ZOOLOGY:

A Systematic Account of

THE GENERAL STRUCTURE, HABITS, INSTINCTS, AND USES

OF THE

PRINCIPAL FAMILIES OF THE ANIMAL KINGDOM.

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seeing, when I discovered one character, how all the consequences which I predicted from it were successively confirmed. The feet accorded with the characters announced by the teeth; the teeth were in harmony with those previously indicated by the feet. The bones of the legs and thighs, and every connecting portion of the extremities, were found to be joined together, precisely as I had arranged them before my conjectures were verified by the discovery of the parts entire. Each species was, in fact, reconstructed from a single unit of its component elements." The deposits in which the remains of the Palæotherium are found, are evidently of considerably older date than those in which the bones and teeth of the Elephants and Mastodons are buried; and the other fossil remains of terrestrial animals, that are found with them, are for the most part very dissimilar to those which now inhabit our globe. These deposits, however, were formed by the agency of fresh water; and there can be little doubt that the bones of Palæotheria which they contain, are the relics of animals which, like the Tapir and Rhinoceros of the present day, frequented the borders of lakes and large rivers, by whose waters they were occasionally ingulphed in seasons of flood.—Another fossil genus allied to the Tapirs is that of *Lophiodon*, which differs from Palæotherium in having only six molars on either side of each jaw, but in other respects closely resembles it. No less than fifteen species of this genus have been distinguished; their remains are commonly found associated with those of the Palæotherium.

293. Returning to the animals now inhabiting our globe, we have next to notice the *Rhinoceros*, a large and ungainly-looking animal, which inhabits the hotter regions of the Old World. This genus (which contains six living species, as well as several extinct ones, whose remains occur in the same strata with those of the Elephant) is characterised by the possession of three toes on each foot, and by the presence (in most of the species at least)

is curved and pointed, and arises from a limpet-shaped base; and it is composed of agglutinated fibres analogous to those of hair, and closely resembling those into which whalebone is so easily separable. In some species, there are two horns, both on the central line of the body; and the hinder one is situated on the frontal bone. The arch on which the horns rest has need of great strength, not only to sustain its weight, but also to resist the

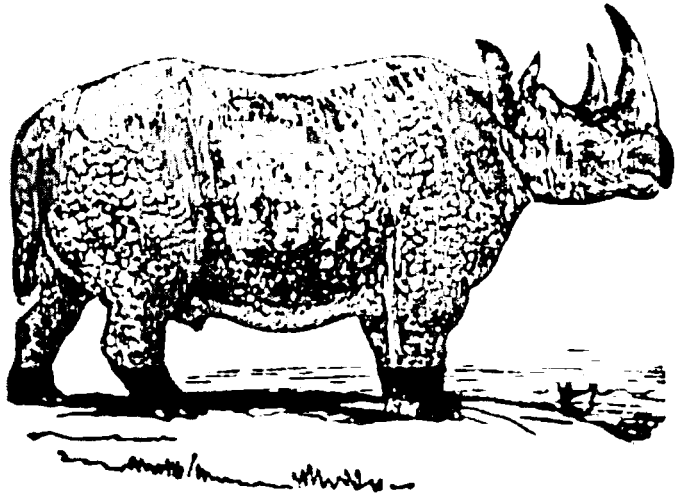

Fig. 164.—Two-horned Rhinoceros.

shock occasioned by the violent blows, which the animal gives with this powerful weapon. The skin of the Rhinoceros is thick and coarse, with a knotty surface; and is destitute, or nearly so, of hairs; in the common Indian species, it is disposed in large folds, especially on the neck, shoulders, haunches, and thighs. The upper lip is prolonged, and in some species is as prehensile as that of the Tapir. The best known species of Rhinoceros is the one which inhabits India; where it leads a tranquil indolent life, wallowing on the marshy borders of lakes and rivers, and occasionally bathing itself in their waters. Its movements

trable jungle; but when brought to bay, it charges with great fury and impetuosity, and tramples down, or rips up with its horn, any animal that opposes it. Even the Elephant cannot withstand its fury. Another species, less powerful and savage, is found in Java; and a third, which possesses two horns, in Sumatra. Three species, each possessing two horns, are found in Africa, of which the best known,—the black, or common Rhinoceros,—is represented in (Fig. 164).—The Rhinoceros appears to have been formerly as widely distributed as the Elephant and Mammoth; and its remains are found associated with theirs. Several species, differing from those at present existing, have been distinctly made out; and of one of these, an entire frozen carcase has been discovered, in the banks of one of the tributaries of the Lena. It had two horns, but differed in many respects from any two-horned species of the present day; and its skin, like that of the Mammoth, was covered with long stiff hair. Remains of the Rhinoceros are found in almost every bone-cavern in England, France, and Germany; and it appears from the researches of Dr. Buckland, that, during a long succession of years, the Elephant, Hippopotamus, Rhinoceros, and Hyæna, were formerly inhabitants of our island,—the last-mentioned of these devouring the others, or preying upon its carcase after natural or accidental death.

294. There is a curious genus of small animals, inhabiting the rocky districts of Africa and Syria, which is intermediate in its characters between the Tapir and Rhinoceros, but presents several points of resemblance to the Rodentia. This is the *Daman*, or *Hyrax*, an active fur-covered little animal, sometimes called the Rock-Rabbit, and probably the *Cony* referred to in the Book of Proverbs. Its skeleton closely resembles that of a Rhinoceros in miniature, and its molar teeth are formed in the same manner; the fore-feet have four toes, which are tipped with hoof-like nails; whilst the hind-feet have three, of which the inner-