

NARRATIVE
OF
TRAVELS AND DISCOVERIES

IN
NORTHERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA,

IN THE YEARS 1822, 1823, AND 1824,

BY
MAJOR DENHAM, F.R.S., CAPTAIN CLAPPERTON,
AND THE LATE DOCTOR OUDNEY,

EXTENDING ACROSS THE
GREAT DESERT TO THE TENTH DEGREE OF NORTHERN LATITUDE,
AND FROM KOUKA IN BORNOU, TO SACKATOO, THE
CAPITAL OF THE FELATAH EMPIRE.

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known, and might now go any where in Bornou without fear. Even the Shouaas on the frontiers, and the Dugganah, all know Rais Khaleel ; but this has not been done hastily ; you have been nearly eighteen months amongst us, and you remember when you could not go to Angornou without inconvenience. I then thought you would never be as much at liberty here as you are. Time and yourself may be thanked for this, not me ; for I could not, by any orders I might have given, have done for you what your mixing freely with the people, and gaining their good will, has brought about—and yet you are a Christian !”

July 30.—This morning the sheikh sent to Mr. Clapperton, Mr. Hillman, and myself, as a present, a very fine camel, a horse, and two waterskins, two leopard-skins, and two dressed-leather sacks. In the course of the morning another cargo was brought to me, consisting of eight elephants' tusks, with the horns of three other animals. The horns were, first, the *maremak*, a long horn similar to one I had seen at Kabshary—the animal has two, bending backwards at the point ; *kirka-dan*, a two-horned animal, with one long horn and a second shorter just above it, nearly between the eyes, was described to me as having, on the sheikh's late expedition to Gulphi, carried a man

and horse, spiked on his horn, more than one hundred yards, when, frightened by the cries of the people, he dropped them, and made his escape: the man was unhurt, but the horse died.

This animal is extremely ferocious, and by no means common, and was described to us as being equal to a good-sized bullock in height: part of the head which I saw resembled very much that of a large hog, except about the mouth, which wanted the tusks, and resembled that of a buffalo*.

* Mr. Children, of the British Museum, expresses himself in the following manner, in allusion to this animal:

“ B. M. May 1, 1826.

“ My dear sir,

“ Although the body of the Kerkadan was not defended like that of the Indian species of rhinoceros, it was probably, nevertheless, an animal of that genus, namely, the two-horned, or *R. Africanus*, of *Desmarest*, whose skin lies evenly on its body, and has none of those folds, or overlappings, which give the Asiatic rhinoceros the appearance of being clothed, as it were, in plate mail.

“ Sparrman appears to have been aware of the power of the rhinoceros to carry off a man and horse on his horns, as may be gathered from the following extract from his *Voyage to the Cape of Good Hope*, II. p. 113.—His companion, Immanuel, had left him dissecting a rhinoceros, to return to their encampment:—“ In order to go, as it appeared to him, a nearer way, he rode over a hill overgrown with branches. From this spot a rhinoceros rushed out upon him, and he would certainly have been trampled to death by this huge

Aug. 6.—This was the Aid Kebir, the principal feast of the Mussulmans during the year, in commemoration of God's staying the hand of Abraham in the place Jehovah-jireh, when about to sacrifice his son Isaac : all who can muster a

creature, or else have been taken up by it on its horns, and, TOGETHER WITH HIS HORSE, thrown into the air, had not the latter,' &c. &c.

“ At p. 117, Sparrow relates a still more extraordinary freak of one of these monsters, on the authority of some Cambedo colonists: ‘—a rhinoceros ran up to a waggon, and carried it a good way along with him, on his snout and horns.’

“ The Kerkadan is said not to be common, neither is the rhinoceros, except in places where there is plenty of wood and water. See Bruce, as quoted by Shaw, Gen. Zool. I. p. 206.

“ With respect to the Kerkadan chewing the cud, it is to be observed, that all the ruminating animals, except the camel, lama, and musk-deer, want the canine teeth altogether, and have no incisor teeth in the upper jaw ; and though the system of dentition of the rhinoceros is different in different species, as far as regards the incisors, none of the genus have any canine teeth, and the *R. Africanus* also wants the incisors in both jaws. No inference, therefore, as to the Kerkadan's chewing the cud or not, can safely be drawn from its teeth, unless the form and structure of its grinders have been carefully and minutely observed.

“ I am ever,

“ My dear sir,

“ Faithfully yours,

“ J. G. CHILDREN.

“ Major Denham, &c. &c. &c.”

sheep or a goat kill it on this day, after prayers. The sheikh sent the day before, to know if we kept the feast ; and when we met, repeated his question. I replied that we believed the interposition of the Divine Power in saving Isaac to be a signal proof of God's mercy and love to all his creatures ; for remember," said I, " he is the God of many, not of Mussulmans alone ; and that our father Abraham's great and implicit faith in the existence of that mercy was what obtained for him all the blessings God promised him."

He sent us two very fine sheep, and we killed and feasted with the rest. Early in the morning, the sheikh, with his sons and all his court, mounted, according to custom, to welcome the Aid, by praying outside the town, and firing and skirmishing on their return : the assembly was not so large as on former occasions, in consequence of the absence of the chiefs in Kanem ; indeed every thing went off extremely flat, owing to the defeat of the sheikh's people. Contrary to custom, no presents were made by him, and no dresses were distributed to the slaves : instead of the glossy new tobos which on former occasions shone on the persons of the footmen who ran by the side of his horse, they were now clothed with torn, discoloured ones, and every thing wore the appearance of gloom and disgrace. On these days, the custom