



Photo by]

[Gambier Bolton, F.Z.S.

BONNET MONKEY.

SOME FOUR-HANDED FOLK.

By GAMBIER BOLTON, F.Z.S.

whilst others are without them; the majority have the full number of fingers and toes, but many are thumbless, others again being provided only with rudimentary thumbs and great toes; and whilst nearly all carry nails on their hands and feet, some have a claw instead of a thumb-nail.

They vary in size from creatures as large as a big dog down to featherweights no larger than squirrels, whilst they range in colour from the most sombre and dingy tones through all stages up to superb tints of vermilion, blue, and purple, worthy of a Macaw or other brilliantly coloured bird; and it is amongst the monkeys, strange to say, that we find the most brightly coloured of all the Mammalia, the Douc, of Cochin China, holding the record in this respect.

Most of them inhabit the steaming tropics, or at least the semi-tropical regions, but, on the other hand, some are found in cold climates, such as Thibet, and in the Himalaya mountains at a height of nine or ten thousand feet above the sea level, where

FEW, if any, of the existing groups of the class Mammalia show greater diversity of external appearance than the Monkeys, for we find amongst them creatures both hideous and beautiful in shape, having either long, dog-like, or very short faces, with short noses, snub noses, or prodigiously long ones, with nostrils at the very end of the muzzle, or set far back on the face; some absolutely tailless, or possessing caudal appendages of varying lengths, from a mere stump through all stages up to tails that far exceed the whole of the body in measurement; many of them being prehensile and of great service in clinging round the branches of trees, whilst others are merely ornamental and of little or no use at all. Some are quite bald, others are nearly nude, whilst many are adorned with long hairs which sweep the ground on either side of them, and some are clothed in thick wool or very dense fur. A large number possess cheek-pouches, which are invaluable to their owners for the temporary storing of hastily gathered food,

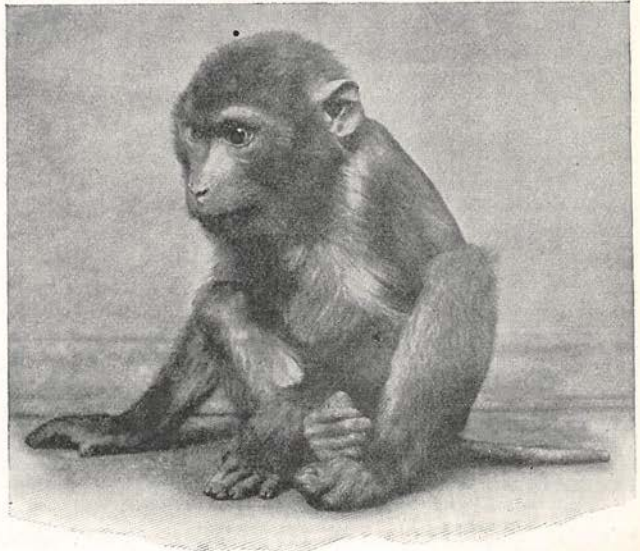


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JAVA PIGTAIL MONKEY.

they are frequently exposed not only to cold rains and hail, but even to deep snow and ice. This being the case, one is not surprised to find that monkeys, in past ages, lived wild in Europe as far north as Eppelsheim in Germany, whilst remains have been discovered in the brick-earth of Grays, in Essex, which were identified by the late Professor Owen as belonging to one of the Macaques; therefore it is more than probable that wild monkeys were found in Great Britain in the early ages.

Man and the Apes—the Chimpanzee, Gorilla, Orang Utan, and Gibbon—are separated from them, and are placed in a class by themselves, the monkeys being divided into two groups—*viz.*, the Old World Monkeys

can have no idea of the joyousness of their lives, their graceful movements and endless playfulness and romplings when seen in a wild state, amidst their natural surroundings; for whether it be a troop of Baboons in southern Africa coming down at eventide from the mountains to drink at some stream in the valleys before retiring to rest for the night, or a merry group of little Macaques racing up and down a tall tree in India, or a family of Japanese monkeys in the winter time, leaping from branch to branch during a snowstorm, and scattering the white flakes over each other as they gambol in the perfect happiness of freedom and the joyousness of living, the writer can testify that all are forcible contrasts to the wretched prisoner



