

# NATURAL HISTORY.

FOR THE USE OF SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES.

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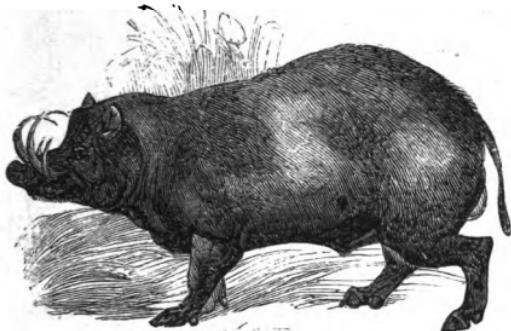


Fig. 70.—The Babiroussa.

142. There are seven species of the Rhinoceros. These are ungainly animals with short legs, approaching in size the Elephants. They are distinguished chiefly by their horns, which are in texture something like whalebone. Some species have two horns. Those that have one, as in Fig. 71, are called unicorns. These animals live an



Fig. 71.—The Rhinoceros.

indolent life on the marshy borders of lakes and rivers, and are very fond of wallowing in mud. They are found in Asia and Africa.

143. There is but one known species of the Hippopotamus (*ἱππος*, *hippos*, horse; *ποταμος*, *potamos*, river), or river-horse, an inhabitant of Africa. It passes a large portion of its time in the water, especially in the daytime, leaving it at night in search of its food, which is the herbage growing on the banks of rivers and lakes. Its hide is of great thickness, even to two inches, on its back and sides, and is made into shields, whips, and walking-sticks. This animal is supposed by some to be the Behemoth of the Bible.

144. There are certain birds, called Rhinoceros Birds, which are always in attendance on the hippopotamus and the rhinoceros. They live on the ticks and other parasites which swarm upon these animals. It is said that these birds are the best friends which those huge creatures have, for they rouse them from their sleep when they see an enemy approach.

145. The Horse Family includes the Horse, the Ass, the Zebras, etc. The hoof in this family is one solid piece, and so the family is sometimes called solidungula.

146. The first mention made of the Horse in the Bible is in connection with the sale of corn in Egypt by Joseph, Genesis, xlviij., 17. What is the original country of the horse is not known. The herds running wild in Tartary, Carpenter says, are undoubtedly descendants of horses that have been domesticated, for their habits are the same with those of the herds in the pampas of South America, and these are known to have descended from horses introduced by the Spaniards. The herd has always a leader which is a male, and when attacked they put the colts and the females in the rear, and make resistance by kicking with their hind feet. The natives catch these wild horses with the lasso, a noose of leather, which they throw with great skill, and they very readily tame them. There are herds of wild oxen as well as horses in the pampas of South America, and there is accordingly an immense trade in the hides of both.