

NATURAL HISTORY

THE GLOBE, OF MAN, OF BEASTS, BIRDS, FISHES,
REPTILES, INSECTS AND PLANTS.

FROM

THE WRITINGS OF BUFFON, CUVIER AND OTHER
EMINENT NATURALISTS.



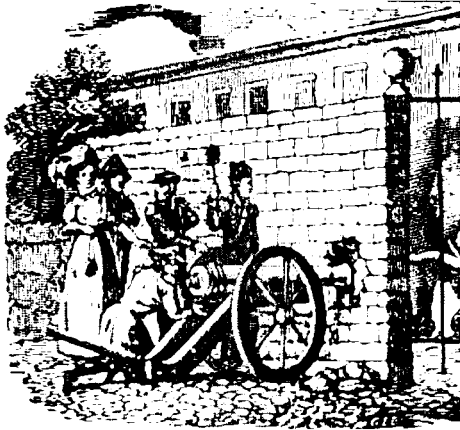
A NEW EDITION.

WITH MODERN IMPROVEMENTS, AND FIVE HUNDRED
ENGRAVINGS.

BOSTON:
GRAY AND BOWEN.

MUCCCXXI.

non almost touched him. The ball entered near behind the right eye, came out behind the left through a thick partition on the opposite side of

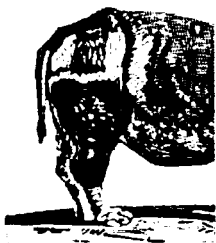


closure, and spent itself against a wall. The stood still for two or three seconds, then tottered on his side without convulsion or movement."

THE RHINOCEROS.

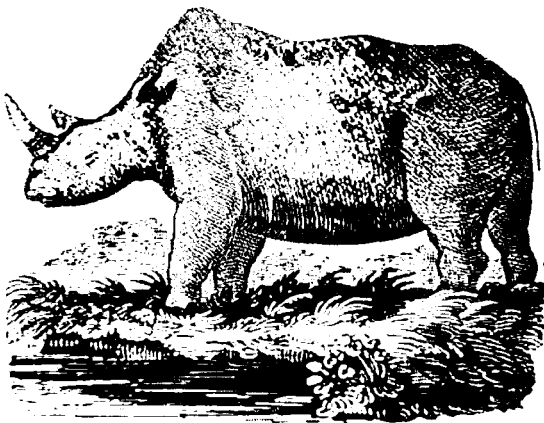
AFTER the elephant, the Rhinoceros is the most of all quadrupeds. He is at least twelve feet in from the extremity of the snout to the tail; six feet in height; and the circumference of his body near equal to his length; he is therefore like the in bulk; and if he appears much smaller, it is because his legs are much shorter in proportion to those of the elephant; but he differs widely from that sagacious animal in his natural faculties, and his intelligence; he

from Nature merely what she grants in common to mals; deprived of all feeling in the skin, having no answering the purpose of hands, nor distinct for the of feeling, he has nothing instead of a trunk, but a ble upper lip, in which centres all his dexterity.



uperior to other animals only in strength, size, and ensive weapon which he carries upon his nose, and is peculiar to him. This weapon is a very hard olid throughout, and placed more advantageously e horns of ruminating animals; these only protect erior parts of the head and neck, whilst the horn of inoceros defends all the exterior parts of the snout, erves the muzzle, the mouth, and the face from so that the tiger attacks more readily the elephant, ng his trunk, than the Rhinoceros, which he can- uck in front, without running the danger of being for the body and limbs are covered with an impen- skin; and this animal fears neither the claws of r nor the lion, nor even the fire and weapons of tsman; his skin is a dark leather, of the same col- t thicker and harder than that of the elephant; he t feel the sting of flies; he cannot contract his : is only folded by large wrinkles on the neck, the rs, and the buttocks, to facilitate the motions of the

legs, which are massive, and terminate in large feet, armed with three great claws. The skin of the two-horned



Rhinoceros is much more easily penetrable * than that of the single-horned. He has the head larger in proportion than the elephant; but the eye still smaller, which he never opens entirely, and they are so situated that the animal can see only what is in a direct line before him. The upper jaw projects above the lower; and the upper lip has a motion, and may be lengthened six or seven inches; it is terminated by a sharp edge, which enables this animal, with more facility than other quadrupeds, to gather branches and grass, and divide them into handfuls, as the elephant does with his trunk. This muscular and flexible lip is a sort of trunk very incomplete, but which is equally calculated for strength and dexterity.

