



WITH THE WORLD'S PEOPLE

AN ACCOUNT OF THE ETHNIC ORIGIN, PRIMITIVE ESTATE, EARLY MIGRATIONS, SOCIAL EVOLUTION, AND PRESENT CONDITIONS AND PROMISE OF THE PRINCIPAL FAMILIES OF MEN

TOGETHER WITH A PRELIMINARY INQUIRY ON THE
TIME, PLACE AND MANNER OF THE BEGINNING

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PROFUSELY ILLUSTRATED WITH COLORED PLATES, RACE MAPS
AND CHARTS, TYPE PICTURES, SKETCHES, AND DIAGRAMS



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CHAPTER XL.—ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE RESOURCES OF INDIA.



THE Aryans began in India as poets and warriors, and have ended as priests and peasants. The primitive aspect was one of aggression, conquest, energetic activity; the present aspect is one of submission, quiescence, passivity. There is only one point of view from which the energies of the race may be said to be unabated, and that is in the perpetual but timid industry of the people. It is now proper to review briefly the conditions of environment under which the transformation of the India of antiquity into the India of modern times has been effected.

This vast region, a peninsula in its general form and relations to the sea, has perhaps been less affected in its original conditions of climate and physical character under the great and continuous burden of population than has any other country of like extent on the globe. The traveler, the ethnographer, the historian, is to-day able, as in the times of Alexander or in the times of the Vedic bards, to scrutinize the movements and products of physical nature essentially unchanged and but slightly varying from what they were in the time of the prehistoric Mongolian aborigines.

India has always been a land of vast and varied resources. In the earlier ages of Aryan domination the conquerors were brought into relation rather with the animal life of the peninsula

than with the products of the soil. In the beginning all people must be hunters, warriors, adventurers of the hill and jungle. Here in the valleys of the rivers, in the wooded uplands, and on the slopes of the Himalayas, steep-up to the clouds, they found a variety and abundance of animal life unequaled in any other part of the earth. It is now recognized as a fact by zoölogists that a majority of all the animals, great and small, common to the north temperate belts of the earth have their origin, or at least a native place, in India. Nearly every species of creature, from the domestic fowl to the elephant, may be found, with its pristine habits and in its original abode in the vast wilds of the Indian jungles.

To note particularly the principal animals of this great region would require a separate treatise. Here from the earliest ages the lion has flourished, and from hence the striped tiger has carried the name of Bengal to every spot on the planet where a collection of wild beasts has been established or a traveling menagerie has pitched its tents. To the present day the people, even in thickly settled districts, are in mortal dread of this formidable beast, who from the days of the beginning has been known as a man-eater. Within the last quarter of a century a single tiger has killed hundreds of people before he could be destroyed. In one instance a country having an area of two hundred and fifty square miles and thirteen villages was thrown out of cultivation and abandoned from the ravages of one tiger!

Slight changes in the environment of the Indians.

Animal life of India; tigers and leopards.

Vast and varied resources of the country.

Leopards also are found in all parts of India, and being much more numerous than tigers, are on the whole more destructive of life and property. One variety, known as the Cheetah leopard, has been domesticated and trained to hunt. In the chase of the antelope this creature is used, and by its speed and

considerably troubled, with wolves. Of old time the antelope, the wild goat, and the hare were their prey, but with the increase of population and the spread of the pastoral life they turned to the sheepfold. Sometimes they attack man. As late as 1827 a single neighborhood



VIEW IN THE HIMALAYAS.—A MOUNTAIN VILLAGE.—Drawn by G. Vuillier, from a photograph by Baker.

activity is a powerful auxiliary to the hunter. It is said to surpass in swiftness of flight any other wild beasts in India. Its peculiarity of habit is that if it misses its prey at the first bound, it will make no second attempt, but return apparently mortified, to its master.

All the open country between the Indus and the Ganges was originally infested, and is to-day in wooded districts

lost thirty children by the ravages of wolves. Next in order may be mentioned the Indian fox and the jackal, whose hideous yell by night may be heard in most of the country districts of India. The latter animal is sought by the European huntsmen who are settled here and there in the country, for whom the jackal takes the place of the fox in the hunt of the Western nations.

Dogs, wild and tame, are numerous. The *Canis dhola* is an inhabitant of the wildest jungles. These,

The *Canis dhola*,
the sloth and
the sun bear.

