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A

POPULAR DICTIONARY

OF

ARTS, SCIENCES, LITERATURE, HISTORY, POLITICS AND
BIOGRAPHY,

A NEW EDITION;

INCLUDING

A COPIOUS COLLECTION OF ORIGINAL ARTICLES

IN

AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY;

ON

THE BASIS OF THE SEVENTH EDITION OF THE GERMAN

CONVERSATIONS-LEXICON.

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canal which was to unite the Danube and the Rhine, the Black sea and the Northern ocean. The Rhine furnishes excellent salmon (called *Lachse* when they ascend the river in spring, coming from the sea, and *Salmen* when they descend in autumn to the sea), sturgeons, lampreys, pikes, and excellent carps. From Strasburg to Spire, the Rhine is about 1100 feet wide; at some parts of the Rheingau, it is 1800; at Cologne, 1300. At Schenken-schanz, where it enters the Netherlands, it is 2150 feet wide. Its depth from Basle to Strasburg is between ten and twelve feet; at Mentz, twenty-four; at Dusseldorf, fifty. When the snow melts in Switzerland, the Rhine rises from twelve to thirteen feet above its common level. The mean descent of the river is about seven feet a mile; its current runs about 288 feet in a minute, or about three and a third miles per hour. Vessels of from 300 to 450 tons go up the river to Cologne, those of 125 to 200 to Mentz, those of 100 to 125 to Strasburg. Steam-boats and "water diligences" render communication easy. The congress of Vienna, in 1815, declared the navigation of all the German rivers free; but this ordinance has not been carried into effect as regards the Danube (q. v.), and it was not till after fifteen years' negotiation between the various powers, and after 563 protocols had been drawn up on the subject that the navigation of the Rhine was made free, in the year 1831. Three books contain every thing necessary for a journey along the Rhine: one, by Lange, comprehends the journey from Mentz to Dusseldorf, the most romantic part south of Basle; another, by Aloys Schreiber, comprehends the whole course of the Rhine, with excursions into neighboring parts; the third is by Ch. A. Fischer—Newest Guide from Mayence to Cologne (Frankfort, 1827). There exist excellent representations of the scenery of the Rhine, semi-perspective and semi-topographic, very ingenious productions, which afford the traveller the highest gratification.—See, also, the *Panorama of the Rhine, from Mayence to Cologne*, by Delkeskamp (Dresd. and Frankf., 1825, in 80 engravings), also Primavesi's *Course of the Rhine from its Sources to its Mouth, drawn from Nature* (1818), and *Historico-Statistical Panorama of the Rhine, from Bingen to Coblenz*, by Dahl (Heidelberg, 1820). Aloys Schreiber's book contains a catalogue of all the works on the Rhine or relating to it.

RHINE; one of the eight circles of Ba-

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varia, commonly called *Rheinbaiern*, separated from the rest of the kingdom, on the left bank of the Rhine. It is chiefly composed of the former French department Mont-Tonnere. The Mont-Tonnere, 2100 feet high, is the summit of the Vosges (q. v.), which traverse the circle. Inhabitants, 517,081; square miles, about 3000.

RHINE, DEPARTMENTS OF THE UPPER AND LOWER. (See *Department*.)

RHINE, CONFEDERATION OF. (See *Confederation of the Rhine*.)

RHINE, LOWER (in German, *Niederrhein*), a Prussian province, with the title of a grand-duchy, formed by the congress of Vienna, in 1815, containing 1,127,297 inhabitants and 6100 square miles, embraces both banks of the Rhine, and is bounded by the Prussian provinces of Juliers-Cleves-Berg and Westphalia, by Nassau, Hesse-Darmstadt, France, the Netherlands, and several smaller territories. The Hundsrück (q. v.) traverses the province of the Lower Rhine between the rivers Nahe and Moselle, and joins the Vosges. The Eifel and the High Veen are ridges of hills coming from the Ardennes. The province furnishes game, fish, grain, fruits, flax, hemp, wine, wood, silver, iron, copper, lead, calamine, marble, slate, sand and mill stones, basalt, tufa, porphyry alum, sulphur, coals, and mineral waters. In some parts much manufacturing industry exists. Much cloth is made in and near Aix-la-Chapelle. The other manufactures are linen, silks, leather, iron and steel wares. The inhabitants are mostly Catholics; in the southern part French is spoken in some places. The province is divided into three governments—Aix-la-Chapelle, Treves, and Coblenz. Aix-la-Chapelle (q. v.) is the chief place. The province comprehends the chief part of the ancient archbishopric of Treves, the abbey of Prüm, Cornely-Munster, Malmedy, part of the old archbishopric of Cologne, of the duchy of Luxemburg and Juliers, &c.

