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THE
V I E W
OF
H I N D O O S T A N.

VOL. I.
WESTERN HINDOOSTAN.

QUIA IPSA SIBI OBSTAT MAGNITUDO, RERUMQUE DIVERSITAS ACIEM INTENTIONIS ABRUMPIT; FACIAM QUOD SOLENT, QUI TERRARUM SITUS PINGUNT: IN BREVI QUASI TABELLA TOTAM EJUS IMAGINEM AMPECTAR, NONNIHIL, UT SPERO, AD ADMIRATIONEM PRINCIPIS POPULI COLLATURUS, SI PARITER ATQUE INSIMUL UNIVERSAM MAGNITUDINEM EJUS OSTENDERO.

L. A. Flori Epitome, Lib. I.

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3 c, pp

they found in the hillocks. As soon as they had filled their bags, they returned with all possible expedition to avoid the fury of the ants, which pursued them with incredible swiftness. It is reasonable to suppose, that the historian had heard of the monstrous nests of the *Termites*, or *white Ants*, which his informants thought proper to stock with most monstrous inhabitants.

ON the banks of the *Hydaspes* was fought the decisive battle between *Alexander* and the *Indian* monarch *Porus*, both equal in valour; but the former, by his great superiority in the art of war, obtained a complete victory with a handful of men. *Porus* employed not fewer than two hundred elephants, which, terrific as they might have been to the *Macedonian* horses, were, with their garrisoned towers, totally destroyed by the victorious army.

BATTLE WITH
PORUS.

I CANNOT resist the introduction into this place of the following curious anecdotes of the two famous Monarchs, as communicated to me by Major *Ouseley*, the ingenious author of the *Persian* miscellanies. He informs me, that two *Persian* writers mention the invasion of *Hindoostan* by *Alexander* the great. *Ferdusi* in his *Shah Nameh*, or Chronicle of Kings, written about the latter end of the 10th century and beginning of the 11th; and *Nexami*, another celebrated poet, who flourished in the 12th. The first enumerates the various troops of *Persia*, *Greece*, and *India*, and the camel loads of presents which *Alexander* received from *Keid*, the *Indian* Prince. *Nexami*, in his *Skander Nameh*, or History of *Alexander*, says, that forty elephants were laden with the various productions of the country, among which several carried *Indian* steel. *Porus* is mentioned under the name of *Four*. The poet adds, he brought two thousand elephants into the field; which, by a contrivance of *Aristotle* (*Alexander's* Secretary) were completely routed, and *Four* him-

PERSIAN HIS-
TORY OF.

self killed by *Alexander*, who found in his castle of *Canooge* immense treasures!

NICOEA, AND
BUCEPHALA.

ON the banks of this river, opposite to each other, he built, on the bloody scene, two cities, *Nicæa* and *Bucephala*. *Nicæa* so named from the victory, the last in honor of his celebrated horse, which died of old age at the time of this action. *Alexander* gratefully paid it the highest funeral honors, erected a magnificent sepulchre, and called the city after its name.

I SHALL not trace the sieges, battles, and slaughters of this ambitious character; of his marches and his passages over the rivers that form this part of the *Panjab*, but leave my readers to consult his original historians, *Arrian* and *Quintus Curtius*. It is very certain the hero did not, amidst his deeds of arms, neglect the study of natural history. It is well known that he caused every species, objects of that science, to be collected for the use of his Tutor *Aristotle*. *Q. Curtius* relates some few remarks on the *zoology* of the neighborhood. He met here with the *Rhinoceros*, with the great Serpent *Boa constrictor*, *Gm. Lin. iii. 1083*, with parrots, or birds which could speak, and with great flocks of wild peacocks. *Ælian*, in his *Hist. An. lib. v. c. 21*, relates, that the conqueror was so struck with their beauty, that he forbade his soldiers from killing them under the heaviest penalties.

RHINOCEROS,
&c. &c.

Psittacus is a name derived from *Sittace*, the *Indian* word for a parrot. *Linnaeus, Gm. Linn. i. 321*, gives to one species, long known, the trivial of the *Macedonian* hero, *Psittacus Alexandri*, as if in honor of the species discovered by his admiral *Nearchus*.

THE BOA.

THE same great officer mentions also the vast spotted serpents, which he says were about sixteen cubits long. *Arrian, i. 538, Rev. Indic.* His veracity has been called in question; but since the