

FRIEND AND FOE

FROM

FIELD AND FOREST

A NATURAL HISTORY

OF THE

MAMMALIA.

Arranged According to the Most Approved Methods of Leading Scientists. Devoid of Technical Terms and Suited to the Wants of Young People.

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85*
ILLUSTRATED WITH NEARLY THREE HUNDRED SPIRITED
DRAWINGS BY LEADING ARTISTS.

TOGETHER WITH

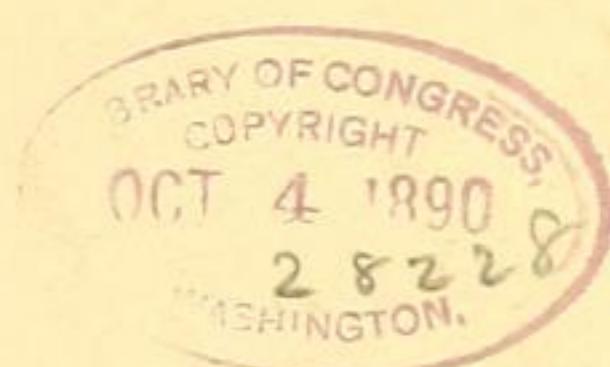
Eight Full Page Lithographs Printed in Colors.

EDITED BY MRS. GRACE TOWNSEND.

CHICAGO, PHILADELPHIA, STOCKTON, CAL.

L. P. MILLER & COMPANY,

1890.



were not brought to their present pitch of perfection a ball from one of them would scarcely make an impression.

On the back of the neck there is a thick rounded crest, which extends from the forehead, as low as the level of the eyes, to the shoulders, and beset with a comparatively thin mane of stiff blackish bristles.

The American tapir is hunted for its excessively tough hide, and also for its flesh, which, although described by Europeans as unsavory, being coarse and dry, is considered palatable by the Indians. It is captured sometimes, although not often, by means of the lasso, an instrument so successful in horse catching, but often futile as regards the tapir, for its usual haunts render this mode of capture most difficult, and its determined rush and immense strength frequently enable it to break the strongest lasso. Another way of hunting the tapir practiced by the native hunters is to find out the animal's track leading to the water; there, with their dogs, they patiently lie in wait until evening approaches, when the tapir comes out for the purpose of taking his evening stroll, and indulging in the indispensable bath. They then get between him and the water, when a desperate encounter ensues, the dogs often getting very badly injured.

The most successful manner of catching the tapir, however, is by means of imitating its whistle or call, thus bringing the animal within range of the Indian's poisoned arrow.

The American tapir is mild in captivity and easily domesticated, and tame tapirs are permitted to run at large in the streets of the towns of Guiana, and often wander into the forests, but return again in the evening to the house in which they are kept and fed. The tapir is capable of considerable attachment to its owner, and possibly, by care and attention, might be turned to good account, as the qualities with which it is credited—strength, docility, and patience—ought to render it capable of the duties of a beast of burden.

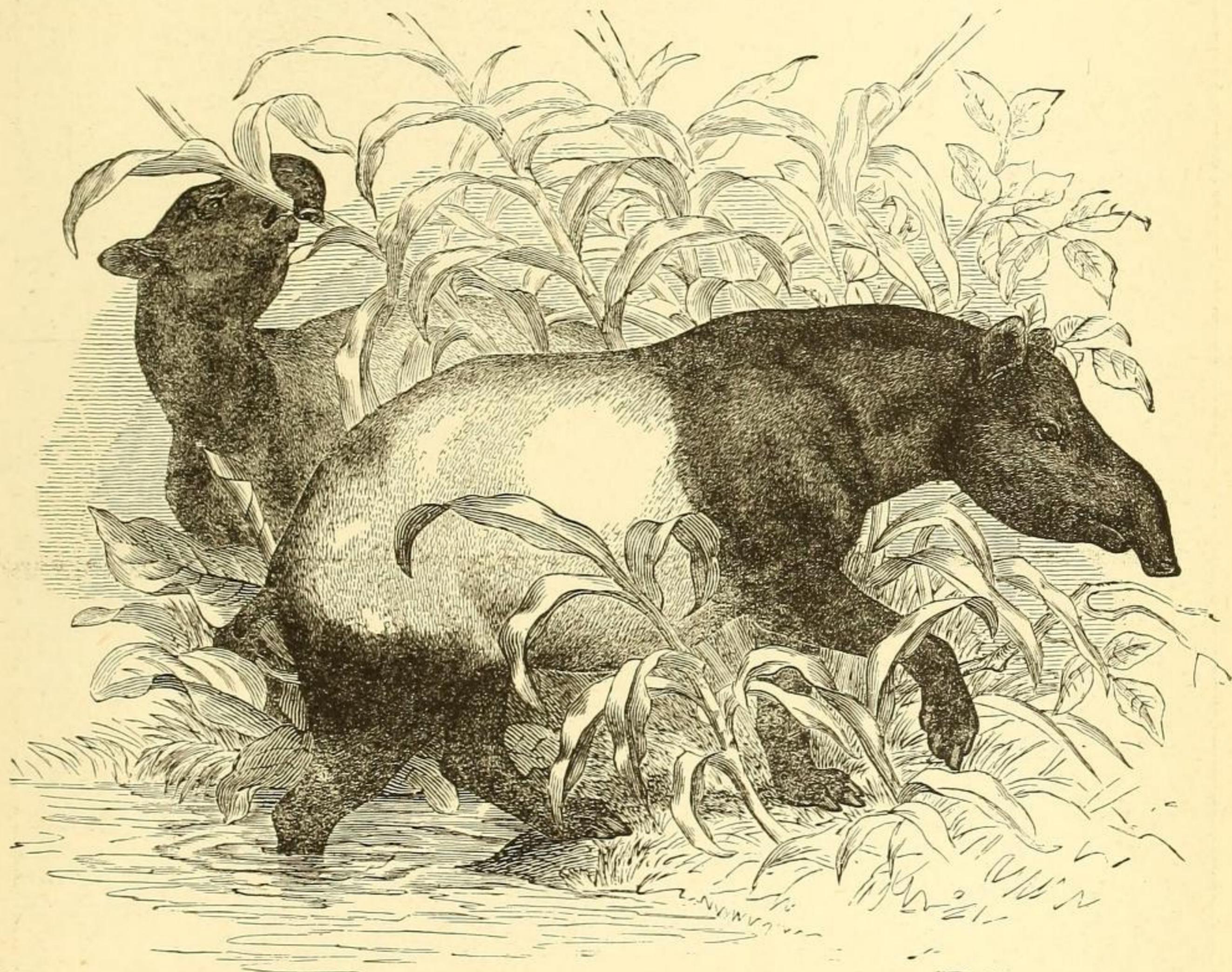
THE MALAYAN TAPIR. The Asiatic tapir, which appears to have become known to Europeans only in the present century, is an inhabitant of Sumatra, Malacca, and the southwest provinces of China. It is said to have been found also in Borneo. In size it is larger than the American tapir. It is distinguished by the absence of a mane, the general color of the hair being glossy black, but with the back, rump, and sides of the belly white.