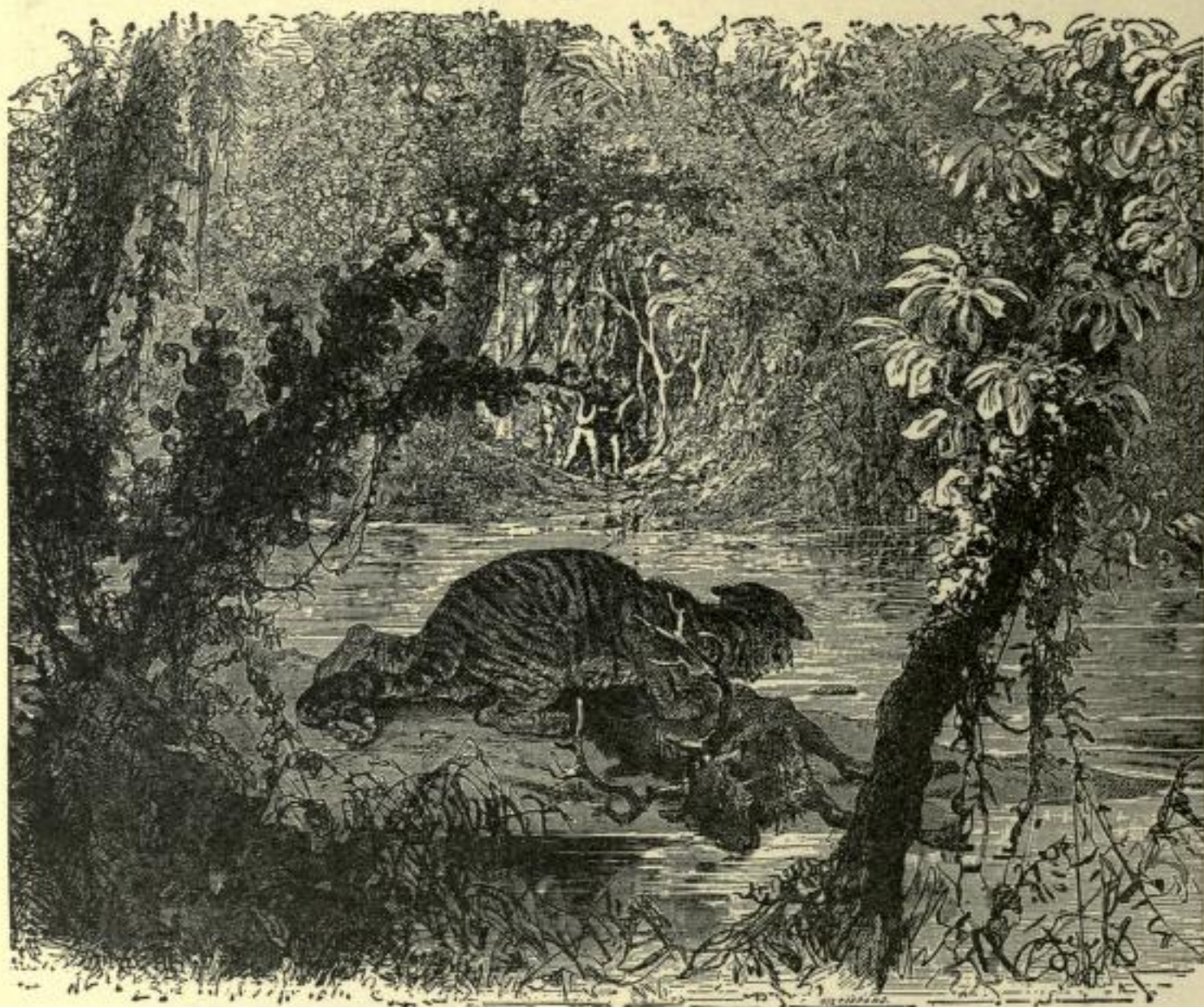
indeed, are his native lair, and have been so from the

prehistoric ages. Of bears, there are many varieties throughout all India. The black, or sloth, bear is found in the forests and on the mountains. This is

the other almost as large as the grizzly of the Sierras.

The elephant is native to all parts of the country except the Northwest provinces. His native abode is the hill-country rather than the plains. He does not much descend into the river valleys, but takes to the higher ridges. In the south-

The elephant
immemorial in
India.



