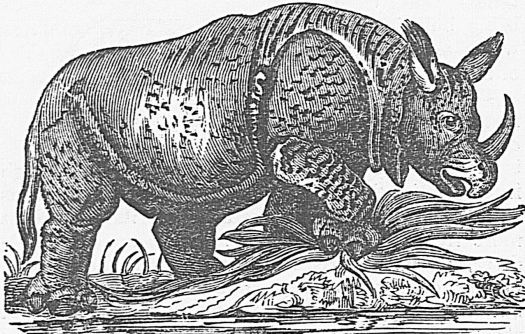


THE RHINOCEROS.

THERE is every reason to believe that the graceful Unicorn of heraldry, which has been so often represented, had no other foundation in truth than the uncertain description, given by early travellers, of



the clumsy figure before us; yet, awkward as its form is, it is possessed of a great degree of swiftness, and considerable irritability of temper; although, when not molested, or suffering under the feelings of hunger, it is an extremely inoffensive creature. The food of the Rhinoceros consists of vegetable substances,—the leaves, branches, and even trunks of trees. Its method of disposing of a tree is described in a very animated manner by Bruce.

“ Besides the trees capable of most resistance, there are, in the vast forests, during the rains, trees of a softer consistence, and of a very juicy quality, which seem to be destined for its principal food. For the purpose of gaining the highest branches of these, his upper lip is capable of being lengthened out, so as to increase his power of laying hold with it, in the same manner as the elephant does with his trunk. With this lip, and the assistance of his tongue, he pulls down the upper branches, which have most leaves, and these he devours first. Having stripped the tree of its branches, he does not abandon it, but, placing his snout as low in the trunk as he finds his horn will enter, he rips up the body of the tree, and reduces it to thin pieces, like so many laths; and, when he has thus prepared it, he embraces as much of it as he can in his monstrous jaws, and twists it round, with as much ease as an ox would do a root of celery.”

There are at least four well-ascertained species of this animal,—two of the one-horned kind, and two with two horns; one of each a native of India, and the other two of Africa.

The horn is entirely different, in its formation and mode of growth, from that of any other known creature. In the Bull, this part is formed of a thin horny substance, growing upon, and taking its form from a strong and short bone, by which it is supported; in the Stag, it consists of bone only, and in both these cases is more or less attached to, or forming part of, the skull. But, in the Rhinoceros, it is made up of a bundle of fibres, having the appearance of bristles laying side by side, glued together, and attached to the skin.

In manners and habits, it approaches very near to the Hog, and delights in wallowing in the mud. Its eye is extremely small, and placed in such a position as to prevent its seeing any thing on either side. Its smell is extremely acute; and the hunters always endeavour to approach it from the leeward. Except in some of the under parts of the body, its skin is capable of resisting a leaden bullet; but an iron ball, or one formed of tin and lead, will penetrate. The length is about ten or eleven feet.

IMPORTANCE OF HUMILITY.—Dr. Franklin once received a very useful lesson from the excellent Dr. Cotton Mather, which he thus relates, in a letter to his son.—“ The last time I saw your father was in 1724. On taking my leave, he showed me a shorter way out of the house, by a narrow passage, which was crossed by a beam over-head. We were still talking, as I withdrew, he accompanying me behind and I turning towards him, when he said hastily, ‘ Stoop, stoop!’ I did not understand him till I felt my head hit against the beam. He was a man who never missed an opportunity of giving instruction; and upon this he said to me, ‘ You are young, and have the world before you learn to stoop as you go through it, and you will miss many hard thumps.’ This advice, thus beat into my head, has frequently been of use to me; and I often think of it, when I see pride mortified, and misfortunes brought upon people by their carrying their heads too high.”

ECONOMY is a large income.—CICERO.

THE HOMES OF ENGLAND.

The stately homes of England,
How beautiful they stand!
Amidst their tall ancestral trees,
O'er all the pleasant land.
The deer across their greensward bound
Through shade and sunny gleam,
And the swan glides past them, with the sound
Of some rejoicing stream.
The merry homes of England!
Around their hearths by night,
What glad some looks of household love
Meet in the ruddy light!
There woman's voice flows forth in song,
Or childhood's tale is told,
Or lips move tunefully along
Some glorious page of old.
The blessed homes of England!
How softly on their bowers
Is laid the holy quietness
That breathes from Sabbath-hours!
Solemn, yet sweet, the church-bells' chime
Floats through their woods at morn;
All other sounds in that still time
Of breeze and leaf are born.
The cottage homes of England!
By thousands on her plains,
They are smiling o'er the silvery brooks,
And round the hamlet fanes.
Through glowing orchards forth they peep,
Each from its nook of leaves,
And fearless there the lowly sleep,
As the bird beneath their eaves.
The free, fair homes of England!
Long, long, in hut and hall,
May hearts of native proof be reard'
To guard each hallow'd wall!
And green for ever be the groves,
And bright the flowery sod,
Where first the child's glad spirit loves
Its country and its God.—MRS. HEMANS.

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