

the balcony under pretence of contemplating the comet; the excursions to foreign parts, and the Gauls who reciprocate them, with their stubby beards and Brutus *coiffeur* and buniony feet in Parisian boots—all these and a hundred other forms of everyday life are familiar to us everywhere in going or coming, but in 'Punch' they are treated with a mastery of art; and fun, such as no one found in them before, is discovered by the inexhaustible humour of Leech."

Whatever objection may be taken to special points in the conduct of this periodical, its influence has on the whole been wholesome, and must be so while attacking vices and follies which are

"Safe from the bar, the pulpit, and the throne,
Yet crushed and shamed by ridicule alone."

ASIATIC RHINOCEROSES.

I.

THE great Indian rhinoceros is an animal which has so often been exhibited alive in Europe, so frequently figured and described, and has become so familiar an object to visitors of the London Zoological Gardens, that it has ceased to be much of a curiosity to many of our readers, comparatively few of whom are aware that it is one of several species still existing, in addition to many more which are known only from their fossil remains. Different kinds of rhinoceros, as likewise of elephant, existed formerly in cold as well as in warm climates, and as many as three have left their distinguishable remains in this island on which we dwell. The extinct species of both elephant and rhinoceros are very numerous, as testified by their skulls and other remains, from various parts of the world, exhibited in the British Museum. One after another of the elephant species has perished from the earth, until only two sorts remain in existence, those of Asia and Africa, which differ very strikingly from each other, as has become popularly known since the exhibition of both of them in the Regent's Park. Of the rhinoceros genus or family as many as six species still remain, three of which are peculiar to Asia and three to Africa. And these six appertain to four well-marked sections. Of the three which are inhabitants of Asia we now supply portraits.

The first section of existing rhinoceroses is distinguished by the possession of a single nasal horn, and by the skin or hide being very thick and tuberculated, and partitioned off by great folds into what have been compared to plates of mail. This is the type of rhinoceros with which alone the people in Europe have long been familiar. It is known that African two-horned rhinoceroses were anciently exhibited in the Roman circus, but in modern times the larger of the two one-horned Asiatic species was the only kind that had been seen in Europe, until the arrival some years ago of one of the African species in the London Zoological Gardens.

This large one-horned rhinoceros is a huge beast that attains to nearly or quite six feet in height, with enormous bulk of body. Its geographical range and distribution would appear to be comparatively limited. It inhabits the swampy lands at the base of the Eastern Himalaya, becoming more numerous eastward, and being especially abundant in the valley of Assam, from which province the

young are not unfrequently brought alive to Calcutta, and hence the supply of specimens for the menageries of Europe and America. In other localities, the lesser one-horned rhinoceros (to be described in the sequel) has been generally mistaken for it.

An experienced sportsman and hunter of this particular species in Assam remarks of it, that, "for so ponderous an animal, the rhinoceros is wonderfully agile in its movements; and when charging an enemy dashes through the densest covert with astounding ease and rapidity. It is as much as an elephant can do to keep ahead of an infuriated one; and it often struck us, when being pursued after firing at and wounding one, that if the rhinoceros had continued the chase a little farther, instead of abandoning it, as they usually do after fifty yards or so, we should infallibly have been caught. These animals are gregarious, and are found in small herds of four and six together, although more often in pairs. The period of gestation is nearly eighteen months, and only one young one is produced at a birth. The little one, when it first sees light, is nearly three feet in length and two in height. It continues to suck for about two years. The haunts of the rhinoceros are characterised by numerous broad tracks trodden in his peregrinations to his favourite feeding-places. These he invariably follows, and he is occasionally killed by the natives, who lie in wait for him, concealed in a tree that may happen to be near the path. Habitually sluggish in his movements, he wanders along with a slow measured tread, sometimes stopping to plough up the ground in mere wantonness, and covering himself with mud and dirt. At times he takes it into his head to pay a visit to any neighbouring paddy or rice-fields that may perchance be in the vicinity of his retreats. On these occasions, woe to the luckless cultivators of the soil! for the amount of devastation and ruin that he commits almost surpasses belief. A pair of rhinoceroses in a single night will completely destroy a large rice-field of four or five acres in extent. It is not so much what they eat—although their appetites are by no means delicate—but the amount of damage which they do in trampling the grain with their great clumsy feet into the soft, yielding soil. Drinking large quantities of water, and being fond of bathing and wallowing in the ground, they are consequently compelled to keep to those localities which afford these essentials to their existence and comfort, and which also supply the luxuriant and profuse vegetation necessary for their support. Hence the interminable swamps and jungles of Assam are the favourite resorts of the species, and teem with herds of them."

