

## THE LION.\*

THE influence of climate, in the human species, is marked only by slight varieties; because this species is single, and extremely distinct from every other. Man, white in Europe, black in Africa, yellow in Asia, and red in America, is the same animal, tinged with the colour peculiar to the climate. As he is formed to exercise dominion over the earth, and, as he has the whole globe for his habitation, his nature seems to be accommodated to every situation. Under the fervours of the south, or the frozen regions of the north, he lives, multiplies, and is so universally and so anciently diffused over every country, that he appears to have no peculiar climate.

\* Cat with a large head; short rounded ears; face covered with short hairs; upper part of the head, chin, whole neck and shoulders, with long shaggy hairs, like a mane; hair on the body and limbs short and smooth; along the bottom of the belly long; limbs of vast strength; tail long, with a tuft of long hairs at the end; colour tawny, but on the belly inclines to white; length of the largest lion, from nose to tail, above eight feet; the tail four feet: The lioness or female is less, and wants the mane; *Pennant's Synops. of Zood.* p. 164.

In Greek, *Λεων*; in Latin, *Leo*; in Italian, *Leone*; in Spanish, *Leon*; in German, *Löwe*; in Swedish, *Löwen*; in French, *le Lion*.

*Leo*; *Göner. Zood.* p. 572. *Leon. Zood.* p. 66. *Ray, Synops. Zood.* p. 162. *Klein. Zood.* p. 81.

*Felis leo*, cauda elongata, corpore helveto; *Linn. Syst.* p. 60.

*Felis cauda in floccum delinente*; *Brisson. Regn. Anim.* p. 267.

Among

## THE LION.

Among the other animals, on the contrary, the influence of climate is stronger, and marked by sensible characters; because they differ in species, and their nature is perfect, and less diffused than that of man. The varieties of each species are not only more numerous, and more strongly marked, but even the differences of species themselves seem to depend upon the differences of climate. Some are unable to propagate but in warm, and others cannot subsist but in cold countries. The lion never inhabited the northern regions; the rein-deer was never found in the south; and perhaps no other species but that of man is generally diffused over the whole surface of the globe. Each has its peculiar country, to which it is confined by a physical necessity; each is a genuine son of the country it inhabits; and it is in this sense alone, that particular animals ought to be called natives of a particular climate.

In warm countries, the land-animals are larger and stronger than in the frozen or temperate regions. They are likewise more hardy and ferocious. All their natural qualities seem to originate from the ardour of the climate. Lions, born under the scorching heats of Africa or the Indies, are the strongest, the fiercest, and the most formidable. Our wolves, and other carnivorous animals, would hardly have the merit of being his providers\*. The lions of America, if they deserve that name, are, like the climate, infinitely

\* There is a species of *Lynx* call the *Lion's Provider*.

more mild than those of Africa; and, what proves that the excess of their ferocity originates from the excess of heat, is, that, in the same country, those who inhabit the high mountains, where the air is temperate, differ in disposition from those who live in the plains, where the heat is extreme. The lions of Mount Atlas, the summit of which is sometimes covered with snow, have neither the courage, the strength, nor the ferocity of the lions of Biledulgerid or of Zaara, whose plains are covered with burning sands. It is chiefly in these fervid deserts that we meet with those terrible lions, who are the dread of travellers, and the scourge of the neighbouring provinces. Happily the species is not numerous: It even appears to diminish daily; for, from the testimony of those who have traversed this part of Africa, the number of lions is not nearly so great as formerly. The Romans, says Mr. Shaw\*, drew from Lybia, for their public spectacles, fifty times more lions than could now be found in that country. It has likewise been remarked, that, in Turkey, Persia, and India, lions are much less frequent than they were in ancient times: And, as this bold and powerful creature preys on every other animal, and is himself a prey to none, the diminution of the species can only be attributed to the increase of the numbers of mankind; for, it must be allowed, that the strength of the king of animals is not match against the address of a

\* Shaw's Travels.

Hottentot

Hottentot or a Negro, who often attack him, face to face, with very light weapons. The lion, having no enemy but man, and his species being reduced to a fiftieth, or, if you will, to a tenth part of its former standard, it follows, that the human species, instead of having suffered any considerable diminution since the time of the Romans (as has been often alledged), is, on the contrary, increased, even in such countries as Lybia, where the power of man appeared to have been greater during the æra of Carthage, than it is now under that of Tunis and Algiers.

