

This lovely mother was, at a very early period of her life, deeply and seriously impressed with the importance of religion, and the arrows of conviction were fastened in her heart. '*My mother,*' says she, '*sent me to the dancing-school, and I danced all my convictions away !*' As she lived, so did she die—without Christ in the world."—*Am. Mess.*

NATURAL HISTORY.

No. I.

THE FELINE TRIBE.

Our first articles shall refer to a whole tribe, consisting of the animals which are grouped around the lion, and which is called *feline*, from *felis*, the *common cat*, one of the animals belonging to the group best known to naturalists in this country. The tribe includes, likewise, the tiger, the leopard, the lynx, and many others. They belong to the order *carnivora*, that is, *flesh-devourers* ; and are, among *quadrupeds* (*four-footed* beasts, what the eagle and falcon are among birds. They are essentially carnivorous ; but (unlike the dog, which will eat carrion) they reject food that is putrid, and are, therefore, more fitted for the work of wholesale slaughter. Their instincts and powers admirably agree together. Their frame is vigorous, but active ; their limbs are short, the joints well knit, but supple ; and every motion is easy and graceful. They leap and bound with astonishing velocity. Their foot-fall is silent, as the feet are provided with elastic pads, namely, a large ball or cushion ; and one under each toe. The claws are large, hooked, and sharp ; and, when not in use, drawn within a sheath, so as not to be visible. Their teeth, too, are altogether fitted for their manner of living. The muscles of their limbs possess wonderful power, so that to dash down their prey is an easy task. It has been said that the Bengal tiger has been known to fracture the skull of a man with one stroke of his paw. They possess, likewise, great perfection of the several senses. *Light* : This sense is very acute, adapted for the night as well as the day. The eyes are placed *obliquely*, (the human eyes are placed *horizontally*.) and glare in the dark. Indeed this glare is visible even during the day especially when the animal is enraged ; for the pupil dilates (enlarges) under excitement. *Hearing* : The sense of hearing is very fine and keen, and the entire apparatus of the ears is adapted for this. *Smell* : This sense, also, is in great perfection ; and therefore the nostrils are complicated, and well furnished with nerves. At the same time, these animals are not so distinguished for *scenting* as the *canine* (the *dog*) race. *Taste* : This sense is not very refined. The tongue is rough. In the case of the common cat this is well known. Lions and tigers lick the bones of their prey, to scrape off what particles of flesh may remain on them. *Feeling* :—The long bristles, called *whiskers*, or