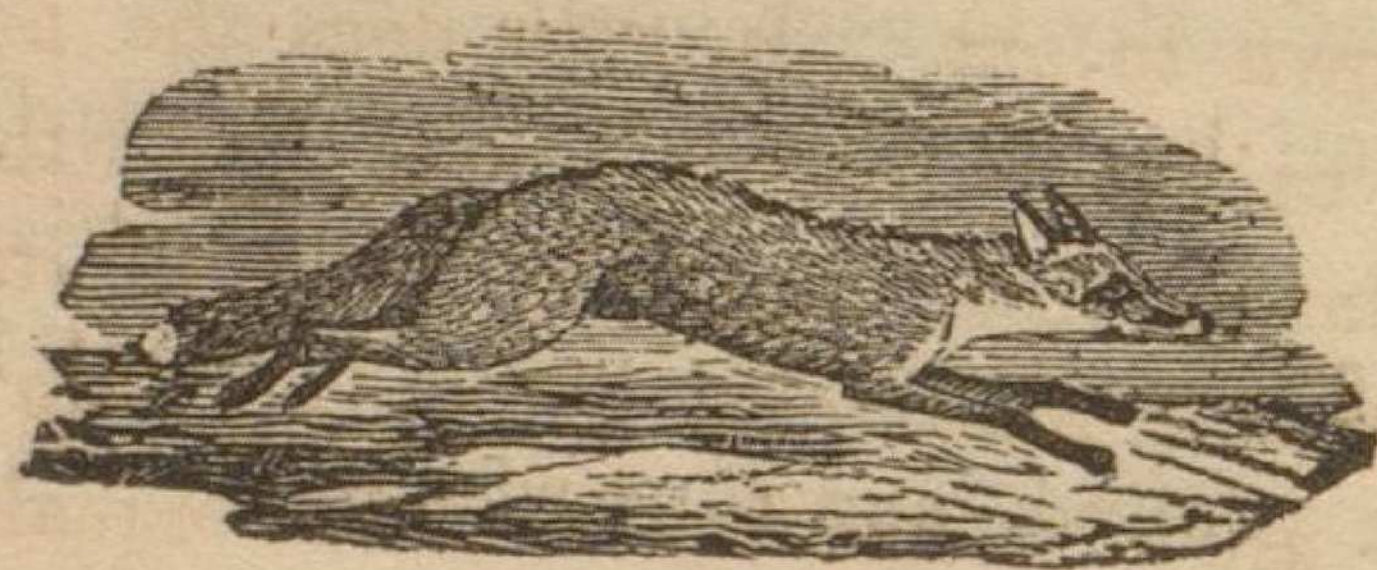




THE FOX.

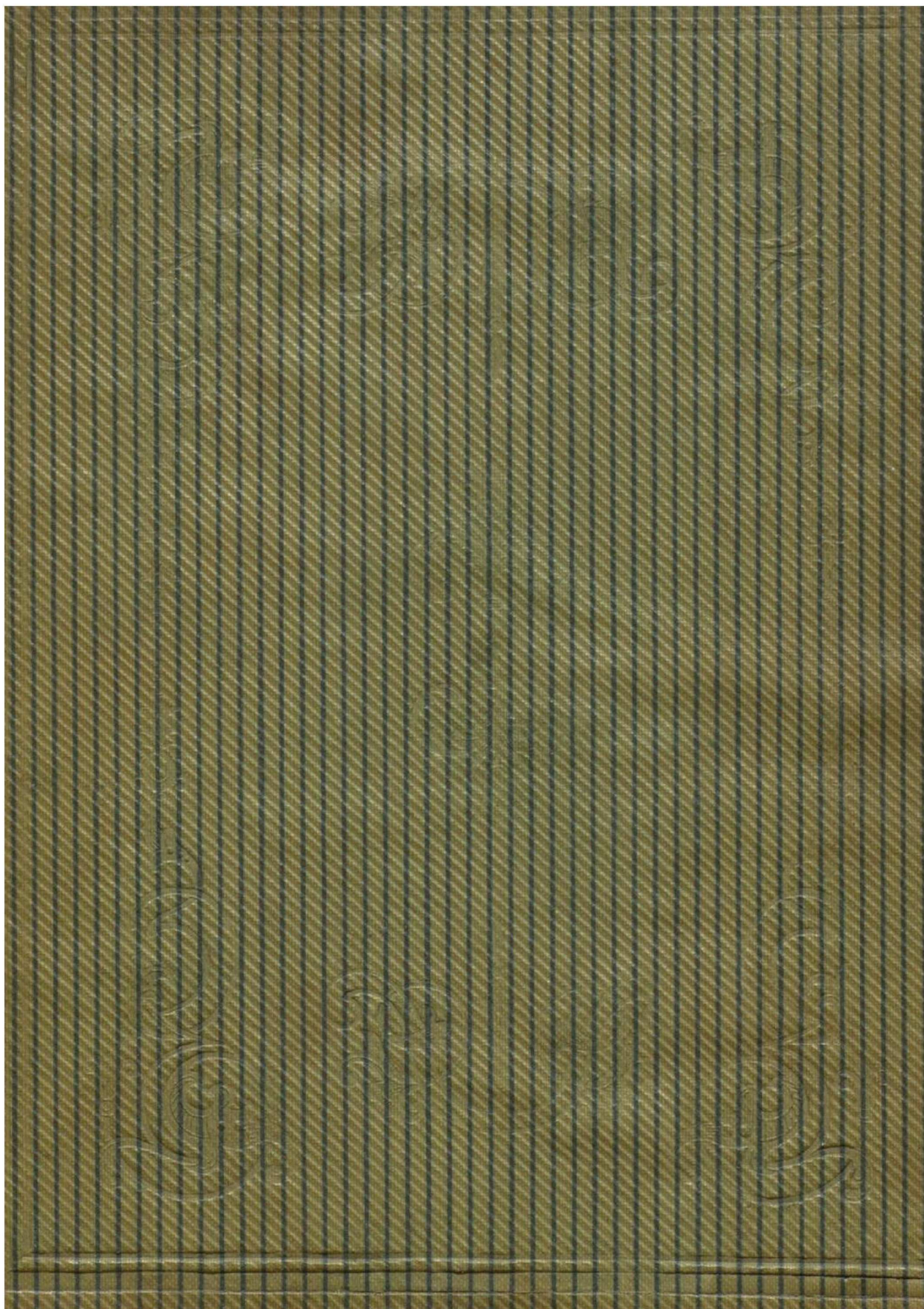
This animal has always been famous for its artifices; and the reputation he has thus acquired, he partly merits. What the wolf cannot accomplish by his superior strength, the fox accomplishes by his superior cunning.

