mull, in the Hebrides, lies the small island of Staffa, which is not more than a mile long, and half a mile broad; it is a mass of natural curiosities, but natural curiosities, independent of the hope of gain, are insufficient to stimulate the Highlanders. Staffa is a barren rock, and till visited by Sir Joseph Banks, was probably as little known to many of the Scots, as the distant parts of Asia or Africa. The whole south west end of the island is remarkable for the columnar form of the rocks, which rise in a series of basaltic pillars, mostly above fifty feet high, and standing in natural colonades.

The principal curiosity in the island is a large natural cavern, called the cave of Fingal, which Sir Joseph Banks describes as follows, "We proceeded along the shore, treading upon another giant's causeway, every stone being formed into a certain number of sides and angles, till in a short time we arrived at the mouth of a cave, the most magnificent, I suppose, that has ever been described by travellers. The mind can hardly form an idea more magnificent than such a space, supported on each side by ranges of columns, and roofed by the bottoms of those which have been broken off in order to form it..... To render it still more agreeable, the whole is lighted from without; so that the furthest extremity is very plainly seen from the entrance; and the air within being agitated by the flux and reflux of the tides, is perfectly dry and wholesome, free entirely from the damp vapours with which natural caverns in general abound."

The cave is 371 feet long; 53 feet broad at the mouth, and 117 feet high: the water flows to the end, and is often furiously agitated, especially at the mouth, where the breakers dash with violence over the fallen fragments of the basaltic pillars.



ETHIOPIAN HOG.

Designed & Engraved by Wm. Daniell & Published by Mess.rs Cadell & Davies London May 1st 1822.

THE ÆTHIOPIAN HOG.

Sus Æthiopicus. Linn.

Le Sanglier du Cap Verd. Buff.

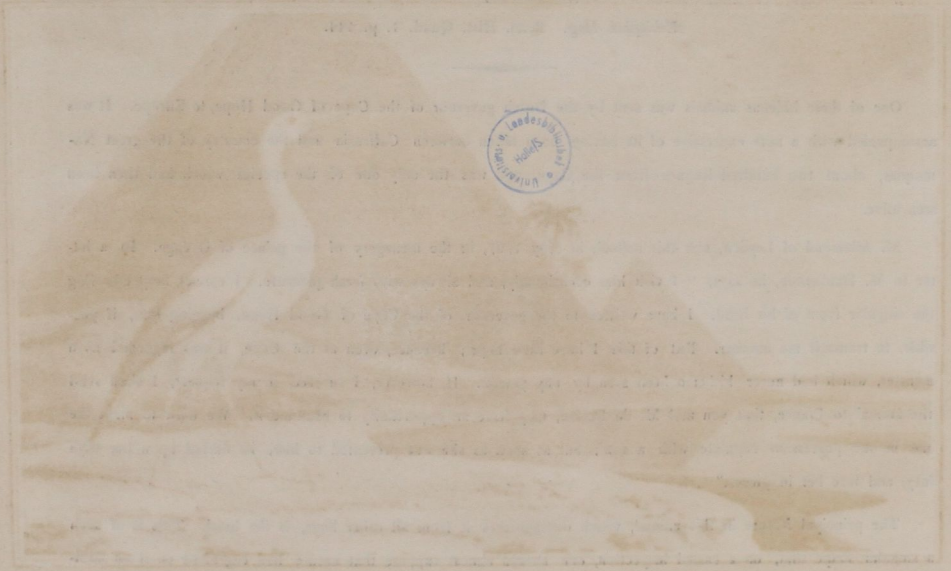
Æthiopian Hog. Penn. Hist. Quad. 1. p. 144.

One of these hideous animals was sent by the Dutch governor of the Cape of Good Hope, to Europe. It was accompanied with a note expressive of its having been taken between Caffraria and the country of the great Namaquas, about two hundred leagues from the Cape, and was the only one of the species which had then been seen alive.

M. Allamand of Leyden, saw this animal, in May 1767, in the menagery of the prince of Orange. In a letter to M. Daubenton, he says, " I visit him occasionally, and always with fresh pleasure. I cannot help admiring the singular form of his head. I have written to the governor of the Cape of Good Hope, begging him, if possible, to transmit me another. But of this I have little hope; because, even at the Cape, it was regarded as a monster, which had never hitherto been seen by any person. If, however, I succeed in my request, I shall send the animal to France, that you and M. de Buffon, may have an opportunity to examine it. We tried to make the one in our possession copulate with a sow; but as soon as she was presented to him, he darted upon her with fury, and tore her in pieces."

The principal feature in this animal, which distinguishes it from all other hogs, is the head. This is of such a singular shape that, on a casual inspection, one should almost suppose that nature had engrafted on it an additional muzzle.

Its aspect is terrible; and its strength prodigious. It inhabits the woods of the interior of the Cape.



STORK.

Designed & Engraved by Wm. Daniell. & Published by Messrs. Cadell & Davies London March 1st 1807.

THE STORK.

Ardea Ciconia. Linn.
La Cigogne. Buff.

White Stork. Lath. Syn. 5. p. 47. No. 9. Bew. Birds, 2. p. 32. Wood's Zoography, 1. p. 519. pl. 23.

There is a striking difference in the nature and manners of the white and the black stork. The latter is wild and ferocious, frequents the deserts and marshes at a considerable distance from any habitation, hides its nest in the deepest part of the forest, and delights to wander on the summits of the highest mountains. The white stork on the contrary, is the companion of mankind; he fixes his nest on the roofs and chimnies of houses; pastures on the banks of the most frequented rivers, and often inhabits the midst of cities, notwithstanding the noise and bustle which surrounds him.

The Mahometans hold the stork in great veneration; it is almost as sacred among them, as the ibis was formerly with the Egyptians. This respect and veneration for the bird, arises from the service it does their country, by clearing it of serpents and other noxious reptiles.

The stork is of a very gentle nature; it is neither diffident, nor wild; is easily tamed, and is considered as the pattern of conjugal fidelity, and filial piety. Among the Romans the stork was a bird of omen; its presence was accounted a blessing, its departure a calamity.

About the end of August the storks prepare to migrate from one country to another. For this purpose they assemble together in immense numbers, making a frequent clattering with their bills; but at the moment of departure, all is silence, and this vast body ascends from the plain to return no more till the following year.

HIPPOPOTAMUS.

Designed & Engraved by Wm. Daniell & Published by Mess.rs Cadell & Davies London March 1, 1807.

THE HIPPOPOTAMUS.

Hippopotamus Amphibius. Linn.

L'Hippopotame. Buff.

Hippopotamus. Penn. Hist. Quad. 1. p. 157. pl. 31. 32. Bew. Quad. Wood's Zoography, 1. p. 96. pl. 5.

This unwieldy animal, which ranks second or third in point of size among the quadrupeds, seems to be confined to the larger rivers of Africa, such as the Niger, the Berg, the Nile; and to the fens and lakes of Ethiopia, which are intersected by the last mentioned river.

The hippopotamus differs considerably in bulk: one of the largest, according to Pennant, measured seventeen feet in length; the circumference of its body fifteen; its height near seven; the legs near three; the head above three and a half. He adds that twelve oxen have been found necessary to draw one ashore that had been shot in a river above the cape; and Hasselquist asserts that its hide is a load for a camel.

It is a gentle animal, and quite innoffensive unless provoked. It inhabits equally the land and the water, and swims very swiftly. In the night it leaves the river to graze, and goes in considerable troops, doing great damage to the neighbouring plantations of sugar and rice. When alarmed it plunges into the water, and immediately sinks to the bottom, where it walks with perfect ease. It makes a noise between the roaring of a bull and the neighing of a horse, from whence it is supposed, the Greeks derived the name of *Ippopotamos*, or *River-horse*.

The Negroes on the western coast of Africa, regard the hippopotamus as one of their minor divinities; they however do not scruple to feed upon its flesh.

BANANA.

Designed & Engraved by Willm. Daniell, & Published by Messrs. Cadell & Davies London March 1. 1807.

THE BANANA TREE.

Musa Sapientum. Linn.

Le Bananier. Lam.

Banana Tree. Wood's Zoography, 3. p. 277. pl. 9.

There is not in all India a tree more generally cultivated, or which bears a more useful and nutritious fruit, than the banana. It flourishes also in America, especially in the West Indies, where its produce is of great consequence to the Negroes, and to the inhabitants in general, who constantly serve it at their tables, either fresh or dressed in some particular manner.

The banana has a thick and herbaceous stem, which is very porous, and perishes to the roots every autumn, from whence new shoots succeed on the following spring. The leaves, which rise from the head of the stem, are long, tender, and often torn by the wind. The banana and the plantain are so nearly alike, that the French distinguish them only by the different shape of the fruit: they call the latter the banana with long fruit, and the former the banana with round.

When the banana is full grown, it pushes forth a long spike of flowers, which are succeeded by a quantity of soft pulpy fruit, of a yellowish colour and luscious flavour. This Labat tells us the natives are careful to provide themselves with when they undertake a voyage; and, that the fruit may keep without spoiling, they make of it a kind of paste, which is either dried in the sun or baked in hot ashes. When they wish to make use of this nourishment, they mix a certain portion with water, to which it gives an agreeable acid taste, and is both wholesome and refreshing.

When the banana is cut transversely, there is a faint appearance of a cross in the centre: this has procured it, in Madeira, the name of the forbidden fruit, and the natives reckon it a crime to cut it with a knife.

WHITE ANTS NESTS.

Designed & Engraved by Wm. Daniell & Published by Messrs. Cadell & Davies London March 1.1807.

WHITE ANTS.

