

VII.

THE PEROUASCA.

RUSSIA and Poland furnish another animal. In the language of the former country it is called *perewiazka*, and in that of the latter *przewiazka**, or *girdled weasel*. It is smaller than the polecat, and covered with whitish hair, rayed transversely with several bands of yellowish red. It lives in the woods, and burrows in the ground. Its skin is a beautiful fur.

VIII.

The SOUSLIK, or CASAN MARMOT†.

IN Casan, and the provinces watered by the Volga, as far as Austria, there is a small animal called

curvum est, abdomen pendulum, femora grossa, pedum digiti longi acutis unguibus ad fodiendum adaptatis; talparum enim instar in eritis sub terra antris degit; pilus ex dilute cinereo fuscus est; *Scha*, vol. ii. p. 64. fig. tab. 63. fig. 5.

* Rzeczinski, Aud. p. 328.

† Casan marmot, with short round ears; smooth hair, of a y^b

called *souslik* in the Russian language, which furnishes a beautiful fur. In figure and shortness of tail, it has a great resemblance to the short-tailed field mouse. But it is distinguished from the mouse or rat kind by its fur, which is every where interspersed with small spots of a bright and shining white. These spots exceed not a line in diameter, and are placed at the distance of two or three lines from each other. They are more conspicuous, and better defined upon the loins than on the shoulders and head. Mr. Pennant, a well known and very able naturalist, favoured me with one of these sousliks, which had been transmitted to him from Austria, as an animal unknown to the naturalists. I recognised it to be the same animal with that of which I had a skin in my possession, and of which M. Sanchez* sent me the following notice: 'Great numbers of the rats called sousliks are taken in the barks loaded with salt in the river Kama, which descend from Solikamski, where there are salt-pits, and fall into the Wolga, above the town of Casan, at the con-

a yellowish brown colour, marked with faint round spots of white; above and below the eye, a bar of white; face, breast, belly, and legs, of a pale yellow; four toes before, five behind; tail half the length of the body, covered with short hair of the colour of the body; size of a large rat; Pennant's *Synops. of Russ.* p. 273.

Mus marmota, sp. 15. *Fyler, Hist. Nat. Volgar. Phil. Trans.* vol. lviii. p. 343.

* Formerly physician to the court of Russia.

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