their head violently againſt a tree. It devours the iſatis, or white Fox ; ſearches for the traps laid for the sables and other animals ; and is often beforehand with the huntſmen, who ſuſtain great losses by the glutton : authors have pre­tended that it feeds ſo voraciously, that at length it is in danger of burſting ; and that it is obliged to eaſe itſelf of its load, by ſqueezing it out between two trees.

In a wild ſtate, it is vaſtly fierce ; a terror to both wolf and bear, which will not prey on it when they find it dead, perhaps on account of its being ſo very fetid, ſmelling like a pole-cat : it makes a ſtrong reſiſtance when attacked ; will tear the ſtock from the gun, and pull the traps it is caught in to pieces. Notwithſtanding this, it is capable of being tamed, and of learning ſeveral tricks. It burrows, and has its den under ground. The ſkin is sold in Siberia for 48. or 6s. ; at Jakutſk for 12s.; and ſtill dearer at Kamtſchatka, where the women dreſs their hair with its white paws, which they eſteem a great ornament. The fur is greatly eſteemed in Europe ; that of the north of Europe and Aſia, whoſe ſkins are ſometimes to be ſeen in the furriers ſhops, is much finer, blacker, and more glossy than that of the wolverene, or American kind. The glutton has by ſome authors been confounded with the hyaena.

4. The *lotor,* or raccoon, has the upper part of the body covered with hair, aſh-coloured at the root, whitiſh in the mid­dle, and tipped with black ; tail very buſhy, annulated with black ; toes black, and quite divided.—It inhabits the warm and temperate parts of America ; is found alſo in the moun­tains of Jamaica, and in the iſles of Maria, between the ſouth point of California and Cape Corientes, in the South Sea : is eaſily made tame, very good-natured, and ſportive; but as unlucky as a monkey. It is almoſt always in mo­tion ; and very inquiſitive, examining every thing with its paws. It makes uſe of them as hands ; sits up to eat ; is extremely fond of ſweet things, and ſtrong liquors, and will get exceſſively drunk. It has all the cunning of a fox ; and is very deſtructive to poultry ; but will eat all sorts of fruits, green corn, &c. At low water it feeds much on oyſters, and will watch their opening, and with its paw ſnatch out the fiſh ; it ſometimes is caught in the ſhell, and kept there till drowned by the coming in of the tide : it is alſo fond of crabs. It climbs very nimbly up trees. It is hunt­ed for its ſkin ; the fur is next to that of the beaver for ma­king hats.

5, The *meles,* or common badger, is an animal of a very clumſy make, with ſhort thick legs, long claws on the fore feet, and a fetid white matter exuding from the orifice be­low the tail. It inhabits moſt parts of Europe, as far north as Norway and Ruſſia, and the ſtep or desert beyond Oren­burgh, in the Russian Aſiatic dominions, north of the Cas­pian Sea : inhabits alſo China, and is often found in the butchers ſhops in Pekin, the Chineſe being fond of them ; but a ſcarce animal in moſt countries. It ſeldom appears in the day ; confines itſelf much to its hole ; is indolent and ſleepy ; generally very fat ; feeds by night ; eats roots, fruits, graſs, insects, and frogs ; but is not carnivorous :. it runs ſlowly ; when overtaken, it comes to bay, and defends itſelf vigorouſly. ; its bite is dangerous. It burrows under ground ; makes ſeveral apartments, but forms only one en­trance from the ſurface. It is hunted during night for the ſkin, which ſerves for piſtol furniture ; the hairs for making bruſhes to ſoften the ſhades in painting. Its fleſh makes good bacon.

URTICA, in botany : A genus of plants of the claſs of *monaecia,* and order of *tetrandria ;* and in the natural ſyſtem claſſed under the 53d order, *Scabridae.* The ſmall flower Las a calyx of four leaves ; no corolla ; a nectarium minute, central, urn-faſhioned. The female a bivalve calyx ; and a ſingle, oval, glossy ſeed. There are 28 ſpecies ; three of which are Britiſh plants.

**1. T**he *pilulifera,* Roman nettle, has a ſtalk branched, two or three feet high. Leaves oppoſite, oval, ſerrated, stinging. Fruit globoſe.

2. The *urens,* leſs stinging nettle, has a ſtem a foot high. Leaves roundiſh, deeply ſerrated, oppoſite, burning. The stings are very curious microſcopic objects : they conſiſt of an exceedingly fine pointed, tapering, hollow ſubstance, with a perforation at the point, and a bag at the baſe. When the ſpring is preſſed upon, it readily perforates the ſkin, and at the ſame time forces up ſome of the acrimonious liquor? contained in the bag into the wound.

3. The *diοica,* common nettle, has a ſquare firm ſtem, three or four feet high. Leaves heart-ſhaped, long-pointed, ſerrated, beſet with stings. Flowers in long catkins. The aculei, or stings of the nettle, have a ſmall bladder at their baſe full of a burning corroſive liquor : when touched, they excite a blister, attended with a violent itching pain, though the ſting does not appear to be tubular, or perforated at the top, nor any viſible liquor to be infuſed into the puncture made by it in the fleſh. It ſeems certain, however, that ſome of this liquor is inſinuated into the wound, though invisibly, ſince the stings of the dried plant excite no pain.

Nettle-tops in the ſpring are often boiled and eaten by the common people inſtead of cabbage-greens.

In Arran, and other iſlands, a rennet is made of a strong decoction of nettles : a quart of salt is put to three pints of the decoction, and bottled up for uſe. A common ſpoonful of this liquor will coagulate a large bowl of milk very readily and agreeably. The stalks of nettles are ſo like in quality to hemp, that in ſome parts of Europe and Siberia they have been manufactured into cloth, and paper has been made of them. The whole plant, particularly the root, is eſteemed to be diuretic, and has been recommended in the jaundice and nephritic complaints. It is alſo reckoned aſtringent ; and of ſervice in all kinds of hæmorrhagies, but is at preſent but little in practice. The roots boiled will dye yarn of a yellow colour. The larvæ, or caterpillars of many ſpecies of butterflies, feed on the green plant ; and ſheep and oxen will readily eat the dried.

*Urtica-Marina.* See *Animal-Flower.*

USANCE, in commerce, is a determined time fixed for the payment of bills of exchange, reckoned either from the day of the bills being accepted, or from the day of their date ; and thus called becauſe regulated by the uſage and cuſtom of the places whereon they are drawn.

USE, in law, the profit or benefit of lands and tenements; or a truſt and confidence repoſed in a perſon for the hold­ing of lands, &c. that he to whoſe uſe the truſt is made ſhall receive the profits.

USHANT, an iſland of France, 15 miles west of the coaſt of Britanny, at the entrance of the Britiſh Channel.

USHER (James), archbiſhop of Armagh, one of the moſt illuſtrious prelates in the 17th century, as well with reſpect to his piety and other virtues, as his uncommon erudi­tion, was born in Dublin in 1580, and it is ſaid that two of his aunts taught him to read, though they were both born blind. Dublin college being finiſhed in 1593, he was one of the three firſt ſtudents admitted into it. He made so ſwift a progreſs in his ſtudies, that at 18 years of age he was able to diſpute with Henry Fitz-Simon, a famous Jesuit, who challenged all the Proteſtant clergy ; and defend­ed his cauſe ſo well in the caſtle of Dublin, that he made him repent his challenge. He was ordained prieſt in 1601, and ſoon after was appointed to preach conſtantly before the court at Chriſt-church in Dublin, on Sundays in the afternoon. In 1603, he was ſent over to England with Dr Luke