

T H E

# Cambridge Magazine:

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## UNIVERSAL REPOSITORY

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ARTS, SCIENCES, and the BELLES  
LETTERS.

For the Year MDCCLXIX.

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BY A SOCIETY OF GENTLEMEN,  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

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L O N D O N :

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so slowly as upon this occasion; at length, however, this dreary month expired, and the long-expected visitor appeared.--Here, gentle reader, stop for a moment, and figure to yourself, if you can, the first emotions of the mind which such an interview between two such persons must excite.--I will beg leave to throw a veil over their present sufferings, and come to that point of time wherein Wisdom found it absolutely necessary to break this dreadful silence. Suppose then my mother recovering from that trance-like state, in which she had remained for some minutes, opening her eyes, and Wisdom his mouth, who addresses her in the following words:

'Madam, I rejoice extremely to see those eyes opened, which I greatly feared were closed for ever.--Let me conjure you to be

' comforted--be assured, that, if my parents regard and esteem can contribute to your happiness, you have it--you always had it --even from the earliest dawn of reason, I contemplated your virtue, and was never perfectly easy when I lost sight of you.-- Yes, Madam, though the Gods have not permitted us the happiness of being joined together by the sacred ties of matrimony, yet by those Gods I swear to preserve an eternal friendship for you and your posterity; and, as an immediate earnest of my future intentions, I beg you will permit me to adopt from this moment the infant child you have been so lately delivered of, who, though he be the son of my mortal foe, is still the offspring of my favourite Truth.'

*A Comprehensive System of NATURAL HISTORY. [Continued from our last, p. 55.] Illustrated with a Copper-Plate.*

### VIII. The E L E P H A N T.

**T**HE elephant is the largest quadruped in the world, being sometimes fifteen feet high, and thick in proportion. The forehead is high and rising, and the ears are large and hang downwards. The eyes are piercing but very small, and the proboscis or trunk, very long, lessening gradually from the head towards the extremity, which is flat and has two holes or nostrils at the end. At the same time it is of such a structure that it can extend or contract, dilate, raise or depress, and bend, or twist it about at pleasure. By this member the creature takes up its meat and drink, and conveys them to its mouth. In a word, it uses this member as a hand on all occasions. The trunk of the elephant, says Dr. Derham, is so admirably contrived, so curiously wrought, and applied with so much agility and readiness by that unweildy creature to its several occasions, that it affords a manifest instance of the creator's wisdom.

The body of the elephant is round and full, and the back convex; but the whole animal is short in proportion to its height. The feet are round at the bottom, spreading somewhat beyond the bulk of the legs, which are very large. The tale resembles that of a hog, having at the extremity of it a tuft of strong bristly hair, a foot and a half in length. The hide is without hair, horny and rough, with many irregular risings, and hanging very loose on the body. The female is much less than the male, and the udder is between the fore legs. The usual food of this creature is grass, heath, roots, and the tender shoots of shrubs and bushes. They are how-

ever fond of corn, and fruits, particularly those that are sweet.

The teeth or tusks of an elephant grow to a prodigious size, being frequently eight feet long, and weigh above one hundred and fifty pounds.

Elephants are found only in the torrid Zone, tho' they do very well when brought into the northern climates; owing perhaps in a great measure to their being kept in warm stables and consequently not exposed to the cold air in the fields.

They are remarkable for the care of their young, and will sooner perish themselves than abandon them. They always go in herds, the largest foremost; and when they are to cross a river, they lift the young ones across on their two tusks, twisting the proboscis round their middle.

History informs us that elephants were used in war by the ancients, as they are at this day by several of the Indian princes; and sometimes made dreadful havock in the field of battle. They used to place a sort of towers on their backs, which held about six fighting men, who greatly annoyed the enemy with their darts, and other missile weapons.

