

which appeared at first to be a malformation was shown to be a beautiful adaptation to the necessities of the animal. The huge webbed hind feet of the beaver turn in so as to give the appearance of deformity ; but if the toes were straight instead of being incurved, the animal could not use them for the purpose of keeping its fur in order and cleansing it from dirt and moisture.

"Binny generally carried small and light articles between his right fore leg and his chin, walking on the other three legs ; and large masses, which he could not grasp readily with his teeth, he pushed forward, leaning against them with his right fore paw and his chin. He never carried anything on his tail, which he liked to dip in water, but he was not fond of plunging in the whole of his body. If his tail was kept moist, he never cared to drink ; but if it was kept dry, it became hot, and the animal appeared distressed, and would drink a great deal. It is not impossible that the tail may have the power of absorbing water, like the skin of frogs, though it must be owned that the scaly integument which invests that member has not much of the character which generally belongs to absorbing surfaces.

"Bread, and bread and milk, and sugar, formed the principal part of Binny's food ; but he was very fond of succulent fruits and roots. He was a most entertaining creature, and some highly comic scenes occurred between the worthy, but slow beaver, and a light and airy Macauco that was kept in the same apartment."

An animal so sociable in his habits ought to be affectionate ; and very affectionate the beaver is said to be. Deage mentions two young ones which were taken alive and brought to a neighboring factory in Hudson's Bay, where they thrived very fast until one of them was killed accidentally. The survivor instantly felt the loss, began to moan, and abstained from food until it died. Mr. Bullock mentioned to the narrator a similar instance which fell under his notice in North America. A male and female were kept together in a room, where they lived happily till the male was deprived of his partner by death. For a day or two he appeared to be hardly aware of his loss, and brought food and laid it before her. At last, finding that she did not stir, he covered her body with twigs and leaves, and was in a pining state when Mr. Bullock lost sight of him.

The specimens in the garden were sent to the Society from