



### THE RHINOCEROS, OR UNICORN.

The Boston Traveller contains a very particular account of a Rhinoceros, recently brought to that city, from Calcutta, from which we extract the following:—

This Unicorn or one-horned Rhinoceros, is yet scarcely fifteen months old, having been taken when quite young, and is four feet three inches in height, a trifle more than seven feet in length, and weighs upwards of two thousand pounds.— Animals of this class when full grown measure generally about twelve feet in length, nearly as much in circumference, and from six to seven feet in height, thus approaching that other unwieldy animal, the Elephant, in bulk and mass, though apparently much smaller, from the circumstance of their limbs being comparatively much shorter. We are told of this animal, what we believe, naturalists allow of the species generally, that its only distinct organ of touch, is the upper lip, which is very flexible. The under lip is like that of an ox, but the upper more like that of a horse; and he uses it as that creature does, to gather up hay from the rack or grass from the ground, but with this superior advantage, that the rhinoceros has the power of extending this lip to six or seven inches in length from the nose and then drawing it to a point.— With the lip thus extended the animal is able to grasp a stick or any small substance and hold it extremely fast.

The horn is brownish, very hard, and solid throughout, and when full grown, sometimes measures three feet in length and eighteen inches in circumference at the base. In the present instance it is just emerging from a large, bell-form protuberance which forms its basis, and was not at all discernible when leaving Calcutta.— The skin is one of its most valuable characteristics. It is of a blackish or deep brown hue, very tough, thick and naked. It is covered with large callous tubercles or granulations, reminding one of the ancient coat of mail; and lies about the neck in large plaits or folds. There is another fold from the shoulders to the fore-

legs, and another from the hind part of the back to the thighs. The incrustations of the skin mentioned above, are smaller around the neck, and largest of all on the shoulders and hips. Though the skin generally appears to be entirely unelastic and impenetrable, the cuticle that is left bare between the folds, is soft and easily penetrated.

The head is larger in proportion than that of the elephant, with a very short neck, the ears are moderately large, broad and thin, and in this instance, one has received some injury and is withered to a size much smaller than the other; the eyes are very small, dull and sleepy, and so situated the animal can only see objects which are nearly in a direct line before it. It is worthy of notice too, that the eyes are situated nearer the nose than those of any other known quadruped. The shoulders are thick and heavy; and the back, instead of rising, as in the elephant, exhibits a considerable depression; the belly is somewhat pendulous like that of the hog; and the legs are very short, thick and strong, with hoofs divided into three parts, each pointing forwards.

The keeper feeds it at present with gram, a kind of pea, brought from Calcutta, milk, green vegetables, &c. It besides drinks from fifteen to twenty gallons of water per day. Though not of a ferocious nature, it appears to be quite untractable; and we are told is sometimes liable to paroxysms of rage. During the first month it was scarcely the size of a large dog, and is now not much above half the full grown size. Notwithstanding the shortness of its limbs, it exhibits great activity and is capable of running with great swiftness. As a compensation for imperfect vision, it has an attentive ear; and will listen with surprising steadiness to any kind of noise. Its sense of smell likewise is very delicate.

These are the sights most detestable—a proud priest giving his blessing—a knavish hypocrite saying his prayers—and a false patriot making an harangue.