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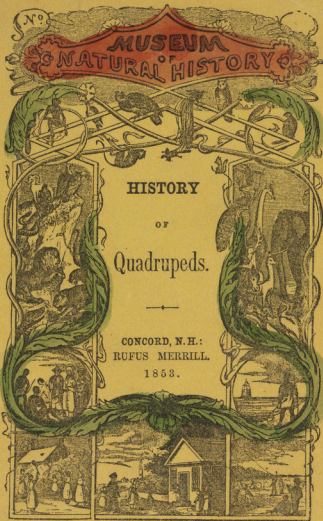
HISTORY

OF

Quadrupeds.

CONCORD, N. H.:
RUFUS MERRILL.

1853.



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OF

QUADRUPEDS.



CONCORD, N. H.:

PUBLISHED BY MERRIAM & MERRILL.

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History of Quadrupeds.

THE DEER.



WID you ever see this beautiful animal, my child? When I was a boy, in the new country, I used often to find wild deer in my father's pasture, with the oxen and horses, sometimes seeing twenty or thirty together. They were not afraid of a horse, and, when riding, I would bend forward upon the horse's neck, so as not to be seen, and sometimes ride close up to them, with their lofty, branching horns, their long, slim ears, and their keen, black eye always on the look-out for an enemy. When alarmed, they raise their heads and run with surprising swiftness, leaping high fences at a single bound, without touching, as easy as you jump the rope.

THE ORANG-OUTANG.



OF all other animals, the Orang-Outang most nearly approaches to the human race. It is seen of different sizes, from three to seven feet high. In general, however, its stature is less than that of a man's, but its agility and strength much greater. Travellers, who have seen various kinds of these animals in their native solitude, give us surprising relations of their force, their swiftness, their address, and their ferocity. From a picture so like that of the human species, we are naturally led to expect a corresponding mind; and it is certain that such of these animals as have been shown in Europe, have discovered a degree of imitation beyond what any quadruped can arrive at.

That which was seen by Edwards showed even a superior degree of sagacity. It walked, like all of its kind, upon two legs, even though it carried burdens. Its air was melancholy and deportment grave. Unlike the baboon or monkey, whose motions are violent and appetites

capricious, who are fond of mischief, and obedient only from fear, this animal was slow in its motions, and a look was sufficient to keep it in awe. I have seen it, says Buffon, give its hand to show the company to the door. I have



seen it sit at table, unfold its napkin, wipe its lips, make use of the spoon and the fork to carry the victuals to its mouth, and pour out its drink into a glass, without any other instigation than the signs or the command of its master.



THE FOX.

THERE was once a boy who had a young fox,
Shut up, all the time, in a great wooden box ;
Ned Jones brought it down from its hole on the
hill,
And the children all thought it was too pretty
to kill.,
Ned had killed its poor mother by striking her
head,
And dug out this fox from its warm little bed.
At first it was cross and wanted to bite,
For it thought that Ned Jones was not doing
right.
But Ned tied its foot with a string made of yarn,
And kept it awhile in a tub in the barn ;

And he told all the children about it, one day,
When they went out at recess to jump and to
play.

Then Ned took a box, that was just made and
clean,

And brought the fox in it out on to the green.
It looked very cunning, and held up its head,
And the children all wanted to get it of Ned.

He said (if his father was perfectly willing)
He would sell both the box and the fox for a
shilling.

So Harry, who had twenty cents in his pocket
Paid Ned sixteen cents for the fox, and then
took it.

Then he carried it home and let out the fox,
And fastened the string to the top of the box.
The fox pulled the string, and thought it would
break;

But all he could do only made the box shake.

One day, when his master was gone off to play,
He gnawed off the string, and then ran away.
He dug a new hole in the woods with his feet,
And came and caught geese, hens and chickens
to eat.

When Harry found out how the fox got away,
He wished he had staid and not gone off to play.

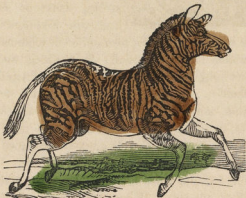
THE ZEBRA.