In its habits the Asiatic tapir appears to be similar to his American cousin, and in captivity it is said to be of a most mild and inoffensive disposition, becoming as tractable and familiar as a dog.

THE RHINOCEROS FAMILY (RHINOCEROTIDÆ).

The rhinoceroses form the third family of the sub-order of Perissodactyla. They are to be found at the present day in Africa south of the Sahara Desert, and in India, Java, or Sumatra, where the climate is tropical or sub-tropical. They

are represented by several living species, as well as by several extinct forms. The principal characteristics which are to be observed in the rhinoceros are the large unwieldy bodies, supported on short, stout legs, terminating in a large callous pad with hoof-bearing toes, the large and long head, the small eyes and ears, and the short tail. All the living species also possess one or two horns, which are placed in the middle line of the head on and above the nose. Each of these horns is to

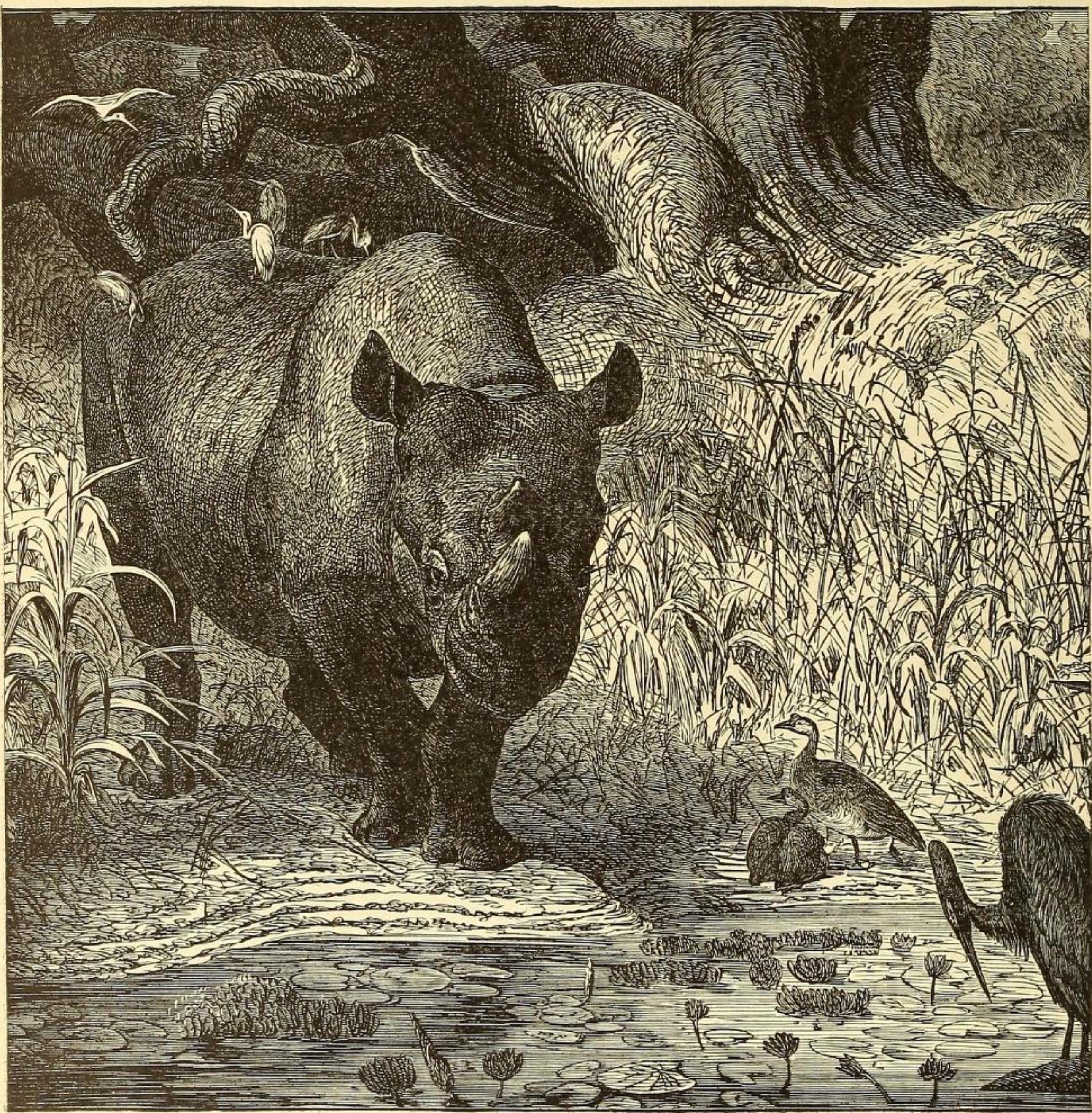


THE MALAYAN TAPIR.

be viewed as a mere appendage to the skin, like hair, for they are only skin deep, and are composed of a series of fibers matted together, and similar, if not identical, to a mass of hair in which each hair is confluent with those near it.