ANIMAL LIFE OF INDIA.—STAG SLAIN BY A TIGER.—Drawn by A. de Neuville, after Delaporte.

the creature so strangely marked with a white horseshoe on his breast. The Thibetan sun bear is found along the mountain spurs, all the way from the Punjab to Assam, but never at a lower level than five thousand feet above the sea. The Malayan sun bear inhabits British Burmah, along with two other species, one of which is quite small and

ern peninsula the elephant has been nearly exterminated, but a few are still found in the forests of Coorg and Mysore, and in the states of Orissa. It was out of India that the elephants were drawn in the classical ages and trained for the shock of battle. From this source Hannibal drew his supply when Rome trembled under the march of his armies.

Four varieties of rhinoceros are found in India. Two of the species are unicorns, and two have double horns.

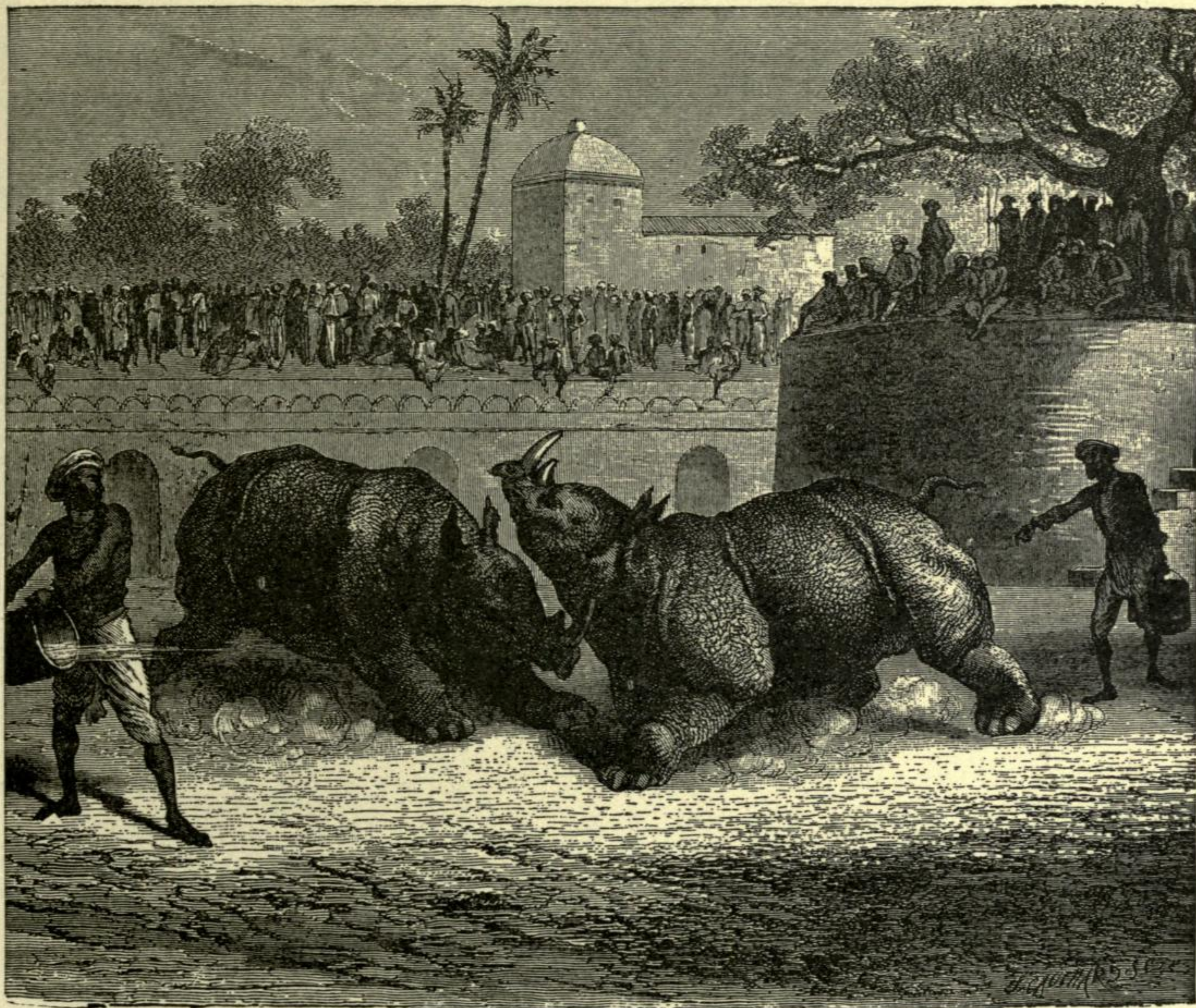
The principal pachyderms and ruminants.

