

Henry R. Clinton
from his Mother
May 2^d 1849

NATURAL HISTORY

OF

ANIMALS.

ILLUSTRATED BY SHORT HISTORIES AND ANECDOTES ;

AND INTENDED TO AFFORD

A POPULAR VIEW OF THE LINNÆAN SYSTEM OF
ARRANGEMENT.

FOR THE USE OF SCHOOLS.

BY THE

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FELLOW OF THE LINNÆAN SOCIETY, AND LATE OF PETERHOUSE, CAMBRIDGE.

Embellished with Engravings.

THIRD EDITION.

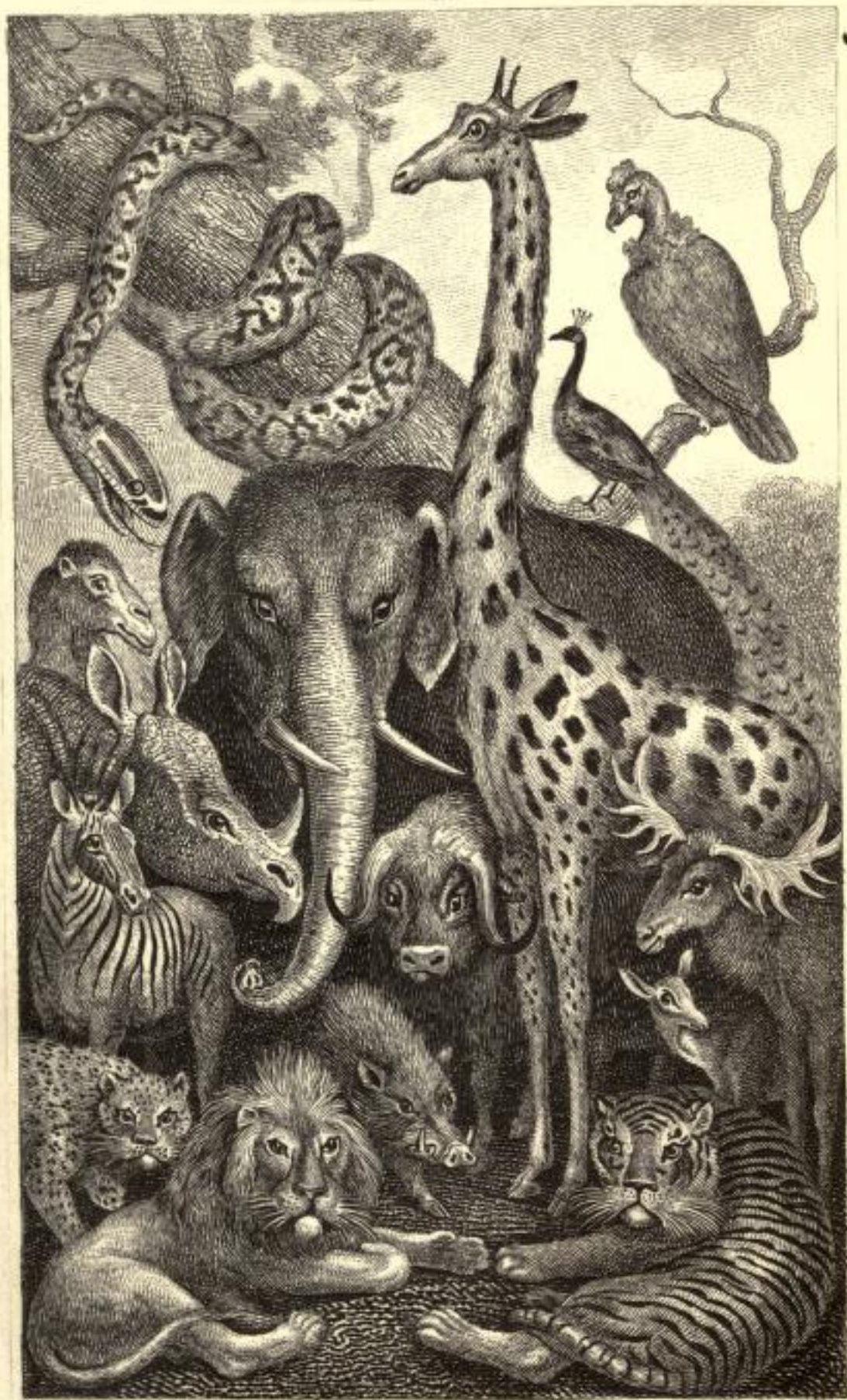
Nat. Hist.