He generally fixes his residence at the edge of a wood, and yet not far removed from some cottage, or some hamlet. He listens to the crowing of the cock, and the cackling of other domestic fowls; even at a considerable distance he scents them, and seizes his opportunity. If he be able to get into the yard, he begins by levelling all the poultry without remorse.

The fox is so voracious, that, when deficient of

other food, he devours rats, mice, lizards, toads, and serpents. Insects and shell-fish he is likewise sometimes known to eat. In vain does the hedge-hog roll itself up into a ball to oppose him; this determined glutton seizes it till it is obliged to appear uncovered, and then devours it. The wasp and the wild bee are attacked by him with equal success. Though at first they fly out upon their invader and actually oblige him to retire, yet this repulse is but for a few minutes, till he has rolled himself upon the ground and crushed such as may have stuck to his skin: he then returns to the charge, and at length, by perseverance, obliges them to abandon their combs, which he greedily devours, both wax and honey.

Of all wild animals, the fox is most subjected to the influence of climate; and there are found nearly as many varieties in this species, as in that of any domestic animal. The generality of foxes in this climate are red; of some, however, the hair is of a greyish cast; and, of all, the tip of the tail is white. In the northern countries we find foxes of all colours.





THE SPRING BOK.

THE BADGER

Is a lazy, distrustful, solitary animal, that retires far from the approach of man, and digs a subterraneous residence, where it spends at least three-fourths of its existence, and never ventures forth but in search of food. It burrows in the ground with a particular facility, as its body is rather an oblong form, and its claws, those especially of the fore feet, are very long and compact. The hole which it thus forms often proceeds to a great depth below the surface of the earth, and the passage to it is always oblique and winding.

They are neither as mischievous or voracious, as the fox and wolf are, yet they are carnivorous; and though raw meat is their favourite food, yet they will eat anything that comes in their way, as flesh, eggs, cheese, butter, bread, fish, fruit, nuts, roots, &c. They sleep the greater part of their time, without, however, being subject, like the mountain rat, or

the dormouse, to a torpor during the winter; and thus it is, that though they feed moderately, yet they are always fat.

The hair of the badger is always filthy. Its flesh is not absolutely nauseous; and of its skin are made coarse furs, collars for dogs, trappings for horses, &c.

THE OTTER

Is a voracious animal, which, more fond of fish than flesh, is seldom found but at the sides of lakes and rivers. It swims with more facility than even the beaver. All the feet of the otter have membranes; and it can hardly walk faster than it swims.

