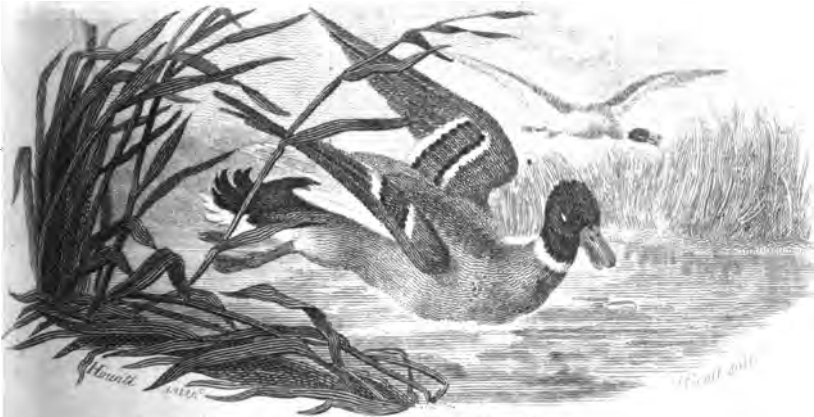


THE
Sporting Magazine
OR
MONTHLY CALENDAR

of the
TRANSACTIONS OF
THE TURF, THE CHACE,
And every other Diversion
Interesting to the
Man of Pleasure, Enterprize & Spirit.

VOLUME THE THIRTEENTH.

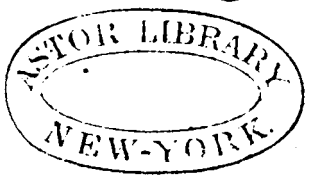


LONDON.

Printed for the PROPRIETOR, and Sold by J.WHEBLE.

N^o.18,Warwick Square,Warwick Lane near S^t.Pauls

MDCXCIX.



HUNTING THE RHINOCEROS.

An Etching by Mr. Howitt.

[From Vaillant's Second Journey, Vol. III. page 40.]

IN the midst of this immense menagerie, the variety of which kept me in a continual state of enchantment, I was surprised not to find that prodigious number of rhinoceroses which had been mentioned to me by the people of Harpia's Horde. One day, however, Klaas, who was always concerned in every matter of importance, and the first to communicate agreeable intelligence, came in great haste to my tent to inform me, that he had observed, at some distance from my camp, two of these animals, standing quietly, close to each other, in the middle of the plain; and that I had it in my power to enjoy the pleasure of the finest hunt I had ever yet experienced. The hunt, indeed, promised to be amusing; but, independently of danger, I foresaw that it was likely to be attended with difficulties. To attack two such formidable enemies, it was necessary to use great precaution, and that we should approach them in such a manner as that they might neither see nor smell us, which is always very difficult.

I at first proposed to form a ring, which should surround them on all sides, and to advance upon them, gradually contracting the circle, so as to unite the moment we were about to commence our attack; but the savages assured me, that with these animals, this plan was impracticable. I gave myself up, therefore, entirely to their direction; and we set out, armed alike, with a good fusée, and with the necessary courage. All my hunters wished to be of the party, and each proposed to display the greatest prowess.

I caused two of my strongest dogs to be led in a leash, in order that they might be let loose on the rhinoceroses, in case it should be found necessary. We were obliged to make a long circuit to gain the lee side of them, lest they should smell us; and we reached the river, the course of which we followed under cover of the large trees that grew on its banks, when Klaas soon made us observe the animals, at about the distance of a quarter of a league in the plain.

As one of them was much larger than the other, I supposed them to be male and female. Motionless by the side of each other, they were still in the same posture in which Klaas had first seen them; but they stood with their noses to the wind, and consequently presented to us their rumps. It is the custom of these animals, when thus at rest, to place themselves in the direction of the wind, in order that they may discover by their smell what enemies they were to dread. From time to time, however, they move their heads round, to take a look behind them, and to be assured that they are safe on all sides; but it is only a look, and they soon return to their former position.

We were already deliberating on the dispositions to be made for commencing the attack, and I was giving orders to my company, when Jonker, one of my Hottentots, requested that I would permit him to attack the two animals alone, as a *bekruyper*. My readers will here recollect, that when I foolishly attempted to cross the Elephant's River, near its mouth, on the trunk of a tree, Jonker was one of the swimmers who saved my life, and that in return, at the desire of his companions, I raised him to the rank of hunter. At that time he was entirely a novice in this exercise; but I have already remarked that



