"For hairy goats of equal profit are
With woolly sheep, and ask an equal care.
'T is true, the fleece, when drunk with Tyrian juice
Is dearly sold; but not for equal use;
For the prolific goat increases more,
And twice as largely yields her milky store.
Meantime the pastor shears their hoary beards,
And eases of their hair the loaded herds.
Their camelots warm in tents the soldiers hold,
And shield the shivering mariners from cold."

The "Tyrian juice" here mentioned refers to the celebrated Tyrian purple, with which the garments of wool were stained; but goats' hair was very largely employed in the dresses worn by many European nations, and especially in the coarse garments of soldiers and sailors. Many of the Greek fables of Aesop make mention of the goat; and the goatherd was an important personage among the ancients. Who does not remember the story of the foolish goatherd, who, having taken shelter with his goats in a cave, and finding a number of wild goats already in possession there, gave the food of his flock to the wild goats, in hope of making a prize of them? the consequence of which proceeding was, that his own flock perished with hunger, while the wild goats escaped at the first opportunity, and thus he returned home without either wild goats or tame. The difference between the goats and the sheep may be compared to that which exists in many countries between the tribes inhabiting the mountain regions and those dwelling in the plain. The mountaineers, like the goat, are hardy and bold, insensible to danger, and fond of pursuing hazardous tracks among pathless crags; while the dwellers in the plain, like the sheep, are peaceable rather than warlike, loving ease and plenty, and unenterprising in character. Again, the goat, like the mountaineer, is prone to wander; while the lowlander, like the sheep, is content to remain in one spot, provided it supplies him with necessary food.

First in order among the goats we have to notice a wild kind, namely:

**THE IBEX. (Plate iv., d.)**

This is a wild species of mountain goat, formerly common among the Alpine regions of Central Europe, Switzerland, Savoy, and Northern Italy, but it has now become very scarce and must soon disappear altogether before the rifle of the hunter. In the almost inaccessible heights between Monte Rosa and Mont Blanc it is still occasionally found. The ibex is a fine bold animal, inhabiting the highest mountains, and climbing precipices that seem inaccessible with wonderful agility and safety. In the summer its food consists of the Alpine plants, but in winter it resorts to the forests that clothe the mountain side, and browses on the bark and branches of dwarf willows, birches, and other Alpine trees. But even in winter it seeks the heights whenever this is practicable, resorting to the lowlands only when driven by necessity. The large horns of the ibex are bent backward from the forehead, and surrounded at intervals with broad rings. The horns of the female are much smaller than those of the male. The colour of the skin is a dull reddish grey; the head is small, and the legs rather short and thick. The ibex is much larger than the common domestic goat. Its voice is a peculiar whistle, which it utters with great shrillness when alarmed. Hunting the ibex is a very dangerous pursuit, not only from the necessity of scaling the terrific precipices to which the creature betakes itself in its flight; but also from the fact that the ibex, when its retreat is cut off, will frequently spring in desperation upon the hunter, and roll headlong with him down the abyss. In its manner of life and general habits the ibex resembles the chamois in many points.