

slightly wounded the great cat, and with a snarl of pain and fear it broke into a quick gallop across the plain, leading its pursuers for several miles and finally taking refuge in a close thicket.

A wounded lion in such a covert is a dangerous beast and Selous strongly advised his companions not to follow it into its hiding place. But Roosevelt, excited by the hunt, was not to be restrained. In the absence of native beaters to drive out the lurking beast, he plunged into the thicket himself, finding it so close in places that he was obliged to creep forward on hands and knees. Selous followed this risky venture and Kermit brought up the rear.

Selous was soon startled to see Colonel Roosevelt rise suddenly to his feet at a spot where a small opening was visible through a fringe of tall grass. He was gazing keenly forward and lifting his rifle hastily to his shoulder. The trained hunter looked in the same direction and to his surprise and alarm he saw a herd of about a dozen elephants advancing with stately tread through the open space, led by a huge, swaying tusker, at which Roosevelt was on the point of taking aim. The great-bodied animal was less than two hundred feet away. A shot at that distance was a perilous risk. Selous sprang forward with a start of alarm and whispered excitedly in the ear of his inexperienced companion:

"Don't shoot! On your life, don't shoot! A bullet will bring a charge of the herd and we may be trampled to death! Follow me!"

The ardent sportsman with reluctance lowered his rifle and followed the experienced hunter, who led them on a long detour to the leeward of the quick-scented animals. Reaching a safer spot, he bade his comrades to climb a tree nearby and hastily followed them himself into the branches. As they scrambled up the trunk they could hear the bushes and reeds cracking before the advance of the heavy-footed elephants, and in a minute or two more caught sight of them through a screen of lofty reeds that bordered their path. In a whisper Selous advised his excited comrade how to aim, and Roosevelt, raising his trusty Winchester, sent a half dozen bullets in rapid succession into the bulky leader of the herd.

The wounded tusker, with a scream of pain, instantly charged in the line of fire, but fortunately for the hunters he had received a death

wound, and when close to the tree went down with a crash on his knees. One more shot from the magazine gun and the huge brute rolled over dead. The remainder of the herd, terror stricken by the fall of their leader, broke and fled wildly through the bushes, heedless of the rain of balls which Kermit sent after them. Thus ended in safety one of the most perilous moments in Theodore Roosevelt's life. Had that first reckless shot left his gun the chance was great that not one of the party would have left that thicket alive. Providence, in the form of the hunter Selous, saved him from the imminent peril invited by his nervous and reckless haste.

This was not the only event of that day's hunt. An hour later the party had the luck to meet a baby elephant, about two months old, a tiny creature which had probably been left behind in the wild flight of the herd and had since been blindly wandering over the open plain. A rope in the hands of a party of natives made it prisoner and it was brought alive into camp, its captor proposing to send it as a gift to the Zoological Garden of New York. For this purpose it was taken to Nairobi by a band of natives, to be sent thence to the seashore by rail. As for the fallen giant, it gave its hide and tusks to the cause of science.

Such was one exciting example of Colonel Roosevelt's various encounters with the elephant, the monarch of animals alike for size and inborn intelligence. Capable of thought as this huge beast has proved itself to be in captivity, in its wild state and before the man with the rifle it has but two resources, flight from or a charge upon its foe. The latter is always a serious matter for the hunters, many of whom have been crushed under the feet or killed by the trunk of the elephant when infuriated by a wound. Such would probably have been Roosevelt's fate on the occasion in question but for the warning of the trained hunter at his elbow.

In hunting the rhinoceros the danger is equally great—greater, in fact, for this dull-brained but irate monster frequently does not wait for provocation, but is apt to break into blind rage at the sight of a man in its vicinity and charge upon him in sudden and sullen fury. Huge and clumsy as it appears, its speed of movement is never to be despised. Fortunately for the hunter, its little eyes have a short range

of vision and its charge is a straightforward dash from which the alert hunter can escape by a quick spring to one side. But while the power of sight of the rhinoceros is poor, its scent is remarkably keen, and it can only be approached in safety from the leeward side.

