

there are wild and domestic rabbits which have no resemblance to those of Spain*.

XXI.

THE TAPETI, or BRASILIAN HARE †.

THE tapeti ‡ seems to make a near approach to the species of the hare or rabbit. It is found in Brasil, and many other parts of America. In figure, it resembles the European rabbit; and it resembles the hare in size and colour, only it is a little browner. Its ears are very long, and shaped like those of the hare. Its hair is red on the forehead, and whitish on the throat. Some of them have a white circle

* Hist. des Incas, tom. ii. p. 267.

† Brazilian hare, with very long ears; a white ring round the neck; face of a reddish colour; chin white; black eyes; colour of the body like the common hare, only darker; belly whitish; no tail; some want the white ring round the neck; Pennant's Synops. of Quad. p. 252.

Tapeti; Marçgr. Brasil, p. 223. Piso, Brasil, p. 102.

Cuniculus Brasiliensis tapeti dictus; Rati Synops. Quad. p. 205.

Lepus Brasiliensis, cauda nulla; Linn. Syst. Nat. p. 78.

Lepus caudatus; Brisson. Quad. p. 97.

Collared rabbit; Waser's Voyage in Dampier.

‡ Tapeti, according to P. d'Abbeville; Miss. au Maragnan, p. 251.

round

round the neck; but others have a white throat, breast, and belly. They have black eyes, and whiskers like our rabbits; but they want the tail*. The tapeti resembles the hare in its manner of living, in fecundity, and in the quality of its flesh, which is extremely good. Like the hare, it dwells in the fields or in the woods, and burrows not, like the rabbit †. The animal of New Spain, mentioned by Fernandes, under the name of *citli*, appears to be the same with the *tapeti* ‡ of Brasil; and both are perhaps only varieties of the European hares, who have passed by the northern lands from the one Continent to the other.

Some other species of animals might be added to the preceding list; but the accounts given of them are so vague, that I choose rather to confine myself to what is known with some degree of certainty, than to give way to conjecture, or to exhibit creatures of imagination as real species. But, notwithstanding this limitation, intelligent men will easily perceive, that my history of quadrupeds is as complete as they could possibly expect. It comprehends a great number of new animals, and none of those which were formerly known are omitted.

* Marçgr. Hist. Nat. Brasil, p. 223. fig. p. 224.

† Pison, Hist. Brasil, p. 102.

‡ Citli. — Lepores novæ Hispaniæ nostratibus similes foras atque alimento, sed auriculis longissimis pro corporis magnitudine, latissimæque; Fernandes, Hist. Anim. Nov. Hisp. p. 2. cap. 3.

The preceding notices, though composed of twenty-one articles, contain not above nine or ten distinct species; for all the others are only varieties. The white bear is only a variety of the common kind; the Tartarian cow, of the bison; the Guiney and Cape-Verd hogs, of the common hog, &c. Hence, by adding these ten species to about one hundred and eighty, whose history we have given, the total number of quadrupeds, the existence of which is properly ascertained, exceeds not two hundred species upon the surface of the whole known world.

ADDITIONS from the Supplementary
Volume.

THE CRAB-EATER*.

THE name *crab-eater*, or *crab-dog*, has been given to this animal, because crabs are his principal food. He has very little relation to the dog or fox, to which some travellers have compared him. He seems to be more nearly allied to the opossums; but he is much larger, and the female crab-eater carries not her young, like the female opossum, in a pouch under her belly. Hence the crab-eater appears to be a detached species, and different from all those we have formerly described.

In the figure, the long naked, scaly tail, the large thumbs without claws on the hind feet,

* Cayenne opossum, with a long slender face; ears erect, pointed, and short; the coat woolly, mixed with very coarse hairs, three inches long, of a dirty white from the roots to the middle; from thence to the ends of a deep brown; sides and belly of a pale yellow; legs of a dusky brown; thumb on each foot distinct, on the toes of the fore feet, and thumb on the hind, are nails; on the toes of the hind feet crooked claws; tail very long, taper, naked, and scaly. Length seventeen inches; that of the tail fifteen and a half. The subject measured was very young; *Pennant's Synops. of Zood. Edit. 2. p. 309.*

Canis ferus major, canerolus vulgo dictus. Koupara; Barrère, France, Equin. p. 149.