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A
VOYAGE TO ABYSSINIA,

AND

TRAVELS

INTO THE INTERIOR OF THAT COUNTRY,

EXECUTED UNDER THE ORDERS OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT,

IN THE YEARS 1809 AND 1810;

IN WHICH ARE INCLUDED,

AN ACCOUNT OF THE PORTUGUESE SETTLEMENTS ON
THE EAST COAST OF AFRICA,

VISITED IN THE COURSE OF THE VOYAGE;

A CONCISE NARRATIVE OF LATE EVENTS IN ARABIA FELIX;

AND

SOME PARTICULARS RESPECTING THE ABORIGINAL AFRICAN TRIBES, EXTENDING
FROM MOSAMBIQUE TO THE BORDERS OF EGYPT;

TOGETHER WITH

VOCABULARIES OF THEIR RESPECTIVE LANGUAGES.

ILLUSTRATED WITH

A MAP OF ABYSSINIA, NUMEROUS ENGRAVINGS, AND CHARTS.

BY HENRY SALT, ESQ. F. R. S. &c.

"Providentiam divinam summis laudibus celebrandum quod inter tot barbaros, inter tot Muhamme-
danorum persecuciones Ecclesiam Æthiopicam in Africa per tot secula conservaverit."

Speech of Ernest Duke of Saxony to Father Gregory. Vide Ludolfi Comment.

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No. IV.

I HAVE endeavoured in this Appendix to give a concise view of the animals indigenous to Abyssinia, and I have added the lists of a considerable number of rare birds and plants, which I discovered in the course of my travels in that country.

The animals domesticated throughout the kingdom consist of oxen, sheep (of a small black species), goats, horses, mules, asses, and a few camels. Two different species of dogs are commonly met with, one of which, like the paria dog of India, owns no particular master, but is attached in packs to the different villages; and the other is a strong and swift animal employed in the pursuits of the chase. The latter from its earliest age is taught to run down its game, especially guinea-fowls, and it is astonishing how expert it becomes in catching them, never for an instant losing sight of the birds, after it has once started them from their haunts. Tame cats are likewise to be found in every house in Abyssinia.

The wild animals, called *Ansis* Gudam, inhabiting the forest or "bar-raka," form a very numerous tribe, of which a concise list, with their names in Tigré and Amharic, may tend to convey a sufficiently accurate idea.

The elephant, (*armaz*, T. *zohan*, Amh.) is found in all the forests bordering on Abyssinia, and is commonly hunted by the Shangalla for the sake of its teeth.

The camelopard, (*zeratta*, T. *jeratta ketchin*, A.) is an animal rarely to be met with, owing to the shyness of its nature, and from its frequenting only the interior districts uninhabited by man. Its skin forms an article of barter in some of the provinces, and an ornament made of the hair plucked from the tail is commonly fastened to the butt-ends of the whips, used by the inhabitants for the purpose of brushing away flies, which are exceedingly troublesome during the hot season. The whips themselves are formed out of the skin of the hippopotamus, and are called "Hallinga."

The only species of Rhinoceros, (*arwe haris*, T. *aweer haris*, A.) which I could hear of, was the two-horned rhinoceros, similar to that found in the neighbourhood of the Cape of Good Hope; of which a very admirable

drawing is given by Mr. Barrow. This I believe was first described by Mr. Sparman. I myself never met with it alive, as it frequents only the low countries bordering on the Funge, or the wild forests of Wójjerat; but I procured several sets of the horns, fastened together by a portion of the skin; whence it appears that they have no connection whatever with the bone of the head, a fact which gives a considerable degree of credibility to the notion generally received among the natives of Africa, that this animal possesses a power of depressing or raising the horns at will. Bruce ridicules Sparman for mentioning this circumstance; but as the drawing given by the former is evidently very incorrect,* no great weight can be attached to his opinion. This animal is sought after by the hunters on account of the skin, which is much used in Arabia for shields; as also for its horns, which form a valuable article of barter throughout the East, being in great demand for making handles to swords and daggers. From the generally small size of the horns which are exported, it seems that the natives seldom kill the animal when at its full growth; Mr. Pearce has lately sent me one pair, however, the foremost of which measured two feet in length, and this was considered as the largest ever seen at Antálo.

The buffalo, (*gōshee*, T. *gōsh*, A.) is common in the forests of Ras el Fil. Its skin is employed for the purpose of making shields, in the construction of which much art is displayed; and a handsome one, well shaped and seasoned, will sell in the country for four and five dollars.

The Zebra, or *Zecora*, is found chiefly in the southern provinces. The mane of this animal is in great demand for making a particular kind of collar, which is fixed on state days, as an ornament, round the necks of the war-horses belonging to the chiefs. The privilege of wearing this ornament appears to be confined to only a few of the principal men, which may perhaps, however, only proceed from its scarcity. The wild ass, possibly the *Quacha*, (*erge gudam*, T.—*ebuda hiyah*, A.) is found in the same districts as the *Zecora*.

Lions, (*ambāsā*, T. A.) are occasionally to be met with in the sandy districts bordering on the Tacazze, and the killing one of them confers

* The drawing of Mr. Bruce appears to have been copied from Buffon's one-horned rhinoceros, and to have had the second horn annexed to it, as the two-horned rhinoceros wants the folds in the skin which are there given.