

home in all the years of his growing prosperity in Australia. But he is not the first man, nor will he be the last, who, having, under either real or fancied grievances, hastily cut the tie which bound him to the family circle, has felt it a matter of selfish pride, or some other bad feeling, to widen the breach thus made by haughty and obstinate silence.

This, Walter had done; and now, in his sorrowful bereavement and personal affliction, he felt a strange reluctance to renew his intercourse with them.

"I dare say they think me to be dead, as I soon shall be," said he to Tincroft on the day after the conversation we have recorded in the last chapter; "and I don't know why I should disturb their thoughts."

But John wouldn't suffer the subject to drop. "You promised me you would write to them," said he, persuasively. "And I would if I were you."

And though nothing came of it that day, nor the next, nor for many nexts, the perpetual dropping of Tincroft's soft words and hard arguments at length wore into the hard stone of his friend's unwillingness.

"I tell you what I have been thinking, Mr. Tincroft," said he, one day, as they were together. "I feel stronger now than I did, and instead of writing, I'll go and see father and the rest while I'm able; that will be better than writing."

"Perhaps it will," said John. "I am inclined to think that it only needs for you all to be brought together again, to wipe out anything of the past unpleasant to think about. And writing might stir up these remembrances."

"But you must go with me, Mr. Tincroft."

"Yes, if you wish it," said John, hesitatingly. "But would it not be better if you and your daughter were to see them first of all alone? I would travel with you, of course, if you wish it."

"I shall not take Helen with me," said Wilson. "They mightn't take to her; or she mightn't take to them. No! if you will go and help me through with it, well and good. If not, it must drop."

"Oh! it mustn't drop," said John, cheerily.

It might be a week or more after this conversation that as the small family at Low Beech Farm were seated at their midday meal, in the large stone-floored kitchen, a single gentle, not to say timid, knock was heard at the outer door of the adjoining hall or passage.

"Go and see who it is, Martha?" said the old farmer to the servant-of-all-work, who sat at the same table with her master and mistresses, and drank her portion from the same general pewter pot which served for all dinner purposes: "one of those travelling tinkers, I guess; I saw old Ripley about yesterday. They're none too honest, I think, and their room is better than their company."

While thus discharging himself of his grumble, Martha had opened the door, and before she had recovered her surprise, the two strangers whom she had admitted walked slowly by her, and softly entered the kitchen.

They were a singular and yet not ill-assorted pair. One of them was a gentleman—rather lean visaged and pale in complexion, partially bald, and what hair he had inclining to grey. There was a kindly, half-pitying, half-inquiring glance in his dark grey eyes—that is to say, if the eyes expressed what was then uppermost in his mind. He was well dressed, though plainly, in black.

The other stranger, who, like him, had entered

bare-headed, was leaning heavily on his friend's arm, for he was very feeble. His face was masked in a dark beard, which, however, did not altogether conceal the strong muscular working of his lips as he, more than once, vainly attempted to utter the word which would not come. His dress was warm, though of a rougher texture than that of his companion.

For one moment, the old farmer and his wife and daughter sat suddenly transfixed, as it seemed, with astonishment at the intrusion; and then a gleam of intelligence lighted up Matthew's countenance.

"Mr. Tincroft, if I am not mistaken?" said he, without any great emotion.

It needed only this to convey quick intelligence to the mother's bewildered thoughts. The transition from Tincroft to Sarah, and from Sarah to Walter, was natural enough, no doubt.

"And 'tis Walter come back again!" she cried, shrilly, as she hastily rose, to be saved from falling only by the intervention of Elizabeth's stout arm.

"'Tis Walter, sure enough!" said Matthew.

ASIATIC RHINOCEROSSES.

II.

