

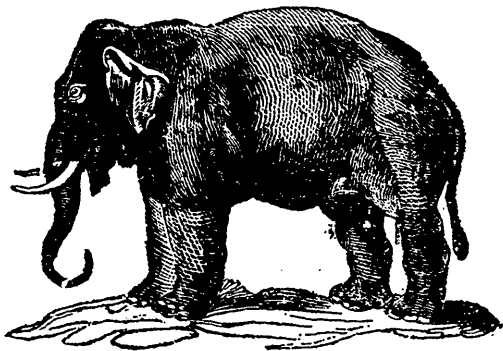
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NATURAL HISTORY



THE ELEPHANT.*

The human race excepted, the elephant is the most respectable of animals. In size he surpasses all other terrestrial creatures, and in understanding he is inferior only to man. Of all the brute creation, the elephant, the dog, the ape, and the beaver, are most admirable for their sagacity; but the genius of the dog is only borrowed, being instructed by man in almost every thing he knows; the monkey has only the appearance of wisdom, and the beaver is only sensible with regard to himself, and those of his species. The elephant is superior to them all three; he unites all their most eminent qualities.

He is susceptible of gratitude, and capable of a strong attachment; he uses himself to man without reluctance, and serves him with zeal, intelligence, and fidelity. Every being in nature has his real price and relative value; to judge of both in the elephant, we must al-

low him at least the judgment of the beaver, the dexterity of the monkey, the sentiment of the dog, and to add to these qualifications the peculiar advantages of strength, size, and longevity. We must not forget his arms, or his defence, with which he can pierce through and conquer the lion. We must observe, that he shakes the ground at every step; that with his trunk he roots up trees; that with the strength of his body he makes a breach in a wall; that being terrible by his force, he is invincible by the resistance only of his enormous mass, and by the thickness of the leather which covers it; that he can carry on his back a tower armed in war, with a number of men; that he alone moves machines and carries bur-

* We are indebted to the kindness of a friend for the above excellent representation, engraved by him expressly for the INSTRUCTOR.