

neck under the yoke, and afterwards transfer the weight to its back. St. Hilaire and Cuvier, from whom the substance of much of the preceding account is taken, assert, that, if after having laid down and received the intended freight, the camel should find it inconveniently heavy, it will not rise till a part has been taken off; and that, when fatigued by long travel, it will proceed more readily and easily if the driver sing some familiar tune. This however is a quality not peculiar to the camel.

Considered only thus far in its history, the camel easily stands preeminent, as the most useful, among all the species of ruminating animals, in the bodily or mechanical services which it renders to man: it is almost indeed the rival of the horse, even when compared in a general point of view; but more than its rival in its particular arena, the desert. The reindeer assists the individual wants of the Laplander by conveying his sledge over the frozen surface of the snow: and the ox, on a more enlarged scale of labour, is employed in some countries in ploughing, or in the draught of heavy weights: but the camel was from time immemorial, up to a comparatively recent period, almost the sole intermedium of the principal part of the commerce of the whole world. Thus the spices and other rich merchandise of the East, being brought to the confines of Arabia, were conveyed on the