

mains.—It is also said that a monument is to be erected in the church of Lacken to the memory of the deceased.

THE RHINOCEROS.

We have often thought that an exhibition of a very pleasing and instructive character,—certainly more pleasing and more profitable than those of deformed dwarfs, and sheep with six heads, mermaids, and other things mal-formed or manufactured,—might be arranged in illustration of the natural history of the scriptures. If any of the enterprising travellers who have recently visited Palestine and Syria, had but taken the pains to collect the materials,—a *herbarium* would have held the plants, a wallet would contain the geological and mineralogical specimens, and a few cases would have been sufficient for the birds, reptiles, and insects. The only great difficulty would have been in procuring the transit of some of the larger animals, living, to this country. But the travelling menageries and the zoological gardens would in part have obviated this difficulty, as they contain, scattered in various parts of the kingdom, several of the quadrupeds, birds, and reptiles described or adverted to in holy writ. We have been led now to mention this subject by an inspection of the Rhinoceros, from the Liverpool Zoological Gardens, which is now being exhibited in this town, as announced in our advertising columns. A short notice of this singular animal, in connexion with the allusions to it by sacred writers, and some particulars respecting the rhinoceros now here, may not, perhaps, be uninteresting to our young readers.

There appears strong reason to suppose that the rhinoceros is the animal spoken of in Numbers, Deuteronomy, the Psalms, Job, and Isaiah, under the Hebrew name of *reem*, which has been in most instances translated into English "unicorn," the Septuagint version rendering *reem* by "unoceros." The first allusion to it, (says Carpenter in his *Scripture Natural History*) is in the reply of Balaam to Balak, when importuned by the terrified king to curse the invading armies of Israel: "God brought them out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn." [Reem.] Numbers xxiii. 22.; xxiv. 8. From this it is evident that the *reem* was conceived to possess very considerable power. With this idea corresponds the passage in Isaiah [xxxiv. 7.] where the prophet associates him with other powerful animals, to symbolise the leaders and princes of the hostile nation that were destined to desolate his country: "And the unicorns shall come down with them, and the bullocks with the bulls; and their land shall be soaked with blood, and their dust made fat with fatness." From the book of Job we learn that it was not only an animal of considerable strength, but also of a very fierce and intractable disposition: "Will the unicorn be willing to serve thee, or abide by thy crib? Canst thou bind the unicorn with his band in the furrow? or wilt he harrow the valley after thee? Wilt thou trust him because his strength is great? or wilt thou leave thy labour to him? Wilt thou believe him, that he will bring home thy seed, and gather it into thy barn? ch. xxxix. 9—12. Another particular we collect from Psalm xcii. 10, namely, that the animal possesses a single horn, and that in an erect posture, unlike other horned animals. "My horn shalt thou exalt like the horn of an unicorn;" while it is evident from the following passage, that it was sometimes found with more horns than one. "His [Joseph's] horns are like the horns of an unicorn," Deut. xxxiii. 17. These are all the passages except two in which the *reem* is mentioned in scripture: these are Psalms xcii. 21., and xxix. 6. From the former of these passages we are unable to gather any additional information, and the latter will add but little to our former stock: "He maketh them also to skip like a calf; Lebanon and Sirion like a young unicorn."

It is very remarkable (observes Bruce, the traveller), that two such animals as the elephant and the rhinoceros should have wholly escaped the description of the sacred writers. Moses and the children of Israel were long in the neighbourhood of the countries which produced them both, while in Egypt and Arabia. Solomon wrote expressly on zoology, and we can scarce suppose he was ignorant of the existence of these animals, inhabitants of the great continent of Asia east from him, and that of Africa on the south. Mr. Bruce imagines the *behemoth* to be the elephant, and the *reem* to be the rhinoceros; and for the latter supposition, he argues from the following considerations:—The derivation of the word, both in Hebrew and Ethiopic, seems to be from *erectus* or *standing straight*. There is certainly no particular quality of this kind in the animal itself, which is not more, or even so much, erect as many other quadrupeds, for its knees are rather crooked; but it is from the circumstance and manner in which his horn is placed. The horns of all other animals are inclined to some degree of parallelism with the nose or *os frontis*. The horn of the rhinoceros is erect or perpendicular to this bone, on which it stands at right angles; thereby possessing a greater purchase or power as a lever, than any horn could possibly have in any other position. This situation of the horn is very happily alluded to in the sacred writing: "My horn thou shalt exalt like the horn of a *reem*." Psalms, xcii. 10. And the horn here alluded to is not wholly figurative, but was really an ornament worn by great men in the days of victory, preferment, or rejoicing, when they were anointed with new, sweet or fresh oil; a circumstance which David joins with that of erecting the horn. We have not space to follow Mr. Bruce through the whole of his arguments, to show that the rhinoceros is the *reem* of scripture. In his description of the animal, as he saw it himself, he informs us that the rhinoceros does not eat hay or grass, but lives entirely upon trees; he does not spare the most thorny ones, but rather seems to be fond of them; and it is not a small branch that can escape his hunger, for he has the strongest jaws of any creature known, and best adapted to grinding or bruising anything that makes resistance. —But, besides the trees capable of most resistance, there are, in the vast forests which he inhabits, trees of a softer consistence, and of a very succulent quality, which seem to be destined for his principal food. For the purpose of gaining the highest branches of these, his upper lip is capable of being lengthened out, so as to increase his power of laying hold with this, in the same manner as the elephant does with his trunk. With this lip and the assistance of his tongue, he pulls down the upper branches which have most leaves, and these he devours first; having stripped the tree of its branches, he does not therefore abandon it, but placing his snout as low in the trunk as he finds his horn will enter, he rips up the body of the tree, and reduces it to thin pieces, like so many laths; and when he has thus prepared it, he embraces as much of it as he can in his monstrous jaws, and twists it with as much ease as an ox would do a root of celery.

