

THE PIGMY*.

ARISTOTLE remarks, ' that there are
' animals whose nature is ambiguous, and
' are partly allied to man, and partly to qua-
' drupeds; such as the *pigmies*, the *kebes*, and
' the *cynocephali*. The *kebe* is a pigmy with a
' tail; and the *cynocephalus* is perfectly similar
' to the pigmy, except that it is larger and
' stronger, and has a longer muzzle, approach-
' ing nearly to that of the bull-dog, from which
' circumstance its name has been derived. Its
' manners are likewise more ferocious, and its

* Ape with a flatish face; ears like those of a man; body of the size of a cat; colour above an olive brown, beneath yellowish; nails flat; buttocks naked; sits upright; Pennant's *Synops. of Zood.* p. 58.

Simia, in Greek; *Simia* in Latin; *Le Pibou* in French; *Chinthe* in Tartary; and *Simia* in China. *aldenothopou* Pithecius; *Arist. Hist. Anim. lib. ii. cap. 8.*

Simia; *Cassini, Zood. p. 247.* *Rail Synops. Zood. p. 149.* *Jobynus de Zood. tab. 59.*

Ape, ad spec. *Boissac's Gaiety, p. 242.*

Le Singe. Simia unguibus omnibus planis et rotundatis; Brisson. Zood. p. 133.

Figura prima est eorum simiarum quæ caudas non habent: Hæ cæteris facilius et citius mansuecunt; cæterisque solentiori ingenio præstant, hilarioresque et versutiores exsiliunt; Prop. Alp. Hist. Egypt. lib. iv. tab. 20. fig. 1.

Simia sylvanus, ecaudata, natibus calvis, capite subrotundo; Linn. Syst. Nat. p. 34.

' teeth

' teeth are stronger than those of the pigmy,
' and have a greater resemblance to those of the
' dog.' From this passage, it is apparent, that
neither the pigmy nor the *cynocephalus* men-
tioned by Aristotle have a tail; for he says, that
the pigmies with tails are called *kebes*, and that
the *cynocephalus* resembles the pigmy in every
article, except the muzzle and teeth. Hence
Aristotle takes notice of two apes without tails,
the pigmy and *cynocephalus*, and other apes with
tails, to which he gives the denomination of
kebes. Now, to compare our own knowledge
with that of Aristotle, we shall remark, that we
have seen three species of apes without tails, the
orang-outang, the gibbon, or long armed ape,
and the magot, or Barbary ape, and that the
pigmy is none of these three species; for the
orang-outang and gibbon could not be known to
Aristotle, since these animals are only found in
the southern parts of Africa and India, which
were not discovered in his time; besides, they
have characters very different from those he
ascribes to the pigmy. But the third species,
which we call the *magot*, or Barbary ape, is the
cynocephalus of Aristotle; for it has no tail; its
muzzle resembles that of a bull-dog; and its
canine teeth are long and thick. Besides, this
animal is common in Asia Minor, and other east-
ern provinces which were known to the Greeks.
The pigmy belongs to the same country; but
we know it only from the relations of travel-
lers.

lers. But, though we have never been able to procure this ape, its existence is equally real with that of the *cynocephalus*. Gesner and Johnston have given figures of the pigmy. M. Brisson mentions his having seen it, and he distinguishes it from the *cynocephalus* or Barbary ape, which he likewise saw. He confirms Aristotle's remark, that these two animals resemble each other in every thing, except that the *cynocephalus* has a longer muzzle than the pigmy*.

We remarked, that the orang-outang, the pigmy, the gibbon, and the Barbary ape, are the only animals to which the generic name *ape* ought to be applied; because they alone want the tail, and walk spontaneously, and oftener on two feet than on four feet. The orang-outang and the gibbon are very different from the pigmy and Barbary ape. But, as the two latter have a perfect resemblance, except in the length of the muzzle and the largeness of the canine teeth, the one has frequently been mistaken for the other. They have always been mentioned under

* The first race of apes, which have no tail, and a short muzzle: 1. The ape. I saw several apes which differed only in magnitude: Their face, ears, and nails, were very similar to those of man. The hair which covered their bodies, except the buttocks, which are naked, is a mixture of green and yellow. The green predominates on the superior part of the body, and the yellow on the inferior. . . . The second race of apes, which have no tail, and a long muzzle: 1. The *cynocephalus* differs from the ape only in having a long muzzle, like that of a dog. I saw several of them which had no difference but in size; Brisson. *Regn. Anim.* p. 189. 191.

the

the common appellation of *ape*, even in languages which have one name for apes without tails, and another for those which have tails. In German, both the pigmy and Barbary ape are called *aff*, and *ape* in English. It is only in the Greek language that each of these animals has a proper name. *Cynocephalus* is rather an adjective than a proper substantive; and for that reason we have not adopted it.

