

THE
PENSCELLWOOD PAPERS.

COMPRISING

ESSAYS

ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENTS ;
ON THE EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE ;
ON THE ENDOWMENT OF THE PROTESTANT AND
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCHES OF IRELAND ;
AND ON THE EDUCATION OF THE PEOPLE.

BY THE AUTHOR OF

"DR. HOOKWELL," "THE PRIMITIVE CHURCH IN ITS
EPISCOPACY," ETC.

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by them. Let us note the following instance. It is an account of the hybernating providence of the bobac; and it may truly be noted that millions upon millions of reasoning beings, and these not exclusively amongst uncivilized tribes, are exceeded by the brute creation in this kind of prudent foresight :—

“The bobac, a species of marmot, is gifted with a singular instinct, on account of which it might be called the *haymaker*, since man may or might have learned that part of the business of the agriculturist, which consists in providing a store of winter provender for his cattle, from that industrious animal. Professor Pallas was the first who described the quadruped exercising this remarkable function, and gave an account of it. These animals make their abode between the rocks, and during the summer months employ themselves in making hay for a winter store. Inhabiting the most northern districts of the old world, the chain of the Altaic mountains, extending from Siberia to the confines of Asia and Kamschatka, they never appear in plains, or in places exposed to observation, but always select the rudest and most elevated spots, and often the centre of the most gloomy and at the same time humid forests, where the

herbage is fresh and abundant. They generally hollow out their burrows between the stones, and in the clefts of the rocks, and sometimes in the holes of trees.

“About the middle of August, they collect with admirable precaution their winter provender, which is formed of select herbs, which they bring near their habitation and spread out like hay. In September, they form heaps or stacks of the fodder they have collected under the rocks, or in other places sheltered from the rain and snow. Where many of them have laboured together, their stacks are sometimes as high as a man, and more than eight feet in diameter. A subterranean gallery leads from the burrow below the mass of hay, so that neither frost nor snow can interrupt their communication with it. Pallas had the curiosity to examine this provision of hay, piece by piece, and found it to consist chiefly of the choicest grasses and the sweetest herbs, all cut when most vigorous, and dried so slowly as to form a green and succulent fodder; he found in it scarcely any ears or blossom, or hard and woody stems, but some mixture of bitter herbs, probably useful to render the rest more wholesome.

“These stacks of excellent forage are sought out by the sable hunters to feed their harassed horses, and the natives of that part of Siberia pilfer them for the subsistence of their cattle. Instead of imitating the foresight and industry of the bobac, they rob it of its means of support, and so devote the animal, which sets them so good an example, to famine and death.”

It is well known, also, that the ostrich in Senegal, where the heat is excessive, neglects her eggs during the day, but sits upon them in the night. At the Cape of Good Hope, however, where the degree of heat is less, the ostrich, like other birds, sits upon her eggs both day and night. In countries infested with monkeys, many birds, which in other climates build in bushes and clefts of trees, suspend their nests upon slender twigs, and thus elude the rapacity of their enemies.

Take this instance also of the habits of the red deer, as one of sagacity, and also of communication of ideas by gesture and sign. — Red deer are uncommonly sagacious, and seem to employ the whole of their sagacity in inventing and adopting plans of self-preservation. Wherever a red deer is found, if his seat