

**BIBLE QUADRUPEDS. THE
NATURAL HISTORY
OF THE ANIMALS
MENTIONED IN SCRIPTURE**

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Bible Quadrupeds. The Natural History of the Animals Mentioned in Scripture by Thomas Bingley

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THOMAS BINGLEY

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THE ARABIAN CAMEL. *Frontispiece.*

"And their Camels were without number, as the sand by the sea-side for multitude."—Judges vii. 12.

BIBLE QUADRUPEDS:

The Natural History

OF

THE ANIMALS MENTIONED IN SCRIPTURE.



BY THOMAS BINGLEY,

AUTHOR OF "STORIES ABOUT DOGS," "TALES OF TRAVELLERS," "STORIES
ABOUT INDIANS," ETC., ETC.



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"A SET OF BOOKS WHICH, PROFESSING ONLY TO AMUSE, INSTRUCT
AND EDIFY IN NO ORDINARY DEGREE."—*Quarterly Review*.

PREFACE.



In the present little work, it has been the author's aim to relate in a plain and familiar manner, all that is most interesting and instructive in the natural history of the animals mentioned in Scripture. With this view he has collected, from the narratives of the most recent travellers who have treated of the natural history of the East, as well as from other sources, anecdotes of the habits and instincts of such animals as came within the limits of his design, and has thus been enabled to add both to the value and interest of his little work.

In laying before the public a fifth edition, the author has merely to state that the whole has undergone a careful revision, and is thus, he hopes, rendered somewhat more worthy of the approbation with which its predecessors were favoured.

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BIBLE QUADRUPEDS.

CHAPTER I.

DOMESTICATED ANIMALS.

THE CAMEL—THE DROMEDARY—THE OX—THE ASS—
THE DOG.

THE CAMEL.

THERE are two species of the camel, both of which are mentioned in Scripture—the camel, properly so called, and the dromedary. In appearance and habits they are very closely allied; the principal difference consisting in the former having two humps on its back, while the latter has one only.

The whole appearance of the camel is rugged and uninviting. Its neck, which is long and bending, supports a small head, surmounted by short ears, and furnished with a pair of eyes, large, dull, and unintelligent. Its lips are thin and projecting—the upper one being divided, and the two lobes or portions capable

of separate motion, thus serving, in some measure, the purpose of a hand, and enabling the animal to grasp and secure the higher branches of the plants on which it feeds. Its nostrils are of a peculiar slit-like form, and the power which it possesses of shutting them at pleasure, admirably adapts it for traversing the deserts of Arabia, where it has frequently in its journeys to encounter blasts of drifting sand, and but for some such contrivance would be constantly exposed to suffocation.

The joints of the leg of the camel, and its breast-bone, are armed with callosities, or thick accumulations of insensible skin, which save them from injury as it rests on the burning sand. It has been supposed that these are peculiarly marks of its subjection to man. It seems more likely that they are part of those wise provisions by which we find the Creator graciously fitting his creatures for the situation for which they are designed. But, perhaps, the most singular part of the external confirmation of this animal consists in the hump, or protuberance, on its back, which, as has been mentioned, is double in the Bactrian species, usually called the camel; and single in the Arabian, or dromedary. It consists of the same kind of fatty matter which is found on the backs of some species of oxen, the Braminee bull of India for instance, and is supposed to be intended as a provision against the time of want, to which, in a wild state, and inhabiting the arid deserts of Asia and Africa, the animal would be frequently exposed. From this source alone, it is