

CHEAP TRACTS No. 4.

AMUSING
STORIES OF ANIMALS;
BEING INSTANCES OF THE
Instincts, Manners, & Propensities,
OF SOME OF
The Brute Creation.



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Stories of Animals.

HUNTING THE OSTRICH.

BESIDES the value of their plumage, some of the savage nations of Africa hunt them also for their flesh, which they consider as a dainty. As the spoils of the ostrich are thus valuable, it is not to be wondered at that man has become their most assiduous pursuer. For this purpose the Arabian train up their best and fleetest horses, and hunt the ostrich still in view. Perhaps of all other varieties of the chase, this, though the most laborious, is yet the most entertaining. As soon as the hunter comes within sight of his prey, he puts on his horse with a gentle gallop, so as to keep the ostrich still in sight; yet not so as to terrify him from the plain into the mountains. In this situation he somewhat resembles a man at full speed; his wings, like two arms, keep working with a motion correspondent to that of his legs, and his speed would very soon snatch him from the view of his pursuers; but, unfortunately for the silly creature, instead of going off in a direct line, he takes his course in circles; while the hunters still make a small course within, relieve each

other, meet him at unexpected turns, and keep him thus still employed, and followed for two or three days together. At last, spent with fatigue and famine, and finding all power of escape impossible, he endeavours to hide himself from those enemies he cannot avoid, and covers his head in the sand, or the first thicket he meets.

There are others who, more compassionate or more provident, do not kill their captive, but endeavour to tame it, for the purposes of supplying those feathers which are in so great request. The inhabitants of Dara and Lybia breed up whole flocks of them, and they are tamed with very little trouble. But it is not for their feathers alone that they are prized in this domestic state; they are often ridden upon, and used as horses. Moore assures us, that at Joar he saw a man travelling upon an ostrich; and Adamson asserts, that at the factory of Podore he had two ostriches, which were then young; the strongest of which ran swifter than the best English racer, although he carried two negroes on his back.

MAD BULL.

A scene at once singular and appalling, occurred in this town on Monday week. At two o'clock, or a little after it, a beautiful Bull of the Galloway breed, remarkable alike for strength and symmetry, was driven into town

from the Annandale side, fettered with ropes as is usual and necessary, though not so completely as it ought to have been. One rope connected the two fore legs, and a second, though smaller one, crossed and recrossed the head and neck, leaving the driver a very ample latitude of rein. When nearly opposite to Mr Beck's coach-work, he became uneasy, from the passers-by, and other works, paused and looked round at his motley followers, tossed his noble head in angry defiance, and more than once attempted to work his Majesty's lieges some deadly skaith. With great difficulty, he was piloted past the King's Arms, and when he got into the High-street, he made a dead halt, and seemed to regard the area, from its great width, as an excellent station for showing fight. The driver stood at a respectful distance, adapting his position to the motion of the bull, and so as to be out of harm's-way; and though curs yelped, and boys hallooed, and even men threw their bonnets at his head, he scorned all such petty annoyances and still kept his station on the crown of the causeway. The door of every shop was besieged with spectators; the sash of every window thrown up; behind, before, and round-about, men, women, and children rushed as near as they durst to the scene of action; and the crowd, in a word, like a snaw-ball, rolled during a moderate thaw, soon increased to a prodigious size. While all this was going forward, the bull by pawing actually acted the part of a pavior, and fretted sadly under his manacles;

“many a time and oft” he tried to get rid of the ugly cords, and after repeated failures, he bellowed and tossed his lordly head, and said as plain as a brute can speak, “only make me as free as nature formed me, and I will instantly charge and put to the rout the universal people of Dumfries.” And to confess the truth, he had well nigh made his threats good. An unthinking cur which crossed before him was charged and almost annihilated in a moment, and a second charge was made on a heavily laden carrier’s cart, or rather on two men stationed behind it. The concussion was fearful; the cart was but as a feather on the animal’s neck, and the haste with which the men scampered away illustrated more strongly than any thing we ever witnessed before, the mettle which fear puts into people’s heels. Different ladies were confined in shops, and kept in a state of great trepidation, and some of them, we understand, were fain to scramble out by back windows, and thread the mazes of lanes and closes, such as persons of quality do not often visit. At times the bull, though still partly kept in check, indicated a wish to peep into the shops; but the merchants and their friends seemed to regard him as rather an ugly customer, and as often as he veered to this side or that, they retired simultaneously into the interior, closing the folding doors behind them. In a place of business immediately opposite to our office, we observed two functionaries stationed, but so far from preserving the peace of the burgh, they

