

THE
HIGHLANDS OF ÆTHIOPIA
DESCRIBED,
DURING EIGHTEEN MONTHS' RESIDENCE
OF
A British Embassy
AT
THE CHRISTIAN COURT OF SHOA.

Si forte Deus annueret votis nostris, ut amica Christianæ hujus nationis
commercia cum nostratibus instituerentur.

LUDOLFI, *Comment. ad Hist. Æthiop.*

patronized by the Abyssinians, but despised by their more warlike neighbours, the Galla, with whom the horse is a favourite. A wild donkey (*Ya meida aheia*, neither Zebra nor Quagga), a little larger than the common ass, herds in the prairies of the Adaiel country, and is timid, cautious, and swift of foot.

Bullocks (*Beri* or *Ferita*) are similar to the Zebu, but the hump is smaller. Some Galla tribes possess a peculiar breed (*Sanga*), the horns of which attain an enormous size, and serve for bottles; from the smaller horns drinking-cups are manufactured. The calves are not used for food. No work except dragging the plough and thrashing is required of the ox.

The wild buffalo (*Gosh*), *Bubalus Pegasus*, fierce and as yet untamed, inhabits the forests and jungles of Bulga and Mentshar all along the river Háwash; its chase is considered one of the most dangerous pursuits of the hunter, several human lives being frequently expended on the conquest of one beast. *Strepliceros capensis* (*Agazin*), and *Oryx capensis* (*Sala*), are hunted on the borders of the desert. In the latter species, accident sometimes causes the loss of one horn,—a fact which probably gave rise to the story of the unicorn; moreover, the parallel horns are placed so near each other, that when the animal is seen *en profile* from a distance, it might well appear single-horned. *Gazella Mhorra* wanders in large herds through the desert; *Antelope Saltiana* (*Medaquaa*) abounds from the sea-coast to the foot of the mountains.

Hyrax Abyssinicus (*Ashkoko*), a harmless inhabitant of nooks and corners of the rocks, is common to Shoa as well as to the hills of the Adel. Bruce's Rhinoceros (*Worsisa*), combining the more striking characters of the Asiatic and African species, that is, the two horns of the latter and the plaits and folds of the former, deserves a closer investigation; it lives in the deep jungles of Mentshar, on the banks of the Háwash. *Phascolochorus Africanus* (*Erya*), the African hog, infests the woods of the warmer districts, and is a horrible-looking brute. *Hippopotamus amphibius* (*Gomari*) hides its colossal frame during the day in the floods of the Háwash, the Jumma, and other large