

EARTH, SEA AND SKY

OR

MARVELS OF THE UNIVERSE

BEING

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TOGETHER WITH THE

Amazing Phenomena of the Solar and Starry Systems

THE WHOLE COMPRISING A

Vast Treasury of all that is Marvelous and Wonderful

IN THE EARTH, SEA, AIR, AND SKIES.

BY

HENRY DAVENPORT NORTHROP, D. D.,

Author of "Marvelous Wonders of the Whole World," etc., etc.

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ANIMALS OF THE TROPICS.



CHAPTER X.

WILD SPORTS IN THE TROPICS.

The Bulky Elephant—Tale of the Assyrian Queen—Panic and Frightful Carnage—Ivory Palaces—Thrones of Elephants' Tusks—Elephant Gymnasts—The Monster Frightened by a Horse—Revenge for an Insult—Droves of Game—Passionate Cry and Wild Rush—A Situation Apparently Hopeless—At the Mercy of the Infuriated Beast—Exploits of Jan Wildeman—A Frightened Scotsman—Immense Quantities of Ivory—Baldwin Pursued by an Elephant—Miraculous Escape—Exciting Chase—Goatskin Clothing Torn to Shreds—The Rhinoceros—Powerful Animal—Hunted with Elephants—Terrible Weapon of Attack and Defense—Story of a Desperate Fight—Hunting Rhinoceroses with Horses—Strange "Rhinoceros Birds"—Mad Beast Attacking Hunters—Lucky Shot—"Fire-Eating Rhinoceros"—Routing a Camp at Night—Horse Saved by a Bullet—Sudden Upset of a Wagon—Helping the Young to Escape—Vast Size of the Hippopotamus—Anger Easily Aroused—Manner of Hunting the River-Horse—Hiding Under Water—Cumming's Adventure with a Hippo—Man and Beast Splashing in the Water Together—Unique Surgical Operation—Steering the Huge Creature Ashore—Boat Smashed by a Sea-Cow—Snatched from Devouring Jaws—Crocodiles Startled from Slumber—Dangers of Gorilla Hunting—Fierce Aspect of the Gorilla—Amazing Power of the "Wild Man"—Elephants Routed by Gorillas—The Fleet Ostrich—Modes of Capturing the "Flying Camel"—Hunters' Disguise—A Flying Run—Baldwin and Andersson's Adventures—Concern of the Old Birds for their Young.

IF we go back, desirous to trace the earliest knowledge of the elephant, we are lost in traditions referring to heroes or kings whose names survive, but of whose acts, however famous, no record remains. Thus, Bacchus, one of the conquerors of India, is said to have been the first that yoked the elephant to a car; and, according to Lucian, he brought not only gems, but the bones of elephants from Ethiopia, which were deposited in the temple of Dea Syria.

Throughout the Iliad of Homer, ivory is but once mentioned, and that notice occurs in the description of the bit of a horse's bridle, belonging to a Trojan. But in the Odyssey, the palace of Menelaus, after his return from his voyages in Egypt and Phœnicia, is enriched with ornaments of ivory, as well as amber and gold. Of the union of gold and ivory of the Greeks and Romans in works of art, we have many accounts.

Ancient historians, such as Diodorus, the Sicilian, relate the following tale:—Semiramis, the Assyrian Queen, longed for the conquest of India,

but dreaded the elephants which Stabrobates, the king she purposed attacking, could bring into the field. She therefore directed 300,000 black oxen to be slain, and of the skins, sewn together and stuffed with straw, artificial elephants to be formed, so that each one might be carried by a camel, and directed by a man. All this being secretly done, and the horses of the army familiarized with the machines, Semiramis took the field at the head of an immense force of cavalry and infantry. Stabrobates, meanwhile, had increased the number of his elephants, and furnished them completely with offensive and defensive armor. He sent ambassadors to the Queen with protests against her invasion and threats of her destruction, but her reply was a smile, and proceeding to the Indus she sank a thousand of his vessels, and took a great number of captives. Stabrobates feigned a panic, and fled; the feint took; Semiramis crossed the river, and pursued the Indians with the greater part of her forces.

In her front she placed the artificial elephants. Stabrobates repented of his retreat when he heard of their number, but he was comforted by the tidings of deserters as to their true character. Semiramis, supposing the cheat undiscovered, led on the attack; the machines frightened the horses so that they threw their riders, or rushed with them among the enemy. But vain was the contention when the true elephants of Stabrobates came up; dreadful was the carnage. The Assyrians fled, and the life of their Queen, pierced in the arm by one of his arrows, and in the shoulder by one of his darts, was only saved by the fleetness of her horse.

Palaces and Thrones of Ivory.

The Scriptures contain no allusion to the elephant till the time of David, when we find mention is made of "ivory palaces." In the reign of Solomon ivory was imported by the vessels of Tharshish from India, with other productions of that country. We read of "a great throne of ivory," and afterwards of "benches and horns" of the same substance, as it formed part of the merchandise of "the proud city" of Tyre.

Half a century after the death of Alexander, in the battle of Heraclea (B. C. 280), were—

Cuirassiers all in steel for standing fight,
Chariots, and elephants indorsed with towers
Of archers.

It is stated in the history of the Maccabees, that in the army of Antiochus "to every elephant they appointed a thousand men, armed with coats of mail, and five hundred horsemen of the best; these were ready on every occasion; wherever the beast was, and whithersoever he went,

they went also; and upon the elephants were strong towers of wood, filled with armed men, besides the Indian that ruled them."

Hannibal crossed the Alps with elephants, considering them indispensable to the conduct of the war; and when they perished he was supplied with large reinforcements from Carthage. At the battle of Cannæ (B. C. 216), the incidents occurred which are thus given by Silius Italicus:

The yet prevailing Roman, to withstand
 The fury of these monsters, gives command
 That burning torches, wheresoe'er they go,
 Should be opposed, and sulph'rous flames to throw
 Into their towers. This, with all speed, obey'd,
 The elephants they suddenly invade;
 Whose smoking backs with flames collected shined,
 That, driven on by the tempestuous wind,
 Through their high bulwarks fire devouring spread,
 As when on Rhodope or Pindus' head
 A shepherd scatters fire, and through the groves
 And woods, like a hot plague, it raging moves,
 The leafy rocks are fired, and all the hills,
 Leaping now here, now there, bright Vulcan fills.
 But when the burning sulphur once begun
 To parch their skins, th' unruly monsters run
 Like mad, and drive the cohorts from their stand;
 Neither durst any undertake at hand
 To fight them; but their darts and javelins throw
 At distance: burning, they impatient grow,
 And, through the heat of their vast bodies, here
 And there, the flames increasing bear;
 Till, by the smooth adjoining stream, at last
 Deceiv'd themselves, into 't they headlong cast;
 And with them all their flames, that still appear
 'Bove the tall banks, till, both together, there,
 In the deep channel of the flood, expire.