They most abound in the valley of the Brahmaputra and in the Sundarbans.

Its habitat is mostly in swampy places, and its manner of life like that of swine,

on the slopes of the Himalayas, where some of them range as high as twelve thousand feet above the level of the sea. Here also is found the ibex, even on the highest ranges of the mountains; also the chamois, in the Himalayas, from Assam to Burmah.

It would be vain to enumerate the an-



RHINOCEROS FIGHT AT BARODA.—Drawn by Emile Bayard.

or even the hippopotamus. From the earliest times the wild hog has abounded in the Indian jungles. Its habit is to hover along the edges of settlements and to gratify its predatory habits by plunging into fields and villages. In the deserts of Sindh and Kachheh the wild ass still exists, as in the times of the Aryan migration. Many varieties of wild sheep and wild goats are found

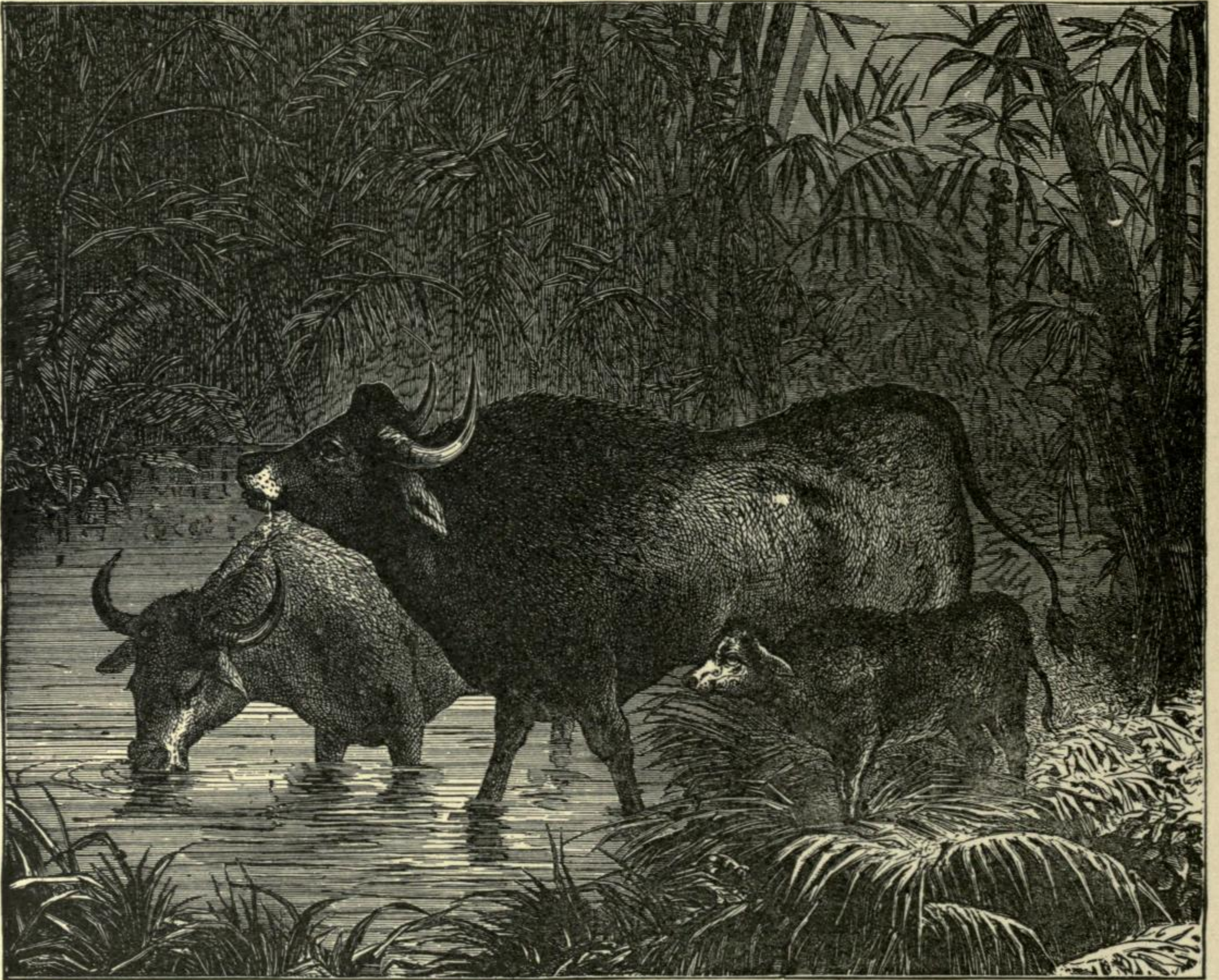
telope and the deer, with its many species, the bison, from the gaur of the Western Ghats to the gayal of the north-eastern frontier. In the latter region the bison has been domesticated, and is used by the aboriginal tribes in their sacrifices. In Burmah the buffalo is found, large and fierce. The heads of some bulls captured in modern times

