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NEW DICTIONARY
 OF
 NATURAL HISTORY;
 OR,
 COMPLETE UNIVERSAL DISPLAY
 OF
 ANIMATED NATURE.

WITH
 ACCURATE REPRESENTATIONS
 OF THE
 MOST CURIOUS AND BEAUTIFUL ANIMALS,
 LEGANTLY COLOURED.

BY WILLIAM FREDERIC MARTYN, Esq. = William Fordyce MAJOR

IN TWO VOLUMES.

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spotted with blue. The lateral lines are black; and on each side of the tail there is a bright yellow line.

RHEA. In the Linnæan system, a species of the struthio, or ostrich; synonymous with the *namduguacu* of the Brazilians.

RHINE. An Aristotelian appellation for a species of squalus, the *Squatius* of Isidore and Pliny.

Artesi distinguishes this from the other species of squalus by the circumstances of it's having no pinna ani, and the mouth being situated in the extremity of the snout.

RHINGAU. A name by which some ichthyologists express the *lavaretus*, a small fish caught in the German lakes, and exported in pickle to most parts of the commercial world.

RHINOBATOS. A flat cartilaginous fish of the *Squatina* or monk-fish kind; but differing from it in having a longer body, a more pointed head, and the mouth placed at a greater distance below the extremity of the snout. This fish, which is common in the Mediterranean, grows to the length of three or four feet. In the Linnæan system, it is a species of ray.

RHINOCEROS. A genus of quadrupeds of the order of belluæ in the class of mammalia, according to the Linnæan distribution; and so called from a horn arising from the nose. There are only two known species of this genus, viz. the Rhinoceros with only one horn, and the Rhinoceros with two horns.

RHINOCEROS, ONE-HORNED; the Rhinoceros *Unicornis* of Linnæus. This animal, next to the elephant, is the most powerful of quadrupeds. It is commonly twelve feet long from the tip of the nose to the insertion of the tail; it's height is from six to seven feet; and the circumference of it's body is nearly equal to it's length. In magnitude, therefore, it makes a near approach to the elephant; and, if it appears smaller to the eye, the reason is, because it's legs are much shorter.

But it differs still more from the elephant in it's natural powers and intelligence; for nature has not endowed it with any qualities whereby it is elevated above the ordinary rank of quadrupeds: it is destitute of all sensibility in it's skin; neither has it hands, to enable it to profit by the sense of touching; and, instead of a trunk, it has only a moveable lip, to which all it's means of dexterity or address are limited. It's chief sources of superiority over other animals consist in it's strength; it's magnitude; and the offensive weapon on it's nose, which is entirely peculiar to the kind. This weapon is a very hard horn, solid throughout it's whole extent, and situated more advantageously than the horns of ruminating animals, which defend only the superior parts of the head and neck. But the horn of the Rhinoceros protects the muzzle, the mouth, and the face; for which reason, the tiger will rather attack the elephant, whose trunk it lays hold of, than the Rhinoceros, which it dares not face without running the risk of having it's bowels torn out. The body and limbs of the Rhinoceros are covered with a blackish skin, so impenetrable, as to resist either the claws of the lion or the tiger, the sword, or the shot of the hunter. It is also thicker and harder than that of the elephant, and altogether insensible to the stings of insects. It is incapable of either extension or contraction; but is rolled up into large folds at the neck, the shoulders, and

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the crupper, in order to facilitate the motion of it's head and limbs; which last are massy, and furnished with large feet, armed with three great toes. The head is proportionably longer than that of the elephant; but it's eyes are smaller, and generally half closed. The upper, which projects over the under lip, being moveable, can be extended about six or seven inches in length; and is terminated by a pointed appendage, which gives the animal a power of collecting herbage in handfuls, as the elephant does with it's trunk: this muscular and flexible lip is a kind of hand or imperfect trunk; but it enables the creature to seize any object with force, and also to feel with some address. Instead of those large ivory tusks which constitute the armour of the elephant, the Rhinoceros has a formidable horn; and two strong incisive teeth in each jaw, which are situated at a great distance from each other, one in each angle of the jaw. The under jaw is square before; and there are no other incisive teeth in the anterior part of the mouth, which is covered by the lips: but, exclusive of the four cutting-teeth in the four corners of the mouth, there are twenty-four grinders, six on each side of the two jaws. The ears, which are always kept in an erect posture, resemble those of the hog, but are proportionably smaller: those are the only parts of the body on which there are hairs, or rather bristles; but the extremity of the tail, like that of the elephant, is garnished with a bush of large, solid, hard bristles.