Colonel Roosevelt had many experiences with this thick-skinned brute. One of these we have described. Another worthy of mention, as showing the alertness of this great beast, took place while he was out hunting with Captain Slatter, the proprietor of an ostrich farm in the vicinity of Mount Kilimakia.

On this excursion our hunters found game in abundance and of many kinds, the surly and grunting wart-hog being especially numerous. An interesting feature of this country was the numerous trails that crossed it, made alike by animals and men, the tracks of the latter being found everywhere, worn deep by thousands of feet during many generations. The trails were never straight, bending aside to right or left, doubtless to avoid some obstacle that originally existed. The fact that it has long disappeared never leads to a straightening of the path, the blacks following undeviatingly in the steps of their forefathers.

As for the great beasts, these do not turn aside for minor obstacles, but tramp straightforward through their muddy haunts, alike in the open, in the sombre forest depths, thorny thickets, or reed-covered marshes. The trail of the hippopotamus is an especially curious one. With an enormous body, borne on short, widely separated legs, the paths followed by this great creature in its nightly food raids on land consist of two deep muddy tracks with a grassy ridge between them, high enough to be swept by the belly of the waddling brute. An enormous appetite has the hippo, its yawning jaws sweeping in a barrel full of grass and plants at a mouthful. As a result, a hippo invasion of a plantation of the settlers is apt to be serious, and it is no wonder that they look upon this hungry river-hog as a nuisance to be eradicated.

To return to the rhinoceros adventure from which these remarks have led us astray, we must put ourselves on the trail of Colonel Roosevelt and Captain Slatter in their hunt in the Mt. Kilimakia country. The first important fruit of this hunt was a bull eland, a fine

example of Mr. Roosevelt's marksmanship, it being brought down at a quarter mile range. It had hardly fallen when the hunters caught sight of a large rhinoceros not far away and braced themselves for a more perilous encounter.

As the wind came from the direction of the brute its keen powers of smell failed to warn it of the presence of man in its vicinity, while its twinkling eyes caught no sight of its human foes. So oblivious, indeed, was it of the presence of enemies that it actually lay down when they were only a hundred yards away and they had come within thirty yards before the recumbent brute became aware of their nearness. Then, with extraordinary lightness and quickness for so heavy a creature, it sprang to its feet and turned upon its foes.

At this critical moment Roosevelt pierced the leathery hide of the great brute with a bullet from a Holland rifle, the heaviest piece in his possession. With blood spurting from its nostrils, the maddened animal charged in fury upon its foes. A second bullet pierced its heart, but even this would not have stopped that mad rush had not Captain Slatter pierced its neck vertebræ by a shot and toppled it over dead when within thirteen paces. The day's hunt had thus brought the hunters two valuable specimens, the eland and the rhinoceros, which were duly skinned for museum purposes by Mr. Heller the next morning.

One cannot read of a hunting expedition to Africa without being astounded by the vast multitude and great variety of animals in the interior of that long-hidden continent. It is the true paradise of the zoologist. There is nothing to match it anywhere else upon the earth. And an interesting feature is that its animals differ from those to be seen elsewhere. With the exception of the elephant, rhinoceros and lion, which are found in Asia, there are few representatives of the African fauna in any other lands.

This fact appealed strongly to Colonel Roosevelt. He had hunted in all parts of the United States and had been on the western plain before the bullet had robbed it completely of its swarming herds of buffaloes. His trusting rifle had brought down the grizzly bear, the Rocky Mountain sheep, the prong-horn antelope, the great elk and moose, and the graceful deer of the American hunting grounds. But

what were these few species to the immense variety of African game animals, and what their numbers to the endless swarms of antelopes and various other strange creatures to be found on the East African hunting grounds, where the American hunters now found themselves?

