

## Natural History of the Rhinoceros.

461

concluded; a couple of porters bring a chair, which is guarded by a number of trusty people. The widow is shut up in this chair, and in that manner conducted to the house of her new husband.

Masters, for the most part, are very desirous of promoting marriage among their slaves, whatever Mr. Paw may say, who, without any foundation, has ventured boldly to assert the contrary. They have even very strong motives to induce them to encourage these marriages: the children produced by them are still their slaves; they become new property to them; and they constitute a fresh tie, which attaches the mothers and fathers more and more to their service.

The Chinese women, even those of the greatest rank, seldom quit their apartment. It is situated in the most retired part of the house; and there they live, secluded from all society but their domestics. The book of *Ceremonies* requires,

that there should be two apartments in every house; the exterior for the husband, and the interior for his spouse. They must even be separated by a wooden partition, or a wall, and the door must be carefully guarded: the husband is not at liberty to enter the inner apartment, nor must the wife ever quit it, without a sufficient cause. 'A wife,' adds this book, 'is not mistress of herself; she has nothing at her own disposal; she can give no orders but within the precincts of her own apartment, to which all her authority is confined.' It will appear, no doubt; extraordinary, that the same book of *Ceremonies* ranks the prattling and loquacity of a woman among those causes which may authorise a divorce.

A woman, however, cannot be repudiated on any account, if she loses her parents after her marriage, or if she has worn triennial mourning for the death of her husband, father or mother.

## NATURAL HISTORY OF THE RHINOCEROS.

WE are indebted to the labors of many learned and ingenious naturalists for accurate descriptions of this wonderful creature, which in size is only exceeded by the Elephant, and in strength and power is inferior to no other animal. Bontius says, that in the bulk of its body it equals the Elephant, but is lower only on account of the shortness of its legs.

The length of the Rhinoceros, from the extremity of the muzzle to the insertion of the tale, is usually twelve feet; and the circumference of its body nearly equal to its length. Its nose is armed with a formidable weapon, peculiar to this creature, being a very hard and solid horn, with which it defends itself from every adversary. The

Tiger will rather attack the Elephant, whose trunk it can lay hold of, than the Rhinoceros, which it cannot face, without danger of having its bowels torn out.

The body and limbs of the Rhinoceros are covered with a skin so hard and impenetrable, that he fears neither the claws of the Tiger, nor the more formidable proboscis of the Elephant: It will turn the edge of a scimitar, and even resist the force of a musket-ball. The skin, which is of a blackish colour, forms itself into large folds at the neck, the shoulders, and the crupper, by which the motion of the head and limbs is facilitated; round the neck, which is very short, are two large folds; there is also a fold from the shoulders, which hangs down upon the

The fore legs; and another from the hind part of the back to the thighs. The body is every where covered with small tuberosities or knots, which are small on the neck and back, but larger on the sides: The thighs, legs, and even the feet are full of these incrustations, which have been mistaken for scales by some authors: they are, however, only simple indurations of the skin, without uniformity in their figure, or regularity in their position. Between the folds, the skin is penetrable and delicate, as soft to the touch as silk, and of a light flesh colour: The skin of the belly is nearly of the same colour and consistency.

The body of the *Rhinoceros* is long and thick: Its belly is large, and hangs near the ground; its legs short, round, and very strong; and its hoofs are divided into three parts, each pointing forward. The head of this animal is large; its ears long and erect; and its eyes small, sunk, and without vivacity: The upper lip is long, overhangs the lower, and is capable of great extension: It is so pliable, that the *Rhinoceros* can move it from side to side, twist it round a stick, collect its food, or seize with it any thing it would carry to its mouth.

The *Rhinoceros*, without being ferocious, carnivorous, or even extremely wild, is, however, totally untractable and rude. It seems to be subject to paroxysms of fury, which nothing can appease. That which Emanuel, king of Portugal, sent to the pope in the year 1513, destroyed the vessel in which they were transporting it.