Though the Rhinoceros was frequently exhibited in the Roman spectacles, from the days of Pompey to those of Heliogabalus; though it has often been transported into Europe in more modern times; and though Bontius, Chardin, and Kolben, have drawn figures of it both in India and Africa; yet so badly has it been represented and described, that it was very imperfectly known till the errors and caprices of those who had published figures of it were detected by an inspection of the animals which arrived in London in the years 1739 and 1741.

In 1743, the ingenious Dr. Parsons published a history of the Rhinoceros; and from a subject so curious, and handled with such accuracy, an extract can neither prove useless nor unentertaining.

The Rhinoceros which the above gentleman described was brought from Bengal. Though not more than two years old, the expence of his food and journey amounted to near one thousand pounds sterling. He was fed with rice, sugar, and hay. He had daily seven pounds of rice, mixed with three pounds of sugar, and divided into three portions: he had likewise hay and green herbs, which last he preferred to hay; and his drink was water, of which he took large quantities at a time. He was of a peaceable disposition, and allowed all parts of his body to be touched. When hungry, or struck by any person, he became mischievous, and in both cases nothing appeased him but food. When enraged, he sprung forward, and nimbly raised himself to a great height, pushing at the same time his head furiously against the walls, which he performed with amazing quickness, notwithstanding his heavy aspect, and unwieldy mass. 'I often observed,' says Dr. Parsons, 'these movements produced by rage or impatience, especially in the mornings before his rice and sugar were brought him. The vivacity and promptitude of his motions,

tions,' adds this author, 'induced me to think, that he was altogether unconquerable, and that he could easily overtake any man who should offend him.

'This Rhinoceros, at the age of two years, was not taller than a young cow that has never produced; but his body was very long and very thick. His head was disproportionably large. From the ears to the horn there was a concavity, the two extremities of which, namely, the upper end of the muzzle, and the upper part near the ears, were considerably raised. The horn, which was not yet above an inch high, was black, smooth at the top, but full of wrinkles directed backwards at the base. The nostrils were situated very low, being not above an inch distant from the opening of the mouth. The under lip was pretty similar to that of an ox; but the upper lip had a greater resemblance to that of the horse, with this advantageous difference, that the Rhinoceros can lengthen his, move it from side to side, roll it about a staff, and seize with it any object he wishes to carry to his mouth. The tongue of this young Rhinoceros was soft, like that of a calf; his eyes were without any vivacity, in figure resembling those of a hog, and were situated lower or nearer the nostrils than in any other quadruped. His ears were large, thin at the extremities, and contracted at their origin by a kind of annular rugosity. The neck was very short, and surrounded with two thick folds of skin. The shoulders were very thick; and at their juncture there was another fold of skin, which descended on the fore-legs. The body of this young Rhinoceros was very thick, and pretty much resembled that of a cow near the end of her gestation. Between the body and the crupper there was another fold, which descended on the hind legs; and, lastly, another fold transversely surrounded the lower part of the crupper, at some distance from the tail. The belly was large, and hung near the ground, particularly it's middle part. The legs were round, thick, and strong; and their joint bended backwards: this joint, which, when the animal lay down, was covered with a remarkable fold of the skin, became apparent when he stood. The tail, that was thin, and proportionably short, grew a little thicker at the extremity, which was garnished with some short, thick, hard hairs. The form of the penis was very extraordinary: it was contained in a prepuce or sheath, like that of the horse; and the first thing that appeared at the time of erection, was a second prepuce, of a flesh colour, from which issued a hollow tube, in the form of a funnel cut and bordered somewhat like a flower de luce, and constituted the glans and extremity of the penis. This anomalous glans was of a fine flesh colour, much paler than the second prepuce. During the most vigorous erection, the penis extended not above eight inches out of the body: the direction of this organ was not straight, but bended backward; hence he threw out his urine behind; and from this circumstance it may be inferred, that the male covers not the female, but that they unite with their cruppers towards each other. The organs of the female are situated like those of the cow; and she exactly resembles the male in figure and grossness of body. The skin is so thick and impenetrable, that when a man lays hold of any of the folds, he would imagine he is touching a wooden plank of half an inch thick. Dr. Grew remarks that, when tan-

ned, it is excessively hard, and thicker than the hide of any other terrestrial animal. It is every where covered more or less with incrustations, in the form of galls or tuberosities, which are pretty small on the top of the neck and back, but become larger on the sides: the largest are on the shoulders and crupper; and are still pretty large on the thighs and legs, where they are spread all round, and even on the feet; but, between the folds the skin is penetrable, delicate, and as soft as silk to the touch, while the external part of the fold is equally hard with the rest. This tender skin between the folds is of a light flesh-colour; and the skin of the belly is nearly of the same colour and consistence. The galls or tuberosities on the skin should not be compared to scales: they are simple indurations only, without any regularity in their figure, or symmetry in their respective positions. The flexibility of the skin in the folds enables the Rhinoceros to move his head, neck, and members, with facility. The whole body, except at the joints, is inflexible, and resembles a coat of mail.'

