

100 is missing

MINERS' & FARMERS' JOURNAL.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY, BY THOMAS J. HOLTON, CHARLOTTE, MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH-CAROLINA.

VOL. IV.

SATURDAY, JULY 5, 1834.

NO. 196.

ABYSSINIAN ZOOLOGY.

Extracts from Mr. Russell's Work, No. XLI of the Family Library.

TRAITS OF THE HYENA.—Hyenas generally inhabit caverns and other rocky places, from whence they issue under cover of the night to prowl for food. They are gregarious, not so much from any social principle, as from a greediness of disposition and a gluttonous instinct, which induce many to assemble even over a scanty and insufficient prey. They are said to devour the bodies which they find in cemeteries, and to disinter such as are hastily or imperfectly inhumed. There seems indeed, to be a particular gloominess and malignity of disposition of the hyena, and its manners in a state of captivity are savage and untractable. Like every other animal, however, it is perfectly capable of being tamed. A contradictory feature has been observed in its natural instincts. About Mount Libanus, Syria, the north of Asia, and the vicinity of Algiers, the hyenas, according to Bruce, live most upon large succulent bulbous roots; especially those of the fritillaria, &c. and he informs us that he has known large patches of the fields turned up by them, in their search for onions and other plants. He adds that these were chosen with such care, that after having been peeled, if any small decay spot became perceptible, they were left upon the ground.

In Abyssinia, however, and many other countries, their habits are certainly decidedly carnivorous; yet the same courage, or at least fierceness, which an animal diet usually produces, does not so obviously manifest itself in this species. In Barbary according to Bruce, the Moors in the daytime seize the hyena by the ears and drag him along, without his resenting that ignominious treatment otherwise than by attempting to draw himself back; and the hunters then his cave is large enough to give them entrance, take a torch in their hands, and advance strait towards him, pretending at the same time to fascinate him by a senseless jargon. The creature is astounded by the noise and glare, and allowing a blanket to be thrown over him is thus dragged out. Bruce locked up a goat, a kid and a lamb all day with a Barbary hyena which had fasted, and he found the intended victims in the evening alive and uninjured. He repeated the experiment, however on another occasion, during the night, with a young ass, a goat and a fox, and next morning he was astonished to find the whole of them, not only killed, but actually devoured, with the exception of some of the ass's bones!

ANDERSON told us Bruce.—Many a time in the night, when the king had kept me late in the palace, and it was not my duty to be there, in going across the square from the king's house, not many hundred yards distant, I have been apprehensive they would bite me in the leg. They granted me great numbers around me, tho' I was surrounded by several armed men, who seldom passed a night without wounding or slaying some of them. One night in Kucha, being very intent on observation, I heard something pass behind me towards the bed, but upon looking round could perceive nothing. Having finished what I was then about, I went out of my tent, returned directly to return, which I immediately did, when I perceived large blue eyes staring at me in the dark. Called upon my servant with a light, and there was the lion standing right behind the head of the bed, with two or three large bunches of candles in his mouth. To have fired at him I was in danger of breaking my quadrant or other measure and he seemed, by keeping the candles steadily in his mouth, to wish to burn other prey at that time. As his mouth was full, and he had no other claws to fear with, I was not afraid of him, but with a pike struck him as near the heart as I could judge. It was not till then he showed any sign of fierceness; but upon seeing the wound, he let drop the candles and endeavored to run up the shaft of the pike to arrive at me; so that in self-defence, I was obliged to draw a pistol from my girdle and shoot him; and nearly at the same time my servant cut off his skull with a battle-axe.

