

CAPE-FEAR RECORDER.

"IN PROPORTION AS THE STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT GIVES FORCE TO PUBLIC OPINION, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT PUBLIC OPINION SHOULD BE ENLIGHTENED."—Washington.

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From the London Monthly Magazine. THE POLITICAL ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN.

For the gratification of those who have not yet visited this establishment, we give the following brief account of the extremely rare and curious collection of animals it contains. We shall not aim at classification, but take fish, flesh, and fowl, just as they chance to recur to our memory.

A huge cage near the entrance contains, *The Boroughmonger*—the monarch of birds of prey, of the vulture species; its usual food is public property; this it is enabled to procure by means of its long beak, which it darts in the pockets of the people. Its odour is singularly offensive; and it is found in all parts of the kingdom, particularly in Cornwall. There is reason to think the species will soon be extinct; the whig sportsman consider them excellent shooting, and a general 'battau' is expected to take place in a short time. The bird here exhibited is one of the largest size and most rapacious in its habits; it was taken some time since at Newark, just in the act of dashing its talons into the vitals of the constitution.

The Bishops—amphibious, living both by land and by sea, (*qu. see.*) resembles the porpoise in shape, but in voracity is near akin to the shark. It is found in most parts of Europe, but thrives best in the British isles. The finest and fattest specimens are found at Canterbury and Durham in England, and Derry in Ireland; the present one was taken on the Thames close to Fulham.

The Dean—a smaller animal of same genus.

The Sinecurit—a species of the sloth-bear, at once a lazy and predatory animal: it is to be seen in great numbers in the western districts of the metropolis: in appearance it is bloated and disgusting, & multiplied more rapidly some years ago than it does at present, which is chiefly to be attributed to an invaluable little animal, called Economy, (introduced of late years into England, by a gentleman of Scotch extraction residing in Bryanstone-square,) and remarkable for its instinctive animosity to the sinecurit, which it pursues into its den and destroys, something in the way a weasel disposes of a rat, or any other sort of

knave and fool. A mortality commenced amongst the species just about the time the Reform Bill was introduced into Parliament; and it has raged so violently ever since, that some persons assert there is not a genuine specimen of the animal to be found now in England. This, however, is manifestly a mistake. Besides the present instance, it is well known that several fine old Tories are still to be found at Oxford and Cambridge, and many other parts of the country. Zoologists tell us a number of extraordinary stories of their propensities and instincts. Amongst other things, they say, that they have the greatest antipathy imaginable to Frenchmen and Americans, especially the former, whom they never see without braying in the most hideous manner, and endeavouring to kick their shins. Another peculiarity is, that they delight in a red coat as much as a turkey-cock hates it. They are said, likewise, to exhibit the most lively symptoms of joy at sight of the gallows or gibbet, which is the more surprising, as it is not their nature to eat human flesh.

The Orangeman—a decided blood hound; it is a native of Ireland, where it still common, particularly in the northern provinces. Previous to the year 1829, the ravages committed by this fierce animal were almost incredible.—A vast number of them were kept in the government kennels, and used to hunt down the papists, as Cortes hunted the aborigines of America with wolf, dogs. At the date referred to, it began to strike the legislature that it was not the best way to tame the people of Ireland to treat them as wild beasts; and accordingly they passed an act for drawing the teeth of the Orangeman, which was carried into immediate execution. It was ludicrous enough to observe the furious but ineffectual attempts they made to bite after the state dentists had deprived them of their fangs; they snapped at every one they met, and barked louder than ever. No species of dog is more subject to *hydrophobia*, as appears from their uncontrollable propensity to drink excessively of wine and ardent spirits, particularly about the first of July and the fourth of November, when they are in the highest state of rabid excitement, and make the most horrid howlings imaginable. The specimen here offered to public notice is a most ferocious dog.—He was taken about a month since at the door of Exeter Hall, at the conclusion of the great 'whole Bible meeting, at which Lord Norton presided.

The Rector—a wolf in its internal conformation, but externally resembling a sheep. It avails itself of this likeness to insinuate itself amongst the Stock, one or two of which it usually devours at a meal. It infests all parts of England and Ireland, to the great annoyance and damage of the farmers in particular.—The Irish, however, have a kind of shepherd's dog, called a white-foot, which has a rough, but most effectual way of dealing with these depredators. There is a white-foot in this collection, half

moisty of one of its ears left.

The Curate—of the ox species, supposed to be a native of Egypt, from its striking similitude to the breed of Pharaoh's 'lean kind.' It is an intelligent, useful, submissive animal; does an incredible deal of work, and requires incredibly little provender; indeed so little, that some zoologists have supposed that, like the chameleon, it might be supported altogether on air.

The Herald-arms—a nondescript animal, with the head of a lion, the body of a horse, the plumage of a mackaw, and the tail of a dolphin. Its outlandish shape and gaudy colors are wonderfully attractive to children under eight years of age, hereditary peers, and old ladies; but it is impossible for a sensible man to see them without bursting into a fit of laughter. Like all monsters, the herald-at-arms is perfectly useless; and it is, perhaps, for that reason that it is so great a favorite in the aristocratic circles. It has the screaming note of a parrot, and might be said to have a language of its own, were it not that none of its sounds have the slightest sense or meaning. The growing indisposition of the age to encourage the breed of any creature that is unserviceable to man, is likely to make this grotesque animal as great a rarity before long, as a phoenix or unicorn.