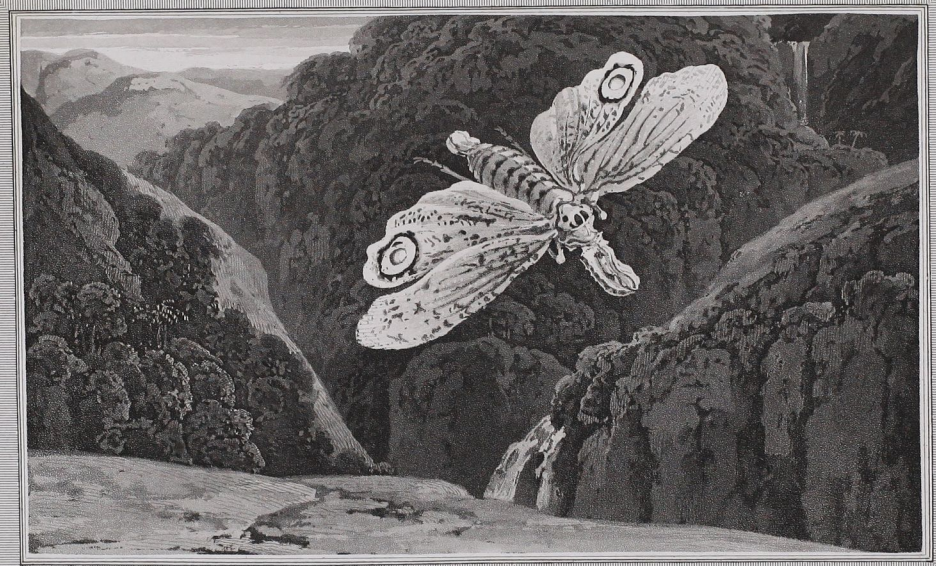
Termes Fatale. Linn.
Le Termes Belliqueux. Latreille.
White Ants. Shaw. Gen. Zool. 6. p. 414. pl. 118. Wood's Zoography, 2. p. 476. pl. 13. 14.

These little laborious insects form a conical nest shaped like a sugar loaf. It is sometimes above twelve feet high, with a base in proportion; and if we compare the size of the workmen to that of mankind, and their buildings to our structures, the great pyramid of Egypt will be only one fifth as large as the white ants nest. Every nest is divided into a great number of apartments, the principal of which is occupied by the king and queen: the royal chamber is egg shaped, and placed as near the centre of the building as possible. They have apartments, or nurseries, for their numerous young progeny, and magazines for their provisions. Their commonwealth is regulated with great order, and subject to particuar and obvious laws, from which they do not seem to deviate.

The inhabitants of these buildings are divided into three classes, of which the working insects, or *labourers*, are always the most numerous: they are not so large as some of our ants. The second class, or *soldiers*, as they are called, are much larger than the labourers; these are the fighting insects, and do no kind of work: the third class consists of the winged insects, which may be termed the *nobility* or *gentry*, for they neither labour nor fight. From this class the kings and queens are elected, they being incapable of any thing but propagation. The queen when pregnant becomes of an enormous size: she encreases to more than fifteen hundred times her usual bulk, and the eggs which proceed from her body are beyond computation.

These curious insects are so numerous in the island of Bananas, and the adjacent continent of Africa, that it is scarcely possible to stand in an open place without seeing one or more of their buildings.

The plate represents some old nests washed into furrows by the rains.



LANTERN FLY.

Designed & Engraved by Willm Daniell & Published by Messrs Cadell & Davies London March 1. 1807.

THE LANTERN FLY.

Fulgora Lanternaria. Linn.

La Fulgore Porte-Lantern. Bosc.

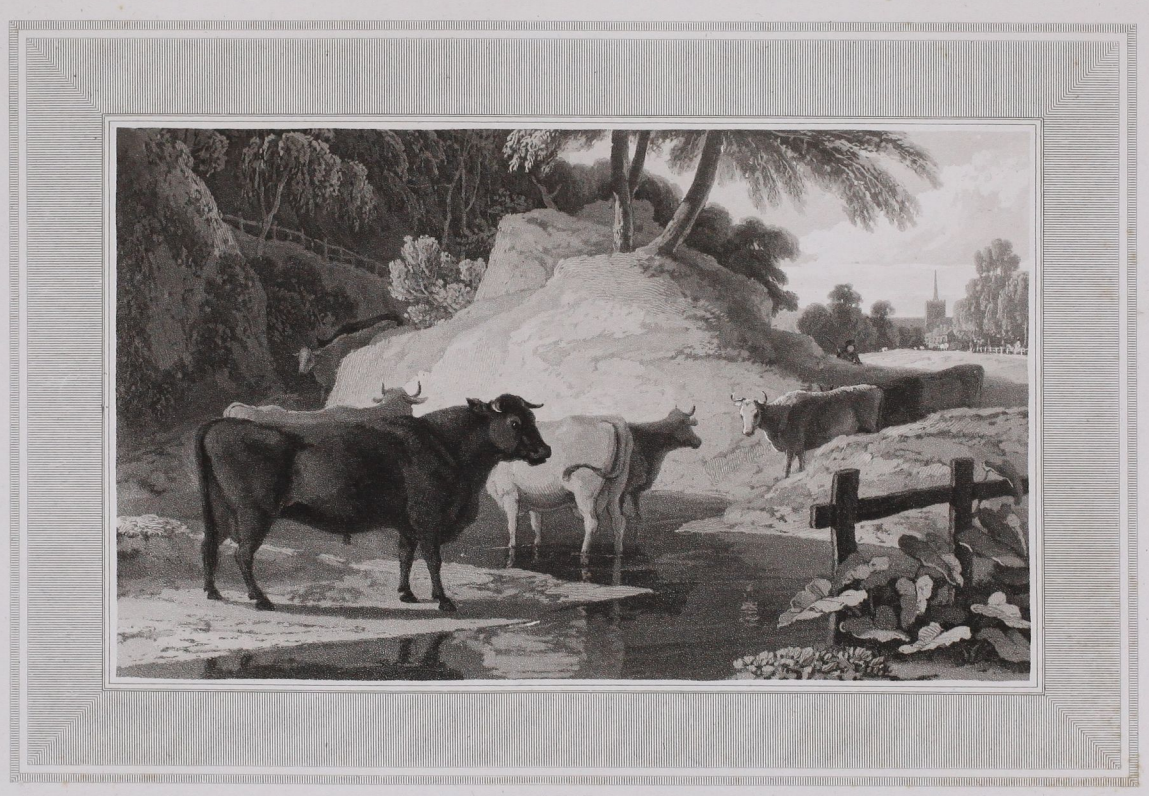
Lantern Fly. Shaw. Gen. Zool. 6. p. 144. p. 52. Wood's Zoography, 2. p. 321. pl. 12.

Madam Merian gives the following account of her first introduction to these singular insects.

"The Indians once brought me, before I knew that they shone by night, a number of these lantern flies, which I shut up in a large wooden box. In the night they made such a noise that I awoke in a fright, and ordered a light to be brought; not knowing from whence the noise proceeded. As soon as we found that it came from the box, we opened it, but were still much more alarmed at seeing a flame of fire come out of it; and as many animals as came out so many flames of fire appeared. When we found this to be the case, we recovered from our fright, and again collected the insects, highly admiring their splendid appearance."

The lantern fly is an inhabitant of South America, where its phosphoric light is so vivid, that three or four of them, tied to the end of a stick, are frequently used in the night to direct the traveller on his way. The light proceeds from the head, and is bright enough to read by.

This insect is of a large size, being nearly four inches in length.



BULL.

Designed & Engraved by Will.m Daniell & Published by Mess.rs Cadell & Davies London May 1 1812.

THE BULL.

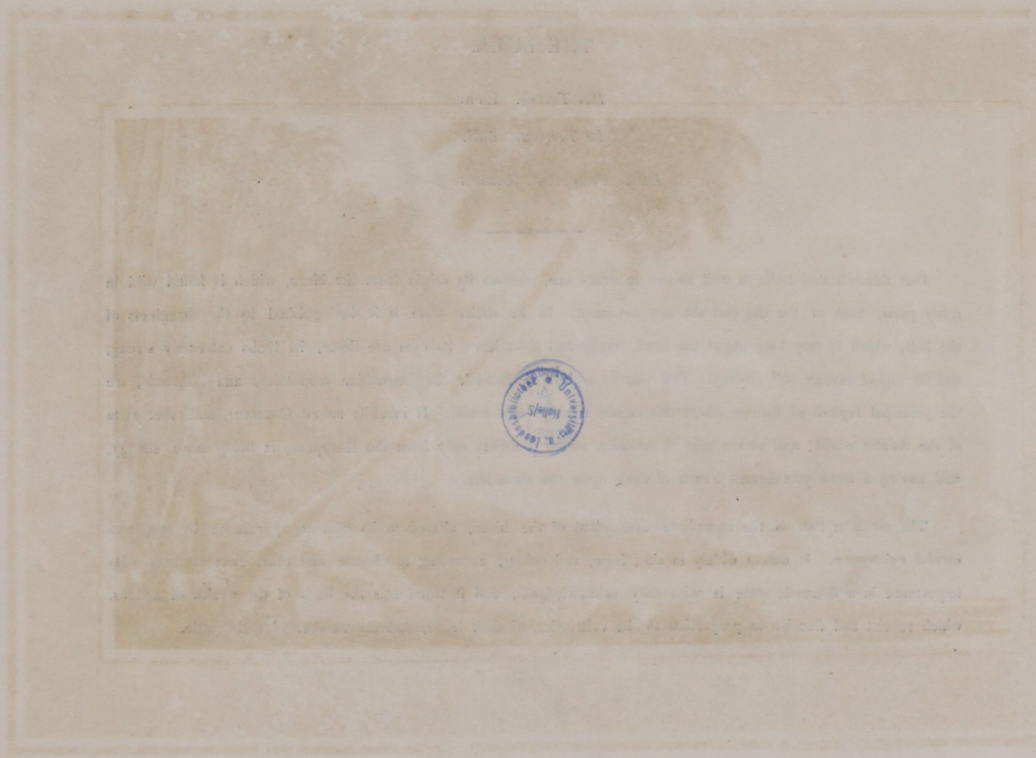
Bos Taurus. Linn.

