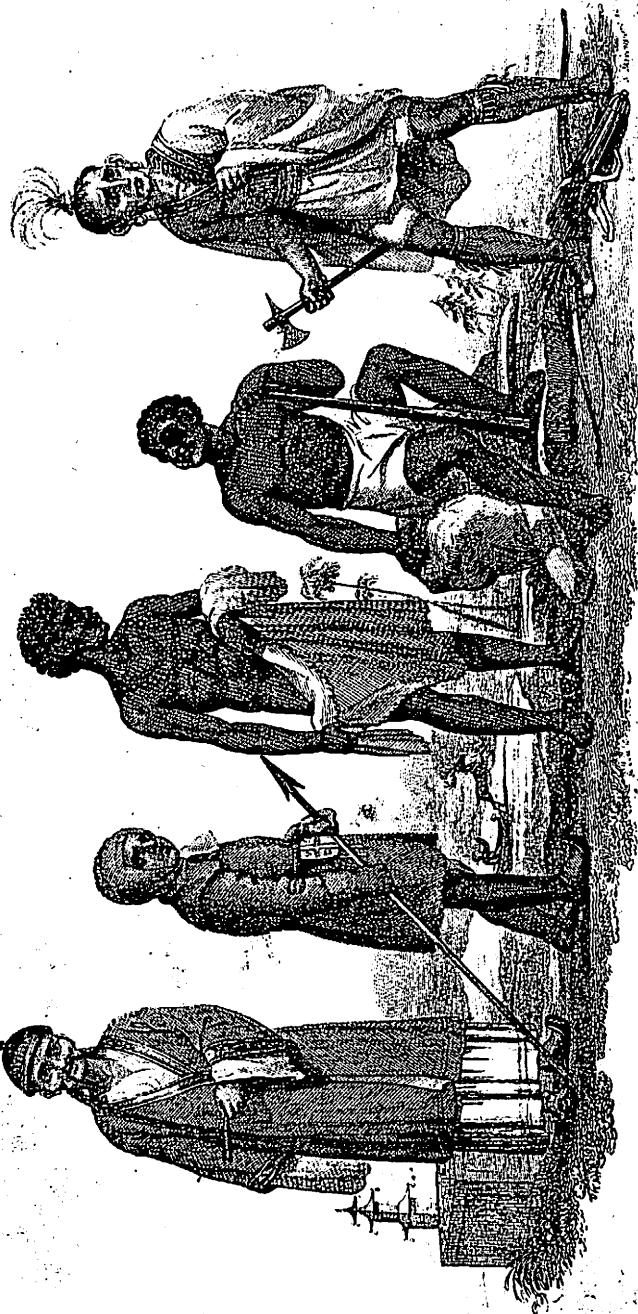


William Hutton, 1757-1860

171:11



Chinese. Laplander. Hottentot. African. American.

London: Published by J. Tegg, 11, The Strand, about 1821.

BUFFON'S
Natural History
ABRIDGED
A New Edition
By the Rev. W. Hutton, M. D.
Embellish'd with
100. ENGRAVINGS, BY
2 Volumes
Vol. I



(London)

Printed for the Editor & Sold by J. Tegg, 11, The Strand,
& R. Griffin & Co. Glasgow.

June 1st 1821.