Dr. Parsons farther remarked, that this animal listened with a deep and long-continued attention to any kind of noise; and that though he was sleeping, eating, or obeying any other pressing demands of nature, he raised his head, and listened till the noise ceased.

The horn of the Rhinoceros sometimes measures nearly four feet in length, by six or seven inches diameter at the base. It is commonly of a brown or olive colour; though there are instances of it's being grey, and even white. Under the base it has a slight concavity in the shape of a cup, by which it is fixed to the skin of the nose: with this weapon the Rhinoceros is said to attack, and sometimes mortally wound, the largest elephants, whose tall legs give the animal now under consideration an opportunity of striking with his snout and horn their bellies, where the skin is most tender and penetrable; but, if he misses his first blow, the elephant throws him on the ground, and kills him.

This animal's horn is more esteemed by the Indians than the ivory of the elephant; not on account of it's real utility, though several toys are made of it; but on account of certain medicinal qualities which they ascribe to it. The white horns, being the rarest, are in great request; and among the presents sent by the King of Siam to Lewis XIV. of France, in 1686, there were six horns of this animal.

Without being ferocious or carnivorous, the Rhinoceros is perfectly untractable. He is nearly among large what the hog is among small animals, rash and brutal, without intelligence, sentiment, or docility. He seems even to be subject to paroxysms of fury which nothing can appease: for that one which Emanuel King of Portugal sent to the Pope in 1513, destroyed the vessel in which he was transporting; and a Rhinoceros exhibited some years ago in Paris, was drowned in a similar manner in his voyage to Italy.

This animal is fond of wallowing in the mire; shews the greatest predilection for moist, marshy grounds; and never quits the banks of rivers. It is found in the continents of Asia and Africa; but in general the species is not numerous, and 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

young Rhinoceros does not exceed the size of a large dog. When recently brought forth, it has no horn, though the rudiments of it appear in the fœtus. At the age of two years, the horn is about one inch long; and, at that of six, it is from nine to ten inches in length. Now, as some of these horns are known to be nearly four feet in length, it appears that they continue to grow during the half, or perhaps the whole of the animal's life; which must be of considerable extent, since the Rhinoceros described by Dr. Parsons had only acquired about one half of it's height at the age of two years; from whence it may be inferred, that this animal, like man, lives seventy or eighty years.

Destitute of those beneficial qualities possessed by the elephant, the Rhinoceros is equally hurtful by his voracity, and particularly by the prodigious waste occasioned by him in cultivated fields. In a word, he is useless while alive; though his flesh is reckoned excellent by the Indians and negroes; and his skin composes the hardest and best leather in the world. Not only his horn, but all other parts of his body, and even his blood, urine, and excrements, are esteemed antidotes against poison, or remedies for particular diseases: these antidotes or remedies, extracted from different parts of the Rhinoceros, are of equal estimation in the Indian pharmacopœia with the theriaca in that of Europe; but most of the virtues ascribed to both are probably only imaginary.

The Rhinoceros subsists on the grossest herbs, which he prefers to the softest pasture of the most luxuriant meads. He is fond of the sugar-cane; and likewise eats all kinds of grain. Having no appetite for flesh, he neither disturbs the small, nor dreads the larger animals; but lives amicably with all, not excepting the tiger, which sometimes attends the Rhinoceros without daring to attack him. This pacific disposition renders combats between the elephant and the Rhinoceros very suspicious; such contests must at least be seldom, since there is no offensive disposition on either side. Pliny seems to be the first author who makes mention of these conflicts. It appears that these animals were compelled to fight at the Roman spectacles; and hence probably the idea that, when in a state of nature, they fight in the same manner: but every action without a motive is unnatural; it is an effect without a cause, which must originate solely from accident.

