

HUNTING BIG GAME IN THE WILDS OF AFRICA



With Thrilling Adventures ^{OF THE}
FAMOUS ROOSEVELT
EXPEDITION

HUNTING BIG GAME
IN THE
WILDS OF AFRICA
CONTAINING
THRILLING ADVENTURES
OF THE
FAMOUS ROOSEVELT EXPEDITION

In Search of Lions, Rhinoceri, Elephants, Hippopotami and other
Ferocious Beasts of the Jungle and Plain

INCLUDING

JOURNEYS IN UNKNOWN LANDS, MIRACULOUS ESCAPES, CURIOUS
CUSTOMS OF SAVAGE RACES, AND MARVELOUS DIS-
COVERIES IN THE DARK CONTINENT

TOGETHER WITH

GRAPHIC DESCRIPTIONS OF BEAUTIFUL SCENERY, FERTILE VAL-
LEYS, VAST FORESTS, MIGHTY RIVERS AND CATARACTS,
INLAND SEAS, MINES OF UNTOLD WEALTH, Etc., Etc.

THE WHOLE COMPRISING A

**Vast Treasury of all that is Marvelous and Wonderful
in Darkest Africa**

By J. MARTIN MILLER, the Celebrated Author and Traveler

Embellished with a Great Number of Striking Pictures of Fero-
cious Beasts and Scenes in the African Wilderness.



DESPERATE ENCOUNTER WITH FEROCIOUS BEASTS.

CHAPTER XII.

COL. ROOSEVELT A REMARKABLE HUNTER—ALL RECORDS BROKEN—BAGS A BULL RHINOCEROS—SHOOTS A GIRAFFE IN THE NECK AT 400 YARDS—COL. ROOSEVELT KILLS HIS FIRST ELEPHANT—BAGS A LEOPARD AND CAPTURES THE LEOPARD'S CUBS ALIVE—ARRIVES AT THE JU JA RANCH—COL. ROOSEVELT DELIGHTED.

COL. ROOSEVELT'S hunting in Africa and his expedition has been successful enough to satisfy the most exacting of men. Not only has he broken the record for the number of lions killed by one man, but he has secured giraffes, elephants, rhinoceroses, buffalos, hippopotami and leopard as well, to say nothing of a number of less important game. His first ten days' hunting yielded twenty-seven head of big game of many different species.

When not occupied in searching for specimens or writing he spends his time practicing shooting. When particularly delighted with the result of his day's hunting he spends the evening at the camp-fire, pointing out how Africa could be made a great country.

Col. Roosevelt undoubtedly owes his life to his courage and unerring aim, which combination brought death to a huge bull rhinoceros near Machakos.

Charged by a huge rhinoceros, Theodore Roosevelt, Ex-President of the United States, raised his rifle and waited.