* It not only appears that the skin is thinner than that of the one-horned Rhinoceros, but it seems that it has not the same folds. Mr. Burchell says that there are two distinct species of the two-horned Rhinoceros in South Africa. See page 222.

head of those long ivory teeth which form the tusks of elephant, the Rhinoceros has his powerful horn, and strong incisive teeth in each jaw. These incisive teeth, which the elephant has not, are placed at a great distance from each other in the jaws of the Rhinoceros. Besides these, twenty-four smaller teeth, six on each side of each jaw. His ears are always erect; they are of the form, like those of a hog, only they are larger in proportion to his body; they are the only hairy parts of his body. The end of the tail is, like that of the elephant, furnished with a tuft of large bristles, very hard and very sharp. Huge and seemingly unwieldy as the Rhinoceros is, he has the power of running with very great swiftness. The Rhinoceros which arrived in London in 1739 had been sent from Bengal. Although he was young (being two years old), the expenses of his food, and his clothing, amounted to near one thousand pounds sterling; he was fed with rice, sugar, and hay. They gave him daily about ten pounds of rice, mixed with three pounds of sugar; and they divided into three parts. He had also a great quantity of hay and green grass, to which he gave the preference. His drink was nothing but water, of which he drank a great quantity at once. He was of a quiet disposition, and let his manager touch him on all the parts of his body. He grew unruly when he was struck, or was provoked; and in both cases he could not be appeased without giving him something to eat. When he was angry, he reared forward with impetuosity to a great height, and he struck furiously the walls with his head; which he did with a prodigious quickness, notwithstanding his heavy weight and size.

This Rhinoceros, when he was two years old, was not higher than a young cow who has not yet borne a calf; but his body was very long, and very thick. The

tongue of this young Rhinoceros was soft, like that of a calf; his eyes had no vivacity; they are like those of a hog in form, and were placed very low; that is, nearer the opening of the nostrils.

Mr. Parsons says, that he has observed a very particular quality in this animal; he hearkened with a sort of continual attention to any noise; so that, if he even was asleep, employed in eating, or in satisfying other urgent wants, he started instantly, raised up his head, and gave attention till the noise had ceased.

It is certain that some Rhinoceroses have but one horn on the nose, and others two. In the two-horned Rhinoceros, one of the horns is smaller than the other, and is situated above it. When the animal is quiescent these horns are loose, but they become fixed when it is irritated. There are single horns of three feet and a half, and perhaps of more than four feet in length, by six or seven inches in diameter at the basis; there are also double horns which are but two feet in length. Commonly, these horns are brown, or olive colour; yet some are gray, and even white. They have only a small concavity, in form of a cup, at their basis, by which they are fastened to the skin of the nose; the remaining part of the horn is solid and very hard. It is with this weapon that the Rhinoceros is said to attack, and sometimes to wound mortally the largest elephants, whose long legs give to the Rhinoceros, who has them much shorter, an opportunity of striking them with his horn under the belly, where the skin is tender, and more penetrable; but when he gives the side blow, the elephant throws him on the ground, and kills him.

The horn of the Rhinoceros is more valued by the Indians than the ivory of the elephant; not so much on account of the matter, of which they make several works with the chisel, but for its substance, to which they attribute

s virtues, and medicinal properties. The white ones, the most rare, are also those which they value most. The cups made of this horn are used to drink out of by many of the Indian princes, under the erroneous idea that when a poisonous fluid is put into them, the liquor will ferment and run over the top.

The Rhinoceros, without being ferocious or carnivorous, is nevertheless very wild, and is nevertheless untameable. He is of the nature of a hog, blunt and grunting, without intellect, without sentiment, and without tractableness. These animals are also, like the hog, very much inclined to wallow in the mire; they like damp and marshy places, and seldom leave the banks of rivers. They are found in Asia and Africa, in Bengal, Siam, Laos, in the Mogul dominions, in Sumatra, in Java, in Abyssinia, and about the Cape of Good Hope.* But, in general, the species is not so numerous, or so universally spread, as that of the elephant. The female brings forth but one young, and at a great distance of time. In the first month the Rhinoceros is not much bigger than a large dog; he has not, when first brought forth, the horn on the nose, although the rudiment is seen in the fetus. When he is two years old, this horn is only an inch long; and in his sixth year it is about six inches; and as some of these horns have been seen to grow near four feet long, it seems they grow till his middle age and perhaps during the whole life of the animal, which must be long, since the Rhinoceros described by Mr. Parry was not come to half his growth when he was two years old; which makes it probable, that this animal lives, like a man, seventy or eighty years.