Man's industry augments in proportion to his numbers; but that of the other animals remains always the same. All the destructive species, as that of the lion, seem to be banished to distant regions, or reduced to a small number, not only because mankind have increased, but because they have also become more powerful, and have invented formidable arms which nothing can resist. Would to God man had never combined the operations of steel and fire for other purposes than those of destroying lions and tigers!

This superiority of man in numbers, and in industry, which has impaired the force of the lion, has likewise enervated his courage. Among animals this latter quality, though natural, rises or falls according as the exertions of their strength are successful or abortive. In the vast deserts of Zaara, in those which seem to separate two very different races of men, the Negroes and

the Moors, in the unpeopled regions that lie about the territories of the Hottentots, and, in general, in all those southern parts of Africa and Asia, which man has disdained to inhabit, the lions are still very numerous, and continue in their natural state. Accustomed to measure their strength with that of every animal they meet, the habit of conquering renders them terrible and intrepid. Being ignorant of the power of man, they are not afraid to encounter him. Having never experienced the force of his arms, they hold them in defiance. Wounds enrage, without terrifying them. They are not disconcerted even by the appearance of numbers. A single lion of the desert often attacks a whole caravan; and if, after a violent and obstinate engagement, he finds himself fatigued, instead of flying, he retreats fighting, always opposing himself to the enemy. Those lions, on the other hand, who dwell in the neighbourhood of the towns or villages of India or Barbary\*, being acquainted with man, and the power of his arms, have lost their native fortitude to such a degree, that they fly from the threatenings of his voice, and dare not attack him. They content themselves with seizing small cattle, and even fly before the women and children †, who make them indignantly quit their prey, by striking them with clubs.

\* *L'Afrique de Marmol*, tom. ii. p. 213. & *la Relation du Voyage de Thevenot*, tom. ii. p. 112.

† *L'Afrique de Marmol*, tom. i. p. 54.

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This change, this softening in the temper of the lion, indicates that he is susceptible of the impressions he receives, and that he must possess a docility sufficient to render him tameable to a certain degree, and to admit of a species of education: And history informs us, that lions have been yoked in triumphal cars, and conducted to the battle or the chase; and that, faithful to their masters, they never exerted their strength or their courage but in opposition to the common enemy. This much is certain, that the lion, when taken young, and brought up among domestic animals, is easily accustomed to live, and even to sport innocently with them; that he is gentle and caressing to his master; and that, if he sometimes resumes his natural ferocity, he seldom turns his rage against his benefactors. As his movements are impetuous, and his appetites vehement, we ought not to presume that they can always be balanced by the impressions of education. It is dangerous, therefore, to allow him to want food too long, or to irritate him unnecessarily. Bad treatment not only enrages him, but he remembers it, and seems to meditate revenge in the same manner as he remembers and requites benefits received. Here I might quote a great number of particular facts, some of which appear to be exaggerated; but the whole, when combined, are sufficient to prove, that the anger of the lion is noble, his courage magnanimous, and his temper susceptible of impressions. He has often been

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known

known to disdain the insults, and to pardon the offensive liberties, of weak enemies. When led into captivity, he discovers symptoms of uneasiness, without anger or peevishness; on the contrary, he assumes habits of gentleness, obeys his master, caresses the hand that feeds him, and sometimes pardons the animals which are thrown to him for prey. By this act of generosity, he seems to consider himself as for ever bound to protect them; he lives peaceably with them, allows them a part, and sometimes the whole of his food, and will rather submit to the gnawings of hunger than destroy the fruit of his own beneficence.

The lion cannot justly be branded with cruelty, since he acts from necessity, and kills no more than he consumes; while the tiger, the wolf, the hyæna, and many other inferior species, such as the fox, the martin, the polecat, the ferret, &c. delight in slaughter, and seem rather to gratify their rage than their hunger.

The external appearance of the lion detracts not from the noble and generous qualities of his mind. His figure is respectable, his looks firm and determined, his gait stately, and his voice tremendous. His bulk is not excessive, like that of the elephant or rhinoceros. He is not gross and unwieldy, like the hippopotamus or the ox, nor too contracted, like the hyæna or the bear, nor lengthened to deformity, like the camel. The body of the lion, on the contrary, is so well poised and proportioned, that it may be regarded as a

perfect

perfect model of strength combined with agility: Equally solid and springy, neither surcharged with fat nor with flesh, and containing nothing superfluous, he seems to be constituted entirely of nerves and of muscles. This great muscular force is manifested by the prodigious leaps and bounds which he performs with ease; by the brisk movements of his tail, a single sweep of which is sufficient to throw a man to the ground; by the facility with which he moves the skin of his face, and especially that of his front, which heightens greatly the expression of fury; and, lastly, by the power of moving the hair of his mane, which he not only erects, but agitates on all sides, when he is enraged.