In stately show these animals bore a conspicuous part:

Trampling the snows
 The war-horse reared, and the towered elephant
 Upturned his trunk into the murky sky.

In the year 802 an elephant was sent to Charlemagne by Haroun Al Raschid, caliph of the Saracens. Milton has said:

The unwieldy elephant
 To make them mirth used all his might, and wreath'd
 His lithe proboscis;

and, according to Ælianus, the elephants of Germanicus were trained to take part in the performances of the Roman theatre. On one occasion twelve of the most sagacious and well-trained were selected, which marched

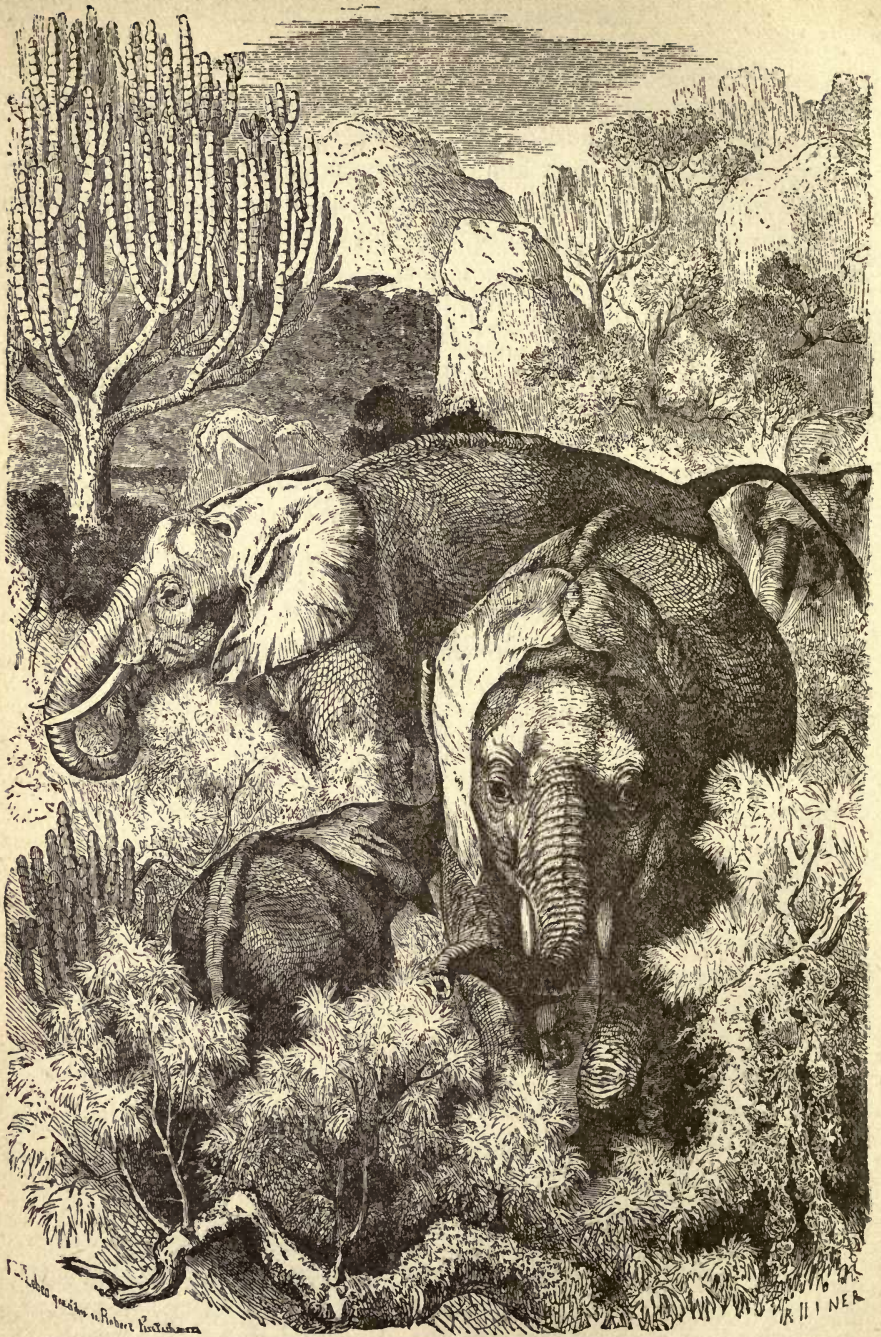
into the theatre with a regular step at the voice of their keeper, sometimes in a circle, and sometimes divided into parties, scattering flowers over the pavement. The Romans, after this display, feasted the elephants with prodigal luxury. Splendid couches were placed in the arena, ornamented with paintings, and covered with tapestry. Before the couches, upon tables of ivory and cedar, was spread the banquet of the elephants, in vessels of gold and silver.

On the preparations being completed, the twelve elephants marched in, six males clad in the robes of men, and six females attired as women. They laid down in order on their couches, and at a signal extended their trunks and ate with praiseworthy moderation. Not one of them appeared the least voracious, or manifested any disposition for an unequal share of the food or an undue proportion of the delicacies. They were as moderate also in their drink, and received the cups that were presented to them with the greatest decorum.

Elephants on the Tight Rope.

According to Pliny, at the spectacles given by Germanicus, it was not an uncommon thing to see elephants hurl javelins in the air, and catch them in their trunks, fight with one another as gladiators, and then execute a Pyrrhic dance. Lastly, they danced upon a rope, and their steps were so practised and certain, that four of them traversed the rope, or rather parallel ropes, bearing a litter, which contained one of their companions, who feigned to be sick. Such feats seem scarcely credible, but many ancient writers of authority agree with Pliny, that the elephants trained at Rome would not only walk forward along a rope, but retire backward with equal precision. And Busbequius, who visited Constantinople about the middle of the sixteenth century, there witnessed an elephant not only dance with accuracy and elegance, but play at ball with great skill, tossing it with his trunk and catching it again, as easily as a man could with his hands. An old writer tells us that Cæsar, having attempted, unsuccessfully, to cross the Thames, covered a large elephant which he had with him with a coat of mail, built a large turret on his back, and filling it with bowmen and slingers, ordered them to pass first into the stream. The Britons were terrified at the sight of this unknown and monstrous animal, and fled in the wildest confusion.

Matthew Paris relates that, about the year 1255, an elephant was sent over to England as a grand present from the King of France to Henry III. ; and states that it was believed to be the first and only elephant ever seen in England, or even on that side the Alps; and that, consequently, the people flocked in large numbers to behold so great a novelty on its arrival.



Painted from nature in the East Indies

R. H. NEA

ELEPHANTS IN THEIR NATIVE JUNGLE.

Among the Close Rolls, one of about this date is extant, in which the Sheriff of Kent is ordered to proceed to Dover in person to arrange in what manner the king's elephant might be most conveniently brought over, and to provide a ship, and other things necessary to convey it; and directing that, if the king's mariners judged it practicable, it should be brought to London by water. Another order was shortly after issued to the sheriffs of London, commanding them to cause to be built, without delay, in the Tower of London, a house, forty feet in length and twenty in breadth, for the king's elephant; and directing that it should be so strongly constructed that, whenever there should be need, it might be adapted to and used for other purposes. Next year, the king, in like manner, commanded the sheriff "to find the said elephant and his keeper such necessaries as should be reasonable and needful."