Writing of one of the single-horned species of rhinoceros, another experienced observer remarks:—"It is surprising to see how rapidly, and without the least exertion, as it seems, these huge, heavily-built, unwieldy-looking animals get over the ground, such ground consisting of the densest jungle of hill-reeds, bushes, and brushwood, and thick saplings interspersed with large trees. Awkward as is their gait, they trot very fast: I say *trot*, for their movement more nearly resembles a trot than anything else, though actually it is rather a gait between a trot and a canter. Elephants with howdahs have no chance with them in the chase; and unless dropped with the first shot, or they suddenly stop to turn to stand at gaze, thus exposing the fatal shot

in the temple within fair ball distance, they generally manage to escape. It is useless firing at the body." This was written before the present more efficient style of weapons came into use, or the terrible explosive shell was invented, which is now so promptly fatal not only to the largest quadrupeds on land, but equally so to the far more gigantic warm-blooded inhabitants of the ocean.

Another experienced sporting writer remarks of one of the two single-horned species, that "it is a mistake to suppose that their horn is their most formidable weapon. I thought so myself at one time," he adds, "but have long been satisfied that it is merely used in defence, and not as an instrument of offence. It is with their cutting teeth that they wound so desperately. I killed a large male, which was cut and slashed all over its body with fighting; the wounds were all fresh, and as clearly cut as if they had been done with a razor. Another rhinoceros that we had wounded stood, and, out of pure rage, cut at the jungle right and left, exactly as a boar uses his tusks. A medical friend had a man, who was sauntering through the forest, actually embowelled by a rhinoceros. He examined the wound immediately, and I heard him say afterwards that if it had been done with the keenest cutting instrument it could not have been cleaner cut, and that could not have been with the horn." A writer before cited remarks, of the large species in Assam: "The beast does not generally use his horn for aggressive purposes, but makes play with his mighty jaws, with a single snap of which he can cut a man in two."

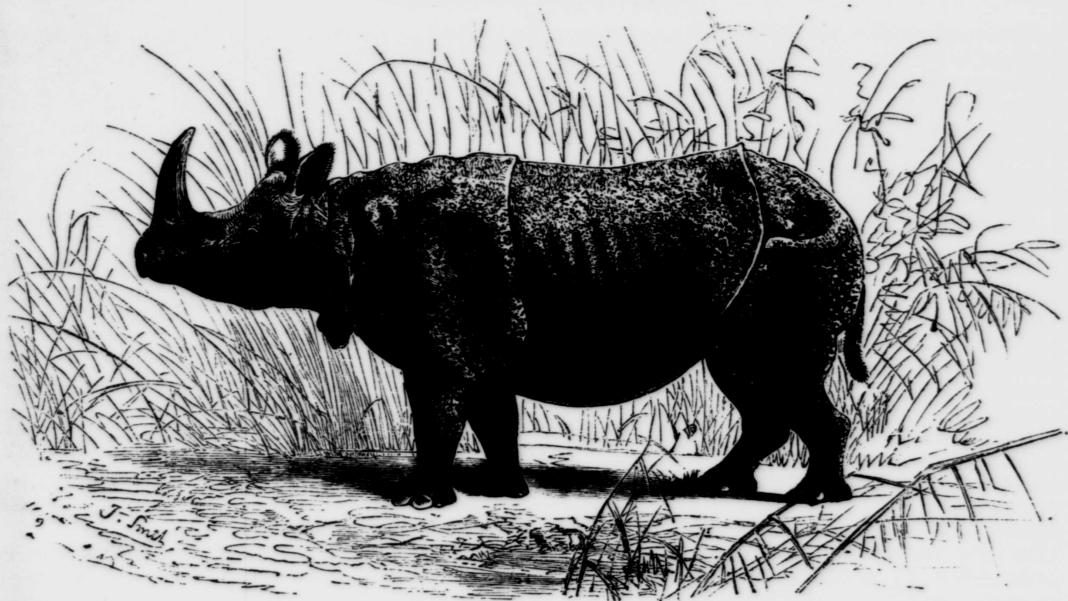
There is little marked difference in size between the sexes of this species, but the male is generally somewhat larger. There is a particularly fine male now in the Regent's Park; and an old female with unusually long horns. It often happens that, in captivity, a rhinoceros wears away its horn to a level with the nose. The horn or horns in this genus consist merely of agglutinated hair, and are attached to the skin only, so that they are more or less movable, and when long are apt to hang over to the front, as exemplified by that of the female animal now in the London Zoological Gardens. One at Moscow knocked off its horn some time ago, and another has since grown in its place.

