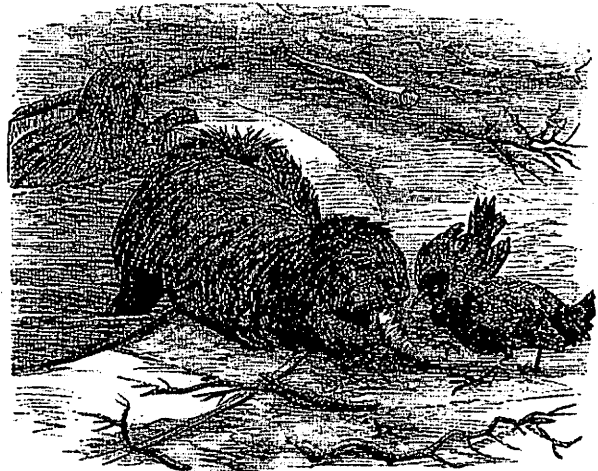


GIRAFFES TAKING EXERCISE.

ZOOLOGICAL ECCENTRICITIES.

In the course of time New Yorkers will have a splendid zoological garden in their Central Park, equal, no doubt, to any thing of the kind in Europe. Meantime, we give on this page several sketches made in the famous Zoological Gardens of London. Here, for instance, we have the giraffe, as it appears when galloping—an exercise to which it is sometimes partial, and which no one can see without laughter.

ing as they are jerked through the air. The long legs and neck of the giraffe have another odd effect on the movements of the animal, preventing it from reaching an object on the ground unless it assumes a most singular attitude. Many draughtsmen represent the neck of the giraffe as capable of being bent in curves, like that of the swan. This, however, is not the case, the structure of the vertebrae causing the neck to be nearly stiff. In order, therefore, to enable the animal to take any object from the

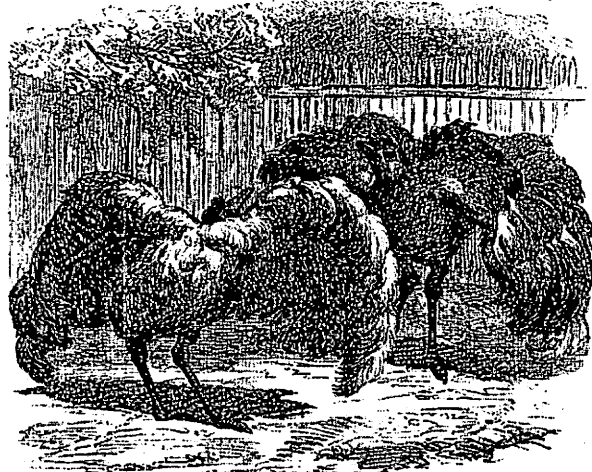


BEAVER AND BLACK-TAILED WATER-HENS.

At the bottom of the page is a portrait of a brown bear waiting for a bun, the means coming rather out of proportion to the object.

Another sketch shows us the salutation of the bird known to zoologists as Darwin's Rhea—popularly, though wrongly, called the ostrich by the colonists of South America. As the bird walks or runs at an ordinary pace the wings are pressed closely to the sides, but on occasions it is fond of performing some singular antics that make it look as if it were half mad. Sometimes it runs

graceful walk of the eagle, which in some things may be compared with that of the giraffe. Sailing through the air in vast spirals, with almost motionless wing, the eagle is one of the most graceful of birds; and when perched upon a pinnacle of rock it is a noble and splendid creature, even though the rock be an artificial one, and enclosed within a wire cage. But the eagle was never intended to walk on a level surface, and when it is forced to do so its movements are as ludicrously clumsy as those of the giraffe. The

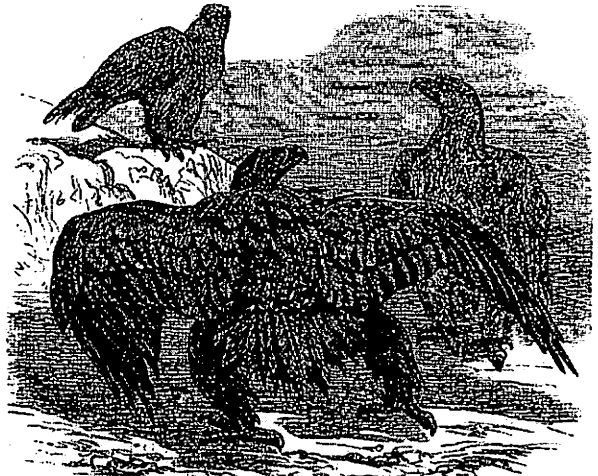


DARWIN'S RHEA—THE SALUTATION.

The gallop of the giraffe has well been described as a series of frog-like hops, not in the least like the splendid action of the horse, or the bounding grace of the greyhound. At every leap the hind-legs are flung wildly apart, and brought far in advance of the fore-legs, while the long neck causes the body to sway from side to side, like the rolling of a screw-steamer in a cross-sea; and the tail switches about over the back, the long stiff hairs with which it is terminated hiss-

ground, it has to straddle its fore-legs so widely apart that the creature seems in danger of splitting in two, and then, with some trouble, lowers its head to the ground.

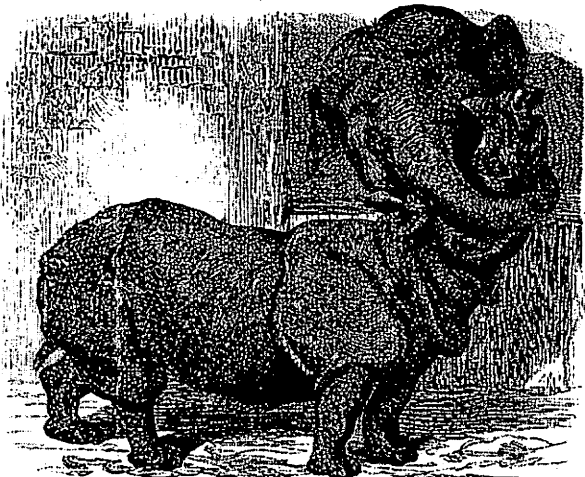
Another cut represents the beaver as it appears when eating a carrot. Its banquet is not a solitary one, for a couple of black-tailed water-hens have made their way to the animal, according to custom, and are on the alert to pick up the fragments which may fall to the ground.



THE EAGLES GRACEFUL WALK.

about its inclasure as if in the extremity of terror, holding its wings from the body in the mode that is shown; and sometimes it joins with a companion in a series of performances that look as if the birds were dancing a solemn minuet together. During these antics it utters its peculiar booming sounds; and if it be angered, or play at being angered, it assumes a menacing attitude, and hisses like a disturbed snake.

Next we have a sketch of the extremely un- powerful feet and curved talons have no hold on the level ground, while the structure of the legs forces the feet to be planted so far apart that when the eagle walks it is obliged to sway itself from side to side, just as does a very awkward novice in skating when he finds himself on the ice. The walk of the eagle and the flight of the same bird are much like the movements of the Gaucho of the Pampas or the Comanche Indian. Spending the greater part of their lives on horse-



RHINOCEROS AND ELEPHANT—THE GOOD NEIGHBORS.



BROWN BEAR WAITING FOR A BUN.

ZOOLOGICAL ECCENTRICITIES.