THE DOG OF THE MOUNTAINS - A Dog of the Mountains of the Alps

that he afterwards became a most excellent shot, and surpassed all the rest of my hunters, particularly in the art of creeping. I have before observed, that hunting in Africa has no resemblance to that in Europe; that to get within reach of certain wild animals, we must approach them without being perceived; and that it is impossible to get near them but by creeping on the belly. Those who have acquired this art, are called bekruypers; and it was in this quality that Jonker asked leave to attack alone the two rhinoceroses, assuring me that he would acquit himself to my satisfaction. As his design would not prevent the execution of our plan, and as, in case his particular attack should not succeed, it would not impede our general one, I granted his request. He then stripped himself naked, and, taking his fusée, proceeded towards the animals, creeping on his belly like a serpent. In the mean time, I pointed out to my hunters the different posts they were to occupy. They repaired to them by circuitous ways, each accompanied by two men. As for me, I remained on the spot where I was, with two Hottentots, one of whom held my horse, and the other my dogs; but, to avoid being seen, we posted ourselves behind a bush. In my hand I held a glass, which had often enabled me to see the operation of stage machinery, and the effect of our theatrical decorations. How changed the scene! At this moment it brought before me two hideous monsters, which at times turned towards me their frightful heads. Their movements, which indicated fear and observation, soon became more frequent; and I was apprehensive they had heard the agitation of my dogs, who, having discovered them, made efforts to escape from the keeper, and rush upon them.

Jonker still kept slowly advancing.

VOL. XIII.—No. 75.

ing, but with his eyes fixed on the animals. If he saw them turn their heads, he stopped and remained motionless. One would have taken him for a large stone; and indeed, in this respect I myself was mistaken. He continued creeping, with various interruptions, for more than an hour. At length I saw him proceed towards a large bush of euppharbia, which was only two hundred paces from the animals. Being certain, when he reached it, that he could conceal himself there without being seen, he rose up, and casting his eyes every where around, to see whether his comrades had arrived at their posts, he made preparations for firing.

During the time he was creeping along, I had followed him with my eye; and in proportion as he advanced, I felt my heart beat with involuntary palpitation.— However, when I saw him so near the animals, and just upon the point of firing at one of them, what would I not have given at that moment to have been in the place of Jonker, or at least by his side, that I might have brought down also one of these savage monsters. I waited with the utmost impatience for the report of the gun, and I could not conceive what prevented him from firing; but the Hottentot who stood near me, and who was able by the bare sight to distinguish him as perfectly as I could with my glass, informed me of his design. He told me that Jonker did not fire, because he was waiting till the rhinoceros should turn round, that he might, if possible, take aim at his head; and that on the first motion they made, I should hear the report.

Presently the largest of the two having looked behind, was immediately fired at. Being wounded, he sent forth a horrid cry, and, followed by the female, ran furiously towards the place from which the

Y noise

noise had proceeded. I found my heart now agitated by the most violent emotion, and my fear was carried to its utmost extent. A cold sweat diffused itself over my whole body, and my heart beat with such force as to prevent me from breathing. I expected to see the two monsters tear up the bush, tread the unfortunate Jonker under their feet, and rend him to pieces; but he had thrown himself down with his belly on the ground, and this stratagem succeeded. They passed close by his side without perceiving him, and came straight towards me. My fear now gave place to joy, and I prepared to receive them; but my dogs, animated by the report of the gun, became so restless on their approach, that, being unable to check them, I ordered them to be let loose, and encouraged them to the attack.—When the animals saw this, they instantly turned aside, and proceeded towards another of the hunters placed in ambush, from whom they received a second fire; and then to another, from whom they received a third fire. My dogs, on the other hand, harrassed prodigiously, which still increased their rage. They kicked at them in a most terrible manner, ploughed up the plain with their horns, and, digging furrows in it seven or eight inches in depth, threw around them a shower of pebbles and stones.

During this time, we all kept approaching, in order to surround them more closely, and to unite against them our forces. The multitude of enemies by which they found themselves inclosed, rendered them completely furious. The male, however, suddenly stopped; and, turning round to attack the dogs, endeavoured to rip up their bellies with his horn; and, while he was engaged in pursuing them, the female quitted him, and made her escape. I was highly pleased at her flight

which I considered as a fortunate circumstance; for it is certain that, notwithstanding our number and our arms, we should have been much embarrassed by two so formidable adversaries. I must even confess, that, without the assistance of my dogs we should not have been able to combat, but with great hazard and danger, the one that remained.

The bloody traces which he left wherever he went, announced that he had received more than one wound; but, reduced to despair, he only defended himself with greater obstinacy.

After a fruitless attack, which continued for some time, he began to retreat, and seemed as if desirous of gaining some bushes, apparently with a view of finding shelter, and to prevent his being harrassed but in front. I guessed his stratagem; and, in order to disappoint him, I rushed towards the bushes, and made a sign to the two hunters who were nearest me, to advance thither also. He was thirty paces from us when we took possession of the post, accordingly we all at the same time presented our pieces, and discharged our three shots: he instantly fell, and was never after able to rise.

FEAST OF WIT;

OR,

SPORTSMAN'S HALL,

EXTRAORDINARY GAZETTE.

THE following dispatch was received by a Gentleman in ———, from a friend in the country, who is in the habit of breakfasting twice a week with a General Officer.

Head Quarters, C——, Dec. 13.

“SIR,

“I have the honour to acquaint you, that this morning at half past eight,