

THE RHINOCEROS.

(See page 67.)

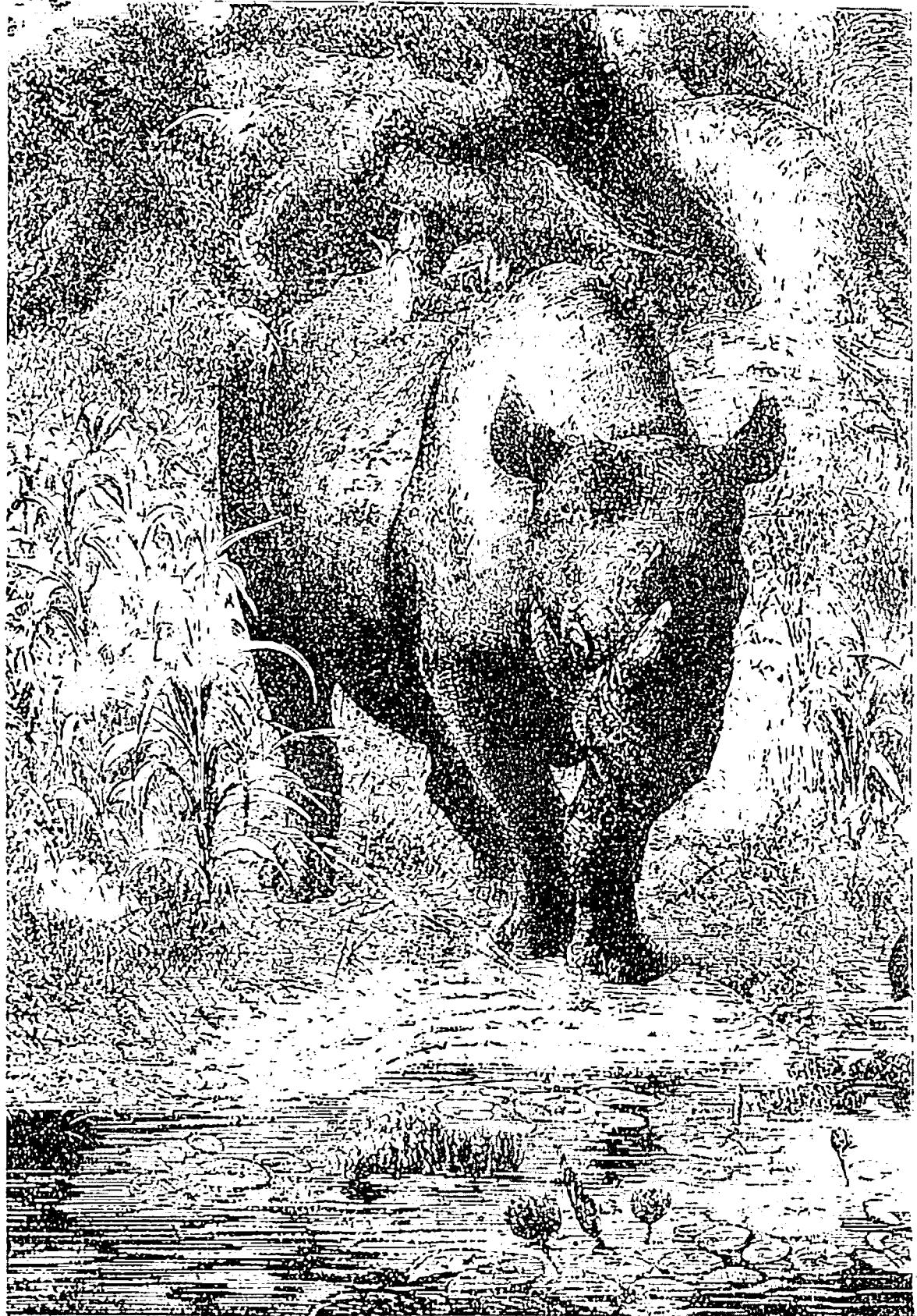


HE rhinoceros is a native of Asia and Africa. The one-horned rhinoceros is found in India and other parts of Asia,

The Children's Treasury and Almanac of
Harcourt and Brothers, London

Saturday, 10 August 1873, p. 66

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while the two-horned species is only found in Africa. He is very strong, and is almost as large as an elephant, though his short legs make him look much smaller. His horns are formidable weapons of defence, and are much feared by his enemies.

The rhinoceros has very small eyes, and he seldom but half opens them, so that his sight is very dim; but his hearing and scent are very acute, and warn him at once of any danger. He does not care to fight, and generally runs off to the jungle to hide from his enemies. But when he is wounded he is very fierce, and rushes at his foes, goring them and trampling them in great fury. The hunters generally try to get behind him to avoid his horns, and then cut the tendon of his heel, which disables him, and soon gives them the opportunity of killing him with their spears. The natives of Abyssinia and the Kassirs eat his flesh, which they think very good and which looks something like pork.

The fly is a great annoyance to the rhinoceros, and he is very fond of rolling in the mud of some slimy pool, covering himself with mud as a safeguard from them. Sometimes the birds will come and settle on his back, and eat the insects that persecute him.

The rhinoceros eats the leaves of trees and shrubs, also thorns and large prickly plants, and sometimes even the bark of trees, which it strips with its horn, and tears into small pieces before it swallows it.