THE WHITE RHINOCEROS. This is an animal measuring somewhat over twelve feet in length and about five feet ten inches in height. It has a square nose and two large rounded horns, the anterior one averaging about two feet six inches in length, but not uncommonly found measuring three feet six inches, some-

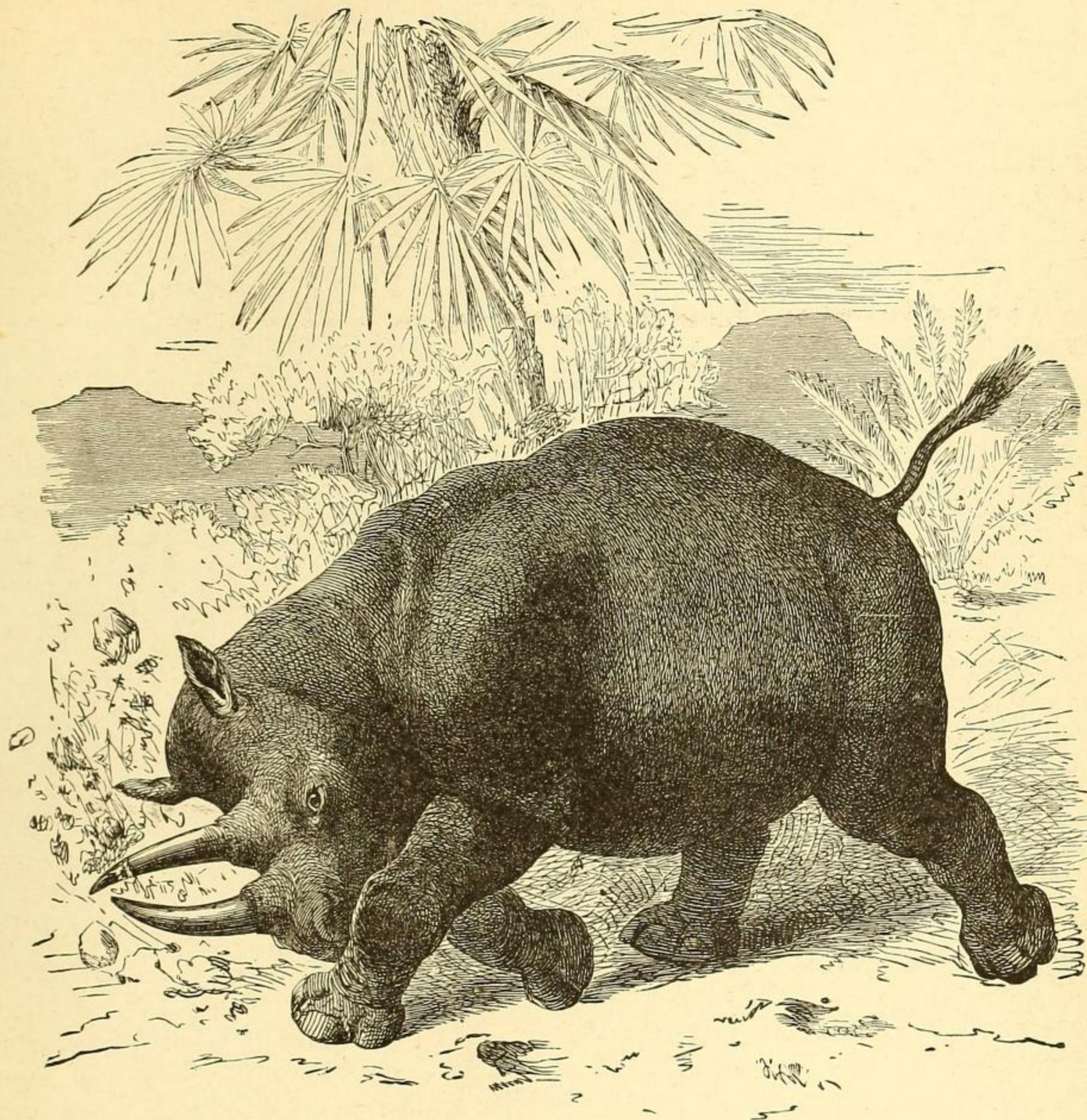
times even over four feet; the posterior rarely or never exceeding fifteen inches, and generally not being more than twelve inches. Its skin is smooth, and without any of those folds so characteristic of the Asiatic species. It inhabits all the coun-



THE "WHITE" RHINOCEROS.

try south of the Zambesi, and probably it may also exist in Central Africa. It feeds solely on grass, and sometimes collects into small herds.

THE BLACK RHINOCEROS is a much smaller animal, being about eleven feet in length, and five feet in height, with an elongated head and horns



THE KEITLOA.

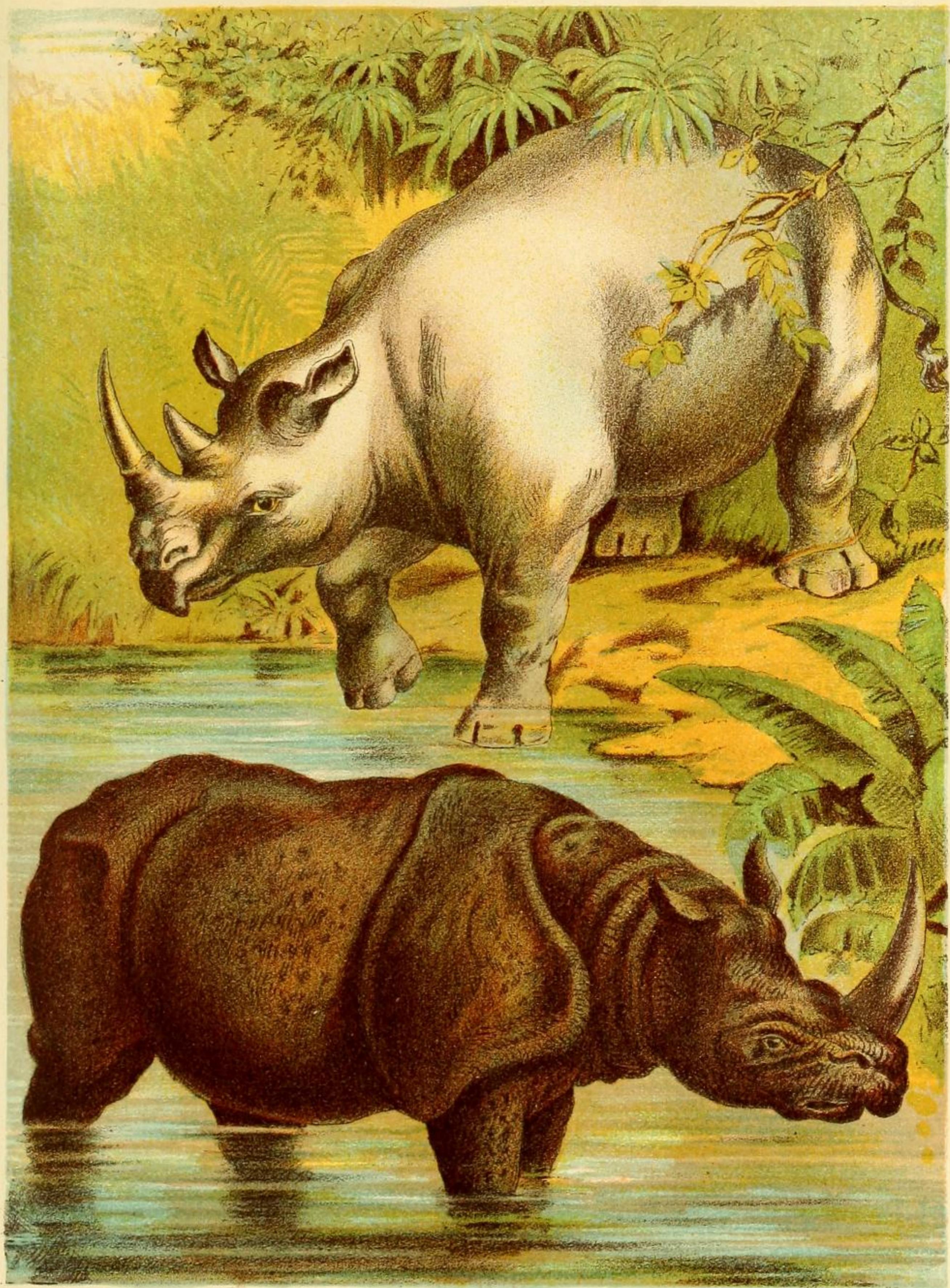
thicker in proportion to length than those of the white rhinoceros. The front horn is twenty or twenty-two inches in length, and never attains to more than twenty-six or twenty-eight inches; while the back horn averages ten or twelve inches. Its skin is not black, but flesh-colored, and the upper lip is highly prehensile.