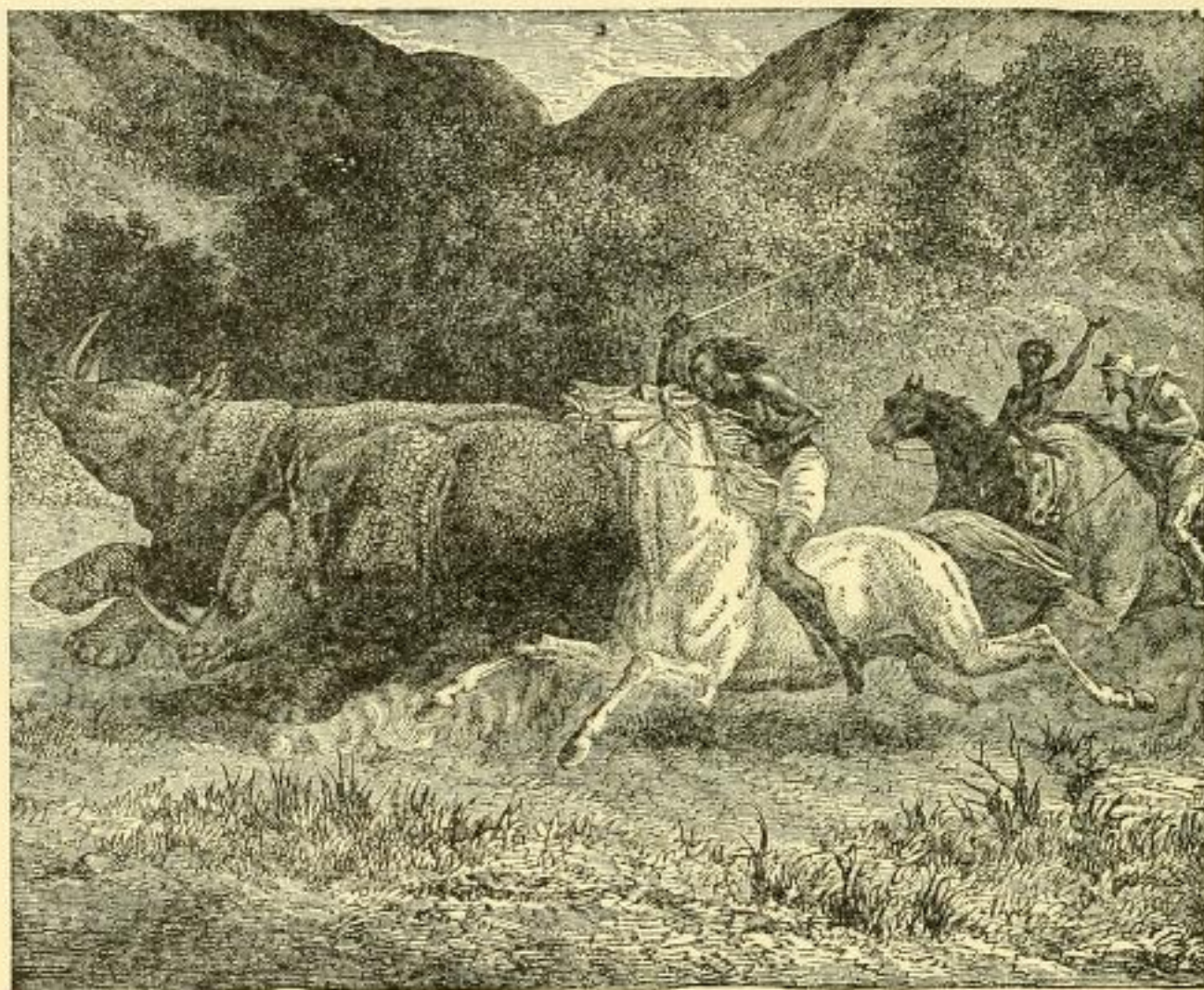
On came the maddened beast, crashing through the reeds, his ugly horned head bent low, the impact of his powerful feet making the earth tremble.

He was forty paces distant, his squeal was heard above the snapping of the brush; he was thirty paces away and his blood-shot eyes glistened like rubies; twenty paces between the hunter and the bulky monster, whose hot breath raised the temperature, even in that torrid climate; fourteen paces to go and no downs Then—

Theodore Roosevelt glanced casually along the barrel of his deadly rifle. Crack! A single shot and the ferocious and dreadful rhinoceros of the jungle hesitated, rocked and pitched forward on his knees, dead.

The bullet was fatal, but so fierce was the rush of the giant rhinoceros that it plunged almost to the feet of the Colonel.

The rhinoceros, the first that the party had bagged, was



A DESPERATE RACE WITH RHINOCERI.

encountered unexpectedly while making a short sortie from the camp near Machakos, some fifty miles south of Nairobi.

The native beaters had made a wide detour movement, and a returning signal soon told the hunters to be on the alert. Within a few moments the stalked animal gave its own warning, and, with furious snorts, it broke through the underbrush electrifying the Colonel, who expected to meet his sixth lion.

The bull came into the clearing at a point about two hundred yards from Col. Roosevelt, and immediately charged upon the party. Realizing the danger that beset "Bwana Tumbo," others in the party were on the point of firing, but Col. Roosevelt held them in check while he stepped immediately in the path of the oncoming infuriated beast. With wonderful coolness, such as no American hunter ever exceeded, Col. Roosevelt took deliberate aim and fired. A second shot would have been impossible, but a second shot was not necessary, as the first had pierced the animal's brain.

When the rhinoceros tumbled over Col. Roosevelt enjoyed the keenest moment of pleasure that he has had in Africa. The fact that he had saved his life did not seem to appeal to him half as much as the fact that he had added a rhinoceros to his collection and under conditions that any hunter in the world might well have envied.

ROOSEVELT CONGRATULATED FOR HIS SKILL.

Col. Roosevelt was warmly congratulated for his coolness and skill, and when the natives returned and saw the huge beast dead they were more certain than ever that their title of Bwana Tumbo had not been misapplied.

The rhinoceros made the forty-fifth animal that has been killed by Col. Roosevelt and his son Kermit. The kill represents fifteen varieties, an unsurpassed record for the time that the party has been in the field.

