

# ROOSEVELT'S Thrilling Experiences

IN THE WILDS OF AFRICA  
HUNTING BIG GAME

Exciting adventures hunting the wild and ferocious beasts of the jungle and plain and mingling with the savage people, studying their strange customs, superstitions, weird beliefs, and curious marriage ceremonies, together with graphic descriptions of the mighty rivers, wonderful cataracts, inland seas, vast lakes, great forests, and the diamond mines of untold wealth

Including the story-life of Roosevelt, with his boyhood adventures and strenuous career on a Western ranch

CONTAINING ALSO

## Roosevelt's Triumphal Tour of Europe

His visits to the many Nations of the Old World. Dined and feted by Royalty in many countries. Including his remarkable speeches in France, Norway, Germany and England

By MARSHALL EVERETT *pseud. of*  
AND OTHERS

*Neil, Henry*

WITH SPECIAL CHAPTER

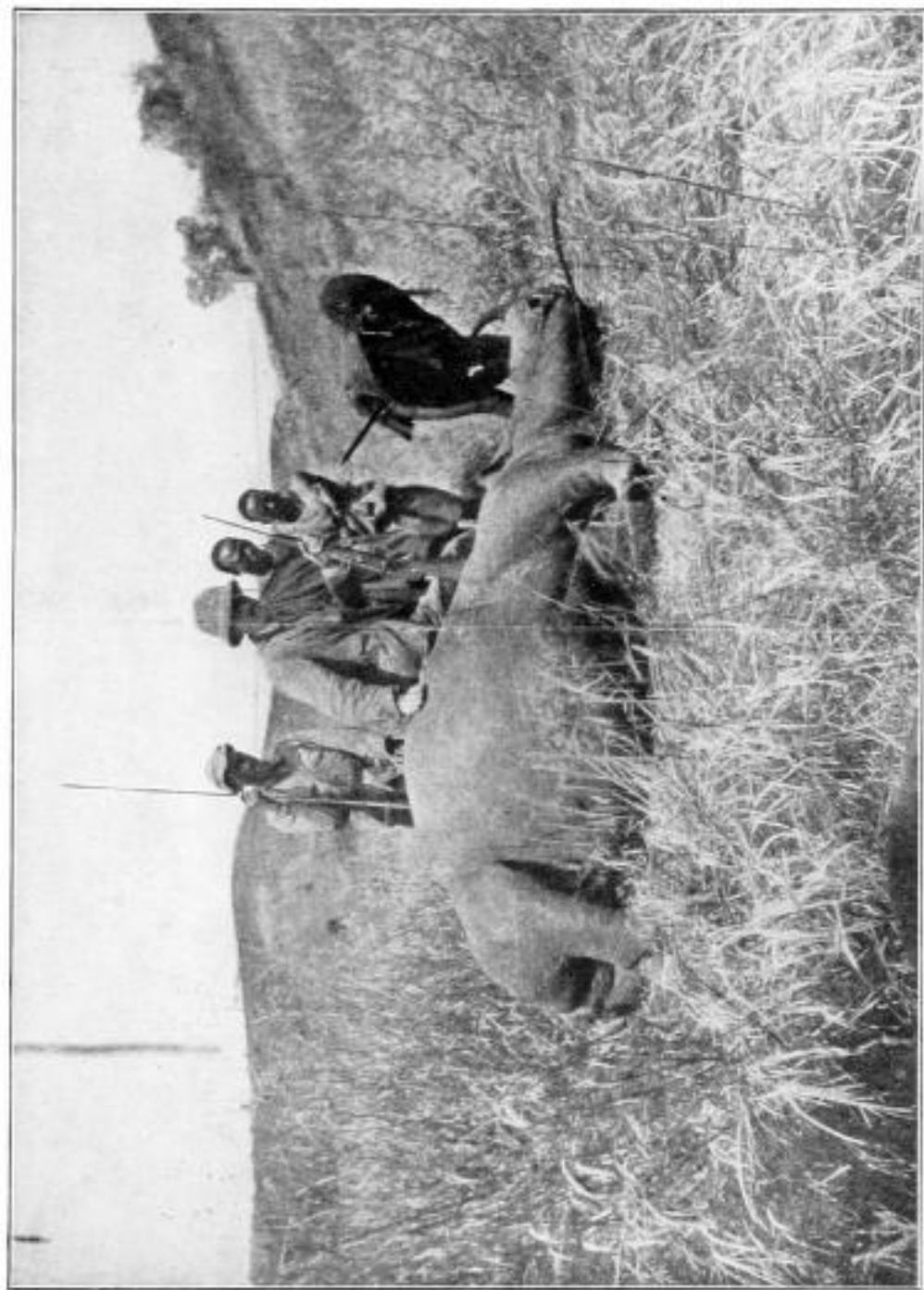
## ROOSEVELT'S RETURN FROM THE JUNGLE

By PETER MACQUEEN, F. R. G. S.

