

THE
PICNIC MAGAZINE,

A JOURNAL OF LITERATURE,

SCIENCE, CHESS AND THE DRAMA.

N^o. II.

CONTAINING

SELECTED REVIEWS: COPIOUS NOTICES AND LISTS OF NEW BOOKS. BIOGRAPHY:
TALES, TRAVELS, SCIENTIFIC SPECIFICATIONS AND NOTICES. NATURAL HISTORY:
ORIGINAL ARTICLES: POETRY: CHESS AND MISCELLANEA—CAREFULLY COMPILED
FROM ALL THE BRITISH PERIODICALS LEAST GENERALLY READ IN INDIA.

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THE  
**PICNIC MAGAZINE.**

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[No. 5.]

I.—SELECTED REVIEWS AND NOTICES OF  
NEW BOOKS.

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**REVIEWS.**

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*Rollo and his Race ; or, Footsteps of the Normans. By Acton Warburton. Two vols. Bentley.*

READ in the right spirit, this is a very interesting and charming work. A man of elegant mind, of delicate and lively perceptions, habituated to regard the picturesque, whether in the aspect of nature, or the history of mankind—rambles loiteringly over a country which is to the modern inhabitant of Northern Europe what the Doric Peloponnesus might have been to the Dorian colonist of Sicily or Byzantium, and gives us, with honest enthusiasm, not unmingled with fervid prejudices, his impressions of the present, blent with his recollections of the past.

It is impossible to describe befittingly the Norman land, without touching upon the Norman architecture,—and without a sentiment of reverence for the noble relics of that grand art which records in stone the chronicle and character of a race. Mr. Warburton writes on this enticing theme, with all “its vexed subjects,” in a spirit that will provoke many dissentients from his taste. We do not agree with his scorn of the pointed arch, nor his execration of the Tudor innovations. But, *de gustibus non disputandum*; and we content ourselves with observing that Mr. Warburton’s reflection will convince him that he has not hit upon the truth, when he supposes that the Norman style of architecture, like the Norman mind, was formed “by the appearances of Nature—long nights, unending frosts, limitless wilds,” &c. (in short, the aspects of a Norwegian clime and land)—“all tending to nourish the idea of perpetuity,” and so “expressed in the salient feature of the architectural style that bears his name, viz., the circular arch.” For Mr. Warburton should surely recollect that it was not till our friend the Norman had got out of these “unending frosts and limitless wilds,” and ensconced himself comfortably in Neustria, that the idea of “perpetuity expressed in the circular arch” ever entered into his

and literary societies of Europe, sat with his grey unadorned locks a hearer of one of the severest invectives that ever proceeded from the tongue of man ; and an observer of a boisterous and obstreperous merriment and exultation, which added nothing to the dignity of his judges. He had sufficient self-command to suppress all display of feeling ; but the transactions of the day sunk deeply into his mind, and produced an inextinguishable rancour against this country, which coloured all the acts of his subsequent life, and occasioned extensive and ever memorable consequences. All the present exultation was unbounded. A day of repentance and humiliation was to succeed it. We shall not follow Lord Campbell\* through the subsequent details. The animus with which Lord Loughborough continued to treat the Americans was sketched by Burke at a later date. "The learned gentleman's speech," he said, (alluding to his expressions in the House,) "demands blood—the sword must convince the Americans and clear up their clouded apprehensions ! The learned gentleman's logical resources surely desert him if he is obliged to call such a coarse argument as an army to his assistance, not that I mean to cast any personal reflection upon him—I always respect and sometimes dread his talents."—*Sharpe's London Magazine.*

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### III.—NATURAL HISTORY.

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#### *A New South African Rhinoceros.*

(With Illustration.)

