

an humble and mortified life; and however refined and exquisite the taste which, through education and the habits of society, any of them had acquired, they learned to subject it to the higher principle of denying themselves to every thing that tended too much to captivate the senses and to increase their love to a world, the fashion whereof they thought was soon to pass away.

Thus discarding all worldly point and luxury, the early professors of the Christian faith strove to cultivate an entire superiority to those carnal pleasures which prevailed among the heathen. But while in the furniture of their houses they used articles of the plainest kind, they came, in process of time, to adopt a more ornamental style of domestic arrangement,—converting, however, the images of idolatry, so universally found in the houses of their pagan countrymen, into emblems of subjects connected with the Christian system.

To be concluded.

ASPECT OF MODERN TIMES.

There are times when the moral world seems to stand still; there are others when it seems impelled towards its goal with accelerated force. The present is a period more interesting, perhaps, than any which has been known. The scenes of Providence thicken upon us so fast, and are shifted with so strange a rapidity, as if the great drama of the world were drawing to a close. Events have taken place of late, and revolutions have been effected, which, had they been foretold a few years ago, would have been viewed as visionary and extravagant; and their influence is yet far from being spent. The empire of darkness and despotism has been smitten with a stroke which has sounded through the universe. When we see the dignity of man rising up from depression, and tyrants trembling on their thrones, who can remain entirely indifferent, or fail to turn his eye towards a theatre so august and extraordinary. These are a kind of throes and struggles of nature, to which it would be a sullenness to refuse our sympathy. New prospects are opening on every side, of such amazing variety and extent, as to stretch farther than the eye of the most enlightened observer can reach. The devout mind will behold in these momentous changes the finger of God; and, discerning in them the dawn of that glorious period in which wars will cease, a non-Christian tyranny fall, will adore the unerring wisdom, whose secret operation never fails to conduct all human affairs to their proper issue, and impels the great actors on that troubled theatre to fulfil, when they east intend it, the counsels of Heaven, and the predictions of its prophets.—*Robert Hall.*

THE TRAVELLER,

AUDUBON, THE NATURALIST.

The following letter from this celebrated person will show his latest movements and discoveries:—

“Latitude 49, 10 N., June 20, 1843,
110 miles above Fort Union.

“TO DR. J. BACHMAN.

“My dear Friend,—It is with a transport of pleasure that I avail myself of this opportunity of sending a letter (by a hunter going down to Fort Union) to impart the gratification I have experienced since the date of my last (at the fort, 13th instant.) I cannot say but that I consider all my toils, troubles, and travels in the wilderness are fully and amply repaid by the discovery of an animal which bids fair to become not only a valuable but a domestic one, although I have been successful in this my last journey in collecting a number more of beautiful specimens of birds, attended, too, with great hardship in some cases; but still they are nothing in comparison with that which I have so lately discovered existing in these regions; and from my own ob-

servations, with the inquiries I have made of the Indians in this neighbourhood relative thereto, I am sure that these animals can be had in great plenty in certain portions of this territory. But I must proceed, as you always expect, with my doings since the date of my last.—We left the fort (Union) on the morning of the 14th instant—a more beautiful day I never beheld. Just picture to yourself a clear sky, and not too warm a sun, with the most beautiful scenery in the world before you, affording wide plains for your researches, filled with the melody of innumerable wild songsters, scented with the delightful perfumes of a thousand variegated and useful plants and herbs, which not only delight the eye by their various hues, but at once show the vast fields that Nature has provided for the use of man and the improvement of science; it was indeed a beautiful subject for reflection, though I cannot say I paid it a just tribute, being so intent on my pursuits. We travelled that day a distance of forty miles, and I procured two more additional and beautiful specimens to my collection, but nature seemed afterwards to be not quite so munificent; continual heavy showers have molested us daily, and it is in a great measure owing to this that I accidentally came upon the animal I am going to describe. Yesterday, about 10 A.M. we saw dark heavy clouds coming from the south east, attended with heavy peals of thunder and vivid lightning, when in the distance, about a mile to the westward, we perceived a large wood or forest, on the borders of a lake, some ten miles in circumference, towards which a number of flocks of birds were directing their course. This led us there, not for the mere purpose of shelter (for that to a man of my pursuits would be feminine), but that we might be enabled among so great a variety of the feathered tribe to procure something in addition to my stock. We had no sooner arrived at the place described than it rained in torrents. My companions placed themselves under shelter of a large tree, while myself, too well aware of the abundance before me of that which I have so long made my study, sallied forth with my fowling piece, with the lock well protected from the rain. I had proceeded the distance of about four hundred paces, when to my horror I heard not far from me a very singular cry, in some measure resembling that of a human being in distress, but much louder. For a moment I did not know what to do, having nothing with me but small shot; however, I was determined to proceed towards the spot from whence the cry arose, and ascertain, if possible, what was the cause, knowing, from its continuance and loudness, that my companions would be attracted thither. I had not advanced many paces to the left, verging on the margin of the lake, before I perceived some animals moving among the trees. I approached very cautiously, and to my surprise saw two beasts engaged in playing or fighting; they appeared there to be of enormous heights when they stood on their hind legs, which I have since ascertained they continually sit on. I remained there watching them a short time, uncertain what to do, when, to my great joy, my friends came up, being attracted by the noise, and having some fears for my safety. Inactive spectators we could not remain, so determined, therefore, to attack them, and, as they then lay exhausted, I thought, if they were not too vicious, I might procure one alive. Filled with this intent, we advanced towards them, and when near they both sprang up and sat on their hind parts, with their forepaws upraised, seeming to threaten descent upon us. One of my companions being somewhat afraid, immediately shot one, and the other bounded off with the most fearful leaps. Another such animal I never saw—your buffaloes or mountain elks are nothing in comparison in the scale of worth. To give you a proper description will be to liken it somewhat in shape to a kangaroo, but varying in many particulars. It sits on its hind legs the same way, but not shaped in the abdominal regions the same; its front legs or arms are short, but armed with sharp claws, and they bound or jump with their hind legs. They have a tail somewhat like that of a sheep, about ten inches long, and round the middle of the body they have a ring of flesh about twelve inches wide, and eight inches thick in the middle or centre, which produces a great quantity of oil. On their heads they have two horns, very similar to the horns of the deer, but not more than eighteen inches long; the head is shaped also very like that of the deer, and has the same kind of