The Huge Animal's Sagacity.

The tame elephant soon becomes reconciled to other domestic quadrupeds. He has been said to be afraid of the horse, but the experience of Sir Emerson Tennent favors the belief that it is the horse which is alarmed at the aspect of the elephant. Of this fact he records an instance, which we quote, because it illustrates at the same time the peculiar sagacity of the great animal, and illustrates also the disposition to make good use of his tusks, when he happens to have them: One evening, whilst riding in the vicinity of Kandy, my horse evinced some excitement at a noise which approached us in the thick jungle, and which consisted of a repetition of the ejaculation *urmph! urmph!* in a hoarse and dissatisfied tone. A turn in the forest explained the mystery, by bringing me face to face with a tame elephant, unaccompanied by any attendant. He was laboring painfully to carry a heavy beam of timber, which he balanced across his tusks; but the pathway being narrow, he was forced to bend his head on one side to permit it to pass endways; and the exertion and inconvenience combined, led him to utter the dissatisfied sounds which disturbed the composure of my horse. On seeing us halt, the elephant raised his head, reconnoitered us for a moment then threw down the timber, and forced himself backwards among the brushwood, so as to leave a passage, of which he expected us to avail ourselves. My horse still hesitated, the elephant observed it, and impatiently thrust himself still deeper into the jungle, repeating his cry of *urmph!* in a voice evidently meant to encourage us to come on. Still the horse trembled; and, anxious to observe the instinct of the two sagacious creatures, I forbore any interference—again the elephant wedged himself further in amongst the trees, and waited impatiently for us to pass him; and after the horse

had done so tremblingly and timidly, I saw the wise creature stoop and take up his heavy burden, trim and balance it on his tusks, and resume his route, hoarsely snorting, as before, his discontented remonstrance.

An Elephant's Revenge.

An elephant is said never to forget an insult. Wolf, in his "Voyage to Ceylon," relates the following anecdote: A person in that island, who lived near a place where elephants were daily led to water, and often sat at the door of his house, used occasionally to give one of these animals some fig-leaves—a food to which elephants are very partial. Once he took it into his head to play the elephant a trick. He wrapped a stone round with fig-leaves, and said to the driver, "This time I will give him a stone to eat, and see how it will agree with him." The driver answered, that the elephant would not be fool enough to swallow a stone. The man, however, handed the stone to the elephant, which, taking it with his trunk, immediately let it fall to the ground. "You see," said the keeper, "that I was right;" and, without further words, drove away his elephants. After they were watered, he was conducting them again to their stable. The man who had played the elephant the trick was still sitting at his door, when, before he was aware, the animal ran at him, threw his trunk around his body, and, dashing him to the ground, trampled him immediately to death.

The tenderest affection, it may be remarked, appears to subsist between the elephant and the calf. When merchants bring elephants to any place for sale, it is a pleasant sight to see them go along. There are old and young together, and when the old are gone by, the children run after the little ones, and leap upon their backs, giving them something to eat; but they, perceiving their dams are gone forward, throw the children off without hurting them, and double their pace. Bruce mentions that a young elephant came boldly out to defend its wounded mother, and ran upon the men and horses, heedless of its own life or safety, till one of the hunters ran it through with a lance.

Peculiar Instincts of the Great Beast.

The head of the African is smaller, rounder, more elongated, and less irregular than is that of the Asiatic kind; the ears are nearly twice as large, and the tail not above half the length. On the banks of the Fish river this animal abounds. As many as three thousand in a troop have been seen in that locality; indeed, the surrounding country appears to have been the abode of elephants for ages, the paths or beaten roads made by them intersecting it in all directions.

Of one territory, comprising an irregular area of about two million

acres, from which the Kaffirs were expelled, and which was resorted to by wild animals in considerable numbers, Pringle gives the following highly graphic account :

The upper part of this extensive tract is an exceedingly wild and bewildering region, broken into innumerable ravines, encumbered with rocks and precipices, and impenetrable woods and jungles, and surrounded on almost every side by lofty and sterile mountains. During our first day's journey, although we saw many herds of large game, such as quaggas, gnus, hartebeests, koodoos, with a variety of smaller antelopes, there was no appearance of elephants; but in the course of the second day, as we pursued our route down the valley of the Koonap river, we became aware that a numerous troop of these gigantic animals had recently preceded, as footprints of all dimensions, from eight to fifteen inches in diameter, where everywhere visible; and in the swampy spots on the banks of the river it was evident that some of them had been luxuriously enjoying themselves, by rolling their unwieldy bulks in the ooze and mud.

But it was in the groves and jungles that they had left the most striking proofs of their recent presence and peculiar habits. In many places paths had been trodden through the midst of dense, strong forests, otherwise impenetrable. They appeared to have opened these paths with great judgment, always taking the best and straightest cut to the next open savanna, or ford of the river; and in this way they were of the greatest use to us, by pioneering our route through a most difficult and intricate country, never yet traversed by a wheel-carriage, and great part of it, indeed, inaccessible even on horseback, except for the aid of these powerful and sagacious animals.

In such places (as the Hottentots assured me) the great bull elephants always march in the van, bursting through the jungle as a bullock would through a field of hops, treading down the thorny brushwood, and breaking with his proboscis the larger branches that obstruct his passage; the females and younger part of the herd follow in his wake in single file; and in this manner a path is cleared through the densest woods and forests, such as it would take the pioneers of an army no small labor to accomplish.

Almost Fatal Adventure.

A little squadron, engaged in surveys of Africa, Arabia, and Madagascar, on taking leave of the latter island, proceeded to the Bay of Delagoa. A party set out to ascend one of the rivers, for the purpose of hunting the hippopotamus. Whilst they were in quest of the haunts of these huge

animals, a shrill, angry scream reached their ears, and, presently a midshipman, rushed from the reeds, his face covered with blood, calling loudly



NATIVES OF SOUTH AFRICA CAPTURING AN ELEPHANT.

for assistance to Lieutenant Arlett, who had just been attacked by an elephant. The party proceeded to the spot, and found their unfortunate

comrade stretched motionless on his back, covered with blood and dirt, and his eyes starting from their sockets, in all the expressive horror of a violent death. It was some time before he showed any symptoms of life; they succeeded, however, in carrying him on board, where he gradually recovered; and, when he became sufficiently collected, he gave an account of what had befallen him, which shows the extraordinary sagacity of the elephant, even in its wild state. At the first approach of the animal, he thought he had stumbled on an enormous hippopotamus.

Struck Senseless to the Ground.