IN size, the Zebra is much smaller than the horse, but is of the horse kind. No animal is more beautiful than the zebra. His hair is short, fine and shining, and the black and yellow stripes not only cover his body, but his head, face and ears, so that at a distance he appears as if he was adorned with ribbons. In the forests of Africa, where he lives in a wild state, he will run so swift that it requires a smart horse to keep up with him. Large herds of them are sometimes seen feeding together. While some are eating, others keep watch to see that no enemy, whether man or beast, comes near. If those on the watch see a man, or a ferocious beast, they instantly give the alarm to others, and the whole herd run away with such swiftness that no animal can come up with them. The skin of the zebra sells at a great price, on account of its singular beauty and scarcity. The animal itself is also highly prized as a curiosity, and is sometimes bought for a large sum,

and carried about as a show, and exhibited with other wild animals.

The zebra can run as fast as the horse, but the horse is kind to his rider, and carries him with pleasure; while the zebra, if one gets on his back, rears up, and throws him off if he can. He is so obstinate and fierce that he cannot be made to work at all.



Mr. Buffon says that he saw a zebra in Paris, and that when the animal came there he was extremely wild and fierce, but that afterwards he became a little more tame, so that when two men held him by the bridle another man would venture to get upon his back. This creature could not be any further tamed.

THE ARMADILLO.



OUTH America is the native place of the Armadillo, in which country there are several varieties of them. They are all covered with a strong crust or shell, and are distinguished from each other by the number of flexible bands of which it is composed. It is about twelve inches long, and eight broad, and is a harmless, inoffensive animal, living in burrows underground, which it seldom quits but at night. Roots, fruit, and other vegetables are its food. It grows very fat, and is greatly esteemed for the delicacy of its flesh.

The Indians hunt it with small dogs, trained for that purpose. When surprised, it runs to its hole; or, if it cannot reach that, it attempts to make a new one, which it does with great expedition, having strong claws on its fore feet, with which it adheres so firmly to the ground, that, if it is caught by the tail, whilst making its way into the earth, its resistance is so great that it will sometimes leave it in the

hands of its pursuers. To avoid this the hunter has recourse to artifice; and, by tickling it with a stick, it gives up its hold, and suffers itself to be taken alive. If no other means of escape be left, it rolls itself up within its covering, by drawing in its head and legs, and bringing its tail round them as a band, to connect them more forcibly together; in this situation it



sometimes escapes by rolling itself over the edge of a precipice, in which case it generally falls to the bottom unhurt. When found in its hole, it is either smoked out, or expelled by pouring in water. When its pursuers, however, begin to dig for it, it eludes them by digging at the same time, and throwing the earth behind it, which it does so effectually as to prevent smoke from penetrating.



THE FENNEC.

THIS animal was first made known to European naturalists by Bruce, who obtained one at Algiers. He kept it alive for several months. Its favorite food was dates, or any other sweet fruit; it was also very fond of eggs; when hungry, it would eat bread, especially with honey or sugar. His attention was immediately attracted if a bird flew near him, and he would watch it with an eagerness that could hardly be diverted from its object; but he was dreadfully afraid of a cat, and endeavored to hide himself the moment he saw an animal of that species. Bruce never heard that he had any voice. During the day he was inclined to sleep, but became restless and exceedingly unquiet at night.

THE DOG.



NO animal becomes so very strongly attached to his master as the dog. He never proves a false friend to him, nor does he ever leave him to find a new master, though treated ever so badly. Men will sometimes leave their friends in poverty and distress, but the dog never quits his friend as long as he lives, and when he dies has been known to mourn himself to death at the loss.

He will defend his master with the same fierceness as he would defend himself. He loves him as well as he loves himself.

When his master gives him his coat or any other thing to take care of, the faithful animal will defend it with all his might, and will bite any one who tries to take it from him.

It is said that the watch-dog often knows a thief from an honest man by his actions, when he has come to steal.

The honest man walks boldly along, and fears nothing, because he is honest. But the thief looks ashamed, and acts as though he was

afraid. The dog sees this difference between them, and lets the honest man go, but holds the thief, and bites him if he tries to get away. He sees a difference in the dresses of people. If a well-dressed stranger comes to his master's house, the sagacious animal will let him pass, and say nothing; but if a beggar comes, with a pack on his back, he growls and stops him at the gate.