Hardly a day did they go abroad without astonishment at the multitude of life surrounding them. The great herbivora—the elephant, rhinoceros and hippopotamus—were comparatively rare, while the skulking, night-hunting lion and leopard were rarely in evidence except when specially sought; but the very many and often very beautiful species of antelopes, the swift zebra and lofty giraffe were rarely wanting, some species of them haunting the plains in extraordinary multitudes. Mr. Roosevelt gives abundant testimony to the vast numbers of these animals. While one day in ambush near Heatly's ranch he saw swarming herds, each of them hundreds in number, of zebras and hartebeests sweeping past his covert. These came on at an easy lope, the hartebeest (known also as the red kangoni and as the caama) running with their mouths open. This odd custom was usual with them, but the zebras opened their mouths only to neigh.

He could have brought down dozens of these animals if his purpose had been merely to make a score of useless murders, but as he already had the specimens of these species that he needed and as the camp was fully supplied with meat, he let them pass unharmed. A true sportsman, he was very little given to shoot for the mere purpose of killing, and preferred to keep his bullets for the kind of game that was a peril to the country, the death of which might save human life.

Thus when a fine ostrich passed him within easy rifle range he forbore to shoot, on the mental plea that ostrich farming was becoming an industry of that region. On the day in question the chief game got by him consisted of wart-hogs, which were plentiful, feeding on the open plain. After several failures, he succeeded in bringing down a good-sized boar, while Kermit got a sow with unusually long tusks. This he chased on horseback for about two miles and shot from the saddle as he galloped past, pulling trigger without bringing the piece to his shoulder.

In regard to the other species of animals seen by Colonel Roosevelt in his hunting excursion, we must speak again of the great variety

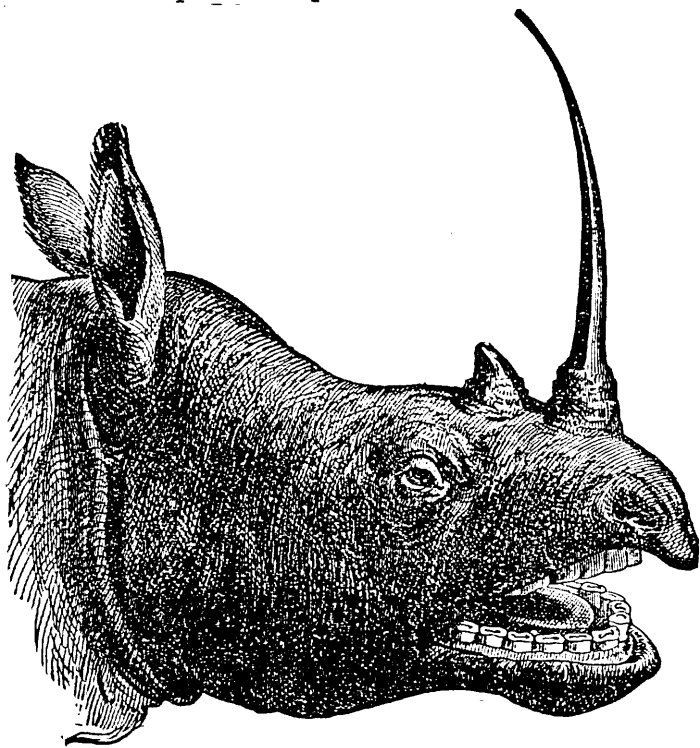
of antelopes, from the beautiful little gazelle, with its slender limbs and graceful body, to the great eland, as large as an ox. These are the animals which form the chief food of the lion and leopard; while another creature not yet spoken of, the hyena, lurks about to destroy dead or weakened animals of any species. Even the lion, when old and weak, is not often left to die a natural death, but is apt to fall a prey to these prowling scavengers. Cowards as they have the reputation of being, the hyenas are very strong in the jaws and can easily crush the bones of their prey.

Mr. Roosevelt was especially interested in the birds of Africa, of which he observed many varieties strange to him, frequently remarkable for beauty of color or form, while many of them were excellent singers. Among those that especially attracted his attention were the black whydah finches, the odd dancing habit of which struck him as highly curious. The male bird, which develops a splendid tail during the breeding season, makes dancing rings in the grass about two feet wide, a tuft of grass being left in the center and the rest cut close down. The dancing consists of a succession of hops into the air, and where there are many of these rings it is a singular sight to observe the continuous leaping up and down of the birds.

