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THE
VISITORS' HAND BOOK

TO THE

Liverpool Zoological Gardens,

WITH

IMPORTANT
NOTICES RESPECTING

THE

ANIMALS,

AND A DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNT

OF THE

SPLENDID MODELS AND PAINTINGS,

LIVERPOOL
PUBLIC
LIBRARY.

REPRESENTING THE

CITY AND BOMBARDMENT OF ACRE.

LIVERPOOL:

PRINTED BY JOHN R. ISAAC, CASTLE STREET.

[1841]

176. *Green Indian Doves.*

Col. Indica.

A little further on to the right is a Cage containing a

177. *Peccary.**Dicotyles torquatus.*

Is a native of South America.

The large building to the left is the Elephant house, in which there are

178. *Elephants.**Elephas Indicus, Cuv.*

Elephants, even in a savage state, are peaceable and gentle creatures. They never attack any one except in defence of themselves or their companions. They generally march in troops, the oldest leading the van, the younger or lame ones keep in the middle, and those of a second rate as to age, walk in the rear; but they seldom march in this regular order except when they consider the journey dangerous, such as an expedition into cultivated parts, where they expect to meet with opposition. They are peculiarly fond of deep vallies and marshy grounds. They delight in drawing up water in their trunks, and spouting it around them. They rarely enter into deep water, though well calculated for swimming, raising their trunks far above the surface to enable them to breathe with ease. Their ordinary food is roots, herbs, leaves, the tender branches of trees, fruit and grain; but they abhor flesh or fish.

The Elephant, when tamed, is the most sagacious of all animals; though apparently so unwieldy, Buffon asserts that he can overtake a horse at full speed. He is said to be so susceptible of injury or insult, that he recollects an individual for many years, and never neglects an opportunity of revenge. It is well authenticated that some have lived one hundred and thirty years in a state of slavery, and it is believed that they will exist upwards of two hundred years in a free state.

The Elephant inhabits India, Cochin China, and some of the provinces of China, and most parts of Africa, to the south of the river Senegal and Ethiopia. In some parts of Africa they are fed upon by the natives, and the trunk is considered a delicate morsel. The hide, when dressed, is said to be proof against a musket ball. Large tusks are frequently found in the woods, but whether they are shed tusks, or the tusks of dead animals, has never been satisfactorily proved.

The largest of these Elephants is the "Rajah," son of the "Sultan," the finest elephant in Calcutta. He arrived a short time since by the William Farleigh. He is very tractable, will go upon his knees to receive any person upon his back, carry them round his paddock, and then, at a given sign, kneel down to permit them to dismount. Three times round the small of the leg, measures the greatest height of the animal.

Poodah, the smaller one, is about ten years old, will ring the bell, pick up a sixpence, and perform a variety of tricks. It may be as well to remark, that this is the first instance in Europe of a male and female elephant living amicably together.

179. *Indian Rhinoceros.* (A Male.)*Rhinoceros Indicus, Linn.*

Next to the Elephant, the Rhinoceros is the most powerful of animals. It is usually found twelve feet long from the tip of the nose to the insertion of the tail, and from five to six feet high; and the circumference of its body is nearly equal to its length. It is, therefore, equal to the Elephant in bulk, and if it appears much smaller to the eye, the reason is, that its legs are much shorter. Its head is furnished with a horn growing from the snout, sometimes three feet long; but for this, it would have the appearance of the head of a hog; the upper lip, however, is much longer in proportion, ends in a point, is very pliable, serves to collect its food, and deliver it into the mouth; the ears are large, erect, and pointed; the eyes are small and piercing; the skin is naked, rough, knotty, and lying upon its body in folds, after a very peculiar fashion; there are two folds very remarkable, one above the shoulders, and another over the rump; the skin is so thick as to turn the edge of a scimitar, and to resist a musket ball; the belly hangs low, the legs are short, strong, and thick, and the hoof is divided into three parts, each pointing forward.

Such is the general outline of an animal that appears chiefly formidable from the horn growing from the snout, and formed rather for war than with a propensity to engage. This horn is sometimes found from three to three feet and a half long, growing from the solid bone, and so disposed as to be managed to the greatest advantage. It is composed of the most solid substance, and pointed so as to inflict the most fatal wounds. The elephant, the bear, or the buffalo are obliged to strike transversely with their weapons; but the Rhinoceros employs all his force with every blow, so that the Tiger will more willingly attack any other animal of the forest than one whose strength is so justly employed; indeed, there is no force which this terrible animal has to apprehend, defended on every side by a thick horny hide, which the claws of the lion or the tiger are unable to pierce, and armed before with a weapon that even the elephant does not choose to oppose. The combat between these two, the most formidable animals of the forest, must be very dreadful. Emanuel, King of Portugal, willing to try their strength, actually opposed them to each other, and the Elephant was defeated. The age of these animals is not known; it is said by some that they bring forth at three years old, and if we may reason from analogy, it is seldom they live above twenty.

The Rhinoceros is a native of the deserts of Asia and Africa, and is usually found in those extensive forests that are frequented by the Elephant and Lion.

The present specimen is a remarkably fine lively animal, seven years old, brought from India by Captain Pope, ship Duke of Northumberland. It subsists entirely upon vegetable food similar to the Elephant.

180. *Pair of Indian Water Buffaloes.*