

Frontispiece.



— Shall these impudent brutes of the air." p. 4.
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THE
ELEPHANT'S BALL,
AND
Grand Fete Champetre.

Intended as a COMPANION to those much admired PIECES,

The BUTTERFLY'S BALL,

AND

THE PEACOCK "AT HOME."

ILLUSTRATED WITH ELEGANT ENGRAVINGS.

By W. B.

LONDON:

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1808.

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Printed by E. Hemsted, Great New Street, Fetter Lane.

THE
ELEPHANT'S BALL,

AND

Grand Fete Champetre.

&c. &c.

THE insects and birds, with the balls and their feasts,

Caus'd much conversation among all the beasts:

The ELEPHANT, famous for sense as for size,

At such entertainments express'd much surprise;

Says he, " shall these impudent tribes of the air,

" To break our soft slumbers thus wantonly dare?

" Shall these pretty creatures, us beasts far below,

" Exceed us in consequence, fashion, and show?

" Forbid it, true dignity, honour and pride!—

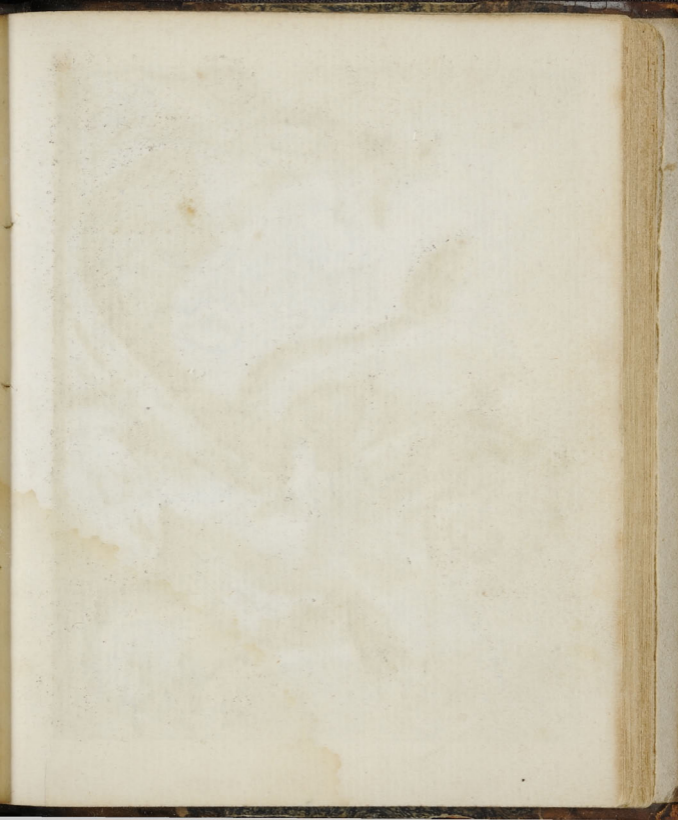
" A grand rural fête I will shortly provide,

" That for pomp, taste, and splendor, shall far leave behind

" All former attempts of a similar kind."

The BUFFALO, BISON, ELK, ANTELOPE, PARD,

All heard what he spoke, with due marks of regard.





2

"Here first came the Lion so gallant & strong." p. 5.

A number of messengers quickly he sent
 To the beasts, far and near, to make known his intent.
 The place he design'd for the scene of his plan,
 Was a valley remote from the dwellings of man :
 Well guarded with mountains, embellish'd with trees,
 And furnish'd with rivers, that flow'd to the seas.
 Here first came the LION so gallant and strong,
 Well known by his main that is shaggy and long ;
 The JACKALL, his slave, follow'd close in his rear,
 Resolv'd the good things with his master to share.

The LEOPARD came next—a gay sight to the eye,

—With his coat spotted over—like stars in the sky—

The TIGER his system of slaughter declin'd,

At once, a good supper and pleasure to find.

The bulky RHINOCEROS came with his bride;

Well arm'd with his horn, and his coat of mail hide.

