

the latter sometimes bleeds to death from this single wound. But the victory is seldom gained with so little trouble. When unable to find out whence the attack is made, the sagacious animal becomes suspicious, and immediately decamps. Well acquainted with its habits, some of the men are ready for an attack as it runs away, and from behind a large tree, with astonishing agility, rush after it, and often with one blow of his small axe, one cuts the sinew of the hind legs (*tendon achilles*), and this at once brings it to a stand, as an elephant never attempts to walk on three legs. With all their expertness and experience in the chase, some of these men following too closely, get within the reach of their gigantic antagonist, and are either dashed against the trunk of a tree, transfixed by his tusks, or crushed and kneaded under its massive feet. Even white men, with their swift hunting steeds and superior rifles, cannot always make their attacks with impunity; although it is surprising that so few accidents occur in connection with elephant hunting. Mr. Stuart, a successful hunter, once discharged four or five balls into the chest of a bull elephant without bringing it to the ground. Regarding it as fatally wounded, he sprang from his horse and ran up close to the animal, to discharge his last shot and to kill it at once. In a moment he was caught by the infuriated beast, dragged down and trampled upon, and it was only with great agility that he was able to twist his body out of the way of its ponderous feet, and thus escape with his life.

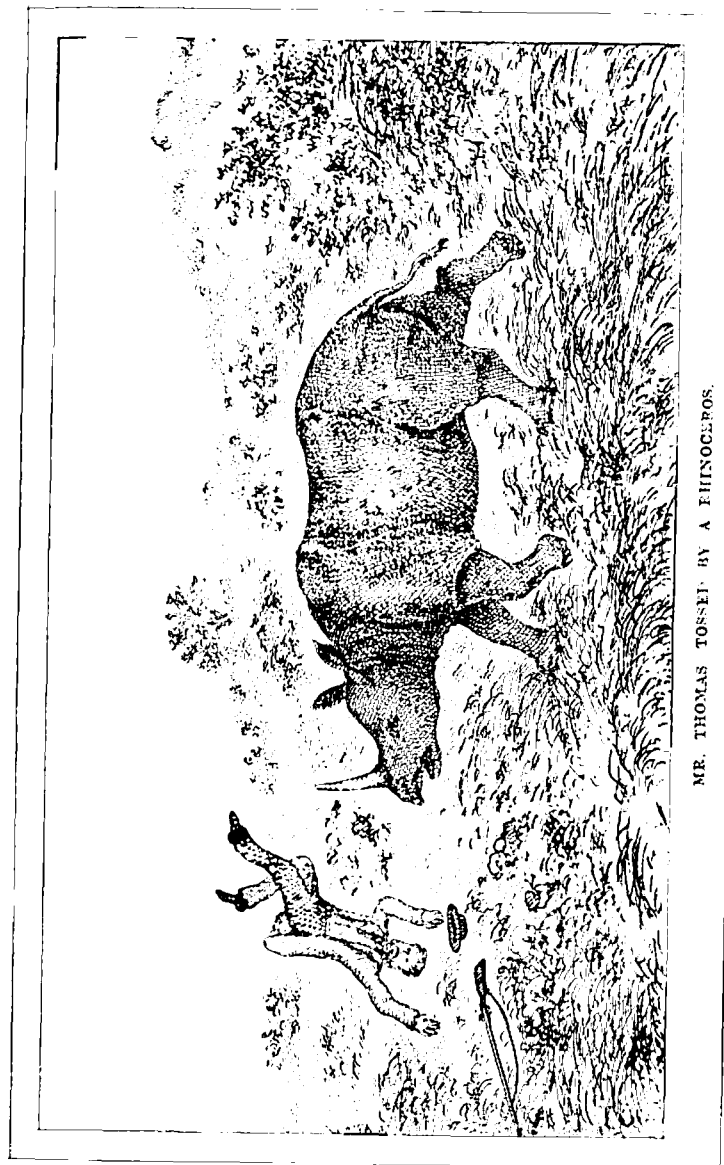
The lion ventures occasionally to attack the elephant