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WILD HANUMAN MONKEYS, GULTA, INDIA.

and Baboons, and the New World Monkeys and Marmozets, the latter being found in the American continent only, whilst the remainder are scattered over Asia and Africa; the scientific term *Catarrhine* (having nostrils close together and directed *downwards*) being applied to the Old World Monkeys and Baboons, whilst the New World Monkeys and Marmozets are classed as *Platyrrhine* (having nostrils widely separated and directed *outwards*), and it is with a few specimens of the *Catarrhines*, or narrow-nosed Old World monkeys and baboons, that we shall deal in this article.

Those who have only seen these animals in captivity, either caged in zoological collections or being dragged along by a peripatetic organ-grinder with a chain round their waists,

shut up in its cage or tied at the end of a chain, a martyr to *ennui* and boredom, with the seeds of lung disease already sown in its tortured body, a victim to the cause of science or the purpose of amusing an alien race. For this they are torn from their sunlit homes, captured either in traps or by the use of raw spirits, and then, for economy's sake packed in the smallest and generally filthiest boxes imaginable, they are shipped to a damp and uncongenial climate, to a captivity from which death alone can release them, and this in many cases only after a long term of years.

The *Catarrhine* monkeys are divided into eight groups: (1) the Long-tailed Indian; (2) the Thumbless monkeys; and (3) the Magnabeys (or White Eyelid monkeys), both

of West Africa : (4) the Long-tailed African ; (5) the Macaques ; (6) the Celebes monkey ; and (7) the Gelada baboon of Abyssinia, being links between the monkeys and (8) the true Baboons ; none of them having prehensile tails, which are peculiar to the New World monkeys, but all having patches of hard skin on the hind quarters, called callosities, which are often gorgeously coloured, and are useful in forming a comfortable seat, the upright sitting position being a

very favourite one with the Old World monkeys and baboons. The cheek-pouches are found only in this group, the New World

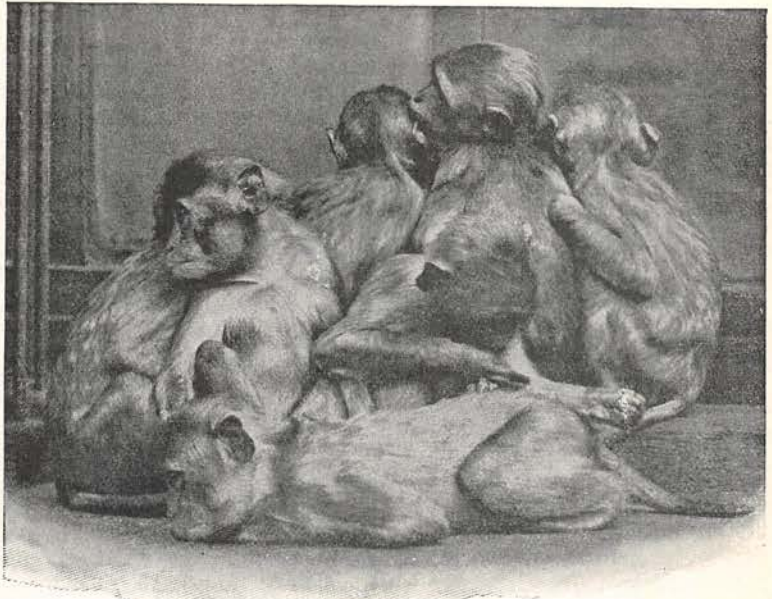


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RHESUS MONKEYS.

[Gambier Bolton, F.Z.S.

monkeys being without them, but they are not common to the whole of the Catarrhines, and those which do not possess them are found to feed on leaves and shoots more than fruits, and have a "peculiarly complex stomach, in which this food can be rapidly stowed away previously to undergoing complete digestion," so that it takes the place of the cheek-pouches in all respects, and does not render the owners so hideous in appearance.

