

The MAGOT, or BARBARY APE*.

OF all the apes without tails †, the magot agrees best with the temperature of our climate. We kept one several years. In summer, he delighted to be in the open air; and, in winter, he might be kept in a room without fire. Though by no means delicate, he was always melancholy, and sometimes dirty. He used the same grimaces to mark his anger, or to express his appetite. His movements were brisk, his manners gross, and his aspect more ugly than

* Barbary ape, with a long face, not unlike that of a dog; canine teeth long and strong; ears like the human; nails flat; buttocks bare; colour of the upper part of the body a dirty greenish brown; belly of a dull pale yellow; grows to above the length of four feet; *Pennant's Synops. of Quad. p. 100.*

Magot, the old French name of this ape, which we have adopted. *Moucat*, according to Johnstone. It is likewise called *Taurarin*, because it is very common in South Tartary.

Cynophalus; *Arist. Hist. Anim. lib. ii. cap. vii. Philist. lib. viii. cap. 54. Gesev. Quad. p. 359. Protopr. Alia. Egypt. vol. ii. p. 241. tab. 16.*

Simia cynocephala. . . . Le singe cynocephale; *Briffon. Quad.*

Simia innus, ecaudata, natibus calvis, capite oblongo; Linn. Syst. Nat. p. 35.

† It is certain that this ape has no tail, though there is a slight appearance of one, formed by a small appendix of skin about half an inch long, and situated above the anus. But this appendix has no vertebrae, and is only a portion of skin, which adheres not more to the corac than to the rest of the skin.

ridiculous. When agitated with passion, he exhibited, and ground his teeth. He filled the pouches of his cheeks with the food which was given him, and generally eat every thing, except raw flesh, cheese, and whatever had undergone a kind of fermentation. When about to sleep, he loved to perch upon an iron or wooden bar. He was always chained; because, though he had been long in a domestic state, he was not civilized, and had no attachment to his masters. He seems to have been ill educated; for I have seen others of the same species more intelligent, more obedient, more gay, and so docile as to learn to dance, to make gesticulations in cadence, and to allow themselves peaceably to be clothed.

This ape, when erect upon his two hind legs, is generally two feet and a half, or three feet high; the female is smaller than the male. He walks more willingly on four than on two feet. When resting, he commonly supports his body on two prominent callosities, which are situated where the buttocks ought to be: The anus is placed higher. Hence his body is more inclined than that of a man, when sitting. He differs from the pigmy or ape properly so called: 1. Because his muzzle is thick and long, as in the dog; but the face of the pigmy is flat; 2. Because he has very long canine teeth; 3. Because his nails and fingers are neither so flat nor so round; and, 4. Because he is larger, more squat,

squat, and of a more ferocious and untractable disposition.

There are some varieties in this species. We have seen magots of different sizes, and with hair more or less deeply coloured, and more or less bushy. It even appears, that the five animals described and drawn by Prosper Alpinus, under the denomination of *cynocephali**, are all magots, which differ only in magnitude, and in some other characters too slight to constitute distinct species. It likewise appears that the species is pretty generally diffused over all the warm climates of the Old Continent, and that they are found in Tartary, Arabia, Æthiopia, Malabar, Barbary, Mauritania, and as far as the Cape of Good Hope†.

Distinctive

* Prosper. Alpin. Hist. Nat. Ægypt. lib. iv. tab. 15. fig. 1. et tab. 16, 17, 18, 19.

† The third species of Malabar ape is ash-coloured, and has no tail, or a very short one. It is familiar, and easily apprehends what it is taught.—I received one in a present, and I once thought proper to beat it; but its cries brought about me such a number of its neighbours in a wild state, that, to prevent accidents, I restored it to liberty; *Voyage du P. Vincent Marie*, p. 405.

‡ It is probably this species of ape which Robert Lade mentions in the following terms: "We traversed a large mountain in the neighbourhood of the Cape of Good Hope, and amused ourselves with hunting large apes, which are very numerous in that place.—I can neither describe all the arts professed by these animals, nor the nimbleness and impudence with which they returned, after being pursued by us. Sometimes they allowed us to approach so near them, that I was almost certain of seizing them. But, when I made the attempt, they sprang, at

Distinctive Characters of this Species.

The magot has no tail, though there is a small portion of skin which has the appearance of one. He has cheek-pouches, large prominent callosities on his buttocks, canine teeth, proportionally longer than those of man, and the under part of the face turned up, like the muzzle of a bulldog. He has down on his face; the hair on his body is of a greenish brown colour, and that on his belly is a whitish yellow. He walks on the two hind feet, but oftener on four. He is three or three and a half feet high; and some of this species appear to be still larger. The females are subject to a periodical discharge.

* a single leap, ten paces from me, and mounted trees with equal
 * agility, from which they looked at us with great indifference,
 * and seemed to derive pleasure from our astonishment. Some of
 * them were so large, that, if our interpreter had not assured us
 * that they were neither ferocious nor dangerous, our number
 * would not have appeared to be sufficient to protect us from their
 * attacks. As it could serve no purpose to kill them, we did not
 * use our guns. But the Captain happened to aim at a very large
 * one which sat on the top of a tree, after having fatigued us a
 * long time in pursuing him: This kind of menace, however, of
 * which the animal, perhaps, recollected his having sometimes seen
 * the consequences, terrified him to such a degree, that he fell
 * down motionless at our feet, and we had no difficulty in seizing
 * him. But, whenever he recovered from his stupor, it required
 * all our dexterity and efforts to keep him. We tied his paws to-
 * gether. But he bit so furiously, that we were under the neces-
 * sity of covering his head with our handkerchiefs;† *Pygmy by*
Robert Laid.

Plate CCXL

*Ed. B. Skimp.*

MAGOT.



Plate CCLXII.



A. Bull. sculp.

MAGOT.