

THE ENTERTAINING NATURALIST:

BEING

POPULAR DESCRIPTIONS, TALES, AND ANECDOTES

OF MORE THAN

FIVE HUNDRED ANIMALS,

COMPREHENDING ALL THE

Quadrupeds, Birds, Fishes, Reptiles, Insects, &c.

OF WHICH A KNOWLEDGE IS INDISPENSABLE IN

POLITE EDUCATION.

WITH INDEXES OF SCIENTIFIC AND POPULAR NAMES, AN EXPLANATION OF
TERMS, AND AN APPENDIX OF FABULOUS ANIMALS.

ILLUSTRATED BY NEARLY

FIVE HUNDRED ENGRAVINGS ON WOOD BY BEWICK, HARVEY, LANDELLS,
THOMPSON, WHIMPER, SLY, AND OTHERS.

A New Edition, revised, enlarged, and completed to the present state of Zoological Science,

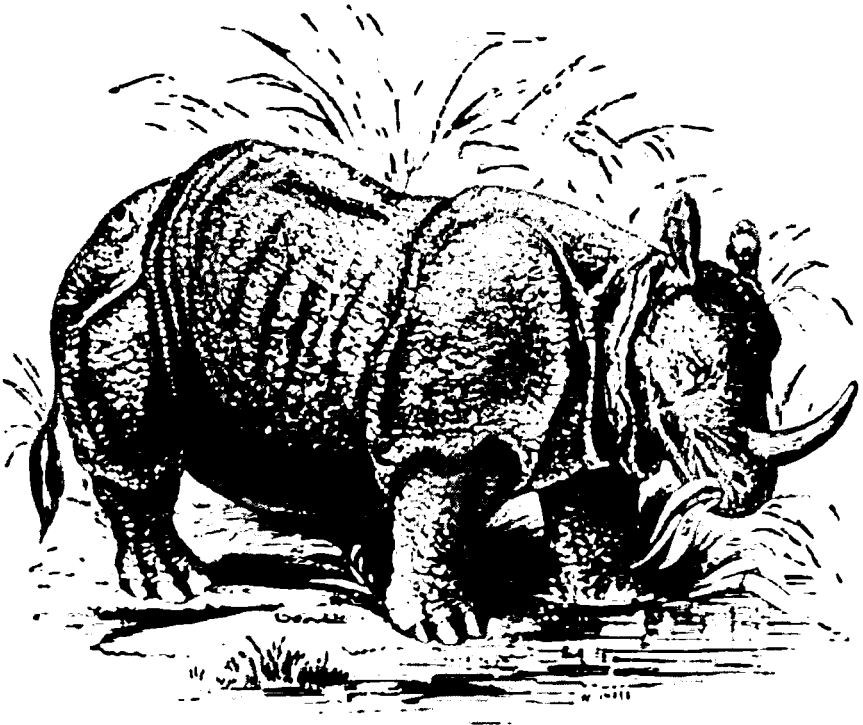
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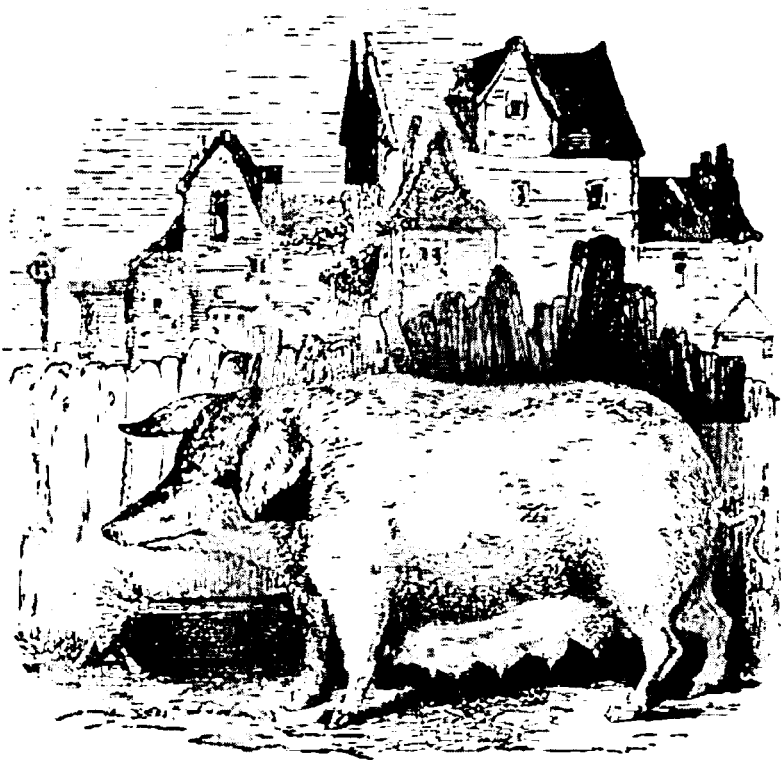
young upon land, and it is supposed that she seldom produces more than one at a time. The calf at the instant that it comes into the world, flies to the water for shelter, if pursued; a circumstance which has been noticed as a remarkable instance of pure instinct. The Hippopotamus is supposed to be the Behemoth of the Scripture. See Job, chap. xl.



THE RHINOCEROS, (*Rhinoceros Indicus*,)

So called because of the horn on his nose, is bred in India and Africa, is of a dark slate-colour, and nearly as large as the elephant; as he measures about twelve feet in length, and has short legs. His skin, which is not penetrable by any ordinary weapon, is folded upon his body, in the manner represented in the figure above; his eyes are small and half closed, and the horn on his nose is attached to the skin only. In confinement he often wears it to a mere stump, by rubbing it against his crib. He is perfectly indocile and untractable; a natural enemy to the elephant, to whom he often gives battle, and is

said never to go out of his way, but to endeavour to destroy whatever obstacles present themselves, rather than turn about. He lives on the coarsest vegetables, and frequents the banks of rivers, and marshy grounds; his hoofs are divided into four, and he grunts like a hog, which he resembles in many other particulars. The female produces but one at a time, and during the first month her young are not bigger than a large dog. The Rhinoceros is supposed by some to be the Unicorn of holy writ, and possesses all the properties ascribed to that animal,—rage, untameableness, great swiftness, and immense strength. It was known to the Romans in very early times. Augustus introduced one into the shows, on his triumph over Cleopatra. The African Rhinoceros has two horns.



THE COMMON OR DOMESTIC HOG (*Sus scrofa*)

DIFFERS chiefly from the wild animal in having smaller tusks, and large and pendant ears. Of all domestic

quadrupeds, this is the most filthy and impure. Its form is clumsy and unsightly, and its appetite gluttonous and excessive. Nature, however, has fitted its stomach to receive nutriment from a variety of things that would be otherwise wasted, as the refuse of the field, the garden, and the kitchen afford it a luxurious repast. The Hog is naturally stupid, inactive, and drowsy; much inclined to increase in fat, which is disposed in a different manner from that of other animals, forming a thick, distinct, and regular layer between the flesh and skin. Their flesh, Linnæus observes, is a wholesome food for those that use much exercise, but improper for such as lead a sedentary life. It is of great importance to this country, as a naval and commercial nation, for it salts better than any other flesh, and is capable of being longer preserved.

The domestic Sow brings forth twice a year, producing from ten to twenty at a litter. She goes four months with young, and brings forth in the fifth. At that time she must be carefully watched, to prevent her from devouring her young. Still greater attention is necessary to keep off the male, as he would destroy the whole litter. Jews and Mahometans not only abstain from the flesh of swine from a religious principle, but consider themselves defiled by even touching it.

