

back consists, is absorbed ; whereby that protuberance becomes, as it were, obliterated.

The camel is equally patient of thirst as of hunger : and this happens, no doubt, in consequence of the supply of fluid which it is capable of obtaining from the peculiar reservoir contained in its stomach. It possesses moreover a power and delicacy in the sense of smell, (to that sense at least such a power is most naturally referable,) by which, after having thirsted for seven or eight days, it perceives the existence of water at a very considerable distance : and it manifests this power by running directly to the point where the water exists. It is obvious that this faculty is exerted as much to the benefit of their drivers, and the whole suite of the caravan, as of the camels themselves.

Such are some of the leading advantages derived to man from the physical structure and powers of this animal : nor are those advantages of slight moment which are derived from its docile and patient disposition. It is no slight advantage, for instance, considering the great height of the animal, which usually exceeds six or seven feet, that the camel is easily taught to bend down its body on its limbs, in order to be laden : and, indeed, if the weight to be placed on its back be previously so distributed, as to be balanced on an intervening yoke of a convenient form, it will spontaneously direct its