Then came the HYENA, whose cries, authors say,

Oft lead the fond traveller out of his way,

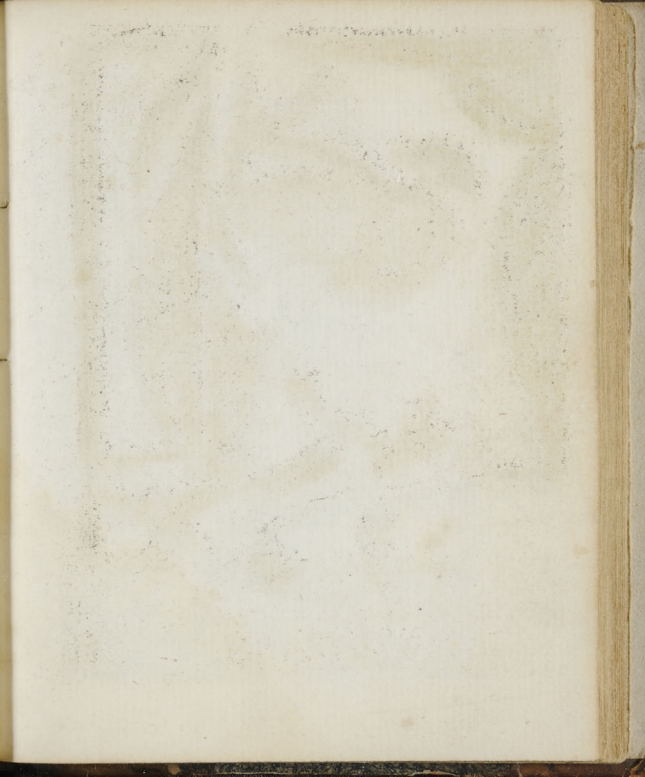
Whom quickly he seizes and renders his prey.

The WOLF hasten'd hither, that Ruffian so bold,

Who kills the poor sheep, when they stray from the fold.

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2





"The Sloth when I invited got up with much pain". p.7.

The BEAR having slept the long winter away,
 Arriv'd from the north, to be merry and gay.
 The PANTHER ferocious—the LYNX of quick sight,
 The PREACHER* and GLUTTON* came hither that night.
 The CAMEL, so often with burthens oppress,
 Was glad for a while from his labour to rest.
 The SLOTH, when invited, got up with much pain,
 Just groan'd out, “Ah, No !” and then laid down again.
 The FOX, near the hen-roost, no longer kept watch,
 But hied to the feast, better viands to catch.

* Wild Beasts of that name.

The MONKEY, so cunning and full of his sport,

To show *All his Talents*, came to this resort.

The DOG and GRIMALKIN* from service releas'd,

Expected good snacks, at the end of the feast:

The first at the gate, as a centinel stood ;

The last kept the Rats and the Mice from the food.

The crowd of strange quadrupeds seen at the ball,

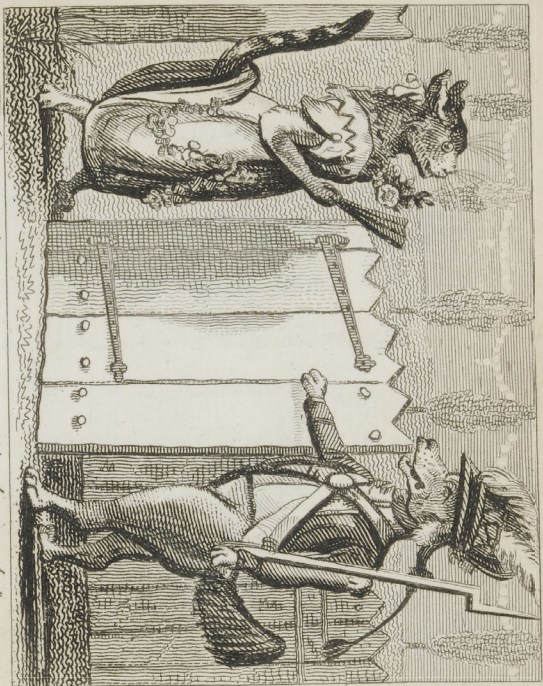
'Twere tedious and needless to mention them all ;

