

exclusively Asiatic. Hindostan may be considered as its head-quarters ; but it is common in the larger islands, as Sumatra, where it is a fearful scourge.

The tiger is equal in size to the lion, but is of a more elongated form, and pre-eminently graceful. The head, also, is shorter, and more rounded. The average height is from three feet six inches to four feet. The general tint of the fur is of a fine yellow, or reddish yellow, ornamented by a series of transverse black bands, or stripes ; which occupy the sides of the head, neck and body, are continued on the tail in the form of rings : the under parts of the body, and inner parts of the limbs, are almost white.

Active, powerful, and ferocious, the tiger is more to be dreaded than the lion, because it is more insidious in its attacks, and also prowls abroad by day as well as by night. In some districts in India and Sumatra, its ravages are frightful. It is said that in the province of Khandesh, from 1825 to 1829, (inclusive,) one thousand and thirty-two were killed. In Samutra the natives have an opinion that they are animated by the souls of their ancestors, and therefore seldom attempt its destruction ; but in India, tiger-hunting is a favourite sport. The horse will seldom stand steady when near this dreadful beast. It is to the armed riders on elephants that the dangerous work of rousing up the tiger from the jungle-covert is left, and of firing at him as he bounds along ; but when wounded or hard pressed, he will turn with great fury, and by springing on the animal's head or shoulders, endeavour to reach his antagonists. The agitation of the elephants, which often lose all obedience to control at such a moment, together with the rapidity of the attack, render this a critical juncture, and fatal accidents have ensued. Instances are on record in which men have been carried off by tigers while traveling in company with others.

Those who have represented the tiger as incapable of being tamed, have no ground for the assertion. Yet with the tiger, lion, and such animals, the greatest caution should be used. Their natural disposition is ever ready to break out, and the mildest will sometimes show the race to which they belong.

Neither the tiger nor the lion is capable of climbing trees : their prey is therefore exclusively confined to antelopes, deer, oxen, horses, and the like.

THE LEOPARD, AND PANTHER.

These are confounded together, and there are difficulties in concluding whether they are distinct species, or not. In both there are rosettes, or spots of a rose form, on a fine yellow ground ; but in the size and minor arrangement of these spots there is the greatest variation.

Nothing can exceed the grace and activity of these animals. They bound with astonishing ease, climb trees, swim ; and the flexibility of