

Picture- Book of Animals.

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PICTURE BOOK OF ANIMALS.

BY THE LATE

REV. C. A. JOHNS, B.A., F.L.S.,

AUTHOR OF "BRITISH BIRDS AND THEIR HAUNTS," "FLOWERS OF THE FIELD,"



PUBLISHED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
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up the cracks with stones and mud, which they carry in their paws. It is in the summer that they do this. In autumn they lay up in their houses a store of bark, stripped from trees, for their food in winter. When cold weather comes, the mud freezes till it is almost as hard as stone ; but the beavers do not mind, for they are safe within. They have no need to go abroad for food, and no wild animal can reach them, for the door of their houses is under water. They can swim and dive famously, and with their broad scaly tails they can row themselves along as well as a man can row a boat. Their bodies are covered with fine soft fur, which is so very useful that the poor beavers have no peace when once the hunters have found out where they live.

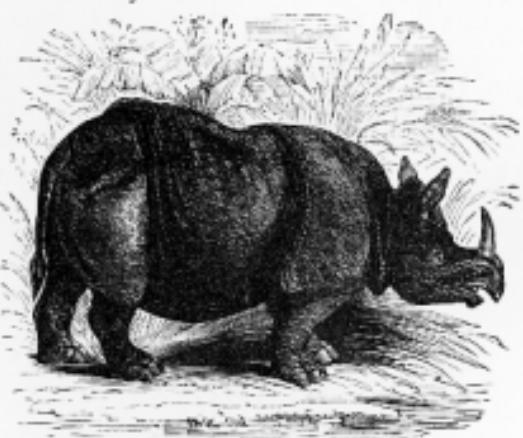
THE RHINOCEROS.



OU have a very hard name, and I cannot call you pretty. You look like a great awkward pig, wearing the skin of some other larger animal, and so it does not fit you well : but though pigs often have tusks in their under jaw, you carry yours on your nose. If the rhinoceros could speak, he would say :—“ Ugly though I am, I do no harm to

any one if I am left alone. I live in a country where there are plenty of wild beasts who would soon tear me to pieces, large as I am, if my skin were not so thick that they may scratch me and bite me as much as they please without hurting me. I do not mind a spear, or an arrow, or even small shot from a gun; but why hunters try to kill me I do not know, for I do no harm

to any one. My food is reeds, leaves, and branches of trees; and I do not eat very much of them considering my size. When I cannot get any other kind of food, I rip



up the trunks of trees, and as my teeth are very strong I dine off the green bark and wood. I like nothing better than wallowing in the mud on a hot day; but you had better keep out of my way when I happen to be angry, for, heavy though I look, I can move pretty quickly, and can use my horn more ways than one.