

ZOOGRAPHY;
OR, THE
Beauties of Nature Displayed.

IN
SELECT DESCRIPTIONS
FROM
THE ANIMAL, AND VEGETABLE,
WITH ADDITIONS FROM
THE MINERAL KINGDOM.

SYSTEMATICALLY ARRANGED.

BY W. WOOD, F. L. S.

ILLUSTRATED WITH PLATES, DESIGNED AND ENGRAVED
BY MR. WILLIAM DANIELL.

IN THREE VOLUMES.
VOL. I.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR CADELL AND DAVIES, IN THE STRAND,
By RICHARD TAYLOR and Co, Shoe Lane.

1807.



TWO HORNED RHINOCEROS.

Designed by W. Daniell.

Published by Messrs. Colburn & Co. London. March 1847.

RHINOCEROS.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

With one, sometimes two large horns on the nose.
Each hoof cloven into two parts.

RHINOCEROS UNICORNIS. *Linn. Syst. Nat. Gmel.* 1. p. 57.
RHINOCEROS. *Penn. Hist. Quadr.* 1. p. 154. *Edw. Av.*
tab. 221. f. 2. *Sm. Buff.* 6. p. 92.
pl. 167. *Bew. Quadr.* 156. *Shaw*
Gen. Zool.

RHINOCEROS BICORNIS. *Linn. Syst. Nat. Gmel.* 1. p. 57.
TWO-HORNED RHINOCEROS. *Penn. Hist. Quadr.* 1. p. 150. pl. 29.
Bew. Hist. Quadr. p. 160. *Shaw*
Gen. Zool. pl. 60. *Daniell's Afr.*
An. pl. 30.

NATURE, who has bestowed so many brilliant qualities on the elephant, has denied this clumsy animal the smallest share of intelligence. Rash and brutal, without sentiment or docility, he seems to exist merely to gratify a voracious appetite; and, being covered with an almost impenetrable skin, frequently commits the greatest devastations with impunity.

The rhinoceros is a native of Asia and Africa, and is usually found in those extensive forests that are frequented by the elephant and the lion. This animal is neither so useful nor so common as the elephant, the female producing but one at a time, and that at considerable intervals. The most singular part of the creature is the horn which grows upon the nose, and which is sometimes found above three feet long. This formidable weapon, rendered doubly so by its advantageous situation, is so much the terror of the savage tiger, that he generally chooses to ~~attack~~ any other animal in preference; being perfectly aware that, even if he escapes the horn, he will not be able to make any impression on the skin; which, like a thick, dark blanket, falling in folds over the body of the rhinoceros, presents a barrier which renders all the efforts of his enemy to penetrate it unavailing.

A pig-like head with two little dull eyes, a short thin tail with a few hard hairs at the extremity, and a huge uncoath body supported by four short, strong, and thick legs, will complete the general outline of this ugly animal.

It seems the opinion of Mr. Bruce, that the rhinoceros lives entirely upon trees, and that he does not spare the most thorny ones, but rather seems to be fond of them. Besides the trees capable of most resistance, there are in the vast forests of Africa, within the rains, trees of a softer consistence, and of a very succulent quality, which seem to be destined for his principal food. For the

purpose of gaining the higher branches of these, his upper lip is capable of being lengthened out, and (like the finger at the end of the elephant's trunk) serves to convey the food to his mouth. "With this lip, and the assistance of his tongue," says Mr. Bruce, "he pulls down the upper branches which have most leaves, and these he devours first: having stript the tree of its branches, he does not directly 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 as he can of it in his monstrous jaws, and twists it round with as much ease as an ox would do a root of celery."

The rhinoceros which came to London in the year 1739 was sent from Bengal. Though not above two years of age, the expense of his food and journey amounted to near one thousand pounds sterling. He was fed with rice, sugar, and hay. He had daily seven pounds of rice mixed with three pounds of sugar, and divided into three portions. He had likewise both hay and green herbs, but greatly preferred the latter. He took large quantities of water at a time, was of a peaceable disposition, and allowed all parts of his body to be touched. When hungry, or provoked by any person, he became mischievous, and in both cases nothing appeased him but food. When enraged he sprung forward, and nimbly raised himself to a great height, at the same time pushing his head furiously

against the walls; which he performed with amazing quickness, notwithstanding his heavy aspect and unwieldy mass. "I often observed," says Dr. Parsons, "these movements produced by rage or impatience, especially in the mornings before his rice and sugar were brought to him. The vivacity and promptitude of his movements led me to think that he is altogether unconquerable, and that he could easily overtake any man who should offend him."

