

ful; when heard in the night, it resembles distant thunder. His cry of anger is much louder and shriller.

The lion seldom attacks any animal openly, except when compelled by extreme hunger, in which case, no danger deters him. But, as most animals endeavour to avoid him, he is obliged to have recourse to artifice, and take his prey by surprise. For this purpose he crouches on his belly, in some thicket, where he watches till his prey comes forward; and then, with one prodigious spring, he leaps upon it from a distance of fifteen or twenty feet, and generally seizes it at the first bound. Should he happen to miss his object, he gives up the pursuit, and returns to the place of his ambush, with a measured step, and there lies in wait for another opportunity. His lurking place is generally near a spring or a river, that he may lay hold of the animals which come hither to quench their thirst.

It is observed of the lion, that his courage diminishes, and his caution and timidity are greater, as he approaches the habitations of men. Being acquainted with the power of their arms, he loses his natural fortitude to such a degree as to be terrified at the sound of the human voice. He has been known to fly before women, and even children, and suffer himself to be driven away by them, from his lurking place in the neighbourhood of villages. His disposition is such as to admit of a certain degree of education; and it is a well-known fact that the keepers of wild beasts frequently play with him, pull out his tongue, hold him by the