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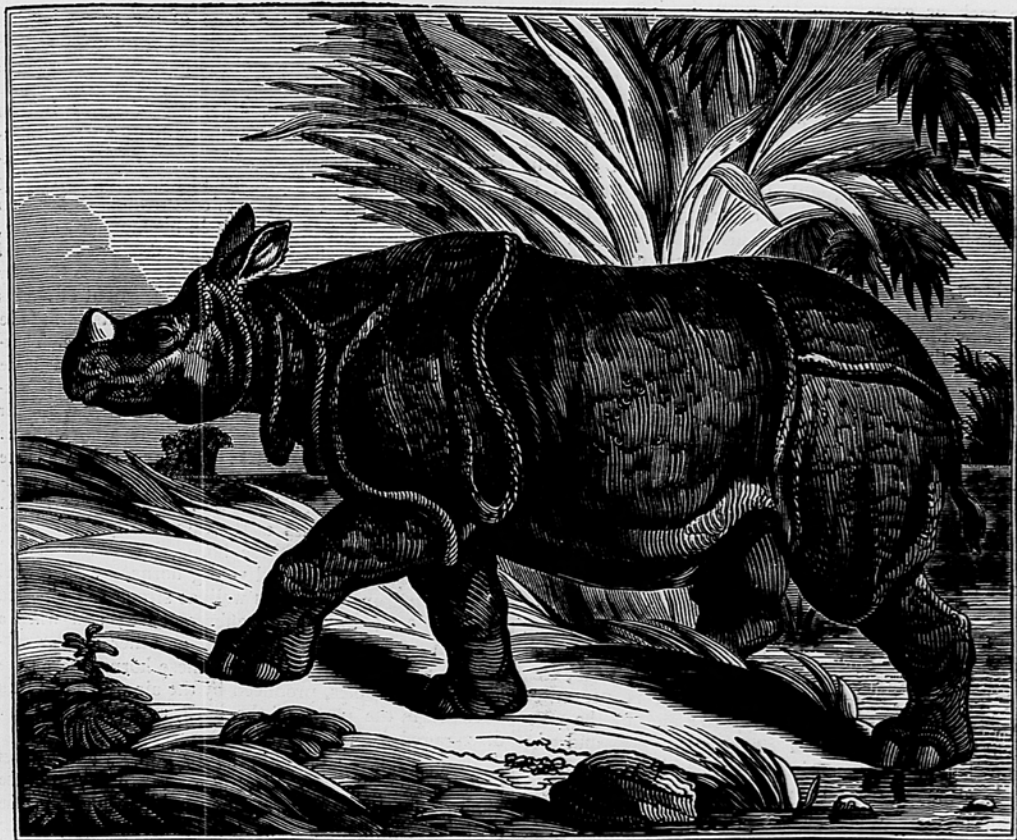
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THE RHINOCEROS.



[The one-horned Rhinoceros.]

THE recent arrival in this country of a young rhinoceros of the Asiatic variety, which was obtained at Siam, will probably give a peculiar interest to an account of this formidable and somewhat rare animal, the common statements regarding which are, to this day, often contradictory and exaggerated.

The rhinoceros is an inhabitant of most of the warmer and milder parts of Africa, of India, of the countries lying between India and China, and of the islands of Sumatra and Java. Some contemporary naturalists have been disposed to recognize four living varieties of this animal,—denominated the African, the Sumatran, the Indian, and the Javan. We shall, however, in our present article, find it convenient to neglect minute distinctions, and consider the rhinoceros simply in its one-horned or two-horned characters.

The one-horned, or Asiatic rhinoceros, is a bulky and clumsy looking animal, the specific character of which is marked by a single black horn, placed near the end of the snout. Its stature seems to vary from five to seven feet, and its length from nine to eleven. Its general appearance is of the most massy character, exceeding in this respect the elephant, from the comparative shortness of its legs. The neck is very short; the shoulders are thick and heavy; the