The Agitator—a species of watch-dog, and a native of Kerry, in Ireland. It got into the House of Commons one day (through the negligence of Sir R. Peel who left the door open,) and bit the Irish secretary, who immediately went mad and attended to his business.—The animal is fierce and noisy, but has many useful, and some noble qualities. In the present defective state of the laws for the protection of property, the agitator is extremely useful, especially to the poor, who would often have their pockets picked, or their cottages burglariously entered, but for his timely barking. Many a depredator, lay and clerical, has been detected by his vigilance; he is consequently the 'best advised' dog in Ireland; some call him a mad dog, some a dirty dog, some a wicked dog; all however, agree that he is a clever dog. His chief fault seems to be, that he snarls sometimes at persons whose intentions are honest; this, however, may be only through habit, the knaves in the world are so much more numerous than the fools, that wiser animals than the dogs may be excused if they do not always distinguish the one character from the other. Some say that, if the ministry would throw him a bone, he is ready to turn tail upon the people; we incline to believe, however, that he is attached to his master; and, as good radical reformers, we heartily wish we had a dozen of the same breed in England.

Markets at Katunga in the Interior of Africa.—A market is held daily in different parts of Katunga, but twice in the week it is much larger and better at-

rudest native manufacture. There were also finger rings of tin and lead, and iron bracelets and armlets, old shells, old bones, and other venerable things, which European antiquaries would gaze on with rapture; besides native soap, little cakes of cheese and butter, an English common blue plate, a great variety of beads, both of native and European manufacture, among the former of which we recognised the famous Agra bead, which at Cape Coast Castle, Accra, and other places, is sold for its weight in gold, and which has vainly been attempted to be imitated by the Italians and our own countrymen. Provisions also were offered for sale in abundance; and besides beef and mutton, which were made up into little round balls, weighing about an ounce and three-quarters each, and presenting not the most delicate or tempting appearance, we observed an immense quantity of rats, mice, and lizards, dressed and undressed, all having their skins on, and arranged in rows.—*Id.*

SCENE ON THE NIGER.—On the borders of the numerous branches of the river, as well as on its small islands, vast quantities of corn were growing; and, it being near the time of harvest, it was nearly ripe, and waved over the water's edge very prettily. Platforms were every where erected, to the height of, or rather above the corn which grows as high as 10 or 12 feet. People were stationed on these to scare away the numerous flight of small birds, which do great mischief, and would, without this precaution, destroy the hopes of the cultivator. A boy or girl, and in many cases, a woman with a child at her breast, and even a whole family together, we observed on the plantations amusing themselves in this manner, without the slightest shade or covering of any kind to shelter them from the fierceness of the sunbeams. Standing erect and motionless, many of them looked like statues of black marble rather than living human beings; but others particularly the women, disregarding their duty, were industriously employed in plaiting straw, supplying the wants of their children, manufacturing mats, dressing provisions, &c. In order the more effectually to frighten away the birds; several of the watches were furnished with slings and stones, in the use of which they seem to be very skillful; besides which, lines of ropes were fastened from the platform to a tree at some distance, to which large calabashes were suspended with holes in them, through which sticks were passed, so that, when the line is pulled away, they make a loud clattering noise. The calabashes were fastened whole to the rope, containing about a handful of stones, which answer the purpose of making a noise when put in motion, as well as the sticks.—To this is often added the hallooing and screaming of the watches, which is dismal enough to frighten an evil spirit, and it rarely fails to produce the desired effect.—*The Lander's Travels in Africa.*

ant, 104; Jerome, 100; Simon Stylites, 109; Epiphanius, 115; and Lomaldus and Arsenius each 120. Galen, one of the most distinguished of the ancient physicians, lived 140 years; and composed between 700 and 800 essays on medical and philosophical subjects; and he was always, after the age of 28, extremely sparing in the quantity of his food. The Cardinal de Salis, Archbishop of Seville who lived 110 years, was invariably sparing in his diet. One Lawrence an Englishman, by temperance and labor lived 140 years; and one Kentigern, called St. Mongah, who never tasted spirits or wine, and slept on the ground and labored hard died at the age of 135. Henry Jenkin, Yorkshire, who died at the age of 109, was a poor fisherman, as long as he could follow his pursuit, and ultimately became a beggar, living uniformly on the coarsest diet. Old Parre, already mentioned, who died at the age of 153, was a farmer of extremely abstemious habits, his diet being solely milk, cheese, coarse bread, small beer, and whey. Henry Francisco, who died in the State of New York, a few years since, aged about 140, was except for a certain period, when he became attached to ardent spirits, "remarkably abstemious, eating but little, and particularly abstaining almost entirely from animal food; his favorite articles being tea, bread and butter, and baked apples." *Hitchcock.*

Bear-catching.—The inhabitants of the mountainous parts of Siberia fasten a very heavy block to a rope that terminates at the other end with a loop.—This is laid near a steep precipice, in the path in which the bear is accustomed to go. On getting his neck into the noose, and finding himself impeded by the log, he takes it up in a rage, and to free himself from it, throws it down the precipice; it naturally pulls the bear after it, and he is killed by the fall. Should this, however, accidentally not prove the case, he drags the block again up the mountain, and reiterates his efforts with increasing fury, till he either sinks exhausted to the ground, or ends his life by a decisive plunge.—*Cabinet of Arts.*

Hope for Africa.—The stations here have been of late years considerably extended, and wide scenes of hopeful missionary labor present themselves in various directions. Many, indeed, are the obstacles to the spread of christian knowledge and influence among the Heathen, both in the colony and among the native tribes beyond, but these have, in so many instances, given way to patient labor, commended in prayer to the Divine blessing, that all ground for discouragement is entirely removed. The missionaries of all societies can rejoice that they have "not run in vain, neither labored in vain;" and some of the various tribes have been gathered as *first fruits* of the general harvest. When Christian villages and towns have risen up in the solitary place, peopled with industrious