had enough ado to protect their own persons, and we could not help smiling at the dilemma of those whose duty it is to send others to jail, and who were, no doubt, for the first time kept in durance vile themselves. After the lapse of nearly an hour, the animal strode slowly and majestically away, though still frowning defiance on his followers. Partly by the cords, and partly by the crowd, his head was turned down Bank's street, the passage to which was immediately closed by several hundreds of our wondering townsmen. When the animal wheeled the people wheeled too, and although the enemy was out of sight, it was easy to guess what was passing from the ebbing or flowing of the human waves that rushed into or out of Bank-street. Near the wood-yards a man got in the way of the furious animal, which immediately bellowed and plunged forward; and had not the pursued escaped by jinking, it is more than probable that death would have ensued. At the same spot a dog a perfect hero of its race, made a sudden leap, and seized the bull firmly by the nose which, after standing for an instant aghast shook his head with such violence that the assailant was instantly tossed on high, and whirled or spun like a top in the air. When it fell to the ground, every body thought the animal was killed; but so far from this, the dog immediately resumed its position, indenting its teeth more firmly than ever, and baffling every effort made to displace him. This incident maddened the bull to perfect fury; the cords attached to his

head and neck, were immediately torn from the hands that held them, and with one wild and desperate spring he plunged breast-deep into the rolling river, and attempted to gain the opposite side, tossing his head all the while, and making the dog dangle on the surface of the water like a bladder or buoy placed in an eddy. But the cords round his legs completely paralyzed his swimming powers, and in a minute or two he sank and was drowned. At this moment a boat was seen rapidly approaching, but before it arrived, the butchers, by wading almost to the neck, got hold of the cords, drew the body to the side, and conveyed it to Maxwelltown to be blooded and cut up for the use of those who have stomachs so well supplied with the gastric juice that they are able to digest bull-beef.

BULL FIGHT.

THIS great national amusement commenced at Lisbon last month, and the Amphitheatre was fully attended.

The first bull afforded little sport; but the second, as soon as the door was opened, rushed in with the utmost fury, pursued the first capinha that attracted his notice, and missed him only by a hair's breadth. A picador on horseback then rode up to him, struck a barbed spear into his neck, broke the shaft and rode off—the bull in the utmost fury pursued him,

caught the horse with his horns under the flank, and nearly brought him and his rider to the ground. The horse seemed not at all fond of the sport, and kept his distance for some time, till at last the picador, watching the opportunity, struck a second and third and fourth arrow into his neck. The bull again pursued him, but was attracted by flags and scarfs; he vented his fury on them for some time, and pawed the ground with rage. When well exhausted by similar attacks, and chasing the horse round the arena, one of the men at arms turned out to the middle of the arena to catch him by the horns. This is an attempt of great danger, for if the forcador misses his aim the bull is certain to overturn him—as was the case in this instance. The forcader stood with open arms daring him to the contest, and he was not long in accepting the challenge. They rushed at one another, and the bull, by raising his head higher than the other had expected, struck his antagonist on the head, and he fell apparently lifeless on the arena. Others provoked him anew, and occupied his attention till the wounded forcador was carried off by his comrades. Proud of this exploit, the infuriated animal chased them about in all directions. Darts were showered into his neck, flags were cast before him; he pawed the ground; the dust rose in volumes around the animal; and every nerve and muscle seemed suffering with agony. When allowed a moment's respite, he took up his position in the middle of the arena, beating his sides

with his long bushy tail, alternately inhaling the air in large draughts, and expelling it with distended nostrils and a loud noise from his heaving chest. At one time he would spread out his fore-feet, nearly touching the ground with his breast (somewhat like a cat or dog stretching itself)—at another he would raise his head and shoulders, repressing his hinder extremities, and seemed to try every position to obtain relief. His tormentor again renewed the attack, and continued to harass him till he was sufficiently exhausted, when the forcadors collected around, all upon him in a body, and led him from the ground.

To the credit of the Lisbon women, very few were present. There were a few ladies, or rather women in the dress of ladies, in the boxes; a great number of English officers, and indeed, if one might judge from dress, a great number of the most respectable inhabitants of Lisbon. The fights lasted about two hours, and during that time ten bulls were tortured or killed, so that each fight continued for twelve minutes. The box tickets are about 5s. Those of the galleries in the shade, 2s. 6d., and in the sun one shilling and three halfpence.