The animal, which appeared highly irritated at the intrusion, waved its trunk in the air, and, the moment he spoke, reared up on its hind legs, turned short round, and, with a shrill, passionate cry, rushed after him, bearing down the opposing reeds in his way, while Lieutenant Arlett vainly attempted to effect his escape. For a short time he had hopes of eluding his pursuer, as the animal perceived one of the seamen mounted on the top of a tree, about twenty feet high, and three in circumference, menacing him by his voice and gestures while preparing to fire. The elephant turned short round, and, shrieking with rage, made a kind of spring against the tree, as if to reach the object of his attack, when his ponderous weight brought the whole to the ground, but, fortunately, without hurting the man, who slipped among the reeds. The ferocious animal still followed him, foaming with rage, to the rising bank of the river, the man crying loudly, "An elephant! an elephant!" until, closely pressed by his pursuer, both the man and the elephant came upon the top of the slope, where the party, who had heard his cries, were prepared, and instantly fired a volley as the elephant appeared. This made him return with increased fury to Arlett, who, in his eagerness to escape, stumbled and fell—the huge beast running over him, and severely bruising his ankle.

As soon as he had passed, Arlett arose, and limping with pain, attempted once more to retreat, but the animal returned to the attack; his trunk was flourished in the air, and the next moment the unfortunate officer was struck senseless to the ground. On recovering himself, his situation appeared hopeless, his huge antagonist standing over him, chafing and screaming with rage, pounding the earth with his feet, and ploughing it with his tusks. When the party first saw them, Arlett was lying between the elephant's legs, and had it been the intention of the animal to destroy him, placing a foot on his senseless body would, in a moment, have crushed him to atoms; but it is probable that his object was only to punish and alarm, not to kill—such conjecture being perfectly in accordance with the character of this noble but revengeful beast.

Lieutenant Moodie, in his amusing "Ten Years in South Africa," gives the following account of his elephant hunting :

Some months after forming my new settlement, I engaged a Hottentot to shoot elephants and buffaloes for me, on condition of receiving half of the profits. This man, who was called Jan Wildeman, was a most expert hunter, rarely failing to kill on the spot whatever he fired at. He was a complete wild man of the woods, and had as many wiles as a fox in escaping the dangers to which he was daily exposed. His activity was most extraordinary ; and I was often surprised at his nimbleness in climbing the highest trees to get at wild vines growing over their tops. While I was considering how I could get up, he would take hold of one of the "baboon's ropes," as they are called, which hang in festoons from the branches, and, in a few seconds, he would be perched like a crow on the top, enjoying my surprise, and flinging down whole bunches of the fruit. Though naturally timid, he had acquired, by long practice, such entire confidence in the correctness of his aim, that he would go right up to an elephant in the woods, and bring him down with the first shot. Sometimes, however, his gun would miss fire, when he would betake himself to his heels, and, by his agility, never failed to effect his escape.

"Where'll We Run?"

Wildeman came to inform me, one evening, that he had shot three elephants and a buffalo ; and that there was a young elephant still remaining with the body of its dead mother, which he thought might be caught and brought home alive. There happened to be two friends with me from the district of Albany, who had never seen an elephant, and whom, therefore, I persuaded to accompany me.

As soon as we had finished our breakfast, we set off, accompanied by Jan Wildeman, my Hottentot, Speulman, and their wives, to assist in cutting up the buffalo, and carrying the flesh home. Entering the forest, Jan first brought us to the carcass of the buffalo. He next led us to one of the elephants he had killed, and showed us the place whence he had fired. The ball had entered the shoulder in the slanting direction, and passed through the heart. This was an exceedingly difficult shot, as he required to be very near to hit the right place, for the ball to penetrate through such a mass of skin and flesh.

After following several of the paths made by these animals and struggling through the tangled mazes of the forest, we ascended a steep, sandy ridge, covered with low bushes, near the shore, and, on reaching the top, we came in sight of the carcass of another of the elephants, and the young one standing by it. A few paces from it, we saw a large elephant

browsing among the low bushes. He smelt us as soon as we appeared on the top of the hill; and throwing up his trunk, and spreading his huge ears, uttered a most discordant cry. "Gownatsi!" ejaculated Jan Wildeman, "that's the rascal that gave me so much trouble yesterday; he's as cunning as the devil." The dogs instantly assailed the animal, and, after several ineffectual attempts to seize them with his trunk, he made off. The dogs now attacked the young elephant, and chased him up the steep, sandy hill where we were standing. My visitors, who were unaccustomed to large game, were exceedingly agitated. They had brought a gun with them, for form's sake, but had neglected to load it. One of them, who was a Scotsman, seized me by the coat, and cried out, in great agony—"Eh, man! whaur'll we rin?—whaur'll we rin?" It was no use telling him that there was not any danger, for he still kept fast hold of me, saying, "What! nae danger, man, and the beest comin' right up amang us? I say, man, what'll we do? Whaur'll we rin?" The women instinctively ran and squatted behind the bushes.

The Game Escapes.

As soon as I could break loose from the grasp of my countryman, I ran to endeavor to seize the young elephant by the trunk, and Speelman took his stand on the opposite side for the same purpose. I was astonished at the nimbleness with which the animal ascended the steep hill. As he approached the spot where we stood, we found he was much older than we expected, and, after making an ineffectual attempt to get hold of his trunk, we were obliged to give him a free passage between us. I now picked up my gun, and gave chase to him; but he ran so fast that I could not overtake him.

I was well pleased we had not succeeded in seizing him, as, in all probability, he would have done us some serious injury with his tusks, which were just appearing at the root of the trunk. When they are only a few days old, there is no difficulty in catching them, and they become docile almost immediately.

Elephants are still numerous in the interior, and are killed both by the Kaffirs and the Boers. The elephant hunt seems to have peculiar fascination for the latter—men and boys, from the age of fourteen to seventy, following the exciting sport. An Englishman, however, is said to bear away the palm as the most fearless hunter; for, during one year, he remained in the Veldt without cover for nearly three months, accompanied by two half-caste servants. These three are said to have killed, during that period, seventy elephants, the tusks of which weighed three thousand pounds! Ivory is exported by these Boers in large quantities; those of

Zautpansberg alone, in the short space of three months, having brought sixty thousand pounds, Dutch weight, or nearly thirty tons.

A Miraculous Escape.

William Charles Baldwin, in his book on "African Hunting from Natal to the Zambesi," relates two very thrilling adventures with elephants. He says: Meeting upon one occasion five bull elephants, I gave chase, singled and drove out the largest, and gave him a couple of pills to make him quiet; he shortly turned and stood at bay, about forty yards off, and then came on with a terrific charge. My newly purchased horse, Kebon, which I was riding for the first time, stood stock still, and I intended to give the elephant my favorite shot in the chest, but at every attempt to raise the gun for the purpose of so doing my horse commenced tossing his head up and down, and entirely prevented me from taking aim. During my attempts to pacify and steady him, the bull charged, and I fired at random, and whether the ball whistled uncomfortably near the horse's ear or not I can't say, but he gave his head so sudden a jerk as to throw the near rein over on the off-side; the curb-chain came undone, and the bit turned right round in his mouth.

