NATURAL HISTORY.

From Tiler's Natural History. THE TIGER.

THE tiger has the appellation of royal attached to in for the same reason, we presume, as the lion is honoured with the title of majesty, namely, amazing strength and rapacity, by which he spreads terrors and desolation among the inhabitants of the forest. But surely it is no compliment to royalty to apply the term to such ravenous and savage heasts as that upon the notice of which we are

now entering.

The tiger, though somewhat less than the lion, is scarcely inferior in strength; whilst in the splendour of his clothing, and in the general beausplendour of his clothing, and in the general beauty of his form and appearance, he is greatly superior. There is no other quadruped, perhaps, that is so gaudily attired as the tiger; but, what savage and bloody-thirsty dispositions lie concealed under that gay clothing? The beauty of the tiger's form and marking are lost in the teror that his unmeasured power and insatiable thirst of blood with his suppossing craft in seeking it. blood, with his surpassing craft in seeking it, awaken in the breast. In hair of the tiger is of a bright yellow ground, with transverse streeks of extreme blackness; the whole coat is exceedingly smooth and glessy, while the elegance of his form, with the beauty of his adorning, are deeply calculated to awaken the admiration of the beholder. If all within were as fair as all without, the tiger would be the most favourite quadruped in the world. But clothing, as his levely skin does, the most savage dispositions in the world, his beauties are permitted to waste themselves in the trackless wilds he is doomed to inhabit, shunned

trackless wilds he is doomed to inhabit, shunned and dreaded by all, but especially by man, who alone has the disposition to admire and appreciate the beauty of the tiger's form and colours.

Tigers are not found on the African continent, but they abound in Indie, and are found in some parts of China; whilst in Sumatra they exist in so great numbers that whole villages have been depopulated by their ravages, and all the cattle destroyed. They are said to be the largest and most terocious in Hindostan, where, as well as in Sumatra, they are youtshipped by the supersti-Sumatra, they are worshipped by the supersti-tious inhabitants through fear; though some ac-count it an honour, rather than otherwise, to be devoured by such a creature as a tiger, whose powers are considered as those of a divinity.

Sir S. Raffles gives several accounts of these superstitious fears of the Sumatrans in regard to the tiger. He says, "One of the villagers in the vicinity of Bencoolen told me that his father and grandfather were carried off by tigers; and there is scarcely a family that has not lost some of its members by them. In many places the inhabit-ants appear to have resigned the dominion to the rigers, and take few precautious against them, regarding them as sacred. The natives hold the transmigration of souls, and call the tiger their nene, or grandfather, upon the supposition that the souls of their ancestors are dwelling in the tigers. On the banks of one of the rivers, above a hundred persons were devoured by the tigers in a single year. When the tiger enters a village the people prepare rice and fruits, and place them at the entrance, supposing that the tiger will be pleased with this hospitable reception, and pass on without doing them any harm."

Lady Raffles also says, "The coolies, in passing through a forest, came upon a tiger that was On the banks of one of the rivers, above a

sing through a forest, came upon a tiger that was crouched upon the path, They immediately stop-ped and addressed him in terms of supplication, assuring him they were poor people, carrying the fuan basur, or great man's luggage, who would be very angry with them if they did not arrive in time, and therefore they implored permission to pass on quietly and without molestation. The tiger, being startled at their appearance, got up and walked quietly into the depths of the forest; and they came on perfectly satisfied that it was in consequence of their petition that they passed in

The Sumatrans are roused to attempt the destruction of the tiger by the death of some of their relations, that it has devoured. The tiger sucks the blood of its victim; and the next night it comes again to carry off the carcase into the woods to devour it. The natives sometimes fasten this to a tree to prevent its being removed, and place a vessel of water, mixed with arsenic, besides it, so that the tiger, after satisfying itself with flesh, comes to drink of the water, and is poisoned. Tigers are caught also in strong traps, like cages, with falling doors, within which the animals are enticed by the bait of a goal or a dog. Other devices are employed, too, for their destruction.

Hunting the tiger in India is a popular, but dangerous sport. It is an exercise, however, which is of creat service in that country, and are

which is of great service in that country; and, as the dominion of Europeans has extended there, the race of tigers has rapidly diminished. the rate of ingers has tabley offered a considerable sum, about twenty skillings per head, for every tiger that was killed within their provinces; and a German, of the name of Paul, is said to have kil-led as many as five tigers in one day. They are hunted upon elephants, as horses can very seldom he brought to face a tiger: and elephants are very much frightened, holding up their trunks in the air when they appreach one of these dreadful creatures. The hunters shoot the tigers from their seats on the back of the elephants. The sport is not always successful, as the tiger generally attempts to conceal himself, and escape unscen; but, wounded and roused from his lair, he meets his enemies and death with great courage and fierceness. Tigers take immense leaps, and come often with surprising force upon their enemies. They will sometimes spring with such force upon the head of an elephant as to bring it, with its riders to the ground. The elephant is generally able to shake off the enemy under his feet; when the tiger is crushed at once, or receives a kick which breaks half his ribs, and drives him perhaps twenty paces.

To be continued.

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