From the testimony of the ancients, it appears, that the pigmy is more mild and docile than all the other apes with which they were acquainted, and that it was common in Asia, as well as in Lybia, and other provinces of Africa which were frequented by the Greek and Roman travellers. Hence I presume that the following passages of Leo Africanus and Marmol ought to be applied to the pigmy. They tell us, that the apes with long tails, which are shown in Mauritania, and which the Africans call *moner*, come from the Negro country; but that the apes without tails are natives, and very numerous in the mountains of Mauritania, Bugia, and Constantina: 'They have,' says Marmol, 'the feet, the hands, and the countenance of a man, and are extremely malicious and full of spirit. They live upon herbs, corn, and all kinds of fruits. They go in troops into the gardens or fields; but, before they leave the thickets, one of them ascends an eminence, from which he views the country; and, when he sees no person, he gives

'gives the signal, by a cry, for the rest to proceed, and removes not from his station as long as they continue abroad. But, whenever he perceives any person approaching, he screams with a loud voice; and, by leaping from tree to tree, they all fly to the mountains. Their slight is worthy of admiration; for the females, though they carry four or five young ones on their backs, make great springs from branch to branch. Though extremely cunning, vast numbers of them are taken by different arts. When wild, they bite desperately; but by caresses they are easily tamed. They do much mischief to the fruits and corn; for they gather it together in heaps, cut it, and throw it on the ground, whether it be ripe or not, and destroy more than they eat or carry off. Those who are tamed perform things which are almost incredible, and imitate every human action*.' Kolbe relates nearly the same facts with regard to the apes of the Cape of Good Hope. But, from his figure and description, it is obvious, that these apes are baboons, and have a short tail, a long muzzle, pointed nails, &c.; and that they are much larger and stronger than the apes of Mauritania †. We may, therefore, presume, that Kolbe has copied the passage from Marmol, and attributed to the baboons of the

* L'Afrique de Marmol, tom. i. p. 57.

† See below, art. *Baboon*.

Cape the manners and dispositions of Mauritanian pigmies.

The pigmy, the Barbary ape, and the baboon, were known to the ancients; these animals are found in Asia Minor, Arabia, Upper Egypt, and in all the northern parts of Africa. Hence this passage of Marmol may be applied to all the three. But it corresponds not with the baboon; for it mentions, that these apes have no tails. Neither is it the Barbary ape, but the pigmy, of which this author treats; for the Barbary ape is not easily tamed, and, instead of four or five, it generally produces only two young. But the pigmy, being smaller, should produce a greater number. Besides, it is milder and more docile than the Barbary ape, which is never perfectly tamed. For these reasons, I am convinced that it is not the Barbary ape, but the pigmy, to which the passage in the above author ought to be applied. The same remark is applicable to a passage of Rubruquis; when mentioning the apes of Cathay, he says, 'That, in every article, they are fashioned like man. . . . That they are more than a foot and a half high, and all covered with hair; that they live in caverns; that, in order to seize them, the natives put strong inebriating liquors in the caverns they frequent; . . . that they assemble together to drink these liquors, crying *chinchin*, from which they have obtained the name of *chinchin*; and that, after intoxicating themselves, they fall asleep,

'asleep, when they are easily taken by the hunters.' These characters correspond with the pigmy, and by no means with the Barbary ape. The latter we have seen alive, and never heard it cry *chinchin*. Besides, it is much more than a foot and a half high, and has not so great a resemblance to man as the author alledges. We have the same reasons for applying to the pigmy the figure and remark of Prosper Alpinus. He tells us, that the small apes without tails, which he saw in Egypt, tame sooner and more easily than any other; that they have likewise more sagacity and industry, and are gayer and more frolicsome. Now, the Barbary ape is thick, and of a considerable stature; it is a dirty, ferocious, melancholy animal, and is never fully tamed. Hence the characters given by Prosper Alpinus to his ape without a tail, apply not to the Barbary ape, and can belong to no other animal than the pigmy.

Distinctive Characters of this Species.

The pigmy has no tail, and his canine teeth are not proportionally larger than those of man. He has a flat face; his nails are likewise flat, and rounded like those of the human species. He walks on two feet, and is about a foot and a half in length. His disposition is mild, and he is easily tamed. The ancients alledge, that the female is subject to the menstrual discharge, and analogy permits us not to doubt the fact.

The

The GIBBON, or Long-armed APE*.

THE gibbon keeps himself always erect, even when he walks on four feet; because his arms are as long as both his body and legs. We have seen him alive. He exceeds not three feet in height; but he was young, and in captivity. Hence we may presume, that he had not acquired his full dimensions, and that, in a natural state, he might arrive at four feet. He has not the vestige of a tail. But he is distin-

* Long-armed ape, with a flat swarthy face, surrounded with gray hairs; hair on the body black and rough; buttocks bare; nails on the hands flat, on the feet long; arms of a disproportioned length, reaching quite to the ground when the animal is erect, its natural posture; of a hideous deformity; Pennant's *Sympst. of Zood.* p. 100.

Gibbon is the name under which M. Dupleix gave us this animal, which he brought from the East Indies. I first imagined this to be an Indian word. But I found, in a note upon Pliny by Delacamp, that Strabo had denoted the *cephus* by the words *keipos*, from which *gibbon* or *gibbon* had probably been derived. The passage of Pliny, with Dalechamp's note; * Pompeii Magni primum ludi ostenderunt ex Ethiopia quas vocant *cephus**, quarum pedes posteriores pedibus humanis et cruribus, priores manibus ferre similes: Hoc animal postea Roma non vidit.

* *Cephus*; Strabo, lib. xv. *keipos* vocat, esseque, tradit facie satyro similem; Dal. Plin. Hist. Nat. lib. vii. cap. 19. Note. It appears that the *cephus* of the Greeks, and the *cephus* of Pliny, which ought to be pronounced *kepus* and *kepus*, may have originally come from *keps* or *kepsin*, the Hebrew and Chaldean name of the ape.