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Frontispiece!



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in width. The tail is not more than two inches long. The head is oblong; the eyes are small, and the ears short and rounded. The general colour is a dirty or yellowish white.

Six-banded Armadillo. Like the last-mentioned species, the Six-banded Armadillo is an exceedingly troublesome animal in the gardens of Brazil, and some other parts of South America. During the day-time he conceals himself underground, and only crawls abroad towards evening, to seek for food. Although he chiefly subsists on fruit, he also eagerly devours both insects and birds.

9. RHINOCEROS TRIBE.

In their general habits and manners, these animals are somewhat allied to the hog. They have a horn on their nose, which is not, as in most other quadrupeds, fixed in the bone, but merely in the skin.

Single-horned Rhinoceros. In strength and stature the Rhinoceros ranks, among quadrupeds, next to the elephant; but in sagacity and intelligence it is far removed. So thick and tough is its skin, that it is capable of resisting the keenest edge of a scymeter; and even leaden bullets have been known to flatten against it, and fall to the ground without penetrating. Although formidable in appearance from his unwieldy bulk, his tough hide, and the horn upon his nose, he is in reality a peaceable and harmless creature. He never provokes a combat, yet, when attacked, he equally disdains to fly and to yield; and his strength and courage usually protect him from insult. It is stated that the leopard or the tiger would rather attack the elephant than the

Rhinoceros, which they are not able to oppose, without danger of having their bowels torn out by his horn. The Rhinoceros feeds on vegetables, and on the tender branches of shrubs. These he seizes by means of his upper lip, which is capable of being extended to a great length, and, in many respects, answers the same purposes as the trunk or proboscis of the elephant. An animal of this species, which, in the year 1812, was kept in the exhibition-rooms at Exeter 'Change, London, was fed, chiefly, on carrots and greens, which he invariably seized with his lip, in the manner above mentioned. He was sufficiently tractable and docile to obey the commands of the keeper, and would permit the visitors to put their hands upon him, without appearing to be disturbed by the intrusion.

In a wild state, in their native countries, of Africa, India, Sumatra, and Ceylon, these animals live in the most cool and sequestered places, chiefly in morassy situations and shady forests. Their sight is said to be somewhat dull, but their hearing is peculiarly acute. Like the hog, they delight in wallowing in the mire, and covering their bodies with mud. They produce but one young one at a birth. The hide of the Rhinoceros is capable of being made into an extremely strong and valuable kind of leather.

The height of this animal is generally from ten to twelve feet. The skin is blackish, and naked, except the ears and tail. It is divided by several transverse plaits: of these, the first is behind the head; the second on the shoulders; the third from the back down the loins, before the thighs, and along the belly; and the fourth across the thighs. It is covered over with a kind of tubercles or warts. Between the folds, and under the belly, the skin is soft, and of a rose colour. The horn

on the nose is sometimes three feet in length, of a fibrous texture, conical, and tapering to a point. The eyes are very small.

