

the Pachyderms in two points, by the swine tribe and Solipeds, the latter possessing several characters in common with the *Gnu*,\* which seems between them and the bovine genus;† and the former approaching them by their common character of dividing the hoof,—there is another animal, which may be considered as the horse of the desert, exhibiting in some degree a union of characters not found in the remainder of the Order; it chews the cud, but does not actually divide the hoof. I am speaking of the *Camel*, but though not actually, the hoof is superficially, divided. Considering the deserts of loose and deep sand that it often has to traverse, a completely divided hoof would have sunk too deep in the sand; while one entire below would present a broader surface not so liable to this inconvenience. Boys when they want to walk upon the muddy shores of an estuary at low water, fasten broad boards to their feet, which prevent them from sinking in the mud; I conceive that the *whole* sole of the camel's foot answers a similar purpose: its superficial division probably gives a degree of pliancy to it, enabling it to move with more ease over the sands; upon which these animals often trot with great rapidity, travelling sometimes twelve miles within the hour; its common amble, which is exceedingly easy, is nearly six; this pace—if properly fed every evening, or, in cases of emergence, only once in two days—the camel will continue uninterruptedly for five or six days: with these qualities, so suitable to barren and sandy deserts, what a valuable gift of Providence was this, especially to the descendants of Ishmael, who, according to the prophecy, have maintained undisturbed possession of their deserts and their necessary accompaniment, the camel, from the time of their progenitor to the present day, a period of between three and four thousand years. They have been wild men, always assailing and assailed,

\* *Catoblepas Gnu*.† *Bos*.