Another and smaller kind of single-horned rhinoceros inhabits the countries lying eastward of the Bay of Bengal, inclusive of the Malayan Peninsula and the Island of Java to the south, if not also both Sumatra and Borneo, which is at present doubtful. It is the one which occurs in the Sundarbans of Lower Bengal, and would appear to have formerly existed much farther to the westward, being said to linger still in the forest tract along the Mâhânuddi River. More than a quarter of a century ago (in 1842) a writer alludes to doubtless this species as being "found in great numbers at the bottom of the Râjmahâl and Sikrigulli Hills" in Bengal, "but seldom seen in the district of Purneah." Throughout this extent of territory the larger kind would seem to be unknown. The two are respectively known to naturalists as *Rhinoceros indicus* and *R. sondaicus*, but sportsmen confound one with the other. Thus Williamson, in his "Oriental Field Sports" (published in 1807), fails to discriminate them apart. His only figure (not a good one) is that of a young *R. indicus*; but he happens to state: "It is very rarely that the rhinoceros has been

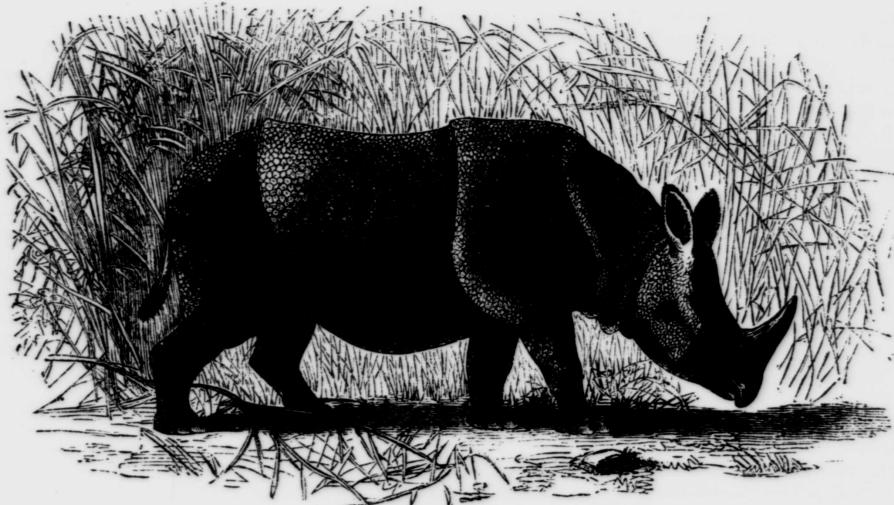
found equal to six feet in height" (i.e., *R. indicus*); "he is ordinarily not more than four feet and a half or five feet" (i.e., *R. sondaicus*). It may be presumed that the latter is the only one which he knew of as a wild animal, while his figure was probably taken from a young example of the large species that had been brought from beyond the area of his personal observations, as they are not unfrequently brought down the Brahmaputra River from Assam at the present time. More than sixty years ago Captain Williamson remarked that "the rhinoceros is seldom to be found on the western side of the Ganges, though the jungles there are fully competent to afford abundant shelter; nor, indeed, has an elephant ever been seen in its wild state but to the eastward, and far distant from the banks of that noble river." The observations of the famous Mogul Emperor Bâber, which will be noticed presently, prove that in former times a single-horned rhinoceros, which was doubtless this one, inhabited very far westward of the Ganges, as did likewise the wild Indian elephant.

