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WHERE

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NATURAL HISTORY.

THE ELEPHANT.

The elephant is a noble creature. His vast size gives him great power, and he seems to delight in turning his strength to a good purpose. He is very active and laborious, and, at the same time, so mild and sensible, that he may be trained to almost any service which a brute is capable of; and he is often made to be of great use to man.

Elephants are found, in a wild state, in the woods and forests of Asia and Africa. They feed chiefly on grain, and fruit, and leaves; and they live to a great age, sometimes a hundred, or a hundred and twenty years.

All the works of Providence are truly wonderful; and the more we examine them, the more we shall see this. The trunk of the elephant is a fine example of this. It is very long; and is composed of a great number of rings, which enables the animal to move it with ease in all directions. At the end of this trunk, there is a kind of moveable finger, which is of great service to the animal, and enables him to take hold of such things as he may have occasion for, and to convey them to his mouth. The trunk, though so pliable, is strong enough to break off large branches from trees. Through this trunk the animal breathes, and he smells through it too, and so well, that, if several people be standing round him, he will find out food in the pocket of any one, and will put his trunk into the pocket, and bring out the food.

The elephant has two large tusks proceeding from his upper jaw: these he uses for weapons of defence, and they are of great service to him. It is from these that we get our ivory. The elephant is easily tamed, and he becomes the most gentle and obedient of all creatures. He shews a great regard for those persons who are kind to him: but, if he is ill used, he seems, for a long time, to remember his injury, and to seek for revenge. This animal appears to have a power somewhat nearer to reason than any other animal; and many strange accounts are given of his extraordinary sagacity.

The elephant was formerly used in war, having a sort of castle fastened on his back, filled with soldiers, who from thence shot at the enemy with their arrows. At present, they are chiefly used in carrying and drawing burdens. An elephant can, with great ease, draw a load that six horses could not move.

BIOGRAPHY.

EUCLID.

Euclid, the celebrated mathematician, according to the account of Pappus and Proclus, was born at Alexandria, in Egypt, where he flourished, and taught mathematics with great applause, under the reign of Ptolemy Lagus, about B. C. 280. And here, from his time, till the conquest of Alexandria by the Saracens, all the eminent mathematicians were either born or studied; and it is to Euclid and his scholars we are indebted for Eratosthenes, Archimedes, Apollonius, Ptolemy, Theon, &c. &c. He reduced into regularity and order all the fundamental principles of pure mathematics, which had been delivered down by Thales, Pythagoras, Eudoxus, and other mathematicians before him, and added many others of his own discovering; on which account, it is said he was the first who reduced arithmetic and geometry into the form of a science. He likewise applied himself to the study of mixed mathematics, particularly to astronomy and optics.

His works, as we learn from Pappus and Proclus, are, the Elements, Data, Introduction to Harmony, Phenomena, Optics, Catoptrics, Treatises on the Division of Superficies, Porisms, Loci and Superficies, Fallacies, and four books of Comics.

The most celebrated of these is the first work, 'The Elements of Geometry'; of which there have been numberless editions, in all languages; and a fine edition of all his works now extant was printed in 1703, by David Gregory, Savilian Professor of Astronomy at Oxford.

The 'Elements,' as commonly published, consist of fifteen books, of which the two last, it is suspected, are not Euclid's, but a comment of Hypsicles of Alexandria, who lived two hundred years after Euclid.

There is no doubt, that before Euclid's time, Elements of Geometry were compiled by Hippocrates of Chius, Eudoxus, Leon, and many others, mentioned by Proclus, in the beginning of his second book: for he affirms, that Euclid new ordered many things in the Elements of Eudoxus, completed many things in those of Theatetus, and, besides strengthened such propositions as before were too slightly, or but superficially established with the most firm and convincing demonstrations.

History is silent as to the time of Euclid's death, or his age. He is represented as a person of a courteous and agreeable behaviour, and in great esteem and familiarity with king Ptolemy, who once asking him whether there was any shorter way of coming at geometry than by his elements, Euclid, as Proclus testifies, made answer, that there was no royal way, or path, to geometry.

THE VILLAGE.—No. 3.

JACK, HUMPHREY, AND NANCY TILER.

I have observed it to be the case all my life long, and I have heard it from men much older than I am, that when even the poorest people bring up their children in the fear of the Lord, they find them their best friends in after days; and that whenever people, rich or poor, bring up their children in ignorance of God, and of Divine things, such children are sure to be as dust in the eyes, thorns in the feet, and goads in the sides of their parents. A little of God's grace is worth a great deal of this world's glory; the latter will pass away, but the former will endure forever. Sometimes, it is true, that the children of pious parents take to wicked ways, and sometimes it pleases God to turn the heart of the wicked child of a bad parent, to seek after the Lord with all his soul and all his strength; but this is not according to the common course of events; and that verse in the holy scriptures may be relied on as borne out by the experience of mankind, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." There is a family now living in a cottage, in a part of the parish called "The Common Patch," who never did thrive, and the probability is that they never will, unless it should please God, in infinite compassion, to enlighten their blind eyes, and to soften their hard hearts, so that they may be convinced of the error of their ways, and be taught at the same time to know the grace of the Redeemer. Truly has the wise man said, "The curse of the Lord is in the house of the wicked, but he blesseth the habitation of the just." The cottage of Tiler is one of the few dwellings in the parish where no bible is to be found; but none of this wretched family can read, nor will they listen when any one undertakes to read to them. Had Thomas Tiler been accustomed to look above for God's blessing on his industry, instead of depending on the support of others, and on his own cunning in taking advantage of those around him, he would humbly and diligently have laboured for an honest livelihood, and people would have been ready to give him work and assist him: but every one now is afraid to employ him, and poverty and rags, and wretchedness are his portion. How