The huge monster was less than twenty yards off, ears erected like two enormous fans, and trumpeting furiously. Having no command whatever of my horse, I dug the long rowels in most savagely, when Kebon sprang straight forward for the brute, and I thought it was all up; I leaned over on the off-side as far as possible, and his trunk was within a few feet of me as I shot close by him. I plied the rowels, and was brought again to a sudden stand by three mapani-trees, in a sort of triangle; a vigorous dig, and he got through, my right shoulder coming so violently in contact with one of the trees as almost to unhorse me, slewing my right arm behind my back, over my left hip. I know not how I managed to stick to my gun, 14 lbs. weight, with my middle finger only hooked through the trigger-guard, my left hand right across my chest, holding by the end of the reins, which, most fortunately I had in my hand when I fired, and in this fashion we went at a tearing gallop through a thick tangled bush and underwood, mostly hack-thorns, over which my nag jumped like a buck.

He was very nearly on his head three or four times, as the soil was very heavy, sandy, and full of holes. The monster was all this time close in my wake; at length I got clear from him, and he turned and made off in the opposite direction at his best pace. As soon as I could pull up, which I managed after performing three or four circles, I jumped off, righted my bridle, and went after him like the wind, as he had a long start, and I was

afraid of losing him in thick bush. After giving him ten shots, and sustaining three more savage charges, the last a long and silent one, far from



BALDWIN CHASED BY AN ELEPHANT.

pleasant, as my horse had all the puff taken out of him, and he could only manage to hold his own before the brute, to my great satisfaction he at length fell, to rise no more.

The other incident is as follows: We found a troop of eleven or twelve bull elephants in a thick hack-thorn bush on the banks of the river. As they crashed away I rode hard in the rear, shouting lustily, and singled out the largest bull. I rode close under his stern, and he cleared a path for me. He turned to see who had the audacity to ride so near, for the horse's nose touched him, when I gave him a bullet behind the shoulder, and cleared out of his path. In reloading I lost him, and, cantering on his spoor, he very nearly caught me, as he had stopped and turned round just where the path turned suddenly and sharply to the right, and I was almost under his very trunk ere I saw him.

Running for Dear Life.

He was lying in wait, and made a terrific charge, trumpeting furiously; the horse whirled like a top, and away I went, with both rowels deep in his flanks as I threw myself on his neck. It was a very near shave; his trunk was over the horse's hind-quarters. I went through bush that, in cold blood, I should have pronounced impenetrable, but did not come off scatheless; my poor hands were shockingly torn, and my trowsers, from the knee, literally in shreds, though made of goatskin. After giving the elephant two more bullets I lost him. The dogs were frightened to death, and would not leave the horse's heels.

I shortly came across another troop of bulls, which started off against the wind, leaving such a dust behind them that I was half smothered. I went, at last, a little wide of them, on the weather-side, and was able to get a view of their tusks, and I rode out one with beautiful long tusks. He very soon lessened his speed, turned, and before I was aware, charged me. I could not turn in time, and, therefore, fired right between his eyes. The shot struck him about an inch above the left eye, and brought him on one knee, and I was able to get out of his way. He then took up a position in the bush, and I loaded and gave him two more bullets in the head, one in the centre of his forehead.

He kept backing farther and farther into the bush, with his two enormous ears erected like fans, and, as I was thinking the last shot must tell on him, he made the longest and most furious charge I ever saw; he fairly hunted me, while I was half loaded, clear away. I rode in a circle to endeavor to dodge him, and at length succeeded. He stopped at last, and I began to reload. I had none but conical balls, and the gun was foul. I could not get one down. I sought in vain for a stone, and at length, in despair, took up a thick branch, and, what with hammering the ramrod, and driving it against the trunk of a tree, I at length got the bullet home: but my elephant had made good use of his time and got away.

Rhinoceroses are found in the same regions of the Old World as those inhabited by the elephants; they live like them in the forests, and feed exclusively upon coarse herbage and the leafy twigs of trees and shrubs. They appear, as a general rule, to be peaceable animals, unless irritated; in this case they charge with great fury upon their enemy, holding the head down, so as to present the point of the horn toward him. They are generally hunted merely for the sake of sport, but the natives of the countries inhabited by them kill them for the flesh; walking sticks of great beauty are cut out of their thick hides, and their horns are worked into boxes and drinking-cups, to the latter of which the eastern nations attribute the power of detecting poison in any fluid put into them.

Gigantic Creature Clad in Armor.

The most celebrated is the Indian rhinoceros. Of this the head and neck are rather short; the eye is small and lateral, and the animal cannot see in front, more particularly when the horn is full-grown, as it stands in the way of vision. The body is about nine feet long and five feet high; in its structure it is peculiarly massive, heavy, and hog-like, and often weighs six thousand pounds. It has a single horn from two to three feet long. The skin is of an earth color, hard and thick, and often turns a musket bullet; its surface is rough, especially on the croup and down the fore-shoulders; its folds are very distinct, and resemble plate armor. It is almost wholly destitute of hair, except at the tip of the tail and on the margins of the ears. This species inhabits Hindostan, Siam, and Cochin China; shady and marshy places in the neighborhood of rivers being its chosen haunts. It is fond of wallowing in the mire somewhat in the manner of hogs. Its food consists of grass and branches of trees. The flesh is not unpalatable.

This powerful animal, living amid the tall, rank vegetation of the jungles of India, and especially along the marshy borders of the Ganges, the Burrampooter, and other great rivers, is commonly hunted with the aid of elephants. They are usually found in small herds of four to six, led on by the most powerful among the troop. Their first instinct is to fly from such an attack, but if hard pressed they rush upon the elephants and seek to thrust the nose beneath the belly and rip them up by a fierce toss of the horn. The elephants, however, avoid this movement, and turning the back, receive the shock in that quarter, usually with little damage. Often, however, the impetus of the rhinoceros precipitates the elephant in a headlong plunge to the ground, and finding this to succeed, he will repeat the operation several times in succession. Formerly it was found that the hide of the rhinoceros was impenetrable to ordinary

musket balls; they are now easily brought down by larger and harder bullets.

The Indian rhinoceros is that usually brought to Europe and America, and which we are familiar with in the manageries; it is also that which is best known in history. The Romans became acquainted with it toward the close of the republic, and Pompey introduced it into the circus. It also figured in the triumphal procession of Augustus with Cleopatra—the beautiful Queen of Egypt and the hoggish rhinoceros combining to swell the pomp of the victor! Representations of this animal also appear on various coins of this period, and in the mosaics of Rome.

Old Story of a Famous Fight.