THE KEITLOA differs but little from the black rhinoceros, excepting in the formation of the head, which is somewhat shorter and broader, and it has a less prehensile lip. Its chief characteristic is the posterior horn, which is flattened at the sides, being of almost equal length to the anterior, and even occasionally

longer, twenty and twenty-two inches being about the average. It is found sparingly in all the country south of the Zambesi, and is not gregarious, a bull and cow only being usually seen together. The Black Rhinoceros is the smallest, being seldom over ten feet in length, or more than four feet ten inches in height. The head is more elongated, and the nose more prehensile than in any other species, while the legs are shorter in proportion, and the feet smaller. The anterior horns rarely exceed twelve inches, and the posterior seven or eight inches. It is usually found only between Zululand and the Limpopo River, although it has been killed farther north, not far from the Zambesi. It is not gregarious, two full grown ones and a calf being the greatest number that has been recorded as seen together. It feeds on thorns, leaves and shoots, and rarely, if ever, is found out of the thorn jungle.

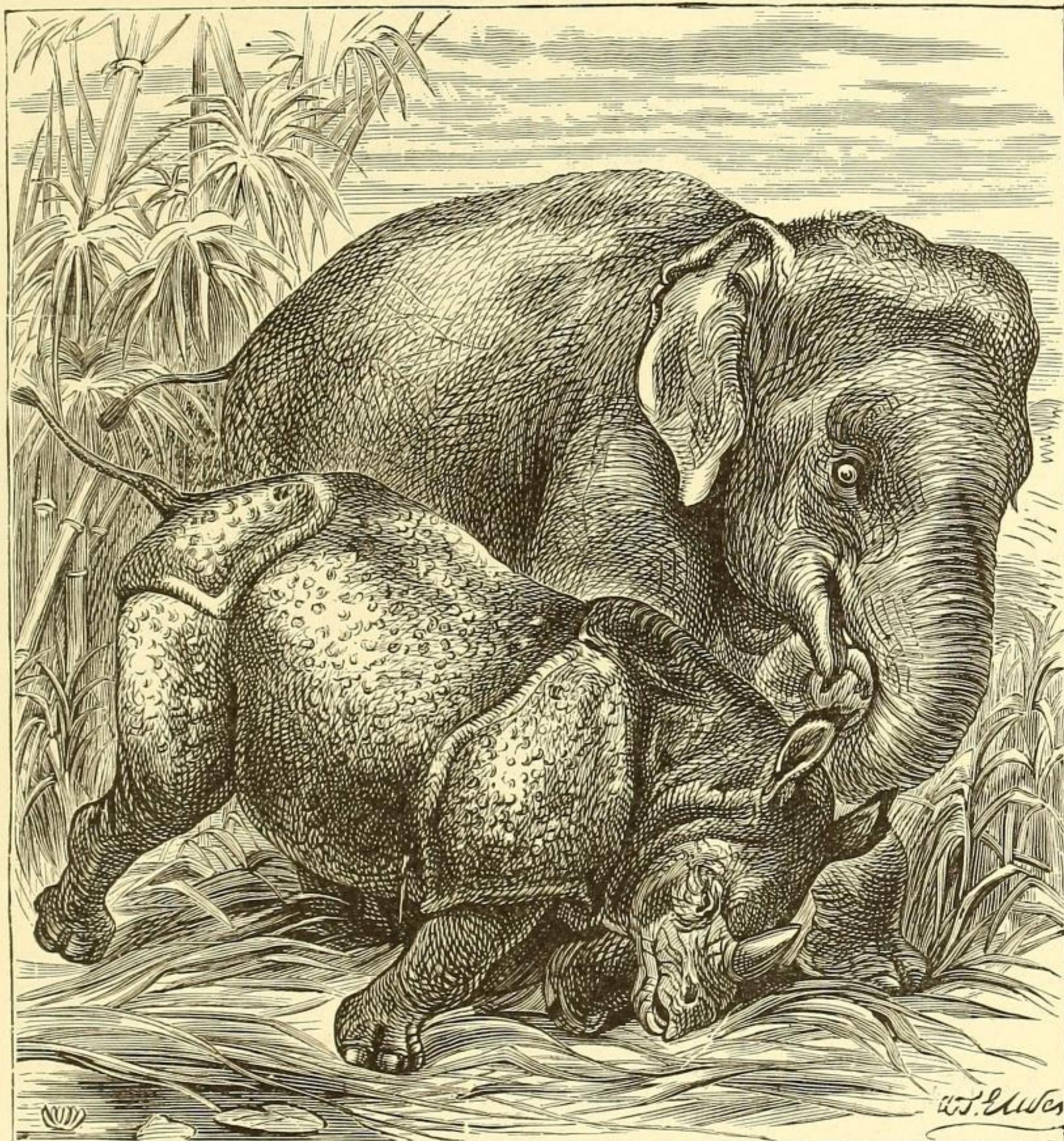
Until recent times, it was universally believed that the hide of a rhinoceros was too tough to allow a bullet to penetrate; indeed, even now in popular opinion the belief is still retained, but, like many popular opinions, it has proved to be untrue; and that a rhinoceros may be as easily shot with an ordinary bullet as an ox, is fully established on the authority of Gordon Cummings, Sir S. Baker, Dr. Livingstone, and others.