To all these splendid individual qualities of the lion, we may add the nobleness of his species. By noble species in nature, I mean those which are constant, invariable, and liable to no suspicion of degradation. These species are commonly singular, and of themselves constitute a genus. They are distinguished by characters so deeply marked, that they can be neither mistaken, nor confounded with any other. To begin with man, who is the noblest being of the creation, his species is single, since men of all races, of all climates, and of all colours, can mix and propagate together; and, at the same time, no animal can be said to make any approaches to the human species by natural relation. In the horse, the species is not so noble as the individual; because he is so nearly

approached

approached by the ass, that a junction of the two produces individuals, whom Nature treats as bastards, unworthy of the genuine race, and renders incapable of perpetuating either species of which they are the issue; but, as proceeding from a mixture of the two, they fail not to demonstrate the great affinity between them. In the dog, the species is, perhaps, still less noble, because it seems to be allied to those of the wolf, the fox, and jackall, who may all be regarded as degenerated branches of the same family. In descending gradually to the inferior species, as those of the rabbit, weasel, rat, &c. we shall find, that each particular species has a number of collateral branches of which we are unable to discover the genuine root. Lastly, in the insects, which ought to be regarded as the lowest species in Nature, each kind is accompanied with so many neighbouring species, that we are obliged to denominate them by genera only. This is the chief use of methodical distributions, which ought not to be employed, except in difficult enumerations of the smallest objects in nature, but which become totally useless, and even ridiculous, in treating of the particular tribes. To class man with the monkey, or to say, that the lion is a *cat with a long mane and tail*, is to degrade and disfigure, instead of describing or denominating the objects of nature.

The species of the lion, therefore, is one of the most noble, because it is single, and cannot be confounded

confounded with those of the tiger, leopard, ounce, &c. These species, which seem to be the least removed from the lion, are so little distinguished from each other, that they have often been confounded by travellers and methodists\*.

The largest lions are about eight or nine feet long, by four or five feet high, and the tail is about four feet long†. The small sized lions are about five and a half feet long, by three and a half feet high, and the tail is about three and a half feet in length. The lioness, in all dimensions, is about one fourth part less than the lion.

Aristotle‡ distinguishes lions into the greater and the smaller; the latter, he remarks, are proportionally shorter in the body, have their hair more crisped, and are less courageous than the former. He adds, that, in general, all lions are of a yellow colour. The first of these facts seems to be doubtful; for no traveller mentions lions with crisped hair: Some authors, who, in other respects, appear not to merit entire confidence, talk of a tiger with crisped hair, which is found at the Cape of Good Hope§. But almost all authors agree as to the colour of the lion,

\* See the article *Tiger*, where we have mentioned some animals to which this name has been improperly applied.

† A very young lion, dissected by the gentlemen of the Academy, was seven and a half feet long, from the extremity of the muzzle to the origin of the tail, and four and a half feet high.

‡ Hist. Anim. cap. 44.

§ Les Mem. de Koebe, in which he calls this animal the *Welf-tiger*.



which is yellow on the back, and whitish on the sides and belly. *Ælian* and *Opian*, however, affirm, that the Ethiopian lions are as black as the men; that, in India, there are lions entirely white, and others spotted with different colours, as red, black, and blue. But this seems not to be supported by any authentic evidence; for *Marc-Paul*, the Venetian, speaks not of these spotted lions as if he had seen them; and *Gesner*\* properly remarks, that he only followed *Ælian*. It appears, on the contrary, that there are little or no varieties in this species; that the lions of Africa and of Asia are perfectly similar; and that the lions of the mountains differ from those of the plains in stature only, and not in colour.

The lion has a mane, or rather long hair which covers almost all the anterior parts of his body†, and grows always longer as he advances in age. But the lioness, however old, has no mane. The American animal, called a *Lion* by the Europeans, and *Puma* by the natives of Peru, has no mane, and is also smaller, weaker, and less courageous than the true lion. It is not impossible, that the mildness of this region of south America should have had such influence on the nature of the lion, as to deprive him of his mane, and diminish both his courage and his stature. But it seems to be an absolute impossibility, that

\* *Gesner, Hist. Anim. Quid.* 574.