Level

nl. 1 = 1-10, 1-10, 1-10, 1-352

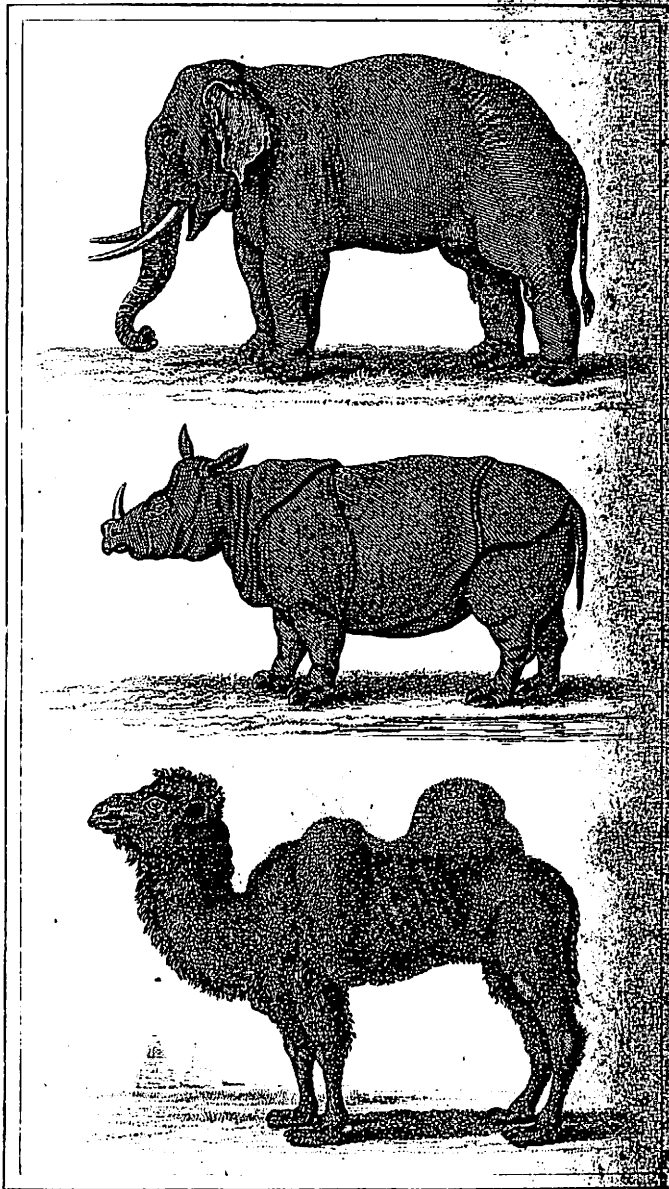
T. Tegg

CHAP. XVI.

Of the Elephant—The Rhinoceros—The Camel and Dromedary—The Buffalo, the Urus, the Bison, and the Zebu.

THE ELEPHANT.

THE human race excepted, the elephant is the most respectable of animals. In size he surpasses all other terrestrial creatures, and in understanding he is inferior only to man. Of all the brute creation, the elephant, the dog, the ape, and the beaver are most admirable for their sagacity; but the genius of the dog is only borrowed, being instructed by man in almost every thing he knows; the monkey has only the appearance of wisdom, and the beaver is only sensible with regard to himself, and those of his species. The elephant is superior to them all three; he unites all their most eminent qualities. The hand is the principal organ of the monkey's dexterity; the elephant with his trunk, which serves him instead of arms and hands, with which he can lift up, and seize the smallest, as well as the largest objects, carry them to his mouth, place them on his back, hold them, or throw them far off, has the same dexterity as the monkey, and at the same time the tractableness of the dog; he is like him susceptible of gratitude, capable of a strong attachment; he uses himself to man without reluctance, and submits to him, not so much by force as by good treatment; he serves him with zeal, intelligence, and fidelity; in fine, the elephant, like the beaver, loves the society of his equals, and makes them understand him. They are often seen to assemble together, discourse, act in concert, and if they do not erect buildings, they do not work in common, it is, perhaps, for want of industry, and tranquillity; for men have very anciently multiplied in all the regions inhabited by the elephant; he consequently lives in fear and anxiety, and is no where a general possessor of a space large and secure enough to establish his habitation on a settled spot. Every being in nature has his real price, and relative value; to judge of the elephant, we must allow him at least the judgment of the beaver, the dexterity of the monkey, the sentiment of the dog, and to add to these qualifications, the peculiar advantages of strength, size, and longevity. We must



1. Elephant — 2. Rhinoceros — 3. Camel

he trampled him under his feet, and broke one of his legs; and having kneeled down, he tried to thrust his tusks into the man's belly, which, however, went into the ground on both sides of the thigh, which was not wounded. He bruised another man, by squeezing him against the wall for a similar mockery. A painter was desirous to draw him in an extraordinary attitude, which was, to keep his trunk erect, and the mouth open. The servant of the painter, to make him remain in that attitude, threw fruits into his mouth; but afterwards he deceived him, which provoked his indignation; and, as if he had known that the cause of this deception was the painter's desire of having him drawn, he was revenged on the master, by throwing with his trunk a great quantity of water, which spoiled the paper intended for his design."

