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GEORGES-LOUIS LECLERC DE BUFFON

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NATURAL HISTORY

THE GLOBE, OF MAN, AND OF QUADRUPEDS

FROM THE

WEITINGS OF BUFFON, CUVIER, LACEPEDE.

AND OTHER REINENT NATURALISTS.





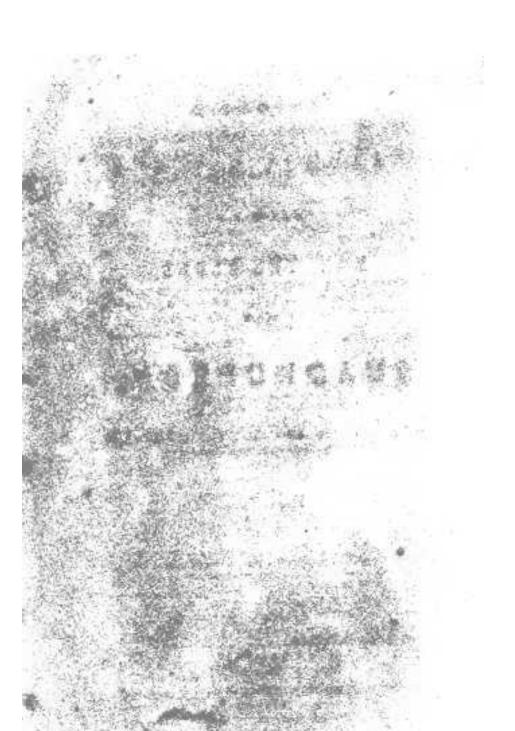
MAN, THE GLOBE,

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1857.



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VOL II.

ILLUSTRATED WITH 150 ENGRAVINGS.

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NATURAL HISTORY.

PART I.

CHAPTER XIII.

Of carnivorous Animals continued—The Brown Bear— —The White Bear—The American Black Bear— The Grizzly Bear—The Thibet Bear—The Bornean Bear—The Large-lipped Bear—The Beaver—The Racoon—The Brown Coati—The Agouti.

THE BEAR.

THERE is no animal more generally known than the Bear, and yet there is none concerning which more differences and contradictions have been found among the writers of natural history. These uncertainties have arisen from their not distinguishing properly the different species. The land Bear must be distinguished from the sea Bear, which is commonly known by the name of the white or Greenland Bear; and the land Bears must again be divided into two species, the brown and the black. There are also white land Bears found in Tartary, Russia, &c. which, though they resemble the sea Bear in colour, differ from it, however, in every other particular. It is not the rigour of the climate that makes them white in winter, like the hares and ermines; they are brought forth white, and remain so all their lives. There are also found Bears whose skins are a mixture of brown and black, which denotes an intermediate species between the white land Bear and the brown black Bear.

THE BROWN BEAR

We meet with the Brown Bear very frequently, and with the black Bear very rarely, on the Alps. In the forests of the northern countries of Europe and America, on the contrary, the black Bear is very common.

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