

In this general account of quadrupeds, we shall only farther observe, that the smaller the animals, the more prolific they are. Providence has wisely balanced the strength of the great against the fecundity of the little, that no species may be entirely lost; and that man may enjoy all the advantages which can be derived from the useful, without being too much annoyed by the formidable.

From these cursory remarks we shall now proceed to the systematic arrangement of quadrupeds.—Their essential characters are, that their bodies are covered with hair; that they have four feet; that the females are viviporous; and that they suckle their young. “Oh!” you will say, “all this you already know; and that quadrupeds must have four feet, or they would not deserve the appellation.” Patience! what do you think of men, bats, and whales being ranked among quadrupeds? Such is the system of Linnæus.

Animals with paps, or such as suckle their young, he calls MAMMALIA. The MAMMALIA, he divides into seven orders; the distinctions of which are principally established on the difference in the number, situation, and form of the teeth, though he does not entirely neglect the structure of the feet.

The orders are:

- I. PRIMATES: including men, apes, &c.
- II. BRUTA: including the sloth, armadillo, &c.
- III. FERÆ: including the lion, tiger, &c.
- IV. GLIRES: including the hare kind, mouse, &c.
- V. PECORA: including the sheep, goat, cow, &c.
- VI. BELLUÆ: including the horse, &c.
- VII. CETÆ, or the WHALE kind.

The whole number of known quadrupeds does not amount to three hundred.

Our ingenious countryman, PENNANT, has, per-