He made less use of his strength than of his dexterity, which was such, that he untied, with great facility, a double leather string which fastened his leg, with his mouth, untying it from the buckle's tong, and after this buckle he tied a small string twisted around it, with divers knots, he untied them all, without breaking any thing. One night, when he had thus disentangled himself from his leather string, he broke open, so dexterously, the door of his lodge, that his governor was not waked by the noiser. He went thence into divers yards of the menagerie, breaking open the doors that were shut, and pulling down the stone-work when the passage was too narrow for him; and thus he went into the lodges of other animals, terrifying them to such a degree, that they ran away to hide themselves in the remotest part of the park. In fine, to omit nothing that may contribute to make all the natural faculties of this animal perfectly known, as well as his acquired knowledge, we shall add some facts, extracted from the most credible authors.

Of five elephants (says Tavernier), which hunters had taken, three escaped, although their bodies and their legs were fastened with chains and ropes. These men told me a very surprising circumstance, if we can believe it, which is, that when once these elephants have been caught, and excluded the snares of their adversaries, if they are compelled to go into the woods, they are mistrustful, and break with their trunk a large branch, with which they sound the ground before they put their foot upon it, to discover if there are any holes on their passage, not to be caught a second time; which made the hunters who related this

regularly, despair of catching again the three elephants who had escaped. We saw the other two which they had caught, each of them was betwixt two tame elephants; and around the wild elephants were six men, holding spears. They spoke to these animals in presenting them something to eat, and telling them, in their language, *Take this, and eat it.* They had small bundles of hay, bits of black sugar, or rice boiled in water, with pepper. When the wild elephant refused to do what he was ordered, the men commanded the tame elephants to beat him, which they did immediately; one striking his forehead with his; and when he seemed to aim at revenge against his aggressor, another struck him; so that the poor wild elephant perceived he had nothing to do, but to obey.

I have observed several times (says Edward Terry), that the elephant does many things which are rather an indication of human reasoning, than a simple, natural instinct. He does whatever his master commands him. If he orders him to frighten any person, he advances towards him with the same fury as if he would tear him to pieces; and when he comes near him, he stops short, without doing him any harm. If the master wishes to affront another, he speaks to the elephant, who takes with his trunk dirty water, and throws it at his face. The Mogul has elephants for the execution of criminals condemned to death. If their ruler bids them to dispatch these wretches soon, they tear them to pieces in a moment with their feet: on the contrary, if he commands them to make these criminals languish, they break their bones one after another, and make them suffer torments as cruel as those of the wheel.

[THE RHINOCEROS.] After the elephant the rhinoceros is the most powerful of all quadrupeds. He is at least twelve feet in length, from the extremity of the snout to the tail; six or seven feet in height; and the circumference of his body is very near equal to his length; he is therefore like the elephant in bulk; and if he appears much smaller, it is because his legs are much shorter in proportion to those of the elephant; but he differs widely from that sagacious animal, in his natural faculties, and his intelligence; having received from Nature merely what she grants in common to all animals; deprived of all feeling in the skin, having no organ answering the purpose of hands, nor distinct for the sense of feeling; he has nothing instead

of a trunk, but a moveable lip, in which centers all his dexterity. He is superior to other animals only in strength, size, and the offensive weapon which he carries upon his nose, and which is peculiar to him. This weapon is a very hard horn, solid throughout, and placed more advantageously than the horns of ruminating animals; these only protect the superior parts of the head and neck, whilst the horn of the rhinoceros defends all the exterior parts of the snout, and preserves the muzzle, the mouth, and the face from insult; so that the tiger attacks more readily the elephant, in seizing his trunk, than the rhinoceros, which he cannot attack in front, without running the danger of being killed; for the body and limbs are covered with an impenetrable skin; and this animal fears neither the claws of the tiger nor the lion, nor even the fire and weapons of the huntsman; his skin is a dark leather, of the same colour, but thicker and harder than that of the elephant; he does not feel the sting of flies; he cannot contract his skin; it is only folded by large wrinkles on the neck, the shoulders, and the buttocks, to facilitate the motions of the legs, which are massive, and terminate in large feet, armed with three great claws. He has the head larger in proportion than the elephant; but the eye still smaller, which he never opens entirely. The upper jaw projects above the lower, and the upper lip has a motion, and may be lengthened six or seven inches; it is terminated by a sharp edge, which enables this animal, with more facility than other quadrupeds, to gather the grass, and divide it into handfuls, as the elephant does with his trunk. This muscular and flexible lip is a sort of trunk very incomplete, but which is equally calculated for strength and dexterity. Instead of those long ivory teeth which form the tusks of the elephant, the rhinoceros has his powerful horn, and two strong incisive teeth in each jaw. These incisive teeth, which the elephant has not, are placed at a great distance from each other in the jaws of the rhinoceros. He has besides these twenty-four smaller teeth, six on each side of each jaw. His ears are always erect; they are, for the form, like those of a hog, only they are larger in proportion to his body; they are the only hairy parts of it. The end of the tail is, like that of the elephant, furnished with a tuft of large bristles, very hard and very solid.