These creatures neither assemble, nor march in troops, like elephants: they are more solitary and savage; and it is perhaps more difficult to hunt and overcome them. They never attack men but when provoked; and then they become very furious and formidable. Pennant mentions a Shropshire gentleman, whose belly was ripped open by the horn of one of these animals while engaged in a military capacity in the East, and who was so fortunate as to survive the wound. Their skins are so amazingly hard, as to resist fibres, lances, javelins, and even musket-balls. The only penetrable parts of their bodies are their bellies, their eyes, about their ears, and under the folds: hence the hunters, instead of attacking them face to face, follow them at a distance by the tracks of their feet, and watch them till they lie down to sleep.

Buffon tells us, that there is a fœtus of a Rhinoceros in the Royal Cabinet, which was extracted from the body of the mother in the island of Java.

By the memoir accompanying this fœtus we are informed, that twenty-eight hunters having assembled in order to attack the dam, they followed her at a distance for some days, detaching one or two of their number from time to time to reconnoitre her situation: that by this means they surpris'd her while asleep; and silently approached so near, that the whole twenty-eight muskets were discharged at once into the lower part of her belly.

In some parts of the continent of Asia, where the natives are more ambitious of appearing warlike than proving themselves brave, these animals are tamed, and led into the field in order to strike terror into the enemy; but they are always unmanageable and restive, and probably more dangerous to their owners than to those whom they are designed to annoy.

If we may credit some naturalists, the Rhinoceros is the unicorn of Holy Writ, and of the ancients, the oryx and the Indian afs of Aristotle, who says it has but one horn. He might indeed fitly compare the clumsy shape of the Rhinoceros to that of the afs, so as to be easily induced to pronounce it a whole-footed animal. However, though this opinion is not universally adopted, it seems very probable that the Unicorn of Scripture possessed all the properties which belong to the Rhinoceros.

RHINOCEROS, TWO-HORNED; the Rhinoceros Bicornis of Linnæus. This species has two horns, one placed beyond the other; the nose and upper lip resemble those of the common Rhinoceros; it has no fore-teeth; and the skin, which is much granulated or warty, is destitute of plaice or folds. The general colour is a deep cinerous grey; but between the legs it is smooth and flesh-coloured: in other parts there are a few scattered stiff bristles, most numerous about the ears and the end of the tail; and the tail itself is no thicker than a man's thumb, convex above and below, and flattened on the sides.

These creatures are found only in Africa. Flacourt first observed them in the Bay of Saldagne, near the Cape of Good Hope; but their existence was questioned for some time, till Dr. Sparrman confirmed it's reality. This gentleman, with the laudable perseverance of a naturalist, watched the arrival of those and other animals at a muddy water at some distance north of the Cape, whither wild beasts resort to quench their thirst, and some to indulge in rolling in the mud: in that spot he shot two of these animals; one so very large, that the united strength of five men could not move it. The lesser he measured; and it's length was found to be eleven feet and a half; the girth twelve; and the height between six and seven.

This species, with respect to it's habits, seems to agree with the other: it's flesh, which is reckoned proper for food, tastes like coarse pork; cups are manufactured of it's horns; and whips of it's hide. It feeds on the boughs of trees; and also on succulent plants, particularly the stinking flapelia. During the day-time it continues in a state of rest; but in the evenings and mornings it wanders about in search of food, or of suitable places to roll in. It has no other voice but a kind of snorting, which was observed in females anxious for their young. It's sight is said to be very indifferent; but it possesses the faculties of hearing and smelling in an exquisite degree, the least noise or scent putting it in motion. To the spot whence

these two senses are alarmed it instantly repairs; and whatever objects it meets with in it's course, it usually overturns and tramples on: men, oxen, and even carriages, have been overthrown by it, and sometimes destroyed. However, it never returns to repeat the charge, but keeps right on it's way; so that a kind of senseless impulse, rather than vehement fury, seems to precipitate the Rhinoceros in these it's violent actions.

Martial mentions this species under the appellation of Rhinoceros cornu gemino, and relates it's manner of combating the bear. Indeed, the Romans procured their Rhinoceros's from Africa only, which was the reason of their being represented as double-horned. The animal figured in the Prenestine Pavement, and that on one of Domitian's coins, are each furnished with two horns.

RHINOCEROS is also a name by which some naturalists express a species of beetle, so called from a kind of horn projecting from it's head.

RHINOCEROS AVIS. A term by which some ornithologists express a species of Indian raven, called also *corvus Indicus cornutus*; in the Linnæan system, belonging to the genus of bucceros.