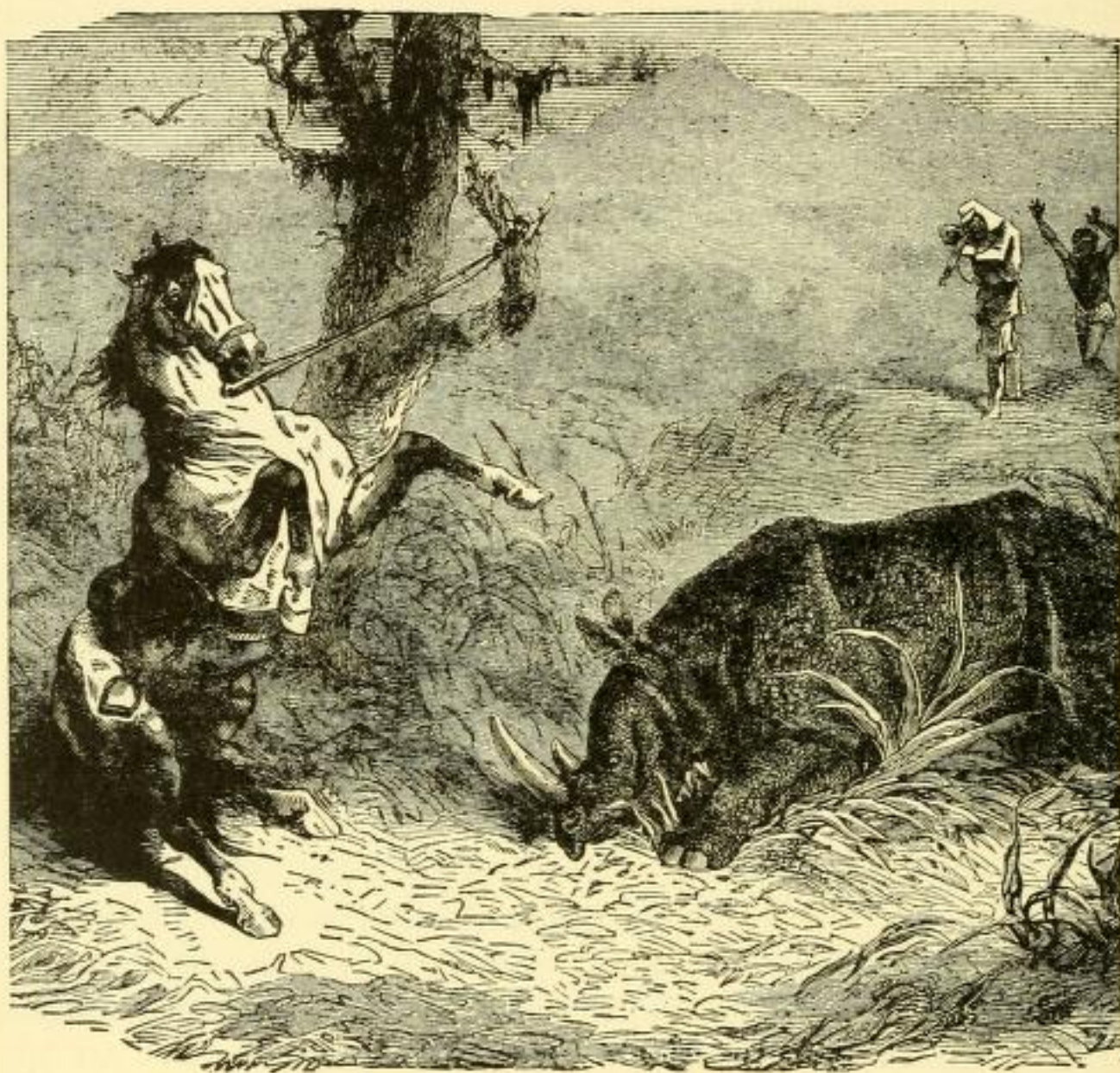
The rhinoceros which was of unusual size, will undoubtedly make one of the most prized items in Col. Roosevelt's collection.

All the species of rhinoceros are very quick in their temper, and liable to flash out into anger without any provocation whatever. During these fits of rage they are dangerous neighbors, and are apt to attack any moving object that may be within their reach. In one well-known instance, where a rhinoceros made a sudden dash upon a number of picketed horses, and killed many of them by the strokes of his horn, the animal had probably been irritated by some unknown cause, and wreaked his vengeance on the nearest victims.

The rhinoceros is always vicious, and, like the elephant, the buffalo, and many other animals, will conceal himself in some

thicket, and thence dash out upon any moving object that may approach his retreat.