THE Asiatic rhinoceros is intermediate in some respects to the one-horned and to the ordinary two-horned African species. Its more immediate congeners have long ceased to exist, and are known only from their fossil remains. It is comparatively a small animal, which never much exceeds four feet in height; but its horns attain a beautiful development, more especially the anterior one, which is much longer than the other, and has a graceful curvature backward, which is more or less decided in different individuals; the other, or posterior horn, is not placed contiguously to the first, as in all of the African species, but at a considerable distance from it, and it has a corresponding backward curvature. An anterior horn in the British Museum, which is very highly curved, measures thirty-two inches along its front, and is seventeen inches in span from base to tip. The writer has seen a pair of well-developed horns of this rhinoceros, beautifully carved and polished, and set with their bases upwards and on a parallel, in a carved black wooden stand, similar to those upon which Chinese metallic mirrors are mounted; and the Chinamen give such extravagant prices for fine specimens, that they are exceedingly difficult to get hold of, and hence their excessive rarity in museums. It may be mentioned that natives of the southern provinces of China have settled in great numbers in the countries lying eastward of the Bay of Bengal, or what are known as the Indo-Chinese and Malayan countries, and have largely intermarried with the women of that extensive region.

The hide of the Asiatic two-horned rhinoceros is rough, but not thick or hard, being easily cut through with a knife; where thickest it does not exceed one-third of an inch, or a quarter of an inch on the belly; it is of a brownish ash-colour, and is somewhat thin (or not very densely), though conspicuously, covered with short and coarsish black hairs throughout. There are folds about the neck, a distinct fold behind the fore-quarters, a slight fold, or rather crease, on the flanks anterior to the hind limbs, and another slight fold some distance above

the hock; but nothing comparable to the "plates of mail" of the two single-horned species. Inside of the folds the skin is of a sullied flesh-colour. The short crease on the flanks anterior to the hind limbs is equally seen in the African rhinoceros at this time in the Regent's Park collection; but the strong fold posterior to the shoulders is peculiar to the three Asiatic species. The form of the skull in *R. sumatranus* approximates that of certain of the extinct rhinoceroses, which were also two-horned; and the huge northern *R. trichorhinus* is known to have been thickly clad with woolly hair, indicative of its frigid habitat. The coarse hair of *R. sumatranus* is more like that of any true buffalo. There is a stuffed specimen of *R. sumatranus* in the British Museum, which is in a glazed case by itself, on the landing-place at the top of the flight of stairs at the farther end of the bird gallery. It is about full-grown; but the horns are not much developed.

This animal inhabits Borneo as well as Sumatra, but not Java. It occurs likewise in the Malayan Peninsula, and would appear to be extensively diffused in the Indo-Chinese countries. Most probably it is that noticed by Duthalde as inhabiting the province of Quang-si, in China, in latitude 15 deg. One was captured not long ago in Chittagong (at the head of the Bay of Bengal, on its eastern side); and the writer has been assured by a European planter, who saw the two horns attached to the skin of the head, of one that had been killed in Assam, where it was regarded as an exceedingly great rarity; but he doubtless meant that it had been killed in one of the hill ranges bordering the valley of the Brahmaputra, to the south of the great bend of that river. Like *R. sondaicus*, it ascends the jungle-clad mountains to their very summits, but is chiefly found in dense masses of reeds and high "elephant-grass," where it is occasionally killed by means of a heavy falling stake set by the natives in its path.

Dr. Mason, an American missionary, in his work entitled "Burmah," remarks that "the common single-horned rhinoceros is very abundant; the double-horned is not uncommon in the southern provinces." And then he alludes to the alleged "fire-eater" of the Burmans, supposing that to be *R. sondaicus*, as distinguished from "the common single-horned" kind, which he erroneously thought was *R. indicus*. "The fire-eating rhinoceros," he tells us, "is so called from its attacking the night-fires of travellers, scattering the burning embers, and doing other mischief, being attracted by unusual noises, instead of fleeing from them as most wild animals do." Now the camp-fire of Professor Oldham (the director of the Indian Geological Survey) was attacked by a rhinoceros, which he fired at with a two-ounce ball; and three days afterwards the body was found, and proved to be *R. sumatranus*. The skull of that individual is now in the museum of Trinity College, Dublin. The commonest of the three African rhinoceroses (that now represented by a specimen in the London Zoological Gardens) has been known to manifest the same propensity, and so has even the ordinary American tapir. For the most part, however, the Asiatic two-horned rhinoceros is an exceedingly shy and timid animal; and Sir T. Stamford Raffles remarks of it, in the island from which it takes its name, that "they are not bold, and one of the largest size has been seen to run away from a single wild dog" (so-called,

the *Canis rutilans* of the Malay countries). In the Malayan Peninsula, the late Dr. T. Cantor mentions it as "frequenting only the densest and most inaccessible jungles."

