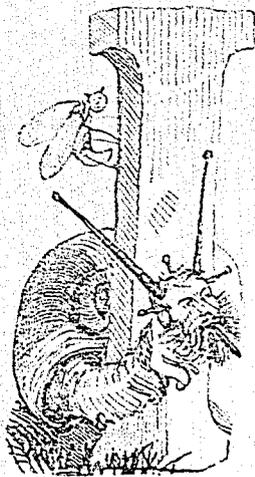


NATURAL HISTORY SERIES.

No 2.



Our last number we concluded by naming a few of the species into which the genus "man" is divided, the peculiarities and attributes of which we will now proceed to consider.

Of these, the "king" is the noblest, the most feared and respected; the one whose blood is the purest, whose fur is the sleekest, whose roar is the loudest, and whose nod is the most profound. On account of these magnificent qualities he is called the chief of all other species.

Concerning the origin of the term "king," a very interesting legend, on parchment, is still preserved in the British Museum, which, we believe, is not generally known. It is in substance as follows:—In the early days of that wonderful hive of industry, now known as Great Britain, a little before, or a little after the time (not to be very precise),

"When the British Warrior Queen," &c.,

the inhabitants of the island found themselves without a chief, the last one, the only surviving member of his family, having been killed in a battle fought against one of the most barbarous tribes of the north, who, in spite of many defeats, were continually harassing their Southern neighbours by making incursions among them, and carrying off their property. After his death they became still bolder, descending Southward in large numbers, slaughtering whole families, burning their homes, destroying their crops, and carrying off everything that was of any value, so that many, from actual want, were forced to become outlaws themselves, and to waylay and plunder for an existence, till at last all were reduced to a pitiable state of suffering, and destitution, and anarchy reigned supreme.

At this lamentable crisis, a stranger appeared among them, whose manner and appearance showed him to be no ordinary person. He was above the average height, well built, with

"Coal black hair and flashing eyes,
And step of stately mien."

and had withal the air of one who would not shrink from any task, no matter how hazardous, while there was anything to be gained by pursuing it.

This stranger, deploring the condition to which a country so bountifully endowed by nature was reduced, travelled from one end of it to the other, exhorting the inhabitants to unite against the common enemy, and promising to lead them himself, and do all in his power to rid them of the misery which had come upon them. This he succeeded in doing so effectually, that he not only cleared the land of the barbarians, but "carrying the war into Africa," reduced the enemy to such a state of subjection, that all apprehension of danger from them, for the future, was entirely removed. He then returned South, and, by precept and example, succeeded in

restoring the arts of peace and comforts of prosperity throughout the land.

So popular did he become by these exploits, that the people looked upon him as a supernatural being, sent by heaven for their relief, and became desirous of making him chief over them. To this end a large number came to him, and addressed him as follows:—O, Divine Being! the tribes of this land which thou hast relieved from misery and oppression, have sent us to entreat, that thou wilt take upon thee the government of it, and to say that they are *aking* (a Saxon word, signifying that they considered him "a fit and proper person") to make thee chief over it." This strange being, Caesar-like, refused "the crown," upon which they all shouted "*aking*," until finally he accepted it, since which time the chief ruler of that people has been called a *king*.

It is from this remarkable being, also, that the idea of the Divine Right of the species had its origin,—an idea, which, however, had lost much of its popularity, owing, no doubt, to great numbers of his descendants having displayed a marvellous lack of divinity, and to whom even the term "*aking*" was horribly misapplied. Many, indeed, have proved themselves to be so fierce in their desires, and of natures so rapacious, as, not only to devour their subjects, but afterwards to eat their own heads off,—a feat only approached by that of the fox, which, after ravaging all the hen-roosts in his neighbourhood, endeavoured to live by gnawing his own brush, and died of consumption. But there is, after all, a peculiarity about the species which distinguishes them from all others, and which it is very difficult to counterfeit, as has been frequently proved. Thus, a fellow named Warwick, a man of considerable inventive genius, who had, about the 16th century, thinking to profit thereby, procured a couple of jackals, and tricked them out to resemble the real animal so well, that large numbers were for a time deceived, but the cheat was soon discovered, and Warwick was obliged to retire into obscurity. It is supposed that he emigrated to America, and that they were some of his descendants who invented the "woolly horse," and whose researches discovered an animal—now very common—resembling in some respects the "king" of the old world.

This latter species is not found on this continent—it may be on account of the severity of the climate, or, perhaps, owing to the roughness of the country, and coarseness of its products, which are not suited to its refined tastes and luxurious habits. It rarely ever descends to menial occupations, though many have been known to hunt their own game, and a few even to "cook their own goose"; but these have been exceptional instances. The animal discovered in this country, as mentioned above, resembles, in some respects, the "king" of the old world, though it does not possess the same noble qualities, bearing, in fact, about the same comparison to it as lacquered work does to pure gold. The result is, that, though it takes the place of it, in some parts of the New World, it seldom lasts in that capacity more than three or four years, by which time the lacquer appears to wear off, and betray the baseness of its composition.

A man with a corn—A unicorn.