

throughout Europe and in Asia Minor, have recently been illustrated with great research and ability, in a paper communicated by Dr. Charles Wilson to the *Edinburgh Philosophical Journal*; in which also he treats of its ancient and modern relations to pharmacology and medicine, in the use of the *Castoreum*.*

In referring to the origin of the names, both of localities and individuals, naturally traceable to the presence of the beaver he remarks: "Biberach or Biberbach, in Suabia, Merian writes, had its designation from the beavers which had their colonies in a brook or stream in its vicinity. This town was an old *Reichs-stadt*, and, like our Beverley, had long carried the beaver in its armorial insignia. The animal we are told, was first borne *azure*, with a crown *gules*, on a field *argent*; but, in 1487, in consideration of an important service rendered to the Archduke Maximilian, afterwards the Emperor Maximilian I., the citizens acquired the right to have the field *azure*, and the beaver and crown or: a guerdon which we must suppose them to have considered adequate, as they obtained it on petition. There is besides a Bieberach on the Kinzig, a tributary of the Rhine; and on the Rhine itself we have Biebrich, probably the analogue of our *Beferige*, whence our patronymic *Beveridge*."

The ingenious architecture and the social and provident habits of the beaver supply very satisfactory reasons for its selection from among the North American fauna, as the fittest for taking its place among the ordinaries or charges of our provincial escutcheon; but this was probably less thought of than its great importance in the early trade of Canada, and the British American Colonies.

Nevertheless, though the beaver wool of the fashionable hats, to which it gave name, is scarcely less exclusively associated with the early exports of the New World than its tobacco, we have good proof of the use of the beaver's fur for such a purpose, and of a regular European traffic in beaver skins, long prior to the discovery of America, in the fifteenth century. The beaver skin appears indeed to have been from ancient times a royal fur, and her Majesty is still entitled, by royal prerogative, to the skin of the martin, the beaver, and the ermine, though the latter alone has maintained its royal associations. On the continent, the use of the beaver's skin appears to be traceable in the middle of the 14th century; and in "the Tes-

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