The dog is everywhere the friend and companion of man. He, therefore, lives in almost every country that is inhabited, whether by white or black men.

The following anecdotes of dogs are well authenticated.

A gentleman, living in the country, who used to go to London twice a year, on horseback, was always attended on his journey by a little terrier dog. He was much attached to this dog, and, for fear of losing him in the city, he always left him in the care of Mrs. Langford, at St. Albans, and on his return was always sure to find that his little animal had been well taken care of. The gentleman calling one day for his dog, as usual, Mrs. Langford told him, with a woful face, that her great house-dog and the little terrier had a quarrel, and that before they could beat off the great dog he had so bitten the little fellow that she feared he could not live. He, however, crawled away, and Mrs. Langford saw nothing more of him for almost a week, when he returned, and brought with him a dog much bigger than Mrs. Langford's. Thus reinforced, the cunning little dog led the great one into the yard, and they both fell on the great house-dog, and bit him so unmercifully that for several days he was scarcely able to walk about, or eat his meat. After this they both went away, and Mrs. Langford had heard nothing of them since.

The gentleman, who lived a considerable distance from London, tried to reconcile him-

self to the loss of his favorite terrier as well as he could, and went home, not thinking he should ever see him again. But on his arrival home, he was pleased to find his dog alive and well. On making inquiries, he found that his little dog had been home before, and had coaxed away a very large dog of his acquaintance, who had gone with him, and taken revenge on Mrs. Langford's dog as already stated.



So many instances have been related similar to the following story, that a person who has read them cannot doubt the truth of this.

A shepherd, who lived near the Grampian mountains, in Scotland, one day, when he went to look after his flock, took with him one of his children, an infant of only three years old. This is not an uncommon thing among these shepherds, who learn their children, when quite

young, to bear the cold, and to take notice of the sheep. After going about his fields for some time, attended by his dog as well as his child, the shepherd found it necessary to go on the top of a hill to look out for some sheep. The child could not walk up the hill, and so the father left him on the plain, telling him not to stir from the place where he was left till he came back. He had hardly got to the top of the hill, before a mist or fog arose, which was so thick that he could see only a little way before him. The anxious father instantly turned about to seek the child, but it was so dark that he lost his own way in going down the hill, and, after searching for a long time for the child, found he had come near his own house.

Night now coming on, it would have been useless to look any farther until the return of morning, and the poor afflicted parents were obliged to pass the night, without knowing in what condition their little child was. Next morning, as soon as it was light, the shepherd, with many of his neighbors, went out to search for the child; but, having looked with diligence and anxiety all day, they were obliged to go home at night without seeing or hearing anything of him.

When the shepherd got home, he was told that his dog, which was with him when the child was lost, and who had been absent until that time, had been home, and, on having a piece of cake given him, had gone away with it in his mouth. For several days the shepherd went every morning to search for his child, but as often came back at night without hearing anything of him. During this time the faithful dog, it was observed by the family, staid at home but very little. He would come and take his allowance of cake in his mouth, then go away. No one knew where he went, or what he did with the cake, which he always carried off, eating very little of it himself. This singular conduct of the dog made the shepherd stay at home one day, to see how he acted, instead of going, as usual, to look for his child. The dog came for his cake, as before, and, having taken it in his mouth, went away, while the shepherd followed after him, for the purpose of finding out what he did with it. The dog led the way to a fall of water at a short distance from the place where the child was lost, and from this place he began to go down a hill that was so steep and full of rocks that the man could not follow him without great difficulty.

The dog having got down the hill, the shepherd saw him go into a cave, and, following him there, what was his joy at seeing his little son eating heartily of the cake the dog had just given him, while the faithful animal stood by, looking at the little fellow, and seeing him eat with the greatest pleasure !

The dog, it will be remembered, was with the shepherd when the child was lost, and it is probable that he followed him by the smell of his tracks to the cave. How the little fellow got down so steep a hill without falling, we cannot say, but there he was found alive and well, and, under Providence, owed his life entirely to the sagacity of the dog. The faithful animal seems not to have left the child by night or by day, except when it was necessary to go for his food, and then he always ran swiftly to and fro n his master's house.



