

SIX MONTHS  
IN  
BRITISH BURMAH:  
OR,  
INDIA BEYOND THE GANGES  
IN 1857.



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spoken of the services of these powerful and sagacious animals in the timber-trade of the country, in the forests of the interior, and in the timber-yards of Maulmain.

A small black species of wild hog (*sus Indicus*) is very numerous, and commits devastations in the paddy fields.

There would appear to be no less than three distinct species of the rhinoceros. "The common single-horned rhinoceros is very abundant. Though often seen on the uninhabited banks of large rivers, as the Tenasserim, they are fond of ranging the mountains, and I have frequently met with their wallowing-places on the banks of mountain streams, two or three thousand feet above the plains. They are as fond of rolling themselves in mud as a hog or a buffalo. The Karens, when travelling, have quite as much fear of a rhinoceros as they have of a tiger. When provoked, the rhinoceros, they say, pursues his enemy most unrelentingly and with indomitable perseverance. If to escape his rage the huntsman retreats to a tree, the

beast, it is said, will take his stand beneath the tree for three or four days in succession, without once leaving his antagonist." \*

The double-horned smooth-skinned rhinoceros is also met with. The third species is what the Karens call the fire-eating rhinoceros, and which Mason supposes to be identical with the Javanese animal of that name. It appears to be excited by the sight of fire, to which it rushes with mad impetuosity.

The Malay tapir (*tapirus Malayanus*), exists in the interior of the Tavoy and Mergui provinces, and it appears to be a harmless animal.

There are, in the country, eleven species of the *ruminantia*, or animals that chew the cud. Of these the deer tribe are very numerous. The chevrotain is a little deer about the size of a large hare. The same animal is found at Penang, where it is much more plentiful.

The barking-deer is very widely diffused over the provinces, and is frequently seen in

\* Mason.