† This mane consists of hair equally soft and smooth as that of the rest of the body.

this animal, who inhabits the countries within the Tropics only, and against whom Nature appears to have shut up every avenue to the north, should have passed from the southern regions of Asia or Africa into America, these continents being divided from each other, towards the south, by immense oceans. Hence we are led to conclude, that the *Puma* is not a lion sprung from those of the Old World, and degenerated by the influence of the climate of America, but that he is an animal peculiar to America, like most animals of the New Continent. When the Europeans first discovered America, they found the quadrupeds, birds, fishes, insects, plants, and almost every thing, perfectly different from those of Europe. It was, therefore, necessary to denominate the principal objects of this New World. The names given them by the natives were mostly barbarous, and very difficult to pronounce or to remember. The names of objects were, of course, borrowed from those of the European languages, and especially from the Spanish and Portuguese. In this penury of denomination, the smallest analogy in external figure or in stature is sufficient to make us attribute to unknown objects the names of those with which we are acquainted. This gives rise to endless uncertainties and confusion, which are still further augmented, not only by giving to the productions of the New World the denominations of those of the Old, but by the continual transportation of European plants and animals

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into America. To obviate these difficulties, we ought carefully to distinguish what belongs to the one continent, from what belongs to the other, and to avoid the deceptions originating from improper denominations. We shall perceive the necessity of this discrimination in the subsequent article, where an enumeration of the animals peculiar to both continents shall be given.

M. de la Condamine, whose evidence merits the highest credit, says expressly, that he knows not whether the American animal called a *Lion* by the Spaniards, and *Puma* by the natives of Quito, deserves the name of a lion: He adds, that it is much smaller than the African lion, and that the male has no mane\*. Fresier likewise informs us, that the animals called *Lions* in Peru, are very different from those of Africa; that they fly upon the approach of man; and that they are dreadful to the flocks only: He farther remarks, that their head somewhat resembles both the head of the wolf and of the tiger; and that their tail is less than the tail of either of these animals†. We learn, from more ancient relations‡, that the American lions have no resemblance to those of Africa; that they have neither the stature nor the boldness of the true lion; that they are neither red nor yellow, but of a gray

\* Voyage de l'Amérique Méridionale. p. 24.

† Le Voyage de Fresier à la Mer du Sud, p. 132.

‡ Joseph Acosta, Nat. Hist. of the Indies.

colour;

colour; that they have no manes, and are accustomed to climb trees. Hence these animals differ from the lion in stature, in colour, in the form of the head, in the length of the tail, in the want of manes, and in their manners and dispositions. Characters so numerous and so essential ought for ever to prevent us from confounding the *Puma* of America with the genuine lion of Africa or of Asia.

Though this noble animal inhabits the warmest climates only, he can subsist for a great length of time in temperate countries, and, perhaps, with some attention, might even be enabled to propagate. Gesner relates, that lions were brought forth in the menagerie of Florence; and Willoughby tells us, that, in Naples, a lioness that had been impregnated by a lion in the same den, brought forth five whelps at one litter. These examples are rare; but, if true, they prove that lions are not absolute strangers to a temperate climate. None of them, however, exist in the southern parts of Europe: In the age of Homer, there were no lions in the Peloponnesus, although they were then, and even in the days of Aristotle, in Thrace, in Macedonia, and in Thessaly. It is apparent, therefore, that, in all ages, they preferred the hot climates; that they seldom lived in temperate countries; and that they never inhabited the more northern regions. The naturalists above quoted, who speak of lions brought forth at Florence and Naples, are silent as to the

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time of the female's gestation, the size of the new-born whelps, and the quickness or slowness of their growth. *Ælian*\* limits the time of gestation to two months; but *Philostratus* and *Edward Wotton*† extend it to six. I am inclined to be of the latter opinion; for the lion is an animal of great magnitude; and we know, that, in general, among large animals, the time of gestation is longer than among the smaller species. The same thing takes place with regard to the growth of the body. Both ancients and moderns agree, that new-born lions are very small, being about the size of a weasel‡, that is, six or seven inches in length. They must, therefore, require several years before they can grow eight or nine feet long. The young lions are likewise said to be two months old before they can walk. Without giving implicit faith to these facts, we may, with probability, presume, that the lion, from the largeness of his body, must require three or four years in acquiring his full growth, and that he ought to live about seven times three or four years, or nearly to the age of twenty-five. The *Sieur de St. Martin*, master of the bull-fights at Paris, assures me, that he has kept lions sixteen or seventeen years; and he imagines that they live not above the age of twenty or twenty-two. He has kept others twelve or fifteen years; and

\* *Gesner, Hist. Quad. p. 575.*

† *Lib. de Differ. Anim. cap. 80.*

‡ *Ibid. cap. 80.*

it is well known that their lives must be abridged, and their constitution weakened, by the want of exercise, confinement, and chagrin.