As a typical example of the first group (the Indian Long-tailed monkeys), the Hānuman or True Langur is shown at home amidst the mountains near Jeypore, the two mothers being on guard against any possible intruder in the shape of a human being or a leopard, whilst the young ones are busily engaged in picking up the sugar which the writer had strewn over the rocks, before the monkeys had made their appearance, and before he retired to his hiding-place, from which



Photo by]

BABOONS AND RHESUS MONKEY.

[Gambier Bolton, F.Z.S.

he was able closely to watch their movements for some time, and to obtain a series of photographs of genuinely wild monkeys "at home." These Hanumans wander about the mountains and deserted villages and temples in troops of from twenty to fifty, of various ages, and all the property of but one male, who jealously defends his harem against any other intruder of his own sex, fighting with desperate courage, the combats sometimes ending in the death of one or even both. It is amongst this group that we find two of the most weird-looking of all the "four-handed" folk, the Snub-nosed monkey of Thibet and the extraordinary Proboscis monkey of Borneo, whose nose is "so enormous in proportion to the face that it presents the appearance of an absolute deformity, and it is very hard to imagine of what possible advantage it can be." It was first discovered in 1781, and it is remarkable that only one has ever reached Europe—the youthful specimen at present in the new Apes-house in Regent's Park. They are decidedly large monkeys, measuring about five feet over all, and they are a dull yellow colour, the head and upper parts of the body being chestnut brown. The full length of proboscis is only possessed by the males (a specimen being shown in the photograph), the females having much smaller ones, whilst the young of both sexes have very short noses.

Amongst this group, too, is the gaudily marked Douc, already referred to, whose dazzling white, bright chestnut, vivid yellow, and intense black colourings "are extremely brilliant and sharply defined, without any tendency to blend with one another at their junctions, so that this monkey is one of the most gorgeously coloured mammals known."

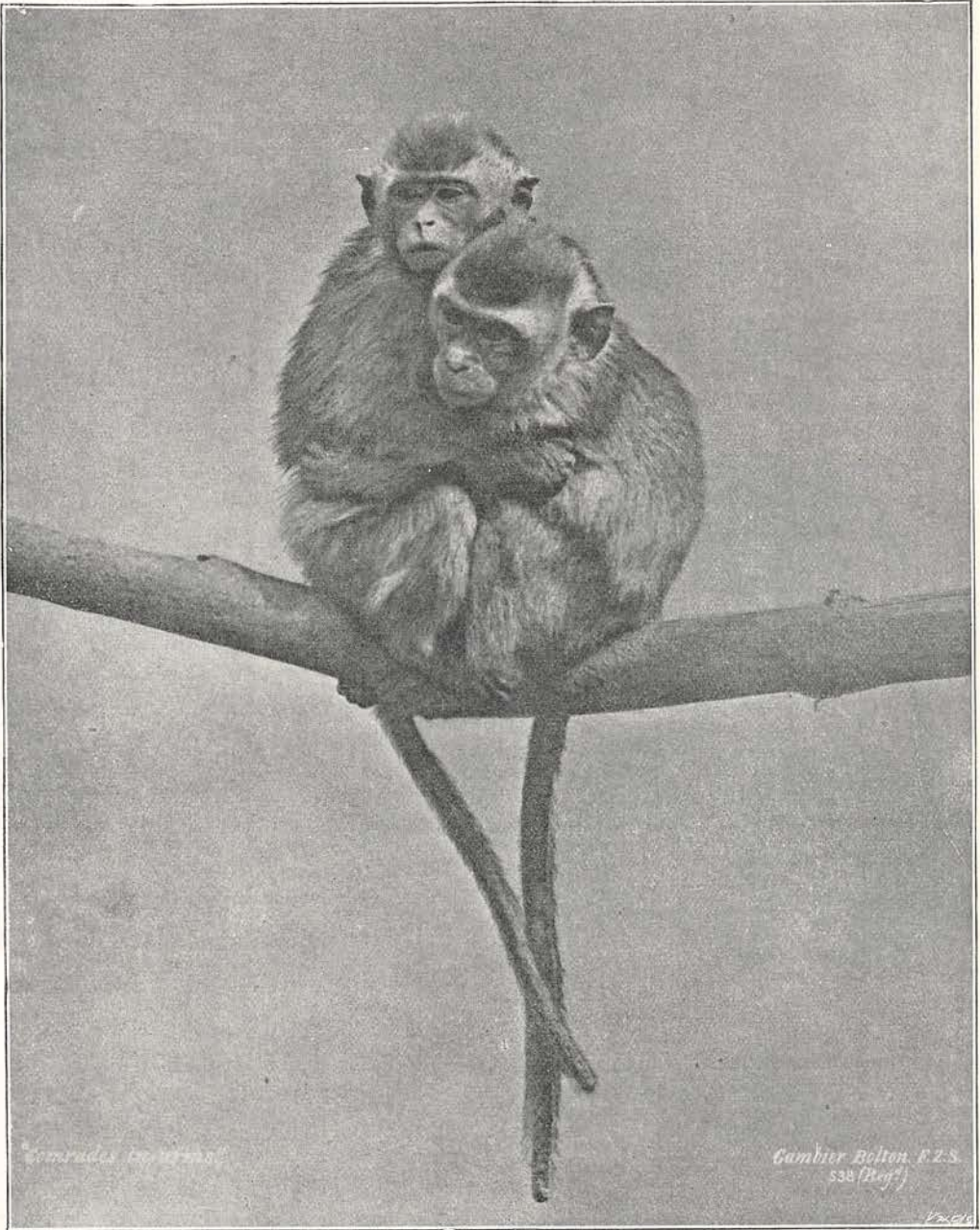
About a dozen species of the Thumbless monkeys are found in Africa, and they are very similar in many respects to the Langurs, but in all cases the thumb is either totally absent or merely rudimentary in the form of a little knob, which is sometimes provided with a very minute nail. Like the Langurs, they have the peculiarly complex stomach and no cheek-pouches, and it is only in the six groups remaining that we find these remarkable additions. The African Long-tailed group heads the list, and they are also known as Guenons—one who grimaces—and included in it are several monkeys common in most zoological collections, such as the Vervet, the Grivet, the Green, the Mona, and the Diana monkeys, all of them very docile and easily trained, but showing a tendency

