

"Well," said JONK, "a fellow weighs, that's true; and the whole business is mean enough. But if you can't take hold of it, we'll say no more about it. Come on down with me to my place and have some supper."

"Your place!" said Mr. P. "Have you a place here?"

"Yes, sir," said the Congressman, "a bully club-house, and it's paid for too; and if you'll come along I'll give you a hearty welcome and some good cigars—and not dime ones, either," added he, throwing away the greater part Mr. P.'s *Paragon*.

The personal property of Mr. PUNCHINELLO consisted principally of U. S. 5.20 coupon bonds of 1868; Chicago and Northwestern—preferred; Hannibal and St. Joseph—1st mortgage bonds; a heavy deposit of bullion, mostly gold bars; and Ashes in inspection ware-houses, both pots and pearls.



When, early the next morning, he left the club-house of his friend, the Congressman, he was still the proud owner of his Ashes—both pots and pearls.

Saratoga is too expensive a place for a long sojourn, and Mr. P. left the next day.

COMIC ZOOLOGY.

Order, Pachydermata.—The Rhinoceros.

THERE are several species of the Rhinoceros, some of which have one horn, like a Unicorn, others two, like a Dilemma. All the varieties are as strictly vegetarian as the late SELVSTER GRAHAM, but their fondness for a botanic diet may be ascribed to instinct, rather than reflection, as they are not ruminating animals. The most formidable of the tribe is the Black Rhinoceros of Equatorial Africa, which is particularly dangerous when it turns to Bay. Though dull of eye and ear, this ponderous beast will follow a scent with wonderful tenacity, and the promptness with which it makes its tremendous charges has earned for it, among European hunters, the sobriquet of the "Ready Rhino." The fact that the Black Rhinoceros is armed with two horns, while most of the white species have but one, may perhaps account for the greater viciousness of the former—it being generally admitted that the most ferocious of all known monsters are those which have been furnished with a plurality of horns. This is the position taken by the famous New England naturalist, NEAL DOW, in his dissertations on that destructive Eastern pachyderm, the Striped Pig, and it seems to be fully borne out by the history of the great Scriptural Decicorn, as given by the inspired Zoologist, Sr. JONK.

We learn from Sir SAMUEL BAKER and other Nimrods of the Bamrod who have hunted up the Nile, that herds of the Black Rhinoceros are pretty thickly sprinkled throughout the whole extent of the Nilotic basin, and especially near the great watershed which forms the primary source of the mysterious river. The natives of that region universally regard the creature as a Rum customer, and not having the requisite Spirit to face it boldly, they set Gins under the Topsy trees, at the places where it comes to drink, and thus effect its destruction.

As the Rhinoceros, whatever its species, seeks the densest covert, and its hide is almost impenetrable, it is a difficult animal to bag. Its peltry being of about the same consistency and thickness as the vulcanized India Rubber used in cushioning billiard tables, balls often rebound from it without producing a score. This difficulty may, how-

ever, be obviated—according to Sir SAMUEL BAKER—by firing half-pound shells from the shoulder, with a rifle of proportionate size, and if the Sporting Bulletins of that enterprising traveller are not shots with the long bow, he carried the war into Africa to some purpose, not unfrequently bagging his Baker's dozen of Rhinoceroses in the course of forty-eight hours. The African and the Asiatic species bear a general resemblance to each other, although probably, if placed side by side, points of difference would be observed between them.

It is a disputed question among Biblical commentators whether the Rhinoceros or the Hippopotamus is the Behemoth of Scripture, but as the Rhinoceros feeds on fuzze and the Hippopotamus does not, it would seem that the terminal syllable "moth" more properly applies to the latter. As numerous fossil remains of the animal have been found from time to time in the Rhenish provinces of Germany, it is supposed by some archæologists that prior to the Noachian Deluge its principal habitat was the Valley of the Rhine, where it was known as the Rhinohorse. The "horse," it is alleged, was subsequently corrupted into "hoss," whereupon the lexicographers, uncertain which of the two renderings was the true one, called it in their vocabularies the "Rhinc horse or hoas," and thence the present still more senseless corruption, "Rhinoceros." This is, of course, mere theory, but it is supported by the well authenticated parallel case of the Nyghau—more properly Nile Ghant—which derived its name from the singular fact that it was never seen by any human being in the neighborhood of the Ghants of the Nile. Although the Nile has such a fishy reputation that stories from that source are generally taken *cum grano salis*, or profanely characterised (see Cicero) as "*Nihil Tam incredibile*," the above statement in relation to the Nyghau will not be seriously disputed by any well informed naturalist.

The general aspect of the Rhinoceros is that of a hog in armor on a grand scale. The males of the genus are called bulls, but they are more like boars, with the tusk inverted and transferred by Rhino-plastic process to the nose. When enraged, the animal exalts its horn and trumpets like a locomotive, whereupon it is advisable to give it the right of way, as to face the music would be dangerous.

SIC SEMPER E PLURIBUS, ETC.

Ouz, Star-spangled Banner! once emblem of glory,
And guardian of freedom and justice and law,
How bright in the annals of war was thy story!
Sic semper e pluribus unum go brag!

Time was when the nations beheld thee and trembled,
Though now they assure us they don't care a straw
For wrath which they say is but poorly dissembled;
Sic semper e pluribus unum go brag!

They know our best ships are dismantled or rotten,
We know that they'll soon be abolished by law,
And FARRAGUT's triumphs are nearly forgotten;
Sic semper e pluribus unum go brag!

The soldiers whose best days were spent in our service—
Whose manhood we claimed as our right by the law,
As paupers must die, since their cost would unserve us;
Sic semper e pluribus unum go brag!

We look for respect in the eyes of the nations,
And man our defenses with soldiers of straw,
To save for vile uses their pay and their rations;
Sic semper e pluribus unum go brag!

With armies reduced, and the ghost of a navy,
Of course we must trust to our ancient *édal*;
Economy now is the cry, we must save a
Few millions for thieves to steal—*unum go brag!*

"See" DANA may bluster as much as he pleases—
Our friend, Mr. FIER, is sustained by the law,
And old Mr. BENNETT just bellows to tease us;
Sic semper e pluribus unum go brag!

There's LOGAN, who once had the heart of a hero—
Alas! that same heart is now only a craw,
And its vigor has sunk away down below Zero;
Sic semper e pluribus unum go brag!

His action has sadden'd the hearts of more freemen
Than fought under GRAY in defence of the law;
Well—well—never mind—we can boast of our women;
Sic semper e pluribus unum go brag!

The people may some day awake to the notion
That statesmen can tamper too much with the law,
And send them to regions less genial than Goshen;
Sic semper e pluribus unum go brag!