

THE 241
PRESENT STATE
OF THE
Cape of GOOD-HOPE:

VOL. II.

CONTAINING, THE
Natural History of The CAPE;
OR,

A particular Description of all the Sorts of Animals and Vegetables in that Neighbourhood; as of Beasts, Birds, Insects, Sea- and River-Fish; Trees, Shrubs, Plants, Herbs, Roots and Flowers. Likewise an Account of the Mineral Productions, and of the Sea-, River-, and Spring- Waters there. Together with some Observations on the CAPE-Winds and Air.

To which is prefix'd,

A Topographical Account of the Colonies there; as, of their Extent, Rivers, Springs, Mountains Roads, Places of Note &c.

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L O N D O N:

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M DCC XXXI.

riety of Herbs and Roots on which the Elephants feed. The *Hottentots* sometimes gather it for Smoaking in the Want of Tobacco. And indeed the Scent and Flavour of it in Smoaking are pretty much like those of Tobacco; as I my self have more than once found, when I have, with Company, smoak'd it out of Whim.

One would judge, from the Size and Clumziness of the *Cape-Elephant*, that he makes but dull Way in Travelling. But when you see him march, you are amaz'd at the Ground he rides. It would be no easie Task for a Man well mounted to keep up with him. How the *Hottentots* take him I have related in my *Present State of the Cape*.

Of the RHINOCEROS.

Authors, who treat of the Rhinoceros, write so variously concerning him, that one would imagine they meant not the same Creature. There is but little Agreement among 'em, and but little Truth, either with Regard to his Size, Shape or Colour.

The Colour of the *Cape-Rhinoceros* is a dark Ash, approaching to a Black. His Skin is, like that of the *Cape-Elephant*, without Hair, and full of Scars and Scratches, but so hard, that 'tis difficult to pierce it with a sharp Knife. The Painters represent him as arm'd all over with a Sort of Scales. He has got no Sort of Scales upon him; * but, indeed, the numberless Scars and Scratches, which intersect one another on his Hide, make him look, at a Distance, as if he was fenc'd with Scales. His

* Vide Tab. III. Fig. 2.

Mouth is like that of a Hog, but somewhat more pointed. Upon his Snout grows a Horn, of a dark Gray, and somewhat bent, in the Manner of a Plough Share. It is larger or less, according to his Age; but the greatest Length it acquires exceeds not 2 Foot. With this Horn, when he is angry, he tears up the Ground, and throws it furiously over his Head. He will catch up Stones with it too, and throw 'em to a vast Distance behind him. With this Horn likewise he will tear up the Roots of Trees; and, in a Word, almost any Thing he can fairly fix it in. On his Forehead, in a right Line from the Horn on his Snout, grows another Horn, which, upon a young Rhinoceros, is about a Hand high; and upon an old one, not above 6 Inches. This Horn has the Form of a Half-Bowl inverted; is hollow; and looks, upon his Head, not unlike a Cupola. It hinders him much in the Exertion of his Wrath by the Horn on his Snout; which Horn, I should have said above, is very solid; and that the End of it is of a lighter Colour than the Rest of it; occasion'd, I suppose, by the daily furious Use he makes of it in ploughing up the Ground. His Ears are small; and his Legs shorter than those of the Elephant.

The Sense of Smelling is wonderful in the Rhinoceros. He catches immediately, and at a considerable Distance, the Scent of any Creature that is to Windward of him. And as soon as he catches it, if the Creature is of his Prey, he marches towards it in a right Line, tearing his Way very furiously through all Opposition of Trees and Bushes. He grunts like a Hog; but his Grunting is not heard far. But when he is upon the March, he is heard at a great Distance, forcing his Way through thick Bushes and snapping of Trees. His Throwing of Stones like-

likewise, if he meets with any in his Way, gives fair Warning of him; for he flings 'em over his Head with so great a Force, that they are heard to bounce and trundle upon the Ground a great Way, or else to fall with a mighty Clattering upon the next Rocks.

If he is not provok'd, he attacks not a Man; unless the Man is in a red Coat, for then he attacks him very furiously, without any Manner of Provocation, and is all in a Flame for his Destruction, rending and destroying every Thing that stands in the Way to the Gratification of his Rage. If he seizes a Man, he flings him over his Head with so great a Force, that the Man is kill'd by the Fall. The Beast then feeds upon him by Licking, with his rough and prickly Tongue, the Flesh from the Bones.