calf, but generally without success. The mother, or some other relation, comes to the rescue of the young, and the assailant,—if not trodden almost out of sight into the sandy soil, so that only its hair is visible,—will be dashed with such force either upon the ground or into a tree, that he seldom survives the adventure. When chased, the elephant is often seen throwing up dust with its trunk into the air, in order to ascertain whence the wind blows; and if a little out of the way of the pursuers, runs with the wind at the rate of about ten miles an hour. When bleeding from a wound, it stops the blood with dust, which it applies to it with its trunk. When turning round, it does so invariably to its right side—the left of a man; nor have I ever seen it attempting to turn round the other way. When dying, it also falls upon its right side.

There are three or four kinds of the rhinoceros in Central South Africa. The first, a very large one, blue coloured, with a horn three or four feet in length, feeds principally, if not entirely, upon grass. It is very harmless, and is called *umhohu*. The second is the *unkombo* (white rhinoceros), not so large as the *umhohu*, has two horns, the front one from one to two feet long, and the other very short. It feeds upon grass and bushes, and is generally very reluctant to attack a man, even when wounded. The third is *upejani* (black rhinoceros), nearly as light coloured as the *unkombo*, but much smaller, with one sharp horn of about eighteen inches long, feeding upon bushes, and very fierce. The *upejani* is the most dangerous of all the wild beasts with which the African traveller meets. If

disturbed out of its midday snooze, it will not hesitate to set upon the intruder with full force. On one occasion, I was ascending a bush covered hill, in company with some villagers to whom I had been preaching, and at their request, as they were destitute of food, wounded one of these animals, which, having never seen one before, I mistook for the harmless *um-hohu*. Roused, thus unceremoniously, from its midday sleep, and gathering himself up like a huge hog, it stood for a short time listening, in order to find out the position of its assailant. Unable to escape, having no tree at hand up which to climb, nor any ammunition in my gun, I stood motionless, hoping to elude its notice. But in vain: it rushed upon me with all its force, and a toss of some yards impressed upon me very practically and painfully the difference between this species and its harmless relative. The noise of my companions, rather than the keenness of its vision, must have led the enraged beast in my direction. They, aware of their danger, and more careful of their own lives than of mine, immediately fled, upon seeing that they were in the presence of the terrible *upojani*; and it was some time before they turned up again, almost white with fear.

When young and in good condition, rhinoceros' flesh is a good substitute for pork; or when salted does very well with cabbage and potatoes, instead of bacon. The heart and liver are the first parts chosen by the white man. Of the hide various kinds of whips for driving oxen and horses are made. Of the horn, the natives make their formidable clubs; and



Europeans their beautiful walking sticks, and countless other things.

To see thirty or forty giraffes (*izintulu* of the Amandebele) with their beautifully mottled coats, short, heavy bodies, long necks, high shoulders, small heads towering five or six yards in the air, and feeding upon the lofty branches of the *mimosa*, or sweeping over an open plain, is very novel and interesting to an Englishman when first he enters the country. A moderately swift horse soon brings his rider along side the camel-leopard, and when once mastered in this way it may either be deliberately shot down or driven quietly along to almost any distance, even to within sight of the wagon, and then killed. When in good condition, some of the meat is not unpalatable. The marrow, of which there is generally a large quantity in its long thick bones, is much relished even by white people. The long whips for driving teams of oxen and horses are made of its skin, and sometimes the soles of the native sandals are also prepared from it.

