

Miss H. White

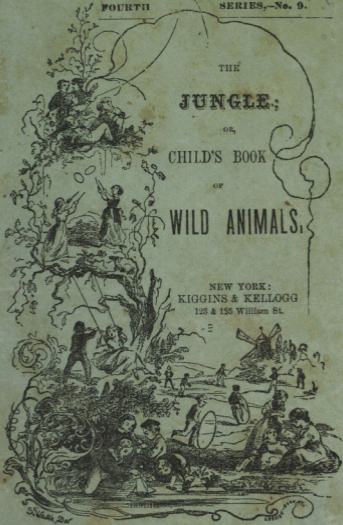
X

FOURTH

SERIES,—No. 9.

THE
JUNGLE;
 OR,
 CHILD'S BOOK
 OF
WILD ANIMALS.

NEW YORK:
 KIGGINS & KELLOGG
 123 & 125 William St.



S. Van Der



THE
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Murray

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THE
CHILD'S BOOK OF WILD ANIMALS.

THE ELEPHANT.

THE human race excepted, the elephant is the most respectable of animals. In size he surpasses all other terrestrial creatures, and in understanding he is inferior only to man. Of all the brute creation, the elephant, the dog, the ape, the beaver, are all most admirable for their sagacity; but the genius of the dog is only borrowed, being instructed by man in almost every thing he knows; the monkey has only the appearance of wisdom; and the beaver is only sensible with regard to himself and those of his species. The elephant is superior to all three of them; he unites all their most eminent qualities. The hand is the principal organ of the monkey's dexterity; the elephant, with his trunk, which serves him instead of arms and hands, with which he can lift up and seize the smallest as well as the largest objects, carry them to his mouth, place them on his back, hold them, or throw them far off, has the same dexterity as the monkey, and at the same time the tractableness of the dog; he is like him susceptible of gratitude, capable of strong attachment; he uses

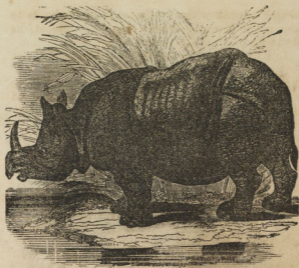
himself to man without reluctance, and submits to him, not so much by force as by good treatment; he serves him with zeal, intelligence, and fidelity.

In a wild state, the elephant is neither bloody nor ferocious; his manners are social; he seldom wanders alone. It is very easy to tame him; and when once domesticated he becomes the most tractable and the most submissive of all animals. In some countries the elephant is used in war, as he can carry on his back a tower filled with men armed for battle. In India he is sometimes used for hunting other wild beasts.

THE TIGER.

HAPPY is it for the rest of nature that this animal is not common, and that the species is chiefly confined to the warmest provinces of the East. The tiger is found in Malabar, in Siam, in Bengal, and in all the countries which are inhabited by the elephant.

The form corresponds with the nature and disposition of the animal. With the body too long, with limbs too short, with a head uncovered, and with eyes ghastly and haggard, the tiger has no characteristics but those of the basest and most insatiable cruelty. For instinct he has nothing but a uniform rage, a blind fury; so blind indeed, so undistinguished, that he frequently devours his own progeny, and if she offers to defend them, tears in pieces the dam herself. A tiger may be seen in the engraving on page 2, pursued by hunters mounted on elephants.



THE RHINOCEROS.

THIS animal is a native of the same countries, and inhabits the same forests and deserts as the elephant. Like the elephant he is formidable to ferocious animals, but perfectly inoffensive to those that give him no provocation. His skin is so thick and hard that it will turn the edge of the sharpest sword, or flatten a musket ball. His head is formed like a hog's. His nose is armed with a formidable weapon, being a hard and solid horn, sometimes four feet in length, which renders him a match even for the elephant. The rhinoceros is a solitary animal, loving moist and marshy grounds, where, like the hog, he delights to wallow in the mire.



THE LION.

IN hot climates animals are larger and stronger than in cold ones. They are also bolder and more ferocious, all their natural qualities seeming to partake of the order of the climate in which they live. The lion, born beneath the burning sun of Africa or Asia, is, above all others, the fiercest and most terrible. The lions of America (if indeed they deserve to be called lions) are, like the climate which they inhabit, infinitely milder than those of Africa. To the lion the title of **KING OF BEASTS** is universally allowed;

but it was conferred upon him at a time when his strength and courage, and power of spreading terror rendered him more formidable than now. Had the palm been given, as it always ought to be, to sagacity and mildness, it would have been awarded to the half-reasoning elephant. But it must be allowed, that, considering his appearance, dignity, and conduct, the title has been well bestowed upon the lion.