*Aristotle* affirms, in two different parts of his works\*, that the lioness produced five or six whelps at the first litter, four or five at the second, three or four at the third, and two or three at the fourth; and that, after this last litter, which is always the least numerous, she becomes barren. This assertion merits no credit; for, in all animals, the first and last litters are less numerous than the intermediate ones. This philosopher erred, as well as all the naturalists who came after him, when he maintained that the lioness had two pups only; for it is now certain that she has four. He likewise affirms†, that the lion, the bear, and the fox, are brought forth in an unformed state: But it is now past a doubt, that these creatures are as well formed at birth as any other animals, and that all the members are distinctly unfolded. Lastly, he affirms, that the lions copulate in a reversed manner‡; but, from a bare inspection of the parts of the male, it is evident, that the lion must copulate in the ordinary way of other quadrupeds. I have mentioned these slight errors of *Aristotle*, because the authority of this great man has deceived all the

\* *Aril. de Generatione, lib. iii. cap. 2. et 10.*

† *Ibid. lib. iv. cap. 6.*

‡ *Ibid. Anim. lib. v. cap. 2. Linn. Syst. p. 60. Leo retro miagit et coit.*



writers on natural history since his time. What he remarks of the lion's neck being composed of one rigid and inflexible bone, has also been contradicted by experience; for, in every quadruped, without exception, and even in man, the neck consists precisely of seven vertebræ. It is another general fact, that the necks of carnivorous animals are shorter than those of the frugivorous, and particularly of the ruminating species. But this difference in the length of the neck depends on the largeness of each vertebra, and not on their number, which is always the same, from the elephant to the mole. With regard to the solidity of the lion's bones, which Aristotle affirms to have neither marrow nor cavity; to their hardness, which he compares to that of flint; and to their property of striking fire with steel; these blunders ought not to have been repeated by Kolbe\*; nor should they have come down to our time; since, even in the days of Aristotle, they were ridiculed by Epicurus.

The lions are exceedingly ardent in their amours. When the female is in season, she is sometimes followed by eight or ten males†, who incessantly roar around her, and engage in the most furious combats, till one of them conquers all the rest, and retires in peaceable possession of his mate. The lioness brings forth in the spring‡, and produces but once in the year; which shows

\* Mem. de Kolbe, tom. iii. p. 4.

† Gesner, Hist. Quad. p. 575.

‡ Id. ibid.

that

that she is occupied for some months in suckling and taking care of her young; and, consequently, that the time of their growing, when they need the assistance of the mother, is at least several months.

In these animals, all the passions, even those of the softest kind, are excessive. The maternal affection of the lioness is extreme. Though naturally weaker, and less courageous than the lion, whenever she has young, she becomes dreadfully ferocious. She then exposes herself with more boldness than the lion; she knows no danger; she attacks, indiscriminately, men and every other animal; and, after slaying them, carries them home to her whelps, whom she soon accustoms to suck the blood and tear the flesh. She commonly brings forth in places the most sequestered and inaccessible; and, when afraid of being discovered, she conceals the tracks of her feet, by returning several times on her steps, or effaces them with her tail. When her anxiety is great, she sometimes transports her young to a different place; and, if the hunters attempt to force them from her, she becomes perfectly furious, and defends them to the last extremity.

The lion, it is alledged, has neither the senses of smelling nor of seeing so acute as most animals of prey. The light of the sun seems to incommode him; he seldom goes abroad in the middle of the day, but makes all his excursions during

during the night: When he sees the fires burning around the flocks, he never approaches them. It has also been remarked, that he perceives not the odour of other animals at a distance; that he hunts by the eye only, and not by the scent, like the dog and the wolf, whose sense of smelling is finer. Even the name of *Guide*, or *Lion's Provider*, has been given to a species of lynx, which is supposed to have a piercing eye and exquisite scent; and, it is said, that this lynx always follows or precedes the lion, to point out his prey. We are acquainted with this animal, which, like the lion, inhabits Arabia, Lybia, &c. and which sometimes follows the lion with a view to pick up what he leaves; for, being smaller, and much weaker, he should rather fly from the lion than serve him.