SWIMMING BULLOCKS.

A novel circumstance lately occurred in the cattle market of Dumfries. About a score of strong highland bullocks, better used to nature's

carpet of herbage or heath, than the pavior's one, of hard uneven stones, and quite ignorant of the navigation of the Nith, descended the steps at bridge street, and entered the water nearly opposite to Mr R——'s shop door. In place of wading to cool their cloots, they were over head and ears in a moment, and plunged and spluttered and spluttered and plunged with their heads pointed up the stream. Some of them after a terrible tug got out, not far from the place where they entered, but the greater part were hurried by the flood to the edge of the Caul, and one of them after going right through the Gullet door plunged into the powerful eddy below, amidst sheets of spray, fitted to choke an elephant in place of a bullock. The remainder stuck for a moment on the top of the dam-head, and vigorously contended against their fate; but it would not do; comparing small things with great, the stream at this point was nearly as resistless as the falls of Niagara; and over, the whole in succession went, performing more than one sommerset before they gathered their four feet and got into rather smoother water. Even then only snouts and horns were seen, and the novelty of the sight was, if possible, heightened by the swimming prowess of a harmless pig, which had some how or other got afloat too, and which the spectators cheered on its watery course by repeatedly exclaiming "weel done wee thing—haud on, and you'll beat them a'." Some got out below the mills, some at Assembly-street, and some so far down as the horse-

pool; and strange as it may appear, not a cloot was cut, nor a bone broken. But highland cattle have much practice in swimming, while being floated from one island to another, and we suspect few Galloways would have escaped drowning if placed in precisely the same circumstances.

HARE HUNT IN EDINBURGH.

ON Saturday, a scene of rather a novel character was witnessed in the West end of the New Town, which amply demonstrates the lamentable proneness of most people to follow a multitude in doing evil. A harmless rabbit, domiciled in some of the back courts in Glenfinlas street, had just stepped out from her burrow to take a peep at the magnificent octagons, circusses, and crescents, now being erected in Lord Moray's parks—expecting, it may be supposed, nothing else but civil treatment in so refined a neighbourhood. Hard by, however, were a number of masons at work, one of whom, on seeing puss, unthinkingly bawled out, “Halloo?” and, clapping his hands—RAN! “What s’t?” cried the hewers of stone, and brandishing their mallets—RAN! “What is’t?” cried the neighbouring builder, and, flourishing their rowels—RAN! “What is’t?” cried the astonished joiners, and, shouldering their hatchets—RAN! “Teil tam!” exclaimed Donald the caddie, and

Donald and the caddies—**RAN!**—“ Losh preserve us !” exclaimed Tibby, and all the Tibbies came out and—**RAN?** In short, the flying cavalcade continued to increase, until, dogs included, the aggregate hunters amounted to at least a thousand souls. The unfortunate rabbit was, of course, doomed to destruction, and suffered **BESTIAL** execution in Queen-street gardens, at the **HANDS** of several merciless dogs. Now had the object of pursuit been a witch on a broomstick, or Michael Scott on a horned stirk, we should not in that case have ridiculed curiosity, or blamed a laudable zeal in the chase, but to see a whole host of Modern Athenians persecuting to the death, and glorying in the martyrdom of a poor rabbit, says little indeed for the boasted anti-barbarous feelings of the age.



DOG PURSUED BY A HARE.

ON a Sunday while two men, apparently of the true poaching character, were traversing the fields in the neighbourhood with a pointer dog, and amusing themselves with hunting **CORN CREACS**, in place of attending the church, the dog in one of his perambulations happened to start a hare in a field on the farm of Nithsdale, known in that place by the name of the **WITCH**. Puss, in place of standing off, as is usual with her kind, boldly faced her foe. The dog not being accustomed to this way of proceeding, made

a dead pause, uncertain whether to advance or flee. Puss sprung towards him, when strange to tell, the dog actually wheeled round and scampered off to his masters as fast as possible, pursued by her ladyship in a menacing attitude for upwards of 150 yards. It is believed that the hare having young was actuated to this boldness by the affection she bore for her offspring.

TIGER AND ALIGATOR FIGHT.

