

the species very widely diffused, being confined to the warm climates of the east, especially India and Siam. It generally grows to a larger size than the largest mastiff dog, and its form so completely resembles that of a cat, as almost to induce us to consider the latter as a tiger in miniature. The most striking difference which is observed between the tiger and the other animals of the cat kind, consists in the different marks on the skin. The panther, the leopard, &c., are spotted, but the tiger is ornamented with long streaks quite across the body, instead of spots. The ground colour, on those of the most beautiful kind, is yellow, very deep on the back, but growing lighter towards the belly, when it softens to white, as also on the throat and the inside of the legs. The bars which cross the body from the back to the belly, are of the most beautiful black, and the skin altogether is so extremely fine and glossy, that it is much esteemed, and sold at a high price in all the eastern countries, especially China. The tiger is said by some to prefer human flesh to that of any other animal; and it is certain, that it does not, like many other beasts of prey, shun the presence of man; and, far from dreading his opposition, frequently seizes him as his victim. These ferocious animals seldom pursue their prey, but lie in ambush, and bound upon it with a surprising elasticity, and from a distance almost incredible. The strength, as well as the agility of this animal, is wonderful: it carries off a deer with the greatest ease, and will even carry off a buffalo. It attacks all kinds of animals, except the