

ANECDOTE OF THE LATE KING OF PRUSSIA.

A Prussian lieutenant-colonel, whose regiment had been disbanded at the end of the war of 1756, was constantly soliciting his majesty to be again put on the establishment, and became so troublesome that he was forbidden the court. Soon after, a libel appeared against his majesty; and Frederick, however indulgent he was to transgressions of this kind, was so much offended with the audacity of this, that he offered a reward of fifty gold fredericks to any person who would discover the author. The lieutenant-colonel sent in his name to the king, signifying that he had an important piece of intelligence to give. He was admitted. "Sire," he said, "you have promised fifty gold fredericks to the person who would discover the author of such a libel—I am the man; I lay my head at your feet; but keep your royal word, and while you punish the criminal, send to my poor wife and wretched children the sum you promised to the informer." His majesty already knew who was the author of the libel: he was affected with the desperate extremity to which necessity had obliged an otherwise estimable officer to have recourse; but he had owned himself guilty.—"Go (said the monarch) instantly to Spandau, and under the locks of that fortress, wait the just effects of the wrath of your sovereign."—"I obey, sire; but the fifty gold fredericks."—"In two hours your wife shall receive them. Take this letter, and deliver it to the governor of Spandau; but enjoin him not to open it until after dinner." The lieutenant-colonel arrived at the dreadful castle assigned him for his abode, and declared himself a prisoner.—When the desert was upon the table, the governor opened the letter; it contained these words;—"I give the command of Spandau to the bearer of this letter; he will soon see his wife and children arrive with the fifty gold fredericks. The present governor of Spandau will go to B——in the same quality; I bestow that recompense upon him, in consideration of his services."

THE HEAD OF THE ELEPHANT.

A vulgar admiration is excited by seeing the spider monkey pick up a straw or a piece of wood with its tail, or the elephant searching the keeper's pocket with his trunk. Now, fully to examine the peculiarity of the elephant's structure, that is to say, from its huge mass to deduce the necessity for its trunk, would lead us through a train of very curious observations to a more correct notion of that appendage, and, therefore, to truer admiration of it. We find that one of the grinders of the elephant weighs seventeen pounds; and, of these there are four in the skull, besides the rudiments of others. We next observe how admirably these grinding-teeth are suited to sustain great pressure and attrition. The jaws must be provided to give deep socketing to such

teeth; and they must have space and strength to give lodgment and attachment to muscles sufficient for moving this grinding machine. The animal must have its defence too. Now each of the tusks sometimes weighs as much as one hundred and thirty pounds; and being projected, they may be considered as if placed at the end of a lever. If this enormous and heavy head had hung on the end of a neck having any thing like the proportion in its length, which we see, for example, in the horse, it would inordinately have increased the pressure of the anterior extremities, and more than four times the expenditure of muscular power would have been necessary to the motion of the head. What has been the resource of nature? There are seven vertebrae of the neck in this animal, the same number that we find in the giraffe; but they are compressed in a very remarkable manner, so as to bring the head close upon the body; and thus the head is, as it were, a part of the body, without the interposition of the neck. But the animal must feed; and, as its head cannot reach the ground it must possess an instrument like a hand in the proboscis, to minister to the mouth, to grasp the herbage, and lift it to its lips.—Thus we perceive, that the form of the elephant, as far as regards the peculiar character in the shoulders and head, the closeness of the head to the body, the possession of the proboscis, and the defence of that proboscis by the projecting tusks, is a necessary consequence of the weight of the head, and, indeed, of the great size of the animal.—*Sir Charles Bell on the Hand.*

THE CURSE OF PHARAOH.

I have omitted to mention that the curse provoked by Pharaoh still rests upon the land of Egypt, and that rats, fleas, and all those detestable animals into which Aaron converted the sands, are still the portion of the traveller and sojourner in Egypt. I had suffered considerably during the last four days, but not willing to loose a favourable wind, had put off, resorting to the usual means of relief. To-night, however, there was no enduring it any longer—the rats ran, shrieked, and shouted, as if celebrating a jubilee on account of some great mortality among the cats, and the lesser animals came upon me as if the rod of Aaron had been lifted for my special affliction.—*Stephens' Incidents of Travel in the Holy Land, Egypt, Edom, &c.*

Snuff-taking in a woman is abominable, unless she be very aged—say eighty, or upwards—when it is rather becoming than otherwise.

The best tooth-powder in the world is the Armenian bole, a penny worth of which will serve a man for six months.