

existed in England; the town of Beverley (*Beaver-field*), in Yorkshire, seems to have taken its name from them, and its arms are three beavers.

Such are the principal operations that these wonderful animals, probably by the mixture of intellect with instinct, are instructed and adapted by their Creator to execute, that man, by studying them and their ways, may acknowledge the Power, Wisdom, and Goodness that formed and guides them.

The functions of the numerous tribes of this Order are various. The great majority may be said to be granivorous, or nucivorous, or even graminivorous; but many live upon dried vegetable substances and wood. The *aye aye*, which approaches the Quadrumanes, appears to be insectivorous. Though many of them are great plagues to man, yet, by exciting his vigilance, they are useful to him, and they form the food of many of the lesser predaceous animals.

Order 6. The connection between the animals of which this order consists, and the Rodent, seems not easily made out. The lowest tribe, the Amphibians, which Cuvier has placed immediately before the Marsupians, appears to have no connection with that Order, or any of the Rodents; and the morse, which forms his last genus of the tribe in question, appears evidently to look more towards the herbivorous cetaceans, the manatee,* &c., than to any other animals; the seals, indeed, may be regarded as tending towards the feline tribe. Amongst the other Predaceans, the hedgehog and tenrec present, I apprehend, something more than an analogy to the porcupines and some of the rats. The bear seems to look towards the sloth; and the feline race, in their whiskers and feet, look to the hares and rats.

* *Cheiromys*.