teeth; but what is more remarkable than all the rest, their coat is of the most beautiful fur I ever beheld, of a dark brown colour. The proportions of the one we killed were very great; it weighed, to the best of our calculations, upwards of 600lbs., and it measured from the top of the head to the end of the tail nine feet four inches, which appears to be their full grown size. We had no sooner killed this one than some Indians, attracted by the report of the rifle, joined us. Our interpreter conversed with them; they said that in those woodlands these animals were in great abundance. They called it in their tongue, the ke ko ka ki, or jumper; they feed on grass, herbs or foliage. Upon observing us take off the skin, the Indians expressed a desire to have some of the flesh, which we gave them. We cooked some of the same, and found it delicious; it was very white and tender, tasted very similar to veal, but the ring on the body was nearly all oil, and the whole upper part will produce a great quantity. The Indians took us to their huts or village, which consisted of but six families; there we saw no less than six of these animals domesticated,—two young ones, male and female, which I bartered some beads for, and intend to send them down to the fort by the first opportunity.

“I think, without doubt, in point of usefulness and value, I may pride myself in passing most of my compeers in thus bringing so great a discovery to light. Every information respecting them I shall endeavour to obtain before leaving here.”

THE JEWS OF HEBRON, 1843.

ONE of the principal Jews of Jerusalem had furnished the bishop with a letter of introduction to one of the chief Jews of Hebron, for whose house he now enquired. And glad we were when finally the house was shown to us, and we were ushered into the room, where we found the bishop and Mr. Roland sitting at a coal fire. Thus we found ourselves in the city where Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob dwelt, sojourning under the hospitable roof of a son of Abraham. Our hostess, a native of Poland, soon brought us some supper, after which we lay down to rest.

Early in the morning on the following day, being Saturday, we saw the Jews going to their synagogues. The bishop, Mr. Roland, and myself soon joined them. Mr. Blackburn being indisposed, was obliged to keep in the house. The first synagogue we visited belonged to the saphardim; it bore marks of antiquity, but we could discover the date when it was built. It has two shrines containing the law of Moses, handsomely decorated, the gift of a pious Jew of another country. The name of the giver is engraved on a silver or gold plate hanging on each roll. There were also various curtains before the shrines, embroidered with gold, where also the name of the giver is visible. Over the reading-desk is the following inscription in Hebrew: ‘O man, why continuest thou in sin, and dost not reflect that the day of death will certainly appear, when the angel of death will approach thee, and take thy soul from thee. I do not ask whether thou art old or young, thou livest after thy heart’s desire, but death will quickly overtake thee!’ Around the reading desk, Psalm cxxx. was inscribed in Hebrew.

After we had remained here for a little while, we went into another synagogue, which belongs to the German Jews; it is a very small one; the third we visited belongs to the same community. These are the only synagogues at Hebron. We then returned to the first synagogue, and remained there until the end of the service. The portion of scripture which they read to-day, was Exodus x. xi. xii. xiii.

After the service was finished, the bishop addressed some Jews in one part of the synagogue, while I did the same in another. We were glad to find they were willing to enter into conversation. The topics of our conversation were of course, Christ crucified, Christ glorified, and the promises of God towards Israel, if they turn in repentance to him.

We gave away several appropriate tracts. Most of the Jews now left the synagogue, and went into the jeshiba, to read the portion of the Talmud. We followed them thither, and here again the bishop addressed one party, whilst I conversed with another; and thus a regular discussion took place. I said, ‘you have this day read in the synagogue, that God commanded you