

The popularity lately acquired on almost all our theatres, national and minors, by the imitators of monkeys, has led to the collection of many curious facts and anecdotes respecting the tricks, propensities, and almost human instinct of the animal itself. These anecdotes have just been published under the title of *Memoirs of Monkeys*, who are divided, like STERNE'S travellers, into classes, according to the capacities of heart and mind which they displayed. The following is a specimen of—

## THE CONSIDERATE MONKEYS.

“A naval Hero who, some time in the present century, captured a valuable island with a small squadron of frigates, possessed a fine strapping monkey which he sometimes placed at table as a guest; at other times it was his pleasure to array him in the uniform of a captain, which always delighted Pug, and made him to all appearance a polished Gentleman (an effect sometimes produced on men by the dignified conduct of their superiors); he touched his cocked hat when an officer appeared on deck, and invariably walked the weather side, imitating the enquiring look of the officer of the watch, and often putting his paw above his eyes to facilitate his examining whether the sails were well trimmed, and the weather braces and bowlines hauled taught; if Pug perceived a rope yarn dangling any where aloft, or a rope's end over the edge of a top, his agitation became extreme, he chattered, stamped, and scolded worse than a Xantippe, and never ceased until his orders were obeyed, when he again resumed his stately walk, eyeing with triumphant malignity the midshipmen who were compelled to pace the lee side in the draught of the mizen stay-sail. Some idea was entertained of rating Pug an able seaman, since he could go aloft, reef and furl, heave the lead, and take the wheel; the intention was abandoned, for Pug delighted to heave the lighter lead, and enjoyed to see it sink into the clear deep sea, but he would never call the fathoms correctly, and often refused to haul up the lead he had cast; his conduct at the wheel was equally unworthy of trust, for though he would put it a starboard or to port, as the Quarter Master conning the ship ordered, and look with a knowing eye at the compass, yet he would now and then take a freak into his head, and, before the other helmsmen could stop him, either bring the ship to the wind or keep her away, and then scamper off chattering and pleased with the bustle he created.

“On board the same frigate was another monkey of a small species, for whom the great one had formed a very sincere affection. These friends had entered into a league offensive, defensive, and of mutual co-operation. The chief duty of the little fellow was to receive and deposit all the property stolen by the other, in some place of security, and also to warn him of any approaching danger. The first great exploit committed by these friends was one which proved the reflection and foresight of the larger, and the worldly knowledge of the latter.

“This hero sometimes amused himself by giving to the larger ample pinches of prince's mixture, from a golden snuff-box of great value. Pug's olfactory organ was too delicate to bear such applications without being subject to that spasmodic convulsion which we denominate sneezing, to a degree that convulsed his whole frame, and made him throw himself into the most laughter-stirring positions. Pug, like a prudent fellow, did not wish to come to an open breach with a powerful commander, and therefore reflected at his leisure on the best method of preventing the repetition of an amusement by which he suffered. He was seen in apparent consultation with his little friend, and shortly after the golden snuff-box disappeared.—The steward was examined, the cabin searched, and every enquiry made for this valuable article. The master at arms and ship's corporal were directed to be on the alert, and to examine all suspected persons.

“It was observed, that the monkeys were more retired than usual, and that the little fellow was oftener than common peeping into his master's (one of the midshipmen) chest, while his comrade either prowled at a distance or sat upon the top. The midshipman had been away on duty for two days, on his return his messmates informed him of the loss of the box, and incidentally mentioned the uncommon behaviour of his monkey. The youth smiling replied:—

“Meike (the little fellow's name) always uses my chest for his store house, indeed I give him a till, and go shares in all his plunder of fruits and good things, and we always agree about the spoil—perhaps he has put the box there.” An immediate examination took place, notwithstanding the anger of Pug and the chattering of Meike; the result, as might be expected, was the lost treasure carefully concealed beneath a heap of linen and other things in this till. The Captain justly thought Pug right in ridding himself of evil to the best of his ability, and therefore did not punish him for the theft.

“These friends carried on their depredations, when the ship was in harbour, on a great scale, and with so much system and consideration, that orders were given not to molest them as long as they committed no positive crime.

“Boats loaded with bread, fruit, cheese, and other commodities, often rowed by the women, who go to the ships in harbour to dispose of their goods, were frequently alongside the frigate. Pug being very large, strong, and active, would descend the side and enter the boats in which were women, while Meike took his station on the hammock cloth within the main rigging. Pug, as soon as he got on board the boat, began to make the most hideous faces, and utter the most menacing noises, and even threaten to seize the women; their alarm was too great to prevent him taking whatever he pleased, which he immediately brought up to his little comrade, who scampered below with the prize, and stowed it in the chest. The quickness with which this was effected generally prevented any one from recovering the stolen property before it was taken from the chest.

“The mode of defence adopted by the women was effectual and singular. Each purchased a shilling snake made of painted wood divided into many joints, which waves when held by the tail, and motion gently given to the first joint held in the hand. One morning Pug descended into a boat, a-head and a-stern of which were two more, the women in them all were prepared with their snakes, and as soon as the rogue began his usual menaces produced them. The effect on poor Pug's nerves was tremendous, he trembled, screamed, and supplicated; the women had suffered too much to let off the culprit without revenging themselves, they all hastened towards him, and one got on the side steps; thus surrounded, Pug in his agony plunged into the sea, and was with difficulty saved from drowning.—Meike during this scene uttered piercing cries, and actually threw towards his swimming friend the end of a rope from the quarter deck. Like a prudent fellow, he never again molested the women merchants, though he always scolded and chattered at their approach.

“The deaths of this Orestes and Pylades of the monkey tribe were rather tragic. Pug was invited to dine in the gun-room where he drank too much Madeira, he sallied on deck pot valiant, and seeing a shark, which rapacious creatures are numerous in Kingston harbour, where the frigate was at anchor, he leaped into the sea to catch it; before assistance could be afforded, the voracious fish had seized poor Pug and dyed the sea with his blood.

“Meike became melancholy after the loss of Pug; and was one night turned out of his master's hammock for being troublesome, and in the morning was found suspended beneath his head cold and stiff.”