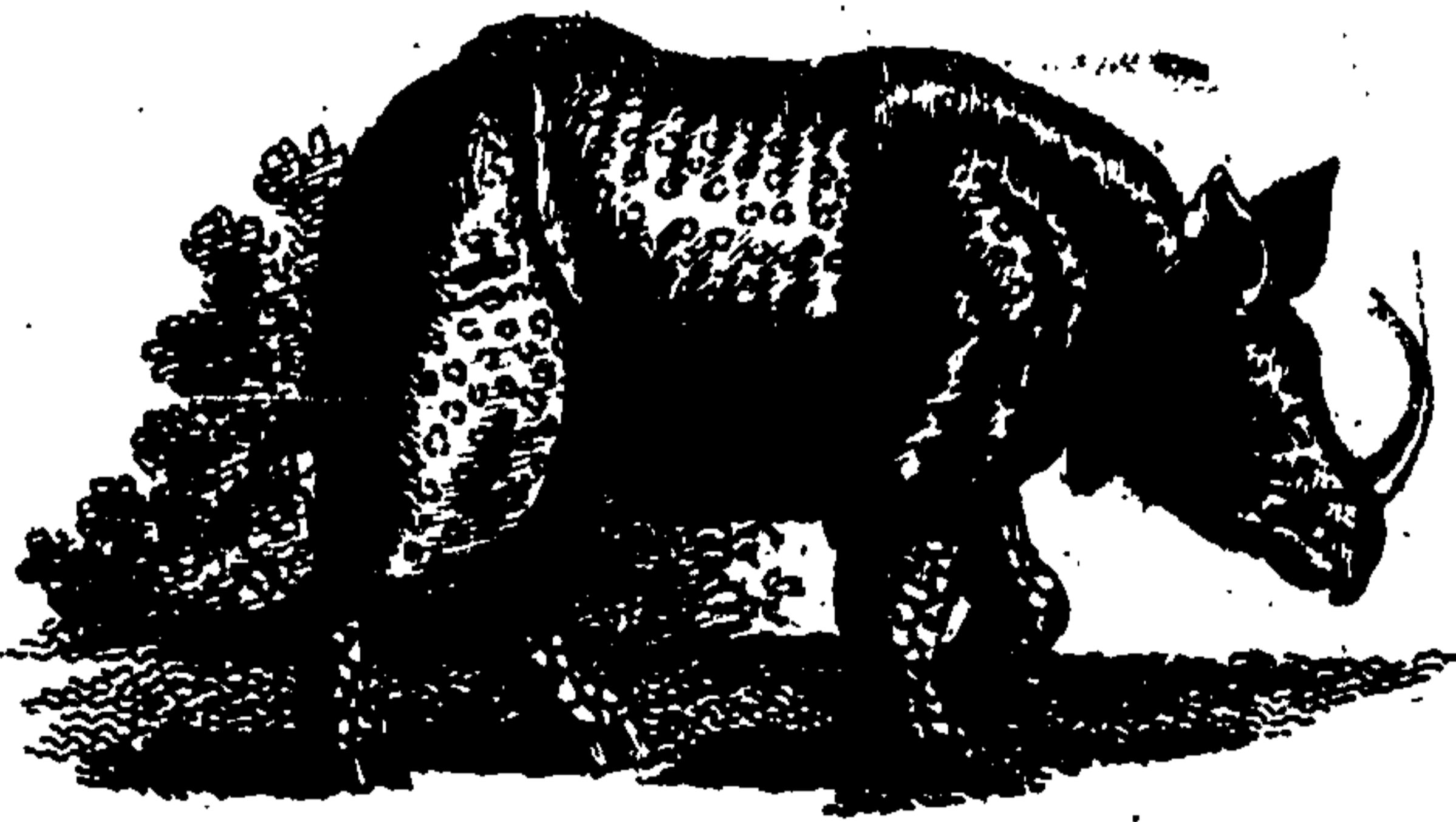
They are said to live to a great age, even to two or three hundred years; but upon what foundation that conjecture is built is uncertain. But however that be, it may be safely affirmed that they live at least one hundred and twenty, or thirty years.

We have several instances in history of the love, fidelity, and gratitude of the elephant.

*8. Elephant*



*9. Rhinoceros.*



*Raccoon. 10*





Ælion relates, that when Porus king of India, was subdued by Alexander the great, he was wounded with several darts, which the elephant he rode upon pulled out of his body with his proboscis; and when he perceived his master fainting with the loss of blood, gradually leaned himself down till he fell flat upon the ground, that his master might

alight without danger. But perceiving the melancholy condition of Porus, took up again with his trunk, and carried him back to the camp. Several other instances might be easily collected from the writings of the ancients, but the above will be sufficient for illustrating the natural history of the elephant.

IX. The R H I N O C E R O S.

THE body of the Rhinoceros is nearly as large as that of the elephant, but his legs much shorter, and on his nose, or snout, he has a horn, which sufficiently distinguishes him from other creatures. The head is long, and the position of the snout indicates that it was intended for turning up the earth, that the creature might with more ease find the roots of plants, which form the principal part of his food. The nostrils, are placed on each side of the snout: the eyes are small and placed pretty forward on each side of the head: and the ears stand erect and are proportionably large. The whole animal is covered with a thick, rough, chopped skin, of an ash-colour, and having plaits or folds falling over each other in such parts as are necessary to allow the several parts of the creature their necessary motion. These folds will be better conceived from the figure on the plate annexed, than from the most laboured description.

The tail has a few black hairs at the extremity; but more on the other parts. The back is hollow or concave, and the belly sinks down pretty low. The feet are round behind, and the hoofs forward, which are divided into three parts on each foot.

The horn is different from those on all

other animals we are acquainted with, being solid on the inside. The rhinoceros rolls himself in the dirt like a hog, and is so very strong, that he will, with his horn, toss up a large bull into the air.

The above species of rhinoceros is common in the East-Indies; but there is another in Africa, particularly about the cape of Good Hope, which has two horns. The colour of the skin in this specie, is of a dark brown, approaching to black, without hair. The snout resembles that of a hog, but more pointed at the end. The horn on the nose is of a greyish brown, and a little crooked, turning up towards the head. It is shaped like a plough-share, and of different sizes proportional to the age of the creature; but never exceeds two feet in length. On his forehead, in a right-line with that on the nose, is another horn, of a yellowish colour, and about four inches in length when the animal is young, but never exceeds six inches.

This animal feeds upon shrubs, thistles, and roots of plants; but those which are tame will eat hay, fruits, pulse, and almost every thing else which is given them except flesh and fish.

X. The R A C O O N.

THE Racoon is a native of America, and called by the natives of Brasil, Coati. It is somewhat less than a beaver, with a short thick body somewhat like a badger. The feet resemble those of a beaver, but are short in proportion to the body; and the hair on them is strong, thick and black at the ends like that of a fox; whereas that on the other parts of the body are of a greenish yellow.

The shape of the head resembles that of a fox, but the ears are shorter, rounder and naked. A broad stripe runs across the face including the eyes, which are large, with insides of a reddish yellow colour. The muzzle is thick, and roundish at the extremity, like that of a dog. The tail is longer

than the body, with annular stripes like those of a cat. The feet have five long slender toes, armed with sharp claws, which enable it to climb trees with great dexterity. It uses its fore-feet like a monkey, feeding itself with them; and what is very remarkable dips all its food into the water, before it eats it. It will walk on its hind legs like a bear. Its common food is fruits, tho' it will eat mutton and the flesh of fowls.

The fur of the Racoon is very valuable; but the flesh is never eaten by the Europeans; tho' both the native Americans, and the Negroes are very fond of it.

[To be continued.]