

# ANIMAL LAND

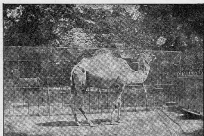
FOR

# LITTLE PEOPLE

BY

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ILLUSTRATED

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you'd say it was hot there! But here, why it's nothing! You always have shady places here where you can lie down and rest, and there seems to be plenty of water about. Do you know what they call me besides the camel? They call me the Ship of the Desert—and I think it's a very good name, too. Some people say that when they ride on me they feel seasick just as they do when they are on board ship. I can carry a great deal on my back; I'm sure I'm useful. And I have one very good thing about me. When I'm going for one of those long journeys over the hot, dry sands, I can go for a long time without having any water at all. How would you like that? To be for days without a drink of water or anything else? I expect you would get very thirsty, wouldn't you? Ah, you'd never do to be a camel, I can see.

I can go very fast, too, when I like. You see I have such fine, long legs.

The dromedary? He's a sort of cousin of mine. He's a smaller, lighter chap than I am altogether; he can't

carry nearly as much. Indeed he's generally used for people to ride on him, he doesn't do much carrying of luggage. Now you should just see me when I'm fairly loaded. First of all I have to kneel down so that they can get the things on to my back; if I didn't do that, they'd have to get a pair of steps or a ladder, I suppose. Well, they pile up the things on the top of me and fasten them on, and then, when everything is ready, we start, and I look like a great, big tent with legs walking along.

I have a will of my own, of course. Some people say it's a nasty temper, but that's when they want me to do something that I don't want to, and when I don't want to do anything I don't do it.

Egypt is the name of the place that I come from: if ever you go there, you'll see some of my friends and relations, I expect.

Now they are going to take my muzzle off to give me some dinner, so I think perhaps you had better get a little further off. Good-morning!

## The Hippopotamus and the Rhinoceros.

UGH!" grunted the big hippopotamus. "I think I shall have a bath. Oh, dear me, I feel so sleepy!" And he opened his mouth and gave a tremendous yawn.

"Well!" said a deep, gruff voice from the other side of the railings. "Well! If I had a mouth as large and as ugly as that, I would keep it shut, at any rate."

It was the rhinoceros next door. The hippopotamus and he didn't get on very well together; indeed, they were always quarrelling, so that it was just as well that there were bars between them.

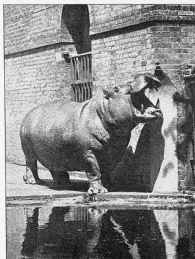
The hippopotamus turned round angrily. "Ugly?" he said. "Who are you calling ugly? I am sure I'm just as pretty as you are, with that great horn sticking out of your nose. I don't think it looks at all nice."

"H'm!" said the rhinoceros. "I don't care if it doesn't. It's been very useful to me all the same."

"Well," returned the hippopotamus, "and so has my mouth, so there! If it had been any smaller, I shouldn't have been able to get it round, for it was rather a large boat."

"Whatever are you talking about?" demanded the rhinoceros. "Look here! Let's stop quarrelling for a bit, and you shall tell me your story and I'll tell you mine. Fire away!"

"Ah, that's just what the men did," said the hippopotamus. "We were all swimming in the river, when they came down in their boat. It was what they call a canoe (so the flamin-goos told me), and most of the men in



"HE OPENED HIS MOUTH." (A. 44.)

it were black; but there was one white man who had a curious stick in his hand which he every now and then would point at some bird or animal, and then he made fire come out of the stick, and the bird or animal generally got hurt.

"I lay in the water watching them when, all at once, the white man pointed his stick at my brother, and before you could say 'crocodile' my brother was floating away down the stream with a bullet in his head. The men in the boat paddled away after

him, but that was more than I could stand, so I went after them. I saw the white man point his stick at me, but I dived in time and came up just beside them; then it was that my mouth came in so handy. I just opened it quite wide and then I closed it again, and, well, somehow the boat was upset and the men were all kicking about in the water, splashing and shouting and making no end of a fuss. But I let them go that time, I only wanted to give them a lesson. Now it's your turn. How did your horn come in useful?"

"Oh, my adventure was on land, of course," said the rhinoceros, who had been much interested in the hippo's story. "I was snoozing one afternoon at home when I heard a curious noise, and I saw some of those black men you talk about, followed by a white one on a horse. Well, before I had time to do or say anything, the white man pointed his gun at me (that's what they call the stick that the fire comes out of) and the next moment I felt a bullet

knock against my side. Of course it didn't hurt me—that's the advantage of having a skin like mine; but it made me very angry. So I just got up and ran at the gentleman on the horse; he was very much surprised, and so was the horse, especially when I gave him a prod with this horn of mine. He turned right round and galloped away as fast as he could go, with the black men after him. Of course I didn't take the trouble to run after them. But you see, my horn does come in useful sometimes."

"Ugh!" grunted the hippopotamus. "I suppose it does. But it isn't pretty, all the same."

"Well, anyway it's better than your mouth," replied the rhinoceros, getting angry again.

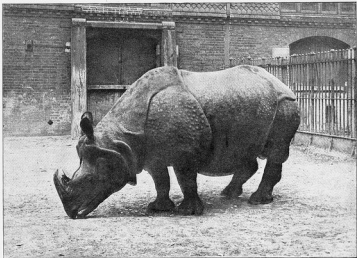
"But I can swim!" said the hippopotamus.

"But you haven't got such a tough skin as I have," replied the rhinoceros. And they went on quarrelling until the keeper came with their dinner.

## The Hedgehog.

THE hedgehog is a funny chap:  
He is quite short and small,  
And when he's startled he will roll  
Into a prickly ball.

And then he's like a pincushion:  
You cannot touch him then.  
He waits until you've gone away,  
Then he unrolls again.



"IT WAS THE RHINOCEROS NEXT DOOR" (A 10)



"I just got up and ran at the gentleman on the horse" (see p. 42).