Sometimes the rhinoceros will commence a series of most extraordinary antics, and seeming to have a spite against some particular bush, will rip it with his horn, trample it with his feet,



RHINOCEROS ATTACKING A HORSE.

roaring and grunting all the while, and will never cease until he has cut it into shreds and levelled it to the ground. He will also push the point of his horn into the earth, and career along, ploughing up the ground as if a furrow had been cut by some agricultural implement. In such case it seems that the animal is not laboring

under a fit of rage, as might be supposed, but is merely exulting in his strength, and giving vent to the exuberance of health and violent physical exertion.

The rhinoceros is a good aquatic, and will voluntarily swim for considerable distances. It is very fond of haunting the river-banks and wallowing in the mud, so as to case itself with a thick coat of that substance, in order to shield itself from the mosquitoes and other mordant insects which cluster about the tender places, and drive the animal, thick-skinned though it may be, half-mad with their constant and painful bites.

The skin of the rhinoceros is of very great thickness and strength, bidding defiance to ordinary bullets, and forcing the hunter to provide himself with balls which have been hardened with tin or solder. The extreme strength of the skin is well known to the African natives, who manufacture it into shields and set a high value on these weapons of defense.

A REMARKABLE SHOT.

That Col. Roosevelt has a keen eye and is a remarkable shot will be shown by the fact that he shot a giraffe dead, with a bullet through the neck, at a distance of 400 yards. This feat he performed, incidental to bagging another giraffe.

Wherefore the former President was proclaimed the most famous shot who ever hunted in East Africa, his feat being the more remarkable because the giraffe he shot at 400 yards was in full gallop when he pulled the trigger. "Bwana Tumbo" made this record while hunting with his son and five porters a few miles south of Machakos.

The buffalo shot by former President Roosevelt was one of the typical and common South African species, which was equal in size to the Indian or Water Buffalo, the largest of which stand six feet high at the withers and has a spread of horns sometimes exceeding six feet. The South African type has a bluish-black hide, in old age almost completely hairless. Like the buffalo of the American plains the African species has upward-curving horns, but with a greater



THE END OF THE CHASE WITH A WOUNDED RHINOCEROS.

ing moistened their parched throats with the grateful water which had been brought to them, no time was lost in breaking camp, and loading their equipment upon the backs of the porters and the animals, preparatory to making a fresh start for the estate of the Attenborough brothers.

True to the prediction made on starting in the morning, Guide Cuninghame led the party exultantly up the broad walk which led to the imposing manor house of the two brothers. Commander Frederic and his brother, H. W. Attenborough, and some others were soon out on the broad piazza which surrounded the house to accord to Colonel Roosevelt and his son a warm welcome.

After a short conversation upon the experiences of the Colonel thus far during his stay in Africa, and an interchange of tales of adventure, Commander Attenborough gave Colonel Roosevelt every assurance of his delight in having him as a guest, and promised excellent hunting during the full term of his stay on Lake Naivasha, where he assured him game of all kinds in rich abundance was waiting to serve as a target for his far-famed rifle.

COLONEL ROOSEVELT NOT DISAPPOINTED.

The estate of the Attenborough brothers, where Colonel Roosevelt, true to the assurance of his hosts, did succeed in securing a number of rare specimens of large game, includes the mysterious and far-famed crater Lake Saigosoi, which has an underground connection with Lake Naivasha. It was this mysterious lake and wonderful connection that suggested to H. Rider Haggard the thrilling narrative of the boat ride so graphically depicted in his wierd novel, "Allan Quartermain."

An incident of the trip into the Sotik district reflects considerable credit upon a very modest member of Colonel Roosevelt's party, and demonstrated as well the consideration and kindly sympathy with which the natives are treated by Colonel Roosevelt and his associates. Major E. A. Mearns, learning of an accident which had happened to three natives belonging to an expedition under O. C. Chapman, rode a distance of forty miles to give them medical attention. They had been severely mauled by a lion, and he showed

great solicitude for their sufferings, binding their wounds with rare skill, but, in spite of all his efforts, two of the men who had been desperately wounded expired, although the other one was in a fair way for recovery when he left.

While in the Sotik district the Colonel made excellent use of his time and found that the assurances he had received were fully warranted. In addition to a miscellaneous collection of game of assorted description, he succeeded in bagging two more rhinoceroses, a wildebeeste and a number of other specimens.

Colonel Roosevelt evinces more pleasure when successful in securing a good-sized rhinoceros than over almost any other trophy he may secure. He seems to appreciate more keenly the difficulties surrounding the hunt after one of these mastodons, as their ponderous size and almost invulnerable hide necessitates skillful marksmanship to reach a vital spot.

RHINOCEROS' SIGHT IMPERFECT.

The sight of the rhinoceros appears to be rather imperfect, the animal being unable to see objects which are exactly in its front, although their scent and hearing are very acute, and seem to warn the animal of the approach of danger.

