

will not permit to appear in the water they frequent. The fur of the beaver is finer and more bushy than that of the otter: it consists of two kinds of hair; the one, which is short, but bushy, fine as down, and impenetrable by water, immediately covers the skin; the other, which is longer, firmer, more splendid, but thinner, serves the former as a surtout, defending it from dust and dirt. The second kind of hair is of little value; it is the first alone that is employed in manufactures. The black furs are generally more bushy, and consequently in greatest esteem. The beavers, like all other quadrupeds, cast their hair in summer; and the fur of those caught during this season are of little value. But, besides the fur, which is the most precious article, the beaver furnishes matter, of which great use is made in medicine. This matter, called *Castorum*, is contained in two large bags or bladders. The savages, it is said, extract an oil from the tail of the beaver, and use it as a topical application for several diseases. The flesh of the beaver, though fat and delicate, has always a disagreeable flavour. Their bones are said to be excessively hard. Their teeth are extremely so; and so sharp, that they are used by the savages as knives to cut, hollow, and polish their timber. The beaver uses his fore-feet like hands, and with equal dexterity as the squirrel, the toes being well separated; but those of the hind-feet are united by a membrane. These they employ as fins, and extend them like the toes of a goose, which animal they resemble in their walking upon land. The beaver swims better than he runs. As his fore-legs are much shorter than the hind ones, he always walks with his head low, and his back arched. His senses are extremely delicate, especially the sense of smelling. Dirtiness and bad smells seem to be perfectly unsupportable to him. Though the Elk and the REIN-DEER are animals of different species, yet, naturalists have found it difficult to give the history of the one without encroaching upon that of the other; nor shall we endeavour to separate them. In Europe and Asia the Elk is found only on this side, and the Rein-deer beyond the Polar circle. In this continent we meet with them in lower latitudes; because here the cold is greater than in Europe. In Canada, and in all the northern parts of America, we meet with the elk, under the name of the *Original*; and the rein-deer under that of *Caribou*. Those naturalists who suspect that the original is not the elk, and the caribou the rein-deer, have not compared nature with the relations of travellers. Though smaller, like all the other American quadrupeds, than those of the old continent, they are unquestionably the same animals. We will acquire juster ideas of the elk and rein-deer by comparing both with the stag. The elk is taller, thicker, and stands higher on his legs; his neck is also shorter, his hair longer, and his horns much longer than those of the stag. The rein-deer is not so tall; his limbs are shorter and thicker, and his feet much larger. His hair is very bushy, and his horns are longer, and divided into a great number of branches, each of which is terminated by a palm; but those of the elk have the appearance of being cut off abruptly, and are furnished with broaches. Both have long hair under the neck, short tails and ears much longer than those of the stag. Their motion consists of bounds or leaps, like the stag or roe-buck: It is a kind of trot, but so quick and nimble, that they will