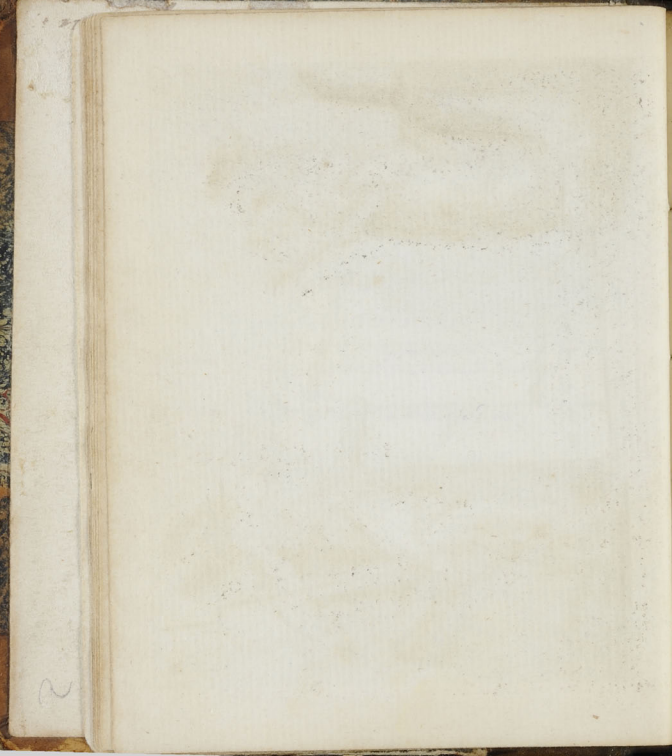
To shorten the story, suffice it to say

Some scores, nay, some hundreds, attended that day.—

* The Cat.

"The Dog at the gate as a centinel stood." p. 8.