Gordon Cummings, in his "Hunter's Life in South Africa," gives the following details of the rhinoceros: "Of the rhinoceros there are four varieties in South Africa, distinguished by the Bechuanas by the names of the Borèlé, or black rhinoceros; the Keitloa, or two-horned black rhinoceros; the Muchocho, or common white rhinoceros; and the Robaoba, or long-horned white rhinoceros. Both varieties of the black rhinoceros are extremely fierce and dangerous, and rush headlong and unprovoked at any object which attracts their attention. They never attain much fat, and their flesh is tough, and not much esteemed by the Bechuanas. Their food consists almost entirely of the thorny branches of the waitabit thorns. Their horns are much shorter than those of the other varieties, seldom exceeding eighteen inches in length. They are finely polished with constant rubbing against the trees. The skull is remarkably formed, the most striking feature being the tremendously thick ossification in which it ends above the nostrils. It is on this mass that the horn is supported. The horns are not connected with the skull, being attached merely by the skin, and they may thus be separated from the head by means of a sharp knife. They are hard and solid throughout, and are a fine material for various articles, such as drinking cups, mallets for rifles, handles for turners' tools, etc. The horn is capable of taking a very high polish. The eyes of the rhinoceros are small and sparkling, and do not readily observe the hunter, provided he keep to the leeward of them. The skin is extremely thick, and only to be penetrated by bullets hardened with solder. During the day the rhinoceros will be found lying asleep, or standing indolently in some retired part of the forest, or under the base of the mountains, sheltered from the power of the sun by some friendly grove of umbrella-topped mimosas.



White and Black Rhinoceros.

In the evening they commence their nightly rambles, and wander over a great extent of country. They usually visit the fountains between the hours of nine and twelve o'clock at night, and it is on these occasions that they may be the most successfully hunted, and with the least danger. The black rhinoceros is subject to paroxysms of unprovoked fury, often plowing up the ground for several



INDIAN RHINOCEROS AND ELEPHANT FIGHTING.

yards with its horn, and assaulting large bushes in the most violent manner. On these bushes they work for hours with their horns, at the same time snorting and blowing loudly, nor do they leave them in general until they have broken them in pieces. All the four varieties delight to roll and wallow in the mud, with which their rugged hides are generally incrusted. Both varieties of the black rhinoceros

are much smaller and more active than the white, and are so swift that a horse with a rider on his back can rarely overtake them.

The two varieties of the white rhinoceros are so similar in habits that the description of one will serve for both, the principal difference consisting in the length and set of the anterior horn, that of the Muchocho averaging from two to three feet in length and pointing backward, while the horn of the Robaoba often exceeds four feet in length, and inclines forward from the nose at an angle of forty-five degrees. The posterior horn of either species seldom exceeds six or seven inches in length. The Robaoba is the rarer of the two, and it is found very far in the interior, chiefly to the eastward of the Limpopo. Its horns are very valuable for loading rods, supplying a substance at once suitable for a sporting implement, and excellent for the purpose. Both these varieties of rhinoceros attain an enormous size. They feed solely on grass, carry much fat, and their flesh is excellent, being preferable to beef. They are of a much milder and more inoffensive disposition than the black rhinoceros, rarely charging their pursuer. Their speed is very inferior to that of the other varieties, and a person well mounted can overtake and shoot them. The head of these is a foot longer than that of the Borèlé. They generally carry their heads low, whereas the Borèlé, when disturbed, carries his very high. Unlike the elephants, they never associate in herds, but are met singly or in pairs. In districts where they are abundant, from three to six may be found in company, and I once saw upward of a dozen congregated together on some young grass, but such an occurrence is rare."

Gordon Cummings relates that the rhinoceros and hippopotamus are usually attended by little birds known as rhinoceros birds, "Their object being to feed upon the ticks and other parasites that swarm upon these animals. They are of a grayish color, and are nearly as large as a common thrush. Their voice is very similar to the mistletoe thrush. Many a time have these ever-watchful birds disappointed me in my stalk, and tempted me to invoke an anathema upon their devoted heads. They are the best friends the rhinoceros has, and rarely fail to awaken him, even in his soundest nap. 'Chuckuroo' perfectly understands their warning, and, springing to his feet, he generally first looks about him in every direction, after which he invariably makes off. I have often hunted a rhinoceros on horseback which led me a chase of many miles, and required a number of shots before he fell, during which chase several of these birds remained by the rhinoceros to the last. They reminded me of mariners on the deck of some bark sailing on the ocean, for they perched along his back and sides, and as each of my bullets told on the shoulder of the rhinoceros, they ascended about six feet into the air, uttering their harsh cry of alarm, and then resumed their position. It sometimes happened that the lower branches of trees, under which the rhinoceros passed, swept them from their living deck, but they always recovered their former station. They also adhere to the rhinoceros during the night. I have often shot these animals at midnight when drinking at the fountains, and the birds, imagining

