

*Rhinoceros Bicornis.*



# ASIATIC DEPARTMENT.

—41—

## Rhinoceros Bicornis.

WITH AN ENGRAVING.—PLATE LXXXVI.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

In your JOURNAL of the 2d (September) I saw an account, extracted from the LITERARY GAZETTES of the 9th and 16th of February 1822, of an animal, supposed by some to be the Unicorn; together with a print of the head of the animal, said to have been seen, and yet not seen, by Mr. Campbell, Vide second line under the Engraving, which says: "The above engraving represents the head of the animal mentioned in our GAZETTE, as having been seen by Mr. Campbell at Mashow, &c." And a little further on, the Editors of the GAZETTE favor us with a quotation, from the fifteenth Number of the Missionary Sketches, the second paragraph of which runs thus—"Mr. Campbell was very desirous to obtain as adequate an idea as possible, of the bulk of the animal killed near Mashow, and with this view, questioned his Hottentots, who described it as being much larger than the Rhinoceros, &c." Now, what are we to think of this account altogether, when we meet with such opposite statements in the same page; and it may fairly be asked, in what consisted the utility of Mr. Campbell's enquiries among the Hottentots, concerning the bulk of an animal, which, it is stated, he had seen.

But to the next paragraph of the Missionary Sketches; where we are presented with the opinions (laid down somewhat dogmatically, it must be allowed) of the scientific people of Cape Town, that the animal in question "is all that we should have for the Unicorn." This is rather too much, as we are to have forced upon us the Rhinoceros Bicornis (and I feel assured, it will ultimately prove to be no other) for that singular and interesting animal, the Unicorn, such as it is described to us—a beast having but one horn.

I have in my possession an exact copy of a sketch of the Rhinoceros Bicornis, the skull of which was brought from the Botchooana Country, situated thirteen days journey beyond the great Orange River, by a Missionary party, which arrived in Cape Town, whilst I was there in September 1821. I have good reason to suppose the head depicted in the LIBRARY GAZETTE, to be deception, or an exaggerated representation of one which I examined at Cape Town in the possession of Dr. Phillips, the worthy Senior of the Missionary Establishment at that Colony, from whom, I understood, it was to be forwarded to England by an early opportunity.

The accompanying is a duplicate of the sketch in my possession, the original was lent me to be copied, through the politeness of Dr. Phillips, by one of the Missionaries, whose name I forget, but I think it was Campbell, and who arrived with the party that brought the skull. The sketch and measurement of the animal were described by this person to be very correct. I can vouch for the accompanying sketch being a faithful representation of the size and position of the horns as corresponding with those on the skull which I inspected at Cape Town.

The dimensions of the body of the animal were said to have been as follow:—

	Feet. Inches.
From the point of the larger horn to the root of the tail,	12 0
Height to the withers,	6 0
From the back to the lower part of the belly,	4 3
Circumference of the thickest part of the body,	12 9

Your's very faithfully,

EKALBB.

September 10, 1822.

CALCUTTA BAZAR RATES, NOVEMBER 2, 1822.

	BUY....	SELL
Remittable Loans, .....	20 0	19 4
Unremittable ditto, .....	13 8	13 0
Bills of Exchange on the Court of Directors, for } 12 Months, dated 31st of December 1821.....	28 0	27 0
Ditto, for 12 Months, dated 30th of June 1822.....	26 0	25 8
Ditto, for 18 Months, dated 30th of April,.....	23 8	23 8
Bank Shares,.....	4600 0	4500 0

## Medical Practitioners.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

There is no class of men in Society, who deserve better of their country or of the community to which they belong, than Medical men; but much as I have always respected that body in general, (though thank God I have had little occasion hitherto for their services), I cannot deny myself the pleasure of indulging in a laugh at the expence of some few of the learned faculty, on the approaching departure of a certain individual for Europe, who has been long known and beloved by the Society of Calcutta. I need scarcely allude to the Gentleman in question further than to state that a variety of circumstances render his departure for Europe, a matter of deep regret to hundreds who have escaped death, and received the blessing of health at his hands, after a state of sickness and of suffering. The opinion entertained of this Gentleman's character, both in Calcutta and in India generally, is far more exalted and worthy of honorable mention than I have found words to enable me to express; but what will be thought, Sir, by those good people in Calcutta, when they discover that the secession of such a useful and highly respectable Medical Officer from the Service, should have caused a Medical Revolutionary War among his brethren.

While standing in the door-way of the Calcutta Exchange this-morning with a friend, (and you know that building fronts Tank-Square) he directed my attention to several carriages, buggies, palankeens, bearers and coolies that passed along in rapid succession one after the other, the vehicles containing living bodies, very like Automaton, the latter bearing on their heads and on sticks supported on their shoulders, large bundles of papers, parchments, letters, certificates, &c. &c. as far at least as could be guessed from the appearance at a distance. Naturally curious to know the result of my friend's speculations on such a novel procession, I ascertained from him as soon as his risibility admitted, that those whom I had seen were, to use his own language, "Gifted of the Gods," and that they could by an occult science only known and practised by themselves, preserve health, prolong life, and cure all sorts of diseases to an indefinite degree and extent, more especially, when it was their interest to do so. They are, continued he, the archetypes of the learned Physician, created by the Hindoo Deity, who churned the Mountain Mandarac with the Ocean. They are all equally learned, or wish the world to believe so; and on the approaching departure from this Presidency to Europe of the Gentleman above alluded to, they are running a race for a large bet, and a still larger stake, namely, that of the Doctor's Patients, all of whom each of those worthies looks upon as his sure individual game, to the total exclusion of his brethren. Aware, however, as they must be, that miracles are now-a-days not so frequent, or so implicitly believed in as in former times, and consequently that stronger proofs and attestations of these occurrences are requisite to support the re-appearance of them, they wisely conjecture that some familiar exposition of their claims to belief and to the patronage of the Indian Public would constitute a sort of guarantee for their pretensions.

Of those you have seen in the carriages, some trust for the success to the character they have already established for themselves in the performance of miracles—others to a certain portion of that metal called Brass, to Mercury, and to modest assurance, while the remainder depend on the gullibility of the Indian Public for such dogmas as they intend to vociferate through the good town of Calcutta.

Those, however, in the palankeens, accompanied by the bearers and coolies, carrying the papers, parchments, and diplomas, prudently think that their success must be insured from such indisputable testimonials as they are fortunately possessed of, from those far famed Medical Schools of Aberdeen, Edinburgh, and St. Andrews; and as far as presumptive evidence will go, these assuredly will not be disappointed. In this last cavalcade, were to be seen SENEX and ANTI-SENEX, TENAX, VERITAS, VERAX, COBWEB, ANTI-COBWEB, JUBA, and Dr. PANGLOSS, Dr. FINIS and