to become savage as they grow old, so that caution should be used before purchasing any of them as pets for the house.

The Mangabeys, or White Eyelid monkeys, form the third group, their peculiar first name having been given to them by the French naturalist Buffon, from a mistaken idea that they came from the district of Mangabe in Madagascar, whereas they are found in West Africa only, and on the opposite side of the continent to Madagascar.

It is with the members of the next group, the Macaques, that we can deal most fully, as with a single exception (the North African or Barbary Macaque, found also at Gibraltar) all are Asiatic, and are imported into Great Britain and Europe in very large numbers every year, for exhibition in menageries and also for training as performers in public places of amusement, for, like the African Long-tailed monkeys, the majority of them are very docile and are clever at learning tricks, but they frequently turn vicious as old age approaches. Included in this group are the well-known Bonnet monkey, the true Indian Macaques, the Rhesus, the Pig-tailed, the Stump-tailed, the Magot or Barbary Macaque, and others, all to be seen frequently in the British and Continental Zoos, many of them being kept as pets in most parts of the world, with the exception only of the coldest regions.

The Bonnet monkey is well named; the hair on the top of the head, instead of falling over the forehead, stops before it reaches there, and forms a little *toque*, whilst there is a distinct parting in front. They are found all over southern India, and are as common in the villages as they are in the forests, and amuse themselves by stealing grain from the shops of the *bhanias*, or native grain-sellers. The one shown in the photograph was busily engaged in searching for small particles of dust on its foot—the popular idea, that these creatures spend most of their time in searching for parasites, being quite an erroneous one, as nothing of the kind could exist for a moment on any portion of a healthy monkey's body without being quickly captured. The "opposable" great toe is shown very plainly in the foreground. The Indian Macaques make some of the nicest of pets, and when of the dwarf species, like the two sitting together on the branch in the photograph, are not too large to be kept in a roomy cage in the house during the winter time; both of these having survived more than one severe winter in England, the taller one being allowed the free run of a house and



INDIAN MACAQUES.