RHINOCEROS. This is a large animal, belonging to the order of *pachydermata*, having each foot divided into three toes, and furnished with one or more horns on the snout. There are several species, the best known of which are the Indian, or one-horned, and the African, or two-horned.—*One-horned rhinoceros*. This species is a native of India, particularly of that part beyond the Ganges. It is a clumsy and deformed looking animal: a single black horn, placed near the end of the nose, makes its specific character. The upper

lip is very large, and overhangs the lower: it is furnished with strong muscles, and is employed by the animal somewhat as the elephant uses his trunk. The ears are large, erect and pointed. The skin is naked, rough, and extremely thick; about the neck it is gathered into large folds; a fold also extends between the shoulders and fore legs, and another from the hinder part of the back to the thighs. The tail is slender, flat at the end, and furnished at the sides with very stiff, black hairs. The legs are very short. This animal was well known to the ancients, and was introduced into the games of the circus by Pompey; in all probability it is the *reem* (unicorn) of the Bible. From the time of the fall of the Roman empire, however, it was lost sight of so completely, that, prior to the sixteenth century, naturalists were of opinion, that it had never existed, or, if so, that it was extinct. When the Portuguese, however, doubled the cape of Good Hope, and opened the way to India, these animals again became known, and many were introduced into Europe. The first that appeared in England was in 1684. The rhinoceros lives in shady forests adjoining rivers, or in the swampy jungles with which its native country abounds. Though possessed of great strength, and more than a match for either the tiger or the elephant, it is quiet and inoffensive unless provoked. The female produces one at a birth. The growth of the young is very gradual, as, at the age of two years, it scarcely attains half its height. The sight of the rhinoceros is by no means acute, but, on the contrary, its senses of smelling and hearing are very vivid. Its chief food is canes and shrubs. It was for a long time supposed that the tongue was hard and exceedingly rough; but recent observations have shown that it does not present these peculiarities. The flesh somewhat resembles pork in taste, though of a coarser grain and stronger taste.—*Two-horned rhinoceros*. This species is a native of Africa, and resembles the preceding in many particulars, but differs in being provided with an additional horn, of a smaller size, situated nearer the forehead; the skin also is not thrown into the folds so remarkable in the Indian species; at least, this is the account given by Sparrman, whilst Bruce represents it as having them. The two-horned rhinoceros was better known to the ancients than the last-mentioned kind, and is represented on many of their coins, especially those of Domitian. The rhinoceros is greatly in-

ferior to the elephant in docility, and has never been made sociable to man. The skin is used for whips and walking-canes, and of the horns drinking-cups were made, which were highly esteemed by the East Indians, as they imagined that if poison were put into them, the liquor would ferment till it ran out of the vessel. Martial informs us, that Roman ladies used these horns as cases to hold their essence bottles and oils. The skin of the rhinoceros is also used by the Javanese for shields.

RHINOPLASTIC (from *ῥιν*, the nose, and *πλαστική*, the art of forming). The art of restoring the nose, when lost by disease or external injury, was early practised, in India, by the Bramins, and is even now practised by the descendants of this caste, the Coomas, by means of a piece of skin cut from the forehead. In 1442, Branca, a Sicilian physician, operated by means of a piece of skin cut from the arm of the individual; and, after him, this method was preserved in the family of the Bajani as a secret, until Caspar Tagliacozzi (born in 1546, died in 1599) practised it in Bologna, and made it public in 1597. He pursued the method of taking the skin from the arm. This method was last practised by Molinetti, in the beginning of the seventeenth century. In 1816, Gräfe, a German physician, attempted the formation of the nose from the skin of the arm upon a young soldier who had lost his nose by a sabre cut. The method differed but little from that of Tagliacozzi.—See Gräfe's *Rhinoplastic* (Berlin, 1818, quarto).

RHODE ISLAND, one of the U. States, includes what was formerly known by the name of *Rhode Island and Providence Plantations*; it originally consisted of two plantations, or provinces. This state is bounded north and east by Massachusetts, south by the Atlantic ocean, and west by Connecticut; length 49 miles; breadth 29; square miles 1350; population in 1810, 76,931; in 1820, 83,059, including 48 slaves; in 1830, 97,212, including 14 slaves; lat. 41° 22' to 42° 3' N.; lon. 71° 6' to 71° 38' W. In the north-west part of the state, the country is hilly and rocky, but in other parts it is mostly level. The soil is better adapted to grazing than tillage, except on the island of Rhode Island, which has an excellent soil, adapted to the growth of every thing that is suited to its climate. A considerable part of the state has a thin soil, and affords small crops of New England productions; but the country near Narraganset bay is generally very fertile. Great numbers of cattle and sheep are