body is thick, juts out at the sides, and has a hollow in the back; the belly hangs low; the legs are short, thick, and strong; the feet, which do not in any part project much beyond the thick legs, are divided into three hoofs, placed nearly vertically, and the middlemost of which is the largest and most rounded. The body is clothed with an exceedingly thick and rough skin, not penetrable by ordinary weapons, destitute of hair, but covered more or less with a sort of irregular incrustation which has been improperly denominated "scales." This skin is, about the neck, gathered into large folds; a fold also extends between the shoulders and fore legs, and another from the hinder part of the back to the thighs, so that the animal has the appearance of being clad in armour. Between the folds of this thick skin, the cuticle, which is left bare, is soft and easily penetrable. The general colour of the skin may be called dark grey, with a tinge of violet. To consider it in its parts:—the form of the head is compact, and somewhat triangular; the sides of the under jaw stand very wide asunder, slanting outwards to the lower edge, and backward to the neck; the edges turn outward from this structure of the bones, and the head necessarily appears very large. The number of the teeth is thirty, thirty-two, or thirty-four, according to the species

That part of the head which reaches from the commencement of the horn to the upper lip may be called the nose; it is very thick and bulky, much wrinkled, has a circular sweep downward to the nostrils, and, when viewed in front, the whole of this portion, from the top of the horn to the verge of the lower lip, has some resemblance to a bell. The under lip is like that of an ox, but the upper has more resemblance to that of the horse, and in the domestic state he is observed to use it as that creature does in gathering up hay from the rack or grass from the ground. The rhinoceros has also the power of extending this lip to the distance of six or seven inches from the nose, and then drawing it to a point. In this particular he resembles the tapir. With the instrument thus formed, and which in some measure serves the same end as the trunk of the elephant, the animal can take up and grasp with great force the smallest substances. In the wild state he appears to employ it, with the aid of his tongue, in breaking off the branches of trees, which form a principal part of his food. This lip is very soft, and appears to be the chief seat of the sense of feeling in the beast, which of all its senses seems to be the most defective. The nostrils are situated remarkably low, in the same direction with the opening of the mouth, and not more than an inch from it. The eyes are very small, much resembling those of a hog in shape, and placed nearer to the nose than in any other quadruped. There are few points regarding any known animal on which we have such opposite statements as the sight of the rhinoceros. We find that those who have studied the animal in confinement do not mention its sight as defective, but rather describe all its senses, except that of feeling, as particularly acute; whilst travellers who have observed it in the natural state infer that its sight is not very quick, as it always makes a straight-forward charge when attacked, and suffers the hunters to approach very near without seeming to perceive them. These circumstances are perhaps quite as well accounted for by the awkward structure of its limbs, neck, &c., and its hard bulky body, by which it is prevented from turning with facility or speed; and by the confidence of the animal in its own powers, and the protection of its almost impenetrable hide. Upon the whole, although this must still remain an open question, we are inclined to pay particular attention to the statement of Mr. Barrow, who indicates causes and compensations which certainly do exist somewhere in all cases of peculiar structure or position.

After mentioning the peculiar position of the eyes in the rhinoceros, and the extreme minuteness which would seem to render them of small use to so huge a creature, he adds,—“But nature, always provident, has remedied this inconvenience by placing them in projecting sockets, in which they turn in all directions like those of the littleameleon. Had the eyes been placed in the usual part of the face, just below the projecting forehead, which is very large, the visual rays would have embraced only about 180 degrees, or half of the horizon; whereas, in the present position, they have a much greater scope, being able, I should suppose, without any motion of the head, to sweep from 260 to 270 degrees.”—*Southern Africa*, vol. ii. p. 125. It is right to mention that Mr. Barrow in this passage speaks of the two-horned rhinoceros; but in the two species there does not appear any difference in the size or position of the eye. The ears are large, erect, pointed, and garnished with some stiff black hairs, which appear nowhere else except on the tail, which is slender, and flattened at the end.

We now come to that singular and distinctive feature of the rhinoceros—its horn—which we have reserved for particular description. This we shall give in the words of Lieut. White, of the United States' Navy, in