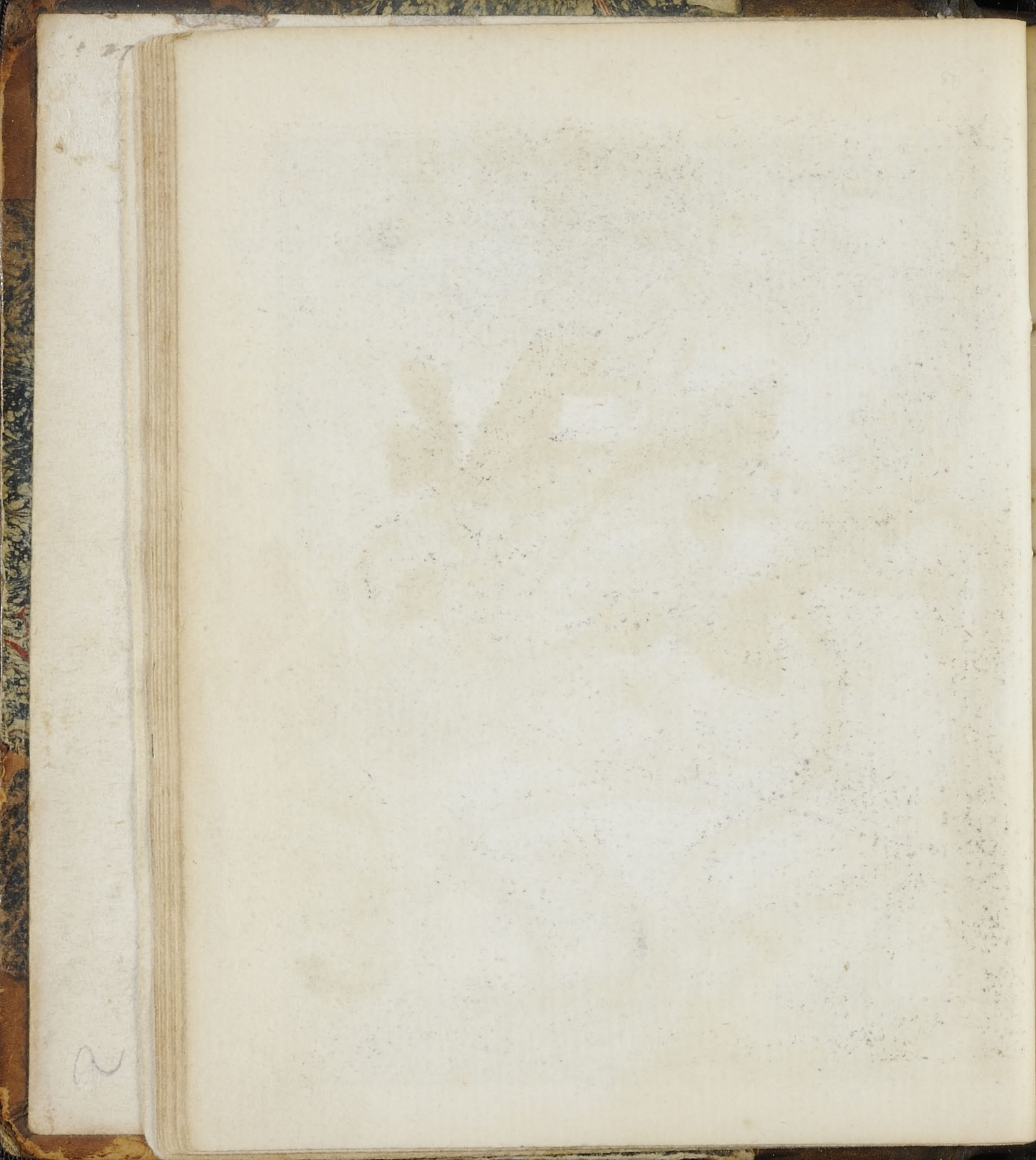


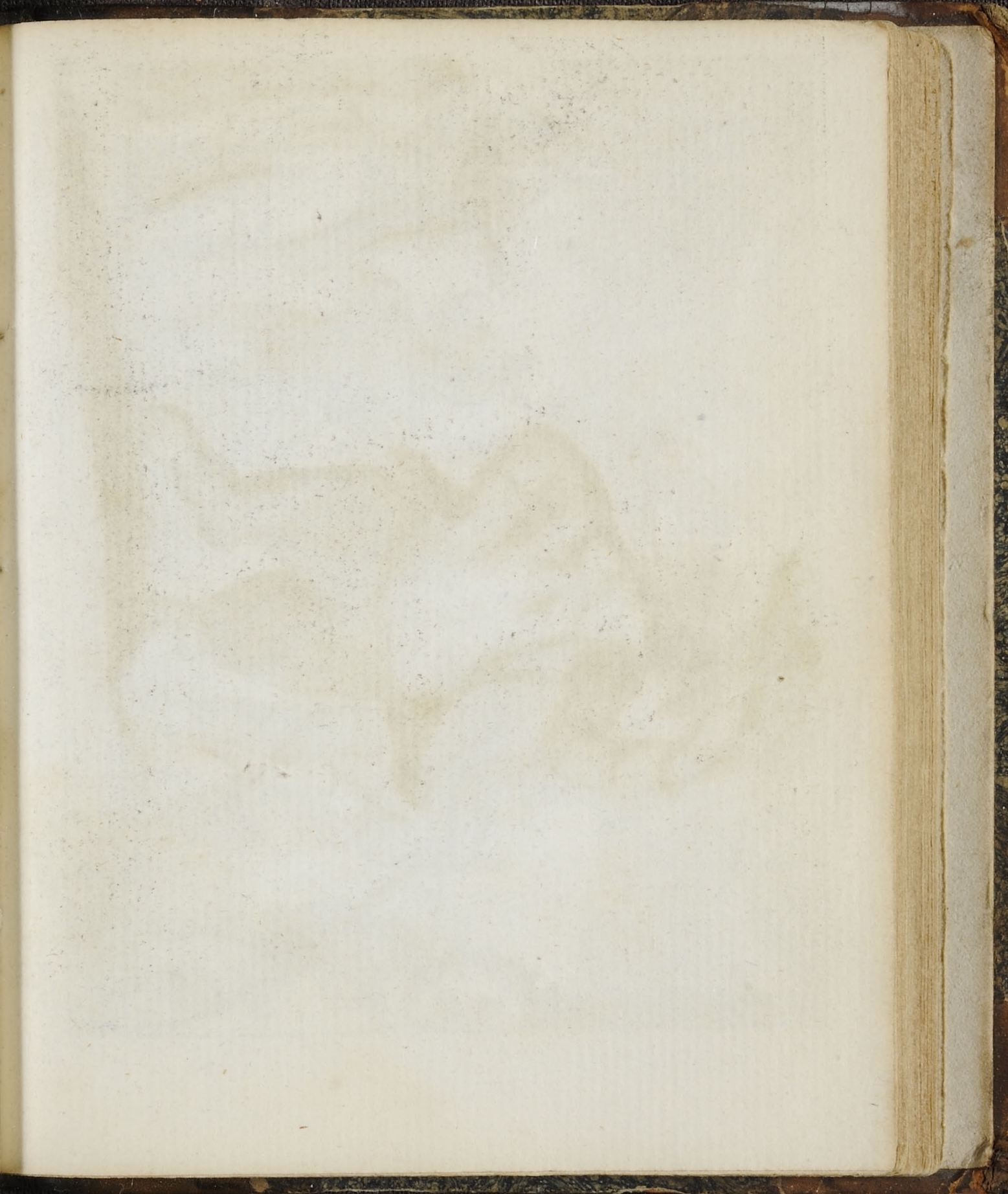


But most of the tame and domestical kind,
 For fear of some stratagem, tarried behind.
 Due caution is prudent! but laws had been made—
 No Beast, on that night, should another invade.
 Before we go farther, 'tis proper to state,
 Each female was ask'd to attend with her mate :
 Of these, many came to this fête of renown,
 But some were prevented by causes well known.
 Now Sol had retir'd to the ocean to sleep :
 The Guests had arriv'd their gay vigils to keep—
 Their hall was a lawn, of sufficient extent,
 Well skirted with trees, the rude winds to prevent :

The thick-woven branches deep curtains display'd;
 And heaven's high arch a grand canopy made.
 Some thousands of lamps, fix'd to poplars were seen,
 That shone most resplendent, red, yellow, and green.
 When forms, introductions, and such were gone through,
 'Twas quickly resolv'd the gay dance to pursue;
 The musical band, on a terrace appearing,
 Perform'd many tunes that enchanted the hearing;
 The APE, on the haut-boy much science display'd—
 The MONKEY the fiddle delightfully play'd—
 The ORANG OUTANG touch'd the harp with great skill,
 The ASS beat the drum, with effect and good will,
 And the SQUIRREL kept ringing his merry bells still.