The rhinoceros which arrived in London in 1739, had been sent from Bengal. Although he was young (being but two years old), the expences of his food, and his voy-

age, amounted to near one thousand pounds sterling; he was fed with rice, sugar and hay. They gave him daily seven pounds of rice, mixed with three pounds of sugar; which they divided into three parts. He had also a great quantity of hay and green grass, to which he gave the preference. His drink was nothing but water, of which he drank a great quantity at once. He was of a quiet disposition, and let his manager touch him on all the parts of his body. He grew unruly when he was struck, or was hungry; and in both cases he could not be appeased without giving him something to eat. When he was angry, he leaped forward with impetuosity to a great height, beating furiously the walls with his head; which he did with a prodigious quickness, notwithstanding his heavy appearance.

This rhinoceros, when he was two years old, was not much higher than a young cow who has not yet borne young; but his body was very long, and very thick. The tongue of this young rhinoceros was soft, like that of a calf; his eyes had no vivacity; they are like those of a hog in form, and were placed very low; that is, nearer the opening of the nostrils.

Mr. Parsons says, that he has observed a very particular quality in this animal; he hearkened with a sort of continual attention to any noise; so that, if he was even sleepy, employed in eating, or in satisfying other urgent wants, he started instantly, raised up his head, and gave attention till the noise had ceased.

It is certain that some rhinoceroses have but one horn on the nose, and others two; it is not equally certain, that this variety is constant, always depending on the climate of Africa, or the Indies. It seems, that the rhinoceroses who have but one horn, have it larger and longer than those who have two. There are single horns of three feet and a half, and perhaps of more than four feet in length, or six or seven inches in diameter at the basis; there are also double horns which are but two feet in length. Commonly, these horns are brown, or olive-colour; yet some are grey, and even white. They have only a small convexity, in form of a cup, at their basis, by which they are fastened to the skin of the nose; the remaining part of the horn is solid, and very hard. It is with this weapon that the rhinoceros is said to attack, and sometimes to wound mortally, the largest elephants, whose long legs give to the rhinoceros, who has them much shorter, an opportunity

of striking them with his horn under the belly, where the skin is tender, and more penetrable; but, when he misses the first blow, the elephant throws him on the ground, and kills him.

The horn of the rhinoceros is more valued by the Indians than the ivory of the elephant; not so much on account of the matter, of which they make several works with the chisel, but for its substance to which they attribute divers virtues, and medicinal properties. The white ones, as the most rare, are also those which they value most.

The rhinoceros is, without being ferocious or carnivorous, or even very wild, is, nevertheless untameable. He is of the nature of a hog, blunt and grunting, without intellect, without sentiment, and without tractableness. These animals are also, like the hog, very much inclined to wallow in the mire; they like damp and marshy places, and seldom leave the banks of rivers. They are found in Asia and Africa, in Bengal, Siam, Saos, in the Mogul dominions, in Sumatra, in Java, in Abyssinia in Ethiopia, and about the Cape of Good Hope. But, in general, the species is not so numerous, or so universally spread, as that of the elephant. The female brings forth but one young, and at a great distance of time. In the first month, the rhinoceros is not much bigger than a large dog, he has not, when first brought forth, the horn on the nose, although the rudiment of it is seen in the fœtus. When he is two years old, this horn is only an inch long; and in his sixth year it is about ten inches; and as some of these horns have been seen very near four feet long, it seems they grow till his middle age, and perhaps during the whole life of the animal, which must be long, since the rhinoceros described by Mr. Parsons was not come to half his growth when he was two years old; which makes it probable, that this animal lives, like a man, seventy or eighty years.

