



ANONYMOUS ANIMAL



Alfred Smith

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WE here give the figure of an undescribed animal, the drawing of which was made by the Chevalier Bruce, who permitted me to copy it. The animal, which we shall call *anonymous*, till we learn its real name, has some similarities to the hare, and others to the squirrel. Mr. Bruce gave the following account of it in writing.

‘ In Lybia, on the fourth side of the lake
 ‘ formerly called *Palus Tritonides*, there is a
 ‘ very singular animal, from nine to ten inches
 ‘ long, with ears nearly as long as the half of
 ‘ the body, and proportionally broad, a circum-
 ‘ stance which takes place in no other quadruped,
 ‘ except the long-eared bat. Its muzzle re-
 ‘ sembles that of the fox; and yet it seems to
 ‘ approach nearer to that of the squirrel. It lives
 ‘ on the palm-trees, of which it eats the fruit.
 ‘ It has short retractile claws, and is a very beau-
 ‘ tiful creature. Its colour is white mixed with
 ‘ a little grey and a bright yellow. The inside
 ‘ of the ears is naked in the middle only. They
 ‘ are covered with brown hair mingled with
 ‘ yellow, and garnished within with large white
 ‘ hairs. The end of the nose is black, the tail
 ‘ yellow, and black at the point. The tail is
 ‘ pretty

' pretty long, but of a different form from that
' of the squirrel; and all the hair, both on the
' body and tail, is very soft.'

MADAGASCAR RAT.

IN the figure is represented a small animal from Madagascar, which was drawn alive, when in the possession of the Countess of Marfan. It appeared to make a nearer approach to the species of the palm squirrel than to that of the rat; for I was assured that it frequented the palm-trees. I have not been able to procure farther information concerning this animal. It may be remarked, however, that, as its claws did not project, it seemed to constitute a species very different from that of the rat, and to approach nearer to the palm-squirrel. To this animal may be referred the rat on the south-west coast of Madagascar, mentioned by the Dutch voyagers; for they tell us, that these rats live in the palm-trees, and eat the dates; that their body is long, their muzzle sharp, their legs short, and their tail long and spotted*. These characters correspond so well with those represented in the figure of our Madagascar rat, as to induce us

* Recueil des Voyages qui ont servi à l'Etablissement de la Compagnie des Indes Orientales, tom. i. p. 413.

Plate CCCL



MADAGASCAR RAT.