The roughness of the tongue of the rhinoceros seems to have been a matter of dispute among naturalists. By some it has been said to be so rough, that the animal can lick off the flesh from a man's bones, while others tell us that its softness equals that of the calf. Both these are in some measure true, but aggravated by the reporters. The tongue of the young rhinoceros is soft, and has apparently some furrows or wrinkles in it; but it has no prickles, nor rudiments of any, that are discernible. On the other hand, the tongue and inside of the upper lip of the old rhinoceros are very rough; and this appears to arise from the constant use he makes of these parts in seizing the branches of trees which have rough barks, particularly the acacia.

This animal is of a solitary and savage disposition; and such is his great strength, that, in combats with the elephant, he is said frequently to come off victorious. They never attack men unless they are provoked; when they become furious, and very

formidable, on account of their hard skin, which will resist even a musket-ball. The only penetrable parts of the body are the belly, the eyes, and about the ears. Hence the hunters, instead of attacking them face to face, follow them at a distance by the tracks of their feet, and watch till they lie down to sleep. We are informed that twenty-eight hunters, having assembled to attack a female rhinoceros, followed her at a distance for some days, detaching one or two of their number, from time to time, in order to reconnoitre her situation: by these means they surprised her when asleep, and silently approached so near, that the whole twenty-eight muskets were discharged at once into the lower part of her belly.

Mr. Bingley, in his *Animal Biography*, has given an interesting account of the rhinoceros which was brought into this country in the year 1790, in the *Melville Castle East Indiaman*. This creature was sent as a present to Mr. Dundas, who, not wishing to have the trouble of keeping him, gave the animal away. He was afterwards purchased by Mr. Pidcock for seven hundred pounds, and exhibited in Exeter Change.

The animal when first brought to England was about five years old. He was tolerably tractable, would at the command of his keeper walk about the room, and exhibit himself to the numerous spectators who came to visit him, and even allow them to pat him on the back and sides. His daily allowance was twenty-eight pounds weight of clover,

about the same weight of ship biscuit, and a vast quantity of greens. Five pails of water, twice or thrice a day, served him to dilute his food. A vessel that contained about three pails was given him at a time, which was filled up as the animal drank it; and it was observed that he never ended his draught till the water was exhausted. Sweet wines were so much to his taste, that he would drink three or four bottles in the course of a few hours. When any person came with fruit or other favourite food in his hand, he appeared anxious to have it given him, and then exerted his voice, which was not unlike the bleating of a calf.

This rhinoceros died of an inflammation, occasioned by accidentally slipping the joint of one of his fore legs; and it is a singular fact, that the incisions made through his hard skin, on the first attempts to recover the animal, were invariably found to be healed in the course of twenty-four hours. He died in a caravan at Corsham, near Portsmouth, and the stench was so intolerable that the mayor was obliged to order the body to be immediately buried. This was accordingly done on South Sea common: but about a fortnight afterwards it was dug up again, to preserve the skin and some of the most valuable of the bones. It appears that the stench was so insufferable, that it was with the utmost difficulty the persons employed could proceed in their operations.

THE TWO-HORNED RHINOCEROS.

There is a striking difference between the Asiatic and the African rhinoceros. The former, with its rough and almost impenetrable hide, bids defiance to the attack of its enemies; whilst the skin of the latter, or two-horned rhinoceros, is comparatively smooth, is capable of being pierced with a lance, and has none of the folds so remarkable in the one-horned species. It is, however, thick enough for the Dutch boors in the vicinity of the Cape to cut out of it their largest *sambacs*, or horse rods, which, if well prepared, are better than those of the hippopotamus. The head of this animal is very remarkable: not only the horns sit upon the nose, but the eyes also are placed in it, being directly under the root of the larger horn; and they are so minute, that one would suppose them of little use to so huge a creature. 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 little chameleon. Mr. Barrow, to whose excellent *Travels in Southern Africa* we are indebted for much useful information, says that he has not seen any figure that conveys an accurate representation of this animal, except in two varieties, by Mr. Daniell, who has made excellent drawings of them; in one of which the upper horn is almost as large as the lower, and is pointed towards it; the other figure,

from which our plate was taken, has not hitherto been published. There is a circumstance worthy of remark respecting these horns. When the animal is browsing and undisturbed, the horns remain loose upon the nose; but the moment he is alarmed they become perfectly stiff, and ready to act in the most offensive manner. Sparrman, when in Africa, watched the arrival of those and other animals at a muddy water, whither the wild beasts resort to quench their thirst, and some to indulge, in that hot climate, in rolling in the mud. In that spot he shot two rhinoceroses; one was so large that the united force of five men could not turn it. The lesser he measured: its length was eleven feet and a half; the girth twelve; and the height between six and seven.

