

N I N E V E H

AND

ITS REMAINS:



WITH AN ACCOUNT OF A VISIT TO THE CHALDÆAN
CHRISTIANS OF KURDISTAN, AND THE YEZIDIS,
OR DEVIL-WORSHIPPERS; AND AN ENQUIRY
INTO THE MANNERS AND ARTS OF
THE ANCIENT ASSYRIANS.

BY AUSTEN HENRY LAYARD, ESQ. D.C.L.



"She saw men portrayed upon the wall, the images of the Chaldeans portrayed with vermillion.

"Girded with girdles upon their loins, exceeding in dyed attire upon their heads, all of them princes to look to, after the manner of the Babylonians of Chaldaea, the land of their nativity."

EZEKIEL, xxlii. 14, 15.

IN TWO VOLUMES.—VOL. II.

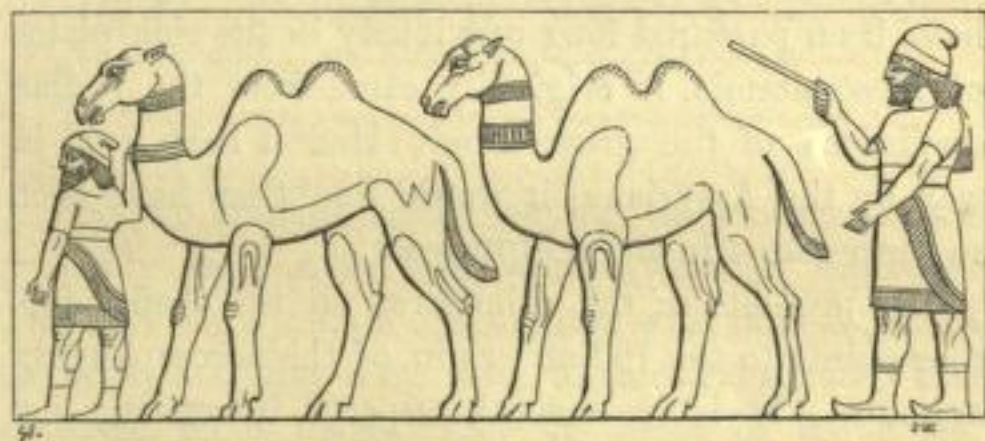
LONDON:

JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.

1849.

the king is always represented as accompanied in the chase by warriors fully equipped; hunting being, as Xenophon declares, the truest method of practising all such things as relate to war.*

On the obelisk, as I have already mentioned, are representations of several animals, evidently brought from distant countries, and presented to the Assyrian king as objects of tribute. The presence of the two-humped camel proves that they came from the East, and not from Africa. This animal is a native of Bactria, or of the great steppes inhabited by the Tatar tribes. It is unknown to the Arabs, and is rarely seen to the west of Persia, except amongst a few isolated families of Turcomans, who now reside in the north of Syria, and who probably brought this beast of burden from the north-east, when they first emigrated.



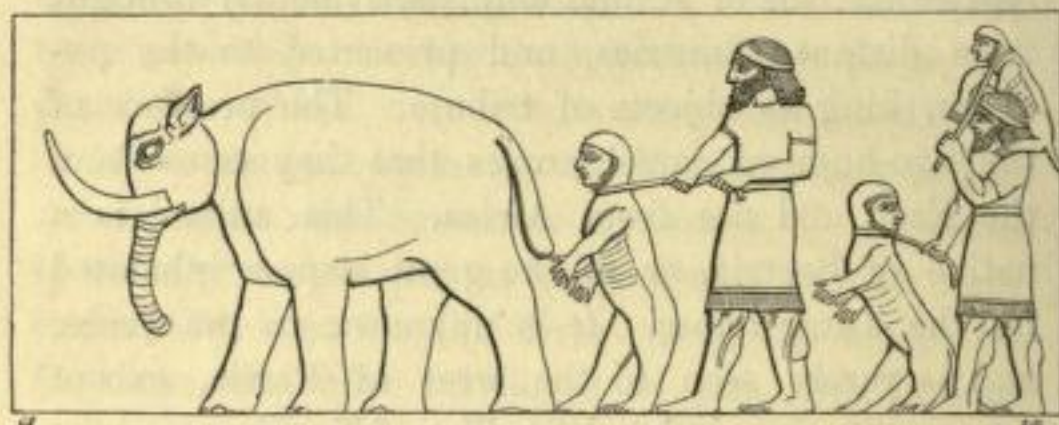
BACTRIAN OR TWO-HUMPED CAMELS. (Obelisk, Nimroud.)