The lion sometimes grows to the length of six or eight feet, but is not usually much more than half that length. He is a long-lived animal, having been known to attain the age of seventy years. He has a striking figure, a bold look, a majestic gait, a terrific voice, and a compact and well-proportioned form. Such is his strength, that he can break the back of a horse with one stroke of his paw, and throw down a strong man with the sweep of his tail; and he is no less active than strong. His face is broad, and his neck is covered with long coarse hair, called a mane. The female is smaller than the male, and is destitute of a mane. The roaring of the lion is so loud, that when heard in the stillness of night, it resembles distant thunder. This roar is a deep, hollow growl. But when enraged he has a different cry, which is short and broken. The lion is a solitary animal, and it is very seldom that more than one pair are to be found in the same forest. The lion, when hungry, boldly attacks all animals that come in his way; but, as they all seek to avoid him, he hides, in order to take them by surprise. For this purpose he crouches upon his belly, in a jungle, or among the long grass, and springs upon his prey when it comes near him.



The Leopard.

THE LEOPARD.

THIS formidable and sanguinary animal is found nearly throughout the whole of Africa, and in eastern and southern Asia. He usually measures about three feet in length, exclusive of the tail, but sometimes reaches four feet. His appearance indicates his natural disposition. He has a restless eye and a sinister countenance, and all his motions are hasty and abrupt. In rapidity, agility, and precision of motion, he is unrivalled by any other animal; an advantage which he owes to the strength of his muscles, the suppleness of his joints, the extreme pliability of his spine, the greater lateral compression of his body, and the slender proportions of his limbs. His prey, on which he darts from his hiding-place, and even pursues up the trees, consists of antelopes, monkeys, and the smaller quadrupeds. Usually he shuns man, but when closely pressed he turns upon the hunter, and hunger will drive him to attack, though by stealth, the human race. Even among the cats he is remarkable for extreme sleekness and excessive agility. He is well distinguished from all the other species by the vividness of his coloring, and the beauty of his markings. These consist of numerous rows of large rose-like spots passing along his sides, each formed of the confluence of several smaller black spots into an irregular circle enclosing a fawn-colored centre, upon a general ground color of light yellow. On his head, neck, and limbs, and the central line of his back, the spots run into one another so completely as to form full patches of smaller size than the open roses, and without central yellow.



Wild Boars.

THE WILD-BOAR.

THE wild-boar generally lives from twenty-five to thirty years, if he escapes accident. Their general places of rest are among the thickest bushes that can be found; and they are not easily put up out of them, but will stand the bay a long time. In April and May they sleep more sound than at any other time of the year, and this is therefore the successful time for the taking them in the toils. When a boar is roused out of the thicket, he always goes from it, if possible, the same way by which he came to it; and when he is once up, he will never stop till he comes to some place of more security. If it happen that a number of them are found together, when any one breaks away, the rest all follow the same way. When the boar is hunted in the wood where he was bred, he will scarce ever be brought to quit it; he will sometimes make toward the sides to listen to the noise of the dogs, but retires into the middle again, and usually dies or escapes there. When it happens that a boar runs ahead, he will not be stopped or put out of his way by man or beast, so long as he has any strength left. He makes no doubles nor crossings when chased; and when killed makes no noise, if an old boar; the sows and pigs will squeak when wounded. The season for hunting the wild-boar is from September to December.

Hunting the wild-boar, at the present time, is by no means a common amusement. The king of Naples still encourages the breeding of those animals in his royal hunting grounds, for the purposes of the chase; in some parts of Africa also, and in the East Indies, this dangerous sport is still followed.



THE GIRAFFE.

THE first and most striking characteristic of this singular animal is its lofty stature, which far exceeds that of any other known animal. Its next and still more wonderful peculiarity is the clustering union in which it appears to possess some trait or traits of a great many other animals, of the most varied and

opposite character. The height of the full-grown giraffe varies from eighteen to twenty feet, although some specimens, in their natural state, have been seen exceeding this by several inches. One half of this elevation consists of the neck, from the ears to its junction with the projecting angle of the chest; and the other half consists of the fore legs, ascending to the same point. Casual observers are apt to suppose that the fore legs of the giraffe are very disproportionably longer than its hind legs; yet they are in reality of equal length—the apparent difference arising from the height of the shoulder.

