

the flesh of a spotted ox. The Kaffirs value an animal with a musical voice; and "at a sale in British Kaffraria the low of a heifer excited so much admiration that a sharp competition sprung up for her possession, and she realised a considerable price."<sup>64</sup> With respect to sheep, the Chinese prefer rams without horns; the Tartars prefer them with spirally wound horns, because the hornless are thought to lose courage.<sup>65</sup> Some of the Damaras will not eat the flesh of hornless sheep. In regard to horses, at the end of the fifteenth century animals of the colour described as *liart pommé* were most valued in France. The Arabs have a proverb, "Never buy a horse with four white feet, for he carries his shroud with him;"<sup>66</sup> the Arabs also, as we have seen, despise dun-coloured horses. So with dogs, Xenophon and others at an ancient period were prejudiced in favour of certain colours; and "white or slate-coloured hunting dogs were not esteemed."<sup>67</sup>

Turning to poultry, the old Roman gourmands thought that the liver of a white goose was the most savoury. In Paraguay black-skinned fowls are kept because they are thought to be more productive, and their flesh the most proper for invalids.<sup>68</sup> In Guiana, as I am informed by Sir R. Schomburgk, the aborigines will not eat the flesh or eggs of the fowl, but two races are kept distinct merely for ornament. In the Philippines, no less than nine sub-varieties of the gamecock are kept and named, so that they must be separately bred.

At the present time in Europe, the smallest peculiarities are carefully attended to in our most useful animals, either from fashion, or as a mark of purity of blood. Many examples could be given; two will suffice. "In the Western counties of England the prejudice against a white pig is nearly as strong as against a black one in Yorkshire." In one of the

<sup>64</sup> Livingstone's Travels, p. 576; Andersson, 'Lake Ngami,' 1856, p. 222. With respect to the sale in Kaffraria, see 'Quarterly Review,' 1860, p. 139.

<sup>65</sup> 'Mémoire sur les Chinois' (by the Jesuits), 1786, tom. xi. p. 57.

<sup>66</sup> F. Michel, 'Des Haras,' pp. 47, 50.

<sup>67</sup> Col. Hamilton Smith, Dogs, in 'Nat. Lib.,' vol. x. p. 103.

<sup>68</sup> Azara, 'Quadrupèdes du Paraguay,' tom. ii. p. 324.