Of African rhinoceroses four species are clearly ascertained, and it is very probable that others may yet be in existence. Two of the known species are black, and the other two white; the animals differing from each other not only in color, but in form, dimensions, habits and disposition. The commonest of the African species is the borele, rhinaster, or little black rhinoceros, of Southern Africa; an animal which may be easily distinguished from its relations by the shape of the horns and the upper lip.

In the borele the foremost horn is of considerable length, and bent rather backward, while the second horn is short, conical, and much resembles the weapon of the Indian animal. The head is rather rounded, and the pointed upper lip overlaps the lower, and is capable of considerable extension.

The rhinoceros Colonel Roosevelt killed was a large, thick-skinned animal and had two stout horns in its snout, which

not only serves this animal as a means of defense, but also for digging up roots and thus procuring food.

The horn which projects from the nose of the rhinoceros is a very remarkable structure, and worthy of a brief notice. It is in no way connected with the skull, but is simply a growth from the skin, and may take rank with hairs, spines, or quills, being indeed formed after a similar manner. If a rhinoceros horn be examined—the species of its owner is quite immaterial—it will be seen to be polished and smooth at the tip, but rough and split into numerous filaments at the base.

GLOW WITH ALL COLORS OF THE RAINBOW.

These filaments, which have a very close resemblance to those which terminate the plates of whale-bone, can be stripped upwards for some length, and if the substance of the horn be cut across, it will be seen to be composed of a vast number of hairy filaments lying side by side, which, when submitted to the microscope, and illuminated by polarized light, glow with all the colors of the rainbow, and bear a strong resemblance to transverse sections of actual hair. At the birth of the young animal, the horn is hardly visible, and its full growth is the work of years.

As the horn is employed as a weapon of offense, and is subjected to violent concussion, it is set upon the head in such a manner as to save the brain from the injurious effects which might result from its use in attack or combat. In the first place, the horn has no direct connection with the skull, as it is simply set upon the skin, and can be removed by passing a sharp knife around its base, and separating it from the hide on which it grows.

In the second place, the bones of the face are curiously developed, so as to form an arch with one end free, the horn being placed upon the crown of the bony arch, so as to diminish the force of the concussion in the best imaginable manner. The substance of the horn is very dense, and even when it is quite dry, it possesses very great weight in proportion to its size. In former days, it was supposed to bear an antipathy to poison, and to cause effervescence whenever liquid poison was poured upon it.

The borele is a very fierce and dangerous animal, and is more feared by the natives than even the lion. Although so clumsy in shape and aspect, it is really a quick and active creature, darting about with lightning speed, and testing the powers of a good horse to escape from its charge. Like many other wild animals it becomes furiously savage when wounded, but it will sometimes attack a passenger without the least provocation.

On one occasion an angry rhinoceros came charging down upon a wagon and struck his horn into the bottom plank with such force as to send the wagon forward for several paces, although it was sticking in deep sand. He then left the wagon, and directed his attack upon the fire, knocking the burning wood in every direction, and upsetting the pot which had been placed on the fire. He then continued his wild career in spite of the attempts of a native who flung a spear at him, but without the least effect, as the iron point bent against the strong hide.

