

NATURAL HISTORY.

A MANUAL

OF

Z O Ö L O G Y

FOR

SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, AND THE GENERAL READER.

BY

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Illustrated with over Five Hundred Engravings.

"O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth
is full of thy riches." — *Ps. civ. 24.*

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The total number of grinders which follow one another on each side of both jaws is seven, or at least six.

The Genus *Elephas* comprises the Elephants proper.

The Asiatic Elephant, *E. indicus*, Cuv., of India, is specially characterized by its oblong head, concave forehead, and the undulating sections of the laminæ which are seen on the crown of the grinders. This species has smaller ears than the next, and four nails to each hind foot. It has been used for a beast of burden from the earliest times.

The African Elephant, *E. africanus*, Cuv., of Southern Africa, is distinguished by its round head, convex forehead, large ears, and the lozenge-shaped figures on the crown of the grinders. Both species are hunted for their tusks, which furnish the world with ivory.

In both hemispheres the superficial deposits abound with skeletons and parts of skeletons of elephants which are now extinct. An elephant, covered with long, thick hair, and wholly unlike anything now living, was found encased in ice on the coast of Siberia. It was in such a state of preservation that dogs fed upon the flesh, although it is probable that it had been there thousands of years.

The Genus *Mastodon* comprises extinct Pachyderms, whose remains abound in the superficial accumulations of America, as well as in those of the Old World. In general appearance the Mastodon was much like the elephant, but differed from the latter in the grinders, the crowns of which are studded with large conical points. A skeleton of Mastodon dug up at Newburgh, New York, is seventeen feet long to the tail, which is six feet, and the tusks are nearly eleven feet in length, the whole weighing two thousand pounds. This splendid specimen is in the museum of the late Dr. Warren of Boston.

RHINOCERIDÆ, OR RHINOCEROS FAMILY.—This Fam-

ily comprises very thick and naked skinned Pachyderms, which are distinguished from Elephantidæ by the absence of a proboscis, although the nose is much developed, by the existence of small canines instead of enormous tusks, and by incisors in both jaws. The feet are three- or four-toed, hoofs of unequal size, limbs short, body, neck, and head more or less elongated.

The Genus *Rhinoceros* comprises the largest of all land animals except the elephant. They are huge, bulky animals on short, stout legs, supported by broad three-toed feet, and the whole body is covered with an exceedingly tough hide, which appears in several species in large plaits or folds. From the upper surface of the muzzle, where the bones are very thick and strong and somewhat arched, there rises a horn composed of a solid mass of horny fibres. These animals inhabit Africa, Asia, and the Asiatic Archipelago. Seven species have been described. They are stupid and ferocious, frequent wet places, and feed upon herbs and tender branches.

The Indian Rhinoceros, *R. indicus*, Cuv., is about five feet high, nine feet long, and the largest individuals weigh six thousand pounds. Its horn is two to three feet in length.

The Genus *Hyrax* comprises the Damans of Africa and Asia, of the size of a rabbit, and which Cuvier calls rhinoceroses in miniature without the horn.

The Genus *Hippopotamus* is represented by only one species, *H. amphibius*, Linn., which inhabits the rivers of Africa. The body is massive, legs short, four hoofed toes to each foot, head enormous and terminated by a large inflated muzzle, eyes and ears small, and tail short. It feeds upon aquatic plants.

The Genus *Tapirus* is characterized by the nose, which resembles a small, fleshy proboscis, and by four toes to the fore and three to the hind feet. Two species are known.