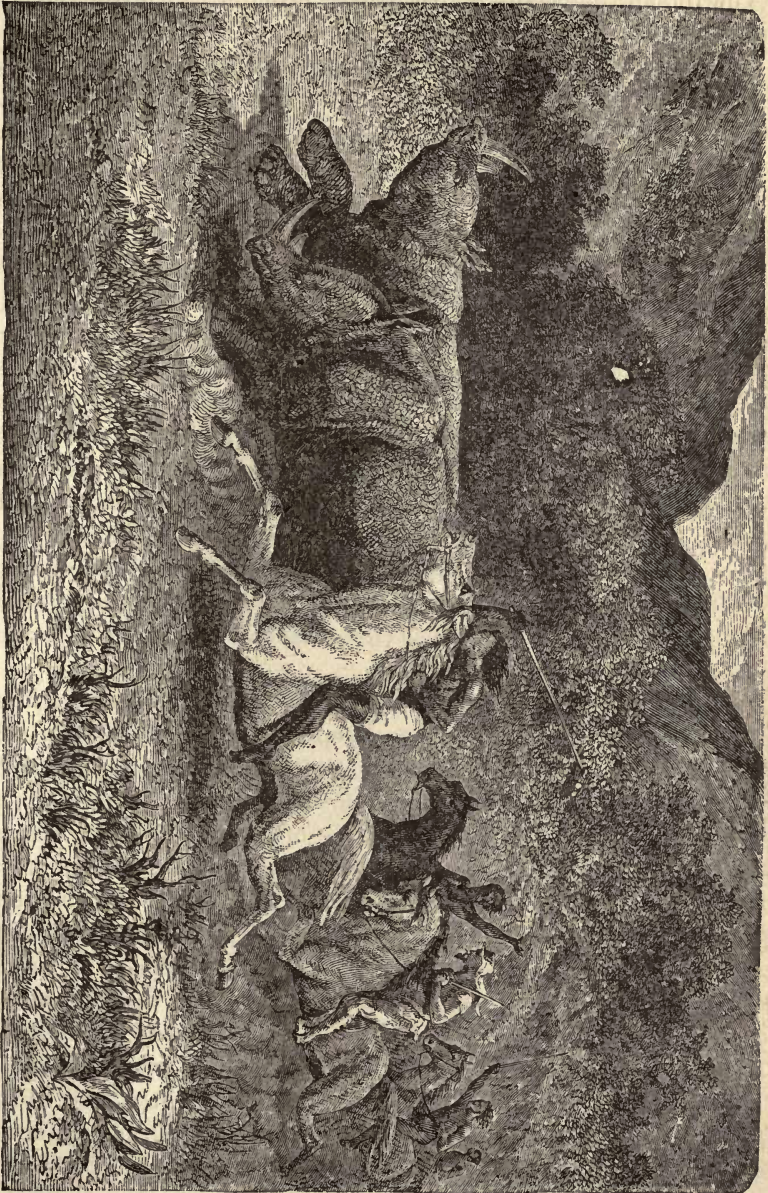
In the fanciful tales of the Arabian Nights a curious passage tells us that the rhinoceros fought with the elephant, pierced his belly with his horn, and carried him off on his head; but the fat and the blood filled his eyes and rendered him entirely blind, so that he fell prostrate on the earth. In this state of things a huge bird came and carried them both off to his young ones in his prodigious talons. It is curious to trace the threads of truth even in the wildest popular fiction: the manner of fighting here imputed to the rhinoceros is according to nature, and as to the roc—a bird as big as a village windmill—late discoveries have shown the bones of extinct species twelve or fourteen feet high, the traditions of which may well have been wrought into this gigantic feathered monster, which, the story says, flew away with both animals.

Both varieties of the African black rhinoceros are extremely fierce and dangerous, and rush headlong and unprovoked at any object which attracts their attention. They never attain much fat, and their flesh is tough, and not much esteemed by the Bechuanas. Their food consists almost entirely of the thorny branches of the wait-a-bit thorns. Their horns are much shorter than those of the other varieties, seldom exceeding eighteen inches in length. They are finely polished by constant rubbing against the trees. The skull is remarkably formed, its most striking feature being the tremendous, thick ossification in which it ends above the nostrils. It is on this mass that the horn is supported. The horns are not connected with the skull, being attached merely by the skin, and they may thus be separated from the head by means of a sharp knife. They are hard, and perfectly solid throughout, and are a fine material for various articles, such as drinking-cups, mallets for rifles, and handles for turners' tools. The horn is capable of a very high polish.

The eyes of the rhinoceros are small and sparkling, but do not readily

observe the hunter, provided he keep to leeward of them. The skin is extremely thick, and only to be penetrated with bullets hardened with

HUNTING THE AFRICAN RHINOCEROS.



solder. During the day, the rhinoceros will be found lying asleep, or standing indolently in some retired part of the forest, or under the base

of the mountains, sheltered from the power of the sun by some friendly grove of umbrella-topped mimosas. In the evening they commence their nightly ramble, and wander over a great extent of country. They usually visit the fountains between the hours of nine and twelve o'clock at night, and it is on these occasions that they may be most successfully hunted, and with the least danger.

Spasms of Uncontrollable Fury.

The black rhinoceros is subject to paroxysms of unprovoked fury, often plowing up the ground for several yards with its horn, and assaulting large bushes in the most violent manner. On these bushes they work for hours with their horns, at the same time snorting and blowing loudly; nor do they leave them in general until they have broken them into pieces. All the four varieties delight to roll and wallow in the mud, with which their rugged hides are generally encrusted. Both varieties of the black rhinoceros are much smaller and more active than the white, and are so swift that a horse with a rider on its back can rarely overtake them, yet they are often hunted with horses. Both attain an enormous size, being the animals next in magnitude to the elephant. They feed solely on grass, carry much fat, and their flesh is excellent, being preferable to beef. They are of a much milder and more inoffensive disposition than the black rhinoceros, rarely charging their pursuer. Their speed is very inferior to that of the other varieties, and a person well mounted can overtake and shoot them.

The description of the famous rhinoceros birds is very interesting. Before I could fire, says a well-known explorer, several "rhinoceros birds" by which he was attended warned him of his impending danger by sticking their bills into his ear, and uttering their harsh, grating cry. Thus aroused, he suddenly sprang to his feet, and crashed away through the jungle at a rapid trot, and I saw no more of him.

These rhinoceros birds are constant attendants upon the hippopotamus and the four varieties of rhinoceros, their object being to feed upon the ticks and other parasitic insects that swarm upon these animals. They are of a grayish color, and are nearly as large as a common thrush; their voice is very similar to that of a mistletoe thrush. Many a time have these ever-watchful birds disappointed me in my stalk, and tempted me to invoke an anathema upon their devoted heads. They are the best friends the rhinoceros has, and rarely fail to awaken him, even in his soundest nap. "Chukuroo" perfectly understands their warning, and, springing to his feet, he generally first looks about him in every direction, after which he invariably makes off.