RHINOCEROS HUNTING.—Mr. Salt and I partly stationed ourselves on a high overhanging rock, which commanded one of the favorite pools, and they had not remained long before a hippopotamus rose to the surface, at a distance of not more than 20 yds. He came up at first very confidently, raising his enormous head out of the water and coming violently. At the same instant their guns were discharged, the contents of which appeared to strike directly in the forehead; on which it turned its head round as if angry, and macking a sudden dash to the bottom, with a peculiar noise, between a grunt and a roar. They remained some minutes entertained a sanguine hope that he was killed, and momentarily expected to see his body ascend to the surface. But it soon appeared that a hippopotamus is not so easily slain; for he rose again, long, close to the same spot, and apparently not much concerned at what had happened, tho' somewhat more cautious

than before. They again discharged their pieces, but with as little effect as formerly; and although some of the party continued firing at every one that made his appearance, they were by no means certain they produced the slightest impression upon any of them. This they attributed to their having used leaden balls, which are too soft to enter his almost impenetrable skull.

It appears from what they witnessed, that the hippopotamus cannot remain more than five or six minutes under water. One of the most interesting parts of the amusement was to witness the perfect ease with which these animals quietly dropped down to the bottom; for the water being exceedingly clear, they could distinctly see them so low as 20 feet below the surface.

RHINOCEROS HUNTING.—The eyes of a Rhinoceros are extremely small; and as his neck is stiff, and his head cumbersome, he seldom turns round so as to see any thing that is not directly before him. To this, according to Bruce, he owes his death, as he never escapes if there is as much plain ground as to enable a horse to get in advance. His pride and fury then induce him to lay aside all thoughts of escaping but by victory. He stands for a moment at bay, then starting forward he suddenly charges at the horse, after the manner of the wild boar, which animal he greatly resembles in his mode of action. But the horse easily avoids his ponderous onset, by turning short aside, and this is the fatal instant; for a naked man, armed with a sharp sword, drops from behind the principle hunter, and unperceived by the rhinoceros, who is seeking to wreak his vengeance on his enemy, he inflicts a tremendous blow across the tendon of the heel which renders him incapable of either flight or resistance.

In speaking of the large allowance of vegetable matter necessary to support this enormous living mass, we should likewise take into consideration the vast quantity of water which it consumes. No country, according to Bruce, but such as that of the Shangalla, deluged with six months' rain, full of large streams, hewn out by nature in the living rock, which are shaded by dark woods from evaporation, or one watered by extensive rivers which never fall low or to a state of dryness can supply the vast draughts of its enormous mass. An article of food he is himself much esteemed by the Shangalla; and the sides of his feet, which are soft like those of a camel, and of a gristly substance, are peculiarly delicate. The rest of the body resembles that of a hog, but it is coarser, and is pervaded by a smell of musk.

THE MOUNTAIN VULTURE.—On the highest summit of the mountain Lamalea, while the traveller's servants were refreshing themselves after the fatigue of a toilsome ascent, and enjoying the pleasure of a delightful climate, and a good dinner of boiled goat's flesh, a lammergeyer suddenly made his appearance among them. A great shout, or rather cry of distress, attracted Bruce's attention, who while walking towards the bird, saw it deliberately put its foot into a pan, which contained a huge piece of meat prepared for boiling.

Finding the temperature somewhat higher than it was accustomed to among the pure gushing springs of that romantic region, it suddenly withdrew its feet, but immediately afterwards settled upon two large pieces which lay upon a wooden platter, into which it thrust its claws and carried them off. It disappeared over the edge of a "steep tarpolein rock," down which criminals were thrown and whose remains had probably first induced the bird to select that spot as a place of sojourn. The traveller in expectation of another visit, immediately loaded his rifle, and it was not long before the gigantic bird appeared:

As when a vulture on Iamus bred,
Whose snowy ridge the roving Tartar bounds,
Philodigging from a region scarce of prey,
To gorge the flesh of lambs or yearning kids
On hills where flocks are fed, lies towards the springs

Of Ganges or Hydaspes, Indian streams:
But in his way lights on the barren plains
Of Sericana, where Chinese drive
With sails and wind their creaking wains light;
So landed the lammergeyer within ten yards
Of the savory mess, but also within an equal
distance of Bruce's practised rifle. He instantly sent his ball through his body and the ponderous bird sank down upon the grass with scarcely a flutter of its outspread wings.

NOTICE.