By a part of the Sunderbunds, called Athara Baki, of very thick jungle, but through which a creek runs, a boat was passing lately, when the crew observed a large tiger come to the water's edge to drink; an aligator on the bank seized hold of him, but the tiger resisted, and a contest ensued which lasted for two hours, each seizing and grappling with the other, and the tiger alarming the whole forest with his roar. At last the aligator succeeded in dragging the tiger into the water, which then became alarmed, and letting go his hold of the aligator, the latter seemed glad to be released, and the tiger made off.

ECCENTRIC GANDER.

The following story, the truth of which we can vouch for, is not only curious in itself, but convinces pretty forcibly that whimsicality and

eccentricity are not confined to the human species. Mr W——, of Allanton, has a very large gander, which was hatched five or six years ago, and which had scarcely attained the months of majority, when he contracted a dislike to his own species. Whether this arose from disappointed love, or a disposition naturally goose-anthropical, might puzzle the deepest naturalist to determine; but certain it is that he feels so little pleasure in the society of the fair who have feathers on their backs, that the race would speedily become extinct, were all ganders as ungallant as himself. In 1823, there were two pretty bay colts grazing in a field adjoining to Allanton, and to these he in time attached himself so cordially, that he became their companion night and day. From this or some other circumstance, he retains a strong partiality to bays or browns, and will not associate with a black horse. The colts alluded to were succeeded by others; and the gander, though he seemed sensible of, and sorry for, the change, speedily ingratiated himself with his new friends. These he attends in the paddock during the day, follows them home at night when the weather is cold, and if accidentally shut out of the stable, patiently bivouacks behind the door, and is always ready to clap his wings and go a-field early in the morning. When in the park, his sole occupation seems to be to stand near the head of one of the colts, carefully watching all its motions, and accommodating his position to that of his friend, by waddling when he walks, and

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 ying when he runs. Young horses, when dis-
 turbed, very easily break into a gallop, and as
 the gander manages to keep so near the colt,
 that he may be seen flying vigorously alongside
 of him, it is certainly strange that it never
 occurred to him to take a ride. If the mouth of
 the other, while collecting provender, should
 come too near his feet, he stretches forth his
 neck, elevates his wings, hisses gently, and by
 other motions admonishes him to keep at a
 proper distance. Though geese graze as well
 as other kind, the bird in question is rarely seen nib-
 bing a pile of grass, and his chief dependance,
 we believe, is placed on the stray pickles of corn
 that caters in the stable. On one occasion, the
 young horses at Allanton were removed to a
 field at some distance, and then the poor gander
 had to dree a very dreary period of widowhood.
 If he could have spoken or sung, his ditty would
 have been, 'I wander dowie a' my lane;' but
 when the colts returned—that is, the bay ones
 he was seen hurrying to meet them, half run-
 ning, half flying, and cackling forth his congratu-
 lations to the very topmost note of the gammut
 joy. In April last, we happened to be at
 Allanton, and as a matter of course visited the
 house of whose eccentric habits we had heard so
 much. A new scene then presented itself. In
 the course of the day, a score or two of capital
 Highland bullocks had been let into the field, and
 as the gander seemed to look on with a very
 indiced eye. By mere accident one of them
 approached too near the favourite colt—an in-

trusion which was resented by a fierce and rather laughable onset. The bill of the bird was darted at the hard head of the enemy, and the latter, though furnished with a notable pair of horns, started back as quickly as if an adder had stung him. Again, however, he advanced to the charge, was again assaulted and again retreated; until his brethren, perceiving what was going forward, joined in the melee, and very nearly hemmed the gander in. Our first impression was that the biped would be tossed and gored till not a pinion stuck together; but in this we were mistaken. Each of the bullocks was assailed in turn, to its no small amazement, if not dismay, but the assailant, maugre his great courage, appeared to be placed in a sad quandary, and did all he could to rescue the colt from such unsuitable company, by biting his heels and nibbling at his head. The docile animal at length good naturedly yielded to his wishes, and the horned beligerents, on their part, ratified the armistice by offering no farther molestation.

BEE-HIVE IN A CHURCH.