From the copyright photo by Gambier Bolton, F.Z.S.

garden in North London, after he passed out of the writer's possession; whilst another of the same kind lived for three years, including two extra cold winters, in a dog-kennel, which he shared with a friendly spaniel, in the North of England.

The Rhesus, or Bengal monkey, called *bandar* by the Hindoos, is one of the best known of all. These are frequently shipped to Europe in batches of fifty or more, whilst they are common in the forests, villages, and temples of northern India. At Simla, the

Jako Hill is always full of them, notwithstanding that it stands at an elevation of nearly ten thousand feet above the sea level, whilst they may be met with in most parts of northern India, in company with the native jugglers, who teach them to go through clever performances, generally assisted by a dog or giant goat.

The Pig-tailed monkey is a sturdy, well-shaped animal, with long and powerful limbs, and a dog-like muzzle very similar to that of the Baboons. They are found in Tenasserim and from there right through the Malay Peninsula, including also Borneo and Sumatra. The natives train them to go to the tops of the tall cocoanut trees, where they select the ripe nuts, and, breaking them

"Mata" (the one illustrated) was bought by the writer from a temple in Tokyo, and, although quite tractable with his owner, was vicious when handled by others, having a special dislike for females of all ages. He was not only in perfect health and coat during our English winters, but if exercised when snow was on the ground, fairly revelled in it, rolling over and over in perfect enjoyment. They are captured by the use of *saki*, a strong Japanese spirit, which, being placed in bowls underneath the trees that they are known to frequent, soon prostrates them helplessly drunk on the ground, when they are easily captured and carried off to the towns for sale.

The Magot, or Barbary Macaque, is a fairly large animal, with a face not unlike that of "Mata," but is absolutely tailless, the only one of the group which has this peculiarity. They are found in the north-western corner of Africa, in Algeria and Morocco, and a few are found on the rock at Gibraltar and in other parts of southern Spain, where they were probably introduced originally by importation from the opposite shores, although it is possible that they may be directly descended from the European Macaques of prehistoric times, already mentioned, for it is certain that this monkey was known to the ancient Greeks. About twenty of them exist on the Rock at Gibraltar, the sergeant in charge of the signalling station at the top being told off to prevent their capture or destruction.

The Celebes monkey, from the islands of that name in the Pacific, is the sole representative of the sixth group of the Catarrhines, and its appearance closely resembles the Pig-tailed Macaque, but it is jet black in colour, and the tail is a mere knob, scarcely an inch in length. They have heavy and protruding eyebrow-ridges, and peculiar swellings on the sides of the face (closely resembling their near neighbours the Baboons in this last respect), and they have large cheek-pouches, whilst on the top of their heads is a tuft of black hairs forming a crest. The one brought home by the writer was exceedingly tame, but felt the cold in this country far more than the ordinary Macaques, dying eventually in the Apes'

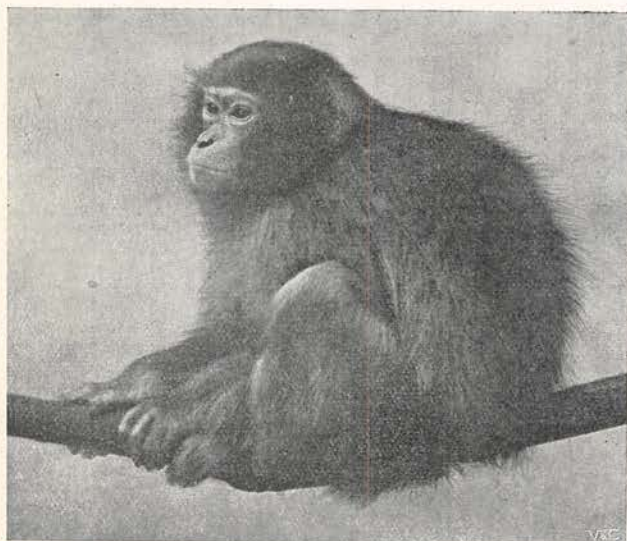


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[Gambier Bolton, F.Z.S.