If we examine the skull of a rhinoceros, we shall find that just under the place where the root of the horn lies, there is a peculiar development of the bone on which the weight of the horn rests. Now, it is well known that of all forms intended to support great weight, the arch is the strongest. Such, then, is the form of the bone which supports the horn; and in order to prevent the jar on the brain which would probably injure the animal when making violent strokes with the horn, one side of the arch is left unsupported by its pillar; so that the whole apparatus presents the appearance of a strong bony spring, which, although very powerful, would yield sufficiently on receiving a blow to guard the animal from the shock which would occur, were the horn to be placed directly on the skull. Such a structure as this is not needed in the case of the elephant, as that animal never strikes violently with its tusks, as the rhinoceros does with its horn.

That such is the intention of the structure is well shown by a curious circumstance that took place during a rhinoceros-hunt, and which shows that the animal can suffer severely from a blow on the horn, if that blow is given in a different method from that which the creature is in the habit of enduring.

Some hunters were engaged in the pursuit of the rhinoceros, and had roused one of the animals from the thicket in which it was engaged in rubbing itself against the trees, after the usual fashion of the creature.

Method of Attack.

The skin, although thick, is very sensitive between the folds, and suffers much from the attacks of the mosquitoes and flies. The rhinoceros, to allay the irritation, rubs against trees, and has a curious custom of grunting loudly while performing this operation, and thus guides the hunter to its place of refuge. They are thus enabled to steal through the underwood unperceived, as the animal is too much engaged rubbing his sides to pay any attention to sounds which would at any other time send him off in alarm. By crawling along the ground, after the manner of serpents, they generally contrive to inflict a mortal wound before he is aware of their presence.

In the present case, the hunters were endeavoring to act in the same manner, but the intended victim became alarmed, broke through the wood, and made the best of his way towards a large cane-brake about two miles distant. The whole party pursued him, and the poor animal was speedily converted into a living pincushion, the place of the pins being supplied by spears.

The number and severity of the wounds appear to have confused his brain, for instead of keeping his straight course toward the canes, he



INFURIATED RHINOCEROS CHARGING ON HUNTERS.

turned off short, and dashed into a narrow gully without any exit. The ravine was so narrow that he broke to pieces many of the protruding

spears as he rushed in, and when he had fairly entered, there was barely room to turn. The assailants now had it all their own way, and one of them standing on the brink of the ravine took aim at his head, and stretched him on the ground apparently lifeless. All the hunters now jumped into the ravine, and set to work at cutting him up. But scarcely had they commenced when the animal recovered from his wound, and struggled upon his knees. Out went the hunters as fast as they could, and had it not been for the presence of mind of one of them, who hamstrung the rhinoceros before he ran away, in all probability several of the men would have forfeited their lives.

Curiosity induced the hunters to search for the wound that had thus stunned the animal, and they naturally expected to find the track of a ball through the brain, or, at all events, a wound on the skull; but after some search they found that the ball had only struck the point of the foremost horn, and had carried off about an inch of it.

This is a very curious circumstance, because the blow was a comparatively slight one, and the shocks which the animal inflicts upon itself in the daily occurrences of life must be very severe indeed. But the whole structure of the head and horn is intended to resist heavy blows, while it is not capable of sustaining a sharp, smart shock without conveying the impression to the brain.

A Costly Boarder.

About a hundred and fifty years ago, one of these big beasts was brought to London from Bengal. He was a very costly animal; though only two years old five thousand dollars were expended in providing him with food and drink. Every day he ate seven pounds of rice mixed with three pounds of sugar, divided into three portions. He also ate plentifully of hay, but he much preferred fresh vegetables, grass, and herbs. He drank a great deal of water. He was so quiet and well-behaved, that he let people handle him, unless he was annoyed, or wanted his breakfast. The well-known specimen in the Zoological Gardens in London couldn't bear the noise of the roller used in keeping the gravel pathway in order which adjoined his den; his hearing was very quick, so that even while enjoying his dinner he stopped, and started aside, to listen.

Bingley gives the following account of a rhinoceros brought to England in 1790. It was then about five years old. It was somewhat tamed; it would walk about when desired to do so by its keeper; it would let visitors pat its back. Its daily allowance was twenty-eight pounds of clover, the same quantity of ship biscuit, and an enormous amount of greens. It was fond of sweet wines, and would drink four or five bottles in

a few hours. He made nothing of drinking fifteen pails of water in the course of a day. If he saw a person with fruit or any food that he was fond of, he would ask for a share, in a very pretty manner for so huge a beast, making a noise somewhat like the bleating of a calf. He died of inflammation, caused by slipping the joint of one of his fore legs. Some doctors made openings in his skin, in order to relieve his pain. These were always found quite healed up in the course of twenty-four hours.



CAMP ATTACKED BY "FIRE-EATING RHINOCEROS."

His death happened near Portsmouth, and the mayor ordered him to be buried on the common at Southsea. A fortnight afterwards some naturalists dug up the remains to preserve the skin and the most valuable of the bones, but the diggers were nearly overpowered by the stench of the body.

There is no doubt that the elephant and rhinoceros sometimes fight together madly, when they are in a wild state. Some years ago there was a specimen in the Regent's Park Gardens, that contrived to get into the

den of an old elephant there. They were afterwards the best friends in the world, and it was amusing to see how quiet the rhinoceros would stand whilst his great friend scrubbed his back with his trunk, and occasionally gratified himself by a sly pull at his tail, to make the rhinoceros turn his head, if his attention was taken off by visitors.

We have said that the horn is not fastened to the skull, but simply connected with his skin. It is not generally known that it can be removed by passing a sharp knife round its base. The skin is so strong and thick, that it can only be pierced by bullets of a peculiar make. The negroes of Africa know this perfectly well, and make it into shields and bucklers. His playful antics are somewhat useful; thus he will poke his horn into the ground, and then driving it along at a great rate, pushing with all his mighty force and strength, he will make a furrow broader and deeper than that of a plough. Those who have watched his habits tell us that he does this, not because he is in a passion, but in the pure enjoyment of health and spirits; just as when a little boy or girl, or dog or kitten, scampers about a lawn.

Some species of this animal are wild, and can be easily tamed; the powerful Indian rhinoceros is the shyest, and the double-horned the wildest. Mason, in his work, entitled "Burmah," remarked that the common single-horned rhinoceros is very abundant. The double-horned is not uncommon in the southern provinces; and then he alludes to the fire-eater of the Burmans, as distinguished from the common single-horned kind. The fire-eating rhinoceros, he tells us, is so called from its attacking the night fires of travellers, scattering the burning embers, and doing other mischief, being attracted by unusual noises, instead of fleeing from them as most wild animals do. Professor Oldham's camp-fire was attacked by a rhinoceros, which he fired at with a two-ounce ball; and three days afterwards the body was found, and proved to be of the two-horned species. The skull of that individual is now in the museum of Trinity College, Dublin. The commonest of the African rhinoceroses has been known to manifest the same propensity, and so has even the ordinary American tapir. In general, however, the Asiatic two-horned rhinoceros is an exceedingly shy and timid animal, and one of the largest size has been seen to run away from a single wild dog.

Shedding Horns and Getting New Ones.