Mr. Bruce informs us, "that when pursued, and in fear, the rhinoceros possesses an astonishing degree of swiftness, considering his size, the apparent unwieldiness of his body, his great weight before, and the shortness of his legs. He is long, and has a kind of trot, which after a few minutes increases in a great proportion, and takes in a great distance. It is not true, that on a plain he beats the horse in swiftness. I have passed him with ease, and seen many worse mounted do the same; and though it is certainly true, that a horse can very seldom come up with him, this is owing to his cunning, but not his swiftness. He passes constantly from wood to wood, and forces himself into the thickest part of them. The dry trees are broken down as with a

cannon shot, and fall about him in all directions. Others that are more pliable, greener, or fuller of sap, are bent back by his weight and the velocity of his motion; and, after he has passed, restoring themselves like a green branch to their natural position, they sweep the incautious pursuer and his horse from the ground, and dash them in pieces against the surrounding trees."

This gentleman proceeds to say, that the rhinoceros seldom turns his head, and therefore sees nothing but what is before him; that it is to this he owes his death, from which he can never escape, if there is sufficient room for the horse to get before him. "His pride and fury then make him lay aside all thoughts of escaping but by victory over his enemy. He stands for a moment at bay, then at a start runs straight forward at the horse, like the wild boar, whom in his manner of action he very much resembles. The horse easily avoids him, by turning short aside, and this is the fatal instant: the naked man, with his sword, drops from behind the principal horseman, and, unseen by the rhinoceros, who is seeking his enemy, the horse, gives him a stroke across the tendon of the heel, which renders him incapable of further flight or resistance."

The method of hunting the rhinoceros in Abyssinia is thus described by Mr. Bruce: "The next morning we were on horseback by the dawn of day, in search of the rhinoceros, many of which we had heard make a very deep groan and cry as

the morning approached: several of the agageers (or hunters) then joined us; and after we had searched about an hour in the very thickest part of the wood, one of them rushed out with great violence, crossing the plain towards a wood of canes that was about two miles distant. But though he ran, or rather trotted, with surprising speed, considering his bulk, he was in a very little time transfixed with thirty or forty javelins; which so confounded him, that he left his purpose of going to the wood, and ran into a deep hole, ditch, or ravine, a *cul de sac*, without outlet, breaking above a dozen of javelins as he entered. Here we thought he was caught as in a trap; for he had scarce room to turn; when a servant, who had a gun, standing directly over him, fired at his head, and the animal fell immediately, to all appearance dead. All those on foot now jumped in with their knives to cut him up; and they had scarce begun, when the animal recovered so far as to rise upon his knees: happy then was the man who escaped first; and had not one of the agageers, who was himself engaged in the ravine, cut the sinew of the hind leg as he was retreating, there would have been a very sorrowful account of the foot hunters that day.

“ After having dispatched him, I was curious to see what wound the shot had given, which had operated so violently upon so huge an animal; and I doubted not it was the brain. But it had only struck him on the point of the foremost horn, of which it had carried off above an inch; and this

occasioned a concussion that had stunned him for a minute, till the bleeding had recovered him."

The rhinoceros, like the hog, loves to wallow in the mire, where he enjoys the rubbing himself so much, and groans and grunts so loud, that he is heard at a considerable distance. The evening is the time he usually indulges himself in this pleasure; and the enjoyment he receives from it, together with the approaching darkness of the night, deprives him of his usual vigilance and attention. The hunters, guided by his noise, steal secretly upon him, and, while lying on the ground, kill him with their javelins, by striking him in the belly; where the wound is mortal.

