

India. Language
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EASY LESSONS IN READING.

WITH AN

ENGLISH AND MARATHEE

VOCABULARY.

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“ But now, my dear, you have deprived her of the pleasure of seeing its contents. Remember, my dear child, I give you some power over your sister, not merely because you are older, but because I think you her superior ; because I think you capable of guiding her right, often when her frolicsome disposition would lead her into mischief. Is it not important, then, that you should always show yourself capable of guiding her by the patient gentleness of your manners, and by your obedience to the commands and wishes of your parents ? ”

“ Oh yes, mother, and I do try to be good. ”

I think you do, Ellen, and I am certain, my child, that you know how to apply to God for aid and strength, when you feel your weakness. ‘ And remember, you are never fit to command, until you know how to obey. ’ ”

Ellen threw her arms round her mother’s neck. Her eyes were full of tears, and her young heart full of kind feelings. She said, “ I will take Mary with me to-morrow, mother ; for I shall be so gentle and affectionate to her, that she will love to mind me. ”

“ Keep that resolution, my dear, and you will be certain of her ready obedience, and an agreeable visit. ”

Does this book *contain* pictures ? Does it contain pretty stories ? Does *enjoyment* mean the same as pain ? What is the opposite of pain ?—Is it *probable* that idle scholars will learn much ?—Do you *increase* in strength as you grow older ? Can you mention a person who is your *superior* ?—Another ? What does *impatient* mean ? Is it right to be *impatient*, when taking care of a little sister ?

LESSON LV.

THE RHINOCEROS.

•The Rhinoceros is about five and a half, or six feet high, and from twelve to fourteen feet long.

This animal's body is very long and large ; his legs are short, but thick and clumsy ; his ears are broad, and stand upright ; his upper lip is long, and hangs over the lower one ; his eyes are small ; his skin lies in great folds, like a thick, stiff piece of cloth, his nose is long, and is armed with a great, strong horn ; and his feet are short, ending in three toes each.

The Rhinoceros uses his horn to defend himself against the lion, elephant, and other animals. It is so strong, that he can run it through a small tree, just as easy as a boy runs an awl through a small stick.

The Rhinoceros lives on grass, and the small twigs of trees ; he also eats thorns, sugar cane and all sorts of corn.

He gathers his food with his upper lip, which ends in a point, and which he can stretch out a foot or more.

He is a harmless beast, when let alone ; but when attacked by other animals, or pursued by men, no animal is more fierce or more dangerous. He is so strong, and fights with so much skill with his horn, that even the elephant cannot master him, and the tiger would rather attack the elephant than the Rhinoceros. His skin is so thick and hard, that it is a good defence against the claws of the lion and tiger.

The color of the Rhinoceros is a dark, bluish brown. He has no hair except on the tail and ears.

This animal runs wild in Asia and Africa, where he lives in low, muddy places, for he loves to wallow in the mire like the hog.

The Rhinoceros can be so far tamed as to be quiet in confinement, and to do a few things at his master's bidding. But he is not a docile animal, and under instruction behaves more like a pig than like any other beast.

He is a solitary beast, and loves best to be alone. He seems too stupid to take any pleasure in company, and is contented if he can wallow in the mire, get enough to eat, and then go to sleep.

The Rhinoceros is said to hear uncommonly well.

He will listen with great attention to any sound, which he has not often heard before. Even while he is eating, if a drum is beat, he will raise his head, and hearken to it a long time.

The flesh of this animal is eaten by the Indians and Africans, and is said by them to be excellent. His skin makes the hardest, and for some uses, the best leather, in the world. His horn is sometimes used by ignorant people as a medicine.

At a single thought, it might be difficult for us to conclude, for what use such a huge and disgusting creature as the Rhinoceros was made : but if we reflect a moment, we shall see, that in the country where he lives, he may be a great blessing to the poor negroes, who might perhaps, starve without his flesh. Nor is it difficult to see that the Creator has been kind to this poor stupid beast, for He has given him a horn, with which to defend himself, and without which, he would easily be beaten to death by the elephant, or become the common prey of the lion and tiger.

How large is the Rhinoceros? What is his shape? What food does he live on? Is he a harmless animal? What is his color? Where is he to be found? Can he be tamed? What makes him contented? What other animal does so? Can the Rhinoceros hear well? Of what use is he?

LESSON LVI.

ANECDOTES OF THE RHINOCEROS.

Many years ago, a Rhinoceros was sent from India to London, and although he was only two years old, the cost of his living, during the voyage, was upwards of four thousand dollars. He was fed on rice, sugar, and hay.

He had, three times a day, seven pounds of rice, mixed with three pounds of sugar, besides large quantities of hay and herbs. This animal was of a peace-

able disposition, and would let a person touch any part of its body, without being angry. When he was hungry, or when struck by any one, he became very furious, nor would he become tame, and mild again, until something was given him to eat, when he would again become harmless as before.

When angry, he would spring about in a very strange manner, and often raise himself up on his hind feet, at the same time pushing most furiously against the sides of his cage. His motions were quick, and nimble, although he was so stupid and lazy in appearance.

Dr. Parsons, who writes the substance of the above account, says that he does not believe this creature can ever be tamed, so as to obey his master, and that when offended, he believes he would destroy every person who happened to be near him.

Mr. Kolbe, who went into the country where the Rhinoceros lives, says that this animal, in his wild state, does not often attack men, unless they provoke him, or wear a red dress. Why a red dress should make him angry, we cannot say; but on seeing it, he becomes very furious, and pursues after the man who has it on, and will destroy him, if he can.

But Kolbe says it is very easy to escape him, although he runs with great swiftness, for this beast cannot see any thing that is not right before him. Therefore the man whom he is pursuing must stand still until the Rhinoceros comes very near him, when he must suddenly jump one side, and then run away. The animal keeps on for a while, but not seeing the man, stops, not knowing which way to pursue; and thus the man has time to get out of his way.

Now can we not see the goodness of the Creator towards man, in having made the sight of this huge animal less perfect than that of other animals? For, could he see all around, like the cow and horse, no person could escape his fury, who should be pursued by him.

Does the Rhinoceros eat a great deal? What color does he
islike? Is it easy to escape him? Why?

LESSON LVII.

MY BROTHER.

Who often with me kindly play'd,
And all my little playthings made,
My kite or ball — though still unpaid?
My Brother.

Who made a sled when winter came,
With little ropes to draw the same,
And on its sides carv'd out my name?
My Brother

Who after him my sled would tow,
Swift o'er the ice, where'er I'd go,
And mark'd the gliding wave below?
My Brother.

Who lov'd to soothe my childish fear,
And wip'd away the falling tear,
When the cold ice crack'd loud and near?
My Brother.

And who was it that taught to me
The seeds of learning, A, B, C,
On paper mark'd them out for me?
My Brother.

Who to the school my books would bear,
And lead me o'er the bridge with care,
And lessons find for me when there?
My Brother.

Who gathered apples from the tree?
Chestnuts and walnuts too — for me,
Who cheerful did all this but thee,
My Brother?