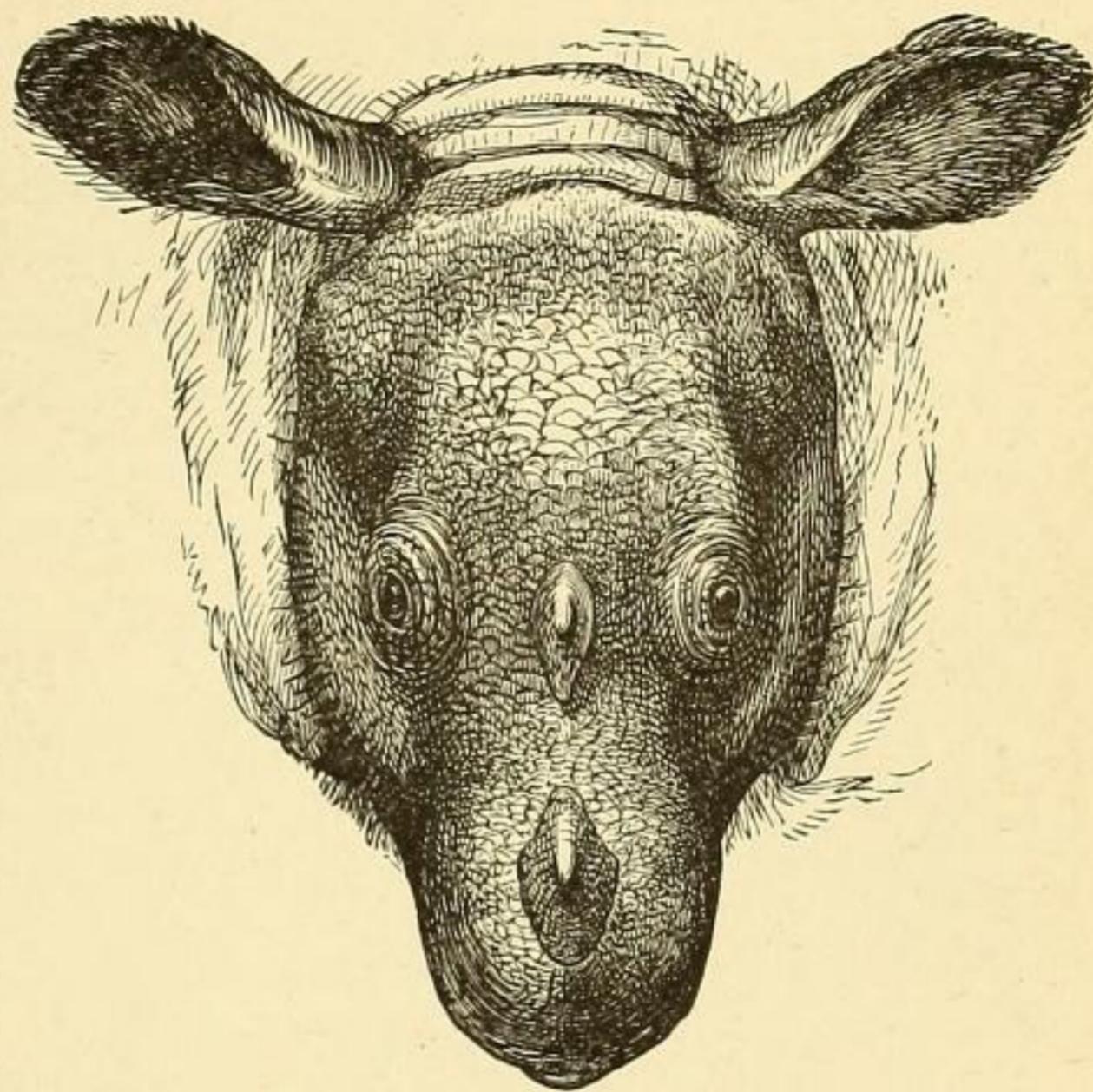
they were asleep, remained with them till morning, and on my approaching, before taking flight, they exerted themselves to the utmost to awaken Chuckuroo from his deep sleep."

THE ASIATIC RHINOCEROS.

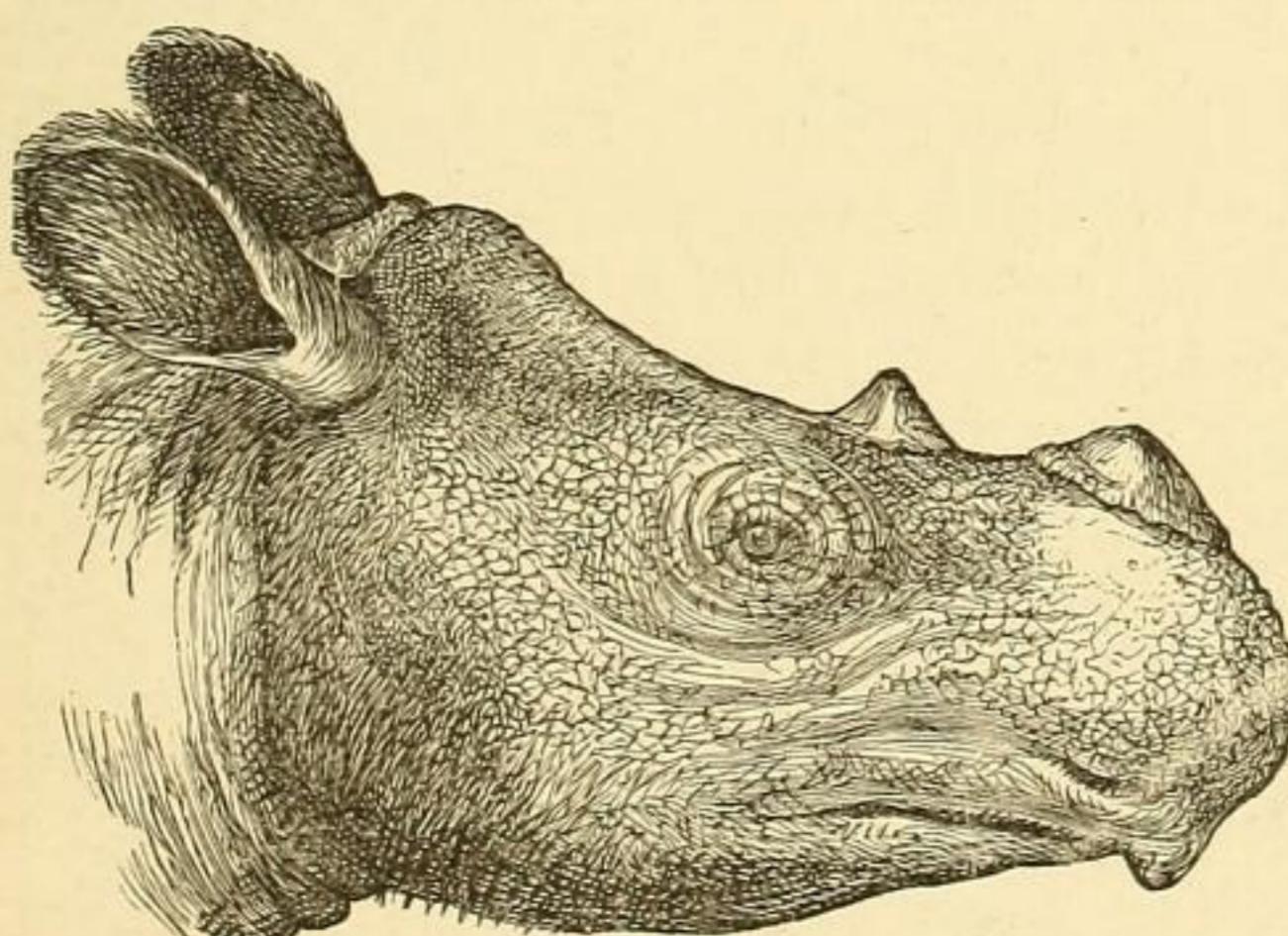
There are four different rhinoceroses in Asia, of which two are characterized by the possession of one horn, while the remaining two possess two horns, as in the African species. All the adult Asiatic possess incisors or front teeth, which are conspicuous by their absence from the African species. The normal number of these is four in the upper and four in the lower jaws, the median pair being the larger in the upper and the smaller in the lower. The development of these teeth seems to stand in relation to the development of horns, those animals with the smallest horns being provided with the largest incisors.

