

by common consent. Less inclined to indulge admiration, perhaps, than some writers, I shall not hesitate to doubt, and even to criticise, whatever may seem too improbable to demand our belief.

It is generally allowed that the beaver, far from having a superiority over other animals, seems to be inferior to many of them, in his merely individual qualities ; and this fact I am enabled to confirm, by having had a young beaver, which was sent me from Canada, in 1758, alive in my possession for more than a twelvemonth. This animal is mild, peaceable, and familiar ; it is rather inclined to be gloomy and melancholy ; it has no violent or vehement passions, its movements are slow, it makes few efforts, unless to gain its liberty, which it frequently attempts by gnawing the gate of its prison, but without violence or precipitation. In other respects it seems to be perfectly indifferent, forming no attachments,\* and is as little inclined to offend as to please. He is inferior to the dog in the relative qualities which might make him approach to man ; he appears formed neither to serve, command, or even to  
associate

\* M. Klein, however, says that he kept a beaver for several years, which followed and would go in quest of him, as dogs search for their masters.