

[Frontispiece.

# SAVAGE SUDAN

ITS WILD TRIBES, BIG-GAME  
AND BIRD-LIFE

BY

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"ON SAFARI IN BRITISH EAST AFRICA," "WILD SPAIN,"  
"WILD NORWAY," ETC.

WITH 248 ILLUSTRATIONS, CHIEFLY FROM  
ROUGH SKETCHES BY THE AUTHOR

GURNEY AND JACKSON  
LONDON: 33 PATERNOSTER ROW  
EDINBURGH: TWEEDDALE COURT

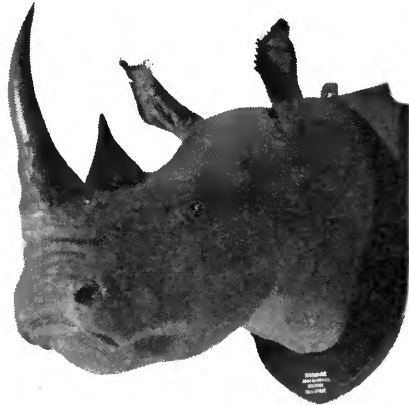
1921

yards of telegraph-wire round their necks. The line to Rejaf is perpetually out of order through them and the elephants. The latter abound. We saw many herds, but had to avoid them, so as to get the white rhinoceros.

"The Bahr-el-Ghazal is a hard country to work—terribly hard. A crawl of 50 yards on the 'iron-stone' takes more out of you than 300 yards in British East; and the game is *wild*, the giant eland particularly so.

### WHITE RHINOCEROS (*RHINOCEROS SIMUS*)

"This great pachyderm is far from plentiful in the Bahr-el-Ghazal—much less so than is the case farther south in the erewhile Lado Enclave. During my trek right across the whole Bahr-el-Ghazal province in 1913 I only saw three. That small experience is too little to judge by, but it left an impression that the white rhino is not so aggressive nor so liable to sudden outbursts of fury such as we well know characterise his 'black' cousin in East and Central Africa. Here the local natives exhibit little or no fear of the rhinoceros.



WHITE RHINOCEROS.  
(Note the square mouth.)

Both the spoor and the sign of this species much resemble that of elephant. My specimen I secured by following the spoor from a water-hole where the beast had wallowed and, during the stalk, noticed that its method of feeding was entirely by grazing and not by browsing on trees and thorns as we see the black rhinoceros do. The difference in bulk was also very marked, the white rhinoceros appearing enormous—I should say nearly twice the cubic measurement of the other."

A feature in the anatomy of the white rhinoceros merits mention. In the skull of this animal (*Rhinoceros simus*) there occurs immediately in front of the eyes a sort of double bony

projection which entirely prevents its seeing straight ahead—indeed in life, when these projections are enfolded in thick hide, its view in that direction would be intercepted up to an angle of, say, 45 degrees. In the common black rhinoceros (*R. bicornis*) the projection, though present, is less pronounced, and would not prevent the beast from seeing *almost* straight ahead.

[It remains to record the melancholy fact that, within a few days after revising the proofs of the above, my friend and neighbour Mr Sydney Pearson passed away—on May 30th, 1920. His death at the age of sixty was, moreover, directly attributable to the hardships undergone during the expedition here described: those befouled “water-holes” of Bahr-el-Ghazal introduced the germs of what proved a fatal disease. Such is the toll that Africa exacts from her devotees, even the strongest. Personally I owed Pearson a deep debt of gratitude: for once, when on the threshold of undertaking a big expedition (alone), an attack of fever precluded my completing its final organisation. Pearson (though fully engaged on similar preparations for himself) at once took the business in hand and, on my recovering, I found every detail—to the last pin—prepared and ready for a start. *R.I.P.*]

## B

### COLOUR-PROTECTION

#### CONSIDERED CHIEFLY IN RELATION TO WILD BEASTS AND BIRDS OF THE SUDAN

That the Almighty should have so created and clothed His creatures as not only to conceal the harmless from possible enemies, but also to render the predatory less visible to their allotted prey, is a theory so fascinating as at first sight to captivate the imagination. Therein lies the danger of theories. This one, certainly, all who love the study of Nature thirstily drank in. But not all proceeded to put its tenets to the test and corroboration of field-observation.

Those who did so at once began to detect inherent fallacies; and later to wonder if, by some confusion of thought, another