The difference between the two species of one-horned rhinoceros is not, as we have seen, sufficiently striking to be noticeable by an ordinary observer, unless perhaps he might have the rare opportunity of comparing the two together; and thus there are sportsmen (to the personal knowledge of the writer) who have killed both species in their respective haunts, but have failed to distinguish them apart, considering the smaller animal to be merely not fully grown. The *R. sondaicus* is about a third less in size than the *R. indicus*, and its "coat of mail" is much the same, except that the tubercles on the hide are considerably smaller and more uniform, and (at least in the young animal) the polygonal facets of the skin have a few small bristly hairs growing from a depression in the centre of each of them. Indeed, even in the old animal there is a certain slight bristliness about *R. sondaicus* that is not observable in the other. One marked distinction, however, at all ages consists in this—that the strong fold or plait at the setting on of the neck, which is continued across the shoulders in the smaller species, or *R. sondaicus*, is not continued across in the larger, or *R. indicus*, but curves backward and terminates over the blade-bone in the latter. The neck folds are less heavy and pendulous in *R. sondaicus*, and the posterior plait which crosses the buttock from the base of the tail is less extended, not reaching to the great vertical fold anterior to the hind-quarters in *R. sondaicus*, as it does in *R. indicus*. The skulls of adults of the two species are easily distinguishable.

The smaller species is more of a hill animal than the other. According to Professor Reinhardt, the lesser one-horned rhinoceros is, in Java, found "everywhere in the most elevated regions, ascending with an astonishing swiftness even to the highest tops of the mountains;" and Dr. Horsfield notices that "it prefers high situations, but is not limited to a particular region or climate, its range extending from the limit of the ocean to the summits of mountains of considerable elevation. Its retreats are discovered by deeply excavated passages, which it forms along the declivities of mountains and hills. I found them occasionally of great depth and extent." In Java the *R. sondaicus* is reputed to be rather a mild animal: but an instance is related of one attacking a sailor's watering party in that island; and one killed in the Garrow hills (N. E. of Bengal), which stood four feet



R. INDICUS (*Unicornis*).



R. SONDAICUS.



R. SUMATRANUS (*Bicornis*).

five inches in height, "a male with a pretty large horn," which indicates that he must have attained his full growth, had killed a man and a boy some days before he was shot. Other rhinoceroses killed in the same range of territory are described as exceeding six feet in height, which shows that the two species there meet, though further observation is needed to ascertain to what extent the two species inhabit the same localities.