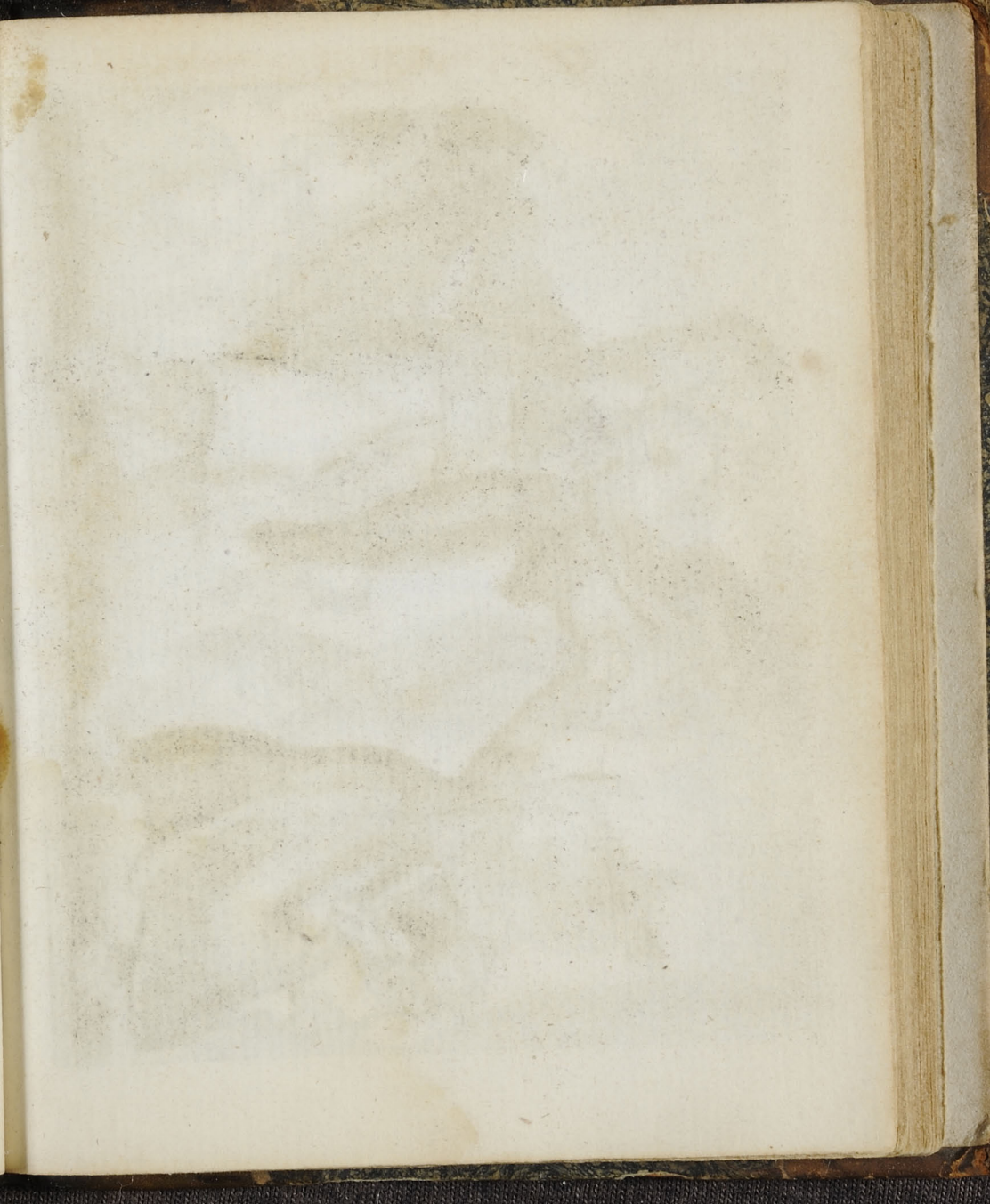








"Met Bruin stood up with a good natured smile."





"The Goat-herd and his Wife"

The ELEPHANT, stately, majestic and tall,

With Cousin RHINOCEROS open'd the ball—

With dignified mien the two partners advanc'd,

And the *De la Cour* minuet gracefully danc'd.

The LION and UNICORN, beasts of great fame,

With much admiration, accomplish'd the same.

The TIGER and LEOPARD, an active young pair,

Perform'd a brisk jig, with an excellent air.