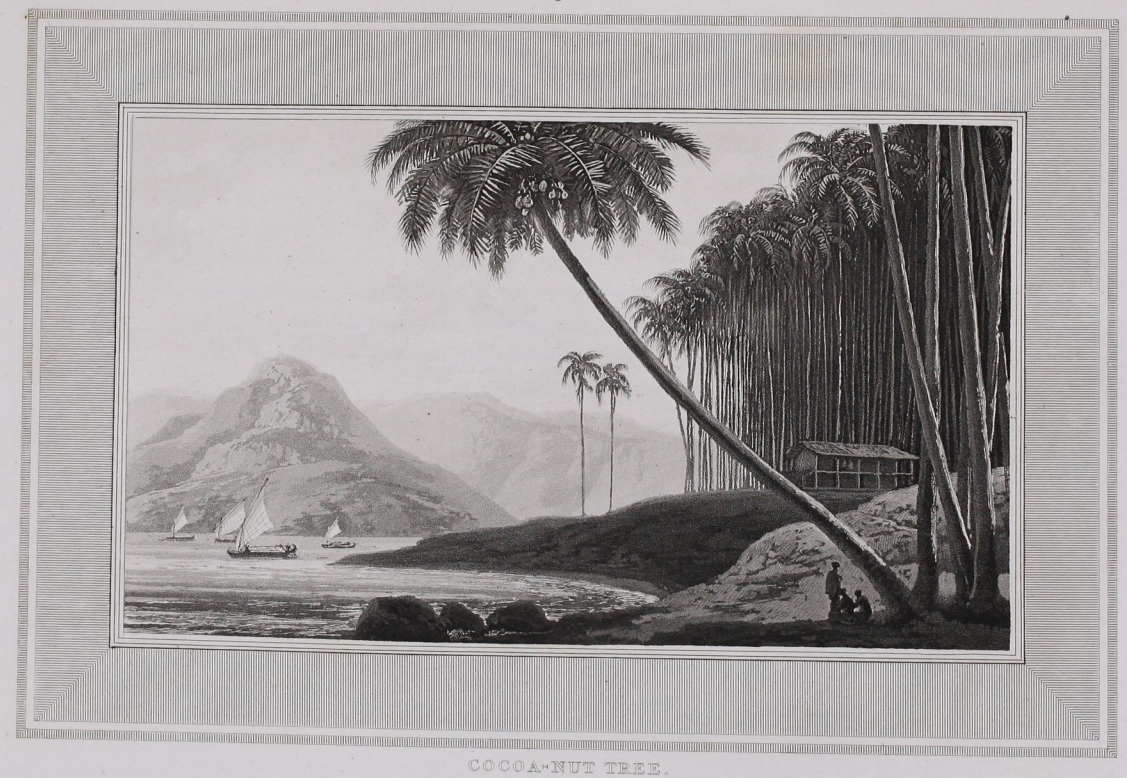
Le Taureau. Buff.

Bull. Penn. Hist. Quad. 1. p. 16.

Our domesticated bull, so well known to every one, derives its origin from the bison, which is found wild in many parts, both of the old and the new continent. In its native state it is distinguished by the shagginess of the hair, which is very long about the head, neck, and shoulders: its eyes are fierce, its limbs extremely strong, and its aspect savage and gloomy. The marshy forests of Poland, the Carpathian mountains, and Lithaunia, are the principal regions of Europe where this animal is at present found. It inhabits mount Caucasus, and other parts of the Asiatic world; and occurs also in America, where it differs only from the European, in being more shaggy, and having a more protuberant bunch of flesh upon the shoulders.

The common bull is the immediate descendant of the bison, altered to its present appearance by long and careful cultivation. It differs widely in size, form, and colour, according to climate and other circumstances. Its importance in a domestic state is universally acknowledged; and it still forms the basis of the wealth of nations, which subsist and flourish in proportion to the cultivation of their lands, and the number of their cattle.





COCOA-NUT TREE.

Designed & Engraved by Wm. Daniell & Published by Messrs. Cadell & Davies London March 1 1807.

THE COCOA-NUT TREE.

Cocos Nucifera. Linn.

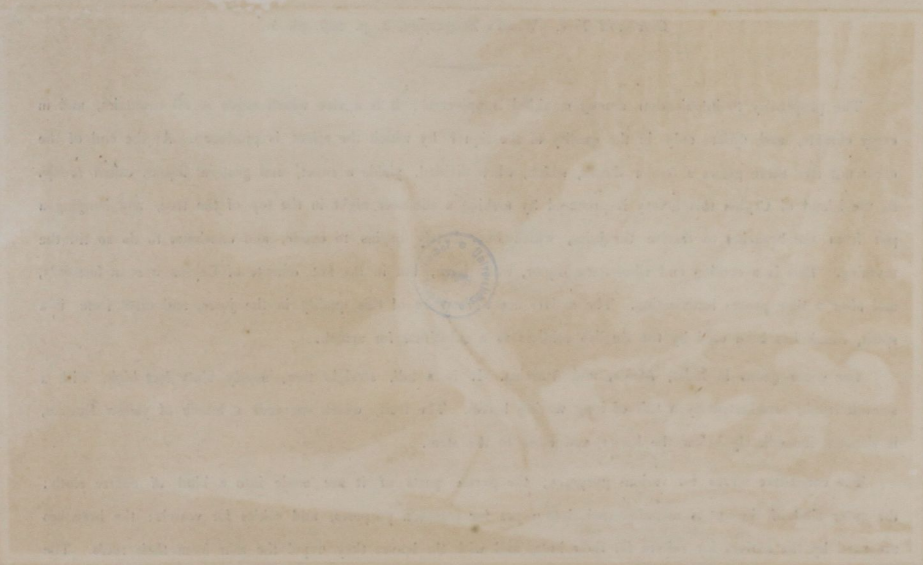
Le Cocotier. Lam.

Cocoa-nut Tree. Wood's Zoography, 3. p. 209. pl. 5.

The propensity to intoxication among mankind is universal; it is a vice which exists in all countries, and in every climate, and differs only in the quality of the liquor by which the effect is produced. At the end of the cocoa-nut tree there grows a tender sheath, which, when divided, yields a sweet, and grateful liquor, called *toddy*. In the island of Ceylon this luxury is procured by making a slit over night in the top of the tree, and hanging a pot from the branches to receive the juice, which immediately begins to exude, and continues to do so till the morning. This is a cooling and wholesome liquor, while fresh, but in the hot climate of Ceylon it soon ferments, and after a time proves intoxicating. The natives are well aware of this quality in the juice, and distil from it a spirit, which has been used by the English soldiers as a substitute for arrack.

The cocoa grows in India, Africa, and America. It is a tall, straight tree, nearly sixty feet high, with a smooth trunk, terminated by a tuft of long waving leaves. The fruit, which succeeds a bunch of yellow flowers, is situated immediately below the leaves, and close to the stem.

The cocoa-tree serves for various purposes; the porous parts of it are made into a kind of coarse cloth: the outer rind of the nut is manufactured into ropes for common purposes, and cables for vessels: the branches are used by the natives for rafters for their huts, and with the leaves they repel the rain from their roofs. The leaves are also made into mats, baskets, and other domestic utensils.



HERON.

Designed & Engraved by Wm. Daniell & Published by Mess.rs Cadell & Davies London March 1807.

THE HERON.

Ardea Major. Linn.

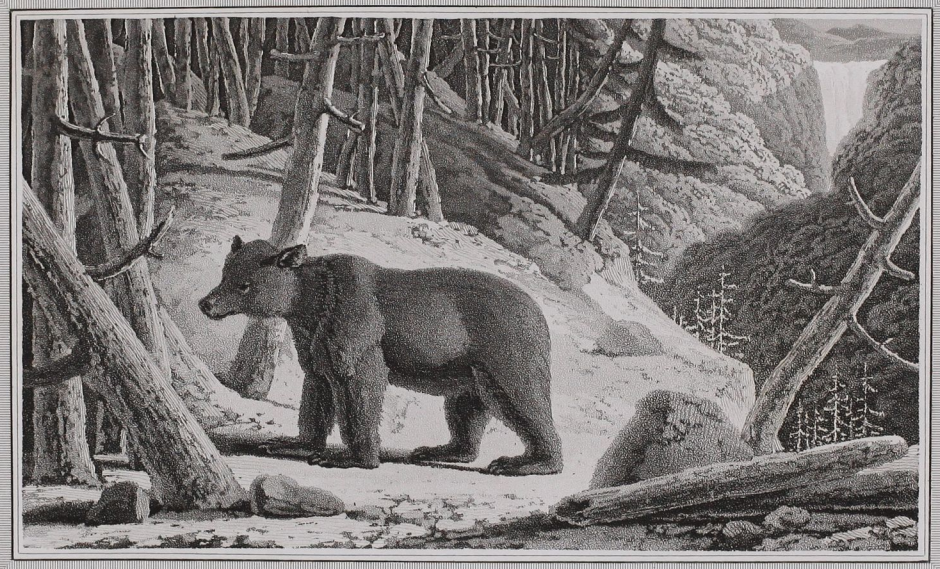
Le Heron huppé. Buff.

Common Heron. Penn. Brit. Zool. 2. No. 173. Bew. Birds, 2. p. 37. Wood's Zoography, 1. p. 523. pl. 24.

The heron is exhibited by Buffon as the picture of wretchedness, anxiety, and indigence. As it can procure its prey only by lying in ambush, it remains whole hours, and even days, in the same place, and so perfectly still as to discover no signs of life. It is often seen seated on a stone, apparently benumbed; its body almost erect, and resting on a single foot; its neck folded back, and its head and bill sunk between its high shoulders. When compelled by hunger to change its posture, it advances into the water to the height of its knee, and, with its head between its legs, watches the passing frog or fish. It is often constrained to fast for several days, and sometimes when the waters are frozen, to perish of hunger.