Without being useful, as the elephant, the rhinoceros is very hurtful, by the prodigious devastation which he makes in the fields. The skin is the most valuable thing of this animal. His flesh is excellent, according to the taste of Indians and Negroes. Kolbe says, he has often eaten it with great pleasure. His skin makes the best and hardest leather in the world; and not only his horn, but all the other parts of his body, and even his blood, his urine, and his excrements are esteemed as antidotes against poison, or a remedy

against several diseases; probably, however, all those virtues are imaginary.

The rhinoceros feeds upon herbs, thistles, prickles, shrubs, and he prefers this wild food to the sweet pasture of the verdant meadows; he is very fond of sugar-canes, and eats all sorts of corn. Having no taste whatever for flesh, he does not molest small animals, neither fears the large ones, living in peace with them all, even with the tiger, who often accompanies him, without daring to attack him: I doubt, therefore, whether the battles betwixt the elephant and the rhinoceros have any foundation; they must, however, seldom happen, since there is no notice for war on either side; and, besides, no sort of antipathy has been observed between these animals. Some have even been seen in captivity, living quietly together, without giving offence or provocation to each other.

The rhinoceroses do not herd together, nor march in troops, like the elephant; they are wilder, and more solitary, and perhaps more difficult to be hunted and subdued; they never attack men unless provoked; but then they become furious, and are very formidable: the steel of Damascus, the scymitars of Japan, cannot make an incision in his skin; the darts and lances cannot pierce him through: his skin even resists the balls of a musket; those of lead become flat upon his leather, and the iron ingots cannot penetrate through it: the only places absolutely penetrable in this body armed with a cuirass, are the belly, the eyes, and round the ears; so that huntsmen instead of attacking this animal standing, follow him at a distance by his track, and wait to approach him at the time that he sleeps or rests himself. There is in the King of France's cabinet a fœtus of a rhinoceros, which was sent from the island of Java, and extracted from the body of the mother. It was said, in a memorial which accompanied this present, that twenty-eight huntsmen had assembled to attack this rhinoceros; they had followed her far off for some days, one or two men walking now and then before, to reconnoitre the position of the animal. By these means they surprised her when she was asleep, and came so near in silence, that they discharged, all at once, their twenty-eight guns into the lower parts of her belly.

We have seen, that this animal has a good ear; it is also affirmed, that he has the sense of smelling in perfection; but he pretended, he has not a good eye, and sees only before him: that his eyes are so small, and placed so low, and so

obliquely, they have so little vivacity and motion, that the fact needs no other confirmation. His voice, when he is calm, resembles the grunting of a hog; and when he is angry, his sharp cries are heard at a great distance. Though he lives upon vegetables, he does not ruminate; thus, it is probable, that, like the elephant, he has but one stomach, and very large bowels, which supply the office of the paunch. His consumption, though very great, is not comparable to that of the elephant; and it appears, by the thickness of his skin, that he loses less than the elephant by his perspiration.

THE CAMEL AND THE DROMEDARY. These two names do not include two different species, but only indicate two distinct breeds, subsisting from time immemorial in the camel species. The principal, and, as may be said, the only perceptible character by which they differ, consists in the camel's bearing two bunches, or protuberances, and the dromedary only one. The latter is also much less, and not so strong as the camel; but both of them herd and copulate together; and the production from this cross-breed is more vigorous, and of greater value, than the others.

This mongrel issue from the dromedary and the camel forms a secondary breed, which also mix and multiply with the first; so that this species, as well as in that of other domestic animals, there are to be found a great variety according to the difference of the climates they are produced in. Aristotle has judiciously marked the two principal breeds; the first, (which has two bunches), under the name of the **BACTRIAN CAMEL**; and the second, under that of the **ARABIAN CAMEL**; the first are called **TURKMANS**, and the others **ARABIAN CAMELS**. This division still subsists with this difference only, that it appears, since the discovery of those parts of Africa and Asia which were unknown to the ancients, that the dromedary is without comparison more numerous and more universal than the camel; the latter being seldom to be found in any other place than in Turkey, and in some other parts of the Levant; while the dromedary, more common than any other beast of his size, is to be found in all the northern parts of Africa, in Egypt, in Persia, in South Tartary, and in all the northern parts of India.

The dromedary, therefore, occupies an immense tract of land, while the camel is confined to a small spot of ground.