Habits and size of the Indian buffalo.

have been as much as thirteen feet six inches in circumference and fully six feet and a half between the tips of the horns. The animal reaches a height of six feet, and compares favorably in magnitude with the tremendous creatures formerly inhabiting the great American plains of the West.

Of birds, there are an endless variety.

generally innocuous. The inhabitant of the safe countries of Europe has little apprehension of the deadly work of those Indian serpents, of which the cobra de capello is the imperial and venomous king. The fatality from snake-biting is everywhere increased by the superstition of the people, who generally regard the snake with veneration. The



INDIAN BUFFALOES.—Drawn by Mesvel.

The reptiles of India have been known from the earliest ages for their tremendous size and poisonous bite. The most deadly serpents to be found in any part of the world lurk in the dank jungles, along the river banks, and even in the uplands of the Deccan. It is said that all the salt water snakes of India are poisonous, while those of fresh waters are

Prevalence of
reptiles; loss of
life thereby.

census of 1877 returned a total of sixteen thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven persons killed in a single year by the bites of serpents.

It is against this great phalanx of animal life, fierce and malign, that the Indian races have flung themselves for thousands of years. It has been a war at once offensive and defensive, and the battle has not infrequently gone against

the man. In no other quarter of the habitable globe does the wild animal life peculiar to the primeval world stand forth against the human race, even to the present day, in such fierce and defiant antagonism as in this thickly populated India.

It is a strange reflection that after fully four thousand years of conflict, during which the great peninsula reach-

a stronger arm and better prospect of victory than does his timid, light-limbed, brown-bronze descendant.

In course of time, no doubt, every species of savage creature will be exterminated from the world. The multiplication and expansion of the human family will carry the abodes of man into the reclaimed fenlands, to the river brink,

Civilization exterminates all savage forms of life.



DEADLY SERPENTS OF INDIA.—THE BUNJARIS FASCIATUS.—Drawn by R. Kretschner.

ing into the Indian ocean and embraced by the Indus and the Ganges has never wanted for multitudes of inhabitants, the

The Indian races have not subdued the wild beasts.

man has not on the whole held his own against the beast. It is likely that the

primitive Aryan adventurer who penetrated the jungles while the earliest poet of the Vedas was still chanting his hymns in Sindh and the Punjab, met the fierce creatures of the woods and marshes with

through the wild morass and woodland, and up the mountain slopes beyond the line of snow. The spread of civilization, as exemplified in the cultivation of the soil, in the improved means of defense, in the scientific mastery over every element in the environment, will demand and accomplish the extinction of all the hurtful races of lower animals. In some parts of the earth poisonous reptiles and savage beasts have already disappeared.

Even in the New World the rattlesnake, the viper, the panther, and the bear have either totally vanished or maintain

maintain and perpetuate the wilder and more dangerous varieties of animal existence, but this condition could soon be



THE TIGER HUNT.—Drawn by Tanley Berkeley, from nature.

a precarious existence among the mountains or inaccessible ledges of rock. The same thing will happen in India. Doubtless the country is well situated to

changed by a larger expenditure of gun powder and a less supply of Brahmanism. Both of these modifications in the existing status of India will occur in