THE one-horned species of Rhinoceros, inhabiting the continent of India, and Sumatra, is the most generally known. Subsequently Mr. Bell discovered a two-horned species of the Rhinoceros Sumatranus, and Mr. Burchell discovered two species having a double horn in Africa, the Rhinoceros Africanus and Rhinoceros Simus. A new species has been lately seen by Mr. Oswell, in South Africa, having two horns, the lower horn resembling a Unicorn's, but slightly bent downwards, it has been figured and described in the pages of the "*Madras Journal of Literature and Science*," a work which we have favourably noticed in another page, and perceiving that there are no names from this side of India among its subscribers, we think it will at least do no harm to that publication to help to diffuse more widely this valuable addition to Natural History, and at the same time to take the opportunity of comparing it with other known species.

Mr. Oswell says of it, "It was on the banks of the Makolive, an important tributary of the Limpopo, that the travellers first met with the singular animal of which we have given the accompanying figure, the fidelity of which is attested by Mr. Oswell." He describes it as resembling generally the white Rhinoceros, Rhinoceros Simus, "except in the formation of the horn, which is longer, much straighter and curved, though but slightly, in exactly the contrary direction : the two specimens of the horn which we brought from the interior, are abraded at the points, on the lower sides, probably from coming in contact with the ground, whilst the animal is feeding. When running at speed also, or when alarmed, it

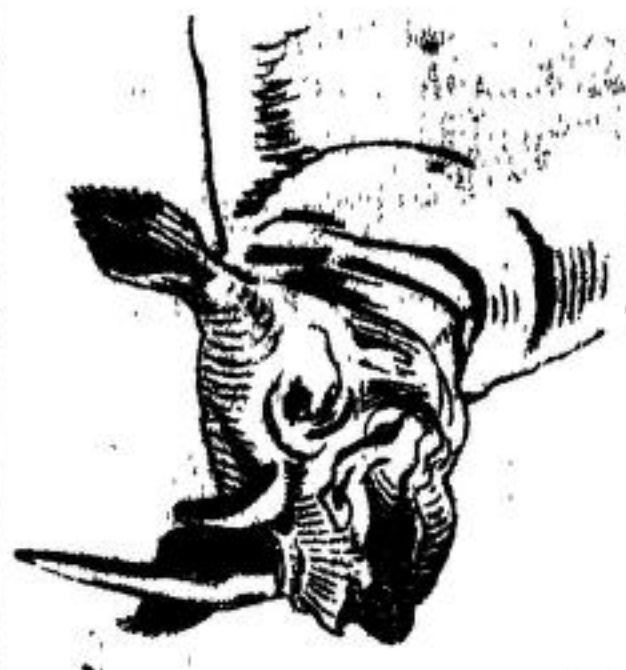




R. Africanus



R. Simus



carries the head very low, as do likewise the other species, and the horn then standing nearly straight out from the nose with a trifling curve downwards, may occasionally strike or rub against the inequalities of the ground."

"From the circumstance of the *Quebaba* being found in the neighbourhood, and from its general resemblance to the white Rhinoceros, we at first supposed the peculiarity of the horn to be merely a malformation; but the fact of five having been seen, two of which were shot,—of the *Bechuana*, who inhabit the country in which the specimens were obtained, knowing the animal well under a distinct name, and describing it as frequently to be met with, though by no means so common as the other kinds—together with the circumstance of its being unknown to the south of the Tropic, though the common white Rhinoceros is there found in abundance,—caused us to change our opinion, and to consider it as certainly a distinct species." The name *Quebaba* is that by which the *Bechuana* distinguish it from the common white species, which they designate *Chakwur*, the *Mahuhu* of the *Matabili*. Concurring in opinion with Mr. Oswell, that the above facts render the existence of the *Quebaba* as a distinct species, as highly probable, we have named it, provisionally after its discoverer, *Rhinoceros Oswelli*."—*Madras Journal, Literary and Science*.

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The two-horned African Rhinoceros.

RH. AFRICANUS. CUVIER.