The horns of a rhinoceros, consisting merely of agglutinated hairs, may, under rare circumstances, be shed in a mass, and subsequently renewed. A great one-horned rhinoceros living in the Zoological Garden at Moscow, did actually shed a horn, which is now in the museum of that city,

and another has since grown in its place. So the rudimentary frontal horn of the old female of the same species now in the London Zoological Gardens was roughly broken off on one occasion, and the blood flowed very profusely; but another hornlet has since been developed in its place, and there can now be no doubt that the same occasionally happens with wild animals.

Beautiful Appearance under the Microscope.

On a casual glance at a rhinoceros, the horn is the first object which strikes the eye. This projection is not a horn, but only a growth from the skin, and looks, when cut crossways, like a congeries of hairs; and if the hair be chafed towards its root, it will split up into innumerable filaments much resembling coarse horse-hair, and bearing a close similarity to the whalebone fringe of a whale's mouth.

Under the microscope a section of rhinoceros-horn presents a most beautiful appearance, and even this can be closely imitated by tying a tuft of hairs tightly together, soaking them in fine glue, suffering them to cool until they form a kind of rod, and then cutting a section like that of the rhinoceros-horn. If either of these preparations be examined with polarized light, the colors are gorgeous in the extreme.

Even in South Africa the horn of the rhinoceros is very valuable, as it can be cut into knobbed sticks which will stand almost any treatment without breaking. This property renders it especially useful for ramrods, as it is far stronger than wood, and possesses all the good properties of iron or steel without its weight or propensity to bend or break.

Savage Attack on Horses.

The power of the horn is terrific, and its efficacy has been found in several disastrous incidents. Both the African and Asiatic species are liable to sudden and unaccountable fits of anger, during which the animal will rush at any object that is near him, whether animate or inanimate, and dash it to pieces. One remarkable instance of this propensity took place at Dinapore. Some officers had gone down to the river for shooting, and had formed a small encampment by the river. Reports were rife of a neighboring rhinoceros; but they took no particular heed, for natives are seldom very truthful, and retired to rest with no fear of danger. One morning, just as they were about to rise, a great commotion was heard; and on running out to see what was the matter, they found that a rhinoceros was attacking their horses, and goring them violently. The poor horses being fastened, according to custom, were not able to resist or escape; while the natives, according to their custom, had all run away, and hidden themselves in a neighboring jungle.

There was, however, little blame to be attached to them ; for when the rhinoceros, after venting its rage on the animals, turned upon their mas-

CHARGE OF A RHINOCEROS SUDDENLY STOPPED.



ters, they, too, took to their heels, and thought themselves fortunate in finding a tree, up which they scrambled, and were for the present secure.

The rhinoceros, however, watched them for a long time, in hopes that they would descend; but on the rising of the sun, he slowly retreated into his haunts, every now and then casting an angry look over his shoulder. The brute was afterwards killed by a native hunter, who concealed himself near its hiding-place, and shot it with an iron ball from a jingall or matchlock, which carries a very large bullet, and is generally used by the natives for destroying the rhinoceros and other wild beasts. The hunter conceals himself near some place where he knows the animal will pass, and, resting his gun on the fork of a branch, he gets a steady aim, and is very seldom required to fire a second shot.

When the terrified gentlemen came down from their tree, they went to see what harm the rhinoceros had done, and found several of their horses fearfully gored. One poor animal was saddled at the time; and the horn of the rhinoceros had penetrated through saddle-flap and padding, fractured two ribs, and made an aperture through which a small hand might be passed into the horse's lungs.

Sometimes the rhinoceros attacks inanimate objects, such as bushes or trees, and assaults them in the most violent manner, not leaving them until he has broken them to pieces. Ploughing up the ground with the horn is also a favorite mode of expressing rage.

A Horse Saved by a Deadly Shot

One traveller relates that on one occasion he tied his horse to the limb of a tree, and in company with his native attendants went a short distance away, when he was horrified on returning to discover a huge rhinoceros in the very act of making a deadly charge upon the animal, and so near that the horse had already reared on his hind legs in the effort to escape. There was no time to be lost. The hunter raised his gun, took sure aim, and in an instant checked the onward rush of the enormous brute.

All rhinoceroses are fond of wallowing in mud, with which the body is not unfrequently encrusted, and their senses of hearing and smell are most acute, but not that of vision, so that they may be closely approached by keeping to leeward of them. On one occasion the wagon of a friend of Andersson was attacked by one of these animals: We heard shouting and firing, and on looking in the direction whence the noise proceeded, discovered to our horror, a rhinoceros rushing furiously at us at the top of his speed. Our only chance of escape was the wagon, into which we hurriedly flung ourselves. And it was high time that we should seek refuge, for the next instant the enraged beast struck his powerful horn into the bottom plank of the wagon with such force as to push the wagon several paces forward, although it was standing in very heavy sand. Most fortunately he

attacked the vehicle from behind; for if he had struck it at the side he could hardly have failed to upset it, ponderous as it was. From the wagon he made a rush at the fire, overturning the pot we had placed along side of it, and scattering the burning brands in every direction. Then, without doing any further damage, he proceeded on his wild career.

The flat-lipped or white rhinoceros (so called from its general pale color) is a very different animal from those of which we have been treating. It grows to more than six feet and a half high at the withers, where there is a sort of square hump, and its head has an exceedingly long anterior horn, attaining to more than four feet in length, whilst the hind horn is very short, not exceeding seven or eight inches. Its color is of such a light neutral gray, as to look nearly as white as the canvas covering of a wagon. Baines, describing a freshly-killed one, tells us that the skin was of a light pinky gray, deepening into a bluish neutral tint on parts of the head, neck, and legs. The limbs, shoulders, cheeks, and neck were marked with deep wrinkles. The mouth was very small, and the limbs were dwarfish compared with the bulk of the carcass. The eyes were small and set flat on the side of the head, with no prominence of brow, and in such a position as to discredit the assertion that the rhinoceros can see only what is straight before it. Chapman estimated the weight of one of these white rhinoceroses as being probably not less than 5000 pounds.

Timely Help for the Young Rhinoceros.

The male, he says, measures six feet eight inches at the withers, carries his head so low that his chin nearly sweeps the ground, is constantly swaying his head to the right and left when suspicious, and its calf, instead of going behind or at the side, always precedes the dam, and when fleeing is helped on by her horn or snout. The back of this animal is tolerably straight, the croup being as high, or even higher, than the withers. It moves each ear alternately backwards and forwards when excited, and the ears, when thrown forward, turn as if on a pivot so as to bring the orifice innermost. In the other African rhinoceroses the two ears are moved together, and not alternately. The ears are pointed or tufted.

This animal is of a comparatively mild and gentle disposition; and unless in defence of its young, or when hotly pursued, or wounded will very rarely attack a man. It is gregarious in families, the individuals comprising which are greatly attached to each other; and it utters a long sound, and not such a startling, whistling snort as do other species. It is an indolent creature, and becomes exceedingly fat by eating grass only.