THE WOLF.



THE Wolf is an animal of the dog kind. He is about the size of the largest dog, being about four feet long, and a little more than two feet high. No animal of his size is more fierce and destructive than the wolf.

When hungry he will leave the woods, and go in search of sheep, dogs, or any other living creature that he can master, and often makes dreadful destruction wherever he goes.

Near a town which was called Niagara, there were some wolves, which used to come in the night, and catch sheep and kill them. These wolves lived in the woods, and Mr. Parks, a man who lived in that town, took his gun one morning, and went out to find the wolves, and try to shoot them. He walked along very slowly, and looked at all the holes in the ground, and all the hollow logs in which they could hide. At last he saw a great hollow log, lying on the ground, which was scratched on the inside and made smooth. The log was very long, and was crooked, so that he could not see



through it to the end of the hollow place. He was very sure that some of the wolves lived in it, but he did not know how to get at them. He thought of making a fire at the mouth of the log, so that the smoke might go in where the wolves were, and drive them out. But he was alone, and he was afraid there were a great many of them, and that they would kill him before he could shoot them. At last he crawled into the tree, with his gun in his hand, all ready to shoot. Very soon he heard the wolves growl, and saw their eyes. Then he went back to the mouth of the hollow place, and stopped it up with pieces of wood and stones, and went to the town to get somebody to help him kill the wolves.

When they heard that Mr. Parks had found some wolves, several men took their guns and axes, and went with him. They then cut holes in the log till they saw where the wolves were. There were one old one, and several young ones almost grown. Then they took their guns, and pointed them at the wolves, and shot them dead, and afterward they carried them to town, and showed them to all the people. The people gave Mr. Parks a handsome present for finding the wolves, and getting them killed.

A CUNNING CAT.



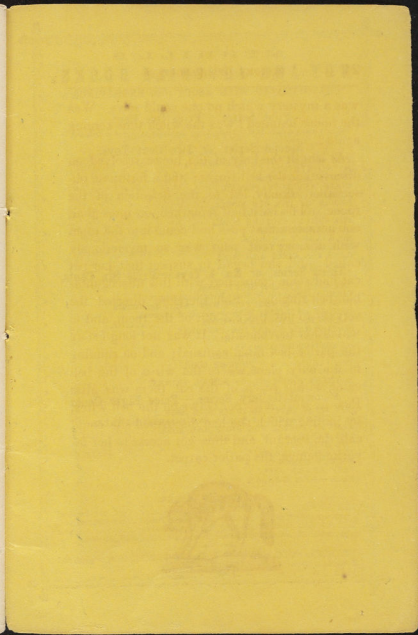
WE hardly think that cats receive their due. The dogs run off with most of the good stories. Having told some dog stories lately, we will tell a cat story now, which may be relied upon as substantially true.

The family of Capt. W., of Salem, had a cat that was a great favorite, and was much petted by them. Puss was allowed to spend much of her time in the parlor, and was always uneasy when shut out. One day the parlor door was opened, and the servant entered and inquired if anything was wanted, as the bell was rung; the mistress replied that she had not rung the bell. Not many days after, this was repeated, to the no small surprise and bewilderment of all concerned. The bell would ring, the servant would enter the parlor, but no one there would know anything of the matter. Here

was a mystery which no one could solve. Was the house haunted? was the witch time coming again?

At length the lady of the house resolved on discovering the bell-ringer; and a fortunate observation finally led to the detection of the rogue. The lady had remarked, on more than one occasion, that puss had come into the room with the servant who was so mysteriously called; and she began to suspect that her pet cat had some connection with this unaccountable bell-ringing. She therefore directed the servant to put the cat out of the room, and to watch her movements. It was not long before the parlor bell rang, as usual; and on running to the only place where the wires of the bell came within reach of the cat, there was Miss Puss at work with her claws on the bell wires, by pulling which she had discovered she could call the servant, and thus get access to her favorite lounge, the parlor carpet.





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