

HISTORICAL.

"As Morality is the science of human life, so History may be defined to be morality taught by example."

ANCIENT DRUIDS.

Before the invasion of the Romans, the ancient Britons had among them various schools and seminaries of learning, which were wholly under the direction of the Druids; to whose care the education of youth was altogether committed. These Druidical academies were very much crowded with students, as many of the youths of Gaul came over to finish their education in this island. The students, as well as the teachers, were exempted from military services, and from taxes, and enjoyed many other privileges, which much served to increase their number. Their academies were situated in the deepest recesses of woods and forests; partly because such situations were best adapted to study and contemplation; and principally because they were most suitable to that profound secrecy, with which they instructed their pupils, and kept their doctrines from the knowledge of others. In these seminaries, the professors delivered all their lectures to their pupils in verse; and a Druidical education, comprehending the whole circle of the sciences that were then taught, is said to have consisted of about twenty thousand verses, and to have lasted in some cases twenty years. The scholars were not allowed to commit any of these verses to writing, but were obliged to get them all by heart. When the youth were first admitted into these academies, they were obliged to take an oath of secrecy, in which they solemnly swore that they would never reveal the mysteries which they there should learn.

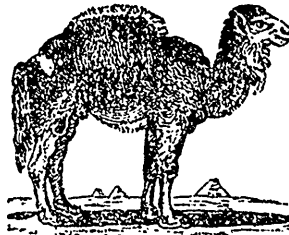
The noble art of rhetoric, which enabled them to display their wisdom and learning, and which contributed to the support and advancement of their reputation, was diligently studied and taught by the Druids of Britain. Among their deities was one named Ogmius, signifying in their language, the power of eloquence, who was worshipped by them with great devotion, as the patron of Orators, and the god of Eloquence. He was painted as an old man, surrounded by a great multitude of people, with slender chains reaching from his tongue to their ears. Lucian, expressing his surprise at this picture, received from a Druid the following explanation of it:

"You will cease to be surprised when I tell you that we make Hercules (who we call Ogmius) the god of eloquence,

contrary to the Greeks, who give that honor to Mercury, who is so far inferior to him in strength. We represent him as an old man, because eloquence never shows itself so lively and strong as in the mouths of old people. The relation which the ear has to the tongue justifies the picture of the old man, who holds so many people fast by the tongue. Neither do we think it any affront to Hercules, to have his tongue bored; since, to tell you all in one word, it was that which made him succeed in every thing, and that it was by his eloquence that he subdued the hearts of all men."

NATURAL HISTORY.

"All are but parts of that stupendous whole,
Whose body Nature is, and God the soul."



FOR THE CANADIAN CASKET.

THE CAMEL.

This animal is an inhabitant of the sands of Arabia; but it is frequently seen in many parts of America, attached to the extensive caravans that travel the eastern and southern states.—Authors differ as to the length of time it is capable of sustaining life without drink. Capt. Riley, was wrecked on the coast of Africa, and was taken prisoner by the Arabs, with whom he travelled the desert for a number of years, before he was ransomed, says the camel seldom gets fresh water oftener than once in fifteen or twenty days; and he mentions one instance where abstinence continued for twenty-eight days. As the wells, or watering-places on the desert are situated at a great distance from each other, it has often occurred in slaughtering one of these hardy animals a week or ten days after it had been watered, that several gallons of water have been taken from its stomach. Burckhardt says that "the best Arabian camel after three whole days abstinence from water, shows manifest signs of great distress; in case of absolute necessity, it might possibly go five days without drinking; but this he says can never be required, since there is no route across the Arabian desert in which wells are farther distant from each other than three days and half. The extremity of thirst, indeed, induces the traveller, unable to support the

exertion of walking, to cling as a last resource to this servicable animal;—nor does it stomach, unless on the first day's watering, afford by any means, a copious supply." On the authority of Capt. Riley, and Archibald Robbins, second mate to Capt. R. with whom we were personally acquainted, both before and since his captivity, we doubt some parts of M. Burckhardt's observations. The camels never receive any water, only at the wells; and the Arabs carry their water in gazelles, or in case of emergency, untanned camel's hides are called in requisition, and these reservoirs contain a number of gallons each, and are carried astride of the camels.

The swiftness of the camel has been greatly exaggerated; 115 miles in eleven hours, during which occurred two passages over the Nile in a ferry boat, each requiring twenty minutes, is the most extraordinary performance which was ever authenticated; and this, in all probability, has been surpassed by an English trotting mare. There is not the least doubt, that if left to its own free will, the camel, generally speaking, would travel from 175 to 200 miles in twenty-four hours. Twelve miles an hour is the utmost trotting pace of a camel; it may gallop nine miles in half an hour; but it cannot support that pace, which is unnatural to it, for a longer time. Nothing can be easier than its common amble of five and a half miles an hour; and properly fed every evening, or, as is often the case, once in two days, it will continue this pace for five or even six days.

Mr. Burckhardt gives as a reason, which by the way, we are unwilling to believe, that "while the hump continues full, the animal will endure considerable fatigue on a very short allowance; feeding, as the Arabs say, on the fat of its own hump." Now there is not the least truth in this last quotation; for it is evident that the camel cannot live without food, no more than any other beast: and further, the hump is composed of muscles, attached to and a part of the back bone. The full growth of the camel is attained at the age of twelve years; he lives forty;—but, at about, or under thirty, his activity declines.

In Egypt camels are kept closely shorn, and are guided by a string attached to the nose-ring. Those of Arabia, are seldom perforated in the nose, and readily obey the short stick of the rider. The camel saddies of the Arabian women are gaudily fitted out; and a lady of Nadja considers it a degradation to mount any other than a