Like the Hog, the *Rhinoceros* is fond of wallowing in the mire.—It is a solitary animal, loves moist and marshy grounds, and seldom quits the banks of rivers.—It is found in Bengal, Siam, China, and

other countries of Asia; in the isles of Java, Sumatra, Ceylon, &c.; in Ethiopia, and the country as low as the Cape of Good Hope. But in general, the species is not numerous, and is much less diffused than that of the Elephant.

The female produces but one at a time, and at considerable intervals.—During the first month, the young *Rhinoceros* exceeds the size of a large dog. At the age of two years, the horn is not more than an inch long; at six years old, it is nine or ten inches long; and grows to the length of three feet and a half, and sometimes four feet. The horn is much esteemed by the natives as an antidote against poison, as well as a remedy for particular diseases.

The *Rhinoceros* feeds on the grossest herbs, and prefers thistles and shrubs to soft or delicate pasturage. It is fond of the sugarcane, and eats all kinds of grain.

Dr. Parsons remarks, that this animal has an acute and very attentive ear. It will listen with a deep and long-continued attention to any kind of noise; and, though it be eating, lying down, or obeying any pressing demands of nature, it will raise its head, and listen till the noise cease.

From the peculiar constructions of his eyes, the *Rhinoceros* can only see what is immediately before him. When he pursues any object, he proceeds always in a direct line, overturning every obstruction. With the horn on his nose, he tears up trees, raises stones, and throws them behind him to a considerable distance. His sense of smelling is so exquisite, that the hunters are obliged to avoid being to windward of him. They follow him at a distance, and watch till he lies down to sleep: They then approach with great precau-

tion, and discharge their muskets all at once into the lower part of the belly.

The Rhinoceros is supposed to be the Unicorn of holy writ, and possesses all the properties ascribed to that animal,—rage, untameableness, great swiftness, and immense strength.—It was known to the

Romans in very early times, and is handed down to us in some of the works of that celebrated people. Augustus introduced one into the shows, on his triumph over Cleopatra.

Its flesh is eaten, and much relished by the natives of India and Africa.

*The Constant Lovers; or, the Adventures of Pedro and Celestina.—A Tale.*

[Continued from page 439, and concluded.]

THIS short account suggested a new project to Celestina. My friend, said she to the goat-herd, you have no money, which you will certainly want, when you have left this country. I have a few pieces of gold; these I will divide with you, if you will let me have the dress you say is in your parcel.

The goat-herd accepted the offer. Celestina gave him a dozen ducats, and, having informed herself which was the road to Gadara, took her leave of the despairing lover, and returned into the grotto, to put on her newly-purchased disguise.

She came out habited in a vest of chamois skin, with a shepherd's wallet hanging by her side, and on her head a hat ornamented with ribbons. In this attire she appeared yet more beautiful than when adorned with brocades and jewels. She took the road to the village, and, stopping in the market place, inquired of the peasants if they knew of any farmer who wanted a servant.

The inhabitants surrounded her, and surveyed the stranger with admiration. The girls expressed their surprise at the beauty of her flowing ringlets; her elegant form, her graceful manner, the brilliancy of her eyes, even though dejected, their superior intelligence and mild benignity, astonish and delight all

beholders. No one could conceive from whence came this beautiful youth. One imagines him a person of high distinction in disguise; another, a prince, in love with some shepherdess, while the school-master, who was at the same time the poet of the village, declared it must be Apollo, sent down, a second time, to keep sheep among mortals.

Celestina, who assumed the name of Marcelio, was not long in want of a master. She was hired by an aged alcade of the village, esteemed one of the worthiest men in the whole province.

This honest countryman soon contracted the warmest friendship for Celestina. He scarcely suffered her to tend his flocks for a month before he gave her an employment within his house, in which the pretended Marcelio behaved with so much propriety and fidelity, that he was equally beloved by master and servants.

Before he had lived here half a year, the alcade, who was more than eighty, left the entire management of all he possessed to Marcelio; he even asked his opinion in all the causes that came before him, and never had any alcade decided with so much justice as he, from the time he permitted himself to be guided by the advice of Marcelio. Marcelio was beloved, and proposed.