The Subscriber having qualified as Executor of the Last Will and Testament of James Moore, dec'd. gives notice to all persons having demands against said Estate to present them legally authenticated within the time prescribed by law, or this notice will be plead in bar of recovery; and all persons indebted by Note or otherwise, are requested to make immediate settlement, lest they should find their Notes and Accounts in the hands of an officer for collection.

I will attend at the August Court to make settlement with those above described.

ELAM MOORE, Executor.

May 26, 1834.

JOB PRINTING

Of all kinds, neatly executed at this Office.

Communications.

FOR THE JOURNAL.

TO THE CITIZENS OF MECKLENBURG WHO ARE FOR LIBERTY.

Fellow Citizens, I appear not before you in the columns of a public paper, as a candidate for your suffrages, at a crisis most fearful and alarming since the foundation of our free institutions, but merely for the interest of my country, require that every true lover of his country, should be guarded against a false issue (such as has lately been made up in a private circular address to the citizens of this county.) You will Fellow Citizens be called on shortly to give your votes for members of the Legislature, and from a circular now distributed, through the county by one of the candidates, an issue is made up between a Bank or no Bank.

It is the awful momentous crisis of our affairs to which I beg your attention. The issue, fellow citizens, before you is liberty or slavery,—this is the true issue. The time has come when those who love freedom must prove that they deserve it, or I for one, believe it is lost forever. It is no part of my purpose to call your attention to the gradual encroachments of the present administration upon the settled policy of your government. I shall not undertake to bring to your view the new and alarming doctrines and principles that have been brought into the administration of our government by your present Chief Magistrate, by which the purity of your institutions has been corrupted, and under the operation of which his march to supreme and dictatorial power has been steady and progressive. We have seen the patronage of the government brought into conflict with the freedom of elections.—We have seen proscriptions for opinion's sake the order of the day.—We have seen the press subsidized every where.—We have seen all the officers of this vast government converted into engines of partisan warfare, and used as the spoils of conquest, to reward the friends, and punish the enemies of an American chief magistrate.—We have seen your President violating a solemn pledge in tampering with the independence of your members of Congress with this corrupting system.—We have seen the patronage of the government prodigally extended in the furtherance of this system, until this retrenching administration, which had been brought into power to establish economy, has reached upwards of twenty-two millions of dollars (besides \$50,000 in the P. O. department) in the expenditures of government; being ten millions more than the highest expenditure during the alleged extravagant administration which preceded it. These evils were endured by a free people, the man who inflicted them was a second time elevated to the highest office within their gift. But the march of power knew no bounds.—The drama was incomplete; and the finishing blow was yet to be struck, which was to lay your constitution and laws and your public faith in ruins. An angry and vindictive and revengeful war had been waged by your President against the Bank of the United States, without reflecting, whilst the barriers of the constitution received from him a remnant of respect, any very serious mischiefs upon the great interests of the country, I would tire you too much to follow out all the incidents which brought about and accompanied the President's angry warfare against this great national institution. The hostility of Congress had been invoked against it from time to time, and a final effort had been made, in an appeal to that body, during its last session, to satisfy the vengeance of your chief magistrate, by putting down and crushing the Bank, before its charter had expired. And what was done? The Bank was brought upon its trial, and the great inquest of the nation awarded a verdict in its favor. The assembled representatives of thirteen millions of freemen decided and pronounced, by an overwhelming majority, that the Bank was a safe depository of the public money, and that its affairs had been uprightly and faithfully administered. Here was a decision pronounced by yourselves, in the voice of your representatives. Was that decision respected? No; No; the Bank must be crushed if your liberties are crushed in its fall. Constitutional restraint, chartered rights and the sufferings of a whole community, were not to be weighed against the will of one man, intent upon the purposes of an unwholy and boundless ambition. The purse of the nation was seized with its sword, and assuming all authority, and concentrating within himself the whole political power of these United States, your President erected his will into the supreme law. What followed? From the place fixed by your laws for the safe keeping of your national treasury, your money was removed and scattered to the four winds of heaven, amongst innumerable Pet Banks, many of them on the verge of insolvency, and all under the influence and ready to do the bidding of the betrayer of your liberties, and the evil counsellors who surround him. Have you felt the blow? Have you felt the

