

THE GENTLE AND LADYLIKE RHINOCEROS WITH TWO HORNS.

Among the notable arrivals in the metropolis yesterday were several interesting zoological specimens, including a two-horned African rhinoceros, a lion, a lioness, a leopard, a tiger cat, and a yak. The odd party reached Communipaw, by way of the Jersey Central Railroad, at 3:30 A. M. without causing the least excitement. This was doubtless owing to the fact that their arrival was not announced. The small but precious menagerie traveled together all the way from New-Orleans on an ordinary flat car, over which was built a frame house. When the box-like structure was made several weeks ago for the purpose of sheltering the four-footed travelers it was 15 feet high. On the way tunnels were encountered and it had to be cut down over a foot. How such a family could dwell in unity and peace in so limited a space for two weeks was explained when the house was opened by the keeper, George Williams, and the animals were shown to be separately caged.

During the day all the specimens were transferred to the Central Park collection. The two-horned rhinoceros will remain there, having been purchased by the Park Commissioners to fill the vacancy caused by the death last year of Bombi. The other animals are the personal property of E. D. Colvin, and will be quartered during the Winter only. The closed cage on wheels containing the rhinoceros was drawn to the Park by two gray horses, reaching its destination at 3:40 P. M. A crowd of men, women, and children had assembled, but they were doomed to temporary disappointment owing to an accidental delay in placing the curiosity. The cage was backed down to the building in the rear of the arsenal for the purpose of rolling it inside. It was found a trifle too high for the opening, and by the time the framework had been cut away and the cumbersome cage housed, the shades of night were falling and it was past the exhibition hour. It was perhaps a good thing that the delay did occur, said Superintendent Conklin, for Bohu was rather the worse for her long and tedious journey, and not in ordinary presentable condition. Members of the press and a few privileged outsiders were present when the antique, dingy-looking circus cage was opened, and they caught a first glimpse in the gloaming of the huge beast.

The conditions, it may be imagined, were not favorable for a satisfactory study of her majesty. However, it may be safely written that Bohu is not a female beauty. In fact she is the ugliest-looking specimen of her ugly species that any New-York zoologist will find in his travels at home or abroad. The only other two-horned rhinoceros in America at the present time is one of Barnum's pets. The new attraction, if it may be called such, is a fit companion in disgusting personality for the 1,500-pound baby hippopotamus in the Central Park collection. They will be very much alike in environment when the Superintendent carries into effect his intention of building a roomy cage for Bohu on the same plan, excepting the tank part, as that occupied by the hoggish hippopotamus. Bombi was almost twice as large as his successor, and the size of Bohu may be judged by her weight, 2,500 pounds. She is minus the massive folds in her skin peculiar to one-horned members of the family. The two horns are conical in form, with rusty discoloration, and run together like the prongs of a big tooth. They are on the face about where the nose, it would seem, ought to be. Bohu is the size of an ordinary cow. She carries her head low, as if to hide her ugly features.

She seemed to be of gentle disposition, and permitted strange hands to pat her rough, thick hide without displaying any signs of ferocity. Her keeper said she was very mild and well behaved except when annoyed. Her hearing and scent are very acute. When the keeper called her Mungo or whistled she walked across the cage to him and sniffed in an expectant manner. Judging by her appetite she would not be a star boarder in any New-York hostelry. She don't make any bones of eating two buckets of bran and oats and half a bale of hay at a meal, and this is ordinarily washed down with a few gallons of water. It was curious to notice the commotion among the other animals in the menagerie caused by Bohu's arrival. Well defined curiosity was depicted in the face of nearly every animal. The tigers and lions, excepting those overcome by hearty eating, were very much excited during the work of getting the new cage housed. It was also curious how quickly they quieted down after they saw the new prisoner.

Bohu's arrival was delayed by the unaccountable action of the Jersey Central Railroad authorities. They contracted to deliver her and the other animals direct. The party started on Dec. 1 over the Louisville and Nashville line. At Cincinnati the railroad company repudiated the original contract, and, after two days' delay, forced Mr. Colvin, who had charge of the arrangements, to make a new contract. Over the Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and Indianapolis Road the car reached Cleveland and then Buffalo by way of the Michigan Southern line. After a delay at Buffalo the car was sent over the New-York Central to Lyons, thence over a coal branch to the Lehigh Valley, whence in due time it reached the Jersey Central. Mr. Colvin says he wonders the flat-car passengers did not cause a disturbance. The keeper said he had very little trouble with them—less than he expected. At Montgomery, Ala., there were 18 inches of snow. He gave Bohu a warm bath and blanketed her. It was in anticipation of serious results from so sudden a change of climate that the house was built over the flat car in New-Orleans. Bohu is believed to be 14 years old. She was imported from Hamburg eight years ago for Cole's circus and since then has traveled, it is estimated, 15,000 miles or more. She has been to Australia and in every State in the Union. She cost the Park Commissioners \$4,200 at auction in New-Orleans.