

NATURAL HISTORY

OF ALL THE MOST REMARKABLE
QUADRUPEDS, BIRDS, FISHES, SERPENTS,
REPTILES, AND INSECTS,
IN THE KNOWN WORLD.

Illustrative of their Nature, Dispositions, Manners, Habits, &c.

REGULARLY ARRANGED AND COMPILED BY

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EMBELLISHED WITH UPWARDS OF
FOUR HUNDRED ELEGANT ENGRAVINGS ON WOOD
CUT BY M^r. J. THOMPSON,

From the Designs of the most approved Naturalists.

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him, and even seems to anticipate his desires. All its motions are regulated, and its actions seem to partake of its magnitude; being grave, majestic, and secure. It is quickly taught to kneel down, to receive its rider. It suffers itself to be arrayed in harness; and draws either chariots, cannon, or shipping, with surprising perseverance and docility; provided that it be not beaten without a cause, and that its master appears pleased with its exertions; otherwise, if ill treated, he becomes furious and destructive.

THE RHINOCEROS.



THE rhinoceros is usually found about twelve feet long, and from five to seven feet high, and the circumference of its body is nearly equal to its length. It is difficult to convey an accurate idea of this animal's shape, and yet there are few so remarkably formed. Its head is furnished with a hard and solid horn, projecting from the snout, sometimes above three feet in length; and were it not for this, that part would resemble the head of a hog; the upper lip, however, is much longer in proportion, and very pliable, serving to collect its food, and deliver it into the mouth: the ears are large, erect, and pointed, and the eyes small and piercing. The skin is naked, rough, and so extremely thick and hard, as to turn the edge of a scimitar, or to resist a musket ball; it is of a dirty brown colour, and lies upon the body in folds, after a very peculiar manner. The belly hangs low; the legs are short, strong, and thick; and the hoofs are divided into three parts, each pointing forward.

It is worthy of remark, that the horn of this quadruped is a truly formidable weapon, growing from the solid bone, and pointed so as to inflict the most fatal wounds. The elephant, the bear, and the buffalo, are obliged to strike transversely with their weapons; but the rhinoceros employs all his force with every blow; so that the tiger will more willingly attack any other animal of the forest, than one whose strength is so justly employed.—There is another animal of this kind, named the double-horned rhinoceros, which differs from the preceeding animal in the appearance of its skin; which, instead of large and regularly-marked folds, resembling armour, has merely a slight wrinkle across the shoulders and on the hinder parts, with a few fainter wrinkles on the sides; so that, when compared with the common rhinoceros, it appears almost smooth. The principal distinction, however, consists in the nose being furnished with two horns, one of which is smaller than the other, and situated above it.

THE BEAR.



Of this animal, there are three different kinds, the brown bear of the Alps; the black bear of North America, which is smaller; and the great Greenland, or white bear. These however, are all probably of the same original, and principally owe their variations to food and climate; as they have all the same habitudes. Their voice is a sort of growl interrupted with rage; and they are equally carnivorous, treacherous, and cruel.

The brown bear is a solitary animal, inhabiting the most horrid chasms and dangerous precipices, and frequently choosing for its abode the hollow of some tree; there it