shock that was thus given to the currency of your country? The march of a victorious invading army, scattering devastation and dismay in its progress, could alone furnish a parallel to the unmeasured mischief which all your interests have suffered? When the armies of Napoleon, in the unlimited ambition of their leader, overran Russia, and the fairest city of the Empire was burnt, to save the nation from subjection to a foreign yoke, the ruin was immense, but it was not greater than the people of this country have suffered in this fatal measure of your "experimenting," President,—a measure, the aim of which is not to save the Republic from a foreign despot, but to load it with the chains of slavery for a master at home.

Public confidence has been destroyed in your institutions abroad—credit and confidence have been ruined at home, and from a state of prosperity, unrivalled abroad, and unexampled amongst ourselves, we are plunged into embarrassment and distress, that are without a parallel in the history of the country. In whatever direction we turn our eyes, misery and ruin stare us in the face, and the measure and end of our calamities appall the stoutest hearts when we look to the future.

Is the picture which has been drawn, overwrought? Look at your flourishing foreign commerce a few months ago; our busy towns, full of cheerfulness and life, and your industrious population, in every avocation and profession, throughout our wide spread territory, rejoicing in the abundant harvest of profit and wealth which was the product of their labor. Look, now, at your ships ready to be dismantled, your cities filled with merchants and mechanics without employment; look at the fallen prices of your labor, and surplus commodities every where, and look at home amongst yourselves, at the languishing markets and depreciated value of your great staple, Cotton. And how have these evils been met?—How have they been regarded by the man whom you have appointed to be the great conservator of your welfare? How have the most respectful entreaties, on the part of your fellow citizens, for a redress of their grievances, been responded to? When deputation after deputation has called upon the President to retrace his steps, and to save his bleeding country from ruin, how has he treated those appeals—appeals from the freemen of America, to the man who occupies a place so high, that Washington himself, the father of his country, was unfit for a higher? What has been the conduct of Andrew Jackson, when thus called upon by his suffering countrymen? Has he shewn himself the father and friend of the people who had elevated him to the first office within their gift; or has a nation's pride been insulted and humiliated with the arrogance of a proud Dictator? "Go," (said the haughty tyrant) "go," said the President of this Republic of freemen "go," said he, "and ask Nicholas Biddle for help. Go and see what he can do for you."

Fellow Citizens, are you prepared to submit to such treatment as this? Are you willing to become the footballs of lawless power, and to be ruled with a rod of iron? Are you willing to be ruined and to ruin your country, for the sake of standing in the ranks of Jacksonism? I beseech you to pause and reflect. The power is in you to save yourselves and country—to avert the calamity and ruin that threaten every thing valuable amongst us. Speak in a voice that cannot be misunderstood, and declare by that voice that your constitution and laws must be respected. Proclaim, by your voice that Gen. Jackson, in his arbitrary removal of the public deposits from the place where the law appointed your treasury to be kept, violated the supremacy of the laws, and forfeited all your confidence in him. Proclaim that you will not suffer your liberties thus to be trampled upon.

As to the constitutionality or expediency of a United States Bank, that is not the question now to be settled. Every body knows that that is not the true issue, which has excited and agitated and alarmed the public mind every where. I might well, therefore, refrain from any examination of its constitutionality or expediency. But I shall not even blink a question which has been cunningly got up. I believe that the "necessary and proper," power, conferred upon Congress to manage the fiscal concerns of the government, has clothed that body with the right to create a United States Bank, and I also believe that it is perfectly impossible for the government or the people to get along without such an institution. I will endeavor to confirm this view as I proceed with the piece. There is one aspect of the question, as regards the present Bank of the U. States, that is worthy to be particularly noticed. An objection is made to foreign capital. Is foreign capital, uncontrolled by foreign influence, any worse than foreign arms, purchased for munitions of war, if you have not the means of defence at home? Is not capital rather to be sought, where capital