The quantity of water which this creature requires to satisfy its thirst is so great, that, according to our Abyssinian traveller, no country but the Shangalla, deluged with six months' rain, and full of large deep basins, made in the solid rock, and shaded by dark woods from evaporation, or watered by large and deep rivers, can supply the vast draughts of this monstrous animal. But it is not for drinking alone that he frequents wet and marshy places: large, fierce, and strong as he is, he must submit to defend himself against the weakest of adversaries. The fly, (a species of *œstrus*,) that unremitting persecutor of every animal that lives in the *black earth*, does not spare the rhinoceros, nor is afraid of his fierceness. It attacks him in the same manner as it does the camel, and would as easily subdue him, were it not for a stratagem prac-

tised by him for his preservation. The time of the fly being the rainy season, the whole *black earth* turns into mire. In the night, when the fly is at rest, he chooses a convenient place, and there, rolling himself in the mud, clothes himself with a kind of case, which defends him against his adversary the following day. The wrinkles and plaits of his skin serve to keep this muddy plaster firm upon him, all but about his hips, shoulders, and legs, where it cracks and falls off by motion, leaving him exposed in those places to the attacks of the fly. The itching and pain which follow, occasion him to rub himself in those parts against the roughest trees; and it is the opinion of Mr. Bruce, that this is at least one cause of the pustules and tubercles which we see upon these places, both on the elephant and rhinoceros.

The flesh of the rhinoceros is reckoned excellent by the people of Abyssinia, and is eaten with great greediness by all the inhabitants of the low country and Atbara. The most delicate part about him is supposed to be the soles of his feet, which are soft like those of a camel, and of a gristly substance; the rest of the flesh is not unlike that of the hog, but much coarser. The only hair about the animal is at the tip of its tail; ten of these hairs fastened side by side at the distance of half an inch from each other, in the figure of a man's hand, make a whip, which, Mr. Bruce assures us, will bring the blood at every stroke.

Perhaps some apology may be necessary for quot-

ing an author who has committed himself so palpably in his figure of the two-horned rhinoceros; yet, as the account of the animal which he has given us has been partly confirmed, we thought it our duty to avail ourselves of the information it affords.



This rare coin, on which the representation of the two-horned rhinoceros is impressed, has the following legend on the reverse: *IMP. DOMIT. AVG. GERM. S. C.* (reversed by the engraver), which should be read, *Imperator Domitianus. Augustus Germanicus. Senatus Consulto.*; implying that the coin was struck during the government of the emperor Domitian, by the decree or authority of the senate, which had hitherto retained the republican power of presiding over the coinage of brass or copper.

The coin is of the smallest size in which Roman copper coins of the same æra are usually found, and the figure of the animal is stamped upon it in a clear and distinct manner, so that each of the horns is accurately marked. It is indeed improbable, that a rhinoceros without such a distinction would have been so rare an animal in a Roman amphitheatre, as to be made the subject of a coin. There

is, however, an additional circumstance which attaches to the coin, a curious confirmation, and great classical importance.

The exhibition of the two-horned rhinoceros to the Roman people, probably of the very same animal represented on the coin, is particularly described in one of the epigrams attributed to Martial, who lived in the reigns of Titus and Domitian.

The following are the lines :

Sollicitant pavidum rhinocerotæ magistri,
 Seque diu magnæ colligit ira feræ.
 Desperabantur promissi prælia Martis :
 Sed tamen is rediit cognitus antè furor.
 Namque gravem *gemino cornu* sic extulit ursum,
 Jactat ut impositas Taurus in astra pilas.

By this description it appears that a combat between a rhinoceros and a bear was intended, but that it was very difficult to irritate the more unwieldy animal, so as to make him display his usual ferocity : at length, however, he tossed the bear from his *double horn*, with as much facility as a ball tosses to the sky the bundles placed for the purpose of enraging him.

Thus far the coin and the epigram perfectly agree as to the existence of the double horn ; but unfortunately commentators and antiquaries would not be convinced that a rhinoceros could have more than one horn, and have at once displayed their sagacity and incredulity in their explanations on the subject.

Hence we find a similar coin engraved in the second volume of Cooke's *Medallic History of Rome*, where the animal is misrepresented, and particularly the horns, which appear like tusks bending in different directions. After quoting the lines of Martial, Mr. Cooke observes,

that it is the opinion of Bochart that the disputed line should be read thus :

Namque gravi geminum cornu sic extulit ursum :

by which alteration we should have two bears instead of one : but Mr. Cooke proposes to omit only one letter, the *s* in the word *ursum*, by which means he turns the bear into a wild bull ; and as it is perfectly natural that the wild bull, or *urus*, should have two horns, he translates the line thus :

*Struck with amazement, we beheld upborne
The buffal dreadful with his double horns.*

If Cooke had seen the coin itself, or had consulted that book so useful to a medallist, the catalogue of Dr. Mead's coins, he would not have deprived the epigram of its original and curious information.