Illustrated with a large number of exciting hunting scenes in Africa and photographs of Colonel Roosevelt's remarkable visit to Europe

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A FINE EAST AFRICAN RHINOCEROS JUST KILLED BY THE HUNTERS.

## CHAPTER XI.

### ROOSEVELT'S REMARKABLE SKILL AS A HUNTER.

*Exciting Encounters with a Bull Rhinoceros—The First Elephant Falls for His Never Failing Bullet—Giraffes, Leopards and Other Beasts Bagged—Cubs Captured Alive.*

ROOSEVELT'S success as a hunter in Africa during the first four months has already proved to be a record-breaking chain of surprising achievements. The first three months' hunting yielded 42 head of big game and among whom were seven lions, ten rhinoceros, 4 hippopotami, 4 giraffes, 3 wildebeests, 5 buffalos and one elephant.

During this brilliant career as a beast killer Roosevelt has time and again risked his life, and his success has been due to his undaunted courage, unerring aim and exceptional presence of mind.

All of these qualities of his combined brought death to a large bull rhinoceros near Machabos.

The long, low, uncouth-looking beast, of some five feet in height at the shoulder, and shaped much like an immense hog, came running full tilt at our nimrod.

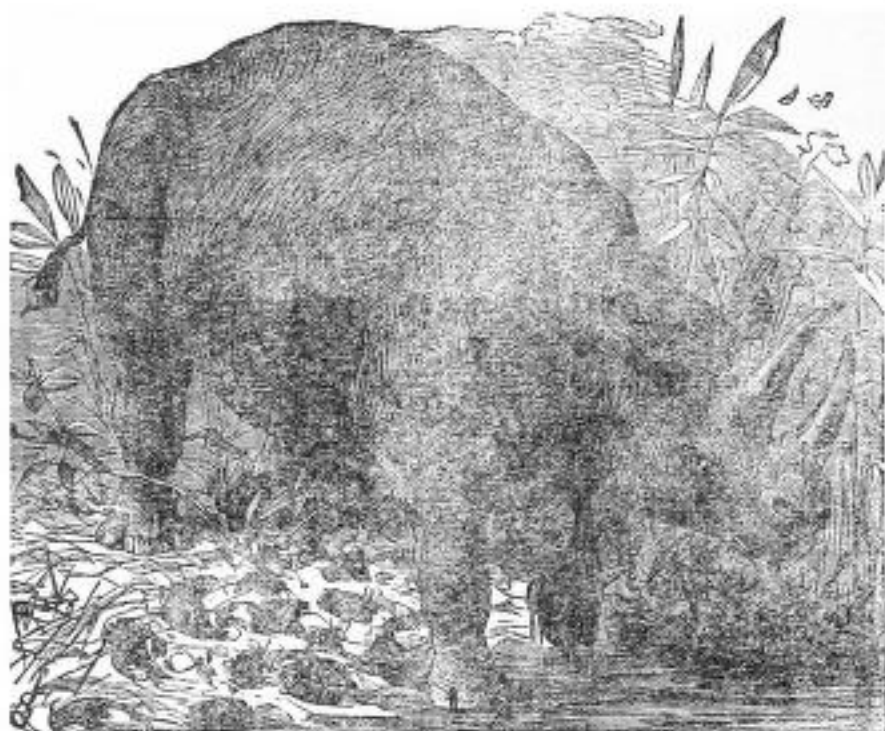
The short, upright horn on the snout, the contour of the animal, and the loose folds of skin that covered his ribs, the maddened squeal that was heard above the snapping of the bush, proclaimed the arrival of the most dangerous of all wild animals, the African rhinoceros.

Roosevelt's resolution was taken in an instant. He must either kill the bull, or be killed himself almost inevitably. He was not ten feet from him when—

One flash! It was enough! Struck through the brain the old bull dropped instantaneously, and the ex-President was safe.

The rhinoceros is a favorite game in Africa. It has a ferocious disposition and is hard to kill. The easiest and least dangerous method is for the hunter to conceal himself and shoot it when it comes to drink at the pool. The true sportsman prefers to hunt it on horseback with dogs.

As the eyes of the rhinoceros are very small, it seldom turns its head and therefore sees nothing but what is before it. It is to this that it owes its death, and never escapes if there be so much plain as to enable the horses of the hunters to get before it. Its pride and fury then makes it lay aside all thoughts of escaping, except by victory over its enemy. For a moment it stands at bay; then at a start runs straight forward at the horse which is nearest. The rider easily avoids the attack by turning short to one side. This is the fatal instant; a naked man who is



ONE FLASH! AND THE OLD BULL LAY AT THE EX-PRESIDENT'S FEET.

mounted behind the principal horseman, drops off the horse, and, unseen by the rhinoceros, gives it, with a sword a stroke across the tendon of the heel, which renders it incapable either of flight or resistance.