Without being useful, as the elephant, the Rhinoceros

The two-horned Rhinoceros is only found in Africa. *La Key's Observations of Natural History.*

is very hurtful, by the prodigious devastation which he makes in the fields. The skin is the most valuable of this animal. His flesh is excellent, according to the taste of Indians and Negroes. Kolben says, he has eaten it with great pleasure. His skin makes the hardest leather in the world; and not only his horns, but all the other parts of his body, and even his blood, urine, and his excrements, are esteemed as antidotes to poison, or a remedy against several diseases; but however, all those virtues are imaginary.

The Rhinoceros feeds upon herbs, thistles, grass and shrubs; and he prefers this wild food to the sweet verdure of the verdant meadows: he is very fond of canes, and eats all sorts of corn. Having no taste ever for flesh, he does not molest small animals, and fears the large ones, living generally in peace with all, even with the tiger, who often accompanies him without daring to attack him.

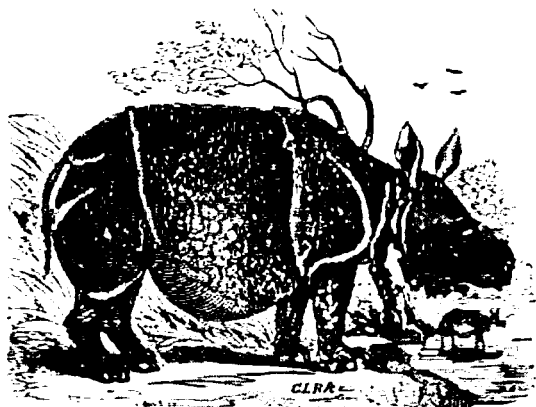
The Rhinoceroses do not herd together, nor march in troops, like the elephant; they are wilder, and more solitary, and perhaps more difficult to be hunted and subdued; they never attack men unless provoked; but they become furious, and are very formidable: the scimitars of Damascus, the scymitars of Japan, cannot make an impression in his skin; the darts and lances cannot pierce him through his skin even resists the balls of a musket; those of lead come flat upon his leather, and the iron ingots cannot penetrate through it: the only places absolutely open in this body armed with a cuirass, are the belly, the neck, and round the ears; so that hunters, instead of following this animal standing, follow him at a distance, and wait to approach him at the time that he rests himself. There is in the King of France's collection a *fœtus* of a Rhinoceros, which was sent from the

and extracted from the body of the mother. It is in a memorial which accompanied this present, by eight huntsmen had assembled to attack this rhinoceros; they had followed her far off for some days, and then men walking now and then before, to reconnoitre the position of the animal. By these means they perceived her when she was asleep, and came so near in that they discharged, all at once, their twenty-four shot into the lower parts of her belly.

It is seen, that this animal has a good ear; it is proved, that he has the sense of smelling in perfection; it is pretended he has not a good eye, and sees not far from him: that his eyes are so small, and placed so obliquely, they have so little vivacity and motion, that this fact needs no other confirmation. His voice, when calm, resembles the grunting of a hog; and when angry, his sharp cries are heard at a great distance. Though he lives upon vegetables, he does not ruminate; it is probable, that, like the elephant, he has a large stomach, and very large bowels, which supply the contents of the paunch. His consumption, though very great, is not comparable to that of the elephant; and it appears, that the thickness of his skin, that he loses less than the elephant by his perspiration.

A rhinoceros about a year old, recently brought from Africa, is now exhibiting in Boston. The engraving annexed furnishes a very exact representation of this animal. Its length from the nose to the insertion of the tail is three feet, four inches. Its height three feet, four inches. The length of its head is eighteen inches; that of its tail, thirteen inches. The horn has not yet made its appearance at the nose, but there is a large protuberance, which marks the place where it is growing, and seems to form the basis of it. The animal, when disturbed, makes a noise like a young calf. It has very much the

air and manners of a hog; it betrays no fear or shyness, but seems constantly intent upon getting something to eat. It feeds upon hay, potatoes, and grain, and so greedy is its appetite that nothing comes amiss.



Two species of the two-horned Rhinoceros are found in South Africa. The figure (at page 216) was drawn from life by Mr. Melville, and conveys an accurate representation of the species which abounds most in the Bechuanaland country. The horn of the female is, however, much longer and more slender than that of the male; I have one in my possession three and a half feet long. Being a strong, ponderous and elastic substance, it is much prized by the natives for handles to their battle-axes. The secondary horn is in many instances so small as to be scarcely perceptible at a little distance. The general figure of the Rhinoceros is that of an enormous hog. His prodigious size and strength, and his destructive horn, point out this animal, in my apprehension, as the real unicorn of scripture.

Thompson's Travels in Southern Africa.