

their mutual combats. Amongst these light and airy animals, however, some of a larger and more robust stature are thus fitted for the use of man, as the rein-deer. The elk, or moose,* the wapiti† and red deers, emulate the horse in size, and are of great strength, though not yet employed by man. Lastly, come the Ruminants, whose horns are hollow and naked, but persistent. To these belong the Antelopes, one species of which has four horns,‡ the goats, the sheep, and the bovine tribes. The species of the last two of these great families are particularly important to man, and are generally so well known as not to require to be treated of in detail. The bison,§ with his shaggy mane, presents no slight analogy to the lion, the so-called king of beasts; and the gnu, reckoned amongst the antelopes, seems to combine characters borrowed from the ox and the horse.

The function of this great Order of Ruminants, is not only to browse the herbage, and provide, by constantly trimming, and, as it were, mowing it, for its renewed verdure; many of them are employed also in pruning the trees, by feeding upon their branches; and there is not one that, in its place, does not contribute its part to the general welfare. The cattle *on a thousand hills* are distributed by their great Creator according to certain laws, and by their actions in their several spheres, to promote certain ends, which neglected, or imperfectly provided for, would produce derangements that might affect a wide circumference.

Order 4.—Having, in a former part of the present volume, given an account of the principal tribes of this Order, I need not here do more than mention it, except by observing, that the members of it are principally inhabitants of the *new world*, the *Manis* and *Orycteropus*, being the only genera it contains that are found in the *old*.

* *C. alces.*

† *C. strongyloceras.*

‡ *A. Chickara.*

§ *Bos Urus.*