The Eyes of the Rhinoceros are very small, and vastly short of Proportion to his Body, which is very large. He sees only right forward; and, as I have said, he travels and pursues ever in a right Line, forcing his Way through all Opposition of Trees and Bushes. He is pretty swift of Foot, but very slow and awkward in Turning. If he makes at you, the Way to avoid him is to suffer him to come within 8 or 10 Paces of you; and then to whip a few Paces aside; for then he loses Sight of you; and it costs him a great Deal of awkward Trouble to get you in his Eye again. This I have experienc'd my self; for he has more than once made with all his Fury towards me.

He is not fond of Feeding on Grass, chusing rather Shrubs, Broom and Thistles. But the Delight of his Tooth is a Shrub, not much unlike the *Juniper*, but not of so fine a Scent, nor quite so prickly.

The *Cape-Europeans* call it the *Rhinoceros-Bush*. The Heathy Parts of the *Hottentot* Countries abound with those Bushes. Great Numbers of 'em are seen on the *Tiger-Hills* and the *Moshel-Bank*; the Inhabitants of which Places cut 'em for Firing.

The *Rhinoceros* is in perpetual Enmity with the Elephant; and, whenever he discovers him, makes at him with all his Rage. The Elephant knows him to be his mortal Enemy; and therefore, when he 'spies him, gets out of his Way as fast as he can. If a *Rhinoceros* surprises an Elephant, he rips up the Elephant's Belly with the Horn on his Snout; by which Means the Elephant's Entrails tumble out and he quickly expires.

The Flesh of a *Rhinoceros*, which I have often eaten with a great Deal of Satisfaction, is not so finewy as some Writers have represented it. His Skin, his Horn, and his Blood are us'd in Medicine. A *German Gentleman*, who was employ'd in the Company's Laboratory at the *Cape*, assur'd me, he had extracted from the Skin of the *Rhinoceros* a Salt by which he had perform'd very great Cures. He return'd, while I was at the *Cape*, to his native Country; taking with him, as he said, a considerable Quantity of this Salt, and not doubting but it would procure him not a Little of both Wealth and Fame in *Germany*.

The Horn of the *Rhinoceros* will not endure the Touch of Poison. I have often been a Witness to this. Many People of Fashion at the *Cape* have Cups turn'd out of the *Rhinoceros-Horn*. Some have 'em set in Silver, and Some in Gold. If Wine is pour'd into one of those Cups, it immediately rises and bubbles up as if it were boiling; and if there be Poison in it, the Cup immediately splits. If Poi-
son

son be put by it self into one of those Cups, the Cup, in an Instant, flies to Pieces. Tho' this Matter is known to Thousands of Persons, yet some Writers have affirm'd, that the Rhinoceros-Horn has no such Virtue. The Chips, made in Turning one of those Cups, are ever carefully sav'd, and return'd to the Owner of the Cup; being esteem'd of great Benefit in Convulsions, Faintings and many other Illnesses.

The Blood of the Rhinoceros is not a little valued at the *Cape*. When the *Europeans* there get it fresh, they put it in some of the Guts of the Rhinoceros, and hang it in the Sun to dry. 'Tis of great Virtue for the Opening of Obstructions, and the Healing of inward Sores; and is taken in a Glass of Wine, or in a Dish of Coffee or Tea.

All I have farther to do here, is to put the Reader upon Comparing What is said of the *Leviathan* in *Numbers* 24. 8. *Deut.* 33. 17. and *Jon* 39. 12: 13: 14: 15, with What is here said of the *Rhinoceros*; and upon Considering, whether some Authors have not a great Deal of Reason on their Side, who conclude the *Leviathan* and the *Rhinoceros* to be one and the same Creature.

Of the DOGS in the Hottentot Countries.

AS the first Settlers of the *Cape* took Dogs with 'em from *Europe*, and most, who have repair'd to settle there since, have been accompanied by one Sort or other of those Animals, so the *Cape-Colonies* are at this Day well provided with Dogs of every Kind seen in *Europe*. But No body will expect I should give any Account of these. Nor shall I say any Thing here of the Domestick Dogs of the *Hottentots*; since I have given a particular Account
of



The Method the Cape Europeans take to destroy Moles

Fig. 2.



The Elephant p. 98

and Rhinoceros p. 101