Several travelers have mentioned that there are certain birds which constantly attend the rhinoceros, and give him warning of approaching danger. Their accounts were either received with silent contempt, or

treated with open ridicule, as preposterous extensions of the traveler's privilege of romancing. I can bear witness to the truth of these reports, says a famous sportsman. Once while hunting the rhinoceros in Africa, I saw a huge female lying in the jungle asleep. My first thought was to photograph her and then attack her. I began to crawl toward her, but before I could reach the proper distance several rhinoceros-birds, by which she was attended, warned her of the impending danger, by sticking their bills into her ear, and uttering their harsh, grating cry. Thus aroused, she suddenly sprang to her feet, and crashed away through the jungle at a rapid trot, and I saw no more of her.

Next to the elephant in size, comes the rhinoceros, which with the hippopotamus, lays claim to bulk and ferocity unequalled by any other member of the animal kingdom. The rhinoceros is found in the rivers of Central Africa and Southern Asia. It can only live in tropical climates.

The length of the rhinoceros is usually about twelve feet, and this is also nearly the girth of its body. The skin, which is of a blackish color, is disposed, about the neck, into large plaits or folds. A fold of the same kind passes from the shoulders to the fore legs; another from the hind part of the back to the thighs. The skin is naked, rough, and covered with a kind of tubercles, or large callous granulations. Between the folds, and under the belly, it is soft, and of a light rose-color. The horns are composed of a closely-packed mass of horn fibers, growing from the skin, and having no connection with the bones of the skull, although there are prominences on the latter beneath each horn. All are mainly abroad at night, and while some resemble the tapirs in frequenting tall grass-jungles and swampy districts, others seem to prefer the open plains.

Some hunters have created the impression that the hide of the rhinoceros will turn a leaden bullet and sometimes an iron one. This is a popular error, for a common leaden ball will pierce the hide at a distance of thirty or forty paces, especially if a double charge of powder be used, which is the custom with all rhinoceros hunters. The most deadly aim is just behind the shoulder. The skull is too thick and the brain pan too small for a successful shot at the head.

The killing of the huge rhinoceros bull which was of unusual size and no doubt is one of the most valuable specimens in the Smithsonian

collection called forth repeated cheers for Bwana Tambo from the sonorous throats of the natives.

The African elephant is a more dangerous animal than the Indian, and is more ready to charge. The first one killed by Roosevelt was a huge animal and the leader of a herd of about a dozen. At a distance of forty feet Roosevelt struck its heart and it went over dead. A baby elephant was captured an hour later and sent over to the New York Zoological Garden. The Arabs slay the elephant by hamstringing it with a long two-edged sword. They follow the animal until it faces its pursuers and prepares to charge. The hunter then puts his horse to a gallop, closely followed by the elephant. They follow at their best pace, and as soon as they come up with the fleeing animal, one leaps to the ground, and with one blow of his huge sword divides the tendon of the elephant's leg a short distance above the heel. The ponderous beast is at once brought to a standstill, and is at the mercy of his aggressors.

A leopard or African Panther was killed by our ex-President during the hunt and its cubs captured alive. The animal was dispatched at a distance of only six paces and already had mauled a beater and was charging Kermit when the fatal shot was fired.

Among the reptiles killed by Roosevelt was a python, measuring 23 feet. It was quietly making a meal of an antelope when the bullet struck it back of the head, cutting a vertebra. The naturalists of the party had collected two other pythons and four hundred birds and animals.

In Nairobi a splendid reception had been planned in his honor, but had to be abandoned owing to his expressed desire to spend the time writing. Half the distance Roosevelt rode with Major Mearns on the locomotive cowcatcher, for about 22 miles, and the scenery along the road delighted him, especially the Escarpment and the Rift Valley.

The highest point reached was the Kikuyu escarpment—7,830 feet—from where Roosevelt had a magnificent view down 2,000 feet into the great Rift Valley, where elephants, monkeys, etc., are plentiful, but fairly safe from the hunter owing to the thickness of the growth.



and is a member of all the great scientific societies in this and other countries. On this expedition he is the disbursing officer, the medical authority and the business representative of the Smithsonian Institution.

Edmund Heller is a young Californian, a graduate of Stanford University, 36 years old. At the time of his appointment he was assistant curator of zoology in the University of California. He was a member of the expedition sent to Africa by the Field Museum of Chicago in 1900 under Professor Carl E. Akeley and traversed a large part of the same section through which the Roosevelt party has been working. Mr. Heller, like Mr. Cunninghame, is, therefore, familiar with the topography as well as the work. He has also had considerable experience as a collector of mammals, birds, fishes and other objects of natural history in British Columbia, Mexico, Alaska and Central America.