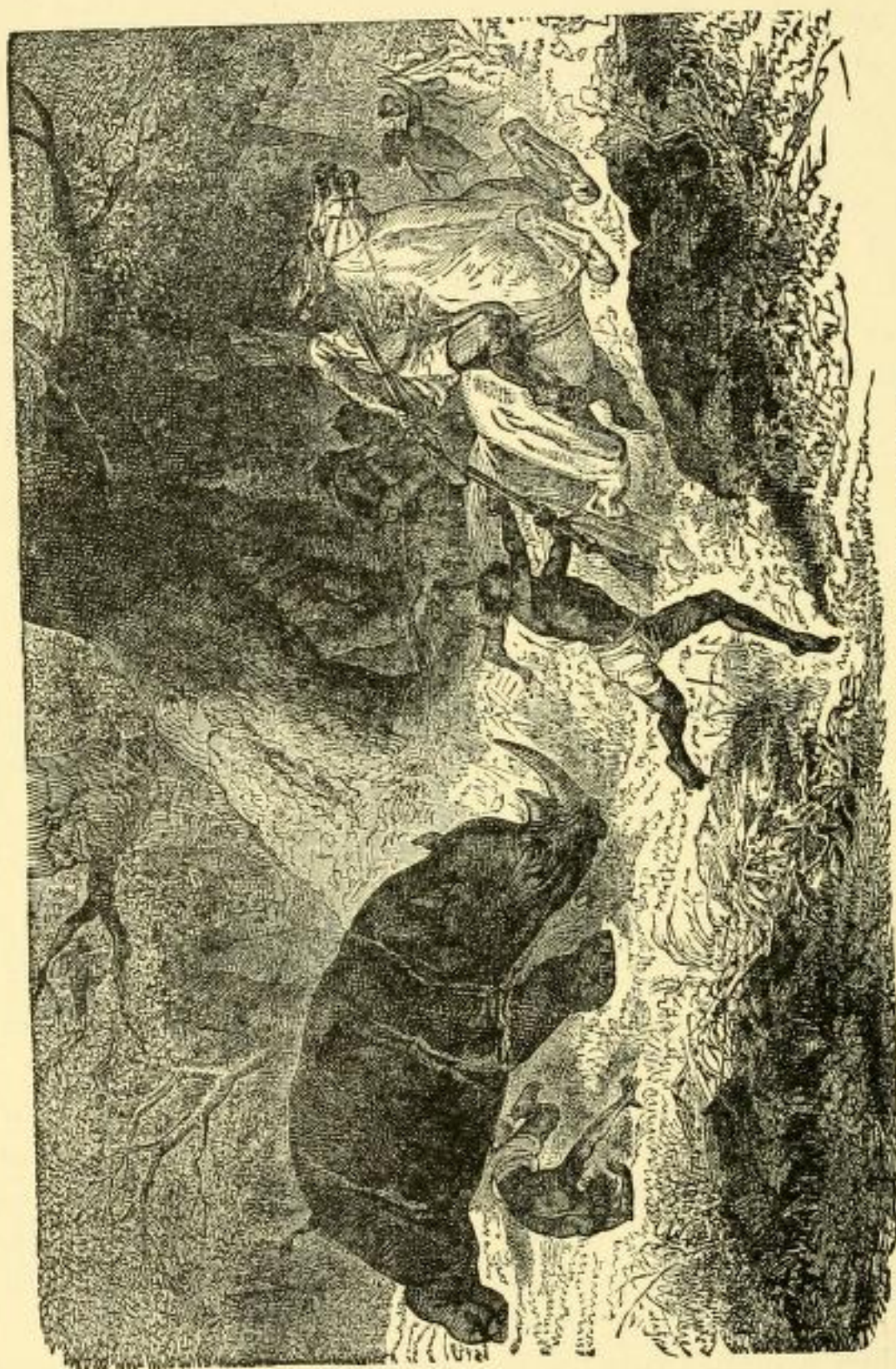
THE SKIN EXTREMELY HARD AND THICK.

The skin of this animal does not fall in folds, like that of the Asiatic species, but is nevertheless extremely thick and hard, and will resist an ordinary leaden bullet, unless it be fired from a short distance. The skin is employed largely in the manufacture of whips, or jamboks.

The horn of the borele, from its comparatively small dimensions, is not so valuable as that of the other species, but is still employed in the manufacture of drinking-cups and sword-handles. Its value is about half that of ivory.

The food of the black rhinoceros, whether the borele of the keitola, is composed of roots, which the animal ploughs out of the ground with its horn, and of the young branches and shoots of the wait-a-bit thorn. It is rather remarkable that the black species is poisoned by one of the Euphoibiaceæ, which is eaten with impunity by the two white animals.

When wounded, the black rhinoceros is a truly fearful opponent, and it is generally considered very unsafe to fire at the animal unless the hunter is mounted on a good horse or provided with



INFURIATED RHINOCEROS ROUTING HIS FOES.

an inaccessible place of refuge. An old experienced hunter said that he would rather face fifty lions than one wounded borele; but Mr. Oswell, the well-known African hunter, always preferred to shoot the rhinoceros on foot, but always takes the precaution to look for a safe and ready place of refuge if it becomes necessary.

The best place to aim is just behind the shoulder, as if the lungs are wounded the animal very soon dies. There is but little blood externally, as the thick, loose skin covers the bullet-hole, and prevents any outward effusion. When mortally wounded the rhinoceros generally drops on its knees.

A BLOODY BATTLE.

It is at all times a rather savage beast, and is apt to quarrel with its own kind. A story is told of a curious battle, narrated by Mr. Andersson, an eye-witness, where four of these animals engaged furiously with each other. Two of them were shot when it was found that one was absolutely unfit for food, being covered with festering wounds which had been received in former encounters. The flesh of this animal is tolerably good, but that of the black species is rather tough, and possesses a bitter and unpleasant flavor, in consequence of the food on which the animal lives.

