

great measure superseded that by Alexandria, the commercial intercourse carried on by means of the camel between opposite confines of the African and Asiatic deserts is still sufficiently extensive to make the importance of that animal very considerable: so that even now, as ages and ages since, the riches of an individual are estimated by the number of camels he may possess: and he still uses his camels either in war, or for the transport of merchandize, or for the purpose of selling them <sup>r</sup>.

But it would be found, upon pursuing the history of the camel, that, while under the point of view which has been just considered, this animal contributes more largely to the advantages of mankind than any other species of the ruminating order, it scarcely is inferior to any one of those species with respect to other advantages on account of which they are principally

<sup>r</sup> It cannot be considered an irrelevant, and certainly not in itself an uninteresting digression, here to observe, that there was a period in the commercial history of England, within the last century even, when the horse served the purpose in this island, which the camel serves in Arabia and other parts of the world: and a distinct trade then existed, that of the *packer*; the occupation of which was to make up bales of goods in a form convenient for carriage on the back of the *pack-horse*; and the trace of that mode of conveyance is still to be recognised in the *sign* of many inns in those parts of England where that mode of conveyance was prevalent. The same mode of conveyance is still very extensively employed in the north-eastern parts of the Russian dominions.