

Fortunately we found the herd leisurely feeding in the open not very far away from the farm buildings. They had been rejoined by the two animals which we had disturbed, but the whole herd were coming in for water.

There they stood like great bronze monsters statuesquely surmounting a slight eminence on the grassy plain. It is difficult to accurately describe the impression produced upon the spectator when he first beholds a living buffalo. Something of sentiment will naturally mingle with his thoughts, but apart from the feeling that he is beholding one of the last of a tribe of noble game, practically extinct, he is awed by the massive uncouthness of the animals. Uncouth and monstrous they are, yet noble and grand. A fine specimen of an adult lion in life never fails to impress the spectator, but he realises that it is a huge cat, a gigantic type of a familiar mammal. The buffalo recalls no other animal with which the spectator is acquainted. It is a wholly unfamiliar form, and unlike any other creature which the observer has seen before. For myself I had a feeling akin to that experienced when I have discovered upon some leafy branch a huge caterpillar rearing its bushy head in proud defiance—a strange delight and curiosity. The buffalo struck me as resembling in some features a bull, in others a lion, in others a bear, in others a colossal mule, yet really unlike any of them. His limbs resemble the first ; his mane, the second ; his dark furry head and cheeks, the third ; his body and tail, the last-named. The combination is a grotesque one, yet it is not wholly fanciful, and I was interested recently to find in Hornaday's report on the buffalo, a quotation from a writer in 1724, who gives his impression in these words : "a wonderful combination of diverse animals. It has the crooked shoulders with bunch on its back like a camel, its flanks dry and tail large, and its neck well covered with hair like a lion. It is cloven-footed, its head armed like a bull, which it resembles in fierceness, with no less strength and agility." The effect, at any rate, is as strange as it is impressive. The animals, as already stated, were grouped upon slightly rising ground, and their dark forms contrasted strongly with the