In the breeding season the herons congregate in large societies, and build their spacious nests of sticks, with abundance of dry grass, wool, and other warm materials. The female lays from four to six greenish-blue eggs.

Herons soar very high in the air, and traverse extensive tracts in the same climate. They are common in the marshy parts of these kingdoms, and there is scarce a place, either in the old world or in the new, where these birds have not been met with.



BEAR.

Designed & Engraved by Wilm Daniell. & Published by Messrs Cadell & Davies London March 1, 1807.

THE BEAR.

Ursus Arctos. Linn.

L'Ours. Buff.

Common Bear. Penn. Hist. Quad. 2. p. 1. Bew. Quad. p. 261. Wood's Zoography, 1. p. 234.

The bear is a savage and solitary animal; he instinctively avoids all society, and establishes his abode among the caverns of inaccessible rocks, or at the foot of a decayed hollow tree, in the deepest recess of the forest.

The male and female, except at a particular season of the year, never associate together; they have each a separate and distant retreat. When they cannot find a cavern, or hollow tree to their mind, they collect a quantity of wood, and form a lodge, which they cover with grass and leaves in sufficient abundance to make it water proof. To this place the solitary bear retires to pass his winter, without provisions, and without even stirring from his retreat for several weeks. During this season of cold and abstinence, the bear is supported entirely by his fat, with which he is clothed to excess before he retires in the autumn. Early in the spring he rouses from his lethargy, and leaves his den in search of provisions.

The female brings forth in winter: she produces from one to five cubs at a litter, and suckles them till she leaves her retreat. The young are blind for the first month, but become strong enough to follow their mother in the spring.

The bear lives more than thirty years, and enjoys the senses of hearing, seeing, and touching, in an exquisite degree.

ALOE.

Designed & Engraved by Willm. Daniell & Published by Messrs. Cadell & Davies London March 1. 1807.

THE ALOE.

Agave Americana. Linn.

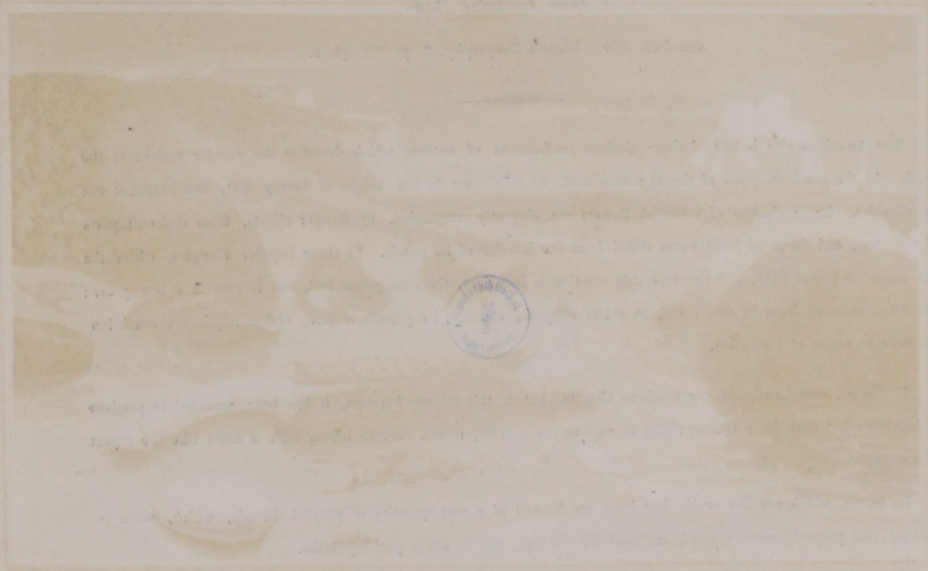
L'Agave Américaine. Lam.

American Aloe. Wood's Zoography, 3. p. 101. pl. 2.

The American aloe is one of those glorious productions of nature, which decorate the warmer regions of the earth. In the southern parts of the new continent, its stem rises to the height of twenty feet, and branches out on all sides. Large clusters of yellowish flowers are elegantly suspended, by slender shoots, from different parts of the stem, and drops of lucid water distill from the interior of its petals. In those happier climates, where the sun sheds its purest light, and the vegetable creation is luxuriant, the aloe grows fast, and flowers in a few years; but when removed from its native soil, to a less congenial country, its growth is slow, and it requires a much longer time to arrive at perfection.

It flowers, occasionally, in our northern climate, but as this seldom happens, it has been reported to produce its blossoms but once in a century; and to add to the wonder, it was said to bloom with a noise like the report of a cannon.

Its leaves, which are five or six feet long, are formed of a vast quantity of parallel threads, which, when separated and properly manufactured, are used for cordage, and to make packing-cloths.



SOLEN.

Designed & Engraved by Will.m Daniell & Published by Messr.s Cadell & Davies London March 1. 1807.

THE SOLEN.

Solen Siliqua. Linn.

Le Solen Silique. Bosc.

Pod Solen. Penn. Brit. Zool. 4. pl. 45. f. 20. Wood's Zoography, 2. p. 555. pl. 19.

The solen is sometimes called the razor fish, from the shape of its shell, which is not unlike the handle of a razor. The form of the shell is well adapted to the pursuits of its inhabitant, which penetrates the sand in a perpendicular direction in search of food, all its motions being confined to sinking and rising a certain depth in the sand.

With so small a share of locomotive power, we should not suspect the solens of being easily disturbed, and yet when any thing capable of moving the sand in their vicinity approaches, they sometimes sink two feet below the surface.

The fishermen dig the solens out of the sand, and with them bait their lines. In Ireland they are eaten on fast days, and are said to be excellent food.

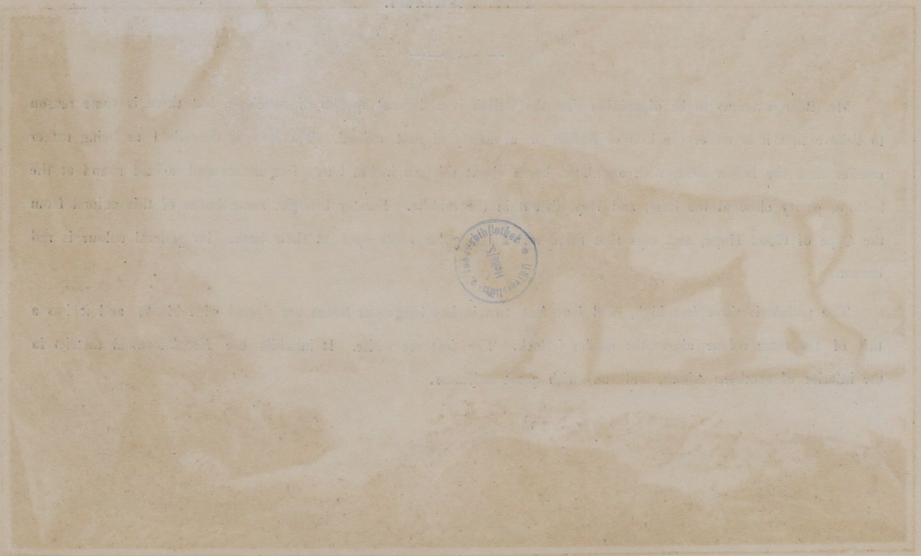
PALLAH.

Designed & Engraved by Wm. Daniell. & Published by Mess.rs Cadell & Davies London May 1.st 1814.

THE PALLAH.

Mr. Barrow seems to be of opinion that the Pallah is a distinct species of antelope, but there is some reason to believe that it is either the kob of Buffon or a variety of that animal. The kob is described as being rather smaller than the fallow deer, with annulated horns about thirteen inches long, five inches and a half round at the bottom, pretty close at the base, and very distant in the middle. Forster brought some horns of this animal from the Cape of Good Hope, and says that there was a triangular white spot at their base. Its general colour is red brown.

The pallah is three feet high, and four feet two inches long: its horns are tipped with black, and it has a tuft of the same colour above the hinder fetlock. The feet are white. It inhabits the *Boosh-wannah* district in the interior of southern Africa, and runs with great swiftness.



LION.

Designed & Engraved by Will.m Daniell & Published by Messr.s Cadell & Davies London March 1.st 1807

THE LION.

Felis Leo. Linn.
Le Lion. Buff.

Lion. Penn. Hist. Quad. 1. p. 274. Bew. Quad. p. 179. Wood's Zoography, 1. p. 202. pl. 9.