The front view of this animal is very grotesque. Its neck appears too thin, extending up as it does, from so large a chest, like a tall iron crane from the box of a windlass—and the effect of this, in connection with the very long thin legs, which sustain so odd a superstructure, is not unlike the live crane as it sometimes stands forlorn on the margin of a pool, destitute of eels, and bolt upright in its excursive meditations. Yet no animal exhibits a more gracefully majestic attitude and richly flowing outline than this otherwise uncouth giraffe, when beheld in its side view, cropping the topmost leaves of high branches, or lifting its airy vivacious head, attentive to distant sounds. Its aspect is then a charm to the eye of taste, and excites the admiration of the most indifferent spectator. The eyes of the giraffe are singularly large, full, and clear, soft and rich as the famed gazelle's, and fringed with very long lashes. The giraffe subsists on the foliage and juicy branches of a species of acacia, peculiar to the valleys in which the animal is only known to have been seen.



The White Bear of Syria

THE BEAR.

THERE are four species of the bear tribe, namely : the European or brown bear; the white bear of Syria (a picture of which is given opposite); the American or black bear; and the white or polar bear. These, though different in their form, are no doubt from the same original stock, but owe their variations to food and climate. The brown bear is found in various parts of Europe, and in the East Indies. The Syrian bear inhabits the highest parts of Mount Lebanon and other eastern mountains in the regions of perpetual snow. This species is now almost extinct. The black bear is found in the northern districts of our own country. Their places of retreat are usually the hollow trunk of an old cypress tree. When they are hunted, fire is used to drive them from the tree; in which case the old one generally issues out first, and is shot by the hunters, and the young ones, as they descend, are caught in a noose, and are either kept or killed for provision.

The white or polar bear is nearly three times the size of either of the other species. It sometimes grows to nearly twelve feet in length. Their ferocity is proportionate with their size; and they have been known to seize and devour sailors in presence of their comrades. They live principally on seals, fish, and the carcasses of whales.

The attachment of this animal to its young is not less remarkable than its determined courage. It will rather die than desert its offspring. When wounded and dying it embraces its cubs to the very last moment, and if deprived of them, it mourns the loss with the most piteous cries.



THE JERBOA.

THE jerboa is remarkable for the singular construction of its legs, the fore ones being not more than one inch in length, and used, not for walking, but for conveying food to its mouth. The hind legs are naked, and, like those of a bird, with only three toes on each foot. When pursued, it springs with such agility, that its feet seem scarcely to touch the ground. It makes its nest of the finest herbage, and during the winter remains in a torpid state, without taking any food.



THE WOLF.

THE great resemblance between the wolf and dog has frequently been remarked, and some naturalists consider them of the same species. Wolves are cruel and cowardly animals, with a peculiarly sinister expression of countenance. They fly from man except when impelled by extreme hunger, when they prowl by night in great droves through villages, and destroy any persons they meet. The wolf disappears as countries become inhabited, but continues to infest those regions of country where dense forests are not yet cleared.



THE COMMON DEER.

THE common deer is found throughout this continent, from Canada, in North, to the banks of the Orinoco, in South America. It is more remarkable for general slenderness and delicacy of form, than for size and vigor. The slightness and length of its limbs, small body, long and slim neck, sustaining a narrow, almost pointed head, give the animal an air of feebleness, the impression of which is only to be counteracted by observing the animated eye, the agile and playful movements, and admirable celerity of its course when its full speed is exerted. Then all that can be imagined of grace and swiftness of motion, joined with strength sufficient to continue a long career, may be realized. The common deer is possessed of keen senses, especially of hearing and smelling, upon which the safety of the animal most immediately depends.



THE GAZELLE.

THE gazelle is an animal between the deer and the goat. Its horns are solid and permanent, straight or curved; in some species having rings or belts encircling them; in others surrounded by a spiral; and in others smooth. They resemble the deer in the lightness and elegance of their forms, and in their agility. They inhabit open plains and mountains, and some species in herds of two or three thousand. Their eyes are large, black, and of exquisite beauty and vivacity, and are therefore a favorite image with the Eastern poets.



THE SYRIAN GOAT.