does not abound? The loss of much foreign capital, driven from the country by the hostile attitude of the President towards such capital, is no unimportant item amongst the causes of the present distress. The clamor against foreign capital, every sensible man knows to be absurd. One of the principle reasons, given by the friends of the Bank for its recharter, is to be found in the benefit of securing and retaining the foreign capital invested in its stock, and preventing its loss to the country. As to modifications it is not likely that any reasonable man can be found opposed to the decision of any objectionable features contained in the present charter. It is not improbable, indeed, that the experience of almost 20 years may have demonstrated that there are such features.

There is another view of the matter, in reference to a national Bank, which is really a most weighty and important one. The public treasury of the United States, amounting commonly to upwards of 30 millions of dollars annually, must be deposited, if not in a United States Bank, in the Pet Banks of the government, whenever the money is collected, unless the Secretary of the Treasury, upon the "responsibility" of Andrew Jackson, should deem it wiser and safer to prepare a strong box for Amos Kinkaid, and appoint him the fiscal agent. The latter plan is not at all too monstrous, for the corrupt conceptions of those who administer your government. But the Pet Bank system, to which I mean in the course of those remarks more particularly to call your attention, is most likely to be adopted, inasmuch as it is that system, which, by a train of affiliated Banks throughout the union, under the influence and ready to do the bidding of the Cabal at Washington city, is best calculated to consummate the grand purpose of saddling the country with the hereditary successorship of MARTIN VAN BUREN, and the sustenance of the Kitchen Cabinet Dynasty. If no other evil could grow out of such a system, do you prefer that the whole treasury of the U. States should be distributed for banking capital amongst the Banks of the city of New York, and a few other large importing cities, or would you deem it best for your interests, and best for the weight that you ought to bear, and are entitled to bear, in the great scale of the nation that the benefit of this large portion of the circulating medium of the country be distributed in nearly equal proportions every where throughout the union? Do you choose to give New-York the treasury of the United States, to add to its present dangerous strength? Do you choose to do this at your expense and the expense of those that are fighting by your side—fighting, too, for a common interest—fighting indeed, for the preservation of your liberties? Do you desire to make the strong stronger and the weak weaker? An is it yourselves and your friends that you would weaken—and in such a cause—a struggle for human liberty? Be aware then, against adding strength to the already gigantic power of New York. That state is fighting by the side of the Usurper, and she is fighting like a Swiss mercenary, for the Treasury of the United States. Give her your aid and succor, and, in the lapse of a few years, you will find yourselves her "hewers of wood and drawers of water."

Fellow Citizens, the train is laid, and as sure as effect follows cause,—ruin—irretrievable ruin, will fall upon us, unless you range yourselves in defence of your constitution and laws against the office holders, and office hunters, and sycophants of power, who upon the popularity of Andrew Jackson, are following at the heels of Martin Van Buren, and are forging your chains to fasten upon your substance. It is these men and their followers who have seized upon your prejudices against the United States Bank, and are endeavoring to insult your intelligence and understanding with the false issue which they have got up. It is these men and their followers, who under the semblance of fighting for Andrew Jackson, are moving the heavens and the earth to saddle you with Martin Van Buren for your next President—that Arch-Intriguer, who would march over your constitution and laws, and desolate your country, to consummate the unallowable purposes of his ambition. These are the men who have put the issue upon "Bank or no Bank," whilst they know that the true issue is upon a different and distinct question. Is the present contest between the people of the United States and their chief magistrate—a contest which has cost your country more money than all its wars since the declaration of its independence—is that contest a struggle between a Bank or no Bank? Do you not know that it is no such thing? Do you not know that the true issue is another distinct question? The Bank question was already settled. The Republican President (so called by his friends) who sits upon the throne at Washington City, had declared, contrary to the voice of the assembled representatives of a free people, that there should be no United States Bank, and the Bank was about to die a natural death. Patriots and statesmen, it is true,