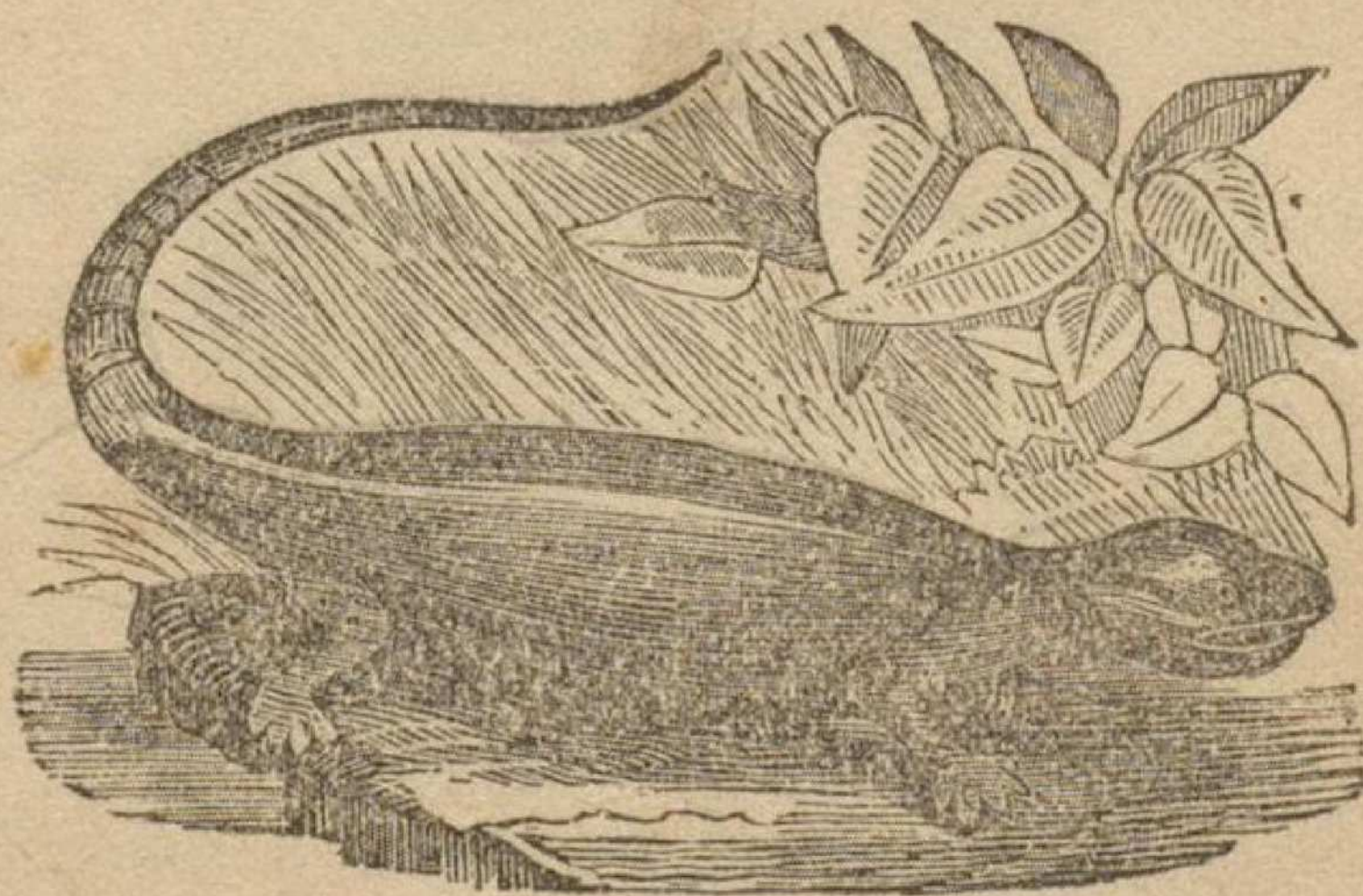
Accurately considered, the otter cannot be pronounced an amphibious animal. We even find them drowned when they happen to be entangled in a net, and this evidently for want of having had time to destroy it, and thereby effect their escape. For want of fish, frogs, water rats or other nourishment, they will eat the young branches and the bark of aquatic trees; and in spring it will eat new grass.

The otter does not dig its own habitation, but

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THEIR NATURAL HISTORY,
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THE WOLF

Is one of those animals whose appetite for animal food is the most vehement, and whose means of satisfying this appetite are the most various. Nature has furnished him with strength, with cunning, with agility, with all those requisites, in a word, which fit an animal for pursuing, overtaking, and conquering its prey; and yet, with all these, the wolf most frequently dies of hunger, for he is the declared enemy of man.

The wolf, as well externally, as internally, so nearly resembles the dog, that he seems modelled upon the same plan; and yet he only offers the reverse of the image. If his form be similar, his na-

ture is different; and, indeed, they are so unlike in their dispositions, that no two animals can have a greater antipathy to each other.

The wolf has great strength, particularly in his fore parts, in the muscles of his neck and jaws. He carries off a sheep in his mouth without letting it touch the ground, and runs with it swifter than the shepherds who pursue him, so that nothing but the dogs can overtake, or oblige him to quit his prey. He bites cruelly, and always with greater vehemence in proportion as he is less resisted; for he uses precaution with such animals as stand upon the defensive. He is cowardly, and never fights but when under a necessity of satisfying his hunger or of making good his retreat.

The colour of this animal differs according to the different climates in which he is bred, and often changes in the same country. Besides the common wolves which are found in France and Germany, there are others, with thicker hair, inclined to yellow. In the northern climates some are found quite black, and some white all over. The former are larger and stronger than those of any other kind.