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THE LLAMA.

THE LLAMA is generally about four feet and a half high, and nearly six feet in length. Its usual weight is about 300 pounds. It is a native of the Cordilleras of the Andes, and is still more frequently found in Peru and Chili. Llamas live together in herds of one hundred or two hundred each, and feed on a peculiar kind of grass or root that covers the mountains on the sides of which they dwell. While they eat peccary grass herbage, they are never known to drink. They are wild and tractable animals, and are used in many parts of South America to carry burdens. They were formerly employed in the ploughing of land. Like the Camel, they are slow to be loaded; and when they are loaded with much labour, no horse will follow them to proceed. Although very gentle if well-used, the Llama easily takes offence at any insult, and then it has a bad habit of spitting at the person with whom it is angry. This animal is slow and careful in moving when it is under control, or when loaded with baggage; but among its own native hills or valleys it has a swifter pace than an excellent horse.

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NATURAL HISTORY, ORIGINAL HAND-COLOURED WOOD ENGRAVINGS PUBLISHED C1850

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The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (SPCK) is the third oldest publishing house in England, after the Oxford and Cambridge University Presses. It was founded in 1698 by an Anglican priest, Thomas Bray who believed passionately in the power of the printed word. In its first two hundred years, the Society founded many charity schools for poor students in the 7 to 11 age group. It is from these schools that the modern concept of primary and secondary education has grown.

Although the SPCK originally dealt with just Christian subjects, from the 1830s onwards it was publishing general educational topics as well. SPCK's early publications were distributed through a network of supporters who received books and tracts to sell or give away in their own localities. Large quantities of Christian literature were provided for the Navy, and the Society actively encouraged the formation of parish libraries and was also an early provider of teacher training.

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