## NATAL CONTRIBUTION

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TO TaE<br>\title{ INTERNATTONAL EXHIBITION }<br>OF 1882.<br>BY Dr. MANN, F.R.A.S.,<br>One of the Exhibition Comnissioners for Natal; and Honoray Secrotany to the<br>Natal Comsnission.

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north of the Drakensberg, but not in Natal. The Water Buck, or Kringat Buck, (109-120) lives upon the banks of the larger rivers, and seeks safety when disturbed, by rushing through them to the opposite bank. The Blue Buck (horns 110) is an antelope of the bigh plains, with a black skin seen shining tbrough ashy-groy hair, with large recurved horns, and with a body six feet long. The sable antelope, Zwartwitpens Buck, (121) is a very beautiful beast, with a black body and white belly, and with a white face streaked with black. The Gem's Buck (Oryx Gazella, 111) is a renowned warrior; perhaps the most gallant combatant of his tribe. With his formidable straight horns he defends himself bravely whenever he is attacked, and has been known to beat off even the lion upon occasions whence he has earned for himself the familiar sobriquet of "lion killer," by which he is extensively known. His first cousin, the Oryx, Oryx Leucoryx, (113) is scarcely less beantiful, and in one particular as renowned as himself. It is believed to be the unicorn of the Egyptian monuments.

Of the bovine, or ox-antelopes, still more bulky than the stag-antelopes, four are seen in Natal. The Hartebeest (horns, 115) is a magnificent animal, weighing as much as three hundred and fifty pounds, which inhabits the open plains, where it grazes, and runs hard when disturbed, having first taken a fair and cool gaze at its antagonist. The hartebeest comes, in winter time, within five hours' ride of Maritzburg, and may always be seen at that season on the Uwvoti flats. The Bastard Hartebeest (horns, 144) is only encountered in the high Karoos. The Bless Back, (horns, 119) so called from having a white blaze down its body, is met with in Natal, just bencath the Drakensberg, in the three coldest months of the year, and then almost always has the lion in attendance. The Bush Buck, or Bush Ram (horns, 118) is a Natal buck, of about the same size as the reed buck. It is a dark brown, spotted antelope, with a mane running down its back. It lives under cover and shows fight when it is brought to bay, barking like a dog, and not unfrequently proving itself a formidable antagonist from the length and strength of its horns. The hartebeest, fine as it is, is nitogether eclipsed by another species of this borine family, which comes down the Berg into the uplands of Natal in the cool months of July and Angust. This is the Eland (horns, 117). The cland is a heary feeder; and enjoys a dignity of its own among the antelopes, in its habit of growing fat. A full-gromn bull will sometimes weigh as much as a thousand pounds, and falls with a crash when it is struck by the hunter's lead. The fat eland is naturally a slow runner; what it gains in portliness it necessarily loses in agility and speed. The Dutch hunter arails himself of this peculiarity in making the slow creature carry its own ponderous weight to the larder. He leisurely trots his game before him until it is the neighbourhood of his homestead and then brings it to the ground. There is a slight spiral twist in the horns of the eland which is much more remarkably developed in another antelope nearly allied to the eland, but never seen in Natal. This is the unquestionable prince of the tribe. The Koodoo (No. 116) does not fatten like the eland, but it stands four feet high and is eight feet long. It has the stature of a little horse. It is a good swimmer, and lives upon the banks of the large upland rivers. The homs are four feet long, and twisted through two spires and a balf. They are so heavy that they are usnally carried couched along the back when the creature is in motion.
The horse antelope, the Wildeboest, or Gnu, (horns, 114) is scen in tho Overberg plains, in herds of countless numbers, coursing along in single file, and plunging and kicking, with its tail extended in the wind. This curious creature, which combines the dilated nostril and flowing mane and tail of the horse with the horn and cleft hoof of the ox, is the armorial emblem of Natal. On this account it is a pity that it does not combine the ovine wool as well as the bovine horn, with the horse hair. It then might have been hopefully looked to as a

Natalian augery as well as a Nutalian emblem. The Zulu Wildebeost (114) differs considerably from the Wildebeest of the Dutch Free States (149).

The Giraffe is now never seen, except far up in the interior. The only sppearance it enters in Natal is the thick camel leather which it sends down for the soles of Dutchmen's shoes, an article that belongs, however, to manufactured substances rather than raw material.

The thick skinned, non-ruminating group of quadrapeds is unquestionably next in importance to Natal in a commercial and economical point of view. The Elephant is still plentiful in the thick wild bush along the Tugela, and is in great force in the high land beyond the Drakensberg, whence he still sends down his spoils in abundance. It is only upon very chance occasions he strays nearer to white settlers, and when he does so, is quite sure to get an immediate notice to quit. In the year 1861 seventy-five thousand pounds of ivory, worth nearly twenty-three thousand pounds sterling, was shipped from Natal. The Bull-tusks (No. 1261, exhibited by the Messrs. Dickinson Brothers, of Natal, are fine specimens of their class. The Tusk (No. 165), weighs 126 English pounds, and is the largest specimen that came down to Natal during the past year:- The Rhinoceros is only seen about the banks of the inland rivers; but it must still be very plentiful, to judge from the number of its horns that enter the colony. Every store abounds with specimens of them. Twelve hundred horns, worth six hundred pounds sterling, are exported annually from Natal. Nos. 125 and 188, show specimens in all their varieties. 125 c is the Horn of the Black Rhinoceros; 125 n and 138 are very fine specimens in regard to size. Most of the African rhinoceroses have two horns arranged as in the one double specimen exhibited. The horns are solid appondages, and are fixed upon strong arches of bone provided for their attachment ; the formost upon the nasal bones, and the hindmost upon the frontal bone. Tho Rock Rabbit (Hyrax Capensis, 152 and 168), probably identical with the cony of scripture, is a curious little animal, half packyderm, half rodent, which lives in families in the crevices of rocks, and feeds upon herbage and young regetable shoots (Phacochacres). The African Wild Boar (127), is a large animal liring in the bush, and occasionally weighing as much as 180 pounds. It very much resembles the wild boar of Europe. A smaller pig, known as the Prairie Pig, is only found in the open veldt; it is a more active animal, and much valued for pork. The Sea-cow or River Horse (hippopotamus), half elephant, half pig, is still abundant in many parts of the colony. There are preserves of it within an easy ride of both Maritzburg and Durban. Its Tusks (128) furnish a very valuable kind of ivory. The Quagga (wild ass, 150), the South African representative of the solid-hoofed packyderm, and the zebra, come down the Drakensberg into the Natal uplands, with the bless buck and the wildebeest, during the three coldest months of the winter, when the bigher plains are without herbage. The Horse is of course bred with considerable caro in Natal. Of late years its value has been greatly enhanced by improved breeding, as well as by the prevalence of epidemic lung diseases at certain seasons. The higher grounds are considered to be the least liable to its raviges. There are spots in the colony which have hitherto escaped the visitation. Large troops of horses are continually supplied to Natal from the Dutch states. Forty-eight horses have been exported from Natal in the last two years.
The true carnivorous are numerous in Southern Africa ; but by universal consent of white settlers are held to be minus quantities, rather than plus, in the economical and commercial account, notwithstanding tho large prices that are now obtained in the market for their beautiful skins. They are very unmanageable and unreasonable in the matter of diet. No, $128 a$ is a memorable, although dead, example of this fuct. It is the Head of a Lion, which during a brief visit at