Our readers will probably be amused by the account of the capture (as before mentioned) of a rhinoceros of this two-horned species in Chittagong. It appears that some natives came into the station and reported that a rhinoceros had been found by them in a quicksand, being quite exhausted with its efforts to release itself. They had attached two ropes to the animal's neck, and, with the assistance of about two hundred men, dragged her out, and keeping her taut between the two ropes, they eventually made her fast to a tree. The next morning, however, they found the animal so much refreshed, and making such violent efforts to free herself, that they were frightened, and made application to the magistrate of Chittagong for protection. The same evening Captain Hood and Mr. H. W. Wickes started with eight elephants to secure the prize, and, after a march of about sixteen hours to the south of Chittagong, they came up with the animal. "She was then discovered to be a Sumatran or Asiatic two-horned rhinoceros, rather more than four feet in height, with a smooth hairy skin somewhat like that of a pig, and with two horns—one up high, almost between the eyes, and small; the other rather larger, and just above the nose—and the upper lip almost coming to a point, and protruding a little. The elephants at first sight of the rhinoceros were very much afraid, and bolted one and all; but after some little exertion they were brought back, and made to stand by. A rope was now with some trouble attached to the animal's hind leg, and secured to an elephant. At this juncture the rhinoceros roared, the elephant again bolted, and had it not been for the rope slipping from the leg of the rhinoceros, that limb might have been pulled from the body. The rhinoceros was, however, eventually secured with ropes between elephants, and marched into Chittagong in perfect health. Two large rivers had to be crossed—firstly, the Sungoo River, where the animal was towed between elephants, for she could not swim, and could only just keep her head above water by paddling with the fore feet like a pig; and secondly, the Kurnafuli River, where the ordinary ferry-boat was used. Thousands of natives thronged the march, which occupied a few days; the temporary bamboo bridges on the government road invariably falling in from the numbers collected thereon to watch the rhinoceros crossing the stream below, and sometimes the procession was at least a mile in length. The 'Begum,' as the rhinoceros has been named, is now free from all ropes, and kept within a stockade inclosure, having therein a good bath excavated in the ground, and a comfortable covered shed attached. She is already very tame, and will take plantain leaves or *chopattis* (in Australia called 'dampers') from the hand, and she might almost be led about by a string."

Since this was written "Begum" has made her appearance at the Zoological Gardens in Regent's Park, and we borrow part of Mr. Frank Buckland's characteristic report of her condition in her new quarters:—" 'Begum' has an ancient and antediluvian look about her, and very likely the old English *Rhinoceros trichorhinus*, whose bones my father discovered in the celebrated hyæna cave in Kirkdale, in

Yorkshire, had the same kind of phiz. Her face is covered with wrinkles. There is a great 'crow's foot' on her cheek, and deep wrinkles round her eyes, so that she has somewhat the appearance of a very aged disagreeable old man. She has also the peculiarity of shutting her lower eyelid instead of the upper, when she wants to take 'forty winks.' Although called the Sumatran rhinoceros, 'Begum' was caught near Chittagong, and was partly led and partly driven, with ropes round her legs, like a pig going to market, all the way through the jungle from that place to the river, a task which does Mr. Jamrach much credit. She travelled best at night, and would then follow her keeper, who walked in front with a lighted lantern kept close to the ground. The guide used to sing to her at night as she trotted along, and the natives joined in chorus. In the streets of Calcutta she lay down like a sulky pig, and they had to wet the road so as to make it semi-mud and drag her along bodily. She was shipped on board the steamer 'Petersburg' at Calcutta and brought direct to the Millwall Docks in a gigantic cage made of teak. The transfer of this valuable animal—for she cost more than £1,000—from her travelling box to the elephant house along the path was effected by Mr. Bartlett with his usual ability and tact. He was, of course, assisted by Mr. Jamrach, who knew the habits of the animal well. She had to walk comparatively loose some sixty or eighty yards."