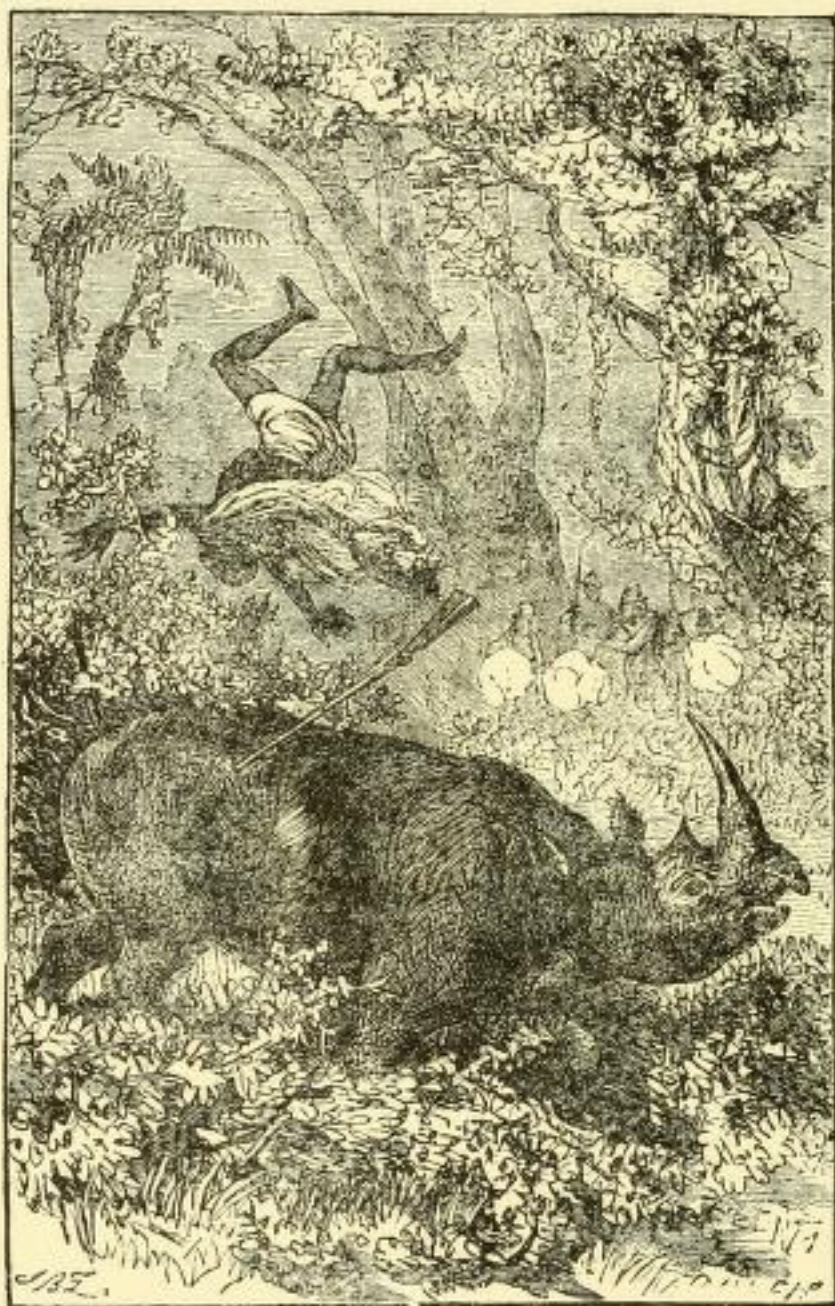
The borele is a nocturnal animal, rousing himself from sleep at dark, and proceeding straightway to the nearest pool. Having refreshed himself, he takes long journeys in search of food, and returns to his temporary home soon after sunrise. When sleeping he lies so still, that he may easily be mistaken for a fragment of dark rock.

The keitloa can readily be recognized by the horns which are of considerable length, and nearly equal to each other in measurement. This is always a morose and ill-tempered animal, and is even more to be dreaded than the borele, on account of its greater size, strength, and length of horn. The upper lip of the keitloa overlaps the lower even more than that of the borele; the neck is longer in proportion, and the head is not so thickly covered with wrinkles.

At its birth the horns of this animal are only indicated by a prominence on the nose, and at the age of two years the horn is

hardly more than an inch in length. At six years of age it is nine or ten inches long, and does not reach its full measurement until the lapse of considerable time.