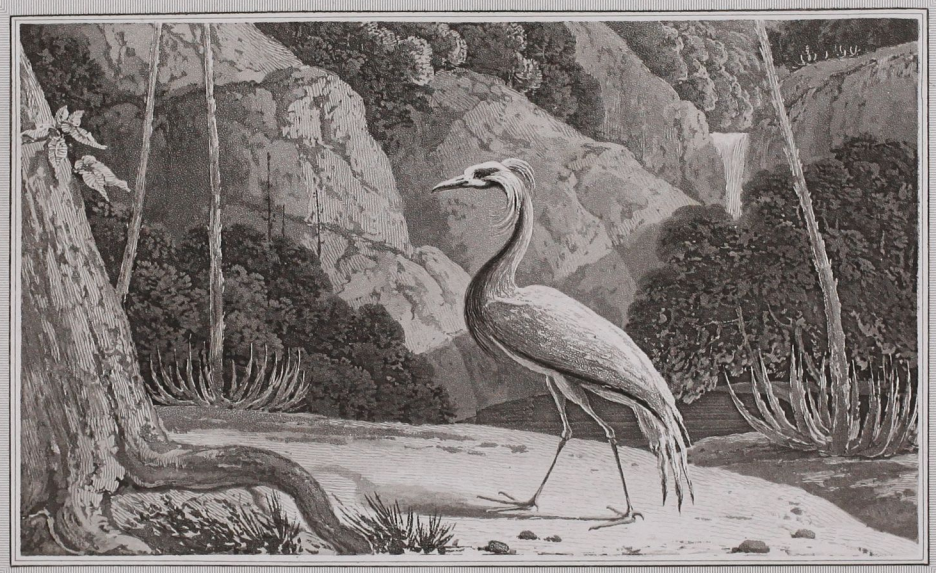
The external appearance of the lion corresponds with the noble and generous qualities ascribed to his nature. He has an imposing figure, a determined look, and a tremendous voice. He is equally firm, muscular, and nervous, and his body and limbs are admirably calculated for the union of strength and agility. When enraged, he agitates the long mane on his neck, contracts the skin of his forehead, and lashes his tail in a grand but awful manner. His roar is exceeding terrific, and so loud that, when heard in the stillness of the night, it resembles thunder. According to report, the lion when he roars always puts his mouth to the ground, consequently the sound is equally diffused in all directions; and the affrighted animals, not knowing from whence it proceeds, frequently fly towards the danger they are so anxious to shun.

The lion can support hunger with great patience, but not thirst: he can go three or four days without food, but is eager to drink whenever he meets with water. He prefers living animals to the dead, and never willingly touches tainted meat.

This noble animal appears to be confined within the tropics of the old world, and even there it is said to be much less numerous than formerly.

The lioness brings forth in spring, and produces but once a year.

The Egyptians made the lion the type of an inundation, because the chief increase of the Nile takes place when the sun is passing through Leo.



NUMIDIAN CRANE.

Designed & Engraved by Wm. Daniell & Published by Messrs. Cadell & Davies London March 1 1807

THE NUMIDIAN CRANE.

Ardea Virgo. Linn.

Le Demoiselle de Numedie. Buff.

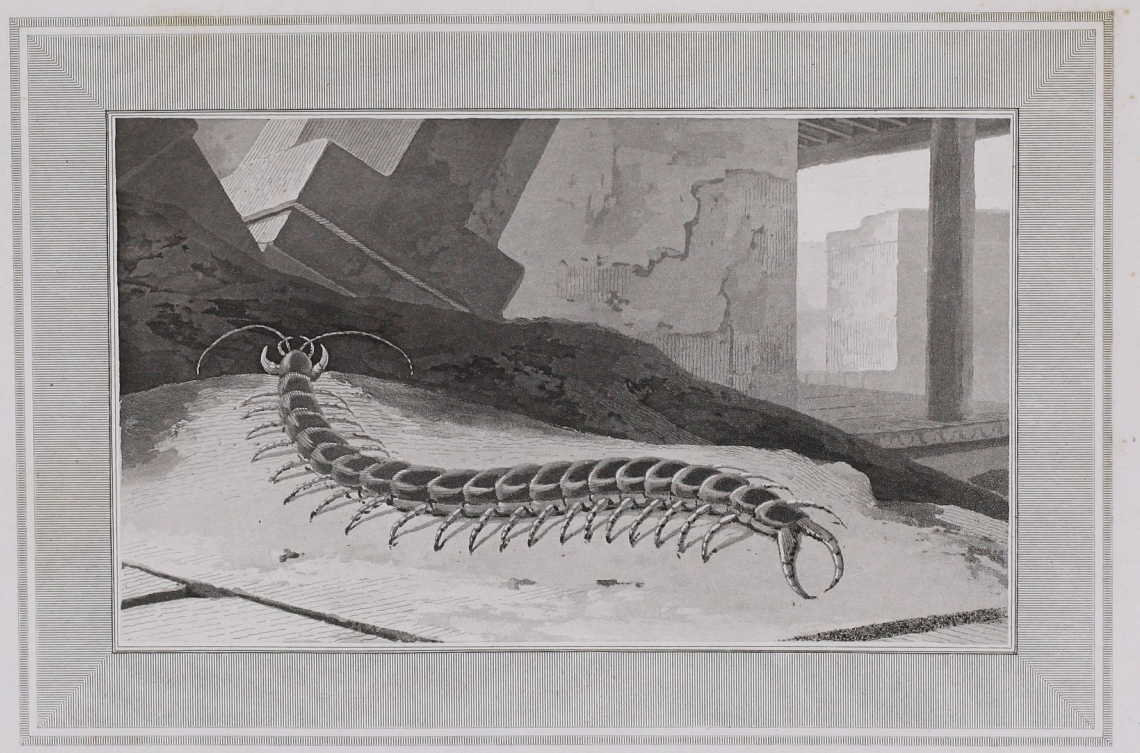
Numidian Crane. Lath. Syn. 5. p. 35. Wood's Zoography, 1. p. 517. pl. 22.

The elegant form, and affected airs of this bird, have procured it, with the French, the name of demoiselle or miss. It walks in a sprightly manner, and often leaps, or springs, as if it meant to dance, from whence Aristotle calls it the actor or comedian, and Pliny, the dancer or vaulter.

The numidian crane has two beautiful white tufts of unwebbed and hairy feathers, falling from behind each eye, while long, soft, and silky hairs, of the finest black, lie on the crown of the head: similar feathers descending from the fore part of the neck, hang gracefully below it; and, to complete the figure, long and bending tufts appear between the black quills of the wings.

The numidian crane has been met with in Guinea; it is found also in the interior of the Cape of Good Hope, and is common in Egypt, where it arrives during the inundation of the Nile: it is seen at Constantinople in October. Travellers have observed it in the north of Asia, on the banks of the Black sea, the Caspian sea, and lake Baikal.

Its usual haunts are near rivers and in marshy places.



CENTIPEDE.

Designed & Engraved by Wm. Daniell & Published by Messrs. Cadell & Davies London March 1 1809.

THE CENTIPEDE.

Scolopendra Morsitans. Linn.

Le Scolopendre Mordante. Bosc.

Centipede. Shaw. Gen. Zool. 6. p. 503. pl. 136. Wood's Zoography, 2. p. 532. pl. 17.

This centipede is one of the many venemous reptiles that nature has confined to the torrid parts of the globe. Its sting is the most pungent of any insect, except the scorpion; and its size is such, as to make it an object of terror, independent of its pincers.

The body of a full grown centipede is nearly ten inches long. It is of a dark yellowish brown colour, and divided into twenty joints, from each of which proceed two legs. The fangs that contain the poison are placed on each side the head, and have a slit near the end for the emission of the venom.

These insects inhabit the woods of Africa, and the East and West Indies. They occasionally enter inhabited houses, and the people from the fear of being stung by them during the night, place the feet of their beds in vessels of water. The sting is extremely painful, but may be abated by the application of sweet oil.

PAPYRUS.

Designed & Engraved by Willm. Daniell. & Published by Messrs. Cadell & Davies London. March 1. 1807.

THE PAPYRUS.

Cyperus Papyrus. Linn.

Le Souchet Papyrier. Lam.

Papyrus. Bruce's Travels, 7. p. 117. oct. ed. Wood's Zoography, 3. p. 47. pl. 1.

The papyrus was in great respect among the ancient Egyptians. It became justly celebrated for the use they made of its substance in the manufacture of their paper, which was conducted nearly as follows. The thick part of the stalk being cut in two, the pellicle between the pith and the bark, was stript off and divided, by an iron instrument, into bands of the length required. These bands were first stretched on a table and carefully squared on the edges; after which they were either moistened with water, to make them adhere together, or their edges were fastened with glue. The bands thus united, were then put under a press, and afterwards dried in the sun.

The papyrus was in general use among the Egyptians for purposes independent of the manufacture of paper. They made a kind of boat of the stems interlaced together, and the interior bark they used for sails, mats, clothes, cordage, and coverlets for their beds. The lower and succulent part of the stem they ate, after having baked it to make it more palatable.

The papyrus is a reed-like plant, rising out of the Nile to the height of about ten feet. The head, which is composed of a bunch of grassy filaments, waves so readily in the wind, that it is never upright, but takes the inclination from whence it generally blows. The stalk is green, triangular, and tapering from the bottom.

The papyrus is not confined to the Nile, but grows also in the rivers of Calabria, Sicily, and Syria.

CHAMÆLEON.

Designed & Engraved by Wm. Daniell & Published by Messrs. Cadell & Davies London. March 1. 1807.

THE CHAMELEON.

Lacerta Chamæleon. Linn.

Le Caméléon. Lacepede.

Chameleon. Shaw Gen. Zool. 3. p. 253. pl. 76. Wood's Zoography, 2. p. 56. pl. 4.

The chameleon is naturally susceptible of several shades of colour, and particularly three, which are very distinct; the bright green, a deeper tint tending to blue, and the yellow green. When undisturbed and at liberty, the former colour prevails; when irritated in the open air, the animal becomes of a blue green; and when feeble and confined, the yellow green tint will always predominate.

