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NATURAL HISTORY.

THE WOLF.

This animal is something larger than the English breed of mastiffs, being in length, from the tip of his nose to the insertion of his tail, about three feet seven inches long, and about two feet five inches high. He appears, in every respect, stronger than the dog; and the length of his hair contributes still more to his robust appearance. The color of his eye-balls is of a fiery green, which gives his visage a fierce and formidable air. Externally and internally the wolf so much resembles the dog, that naturalists formerly considered them to be the same animal. But, singular as it may appear, there exists between them the most perfect and uncompromising antipathy.

The wolf is one of those animals whose appetite for animal food is the most vehement, and whose means of satisfying this appetite are the most various. Nature has furnished him with strength, cunning, agility, and all those requisites which fit an animal for pursuing, overtaking, and conquering its prey; and yet, with all these, it most frequently dies of hunger, for it is the declared enemy of man. He is naturally dull and cowardly; but being frequently disappointed, and as often reduced to the verge of famine, he becomes ingenious from want, and courageous from necessity. When pursued with hunger, he braves danger, and comes to attack those animals which are under the protection of man; particularly such as he can readily carry away. When this excursion has succeeded, he often returns to the charge, until, having been wounded, or hard pressed by the dogs or the shepherds, he hides himself by day in the thickest coverts, and only ventures out at night. He then sallies forth over the country, keeps peering round the villages, carries off such animals as are not under protection, attacks the sheep-folds, scratches up and undermines the thresholds of doors where they are housed, enters furiously, and destroys all before he begins to fix upon and carry off his prey. When these sallies do not succeed, he returns to the thickest part of the forest, content to pursue those smaller animals which, even when taken, afford him but a scanty supply. He there goes regularly to work, follows by the scent, opens to the view, still keeps following, hopeless himself of overtaking the prey, but expecting that some other wolf will come in to his assistance, and is content to share the spoil. At last, when his necessities are very urgent, he boldly faces certain destruction; he attacks women and children, and sometimes ventures even to fall

upon men, becomes furious by his continual agitations, and ends his life in madness.

The scripture account of this animal corresponds precisely with the description furnished by naturalists. His ignoble and rapacious disposition is alluded to in the patriarch's character of the tribe of Benjamin: 'Benjamin is a ravening wolf: in the morning he shall devour the prey, and in the evening he shall divide the spoil.' Genesis xlix. 27. The whole history of the tribe shows the propriety of this application. Possessing some courage, and much ferocity, they were often embroiled in quarrels and petty warfare with the neighboring tribes; and feelings of desperation, under circumstances which their own conduct had created, sometimes impelled them to attempt and effect feats of extraordinary valor. See Judges xx. 20.

The iniquitous and rapacious conduct of the rulers of Israel, in the times of Ezekiel and Zephaniah, is most expressively described by a reference to this animal. 'Her princes in the midst thereof,' says the former prophet, 'are like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, and to destroy the souls, to get dishonest gain,' ch. xxii. 27. The latter prophet adds another circumstance, which materially illustrates the character of the wolf: 'Her princes within her are roaring lions, her judges are evening wolves; they gnaw out the bones till the morrow,' ch. iii. 3. That is, 'Instead of protecting the innocent, and restraining the evil doer, or punishing him according to the demerit of his crimes, they delight in violence and oppression, in blood and rapine; and so insatiable is their cupidity, that, like the evening wolf, they destroy more than they are able to possess: they gnaw not the bones till the morrow; or, so much do they delight in carnage, that they reserve the bones till next day, for a sweet repast.'

To its nocturnal wanderings and attacks, when it is more than ordinarily fierce and sanguinary, Jeremiah alludes, in his threatenings against the ungodly members of the Jewish Church: 'Wherefore a wolf of the evenings shall spoil them,' (ch. v. 6); as does also Habbakuk, in his terrible description of the Chaldean invasion: 'Their horses also are swifter than the leopards, and are more fierce than the evening wolves,' ch. i. 8.

The morose and unsocial traits in the character of the wolf, will help us to form some conception of the mighty change which the doctrines of the gospel must effect in the character and dispositions of men, to justify the figurative and beautiful language of the evangelical prophet: 'The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb,' (Isa. xi. 6); and an attachment will be formed between them,

for 'they shall eat together,' ch. lxxv. 20. See also Muts. x. 16; Luke x. 3; John x. 12.

From what has been said, the reader may form an opinion of the character of those false teachers, whose object was to 'make a gain of godliness,' in the primitive church, and whom the blessed Redeemer, as well as inspired apostles, designates *wolves*. 'Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves,' Matt. vii. 15. 'I know,' says Paul to the elders of the Ephesian church, 'I know that after my departure shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock,' Acts xx. 29

THE JUNGLE.

AN INDIAN STORY.

Europeans who reside in India, live in a very splendid manner, and when they take long journeys, their encampments form a striking scene. As the towns are far apart, and there are no inns, travellers are to depend on the hospitality of their countrymen, and where these are not to be found, upon their own resources. Travellers in India are obliged to provide themselves with all the comforts of their homes; and those in a higher rank, traverse immense tracts of country, attended like the patriarchs of old by immense trains of servants, beasts of burden, and household moveables.

The domestic in India, unlike those of England, can scarcely ever be put out of their way; each man has his own peculiar office to perform, and thinks of nothing else, so that superb accommodations and repasts may be found in the midst of tangled wildernesses, where apparently the foot of man has never trod before. It is no uncommon circumstance for a party of friends to betake themselves to the woods, some in pursuit of novelty, and others attracted by the love of sport. It was in the cold season that a few of the civil and military officers belonging to the station of—, agreed to make a shooting excursion in the vicinity of Agra; and gave occasion to an animated scene. A convenient spot had been selected for the tents, beneath the spreading branches of a huge banyan; peacocks glittered in the sun upon the lower boughs, and troops of monkeys grinned and chattered above. The horses were fastened under the surrounding trees, and there fanned off the insects with their long flowing tails, and paved the ground with their graceful feet; farther off stood a stately elephant, watching the progress of his evening repast preparing by his driver, and taking under his especial protection the pets of his master, a small dog, a handsome