

PETER PARLEY'S
BOOK OF CURIOSITIES,
NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL.



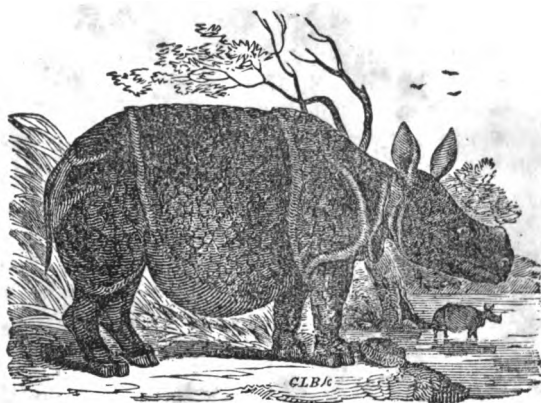
ILLUSTRATED BY ONE HUNDRED ENGRAVINGS.

—••—
PHILADELPHIA:
THOMAS DESILVER, JR.

BOSTON: RICHARDSON, LORD & HOLBROOK, AND WAITT & DOW.
NEW YORK: COLLINS & HANNY.
1832.

view of giving you a hint to examine your pockets, and see what sweetmeats you have got for him. If the door is ajar, he will gravely take his station behind your chair at meal time, giving you a gentle kick every now and then, if you fail to help him as well as yourself."

THE RHINOCEROS.



After the elephant, the Rhinoceros is the most powerful of animals. He is six or seven feet in height, twelve feet in length, and about as much in circumference. But though he resembles the elephant in bulk, he differs widely from that sagacious creature in his natural faculties and intelligence. He is superior to other animals only in strength, size, and an offensive and peculiar weapon which he carries upon his nose. This is a very

hard and solid horn, so placed as to be very useful and dangerous.

A Rhinoceros was sent from Bengal to London in 1739. Though he was only two years old, his food and his voyage cost nearly five thousand dollars. He lived upon rice, sugar and hay. They gave him daily seven pounds of rice, mixed with three pounds of sugar, and a great quantity of hay and green grass. His drink was nothing but water, taken in large quantities.

This animal is something like a hog in its nature, blunt and grunting, without intellect or docility. It resembles the hog, also, in its love for the mud and mire; liking damp and marshy places, and seldom leaving the banks of rivers. In the first month, the Rhinoceros is not much bigger than a large dog, and when first brought forth has not the horn upon his nose. When he is three years old, this horn is only an inch long; in his sixth year it is about ten inches; and as some of these horns have been seen nearly four feet long, it would appear that they grow during the whole life of the animal. This is probably seventy or eighty years.

These animals do not herd together, nor march in troops, like the elephant; they are wilder, more solitary, and perhaps more difficult to be hunted and subdued. They never attack men unless provoked, but then they become very furious and formidable. Their skin is so hard as to resist the sword and scimitar; and it cannot even be pierced by darts, lances or musket-balls. The only penetrable places in the body are the belly, the eyes,

and about the ears. Instead of attacking this animal standing, the huntsmen follow him at a distance by his track, and wait to approach him at the time that he sleeps or rests himself.

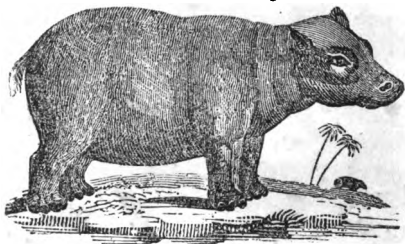
THE ZEBRA.



This is perhaps the handsomest and most elegantly clothed of all quadrupeds. He has the shape and grace of the horse, the swiftness of the stag, and a striped robe of black and white arranged with extreme regularity and beauty. These bands of black and white are the more singular, as they are straight, parallel, and very exactly divided; not only over the body, but over the head, the thighs, the legs, and even the ears and the tail.

The Zebra is chiefly found in the southern parts of Africa ; often near the Cape of Good Hope ; and a fine of money is fixed on any person who shoots one of them. Such of them as are caught alive are presented to the governor. Several have been brought to England, but with a single exception they have displayed great wildness, and even ferocity. In several cases they have attempted to injure spectators, and have not even spared their keepers.

THE HIPPOPOTAMUS.



This animal has a body longer and thicker than that of the rhinoceros, but his fore legs are much shorter. His head is short, and thick in proportion to the body. He has no horns, and his usual voice resembles the neighing of a horse. From this he has probably received his name, which is derived from two Greek words, signifying the River Horse.

The male of this species is about eight feet eight inches long, fifteen feet in circumference, and six feet and a half in height. His legs are about two feet ten inches