THE INDIAN RHINOCEROS is the most familiar, with a single horn on the nose, and thick naked skin covered with large boss-like granulations, which lie in massive folds on various parts of the body, and more especially behind and across the shoulders and before and across the thighs. There are a few stiff hairs on the tail and ears. It inhabits the East Indies, principally beyond the Ganges, and is recorded as having been found in Bengal, Siam, and Cochin-China. It is found in shady forests, the neighborhood of rivers, and marshy places, its food consisting of herbage and branches of trees. The fully grown animal rarely arrives at a greater height than five, and its average may be taken at four feet.

Williamson, in his "Oriental Field Sports," speaking of the Indian rhinoceros, describes it as an inveterate enemy of elephants, attacking whenever he can find them single, or, at least, not protected by a male of great bulk, ripping without mercy, and confiding in his coat of mail to defend him from the puny attacks of the females, as



FRONT VIEW OF HEAD OF SUMATRAN RHINOCEROS.



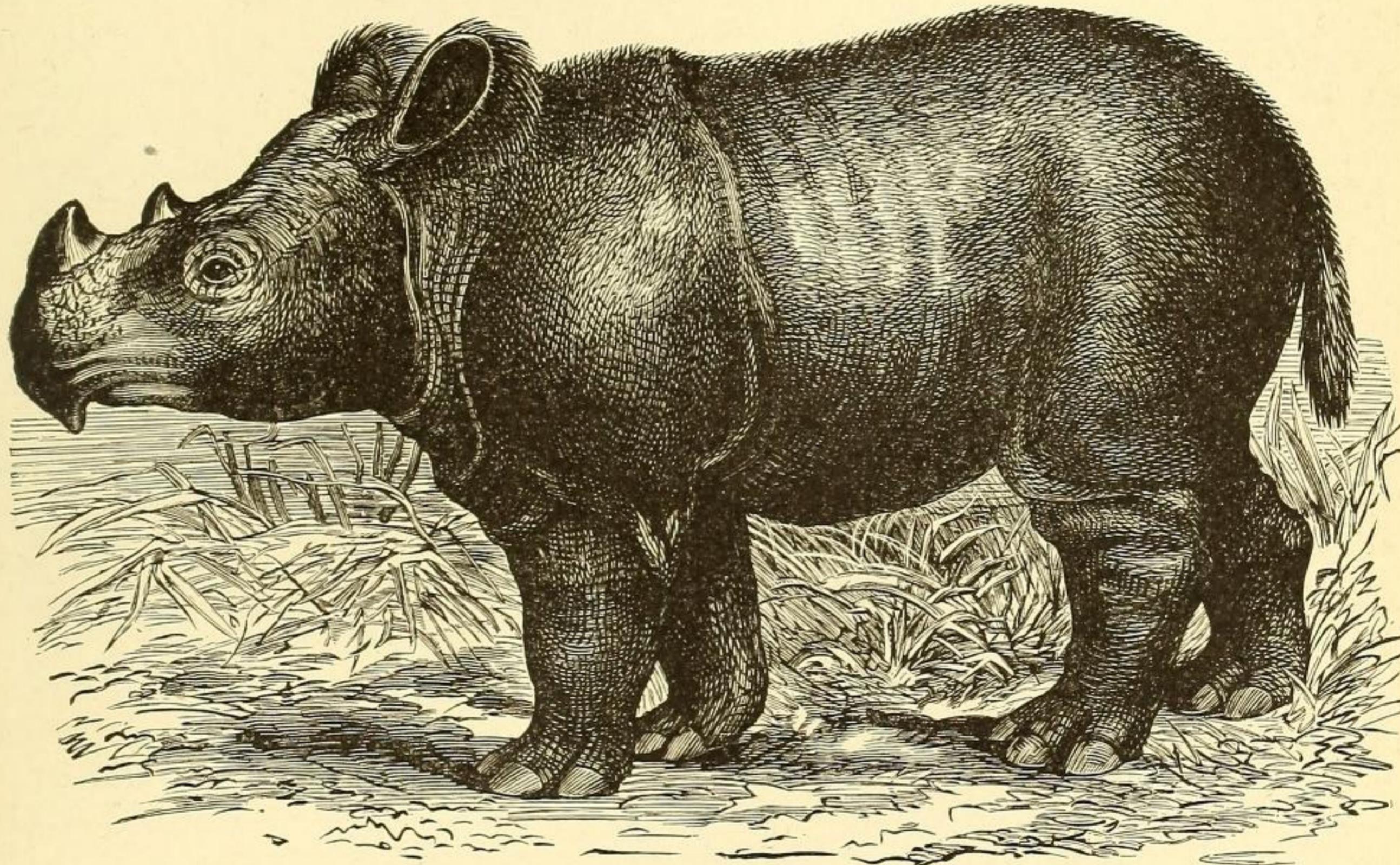
SIDE VIEW OF HEAD OF SUMATRAN RHINOCEROS.