SOME years ago a swarm of bees which had escaped from the parent hive, were observed clustering about Heddam Church; and before measures could be taken to secure them, they disappeared. Their queen, it seems, had been pioneering to find a suitable place of location.

and having discovered a small crevice in the roof, she immediately forced her way into the interior. There she found "room and verge enough," and thinking the place suitable in every respect, she warned her winged subjects to advance, and pitch their waxen tents betwixt the roof and the ceiling. This summons was at once obeyed by the loyalist insects, and for many a week, month, and year, they and their successors, down, perhaps, to the ninth or tenth generation, maintained undisturbed possession of what may be called the garet of the church of Hoddam. In spring and summer, the cheerful hum of their ceaseless industry was heard mingling with the voice of psalms, and many remarks were made on their sagacity, in reviving, as it were, the days of feudalism, when vanquished clansmen found the church a sanctuary in every sense of the word, and in periods of danger assembled their kindred within its pale, as the only means of escaping from the cruel and fiery death that awaited them. Even the children respected what they termed the "kirk bees," and so far from killing or chasing them from flowers, not unfrequently helped them to a meal, by gathering the wilding rose at a distance, and leaving it in situations where it was sure to be punctured to good purpose before its fragrance had died away. Thus cherished, and protected, the bees literally lived as clover, and were total strangers to that poverty which is said to be characteristic of church mice. Their wealth increased every year, and though the minister might have justly claimed

a tithe of the whole, he was more disposed to give than take, and would at any time have furnished a few pounds of sugar had there been any occasion for such extravagance. But his example, though lauded and approved of by many, was not, unfortunately, followed by all, and we regret to add, that very lately some miscreants audaciously broke through the roof of the church, surprised the bees while in a state of inactivity, and completely harried them out of house and hall. Conduct so shameful has excited in the parish a general feeling of indignation, and the Minister, together with some of the principal heritors, has offered a very handsome reward to any person who will disclose the names of the contemptable depredators, that they may be punished according to the deserts.

MOUSING RAT.

ON the farm of Lyonthom, near Falkirk, there is a remarkable instance, not only of docility but usefulness, in a rat. It first devoured mice caught in traps, and was afterwards seen to catch them as they ventured from their holes till at length the whole house was cleared of these vermin, except, as is believed, a single one. It has frequently been seen in pursuit of a solitary mouse, and the little fugitive, which takes refuge behind the ingle, has a part of

fur singed off. From the service it renders, the family kindly protect the rat, and it runs about and gambols among them on the floor without the least uneasiness. It sometimes disappears for a week or ten days, and it is supposed that, in these intervals, it visits the stack-yard in its professional capacity.

SHEEP.

A shepherd in Blackhouse bought a few sheep from another in Crawmel, about ten miles distant. In the spring following one of the ewes went back to her native place, and yeaned on a wild hill called Crawmel Craig. On a certain day, about the beginning of July following, the shepherd went and brought home his ewe and lamb—took the fleece from his ewe, and kept the lamb for one of his stock. The lamb lived and throve, became a hog and gimmer, and never offered to leave home; but when three years of age, and about to have her first lamb, she vanished; and the morning after, the Crawmel shepherd, in going his rounds, found her with a new-yeaned lamb on the very gair of the Crawmel Craig, where she was lambed herself, and then she came on with her's of her own accord; and this custom she continued annually with the greatest punctuallity as long as she lived. At length her lambs, when they came of age, began the same practice, and the shepherd was obliged to dispose of the whole breed.

But with regard to their natural affection, the instances that might be mentioned are without number, stupid and actionless creatures as they are. When one loses its sight in a flock of short sheep, it is rarely abandoned to itself in that hapless and helpless state. Some one always attaches to it, and by bleating calls it back from the precipice, the lake, the pool, and all dangers whatever. There is a disease among sheep, called by shepherds the Breakslugh, a sort of deadly dysentery, which is as infectious as fire in a flock. Whenever a sheep feels itself seized by this, it instantly absents itself from all the rest, shunning their society with the greatest care; it even hides itself, and is often very hard to be found. Though this propensity can hardly be attributed to natural instinct, it is, at all events, a provision of nature of the greatest kindness and beneficence.

THE TIGER.