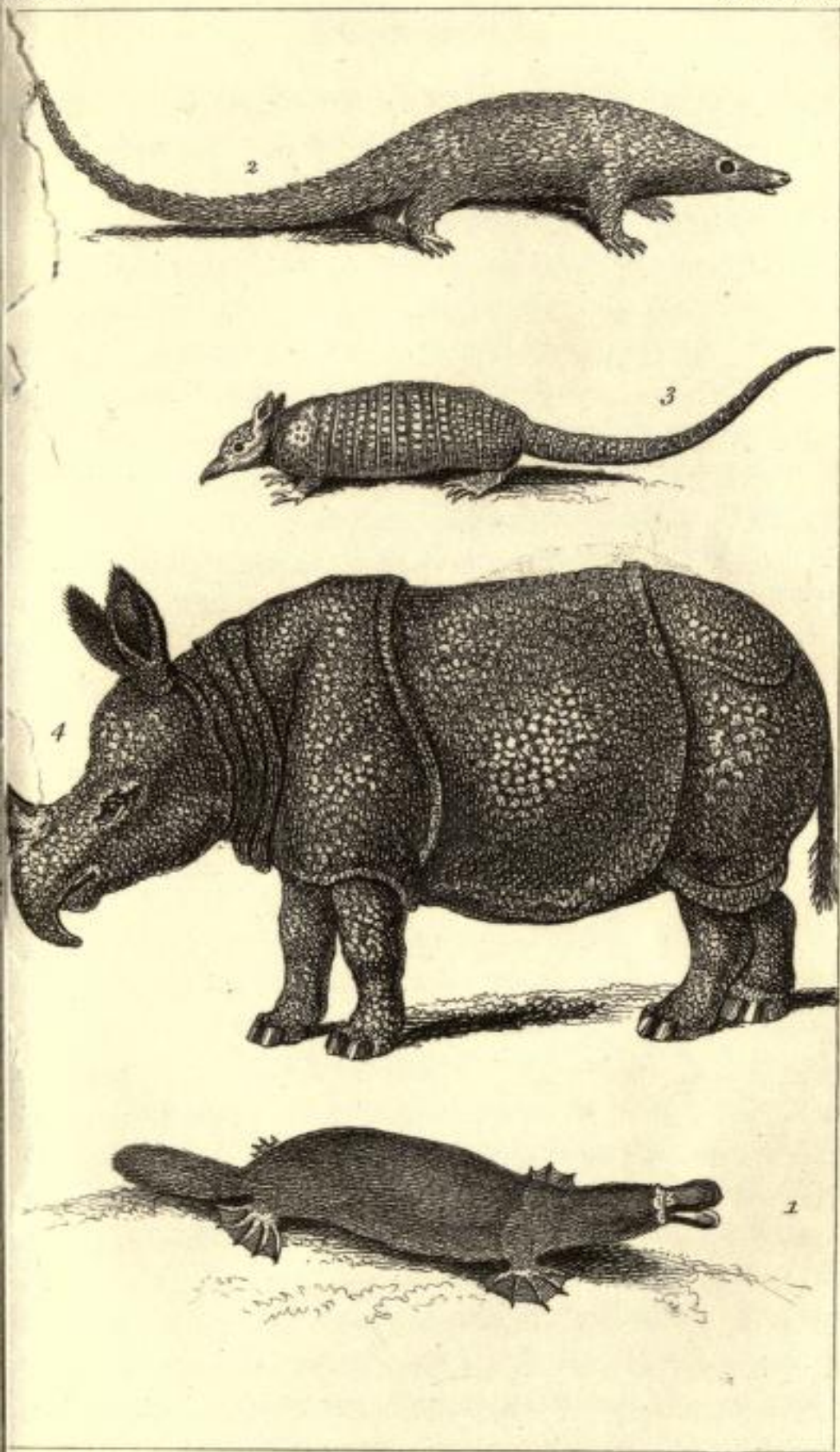
Two-horned Rhinoceros. This animal is a native of Africa. In most of his habits he appears to resemble the single-horned species. Such is his enormous strength, that when alarmed or pursued, he rushes through the forests, bearing down before him the dead and withered trees, almost as if they were cut off, says Mr. Bruce, by a cannon-shot.

The principal difference betwixt this and the last species, consists in its skin being smooth, and, in a great measure, destitute of those vast armour-like folds, so conspicuous in that; and in its having, upon the nose, two horns instead of one.

10. ELEPHANT TRIBE.

There is only one clearly-ascertained species of Elephant.

The Elephant. It cannot but fill the mind with unusual conceptions of greatness and sublimity, to see so huge a mass of matter as the Elephant in a state of animation. His height being sometimes more than twelve feet, and his bulk in full proportion, he is, of course, endowed with enormous strength. His legs appear like stout and massive pillars; but by no means too stout for the ponderous fabric they have to support. Powerful as he is, the Elephant contents himself with vegetable food, attacks no one, and, whilst unmolested, although he is the largest and strongest, he is, at the same time, the most peaceful and gentle beast of the forest. His dispositions, indeed, are even amicable, social, and



Duck-billed Platypus 1. Longtailed Manis 2. Armadillo 3. Rhinoceros 4.