



The Ashkoko.

"And the coney (*shapan*), because he cheweth the cud, but divided not the hoof; he is unclean unto you.—Lev. xi. 5.

Bochart and others have supposed the *shapan* of the Scriptures to be the jerboa; but Mr. Bruce proves that the ashkoko is intended. This curious animal is found in Ethiopia, and in great numbers on mount Lebanon, &c. Instead of holes, they seem to delight in more airy places, in the mouths of caves, or clefts in the rock. They are gregarious, and frequently several dozens of them sit upon the great stones at the mouths of caves, and warm themselves in the sun, or come out and enjoy the freshness of the summer evening. They do not stand upright upon their feet, but seem to steal along as in fear, their belly being nearly close to the ground; advancing a few steps at a time, and then pausing. They have something very mild, feeble like, and timid in their deportment; are gentle and easily tamed; though, when roughly handled at the first, they bite very severely.—*Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*.

Chinese Reverence for Parents.

(By the Rev. Mr. Gillespie, Missionary from China.)

Filial piety, or reverence for parents, the Chinese say, is at the head of all the virtues. There are many Chinese books which the people read, and which boys study at school, full of advices on obedience to parents. Children are exhorted not so much to love their parents as to reverence them. They venerate their parents very much,—so much, that after a man dies, he is worshipped by his children. He becomes a god to them. And all the Chinese present offerings of fruits and sweetmeats and roasted flesh at the graves of their ancestors. The eldest son of the family bows, and worships the spirit of his forefathers. And on a certain day of the year, they burn paper-cloths and paper-money, for the use of the spirits in the other world. They have thus carried their filial piety so far, that in-

stead of worshipping the true God, they now worship ghosts and dead men. This is the real idolatry of the Chinese, and they love to worship their dead parents far more than to worship the idols in the temples.

Even while their parents are alive, the children look up to them almost as gods. I have read a book in which the emperor Kang-hi advises the people not to go about to the temples so much, worshipping the idols, and thus flattering the gods far too much, but to remember that they have two household gods at home—that is, their father and mother, and that it is their duty to wait upon and serve them. And how do the Chinese think they ought to show their filial piety? They say that every good action which you can perform, is filial obedience, and that every thing