The reference to a rhinoceros inhabiting the Island of Ceylon by the late C. J. Andersson, in one of his works, is of course an oversight; like Baron Humboldt's mistake when he referred to the royal tiger of the same island, in his "Asia Centrale." But a one-horned rhinoceros was considerably more diffused than at present over Northern India in the time of the Mogul Emperor Bâber. In the early part of the sixteenth century of our era, Bâber (great-grandson of Timour Lang, or Tamerlane, and the founder of the famous dynasty of the Great Moguls, which we have seen extinguished in our own time) mentions incidentally the occurrence of the rhinoceros, the wild buffalo, and the lion in the neighbourhood of Benares, and wild elephants in the vicinity of Cheenar. In his notice of the animals peculiar to Hindustan, after describing the elephant, the royal or imperial author remarks:—"The rhinoceros is another. This also is a huge animal. It has a single horn over its nose upwards of a span in length, but I never saw one of two spans. Out of one of the largest of these horns I had a drinking vessel made, and a dice-box, and about three or four fingers' bulk of it might be left. Its hide is very thick. If it be shot at with a powerful bow, drawn up to the arm's pit with much force, the arrow enters only about three or four fingers' breadth. They say, however, that there are parts of its skin that may be pierced, and the arrows enter deep. On the sides of its two shoulder-blades and of its two thighs are folds that hang loose, and appear at a distance like cloth housings dangling over it. It bears more resemblance to the horse than to any other animal. As the horse has a large stomach, so has this. As the pastern of the horse is composed of a single bone, so also is that of the rhinoceros. It is more ferocious than the elephant, and cannot be rendered so tame and obedient. There are numbers of them in the jungles of Peshawur and Hushungar, as well as between the River Sind and Behrah, in the jungles. In Hindustan, too, they abound on the banks of the River Sirwa. In the course of my expeditions into Hindustan, in the jungles of Peshawur and Hushungar, I frequently killed the rhinoceros. It strikes very powerfully with its horn, with which, in the course of these hunts, many men and many horses were gored." Other notices of it are given. Again, "in the jungles near Cheenar," remarks the founder of the dynasty of the Great Moguls, "there are many elephants;" and elsewhere he asserts that the elephant "inhabits the district of Kalpi (or Culpee), and the higher you advance from there towards the east, the more do the wild elephants increase in number." Upon which his able translator remarks, in a note penned more than half a century ago, that the "improvement of Hindustan, since Bâber's time, must be prodigious. The wild elephant is now confined to the forests under Himâla and to the ghâts of Malabar. A wild elephant near Kârrah, Manikpur, or Kalpi, is a thing at the present day totally unknown. May not their familiar existence in these countries, down to Bâber's days, be considered as

rather hostile to the accounts given of the superabundant population of Hindustan in recent times?"

The description which Bâber gives of a mailed single-horned rhinoceros is unmistakable; but it still seems passing strange that these huge and thick-skinned animals should have been killed with arrows. At the present day the rhinoceros has long been extirpated, with not so much as a tradition remaining of it, in all the parts where Bâber mentions its former occurrence. The precise species, therefore, whether *indicus* or *sondaicus*, cannot be determined with certainty, unless a skull should be found imbedded in some contemporaneous deposit; but there is much reason to suppose that *sondaicus* must have been the species, even from the fact of its still lingering on the banks of the Mâhânuddy River.

The Asiatic two-horned rhinoceros (known as *R. sumatranaus*) belongs to another section of the genus, which we must describe in another paper.

LOVE AND MARRIAGE.

I.

LOVE and marriage are themes which have occupied the pens of the poet and the writer of fiction in all ages, and form, even when allowance has been made for all extravagances that have been said or written concerning them, most important ingredients in true happiness. An individual passes then into what may be almost termed a new existence; a step so grave and solemn that few, even while they admire Lord Byron's wit, would care to approach it in so light a spirit as he did. "My intended," his lordship writes, "is two hundred miles off, and I must set off in a great hurry to be happy. All our relatives are congratulating away in the most fatiguing manner. I wish it were well over, for I hate bustle, and there is no marrying without some; and then I must not marry in a black coat, they tell me, and I can't bear a blue one. You know I must be serious all my life, and this is a parting piece of buffoonery which I write, with tears in my eyes, expecting to be agitated."

The impelling motives to marriage are various, and differ according to the peculiar mental constitution of the individual. The utilitarian mind of Cobbett was captivated by seeing his future wife washing a tub early in the morning, and thus giving evidence of her excellent domestic qualities. The benevolent spirit of John Howard, so susceptible of the emotions of duty, was impressed by the kind conduct of the lady at whose house he lodged in nursing him through a long illness, and he made her his wife. The grave, judicial powers of Lord Ellenborough were subdued by beauty, and he married Miss Tawdry, a lady of such personal attractions, that people used to linger round her house to see her come to the window and dress her flowers. The valour of Lord Cochrane captivated his future wife, as the courage of Othello subdued Desdemona, and bore down all the opposition that long impeded their union; and the extraordinary mental powers of Dr. Johnson fascinated the widow of Lichfield, who became his well-known Tetty. In some cases a sordid feeling underlies this important step. George the Fourth, when Prince of Wales, married his unhappy princess as a sort of appendage tacked to the Parliamentary grant for payment of his debts, and Sir Walter Scott's cousin