The small ears of the elephant, on the same obelisk, show that the animal is of the Indian, and not the African species.†

* Cyrop. lib. i. c. 2.

† Elephas Indicus.

On Egyptian monuments, the elephant is seen, amongst other animals, brought as tribute by an Asiatic, though not an Indian, people.* It was probably obtained by them from the eastward; for there is no record of the elephant being indigenous



Elephant, the Oursan Outan (?), the Heonoman or small Indian Monkey (?).
(Obelisk, Nimroud.)

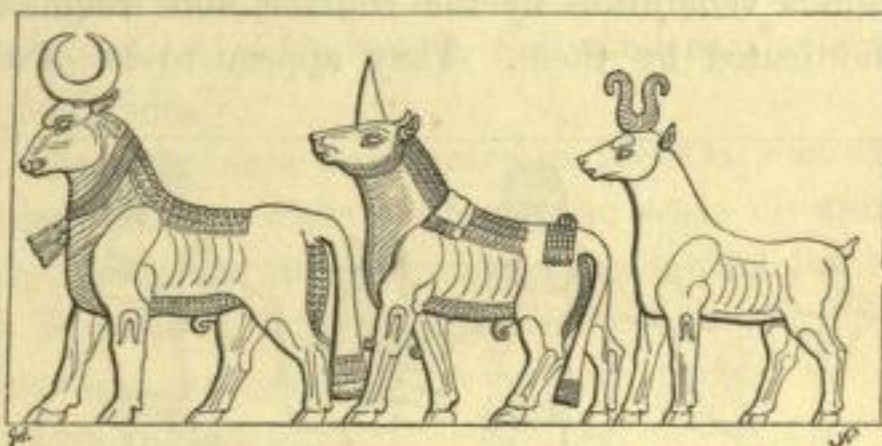
in any part of Asia west of the Indus. Although it appeared in the Persian armies, and might even have been pastured long previously in the rich plains of Mesopotamia, it originally came from the Indian dominions of the great king. Had it been used in war by the Assyrians, it would doubtless have been so represented in the sculptures.†

The presence of the rhinoceros on the obelisk further points to the Indian origin of the accompanying animals. It is in several respects incorrectly delineated, the sculptor having given it hoofs, a mane

* Sir Gardner Wilkinson's *Ancient Egyptians*, vol. v. p. 176.; vol. i. pl. iv.

† The elephant has not been found represented as a beast of burden on the monuments of Egypt. The only African nation who appear to have used it in their wars were the Carthaginians.

on the neck, and long hair, which appears to have been artificially curled like that of the sacred bull. Still the general form of the animal, and the shape and position of the horn, clearly identify it with the Indian rhinoceros.* Specimens of this animal were probably rare in Assyria, and the sculptor may have drawn it from recollection or only from the description of those who had seen it. This is the earliest representation of the rhinoceros with which we are acquainted.



The Bull, the Rhinoceros, and the Chikara or large Indian Antelope (?).
(Obelisk, Nimroud.)

The two animals accompanying the rhinoceros are probably an Indian bull, and a kind of antelope. The bull has a collar, ornamented with tassels, round its neck, and may have been a sacred animal. The antelope, from its size and the shape of its horns, may perhaps be identified with the Indian chikara †; although the thickness of the limbs rather denotes a species of wild goat.

* Rhinoceros unicornis.

† Antelope Bennetti. I had once conjectured it to be the nylgau of the Indian peninsula.

The sculptor has evidently indicated, by certain peculiarities, four distinct species of monkeys or apes. Immediately behind the elephant is a man leading a large monkey without a tail, which, if from India, can only be identified with the ouran outan, no other monkey found in that country being so distinguished.* A man follows with two smaller monkeys, one raising itself on its hind legs, the other sitting on the shoulders of its keeper. These may be the houman †, a monkey regarded with some degree of religious veneration by the Indians, and frequently domesticated by them. They appear to be of the



The Erub or great Indian Monkey (?), and the Wandaroo or Mased Ape (?).
(Obelisk, Nimroud.)

same species as those represented in the large bas-relief from the north-west palace of Nimroud ‡, which are covered with small spots, probably to denote long hair.

* The only other monkey without a tail, is, I believe, the chimpanzee of Africa.

† *Simia Entellus*.

‡ Vol. I. p. 126. An engraving of this bas-relief is included in my "Monuments of Nineveh."