J. Loring Alden of Owego, N. Y., is 38 years old, and for several years has been connected with the biological bureau of the Department of Agriculture at Washington. Formerly he was attached to the zoological gardens of Central Park, New York, and he has participated in several explorations in various parts of America as a collector and naturalist. He has a great reputation as a field naturalist and for his genius in catching animals and birds alive. This is his special work in connection with the Roosevelt expedition, and he has already demonstrated the wisdom of his choice. Col. Roosevelt says that he does not believe that three better men could be found for their special work than Alden, Heller and Mearns.

In addition to the 6,000 inanimate objects that have been sent home, a collection of several wild beasts have arrived safely at the zoological park in Washington, where they are now happy and contented. These include a male and a female lion, each about 2 years old, a male and two female lions, each about 18 months old, which Dr. Baker says are as fine specimens of the king of beasts as were ever brought to this country. There are also leopards, cheetahs, warthogs, gazelles, a large eagle of unusual species, a small vulture and a huge buteo.

## THE LAST STAGE OF THE HUNT.

In January 1910 the "Smithsonian African Scientific Expedition" started for Wadelai in Belgian Kongo. Camp was pitched and named "Rhino Camp" as it was for the purpose of getting good specimens of the white rhinoceros that they selected this place. A few days after their arrival Col. Roosevelt succeeded in getting three good bulls and two cows of the white rhinoceros family as well as considerable lesser game. The naturalists collected many species of birds and mammals, insects as well as plants, flowers, etc.

## CAMP RHINO HAS NARROW ESCAPE.

The second day at Camp Rhino furnished the party with an interesting experience which came nearly proving very disastrous. The camp on account of the number requires considerable space, and near the cooking tent a grass fire was accidentally started. It burned with amazing rapidity and soon threatened the entire camp and its outfit. Col. Roosevelt's experience on the western plains of America stood him in good stead and he quickly had all hands working at beating and backfiring and clearing the grass immediately surrounding the camp, and by energetic work the camp was saved.

On February 2nd, 1910, a collection of moths that live on antelope horns was received at the Smithsonian Institution from the Former President Roosevelt. The donation came in the form of a pair of horns on which the larvæ were snugly imbedded. The authorities are taking good care of the horns, so that the larvæ may hatch.

Up to February 4th, 1910, Col. Roosevelt had the following trophies to his credit:

Lions .....	7	Leopard .....	1
Rhinoceroses .....	16	Hartebeest .....	1
Giraffes .....	10	Bohor .....	1
Wildebeests .....	8	Impalla .....	1
Thompson's gazelle .....	1	Waterbuck .....	1
Hippopotami .....	4	Buffaloes .....	7
Python .....	1	Elands .....	2
Ostrich .....	1	Topi .....	4



Elephants .....	9	Bushbuck .....	1
Zebra .....	1	Oribi .....	1
Oryx .....	1	Kob .....	1

Besides his list of Big Game Mr. Roosevelt has shot hundreds of smaller denizens of the jungle, beasts, birds and reptiles, as well as antelope, hartebeest, etc., for food for his own party and safari.

Kermit Roosevelt has established his prowess as a nimrod up to the same date by shooting the following:

Lions .....	10	Buffaloes .....	4
Cheetah .....	3	Monkeys .....	2
Giraffes .....	2	Eland .....	1
Wildebeest .....	1	Topi .....	3
Leopard .....	1	Rhinoceroses .....	3
Hippopotamus .....	1	Elephants .....	2

On February 4, 1910, the Roosevelt expedition arrived at Nimule, Uganda Protectorate according to schedule. All the members were in excellent health and were delighted with the Congo district where they had good sport and secured splendid specimens of the white rhinoceros family complete. On February 5, 1910, the expedition left for Gondokoro which took them through the most trying part of their journey. Indeed for ten days they were isolated in a most dangerous wilderness hitherto so forbidding to the white man that it had not even been invaded by the telegraph companies.

On February 17, 1910, Col. Roosevelt and party were met sixteen miles from Gondokoro, Sudan, on the Upper Nile, by Chief Keriba and his native band of musicians and an immense number of natives. The parade to Gondokoro was amid a continuous clamor of native tom-toms, drums and bugles. The entrance into the village was rudely picturesque for nothing that British and native hospitality could suggest was lacking in the welcome. Reaching the town the band struck up the air "America" and following the musicians a native porter carried a large American flag. Then came the caravan proper, Col. Roosevelt, Kermit and the other American hunters and the large body of native porters who had an important if humble share in the work of the expedition.

Waiting on the Bar-el-Jebel river, the most southerly tributary of