The country in which the Roosevelt party did their chief hunting differed little in appearance from one of our own prairie states, and might have resembled them still more but for the superabundance of animal life; monkeys and leopards in the trees, zebras and antelopes on the open plain, the great variety and abundance of birds, and in the rivers the huge hippopotami and scaled crocodiles. The latter haunt the rivers of tropical Africa in great numbers and are so ferocious and dangerous as to add greatly to the perils which that country presents to its dusky inhabitants as well as to its white invaders. Fortunately Colonel Roosevelt and his party passed through all the dangers from wild beasts and deadly diseases in safety, their hunting trip being in every sense one of complete success, while few had ever dwelt so long in Africa and preserved such rugged health.

bedded in massive sockets spreading over the greater portion of the face, and the operation of hewing them out with an axe usually occupies several hours. A female with tusks is an African oddity unknown in India.

The Rhinoceros.—The elephant, as the largest animal known, is entitled to first consideration, but the rhinoceros is a worthy rival from a sportsman's viewpoint. Upwards of six feet high at the



HEAD OF A RHINOCEROS

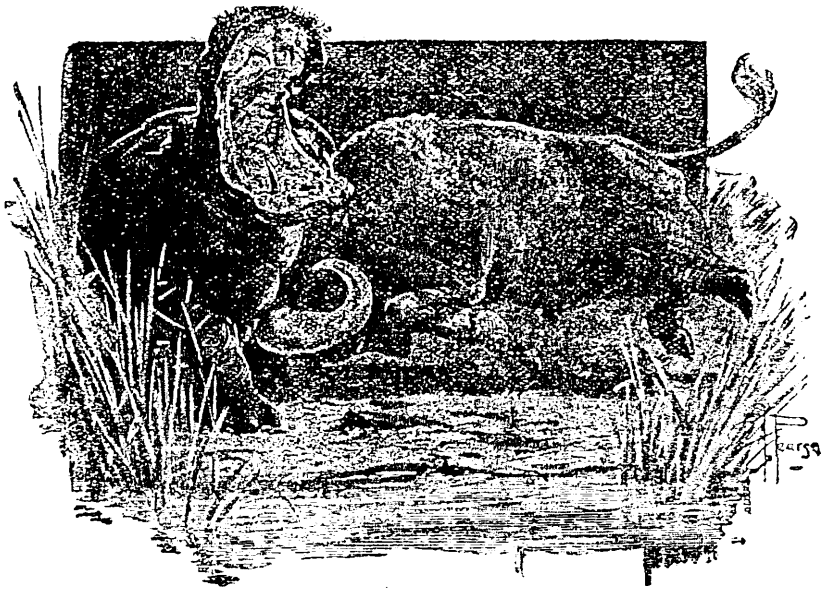
shoulders and about thirteen feet in extreme length, it is a ridiculous, yet awe-inspiring, sight to watch one charging along with short stubby tail angrily erect, the big ungainly body supported on short and seemingly inadequate legs. The head is large and long with small eyes placed well on the side. Their sight is very poor and this fact has saved many a man's life who had the presence of mind to lie down when facing a charge. However, their scent is so keen that it nearly compensates for the poor eyesight. The rhinoceros is bad tempered

and resentful of interference. He usually charges a man on sight, and his enormous weight and strength, coupled with the two horns on his snout, render him one of the most dangerous species of African game. The muzzle is long and somewhat flat and from this the two horns project, placed one behind the other and varying in length. Several men have been tossed on these deadly horns and by some miracle lived to tell the tale. All were badly crippled. The animal rarely fails to kill and mangle beyond recognition any hunter who either through an accident or nervousness misses his shot. There is a well known and authentic story of one terrible attack by a rhino. While a gang of twenty-one slaves was being taken down to the coast chained neck to neck, a big rhino broke out of the bush and impaled the center man on his horn, breaking the necks of all the others by the suddenness of the shock.

