

tive system which has just been noticed. Equally characteristic of the order, however, is the disposition of the teeth, of which the front set, or incisors, are confined to the lower jaw, the opposite portion of the upper jaw being covered with a callous pad. The canine teeth are commonly absent, and there are six ridged molars on either side of each jaw.

The presence of horns in the male sex, or in both, is another general mark of this order. The length of the legs and the whole form of the body is also usually constructed with a view to rapid motion, to enable these timid and comparatively defenceless creatures to elude their enemies by flight. The foot is commonly small, and provided with two toes, which are enclosed in a horny case, the inner side of which, where it is opposed to its fellow, is flattened, and fits so close that the whole resemble a single bifurcated hoof. Deer are distinguished from all other members of this very extensive order by the peculiarity of their horns, which are not only not horny in the usual acceptation of the term, but are not, like these appendages in other animals, permanent. The horns of deer are of the nature of bone, and are annually renewed and shed, the new growth of each year usually attaining a greater size and more numerous divisions. The horn is confined to the male sex, with the exception of the rein deer, the female of which is also provided with these ornaments. The family of antelopes is distinguished from the deer chiefly by the horns, which in the former are, like those of the goat, composed of a true horny and permanent coating growing from a bony and vascular centre.

The horns of the deer begin to grow in the spring. The first change that takes place, is a very considerable enlargement of the arteries leading to that part of the skull; then the horn begins to shoot. In the earlier stages this is a vascular cartilaginous structure, covered with a soft, thick, velvet-like and densely hairy skin. The cartilage is converted into bone by the deposition of phosphate of lime, conveyed to the part by numerous blood-vessels; and when this process is completed the covering becomes thin, the vessels become obliterated, the vitality of the skin ceases, and it is readily rubbed off by friction in the use of the horn—the antlers, as they are more properly called, showing on their furrowed surfaces the course and distribution of the large and numerous blood-vessels that served so important a purpose in their formation. In the first season the horns of the young buck consist of merely a short cylindrical and pointed projection, when they are known as spike-bucks. With each succeeding year a branch is added to the antler, until it has attained its full size and ramification. In the mature buck

they are extremely handsome, large and boldly formed. The circumstance that while the horns of deer are annually shed, and of course in considerable number, yet so few are commonly found, has been explained by the fact that the various rodent or gnawing animals of the forests are extremely fond of them, and greedily devour them.

The subject of the present illustration is very generally distributed over the North American continent, being very numerous in Canada, and extending its range as far south as the Gulf of Mexico. With a curious ignorance in regard to a country so near them, the compilers of an elaborate and generally excellent work, on the Natural History of New York, make the singular statement in reference to

poet who emigrated to America, and composed some of the most popular American songs. This is, however, a digression for which we must ask the pardon of our readers, as well as cousin Jonathan's.

The colour of this deer varies with the season of the year, being of a light reddish brown in spring, slaty blue in autumn, and dull brown in winter. The abdomen, throat, chin, the inner faces of the limbs and the under surface of the tail, are white. The fawn is a remarkably pretty little creature, the ruddy brown fur being profusely decked with white spots, arranged in irregular lines, and sometimes merging into continuous stripes.

Like all the tribe, this is a very timid animal, very watchful, and extremely acute in all its senses,

especially in hearing and smelling, so that it is difficult for the hunter to approach without the greatest caution, as the snapping of a twig is sufficient to alarm it. When pursued it readily takes to the water, and is a good and enduring swimmer. It has been known to cross broad rivers, and swim a distance of several miles. When hard pressed in the vicinity of the sea, it will even make for the shore, and plunging boldly into the water, swim out to sea for a mile or more.

In the more open sections of country it feeds on the young grasses of the plains, being fastidiously select in choosing the tenderest herbage. In winter it obtains sustenance in various buds and berries; and in autumn it finds abundant banquets under the oaks, chestnuts, and beeches, revelling upon the fallen fruit in amicable fraternity with other quadrupeds and various birds.

When captured while young, this graceful creature is easily domesticated, and becomes even troublesome in its confident tameness. A pair of these animals kept by Mr. Audubon were most mischievous pets. They would jump into his study window, regardless of glass or wood work: they ate the covers of his books, nibbled his papers

and scattered them in sad confusion, gnawed the carriage harness, cropped all the choice garden plants and finally took to biting off the heads and feet of the ducklings and chickens. We have known some few kept in ornamental grounds; but it requires a high fence to restrain them within bounds, and they do not readily bear confinement.

In one or two places in the United States, we believe, considerable numbers are kept in enclosed woodlands, the nearest approach to the parks of Europe, the home of the Fallow and Red Deer. The skin of our native species, when properly dressed, forms a soft and pliable kind of leather, which, moreover, does not shrivel and harden from exposure to wet; and the Indians employ the material largely in various articles of apparel.



this species of deer, that though abundant in the United States and on their northern borders, it is not found in Canada. Our good cousins must excuse a smile at the complacency with which they are prone to appropriate all good or meritorious things to themselves. A notable instance of this propensity was forced on our notice when some years ago, fresh from England, we landed at Boston, and read with no small amazement a flaming placard by some bold publisher, who announced a splendid edition of that *Great American Work—Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress*. Time and enlarged experience inured us to this kind of thing, and we were scarcely surprised when, a few years later, we heard a Western schoolmaster inform an enquiring scholar (an English boy, by the by, who knew better) that *Burns* was an *Irish*