The lion, when pressed with hunger, boldly attacks every animal that comes in his way. But, as he is extremely formidable, and is anxiously avoided by every beast of the forest, he is often obliged to lie concealed in the paths where animals commonly pass. He lies squat on his belly among brush-wood, from which he darts with such force, that he often seizes his prey at the first bound. In the deserts and forests, antelopes and monkeys are his common food, though he takes the latter when upon the ground only; for he climbs not trees like the tiger or the Puma\*. He devours as much at a time

\* Klein de Quad. p. 82.

as will serve him two or three days. His teeth are so strong, that he breaks bones with ease, and swallows them along with the flesh. He is said to support hunger very long. As his temperament is exceedingly hot, he is impatient of thirst, and drinks as often as he finds water, which he laps like a dog. The tongue of the dog, when lapping, is bended upwards; but that of the lion is bended downward, which occasions him to drink long, and to lose much water. He requires about fifteen pounds of raw flesh every day. He prefers the flesh of living animals, especially of those whom he slays himself. He does not willingly eat putrid carcases, and chooses rather to hunt for a fresh prey than to use the remains of a former. Though he commonly feeds upon fresh meat, his breath is very rank, and the odour of his urine is insupportable.

The roaring of the lion is so loud, that, when uttered during the night in the deserts, it resembles, by the repetition of echoes, the noise of thunder\*. This roaring is the ordinary voice of the lion; for, when enraged, he utters a short, and suddenly repeated cry. But the roaring is a prolonged cry, a kind of a deep-toned grumbling, mixed with a sharp vibrating noise. He roars five or six times in the day, and oftener before rain†. When enraged, his

\* Voyages de la Boulaye-le-Goux, p. 320.

† These facts I learned from the Sieur Saint-Martin, master of the bell-fights, who has kept several lions.

cry is still more terrible than his roaring. He then beats his sides and the earth with his tail, agitates his mane, moves the skin of his face, and his large eye-brows, shows his dreadful tusks, and thrusts out his tongue, which is armed with prickles so hard, that it alone is sufficient to tear the skin and the flesh, without the assistance of either teeth or claws. His strength lies more in the head, jaws, and fore-legs, than in the posterior parts of his body. He sees in the night, like the cats. His sleep is short, and he is easily awaked. But it is a mistaken notion, that he sleeps with his eyes open.

The ordinary pace of the lion is bold, grave, and slow, though always oblique. His course consists not of equal movements, but is performed by leaps and bounds; and his motions are so brisk, that he cannot instantly stop, but generally surpasses his aim. When he leaps on his prey, he makes a spring of twelve or fifteen feet, falls above the victim, seizes it with his fore-feet, tears it in pieces with his claws, and then devours it with his teeth. While young and nimble, he lives by hunting, and seldom quits the deserts or the forests, where he finds plenty of wild animals for his subsistence. But, when he grows old, heavy, and less fit for the exercise of hunting, he approaches frequented places, and becomes more dangerous to man and the domestic animals. It has, indeed, been remarked, that, when he sees men and animals together, he at-

tacks the latter, and never the former, unless any person strikes him; for, in this case, he is wonderfully alert in distinguishing the man who hurts him; and he instantly quits his prey to take vengeance on the offender. It is alledged, that he prefers the flesh of the camel to that of all other animals. He is likewise very fond of young elephants. As they are unable to resist him till their tusks are grown, he accomplishes his purpose with ease, unless the mother come to their assistance. The elephant, the rhinoceros, the tiger, and the hippopotamus, are the only animals which can resist the fury of the lion.

This animal, however formidable, is hunted with large dogs, supported by men on horseback, who dislodge him, and make him retire. But both the dogs and the horses require to be previously trained; for most animals tremble and fly from the odour of the lion. His skin, though of a close and firm texture, resists neither a ball nor a javeline. He is seldom, however, killed with a single blow. He is often taken, as we take wolves, by making him fall into a deep pit, covered with limber materials, and upon which a live animal is fixed. The lion becomes gentle as soon as he is seized; and, if advantage be taken of the first emotions of his surprise and shame, he may be chained, muzzled, and conducted at pleasure.

The flesh of the lion has a strong and disagreeable flavour; yet it is frequently eat by the

Indians and Negroes. The skin, which was formerly the robe of heroes, serves these people for a mantle or a bed. They also preserve the grease, which is of a penetrating nature, and even of some use in medicine\*.

\* See l'Hist. Nat. des Animaux, par Mef. Arnaud de Noble, ville et Salerne, tom. v. part. ii. p. 112.

Plate CX.



LION.

*A. B. S. Sculp.*

Plate CXI.



LIONESS.

*A. B. S. Sculp.*