The keitloa is a terribly dangerous opponent, and its charge is



NATIVE TOSSED IN THE AIR BY A BULL RHINOCEROS.

so wonderfully swift, that it can hardly be avoided. One of these animals that had been wounded by Mr. Andersson, charged suddenly upon him, knocked him down, fortunately missing her stroke with her horns, and went fairly over him, leaving him to struggle out from between her hind legs. Scarcely had she passed him than

she turned, and made a second charge, cutting his leg from the knee to the hip with her horn, and knocking him over with a blow on the shoulder from her forefeet. She might easily have completed her revenge by killing him on the spot, but she left him, and rushing into a neighboring thicket, began to plunge about and snort, permitting her victim to make his escape.

RHINOCEROS ATTACKED A BOY.

In the course of the day the same beast attacked a half-cast boy who was in attendance on Mr. Andersson, and would probably have killed him had she not been intercepted by the hunter, who came to the rescue with his gun. After receiving several bullets, the rhinoceros fell to the ground, and Mr. Andersson walked up to her, put the muzzle of his rifle to her ear, and was just about to pull the trigger, when she again leaped to her feet. He hastily fired and rushed away, pursued by the infuriated animal, which, however, fell dead just as he threw himself into a bush for safety. The race was such a close one, that as he lay in the bush he could touch the dead rhinoceros with his rifle, so that another moment would probably have been fatal to him.

Each succeeding day of the stay of the Roosevelt party at the ranch of Captain Richard Attenborough was spent in the hunt for big game. Under his advice the likely haunts of the most valuable specimens were sought out and splendid results were obtained. While here Kermit Roosevelt, much to the joy of his delighted father, bagged a cow hippopotamus. His success in having been fortunate enough to have secured one of these monstrous beasts as an evidence of his prowess with the rifle was a new and thrilling experience to Kermit. He seemed, in his pride, to have grown at least a foot in stature after the feat had been accomplished, while his father took even more delight in the performance than did his son.

While hunting near the Attenborough estate one day, Colonel Roosevelt succeeded in bringing down another gnu, or wildebeeste. This one proved to be a fine specimen whose acquisition was heartily welcomed by the entire party, being borne into camp in the most

triumphant manner. This animal is of the great family of antelopes, but presents a most extraordinary conformation.

“Fierce on the hunter’s hostile band,
He rolls his eye of burnished glow:
Spurns with black hoof and horns the sand,
And tosses high his mane of snow.”

Of all the antelopes, the gnu presents the most extraordinary conformation. At the first sight of this curious animal, the spectator seems to doubt whether it is a horse, a bull, or an antelope, as



PUT TO FLIGHT BY A SUDDEN CHARGE.

it appears to partake nearly equally of the nature of these three animals.

The gnus, of which there are several species, may be easily recognized by their fierce-looking head, their peculiarly shaped horns, which are bent downwards and then upwards again with a sharp curve, by their broad nose, and long hair-clad tail. They live together in considerable herds, often mixing with zebras, ostriches, and giraffes, in one huge army of living beings. In their habits they are not unlike the wild cattle which have already been described. Suspicious, timid, curious of disposition, and irritable

of temper, they display these mingled qualities in a very ludicrous manner whenever they are alarmed by a strange object.

"They commence whisking their long white tails," says Cumming, "in a most eccentric manner; then, springing suddenly into the air, they begin pawing and capering, and pursue each other in circles at their utmost speed. Suddenly they all pull up together to overhaul the intruder, when some of the bulls will often commence fighting in the most violent manner, dropping on their knees at every shock; then, quickly wheeling about, they kick up their heels, whirl their tails with a fantastic flourish, and scour across the plain, enveloped in a cloud of dust." On account of these extraordinary manœuvres, the gnu is called wildebeest by the Dutch settlers.

VERY INQUISITIVE, EVEN AT RISK OF LIFE.

The faculty of curiosity is largely developed in the gnu, which can never resist the temptation of inspecting any strange object, although at the risk of its life. When a gnu first catches sight of any unknown being, he sets off at full speed, as if desirous of getting to the farthest possible distance from the terrifying object. Soon, however, the feeling of curiosity vanquishes the passion of fear, and the animal halts to reconnoitre.

He then gallops in a circle round the cause of his dread, halting occasionally, and ever drawing nearer. By taking advantage of this disposition, a hunter has been enabled to attract towards himself a herd of gnus which were feeding out of gunshot, merely by tying a red handkerchief to the muzzle of his gun.

The inquisitive animals were so fascinated with the fluttering lure, that they actually approached so near as to charge at the handkerchief, and forced the hunter to consult his own safety by lowering his flag. The same ruse is frequently employed on the prairies of America, when the hunters desire to get a shot at a herd of prong-buck antelopes.

Several experiments have been made in order to ascertain whether the gnu is capable of domestication. As far as the practicability of such a scheme was concerned, the experiments were perfectly successful, but there is a great drawback in the shape of a