his ‘Voyage to Cochin China.’—“The horn of this rhinoceros is formed much like a limpet-shell, but more pointed;—at its base it is generally about six inches long by four inches wide, and it protrudes about six or eight inches. There is a shallow concavity occupying the whole base, resembling the limpet also in this respect. To judge of the goodness of a rhinoceros' horn, this concave part is put to the ear, and the greater the noise, resembling that of the waves on the sea-beach, the better the horn is judged to be by the Chinese.” Some naturalists describe the horn as solid, fixed, and attached to the bone of the nose; but it is certainly connected with the skin only, and is capable of motion. The structure of the horn seems to confirm the opinion that the horns of animals are merely the result of a particular modification of hair: it is so fibrous that it seems to be no more than an agglutination of hairs. Its use appears to be that of a defensive weapon, as well as for the purpose of uprooting or rending the animal's food. In a state of confinement, it has been observed that he strikes with it in his moments of fury, and employs it to rend and destroy that which has yielded to his efforts; it is also brought more into use than any other part in all cases where the employment of force is necessary. It is particularly adapted by its form to be made into cups, and is much applied to that use. Thunberg says, “It is generally believed that goblets made of the horns in a turner's lathe, will discover any poisonous draught that is put into them by making the liquor ferment until it runs quite out of the goblet. Such goblets are frequently set in gold and silver, and are regarded as suitable presents to kings, persons of distinction, or particular friends; or else they are sold at a high price, sometimes at the rate of fifty rix-dollars a goblet. When I tried these horns, both wrought and unwrought,—both old and young horns,—with several sorts of poison,—weak as well as strong,—I observed not the least motion or effervescence; and when a solution of corrosive sublimate, or other similar substance, was poured into one of these horns, there arose only a few bubbles, produced by the air which had been enclosed in the pores of the horn, and which was now disengaged from it.”

Besides the use of its horns for goblets and handles of swords and daggers, there is scarcely any part of the animal which is not employed medicinally in the countries it inhabits. The hide is much in request for shields in most countries where it can be procured; and an extravagant price is sometimes paid for it. Burckhardt sometimes saw as much as four or five Spanish dollars paid for a piece four inches long and one thick.

The rhinoceros lives in shady forests adjoining rivers, or in the swampy jungles with which its native country abounds. It is fond of wallowing in the mud like the hog; it also grunts like that animal, and its flesh is said to have much resemblance to pork, though of a coarser grain and stronger taste. Its chief food appears to consist of roots, small branches of trees, and succulent plants, some of which are harsh and prickly. The rhinoceros is a solitary animal; and the female produces one at a birth. The growth of the young is very gradual, as at the age of two years it scarcely attains half its height. The specimen now to be seen at the Surrey Zoological Gardens, which is about fifteen months old, is about three feet high. The rhinoceros, though possessed of great strength, and said to be more than a match for either the tiger or elephant, is quiet and inoffensive when not provoked; but, in a state of irritation, its undistinguishing rage is exceedingly terrible, being enabled, by its astonishing strength, to beat down or aside most things that oppose its straight-forward course.

Much that has been said above will be understood to apply as well to the two-horned as to the one-horned

rhinoceros. The principal difference between them is, that the African variety has an additional horn of a smaller size situated nearer the forehead, and the skin is not thrown into the folds so remarkably as in the Asiatic variety. Mr. Sparmann dissected a two-horned rhinoceros, not of the largest size, though it measured seven feet high, eleven feet and a half long, and twelve feet in the girth. He observed that the viscera greatly resembled those of the horse; the stomach, however, resembled rather that of the hog, or man. It had no gall bladder, in this again resembling the horse. There were no fore-teeth, and the tongue was perfectly soft and smooth. The kidneys were a foot and a half in diameter; the milt was four feet long and one foot broad; the heart was a foot and a half long, and nearly as broad; the skin was an inch and a half thick on the back, and still thicker, though less compact, on the sides; and the anterior horn, which is the longest, was a foot long and five inches in diameter at the base; the shape was in both horns conical, with the tips inclining backward. It is remarkable, that the two-horned variety has never in modern times been brought to Europe; yet it was much better known than the Asiatic variety to the ancients. It is generally represented with two horns in the coins and sculptures of the Romans. The one-horned variety seems to have been earlier known than the other, though it did not afterwards become such an object of familiar knowledge to the Romans. It is probably, also, the Indian ass with one horn, mentioned by Aristotle. Pompey introduced it into the games of the Roman circus; but, from the time of the fall of the Roman empire, it was so completely lost sight of, that, prior to the 16th century, naturalists were of opinion that it had never existed, or that if so, it was extinct. When, however, the Portuguese doubled the Cape of Good Hope, and opened the way to India, the one-horned variety again became known, and specimens were brought to Europe; the first was in the year 1513; but the first that appeared in England was not until 1684. They have never been very common, however, as objects of curiosity in Europe. The one represented in our wood-cut, which is copied from the splendid 'Histoire Naturelle des Mammifères,' by Geoffroy St. Hilaire and F. Cuvier, drew much attention in 1815 at Paris, to which place it was taken after having formed part of a menagerie in this country, to which it had been brought from India.