well as to resist the tusks of young males. He relates that the apparent bluntness of the horn of the Indian rhinoceros, which is about as broad at the base as it is high, would make it appear a somewhat insignificant weapon, and inadequate to penetrate any hard or tough substance. This, however, we are informed is not the case, elephants often being found dead, obviously, it is stated, from the wounds received from the horn of the rhinoceros; and in one case, as is related by Williamson, a large male elephant and rhinoceros were found both dead together, the elephant's abdomen having been ripped open, and the rhinoceros' horn having been found transfixed beneath the ribs. Williamson also states that Major Lally, an officer of the Indian army, whose veracity is beyond question, while engaged in one of his hunting expeditions, and having arrived at the summit of a low range of hills, was suddenly presented with a distinct view of a most desperate engagement between a rhinoceros and a large male elephant, the latter, to all appearance, protecting a small herd which were retiring in a state of alarm. The elephant was beaten, and decamped, followed by the rhinoceros, into a heavy jungle, where much roaring was heard, but nothing could be discerned. From this we may conclude that the habit which Pliny describes of the rhinoceros ripping open the elephant is confirmed by modern observation.

THE SUMATRAN RHINOCEROS is the more commonly known of the two two-horned species inhabiting Asia. Its head is armed with two obtusely-pointed horns, its body is covered with bristles, and the folds of the skin are deep, and especially that behind the shoulder. The folds on the neck, however, are not so distinct as in the one-horned species.

THE HAIRY-EARED RHINOCEROS has been confounded by naturalists with the Sumatran species, until Dr. Sclater showed from the comparison of those two animals that they were specifically distinct. The former is characterized by the long hairy fringe to the ears, by the covering of long, fine reddish hair on the body, the smoother and more finely granulated skin, and the shorter tail. The one in Regent's Park was captured in January, 1868, under very singular circumstances, as described in the following extract from a Calcutta newspaper: "The quiet station of Chittagong has been lately enlivened by the presence of a rhinoceros. It appears that about a month ago some natives came into Chittagong and stated that a rhinoceros had been found by them in a quicksand, and was quite exhausted with the efforts to relieve herself. They had attached two ropes to the animal's neck, and with the assistance of about two hundred men dragged her out, and keeping her taut between two ropes they eventually made her fast to a tree. The next morning, however, they found the rhinoceros so refreshed, and making such efforts to free herself, that they were frightened, and made application to the magistrate of Chittagong for protection. The same evening Captain Hood and Mr. W. H. Wickes started with eight elephants to secure the prize, and after a

march of about sixteen hours to the south of Chittagong they came up with the animal. The elephants, at first sight of the rhinoceros, were very much afraid, and bolted one and all, but after some exertion they were brought back and made to stand by. A rope was now with some trouble attached to the animal's hind leg, and secured to an elephant. At this juncture the rhinoceros roared ; the elephants again bolted, and had it not been for the rope slipping from the leg of the rhinoceros, the limb might have been pulled from the body. The rhinoceros was, however, eventually secured with ropes between elephants, and marched into Chittagong in perfect health. Two large rivers had to be crossed—first the Sungoo River, where



THE HAIRY-EARED RHINOCEROS.

the animal was towed between elephants, for she could not swim, and cou'd only just keep her head above water by paddling with the fore feet, like a pig ; and secondly, the Kurnafoolie River, when the ordinary cattle ferry boat was used. Thousands of natives thronged the march in, which occupied a few days, the temporary bamboo bridges on the Government road invariably falling in with the numbers collected thereon to watch the rhinoceros crossing the stream below ; and sometimes the procession was at least a mile in length. The ' Begum,' as the rhinoceros has been named, is now free from all ropes, and kept within a stockade inclosure, having therein a good bath excavated in the ground, and a comfortable covered shed attached. She is already very tame, and will take plantain leaves or chuppatees from the hand, and might also be led about by a string." Begum was ultimately

taken to England, and sold to the Zoological Society for \$6,000, and is now living in the Regent's Park, where she is quiet and orderly, and an altogether respectable lady rhinoceros.

SUIDÆ, OR HOG FAMILY.

The hog family may be divided into three well marked groups—the true swine, the wart hogs, and the peccaries. In order to enable the hog family to "root" or turn up the ground, they are provided with a truncated and cylindrical proboscis, or snout, which is capable of considerable movement. The skin is more or less supplied abundantly with hair, and the tail is short, and in some cases merely represented by a tubercle. The sense of smell in the hog is very acute, and when its broad snout plows up the herbage, not a root, an insect, or a worm, escapes the olfactory sense. Although credited with stupidity, the hog in its native state is to be styled anything but a dull and lethargic animal, neither is it the filthy animal that domestication has reduced it to. Properly cared for, the pig is as cleanly in its habits, and as capable of strong attachment, as any other creature.

THE WILD BOAR inhabits Europe, North Africa, and Hindostan, each country having its own peculiar type or race, which sometimes is so marked as to constitute separate species in the opinion of first-rate naturalists. The wild boar is distinguished by a body generally of a dusky-brown or greyish color, having a tendency to black, and being diversified with black spots. The canines or tusks in the male are long and powerful, and project beyond the upper lip, the mouth is large, and the elongated head is set on a short neck rising out of a thick and muscular body. The size is variable, an old wild boar recorded by Demarest being five feet nine inches long, while a four-year-old of the more ordinary size measured three feet without the tail. The female is smaller than the male, and with smaller tusks. The hairs of the body are coarse, intermixed with a downy wool. On the neck and shoulders the hairs take the form of bristles, being long enough to assume a kind of mane, which the animal is enabled to erect if irritated. The young has the body marked with longitudinal stripes of a reddish color. In its habits the wild boar is by choice herbivorous, feeding on plants, fruits, and roots; but it will also eat snakes, lizards, and various insects, and when pressed by hunger nothing appears to come amiss to its voracious appetite; it is stated that even dead horses are sometimes called into requisition. The boar is nocturnal in its habits, rarely leaving the shadow of the woods in the daytime, and coming forth as twilight approaches in search of food, delighting in roots often deeply embedded in the soil, and which its keen sense of smell enables it easily to detect. Much mischief is often done by this animal, which plows up the ground in continuous furrows for long distances, and is not content, like the domesticated variety, with plowing up a spot here and there.