JAPANESE MONKEY.

off, let them fall to the ground, the owner making a good living by receiving ten per cent. of the nuts collected by his monkey. The "piggies" make capital pets, and the one photographed belonged to the late Yates Carrington, the animal painter, before it came into the writer's possession, and was painted into more than one picture for the Royal Academy, and also appeared in the book called "Teufel the Terrier," in which he acted as understudy to 'Teufel,' the hero.

The Stump-tailed Macaque, of Japan, is very similar to the Pig-tailed, both in size and shape, but is covered with thick fur, has a mere stump of a tail, and is not quite so long in the muzzle. They are a greenish brown colour, with salmon-red face, and

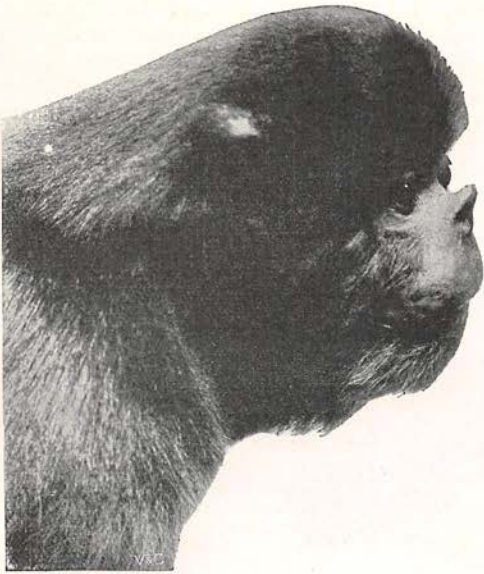


Photo by]

[Gambier Bolton, F.Z.S.

SNUB-NOSED MONKEY (VERY RARE).

house in the Zoological Gardens, in spite of every care and attention, and plenty of artificial heat.

The first of the Baboons is the Gelada, from southern Abyssinia, a large and ferocious-looking animal, carrying a heavy mane, which, in conjunction with its long, dog-like muzzle, closely coated hind-quarters and tufted tail, somewhat resembles a black poodle in appearance, with an extra amount of hair on the fore-quarters. Placed in a group by itself, as forming a link between the Celebes monkey and the true Baboons, it so closely resembles the latter in habits and disposition that it is not necessary to refer to it further. The last group—*viz.*, the true Baboon, is made up of about eight species of the most hideous-looking of all the apes and monkeys; the great length of their snouts, the swollen look of their upper jaws and tumour-like structures on the face, making them veritable nightmares of ugliness. They are not found in the Orient at all, but only in Africa and the countries lying to the north of the Red Sea, a few of those to

be seen from time to time in European menageries being the Arabian, the Chacma, from South Africa, the Anubis, the Yellow Baboon, and the repulsive-looking Drill and Mandrill of West Africa.

They have brightly coloured patches on their faces, and huge callosities, powerful fore and hind limbs, and carry enormous tusks, with which they have been known to meet the leopard in combat and to kill him, three or four old males being more than a match for even so dangerous a foe as this. It is remarkable that from early Egyptian sculptures we should find that the ancients trained these savage creatures to gather fruit, which they threw down from the trees to their masters, in exactly the same way that the Pig-tailed monkey does in the Far East to-day.

Sir Samuel Baker's description of a troop of Baboons, as they appeared to him, is so exactly what the writer has often seen in southern Africa, that he is tempted to conclude with the quotation: "It is very amusing to watch these great male baboons stalking majestically along, followed by a large herd of all ages, the mothers carrying the little ones upon their backs, the latter with a regular jockey-seat riding most com-



Photo by]

[Gambier Bolton, F.Z.S.

PROBOSCIS MONKEY.

fortably, whilst at other times they relieve the monotony of position by sprawling at full length and holding on by their mother's back hair. Suddenly a sharp-eyed young baboon discovers a bush well covered with berries, and, his greedy munching being quickly observed, a general rush of youngsters takes place, and much squabbling for the best place ensues amongst the boys. This

ends in great uproar, when down comes a big male, who cuffs one, pulls another by the hair, bites another on the hind-quarters just as he thinks he has escaped, drags back a would-be deserter by his tail and shakes him thoroughly; and thus he shortly restores order, preventing all further disputes by sitting under the bush and quietly enjoying the berries by himself."