This rhinoceros was still young, and habitually indicated an exceedingly mild disposition, being very obedient to his keeper, whose caresses he seemed to receive with much satisfaction. Nevertheless he was subject to violent fits of passion, and at such times it was dangerous to approach him. He then made prodigious efforts to break his chains and escape from his bondage; but the offer of bread and fruits seldom failed to succeed in soothing his most terrible passions. Those persons found the most favour with him who ministered the most to his gormandizing appetites; and when they appeared, he exhibited his satisfaction and expectation by opening his mouth and extending to them his long upper lip. The narrow limits of the cage in which he was shut up, did not allow him to manifest much of intelligence. The great object of the keeper was to make him forget his strength or forego its exercise. Hence, nothing calculated to awaken his consciousness of power was required from him. To open his mouth, to move his head to the right or left, to lift his leg, &c., were the only acts by which he was requested to testify his obedience. His great strength, and the fear that in one of his passions he might break his cage, ensured to him the most mild and soothing treatment, and he was scrupulously rewarded for the least thing he was required to do. In spite of such an unfavourable situation, the distinction

he made of persons, and the great attention he paid to everything that passed around, demonstrated that, in more favourable circumstances, his intelligence might have been more strikingly manifested.

The young rhinoceros in the Surrey Zoological Gardens indicates much mildness of disposition, and he appears attached to two goats which came to England in the same ship with him. His favourite food is rice and sugar, of which he consumes a great quantity.

MUSIC.

Do the English like music? This is a question to which an answer cannot be given in a word, and the various remarks springing out of it will not fall under any title less general than the one we have chosen. When we ask whether the English like music, we do not mean the small proportion of the population which has learned to *read* music, and has, more or less, the advantage of studying good models; but the multitude of all ranks, whose acquirements extend no farther than to draw a distinction between "pretty tunes" and "ugly tunes," and who fall under the two great subdivisions of those who would know 'God save the King' if it were sung without words; and those who would not. We must not judge of these by the state of the public orchestras, or of the musical press. In large towns it is true that the first is some slight indication of popular taste, but not much, for the following reasons.

First, the excitement of a popular assembly, the lights, acting, dancing, &c., render the music palatable, and even interesting, to many who would otherwise care little about it. We do not exaggerate when we say that dancing alone is to many the means of making music intelligible. Even the connoisseur beats time when he wishes to put himself completely in possession of what is going on; dancing is beating time with expression as well as regularity, and the sense of both may be, and is, aided by the eye, when the ear is dull from want of practice. Next, it must be observed that there are several distinct qualities of an orchestra from which pleasure may be derived, and that it does not follow that one person unites the feeling of all. The mere tone of some of the instruments is delightful, and the succession of different and varied species of sound is a source of pleasure which exists independently of the subject of performance. When we see a person who is pleased with the horn or the musical glasses, but cares little for a pianoforte or a quartet of stringed instruments, we may be very sure that he likes one class of musical tones and nothing more. We might also instance regularity, the alternation of loud and soft, the swell or crescendo, &c., all of which afford satisfaction to many who neither know nor care whether the instruments are in tune or not.

Composers themselves are sometimes aware of the feelings being guided by other considerations than melody and harmony. The following writers are constant self-repeaters, Corelli, Handel, and Rossini. But that which in the first is tiring, good as it is, and in the second would be so, were it not so exquisitely good, is little felt in the third, on account of the peculiarly varied management of the instruments. It must be observed that the orchestra is now much larger than in the time of Handel. Rossini on the pianoforte has not one-tenth part so many ideas as in the orchestra.

An eminent pianist informed us that he was so liable to be taken in by the glitter of a new and excellently toned pianoforte which he possessed, that he never played his own compositions upon it, or used it in arranging his ideas, till he had first submitted them to an old and beaten instrument on which he had taken his first lessons, the keys of which had been worn by