In *Rhinoceros sumatranus* the lower lip is broad and square, as in the single-horned species; whereas in one of the two African sections of the genus (as seen in the animal now in London) the lower lip is quite of another shape—narrow, and tending to a

point, being moreover much less coarse and more sensitive. With the exception of the huge *R. simus*, or "white rhinoceros" of travellers in Africa, which is the most gigantic of them all, the upper lip is somewhat elongated and highly prehensile. In *R. simus* it is flat and not prehensile. Accordingly this animal is a grazer, whilst the others are browsers. All of the African species have a nude skin without folds, comparable to that of the hippopotami. They are usually mentioned by travellers as the "white" and the "black" rhinoceroses, the former being much paler in its colouring. There are, however, two "black" species, one (*R. Keitloa*) considerably larger than the other (*R. africanus*), and having a much longer posterior horn, which in shape is very much flattened laterally or compressed. The great "white rhinoceros" has the fore horn exceedingly long and the hind one very short, and in old animals the former hangs much over to the front. A rudimentary horn in the centre of the forehead has been observed in at least three of the species, such as may now be remarked in the old female of *R. indicus* in the Regent's Park collection. In one of her occasional paroxysms of fury this animal contrived to knock off her frontal hornlet, and profuse bleeding ensued. Another has since been developed in its place. A clever operation was performed by Mr. Bartlett, superintendent of the Zoological Gardens, this spring. The front horn of the Indian rhinoceros had become bent and diseased. Mr. Bartlett amputated this horn with a sharp saw, and this without the least injury or inconvenience to the animal. The portion of horn cut off weighed 8½ lb., and the "old gal looks quite young again."

CHILDREN OF THE OLDEN TIME.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "A TRAP TO CATCH A SUNBEAM."

II.

In olden days it was quite a fashion to have a pet monkey. There is a picture of Queen Catherine of Arragon, first wife of Henry VIII, with a monkey on her arm. One of these animals might have altered the History of England, which I shall tell you about in its proper place.

One excellent thing formed part of the education of young ladies in these early days, which was the nursing and doctoring of the sick. Medical herbs were grown in every garden, and the girls dried and made them up into medicine for use. Besides these useful plants the ladies loved all fair flowers, and one of their favourite occupations was growing and tending them.

The houses at this period were so small and inconvenient, and so dark, that they were glad to pass as much time as possible out of doors, and we hear of them dining, dancing, singing, and playing at chess in the garden. There is an amusing old Latin story told which confirms this fact. A gentleman one day having invited some friends to dinner, set out the repast in the garden by the river side. Now he was afflicted with a wife who had a very cross, perverse temper, and when her husband's guests arrived she happened to be in a more than usual bad temper, and looked so very cross, that at last her husband asked her to put on a better face

and come nearer the table; but, with her contrary temper, she only moved farther back. He repeated his order, which so increased her ill-humour, that with an angry movement she pushed her chair back still farther, and fell into the water, which in her anger she had forgotten was so near, and she was drowned. The husband, pretending great sorrow, got into a boat to search for the body; but the astonished guests, seeing him go up the stream, not down, called to him to suggest a different course. "Ah!" answered the man, "you did not know my wife; she did everything in contradiction, so I believe her body has floated against the current, not with it."

A ms. of the fourteenth century gives an illustration of ladies amusing themselves in their gardens, by weaving chaplets and garlands, and some of them look like the "regrets" which it is the pretty custom in England, as well as abroad, to place on the last resting-place of our friends.

Young men and maidens wore wreaths of flowers on their heads, and garlands of flowers were rewards for success in games. Roses, lilies, and violets are all spoken of, and many of our common garden flowers now were known to the Anglo-Saxons. In this mediæval period amongst the favourite fruits the cherry seems to account the highest, and it was