To the plate given by the Madras Journal we have added two small sketches (from Jardine's Naturalist's Library) of the Rhinoceros Africanus and Rhinoceros Simus. Of the former Mr. Burchell gives the following interesting particulars:

"Mr. Burchell was fortunate in being able to shoot no less than nine of these huge animals." Speaking of the second which came under his observation, he says, "The first view of this beast, suggested the idea of an enormous hog, to which, besides its general form, it bears some outward resemblance in the shape of its skull, and the smallness of its eyes, and the proportionate size of its ears; but in its shapeless clumsy legs and feet, it more resembles the Hippopotamus and Elephant. Its length, over the forehead, and along the back, from the extremity of the nose to the insertion of the tail, was 11 feet 2 inches, of English measure; but in a direct line, not more than 9 feet 3 inches. The tail which at the extremity was compressed or flattened vertically, measured twenty inches, and the circumference of the largest part of the body, eight feet four inches." There was no hair except on the edges of the ears, and on the extremity of the tail. The skin, though thick and strong, did not flatten the balls which did not strike some bone."

"The Rhinoceros of Africa does not seem to be looked upon with the same terror by the natives or Hottentots, as the animal of India. He possesses the same keen and nice smell, and delicate sense of hearing, and can only be approached against wind, and they do sometimes become furious and attack their pursuers; but the cool disposition of the native hunters, and their great agility protects them. They allow the animal to rush



impetuously on, and when near, by shifting nimbly aside avoid the charge, and have time in their turn to attack him, and to reload their muskets. They are often killed with a single ball, and one individual thinks it no hazard to act alone against them. In South Africa they are much esteemed as food, which Burchell agrees in considering excellent, much resembling beef. The tongue is considered the most delicate part. When an animal of this description is killed, the neighbours all flock round it, and encamp by its side, until they have consumed it entirely, being scarcely so provident as to dry any part of the flesh for after use. The bushmen are insatiable. They broil, eat and talk, and no sooner have they finished one slice, than they turn to the carcass, and cut another. According to Bruce, the Rhinoceros is also used as food in North Africa, and much esteemed by the Shangalla. The sole of the foot is here reckoned the part most fitting for the epicure. Of the skin, shields are sometimes made, as in India, which are said to be capable of turning a musket ball; but the most useful and common application of it is for the Cape whips, *Shamboks*; and the skin is always immediately cut up into strips for this purpose."

### *The Flat Nosed Rhinoceros.*

#### RHINOCEROS SIMUS. BURCHELL.

THE second African species is so named from its flattened nose and mouth, by which distinction it is known as well as by its greater size.

"In my travels in the interior of Southern Africa," says Mr. Burchell, "I met with this animal for the first time near the 26° of latitude, inhabiting the immense plains, where they are wild during the greatest part of the year. They frequent the fountain every day, not only for drink, but also for the purpose of rolling in the mud, which by adhering to a skin entirely free from hairs, serves to protect them from the scorching heat of the climate. The size is nearly double that of the specimen named *Rhinoceros Bicornis* (*Africanus*.) The negroes inform me that it eats nothing but grass, while the other species feeds on branches of trees and shrubs,—a peculiarity which may be inferred from the structure of the mouth. The head of one of the ten we had the good fortune to shoot, when separated from the first vertibræ, was of such enormous weight, that four men could only raise it from the ground, and eight were required to put it into the carriage. The flesh of the two species is equally good to eat, and they have each a double horn.

The following comparative measures, taken from adult individuals, killed by ourselves in these countries, will afford a proof of the difference of size:—

From the tips to the insertion of the tail of the *Rhinoceros*

|                                       |               |                     |     |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|-----|
| <i>Bicornis</i> ,.....                | 111 inches of | <i>Rhs. Simus</i> , | 134 |
| Length of the tail,.....              | 20            | "                   | 25  |
| Circumference of body.....            | 100           | "                   | 140 |
| From the extremity of tips to the ear | 27½           | "                   | 43  |