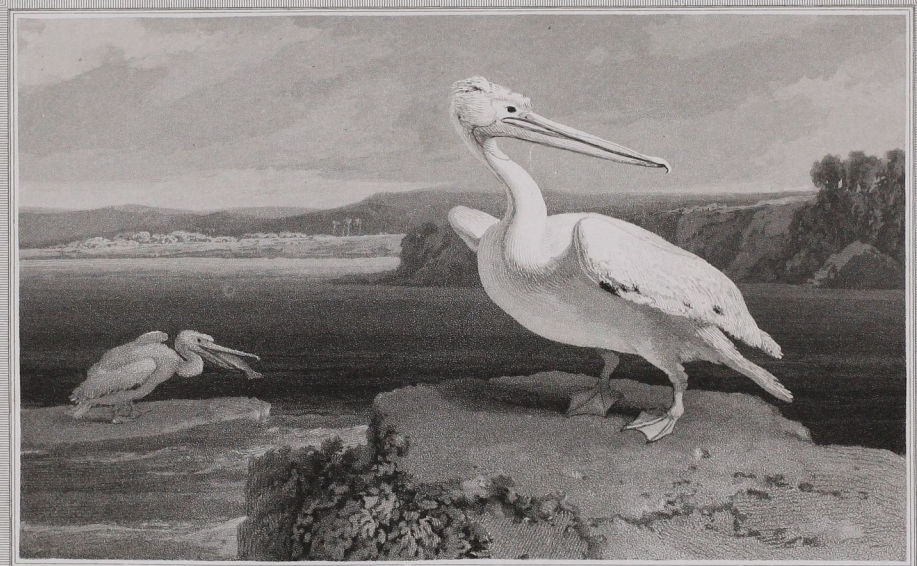
There are some parts of great singularity in the conformation of the chamelion, viz. the eyes, the tongue, and the feet. The eyes have no moveable eyelids, but are covered by a rough membrane pierced in the middle with a small hole for the admission of light through the pupil: this membrane is fixed to the eye and attends all its motions. The tongue is shaped like a worm; it is from six to ten inches long, and ends in a thick hollow knob, covered with a viscous humour. The feet are very peculiar, the toes being wrapped up in the skin so as to form two distinct bundles in each foot; by which contrivance the reptile grasps the branch of a tree with great firmness.

The chameleon feeds on insects, which it seizes with its viscous tongue. The female lays about twelve oval eggs.

The abstinence which the chameleon, in common with other reptiles, is capable of sustaining, has given rise to the vulgar, though erroneous opinion, that the animal can live on air.

The thin chameleon, fed with air, receives
The colour of the thing to which he cleaves.

DRYDEN.



PELICAN.

Designed & Engraved by Wm. Daniell & Published by Messrs. Cadell & Davies London May 1. 1812.

THE PELICAN.

Pelecanus Onocrotalus. Linn.

Le Pelican. Buff.

White Pelican. Edwards, pl. 92. Lath. Syn. 6. p. 575.

The foundation of particular customs, and the origin of peculiar notions, may generally be traced without any great degree of difficulty, and determined without much chance of error; but it is not easy to conceive why universal charity should be typified by selfishness, and maternal tenderness by gluttony; or by what authority a bird that is gross and sensual, should be exalted for refinement and virtue.

The fabulous tradition respecting the pelican, which has been for ages supported by the credulous, is still believed in Spain: it is asserted by Sonnini, that the people go every sunday to one of the cloisters of the cathedral at Barcelona, where there is a sort of menagery for pelicans, expecting to see them distribute their blood to their little ones.

The pelican is a very large white bird: it sometimes measures fifteen feet from the tip of one extended wing to that of the other, and weighs twenty-five pounds. It feeds on fish, and nature has provided it an ample pouch for their reception. Morning and evening it seeks its prey; the interval is spent on some cliff near the sea, where in drowsy stupidity it digests the produce of its exertions. It is extremely voracious, and at each excursion takes, if possible, as many fish as it can contain: the quantity must be considerable, since a single pouch is capable of holding twelve quarts of water. It makes a deep nest, often in the deserts far from the sea, and the female lays two white eggs. When the young are hatched the pelicans bring them water in their bags, from whence the Egyptians have called them the camels of the river.

DATE TREE.

Designed & Engraved by Will.m Daniell & Published by Mess.rs Cadell & Davies London March 1. 1807.

THE DATE TREE.

Phœnix Dactylifera. Linn.

Le Dattier. Lam.

Date Tree. Wood's Zoography, 3. p. 260 pl. 7.

The date tree is cultivated in India, Arabia, and Africa; Europe also produces its dates, but they are not so fine as those of Asia. The esteem in which the date is held by the eastern nations, both as an article of food and commerce, makes them careful to pay every attention to its cultivation. In Barbary the date furnishes the inhabitants with the principal part of their food; they are frequently deficient in corn, and their sheep are of little value, except for their wool. Forests of date trees may be seen planted without order, and in the neighbourhood of rivulets: under their shade grow almonds, pomgranates, and vines; which last twine round the trunks of the dates, and ripen their fruits by the heat of the climate, without any immediate assistance from the sun.

The date tree is of slow growth, but long duration; it is many years in coming to perfection, but flourishes for two or three centuries. The flowers appear in spring, and the fruit ripens in Autumn. The male and female flowers grow on different trees, and therefore the Arabs, to ensure a crop, make an incision in a branch that they wish to be fruitful, and place in it a stalk of female flowers. The dates are gathered in November, and the bunches hung in a dry place. Great quantities are exported to different parts of Europe, but a sufficient reserve is left for home consumption; in some shape or other they enter into the composition of most of their dishes.

The date tree grows to the height of forty feet, and the fruit, between the kernel and the skin, is sweet, soft, and pulpy, with somewhat of a vinous flavour.

STRIPED HYENA.

Designed & Engraved by Wm. Daniell & Published by Mess.rs Cadell & Davies London March 1 1807.

THE STRIPED HYÆNA.

Canis Hyæna. Linn.

L'Hyène. Buff.

Striped Hyæna. Penn. Hist. Quad. 1. p. 270. Bew. Quad. p. 271. Wood's Zoography, 1. p. 175. pl. 8.

This wild, solitary, and cruel animal, inhabits caverns, clefts of rocks, and dens of its own digging. Its nature is ferocious and untameable: like the wolf, it prowls during the night in search of prey, and seizes every thing that is incapable of resisting its ferocity.

The hyæna is commonly about three feet and a half long: its head is thick, the forehead rather raised; the hairs on the body (except the mane) are short and tufted: the skin is of a yellowish colour with dark brown stripes on the flanks and feet: the tail is rather short; the ears are smooth and pointed. A ridge of long hairs is continued from the back of the head to the end of the tail. This ridge stands erect when the animal is provoked, and adds to the natural ferocity of its appearance.

The hyæna inhabits the torrid parts of Asia and Africa. Bruce assures us that Gondah, the metropolis of Abyssinia, is full of them from dark till the dawn of day. He adds, that, when crossing the square from the King's palace in the night, he has been apprehensive they would attack him, though he was attended by several armed men, who seldom passed a night without killing some of them. These creatures are attracted by the remains of carcases and other offal, which the inhabitants leave in the streets.

The first hyæna known in Europe was exhibited at the secular games, in the thousandth year of Rome.

GOLDEN EAGLE.

Designed & Engraved by Wm. Daniell & Published by Messrs. Cadell & Davies London March 2. 1809.

THE GOLDEN EAGLE.

Falco Chrysætos. Linn.

Le Grand Aigle. Buff.

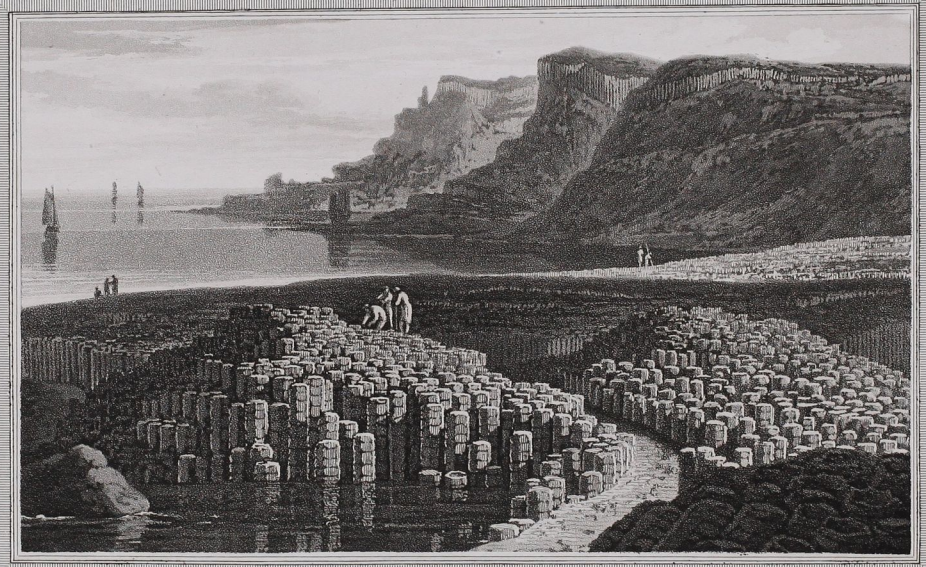
Golden Eagle. Penn. Brit. Zool. 1. p. 161. pl. 16. Bew. Birds, p. 5. Wood's Zoography, 1. p. 380. pl. 16.

Birds are destined by nature to enjoy the completest independence, and exult in the most unbounded freedom. Other animals are condemned to crawl on the surface of the earth; these soar aloft in the air. No obstacle can oppose their progress; no spot can fix their residence: the sky is their country, and their course is on the wings of the breeze.

But the superior liberty enjoyed by the feathered race, has its alloy; peace is not more the lot of birds, than of other animals; they are equally subject to various agitations; their jealousies often end in contention, and their solicitude in disappointment; they have plunderers in the inhabitants of the earth, and tyrants among themselves.

As the lion enjoys the sovreignty of the forest, so does the eagle extend his dominion over the inhabitants of the air: his subjects dread his aspect, and tremble at his approach. When unengaged in plunder, he lives in gloomy majesty upon the summits of the mountains, and establishes his nest in the most inaccessible retreats. When impelled by hunger he descends to the plains, and carries off hares, lambs, and other animals. When he rises in the air, he soars far above the rest of the feathered tribe, and was therefore regarded by the ancients as the messenger of Jupiter.

He leads a roving solitary life, lives more than a century, and sometimes grows white from age, gluttony, and disease.



GIANTS CAUSEWAY.

Designed & Engraved by Willm. Daniell & Published by Messrs. Cadell & Davies London. March 1 1807.