Next to the elephant, the rhinoceros is said to be the most powerful of animals. It is usually found twelve feet long from the tip of the nose to the insertion of the tail, from six to seven feet high, and the circumference of its body is nearly equal to its length. It is, therefore, equal to the elephant in bulk; and the reason of its appearing so much smaller to the eye than that animal, is that its legs are much shorter. Words, says Goldsmith, can convey but a very confused idea of this animal's shape; and yet there are few so remarkably formed. But for its horn, its head would have the appearance of that part of a hog. The skin of the rhinoceros is naked, rough, knotty, and lying upon the body in folds, in a very peculiar manner. [This, however, is only the case with the single-horned rhinoceros; the species with the double horn want these folds in the skin, although in this particular the two species are generally represented as being alike.] The skin, which is of a dirty brown colour, is so thick as to turn the edge of a scimitar, and to resist a musket ball. There is no force which this terrible animal has to apprehend; defended as he is on every side by a thick horny hide, which the claws of the lion or the tiger are unable to pierce, and armed before with a weapon that the elephant does not choose to oppose. Travellers have stated that the elephant is often found dead in the forests, pierced with the horn of a rhinoceros. Altogether, in form, habits, and physical qualities, he is one of those huge, unwieldy creatures, which appear to form a link between those inhabitants of the early world whose re-

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mains we find incrustated in the surface of the globe, and the more fully developed organization of the existing tribes of animals. As man advances, he disappears. In South Africa not a single *Dwyka* (as he is there called) is to be found within two hundred miles of the river crossing the Great Karroo, which takes its name from him. He is now found in Asia and Africa, confined to a region extending about thirty degrees to the north, and as many to the south of the equator. His flesh is said to resemble hog's flesh; but it is coarser and more tasteless, with a slight musky flavour. Gristly soles of his feet are said to be delicate. His skin is converted into shields, and his horn is used for handles for knives.

But to come to the individual which has recently arrived here. He is a remarkably fine and healthy young male specimen of the one horned rhinoceros,—about seven years old, being five years old when he was imported. We subjoin his dimensions as found in January last, when the animal was measured in Edinburgh at the wish of Sir David Jardine, the naturalist;—From the tip of the snout to the extremity of the tail 12 feet 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches, being 3 feet from the tip of the snout to the back of the skull bone, 7 feet 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches thence, to the insertion of the tail, and the tail being 2 feet long. The fore legs and feet, from the folds of the skin to the toes, measure 2 feet 5 inches; and their girth at the knee is 1 foot 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches. The hind legs and feet, from the folds of the skin to the toes, measure 1 foot 8 inches, with a girth at the knee of 2 feet 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches. The width from the insertions of the top of the lower jaw bones, to the same point on the other side the head, *over* the skull, 1 foot 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches; *under* the skull 3 feet. From the folds of the skin at the back of the head to the tip of the lower jaw, 2 feet and $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch; width of the fold of skin straight across the shoulder 1 foot 11 inches; of the fold of skin along the the body 2 feet 10 inches. Girth of the middle of the abdomen 11 feet 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches; girth of the neck within the 4 feet 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Space between the base of the ears 4 inches; the ears are 1 foot and $\frac{3}{8}$ ths of an inch in length. There is a space of a foot between the ear and the eye; and of nine inches from the eye to the nostrils. The eye is about two inches in length. Before his arrival in this country the animal shed his horn, which is preserved and shown; it is 1 foot 9 inches in length on the outside, and 1 foot 6 inches on the inside, with a girth at its base of 1 foot 7 inches, and it weighs 12lbs. The girth of the hard horny protuberance, where the new horn is appearing is 1 foot 8 inches. These measures were taken with as much care and accuracy as the motion of the animal would permit, and they include the angles of the body. As, however, the rhinoceros does not attain its full size till the age of ten years, it is obvious that these dimensions, taken nearly twelve months ago, are now considerably exceeded by the size of the animal. The most striking peculiarity of the rhinoceros is the thick, hard, horny folds of skin with which his hide is so completely protected. This in places is nearly two inches in thickness, and one of the folds may be pushed to and fro, without putting in motion any other fold. His thick tough hide is kept soft and pliant by the continual oozing of a greasy substance through his pores. The degree of animal heat of the rhinoceros, though perhaps it may not be safe to estimate it exactly by an individual in confinement, would seem to be very high. Altogether, although his appearance is the very reverse of symmetrical, his head resembling that of a wild boar, his body that of a cow, and his bandy legs terminating in massy feet, like those of the elephant, with but three toes, however, his unwieldy carcase, which is said to weigh two tons, and his phlegmatic, harmless disposition, render him an object of laudable curiosity, which may be gratified without apprehension of danger. Notwithstanding what has been said above, his food is hay, of which he consumes immense quantities.