

THE AFRICAN RHINOCEROS.

The black **Rhinoceros**, whose domains we seem now to have invaded, resembles in general appearance an immense hog; twelve feet and a half long, six feet and a half high, girth eight feet and a half, and of the weight of half a dozen bullocks; its body smooth, and there is no hair seen except at the tips of the ears, and the extremity of the tail. The horns of concreted hair, the foremost curved like a sabre, and the second resembling a flattened cone, stand on the nose and above the eyes; in the young animals the foremost horn is the longest, whilst in the old ones they are of equal length, namely, a foot and a half or more; though the older the **rhinoceros** the shorter are its horns, as they wear them by sharpening them against the trees, and by rooting up the ground with them when in a passion. When the **rhinoceros** is quietly pursuing his way through his favorite glades of mimosa bushes, (which his hooked upper lip enables him readily to seize, and his powerful grinders to masticate,) his horns, fixed loosely in his skin, make a clapping noise by striking one against the other; but on the approach of danger, if his quick ear or keen scent make him aware of the vicinity of a hunter, the head is quickly raised, and the horns stand stiff and ready for combat on his terrible front. The **rhinoceros** is often accompanied by a sentinel to give him warning, a beautiful green backed, and blue-winged bird, about the size of a jay, which sits on one of its horns.—*Alexander's Expedition.*

THIMBLES.

The manufacture of many articles of daily use is the result of a series of labours that would surprise a person who had never given a thought to it. And very few imagine the amount of actual work expended on such articles. If a lady could see the process through which her thimble passed, from the solid bar of silver to the convenient instrument she uses, she would be astonished. The bar of silver is welded into a long ribbon, which is cut into small pieces, each piece to make the barrel of the thimble. The top is cut out of another strip of iron or silver. The rim is hammered around a bar of iron and soldered, and after the top is soldered in, the whole thimble is placed on a turning lathe and chiseled outside and inside; it is then marked with the needle holes, by a little roller pressed against it, and

finely polished and ornamented by various instruments. We have omitted several of the processes through which it passes. Although they cannot be less than twenty, and after all the thimble is sold at a very small advance on the weight of the silver.—*Jour. of Commerce.*

FUGITIVE SLAVES.

A case has been tried at Bloomington, Iowa, on a writ of habeas corpus, before Chief Justice Hastings, in which the following points were decided:

That a Judge of the District Court of the United States has no authority to issue a precept commanding the owner (or his agent or attorney) of a fugitive slave, to seize such a slave and bring him before him for examination.

That the owner, or his agent or attorney, may arrest a fugitive slave, without process, and take him before the Judge of the District Court of the United States, or any Justice of the peace of the proper county.

That while the owner can make such election, the fugitive can, on application to any State Judge who is authorised to issue writs of habeas corpus, have the legality of the arrest investigated.

That the presumption of the law prevailing in the free State is, that the color of a person is no evidence that he is a slave.

The colored man, Jim, was accordingly discharged.

After the above decision was announced, an application was made on the part of the owner of the slave, for a *peremptory mandamus*, requiring the Justice of the Peace, before whom the first trial had been had, to grant an appeal to the District Court of the State of Iowa, and to order the colored man, Jim, into custody until the cause could be heard in said Court.

His Honor the Judge decided that "A Judge of the Supreme Court of the State of Iowa has no authority to issue writs of *mandamus*."—*Exchange Paper.*