THE GIANT'S CAUSEWAY.

This vast mass of basaltic pillars, forms a sort of promontary on the coast of Antrim, in Ireland. It stretches out towards the sea, and terminates in a point over which the breakers dash with violence: groups of columns are to be seen on all sides, to which the guides have given such names, as their resemblance to familiar objects suggest; thus they show you an organ, a weaver's loom, &c.

The giant's causeway is composed of a series of verticle columns with horizontal surfaces, so that at a distance it appears like a flat stone pavement; on a near approach, however, it is seen that the columns are far from being on the same level, but, on the contrary, are very irregular, so that the traveller, in crossing the causeway, is obliged frequently to go up and down.

This crystalized pier forms the western horn of a bay, in the shape of a crescent, surrounded by high and bold prominences, on which are perceived ranges of the same regular materials as the causeway is composed of. From one of these promontaries that command the shore, the eye can at once survey the extensive series of columns, and trace their continuity till they are lost in the breakers of the sea.

BAMBOO.

Designed & Engraved by Wm. Daniell, & Published by Mess.rs Cadell & Davies London March 1 1809.

THE BAMBOO.

Bambusa Arundinacea. Linn.

Le Bambou Arondinacé. Lam.

Bamboo. Wood's Zoography, 3. p. 111. pl. 3.

The Bamboo is a plant of most extensive utility to the Chinese, and the inhabitants of India in general. With its light, though strong wood, they make their poles to carry palanquins, and other burthens. The people employed to collect palm wine, make bridges of bamboo, from one tree to another, so that they may pass and collect the juice without descending to the ground. The Chinese boil the young shoots to a pulp, from which they make a kind of paper used by their draughtsmen. Several pretty articles of furniture, and basket work, are made from the wood split into little slips. The stem of a variety, common in the Moluccas, is so hard as to give sparks of fire, when struck with an axe. The joints are covered with a rough skin, which is used to polish iron.

The natives of Java and Amboyna, eat the buds and suckers of different varieties of the bamboo. They cut about a foot of the young shoot, near the top, and prepare it by maceration and gentle boiling, after which it is cut into slices, and preserved in vinegar.

TYGER.

Designed & Engraved by Wm. Daniell & Published by Mess.rs Cadell & Davies London March 1.st 1807.

THE TIGER.

Felis Tigris. Linn.
Le Tigre. Buff.

Tiger. Penn. Hist. Quad. 1. p. 277. Bew. Quad. p. 186. Wood's Zoography, 1. p. 217. pl. 10.

The Bengal tiger is a terrible animal; his ferocity is tremendous, and we may in some measure judge of his strength by his size, which is from four to five feet high, by seven, eight, or nine feet long, exclusive of the tail. His skin is beautifully variegated with black bands, on a yellow ground, which extend transversely over his body, and form rings on his tail from one end to the other.

The tiger is confessedly the most rapacious and destructive of animals; his sanguine disposition is not to be corrected; his fury knows no interval, but while lurking in ambush for his prey: he is grossly ferocious, and cruel without necessity: his thirst for carnage is so great, that even when satiated, he will tear in pieces fresh animals, to revel in their blood. This perpetual rage; this blind and undistinguishing ferocity, often impels him to devour his own young, and even to revenge himself on the mother if she attempts to defend them.

The tiger seems to be confined to the hottest parts of the East Indies, and even there, fortunately for the rest of the creation, the species is far from numerous. He frequents the banks of rivers and lakes, where, concealed among the rushes, or in the luxuriant grass, he waits the approach of some thirsty animal, and, with almost unerring certainty, springs upon his prey. As a proof of his amazing strength, travellers assert that he will fling the carcase of a buffalo over his shoulders, and carry it off with ease to his hideing place in the woods.

The female produces from four to five cubs at a litter, and at such times her natural ferocity is, if possible, encreased.

EGYPTIAN IBIS.

Designed & Engraved by Willm. Daniell & Published by Messrs. Cadell & Davies London. May 1. 1812.

THE IBIS.

Tantalus Ibis. Linn.
L'Ibis Blanc. Buff.
Egyptian Ibis. Lath. Syn. 5. p. 111.

The ibis has a yellow bill slightly curved. The plumage is reddish white; the legs and thighs are red; the toes are united as far as the first joint. Herodotus describes it as having the head, neck, extremities of the wings, and the tail, black. He says also that the head and neck are quite bare.

Of the different forms of animal worship instituted by the ancient Egyptians, there was none in higher repute, or for which they had more reverence, than that of the ibis. They considered themselves as indebted to this bird for the destruction of many of their noxious reptiles: they were at first grateful only for its services, but their gratitude degenerated into veneration, and, at length, that which ought to have been regarded merely as the destroyer of serpents, was worshipped as the preserver of mankind.

To kill an ibis was reckoned a capital offence, and when one of them died, it was embalmed and carefully buried. In the plain of Saccara there are many receptacles, called *bird-pits*, where their bodies are deposited in tall earthen pots, closely stopped with cement. Several of these vessels have been dug up, and found to contain a sort of doll, formed by the bandages which encased the bird. The bones, and sometimes the feathers, may be traced within the wrapper, but in general, the greatest part falls into black dust when the bandages are removed.

It is common in lower Egypt, and visits the banks of the Nile, upon the recession of the waters, to feed on the reptiles left in the mud.

CAMEL CRICKET.

Designed & Engraved by Will.m Daniell & Published by Mess.rs Cadell & Davies London March 1 1807.

THE CAMEL CRICKET.

Mantis Oratoria. Linn.

Le Mante Religieuse. Bosc.

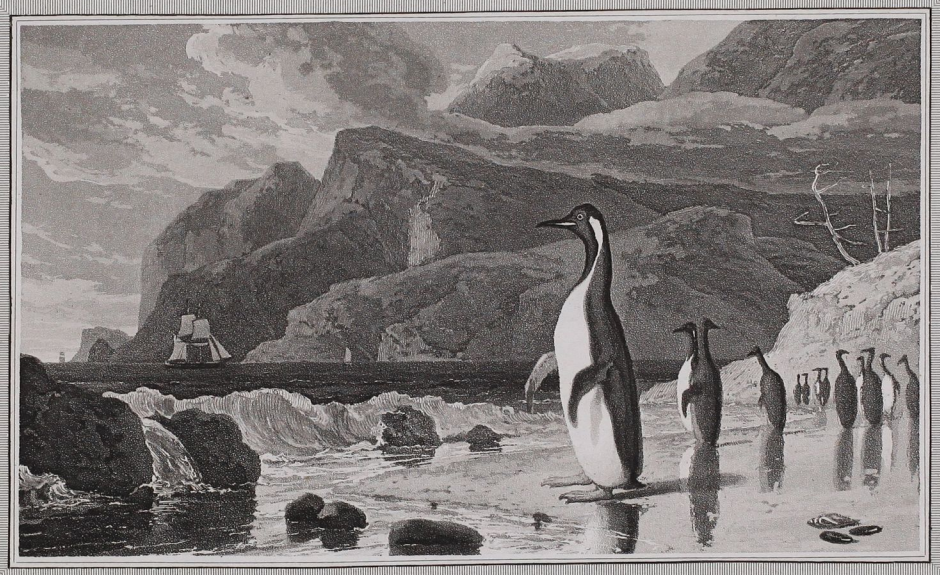
Camel Cricket. Shaw. Gen. Zool. 6. p. 118. pl. 42. Wood's Zoography, 2. p. 303. pl. 11.

These insects are noted for their quarrelsome disposition. The Chinese train them up for their amusement, and Mr. Barrow observes, that they attack each other with such ferocity, as seldom to quit their hold without bringing away at the same time a limb of their antagonist. These little creatures, he adds, are fed and kept apart in bamboo cages; and the custom of making them devour each other is so common, that, during the summer months, scarcely a boy is to be seen without his cage of grasshoppers.

In fighting they use their long fore legs like sabres: sometimes one will cleave the other through the body, or strike off his head, at a single stroke; and it is observed that the conqueror always devours his adversary. They are not regardful of either age or sex in their combats, but fight indiscriminately, and never cease till the strongest has prevailed over all his companions.

They have a singular manner, when in a sitting posture, of holding their fore legs close together, as if they were praying: this attitude has not been lost on the Eastern devotees, who therefore regard them as sacred animals.

The camel cricket is found only in warm climates.



PENGUIN.

Designed & Engraved by Wilm Daniell & Published by Messrs Cadell & Davies London March 1 1807.

THE PENGUIN.

Aptenodyta Patachonica. Linn.

Le Grand Manchot. Buff.

Patagonian Penguin. Lath. Syn. 6. p. 563. Wood's Zoography, 1. p. 568. pl. 25.

The penguins seem to form the shade between birds and fish. Instead of wings they have little pinions, covered with short feathers, that scarcely differ from scales: their body is large, compact, and cylindrical; and their legs are so placed as to prevent their walking on land without great difficulty. They are consequently obliged to be almost continually at sea, and indeed their whole economy of life seems to mark the analogy between these shapeless birds and the aquatic animals. On land they can remain only in an erect posture, and their bluish black backs, contrasted with their white bellies, made Sir John Narborough say, that they would be taken at a distance for young children with white bibs.

Captain Cook observed the penguins encrease in numbers as he advanced towards the antarctic circle: he found them in abundance on the borders of the icy mountains; on the floating shoals; at Statenland, and at the Sandwich islands. They have fixed their abode in places inaccessible to all other species of animals; in countries desolate, deserted, without verdure, and buried beneath eternal snow.

They are said to be very tenacious of life. Forster knocked down many of them, which he left as lifeless while he went in pursuit of others; but they all afterwards got up and walked off with great gravity.

ELEPHANT.

Designed & Engraved by Wm. Daniell & Published by Messrs. Cadell & Davies London. March 1. 1807.