Next BRUIN * stood up with a good-natur'd smile,

And caper'd a hornpipe, in singular style,

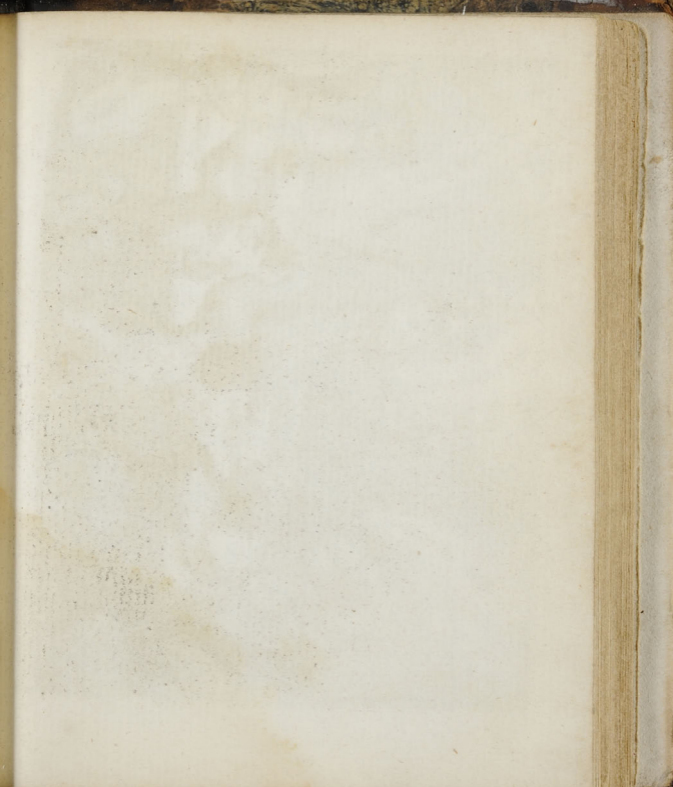
With a staff in his paws, and erect all the while.

* The Bear.

The FOX, WOLF, and PANTHER, their humours to please,
 Danc'd three-handed reels with much spirit and ease,
 A few tried cotillions, and such like French fancies,
 But most of them join'd in John Bull's country dances.
 Some beasts were not us'd to these violent motions,
 And some were too old or too grave in their notions ;
 Of these a great many diverted their hours
 With whist, lue, backgammon, quadrille or all-fours.
 Much time being spent in these pleasing diversions,
 A motion was made to remit their exertions :
 For supper was waiting ; which, on this occasion,
 Was manag'd with skill, and exact regulation.

The bosom of earth a firm table supply'd—
The cloth was green grass, with gay flow'rets bedy'd ;
The various utensils by nature were cast,
And suited completely this antique repast.
The generous host had provided great plenty,
To suit various palates, of every dainty.
Some scores of fat oxen were roasted entire,
For those whose keen stomachs plain beef might require.
Profusion of veal, nice lamb, and good mutton,
To tickle the taste of each more refin'd glutton—
Abundance of fish, game and poultry, for those
Whose epicure palates such niceties chose.

Ripe fruits and rich sweet-meats were serv'd, in great store,
 Of which much remain'd when the banquet was o'er ;
 For, as to mild foods of the vegetive kind,
 Few guests at the table to these were inclin'd ;
 Rare hap for such persons as travell'd that way,
 By chance or design, on the following day.
 On wine and strong spirits few chose to regale,
 As most were accusom'd to Adam's old ale.
 When supper was ended, and each happy guest
 Had freely partaken of what he lov'd best ;
 Of toasts and of sentiments various were giv'n ;
 As " Health to our Host, and the Land that we live in."





The former was drank with huzzas, three-times-three,
Which echo repeated with rapturous glee.
Now mirth and good humour pervaded the throng,
And each was requested to furnish a song,
Which many comply'd with ; but such as deny'd,
Some whimsical laughable story supply'd,
The LION, " Britannia Rule," sung mighty well :
The TIGER, " in English Roast Beef," did excel.
While others made all the wide valley to ring,
With " Nile's Glorious Battle, and " God Save the King."

In such good amusements the evening they past,
Till Aurora appear'd to the eastward at last :
When back to their homes, they return'd one and all,
Well pleas'd with the sports at the ELEPHANT'S Ball.

W. B.

