

the fruits of inebriation are eternal; there to live in immortal drunkenness, and the perpetual chase of the ostrich.

The skeletons of their dead, after the flesh and entrails have been burnt, if persons of eminence, are transported to the tombs of their ancestors, which are always within a small space of the sea. They are decked in their best robes, adorned with plumes and beads, and placed sitting in a deep square pit, parallel with those buried before, with different weapons placed by them, and the skins of their favourite horses stuffed and supported by stakes. A woman is appointed to attend them, keep the skeletons clean, and new cloath them annually. Widows black their faces for a year after their husband's decease.

They allow polygamy; but whoever takes more than three wives is reckoned a libertine. Their caziques, or chiefs, are hereditary: they have power of life and death, but every individual is at liberty to choose a new cazique whenever he pleases; but no man is allowed to live out of the protection of some chief. Eloquence is in high esteem with them. If a cazique wants that talent, he keeps an orator.

This closes the history Mr. Falkener favoured me with; but I must not quit that gentleman without informing you, that he returned to Europe with a suit of Patagonian cloth, a cup of horn, and a little pot made of Chilian copper, the whole fruits the Spaniards left him after the labours of a thirty eight years mission.

Mr. Pennant divides the men inhabiting the country of Patagonia into three different classes, and observes a fourth may be added, which is a mixture of the former. The first is a race of men of the common size. The second exceeds them by a few inches, or perhaps the head. The third is composed of those whose height is so extraordinary as to have occasioned great controversies; yet they are indisputably an *exigent* people. The fourth are a mongrel breed of every size, except that of the original standard; debased by intermixing with the puny tribes of the country, and by their intercourse with Europeans.

At the end is a short paper sent to Mr. Pennant from Admiral Byron, after he had perused the manuscript of the above. M. Bougainville having considered it as a proof that the people whom he saw were the same met with by Mr. Byron; that he found *English knives* in their possession, and which people measured only from five feet ten inches to six feet three; the latter asserts, in this paper, that he never gave a knife

to any of the Patagonians, nor even carried one a shore with him when he saw them. We must observe, he says nothing of having measured them, only that he at this instant believes there is not a man that landed with him, though they were at some distance from them, but would swear they took them to be nine feet high; and adds, 'I do suppose many of them were between seven and eight, and strong in proportion.'

Since we extracted this account we have been informed, that the ingenious Mr. Odman has published a paper, in the Stockholm Gazette, on the same subject, in which his ideas agree almost exactly with those of Father Falkener and Mr. Pennant. After collecting the various opinions on the Patagonian, he concludes in favour of the reality of the existence of this gigantic people: and says, the reason many travellers have missed seeing them is, that they only came to the sea-coast at one period of the year, and live the rest of their time in the inland country.

Observations on the

NATURAL HISTORY OF THE CUCKOO.

By Mr. Edward Jenner.

[From the Philosophical Transactions, vol. 78. for the year 1788.]

TO JOHN HUNTER, Esquire.

DEAR SIR,

HAVING, at your request, employed some of my leisure hours in attending to the natural history of the cuckoo, I beg leave to lay before you the result of my observations, with a hope that they may tend to illustrate a subject hitherto not sufficiently investigated; and should what is here offered prove, in your opinion, deserving the attention of the Royal Society, you will do me the honour of presenting it to that learned body.

The first appearance of cuckoos in Gloucestershire (the part of England where these observations were made) is about the 17th of April. The song of the male, which is well known, soon proclaims its arrival. The song of the female (if the peculiar notes of which it is composed may be so called) is widely different, and has been so little attended to, that I believe few are acquainted with it. I know not how to convey to you a proper idea of it by a comparison with the notes of any other bird; but the cry of the dab-chick bears the nearest resemblance to it.

Unlike the generality of birds, cuckoos do not pair. When a female appears on the wing, she is often attended by two or three

* What effect would such a regulation have in Britain.