

## The MARMOT of Kamtschatka.

THE Russian travellers have discovered an animal in Kamtschatka, which they have called a *marmot*, but of which they have given us a very slight intimation only. They tell us, that its skin resembles, at a distance, the variegated plumage of a beautiful bird; that, like the squirrel, it uses its fore-feet in eating; and that it feeds on roots, berries, and cedar-nuts. It is worthy of remark, that the expression *cedar-nuts* presents a false idea; for the true cedar bears cones, and other trees, called by the name of cedars, bear berries.

## The MARMOT of the Cape of Good Hope.

WE owe the first notices of this animal to M. Allamand, a learned naturalist and professor at Leyden. M. Pallas has described it under the name of *Cavia Capensis*, and M. Vofmaer under that of the *Bastard African Marmot*. Both have given a figure of it from the same plate, of which M. Allamand has sent me a copy.

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In writing on this subject to M. Daubenton, he remarks:

‘ I send you the figure of a species of cabiai, (I know no other name to give it), which I received from the Cape of Good Hope. It is not so well drawn as I could wish; but, as I have the animal stuffed in my cabinet, if you are inclined, I shall transmit it to you by the first opportunity.’

We accepted not this obliging offer of M. Allamand, because we were soon after informed, that one or two of these animals had arrived in Holland alive, and hoped that some naturalist would furnish us with an exact description. Both M. Pallas and M. Vofmaer have accordingly described this animal, and I shall here give extracts from their remarks:

“ This animal,” says M. Vofmaer, “ is known at the Cape of Good Hope, under the name of the *Rock Badger*, probably because it lives among rocks, and under the earth, like the badger; to which, however, it has no resemblance. It has a greater affinity to the marmot, and yet it differs considerably from that animal. . . . Kolbe is the first who mentions this animal, and he says, that it resembles the marmot more than the badger.”

We shall adopt the name of the *Marmot of the Cape*, in preference to that of the *cavia*, because it differs from the *cavia* or *cabiai* in many respects: 1. In the climate, the *cavia* being an animal