THE wild or Syrian goat is generally understood to be the parent stock of all those domesticated varieties of goats, much as these differ from each other. The wild-goat is chiefly found on the eastern mountains, in those of Caucasus, Persia, and various parts of Hindostan. That it exists in Europe is not very clearly made out. The horns of the wild-goat are of a brownish ash-color, and are sometimes three feet in length. The beard and hair on the throat are a reddish brown. The female is smaller than the male, and paler in the color.



THE STRIPED HYENA.

THIS animal is a native of Asia and Africa. The habits of the hyena are entirely nocturnal. While in the daytime their cowardice is so excessive that they fly from the face of man, and suffer themselves, when taken, to be ill-treated with impunity, and even without attempting to avenge themselves, they prowl abroad in the stillness of the night with all the temerity of brutal daring. They will frequently make prey of the lesser animals, and will occasionally venture to attack dogs and even horses. They will break into cemeteries and glut their appetite on buried corpses.



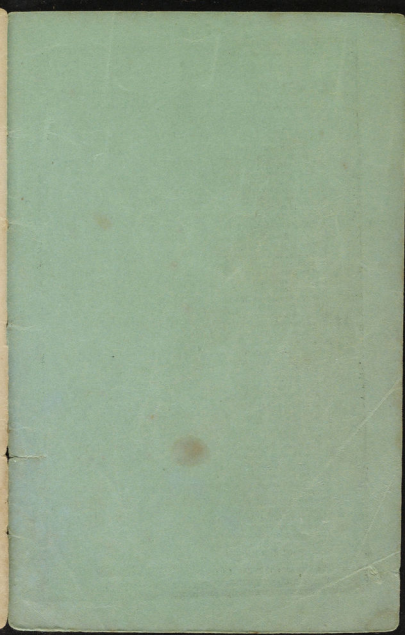
Animals of opposite Natures, living in the same Cage.

ASSOCIATION OF ANIMALS OF OPPOSITE NATURES.

ALL associations between animals of opposite natures are exceedingly interesting: and those who train animals for public exhibition, know how attractive are such displays of the power of discipline over the strength of instinct. There is a little menagerie in London, where such odd associations may be witnessed upon a more extensive scale, and more systematically conducted than in any other collection of animals with which we are acquainted. Upon the Surry side of Waterloo Bridge, or sometimes, though not so often, on the same side of Southwark Bridge, may be daily seen a cage about five feet square, containing the quadrupeds and birds which are represented in the engraving on the opposite page. The keeper of this collection states that he has employed seventeen years in this business of training creatures of opposite natures to live together in content and affection. And those years have not been unprofitably employed! It is not too much to believe that many a person who has given his halfpenny to look upon this show, may have had his mind awakened to the extraordinary effects of habit and of gentle discipline, when he has thus seen the cat, the rat, the mouse, the hawk, the rabbit, the guinea-pig, the owl, the pigeon, the starling, and the sparrow, each enjoying, as far as can be enjoyed in confinement, its respective modes of life, in the company of the others; the weak without fear, and the strong without the desire to injure. It is impossible to imagine any prettier exhibition of kindness than is here shown: the rabbit and the pigeon playfully contending for

lock of hay to make up their nests; the sparrow sometimes perched on the head of the cat, and sometimes on that of the owl, each its natural enemy; and the mice playing about with perfect indifference to the presence of either cat, or hawk, or owl. The modes by which the man has effected this, are, first, by keeping all the creatures well fed; and, secondly, by accustoming one species to the society of the other at a very early period of their lives. The ferocious instincts of those who prey on the weaker are never called into action; their nature is subdued to a systematic gentleness; the circumstances by which they are surrounded are favorable to the cultivation of their kindlier dispositions; all their desires and pleasures are bounded by their little cage; and though the old cat sometimes takes a stately walk on the parapet of the bridge, he duly returns to his companions, with whom he has been so long happy, without at all thinking that he was born to devour any of them.

This is an example, and a beautiful one, too, of what may be accomplished through the exercise of kindness. It is hoped that the young, when they read this interesting anecdote, will properly heed and profit by the lesson it teaches. If dumb animals, without a ray of that reason with which human beings are endowed—some of them by their very nature inveterate enemies to each other—can thus be taught to live together in the same cage in peace and harmony, how much more ought children, in their daily intercourse with each other, to avoid bickering and selfishness, and be governed only by the law of benevolence and love.



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