The rhinoceros is difficult to kill, as soft-nose bullets merely splash out on its thick, naked hide. Here again the big .450 express rifle with its steel-jacketed bullets is invaluable. The brownish-black skin, rugged but without folds, makes a good target, and a shot either just behind the foreshoulder or in the curve between the neck and shoulder is apt to prove fatal.

When pursued, the animal dashes through the forest with tremendous speed, and marks its path by the dead trees which it brings to the ground, and the broken boughs which lie scattered in every direction. The havoc made by a cannon shot in passing through the timbers of a line-of-battle ship may give some idea of the kind of destruction accomplished by the rhinoceros in its headlong course. It is not easily overtaken; nor is it easily surprised, for it is protected, as we have said, by its keenness of scent and hearing. It can discern the approach of an enemy from a considerable distance; and it is well for it that these senses are so powerful, inasmuch as, owing to the smallness and deep-set position of its eyes, its range of vision is exceedingly limited. It is said that it is also assisted by the warnings of a bird, the *Buphaga Africana* which frequently accompanies the rhinoceros, and seems to be animated by a strong feeling of attachment for its unwieldy friend, indicating the approach of danger by a signal-cry.

Like most of the tropical animals, the rhinoceros rests or slumbers during the day. At nightfall, it proceeds to the nearest lake or river to quench its thirst, and, by wallowing in the mud, to cover itself with a coat of clay as a protection against insects. Then it sallies forth on a foraging expedition, and in the course of the night covers a considerable extent of ground. At sunrise it retires again to rest, and under the shade of a rock or a tree sleeps through the hot hours of the tropical day, either standing erect, or stretched out at full length.



A BATTLE BETWEEN A BUFFALO AND A HIPPOPOTAMUS

The organs of scent of the rhinoceros are very acute, and as the creature seems to have a peculiar faculty for detecting the presence of human beings, it is necessary for the hunters to use the greatest circumspection when they approach it, whether to avoid or to kill, as in the one case it may probably be taken with a sudden fit of fury, and charge at them, or in the other case, it may take the alarm and escape.

The upper lip is used by the rhinoceros as an instrument to seize or hold things fast, it can grasp the herbage on which it feeds, or

pick up small fruit from the ground. A tame rhinoceros in the Zoological Gardens will take a piece of bun or biscuit from a visitor's hand by means of the flexible upper lip.

The Hippopotamus.—Next among the pachyderm family and in the hunter's estimation comes the hippopotamus, the *river horse* of the ancients, though there is hardly any basis for the name save that it lives chiefly in or near the water. Not as large as the rhinoceros, the hippopotamus stands from four to five feet high at the shoulders and is from ten to eleven feet long.

Hippo shooting is considered good sport. The hunter rarely ever secures an easy shot, as the animals are found chiefly in the water and almost entirely submerged. Further than that, the skin, which is pinkish-brown in color, is so hard and thick that a shot must be very accurately placed to take effect. The skin is naked, thick, and penetrated by pores which exude or give out a thick, fatty liquid, which may perhaps be of utility while in the water. The front part of the head is massive, and broader than that of any other living quadruped; the nostrils are comparatively small slits, which are closed and water-tight during the frequent dives beneath the surface of the water; the eyes are prominent, and placed far back in the head; and the ears are so short that they look as if they had been cropped.

The best time to hunt hippo is at night and the place a "run" or path by which they go to water. There are often flattened places on the banks where the big ugly brutes come out to roll. The easiest and best thing to do is to climb a tree before moonrise near this run or rolling place and wait until the hippo's peculiar tooting challenge or the noise of the great beast crashing through the forest or pounding along the run is heard. This is the best sort of an opportunity to get a specimen, as, if the shooting has to be done from an island or from the bank on foot, a charge by the hippo may result very seriously. Though the enormous ungainly body is carried on very short legs, it is capable of considerable speed for a short distance on land and of swimming with perfect ease, and not only the rush but an attack with the heavy tusks placed on both sides of the big, thick, square head is to be feared.