The hippopotamus, usually called the Nile horse, or the *invubu* of the natives, is found in all large rivers in the Amandebele country. One of the most interesting habits of this amphibious monster is that the female carries her young on her back. The spectacle of one of these careful mothers rising from the water to take her breath, with her little one on her shoulder, so touched me on one occasion, that I could not find it in my heart to fire, but suffered her to proceed unharmed. The hippopotamus, being very shy, is difficult to be found, and although it comes out of

armed themselves and followed the enemy by night. At dawn, next morning, the fifty Amandebele were surrounded and surprised by five or six times their number, and two of them were killed in their sleep. But in a few minutes the Abatonga were put to flight, having lost twenty-five men. These men belonged to the chief Seshori, and therefore he had good reasons for not allowing the Amandebele to cross the river, and also for keeping out of their way.

Not far from the spot where the battle had been fought, and rushing from under a high mountain, was a strong stream of hot water; and some of the men proposed waiting, to boil the remaining leg of the goat in it; but its dark-blue colour seemed to me to signify that it was not free from elements which would be far from improving our meat or benefiting ourselves.

My great weakness prevented, for some time, our going far in a day. I walked a short distance at a time, and rested under a shady tree, always being well supplied with the amarusi and amagole bulbs, which were now my only food, and a small piece of one of which I took at the end of each stage. We were half way home before the fever left me. But by this time, several of the men had also contracted it, and I was very glad to be able to attend them.

Descending into the valley of Ububi river, some of the men came upon two lions enjoying their supper on a buffalo, which they had just pulled down; and as it was in good condition, and the meat tender, they did not at all like the idea of giving it up to the intruders, but a number of the Amandebele rushing with spears

and shields in their hands to the spot, soon settled the dispute, and the two lords of the forest had quickly to seek safety in flight. Not knowing what was going on among their friends, the other men were at the same time fully employed with a fine fat rhinoceros.

The banks of the Ububi abounded in the larger game, and as we were now within about sixty miles of Inyati, the more meat and fat the men could manage to secure for themselves and friends, the better. We had therefore no hesitation in shooting as much game as we could; nor had we to go far to see them. Having shot the rhinoceros, we were looking for a suitable place to encamp for the night, when two large bull elephants were observed advancing towards us. One of these was very fierce, and had to be treated accordingly; but with all our caution he nearly caught some of the men before he fell. I observed that after his hind leg had been broken, he never moved from the spot.

The game in those parts is much hunted, and that which is naturally fierce becomes, in this way, very dangerous to passers by, as it generally attacks them. Two boys and myself were walking along the river bank, when we were amused by seeing an old lean-looking rhinoceros, limping upon three legs, about two hundred paces to the leeward of us, and snuffing the wind. As soon as it smelt us out, it came at full speed; and having nothing to ward it off, we were glad to avail ourselves of the protection the high branches of a tree afforded us!

Before leaving this river, the men had the meat of a

buffalo, rhinoceros, and two elephants, but the two latter animals were so lean that only small portions of their flesh were at all palatable.

The way the natives preserve such large quantities of meat in those warm regions is by cutting it into steaks, and hanging it up in the branches of trees to dry; and when perfectly free from all moisture, they bind it up in large bundles with their bark ropes, and carry it home, where, in this dry state, it will keep for a very long time. When such meat is about to be eaten it may be boiled or broiled:—if broiled, it is placed upon a large clean stone, and well beaten with a piece of wood, and thus prepared for mastication; but if boiled, it is reduced almost to a jelly.

Dr. Livingstone is correct in saying that the natives must have either salt or animal food. The Aman-debele, who are able to obtain meat at certain intervals, seem to care but little about salt; but the Amaswina, and the other tribes of the interior, who are unable to get much animal food, have such an intense craving for it that they go a hundred miles for a small quantity.

On reaching home, August 22nd, I found that my friends had been very anxious about me. Three days after we had left for the Zambesi, one of my men being sore-footed, came to a stand-still, and had to be taken back home by his comrade.* Much alarmed, Mrs. Thomas made enquiries of the chief man of the town respecting the matter. Umpumbulu (the chief man), with his soldiers, set off on a hunting expe-

* These men stated to those at home that I was ill.



RHINOCEROS AND CALF.



RHINOCEROS HUNTING.