

they have asked, and grant them all the things which they have wished for from day to day. On behalf of all the women and children we hope that through thy great power Thou wilt extend Thy blessing unto them. Have mercy on all those around us, all Thy people and their children. We ask thy consideration not only for these people, but for those throughout the world, may Thou give them Thy unbounded blessing. Send us all the protection of human livelihood for the Summer now approaching that all the fruits and plants may mature for the health and life of mankind, that the production may be as good as when you first created the earth, so that when the Summer comes our children may enjoy the blessings of Thy fruits. Multiply the grain which Thou hast bestowed upon mankind for the use of all. When Thou first created the world Thou also created the herbs and plants for our life, may we use them property and according to Thy desire. Thou hast seen the number assembled here, which, though few are still asking the same blessings as their forefathers have done. We know that everything depends upon Thy hands for the disposal of life and death may thou extend to us as heretofore Thy blessing and mercy. May we according to these offerings please Thee, may Thou harken unto our words." At the ending of this speech an exclamation of approval burst from all present. The orator spoke in a clear musical voice, but at no time raised it to a high pitch, he never hesitated and seemed to have a great command of words. After seeing that the dog and tobacco had been reduced to ashes, they left the place of sacrifice. The addresses to the Great Spirit during the burning of the white dog in earlier days embodied many more thanksgivings, as they returned thanks for every object which was of the slightest value to them, but the sixth day is of more consequence now, and the speeches delivered on that day embrace nearly every part which was left out in the great thanksgiving address.

(To be Continued.)

## Natural History.

### THE BUFFALO.

Is a species of horned animal, which by its appearance seems to be of the cow kind, and in its form bears the most striking general resemblance to the common ox. Its habits and propensities are also similar, with respect to its aptitude for domestic uses, as both are equally submissive to the yoke; yet no two species of animals can be in reality more distinct; and they have the most singular antipathy against each other, which appears the more extraordinary, as nothing of the kind is observed between the common cow and the bison, although they resemble each other much less in form.

The buffalo is not so beautiful an animal as our common ox, his figure being more clumsy, his body thicker and shorter, and his legs, in proportion, longer; his head, which he carries nearer the ground, is smaller than that of the cow; his horns are not so round, nor is his body so thickly covered with hair. The flesh of the buffalo is described by some as hard and unpal-

atable, and exhaling a disagreeable smell. Sparman, on the contrary, says, that the flesh is coarse, and rather lean, but full of juice, of a high but not unpleasant flavour. In regard to this, much may depend on the caprice for taste as well as on the difference of climate and feeding; for experience proves, that these circumstances have a powerful influence on all animals especially those of the horned kind, with respect to their size and shape, the nature of their flesh and the quality of their other productions. The innumerable shades of difference, produced in the same species of animals by the influence of soil and climate, and other adventitious circumstances, are every where observable, and admit of an endless variety: it is, therefore, no wonder that naturalists as well as travellers, should differ in the description of minute particulars. All, however, agree that the buffalo brings forth no more than one calf at a time, and that its period of gestation is twelve months, which evidently proves it to be a distinct species from the cow.

A very singular circumstance, relative to these animals, is recorded by those who completed the last voyage of Captain Cook to the Pacific Ocean. When at Pulo Condore, they procured eight buffaloes, which were to be conducted to the ships by ropes, put through their nostrils, and round their horns. But when these were brought within sight of the ship's people, they became so furious, that some of them tore out the cartilage of their nostrils, and set themselves at liberty; and others broke down even the shrubs to which it was frequently found necessary to fasten them. All attempts to get them on board would have proved fruitless, had it not been for some children whom the animals would suffer to approach them and by whose puerile management their rage was quickly appeased: and when the animals were brought to the beach, it was by their assistance, in twisting ropes about their legs, that the men were able to throw them down, and by that means get them into the boats. And what appears to have been no less singular than this circumstance, was, that they had not been a day on board before they became perfectly gentle.

The wild buffalo is found in India, and in many parts of Africa, especially towards the Cape of Good Hope. These are a formidable tribe, and it is impossible to escape their fury, otherwise than by climbing into some large tree, as they will break down one of a moderate growth. Many travellers have been instantly gored to death, and trampled to pieces under their feet. They run with amazing speed, and cross the largest rivers without difficulty. Professor Shemberg tells us, that when travelling in Caffraria he and his companions had just entered a wood, when they discovered a large old male buffalo, lying alone in a spot that, for the space of some few yards was free from bushes. The animal no sooner observed the guide, who went first, than with a horrid roar he rushed upon him. The man, turning his horse short round, behind a large tree, the buffalo rushed straight forward to the next man, and gored his horse so dreadfully in the belly that it died soon after. The two men climbed up into trees, and the furious animal made his way towards the rest, of whom the Professor was one, who were

approaching but at some distance. A horse without a rider, was in the front: as soon as the buffalo saw him he became more outrageous than before, he attacked him with such fury that he not only drove his horns into the horse's breast, but even out again through the saddle. This horse was thrown to the ground with such violence, that he died instantly, having many of his bones broken. Just at this moment, the Professor happened to come up; but from the narrowness of the path, having no room to turn round, he was glad to abandon his horse, and take refuge in a tolerably high tree. The buffalo however, had finished; for after the destruction of the second horse, he turned suddenly round and galloped away.

Some time after this, the Professor and his party perceived an extremely large herd of buffaloes grazing in a plain. As they were now well acquainted with the disposition of these animals, and knew that they would not attack any person on the open plains, they approached within forty paces and fired amongst them. The whole troop, notwithstanding the individual fierceness and boidness of the animals, surprised by the sudden flash and report, turned about and made off to the woods. The wounded buffaloes not able to keep up with the rest of the herd, were separated from them. Amongst these was an old buffalo, which ran with fury towards the party. They knew that from the situation of the eyes of these animals, they could see in scarcely any other direction than straight forward; and that, in an open plain, if a man was pursued, darted out of the course and threw himself flat on the ground, they would gallop forward to a considerable distance before they missed him. These circumstances prevented their taking any material alarm. The animal, from this contrivance, passed close by them, and fell before he appeared to have discovered his error. Such, however, was his strength, that, notwithstanding the ball had entered his chest, and penetrated through the greatest part of his body, he ran at full speed several hundred paces before he fell.

The hunters kill the buffaloes by firing on them from the tops of trees, with balls partly composed of tin, as the hide of this animal is too hard to be penetrated by a common musket ball. The hide of the buffalo is very valuable, and the leather made from it is much esteemed for its smoothness, impenetrability and duration—qualities which render it excellent for harness.

This animal, although so wild and formidable in a state of nature, is very easily tamed: it is patient and persevering, and being endowed with great strength, is very serviceable for the draught. In Italy, the buffalo is domesticated, and constitutes a considerable part of the wealth and the food of the lower sort of the peasantry, who use them for the purposes of agriculture, and make butter and cheese from their milk, which is, however, reckoned inferior to that of the cow. Buffaloes are also found in a tame state in many parts of the east, as well as in Italy. It is observed by D'Obsonville, that it is a singular sight to see large herds of them, morning and evening, cross the Tigris and Euphrates. They proceed all wedged together, the herdsman riding on one of them, sometimes standing upright, and sometimes crouching down, and if any of those on the outside straggle or lag behind, stepping lightly from back to back to drive them along. Thus it appears, that the buffalo, although naturally fierce and terrible when wild, is, by the management of man, rendered an useful animal, and a valuable gift of the bountiful Creator.