

am inclined to believe, that this animal, so much celebrated for its ferocity, is really a much larger species than our bear.

## II.

## The COW of TARTARY\*.

M. GMELIN, in the New Memoirs of the Academy of Peterburgh, has given a description of a Tartarian cow, which, at first sight, appears to differ from all those we have enumerated under the article *buffalo*. 'This cow,' says he, 'which I saw alive, and had a drawing made of it in Siberia, came from Calmuck. It was about two and a half Russian ells in length.

\* Grunting ox, with a mane on the neck; whole body covered with long hair, reaching almost to the ground; back busched; tail like that of a horse, covered with full white and long hairs, strikes with its head like a goat; is very unruly; found in the country of the Calmucks; Pennant's *Scotch. of Russ.* p. 5.

*Vacca grunniens, villosa, cauda equina, Savioli; New. Com. Persp. tom. v. p. 339. Rubroqati Fey Harris's Coll. vol. i. p. 571.*

*Bos grunniens, cornibus teretibus, exteriorum curvatis, vellicere propendens, cauda undique jubata; Lenz. Syst. Nat. p. 99.*

*Le Boeuf vela; Le Beau. Fey. Myšov. tom. i. p. 120.*

*Bubul; Bull's Trav. vol. i. p. 224.*

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‘ By this standard we may judge of its other  
 ‘ dimensions, the proportions of which have  
 ‘ been accurately observed by the painter. The  
 ‘ body resembles that of a common cow. The  
 ‘ horns are bended inward. The hair on the  
 ‘ body and head is black, except on the front  
 ‘ and ridge of the back, where it is white. It  
 ‘ has a mane on the neck; and the whole body,  
 ‘ like that of a buck, is covered with very long  
 ‘ hair, which descends as far as the knees, and  
 ‘ makes the legs appear short. It has a bunch  
 ‘ on the back. The tail resembles that of a  
 ‘ horse, and is white and very bushy. The fore  
 ‘ legs are black, the hind ones white, and the  
 ‘ whole resemble those of the ox. Upon the  
 ‘ heels of the hind feet, there are two tufts of  
 ‘ long hair, the one before and the other behind;  
 ‘ and, on the fore feet, there is but one tuft  
 ‘ behind. The excrements are more solid than  
 ‘ those of cows; and, when the animal dis-  
 ‘ charges urine, it draws its body backward.  
 ‘ It lows not like an ox, but grunts like a hog.  
 ‘ It is wild, and even ferocious; for, except the  
 ‘ man from whom it receives its food, it gives  
 ‘ blows with its head to every person who comes  
 ‘ near it. The presence of domestic cows it  
 ‘ hardly suffers: Whenever it perceives one of  
 ‘ them, it grunts, which it seldom does on any  
 ‘ other occasion.’ To this description M. Gmelin  
 ‘ adds, ‘ That it is the same animal mentioned  
 ‘ by Rubruquis in his Travels into Tartary:

‘ That there are two species of it among the  
 ‘ Calmucks, the first called *farluk*, which I have  
 ‘ already described, and the second *chainuk*,  
 ‘ which differs from the other by the largeness  
 ‘ of its head and horns, and also by the tail,  
 ‘ which at its origin resembles that of the horse,  
 ‘ and terminates like that of a cow. But they  
 ‘ both have the same natural dispositions.’

In the whole of this description, there is only  
 a single character which indicates the Calmuck  
 cows to be a particular species, and that is their  
 grunting instead of lowing. In every other ar-  
 ticle, they have so strong a resemblance to the  
 bison, that they must belong to the same species,  
 or rather the same race. Besides, though the  
 author says, that these cows do not low, but  
 grunt, he acknowledges that they very rarely  
 utter that kind of sound. Perhaps it was an af-  
 fection peculiar to the individual he saw; for  
 Rubruquis, and the other writers whom he quotes,  
 do not mention this grunting. Perhaps the bisons,  
 when enraged, likewise make a grunting noise.  
 Even our bulls, particularly in the rutting season,  
 have a hollow, interrupted voice, which has a  
 greater resemblance to grunting than to lowing.  
 I am persuaded, therefore, that this grunting  
 cow of Gmelin is nothing else but the bison, and  
 does not constitute a particular species.

## III.

## The TOLAI, or BAIKAL HARE\*.

THIS animal is very common in the neighbourhood of Lake Baikal in Tartary. It is somewhat larger than the rabbit, which it resembles in the figure of the body, the fur, the gait, the colour, the taste of the flesh, and the habit of digging a retreat in the earth. Their internal structure is likewise the same †; and there is no difference but in the length of the tail; that of the tolai being considerably longer.

\* Baikal hare, with a tail somewhat longer than that of a rabbit; fur of the colour of the common hare; red about the neck and feet; tail black above, white beneath. It is larger than a rabbit; and inhabits the country beyond Lake Baikal; *Pennant's Synops. of Quad.* p. 253.

*Lepus cauda in fopina parve nigra, in penna alba; Brisson, Quad.* p. 96.

† Cuniculus insigniter caudatus coloris leporini.—Circum internas partes hæc observari. Cecum colo paulo angustius erat, sed longius, usque octo pollicum longitudinem æquans; prope illi insertionem carulefcens, digni mæssu capax, sensimque decrefcens, in extremitate vix calicem scriptorium latitudine caput, colore ibidem albente gaudens. Oculophagus uti in lepore ventriculum medium fuit. A Mongoli Tolai dicunt, idemque nomen Russi etiam harum regionum nuntiatum est; *Gmelin, Nov. Comment. Ac. Petrop. tom. v. tab. 11. fig. 2.*

Hence

Hence it is extremely probable that this animal is only a variety in the species of the rabbit. Rubruquis, when treating of the animals in Tartary, says, 'There are rabbits with a long tail, and black and white hairs at the point. . . . There are no flags, few hares, a vast number of gazelles,' &c. This passage seems to insinuate, that our short-tailed rabbit is not found in Tartary\*, or rather, that it has undergone some variations in that climate, and particularly in the length of the tail; for, as the tolai resembles the rabbit in every other respect, it is unnecessary to consider them as belonging to different species.

## IV.

## The ZISEL †, or EARLESS MARMOT.

SOME authors, and among others Linnæus, have

\* Relation des Voyages en Tartarie, par Rubruquis, p. 25.

† Marmot without external ears, having only a small orifice on each side of the head for the admittance of sounds. It has a blunt nose, a long slender body, and a very short tail. The colour is dark gray, or cinereous brown; *Pennant's Synops. of Quad.* p. 256.

*Mus Noticus; Gyller, Quad. p. 737. Rati Synops. Quad. p. 220.*