This bird, which is extremely ugly and ill-scented, much exceeds the European raven in magnitude: the head and neck are very thick; the eyes are extremely large; and the beak is of a very singular figure, having a large thick horn-like protuberance on it's upper part: the whole beak is bent like a bow; and is of a yellowish white colour below; but on the upper part, towards the head, is of a beautiful vivid red. The upper chap is serrated; and with this the horn proceeds from the head, and running along the mandible, bends up at it's extremity.

This species delights in the same sort of food with the common raven.

RHODOPUS GALLINULA. An appellation sometimes given to the tringa.

RHOMBO. A name for a peculiar fish of the rhombus or turbot kind, the *Rhombus Aculeatus* of Aldrovandus and others. It grows to a considerable size. The back is ash-coloured and green; and the belly is white. It is destitute of scales; but the skin of the back is divided by lines. The mouth is large, and well furnished with teeth; and the palate contains a number of tubercles.

The Rhombo is commonly found in the Italian seas; and it's flesh is very delicious.

RHOMBUS. A species of the pleuronectes.

RHOMBUS is also a term used by conchologists to express a genus of the murex; the character of which is, that the shape or contour is rhombic. The clavicle, or turban, which is generally situated about the middle, runs out into very sharp or acute angles with the top and bottom; and by this means gives a rhomboidal figure to the shell.

This genus is not very numerous, but contains some very pretty shells.

RICI-BIRD; the *Loxia Oryzivora* of Linnæus. This bird, which was first described by Edwards, is about the size of a green-finch; the bill is extremely thick, and of a fine red colour above and beneath, except towards the point, where there is a little space of white. The eyes are dark; and the irides are red. The whole head is black, except a white oval spot on each cheek; the neck, breast, back, and covers of the wings, are of a fine blueish ash-colour, the rump being somewhat lighter than the back; while the

ash-colour on the breast changes gradually towards the belly into a blossom-colour; beyond which the lower belly and the covers under the tail are of a dirty white. The greater quill-feathers, as well as the whole tail, are black; the legs and feet are of a faint red hue; and the claws are of a dirty white.

The plumage of this bird is remarkably smooth and even; from which circumstance it derives a peculiar beauty. It is said to be a native of China.

RING-DOVE. See DOVE.

RING-OUZEL. See OUZEL.

RING-TAIL. An English appellation for the subbuteo, or *pygargus accipiter*; which has generally been deemed the female of the hen-harrier; however, males have been lately found of this species.

The Ring-Tail is distinguished by a chain of feathers round the back part of it's head, reaching to the chin on each side; which stand erect, and are brown in the middle, and of a reddish white hue at the edges, forming a kind of crown, which surrounds the head. The top of the head and cheeks are dusky, bordered with ferruginous; and under each eye there is a white spot. The back is dusky; the rump is white, with oblong yellowish spots on each shaft; and the tail is long, and tipped with white. The breast and belly are of a yellowish brown colour, marked with oblong dusky spots; the legs are yellow; and the inside of the mouth is black.

This hawk preys on small birds; flies much higher than the hen-harrier; and sometimes perches on trees. It's eggs are of a reddish hue, with a very few clear white marks.

RING-TAIL EAGLE. See WHITE-TAILED EAGLE.

RIONDO. An appellation by which some ichthyologists express the fish more commonly called aper; a small one caught in the Mediterranean, resembling the faber or dorée in shape.

RIVER-HORSE. See HIPPOPOTAMUS.

ROACH; the *Cyprinus Rutilus* of Linnæus. This fish, called also *rutilus*, *rubiculus*, and *rubellio*, is a species of *cyprinus*, both according to the Artedian and Linnæan distributions. It has (though without just reason) been reputed extremely vivacious and active; whence the proverb, 'Sound as a Roach.'

In some parts of the world the Roach can exist in stagnant waters only: in this country, it thrives equally in ponds and deep still rivers; and is remarkable for it's numerous progeny, a pond being much sooner stocked with this than any other fish. It is a gregarious creature, always keeping in large shoals. It is seldom seen of any considerable size; nevertheless, Walton makes mention of some that weighed two pounds each.

The Roach is deep, but thin; the back is much elevated, and sharply ridged; the scales are large and deciduous; and the lateral line is considerably incurved in the middle towards the belly.

ROAD GOOSE. An appellation by which some authors express a small species of wild Goose.

ROBIN. The vulgar name for the red-breast, or *rubecula*. See RED-BREAST.

ROCK. A bird mentioned by the Arabian writers, of which many fabulous accounts have been propagated. But, if we may venture to form any opinion on a subject so mangled with fiction, it seems to be a species of condor.

ROCK-FISH. An English appellation for the