

THE BEAR.



RUIN is a softer appellation for the unwieldy and terrible Bear, who has reigned in his native forest and been invoked from time immemorial by thoughtless mothers, and unprincipled nurses to still noisy children. He is occasionally seen with a keeper walking with a measured tread through our streets. The best place to make his acquaintance is in a Zoological Garden where he is secured by a chain. He is not so rough, and uncouth in nature as we are apt to suppose. The following account of a Bear shows that kindness and intelligence are possessed by the species :—

“The Bear is capable of generous attachment. Leopold, Duke of Lorraine, had a bear called Marco, of the sagacity and sensibility of which we have the following remarkable instance :—During the winter of 1709 a Savoyard boy ready to perish with cold in a barn, in which he had been put by a good woman with some of his companions, thought proper to enter Marco’s hut, without reflecting on the danger which he ran by exposing himself to the mercy of the animal which had occupied it. Marco, however, instead of doing any injury to the child, took him between his paws, and warmed him by pressing him to his breast until next morning, when he suffered him to depart to ramble about the city. The young Savoyard returned in the evening to the hut, and was received with the same affection. For several days he had no other retreat, and it added not a little to his joy that the bear reserved part of his food for him. A number of days passed in this manner without the servants knowing anything of the circumstance. At length, when one of them came one day to bring the bear its supper, rather later than ordinary, he was astonished to see the animal roll its eyes in a furious manner, and seeming as if he wished him to make as little noise as possible, for fear of waking the