THE ELEPHANT.

Elephas Maximus. Linn.

L'Elephant. Buff.

Great Elephant. Penn. Hist. Quad. 1. p. 165. pl. 34. Bew. Quad. p. 166. Wood's Zoography, 1. p. 103. pl. 6.

The elephant is, beyond contradiction, the first of quadrupeds. He surpasses all in size, and seems to approach man in intelligence. To prodigious strength he joins courage, prudence, coolness, exact obedience, and great sensibility of benefits as well as injuries: he never forgets his friends, nor ever injures any one without provocation.

These animals are of a sociable nature, and inhabit the deep vallies and moist woods near rivers. They feed on roots, herbs, leaves, and the young shoots of trees. When one of them finds good pasturage, he, by a particular cry, invites the others to partake of it. As they require much for their support, they often wander to fresh places, and make prodigious havock when they arrive in cultivated grounds.

The Asiatic elephants, in general, excel the African species in point of strength; and those of Ceylon are said to surpass both, not only in size, but in courage and intelligence. The strength of these animals is in proportion to their bulk; the great Asiatic elephants will carry three or four thousand pounds weight with ease, and their ordinary pace, when thus loaded, is equal to the gentle trot of a horse.

The elephant seems fond of music, and is animated by the sound of tambours and trumpets. His smell is exquisite, and he delights in perfumes. In the meadows he selects the odoriferous plants, and in the woods prefers the cocos, bananas, and, above all, those trees that yield a vinous sap. His touch is as delicately sensible as his smell.

The female elephant goes nearly two years with young, and brings forth one at a birth.

GOSHAWK.

Designed & Engraved by Will.m Daniell & Published by Mess.rs Cadell & Davies London March 1.st 1807.

THE GOSHAWK.

Falco Palumbarius. Linn.

L'Autour. Buff.

Goshawk. Penn. Brit. Zool. 1. p. 184. pl. 24. Bew. Birds, 1. p. 24. Wood's Zoography. 1. p. 395. pl. 17.

When falconry was in fashion, the common goshawk was held in high esteem; but the large white variety from Kamtschatka, was of still greater consideration. The Emperor of China is said to use this bird in his sporting progress. When he takes the field with his grand falconer and suite, every bird has a silver plate fastened to his foot, with the name of the falconer who had the charge of it, that in case it should be lost, it might be brought to the right person. If he cannot be found, it is delivered to another officer, called the *guardian of lost birds,* who keeps it till it is demanded by the proper owner. This great officer erects a standard in the most conspicuous place, that he may be readily found when wanted.

The goshawk is rather a rare bird in England; it is more frequent in Scotland, and is common in France and Germany. In its instincts it resembles the sparrow hawk, but darts sideways upon its prey. It is of a fierce and vicious disposition; it fights upon its back, when likely to be overpowered, and defends itself with its spread talons. If it be left with other falcons, it will kill them all, one after another.

It preys on field mice and small birds, which it tears in pieces: the mice it swallows entire, but often disgorges the skins rolled together.

REIN DEER.

Designed & Engraved by Wm. Daniell & Published by Messrs. Cadell & Davies London March 1.1807.

THE REIN DEER.

Cervus Tarandus. Linn.

Le Renne. Buff.

Rein Deer. Penn. Hist. Quad. 1. p. 111. pl. 18. Bew. Quad. p. 114. Wood's Zoography, 1. p. 54. pl. 2.

The rein deer inhabits the frozen regions of the north, where the snow covers the earth from the beginning of Autumn till the end of Spring; where the bramble, the juniper, and the moss, are the only verdure of summer, and where, in consequence, the domestic animals of more congenial climates could not exist.

This useful creature is to the Laplander, what the camel is to the Arabian: it constitutes the whole of his riches. It is his horse, his cow, his every thing. It draws him swiftly over the frozen snow in his sledge; and provides him with plenty of milk, whey, and cheese. Its services cease not with its life, for the flesh, skin, nerves, bones, horns, and feet, are all of use. The rich Laplanders have herds of four or five hundred; the poor have individually ten or twelve. They are milked morning and evening, and feed chiefly on the iceland moss.

Thus is life sustained in a cold inhospitable country, inhabited by a people who are wholly unconscious of those imaginary wants that originate in luxury. They derive comfort from what we should reject, and are perhaps not less happy in the possession of the mere necessaries which their rein deer afford, than we who are surrounded with the productions of every clime.

CASSOWARY.

THE CASSOWARY.

Casuarius Emeu. Linn.

Le Casoar. Buff.

Galeated Cassowary. Albin. av. 2. pl. 60. Lath. Syn. 5. p. 10. pl. 72.

The cassowary is a large awkward bird next in size to the ostrich. It is covered with loose dark-brown feathers. On the top of the head there is a kind of helmet, beginning at the base of the bill, and reaching to the middle of the crown: the bill is pointed; the legs are thick, and clumsy; it has three toes tipped with sharp, black claws.

It is rapid in its motions, but ungraceful in its gait; appearing to kick behind, when it moves. Nothing seems to come amiss to the cassowary, for, like the ostrich, it is said to swallow stones, iron, glass, &c. without inconvenience. Its native region seems to be the south eastern parts of Asia. It is by no means so common a bird as the ostrich. Its eggs are of a greenish-grey colour; they are not so thick but longer than those of the ostrich.

Buffon remarks that the ostrich, the cassowary, and the touyou, three of the largest birds that are known, are all natives of the torrid zone, which they seem to share among themselves, each enjoying its own territory, without encroaching on that of another.

PHOLAS.

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THE PHOLAS.

Pholas Dactylus. Linn.

Le Pholade Dactyle. Bosc.

Common Pholas. Penn. Brit. Zool. 4. p. 76. pl. 39. f. 10. Wood's Zoography, 2. p. 551. pl. 18.

This elegant shell is thin, brittle, and transparent; it is of a milk white colour, of an oblong shape, and striated transversely: one end extends into a beak, and a large incurvated tooth, or spur, rises from the cavity within.

The shell is inhabited by a soft animal, apparently incapable of any exertion beyond that of a worm, and yet it has the faculty of penetrating wood, and firm clay, so as to make itself an habitation secure from the fury of the waves. It is difficult to say how this end is obtained, for although the animal has a long neck, which can be exerted at pleasure, it is not provided with any visible apparatus for boring of holes.

It is supposed that the pholas penetrates the wood or stone while very young, and enlarges his dwelling as he encreases in size: he works by very slow degrees, till his apartment is sufficiently capacious; and in this dark chamber, or tomb, he lives, if it may be so called, till he is either dragged from his hole, as bait for other fish, or dies a natural death.

AFRICAN BIRDS NESTS.

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AFRICAN BIRDS NESTS. Pl. 2.

There is a small bird in Africa, of the cross bill kind, which lives in a state of society with the rest of its species. These birds construct a republic of nests in one clump, under cover of the mimosa tree. Each nest has a separate entrance from beneath, but no communication with its neighbour from within. Some of these aggregate nests occupy a space of ten feet in diameter, and contain several hundred individuals. As the inhabitants encrease in numbers, they enlarge their building, till it sometimes becomes so enormous as to bear down the tree by its weight. When this happens the birds, being unprotected, are obliged to quit their old habitation, and establish a new colony in another place.

Patterson, during his travels in Africa, had the curiosity to break down one of these deserted nests, and observed many entrances, each of which formed a regular street, with nests on both sides at about two inches distance from each other. The birds build with the boshman's grass, and the legs and wings of insects were found in their nests.

Patterson supposes that the clump he examined had been inhabited many years, and some parts were observed to be much more complete than others.

SCORPION.

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THE SCORPION.

Scorpio Afer. Linn.

Le Scorpion D'Afrique. Bosc.

African Scorpion. Shaw. Gen. Zool. 6. p. 486. pl. 130. Wood's Zoography, 2. p. 529. pl. 16.

Scorpions inhabit the torrid parts of both the old and new Continent: they are never seen in the north, nor even in temperate climates. They vary in size, but the African species is the largest and most venomous.

This scorpion sometimes grows to the length of ten inches, when measured from the end of the claw, to the extremity of the tail. It is of a dark brown colour, with white articulations to the feet. The tail is the formidable part, and contains, at its end, a reservoir of poison, some of which the scorpion ejects through two very small holes, into the wounded animal. The venom is very active, and has frequently produced, in persons, troublesome, and even alarming symptoms. The remedies recommended for the bite of serpents, will apply equally to the sting of the scorpion; among which there is perhaps none equal to olive oil, diligently applied.

The scorpion lurks in the most neglected places, under rotton wood, and stones. It also enters inhabited houses, and hides itself about the furniture; it is therefore necessary for a person to be careful where he seats himself, lest he should be stung before he is aware of his danger.

Scorpions are viviparous, and bring forth a numerous progeny at a birth.

COCKATOO.

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THE COCKATOO.

Psittacus Cristatus. Linn.

Le Kakatoes des Moluques. Buff.

Great White Cockatoo. Lath. Syn. 1. p. 256. No. 61. Wood's Zoography, pl. 19.

That sagacity and aptness of imitation, which is so conspicuous in other parrots, seems to be in great measure denied to the cockatoo. The others, though obstinately perverse at first, may be won by perseverance, till, by attention and assiduity, they arrive at the perfection of mockery. The cockatoo, on the contrary, does not possess that facility of speech; he is attentive and obedient, and attempts, though generally without success, to repeat what he hears. To compensate, however, for this deficiency, he has an elegant crest, with a gracefulness in all his movements, and a gentleness in his manners, beyond any of his loquacious brethren.

The cockatoo inhabits the southern parts of India. It is as large as a fowl, and entirely white, except a yellow tinge on the under side of the wings, and the lateral quills of the tail. The bill and feet are black. The crest consists of ten or twelve stiff feathers, which the bird can erect at pleasure.

INTERESTING SELECTIONS

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