THOUGH this animal is sometimes found to fly from the approach of man, it is at other times found equally ready to attack the human species as appears from the account of the loss of Mr. Munro, son of Sir Hector Munro, bart. whose shocking death carries a melancholy interest along with it, which will cause it long to be remembered. This fatal occurrence happened in Bengal, in the East Indies, in the year 1791.

and the account, as given by an eye-witness, is as follows: "We went (says the narrator) on shore on Sangar Island, to shoot deer, of which we saw innumerable tracks, as well as of tigers: we continued our diversion till nearly three o'clock; when, sitting down by the side of a jungle to refresh ourselves, a roar like thunder was heard, and an immense tiger seized our unfortunate friend, poor Munro, and rushed again to the jungle, dragging him through the thickest bushes and trees, every thing giving way to its monstrous strength; a tigress accompanied his progress. The united agonies of horror, regret, and fear, rushed at once upon us. I fired on the tiger; he seemed agitated. My companion fired also; and in a few moments after this, our unfortunate friend came up to us, mangled in blood. Every medical assistance was vain; and he expired in the space of twenty-four hours, having received such deep wounds from the teeth and claws of the animal, as rendered his recovery hopeless. A large fire, consisting of ten or twelve whole trees, was blazing near us at the time this accident took place, and two or more of the natives were with us. The human mind can scarcely form any idea of this scene of horror. We had but just pushed our boat from this hateful shore, when the tigress made her appearance, almost raging mad, and remained on the sand all the while we continued to fight."

In the beginning of the last century, a company, seated under the shade of some trees near

the banks of a river in Bengal, were happily preserved from a similar misfortune by the almost unexampled presence of mind of a young lady, who chanced to be of the party: upon the first appearance of the tiger preparing for its fatal spring, this young lady unfurled a large umbrella in the animal's face, which, being confounded by so extraordinary and sudden an appearance, instantly retired, and thus gave them an opportunity of escaping from its terrible attack.

THE ELEPHANT.

THE foremost, and in every respect, the noble quadruped in nature, is the Elephant; not less remarkable for its size, than its docility and understanding. In India, where they were at one time employed in launching ships, a particular elephant was directed to force a very large vessel into the water; the work proved superior to its strength, but not to its endeavours; which, however, the keeper affected to despise. "Take away," says he, "that lazy beast, and bring another better fitted for service." The poor animal instantly upon this redoubled its efforts, fractured its skull, and died upon the spot.

In Delhi, an elephant, passing along the streets, put his trunk into a tailor's shop, where several people were at work. One of the persons of the shop, desirous of some amusement, pricked the animal's trunk with his needle, and

seemed highly delighted with this slight punishment. The elephant, however, passed on without any immediate signs of resentment; but, coming to a puddle filled with dirty water, he filled his trunk, returned to the shop, and spurted the contents over all the finery upon which the tailors were then employed.

An elephant in Adsmeer, which often passed through the bazar or market, as he went by a certain herb-woman, always received from her a mouthful of greens. Being one day seized with a sudden fit of madness, he broke his fetters, and, running through the market, put the crowd to flight; and among others, this woman, who, in her haste, forgot a little child at her stall. The elephant, recollecting the spot where his benefactress was accustomed to sit, took up the infant gently in his trunk, and conveyed it to a place of safety.

At the Cape of Good Hope it is customary to hunt those animals for the sake of their teeth. Three horsentien, well mounted, and armed with ances, attack the elephant alternately, each relieving the other, as they see their companion pressed, till the beast is subdued. Three Dutchmen, brothers, who had made large fortunes by this business, determined to retire to Europe, and enjoy the fruits of their labours; but they resolved, one day before they went, to have a last chase, by way of amusement: they set with their game, and began their attack in the usual manner; but unfortunately, one of their horses falling, happened to fling his rider:

the enraged elephant instantly seized the unhappy huntsman with his trunk, flung him up to a vast height in the air, and received him on one of his tusks as he fell; and then turning towards the other two brothers, as if it were with an aspect of revenge and insult, held out to them the impaled wretch, writhing in the agonies of death.

The elephant frequently takes such an affection to its keeper, that it will obey no other; and it has been known to die for grief, when, in some sudden fit of madness, it has killed its conductor. We are told, that one of these, that was used by the French forces in India, for the dragging of cannon, was promised by the conductor, a reward, for having performed some painful service: but being disappointed of its expectations, it slew him in a fury. The conductor's wife, who was a spectator of this shocking scene, could not restrain her madness and despair; but running, with her two children in her arms, threw them at the elephant's feet, crying out, that since it had killed her husband, it might kill her and her children also. The elephant, seeing the children at his feet, instantly stopped, and moderating its fury, took up the eldest with its trunk, and placing him upon its neck, adopted him for its conductor, and obeyed him ever after with great punctuality.

FINIS.