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**HISTORICAL RESEARCHES**

ON

**THE WARS AND SPORTS**

OF THE

**Mongols and Romans:**

IN WHICH

**ELEPHANTS AND WILD BEASTS**

**WERE EMPLOYED OR SLAIN.**

AND THE

**REMARKABLE LOCAL AGREEMENT OF HISTORY WITH THE REMAINS OF SUCH ANIMALS**

FOUND IN

**EUROPE AND SIBERIA.**

CONTAINING

*Life of Genghis Khan, his unparalleled Conquests.—Life of the Grand Khan Kublai: Life of Tamerlane: their Battles; splendid Courts; and Grand Hunting Expeditions.—Siberia described in Summer; Mongol Sovereigns; Invasions from China and Bangalla; Battles; Rich Tombs.—Conquest of Russia by a Grandson of Genghis Khan.—Fisheries of the Walrus, called Mammoth by Siberians: Errors arising therefrom.—Roman Wars and Sports with Elephants and wild beasts.—History of Roman Britain, ending A. D. 427: York the Head Quarters of the Roman Empire for Three Years.—British Emperors; powerful Fleet.—Mines; Wealth; Amphitheatres.—Conquest of Gaul and Spain by the British Emperor Maximus.*

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**WITH A MAP AND TEN PLATES.**

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**BY JOHN RANKING,**  
**RESIDENT UPWARDS OF TWENTY YEARS IN HINDOOSTAN AND RUSSIA.**

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**LONDON:**  
**PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR**  
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**KINGSBURY, PARBURY, AND ALLEN, LEADENHALL-STREET. AND**  
**G. LAWFORD, SAVILE-PLACE, CONDUIT-STREET.**

**M.DCCC.XXVI**

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OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE RHINOCEROS, HIPPO-  
POTAMUS, AND OTHER WILD BEASTS.

IN *Asia*.—The one-horned rhinoceros is found in the Panjab; in Guzerat; in the Sunderbunds of Bengal, and other parts of Hindostan; in the Birman empire; Siam; Cochin China; Quangsi in China\*; and, probably, in all the countries called “India beyond the Ganges;” in Java; Sumatra, &c. The rhinoceros with two horns is found in Sumatra, and is described by Mr. Bell in the Philosophical Transactions, 1793.

IN *Africa*.—“It is certain that the one-horned rhinoceros is found towards Cape Gardafui, by the straits of Babelmandel; and, if the natives are to be believed, the one-horned is found also in the kingdom of Adel†.” “In the royal stables at Ispahan there was a rhinoceros with one horn. It was brought for the king by an ambassador from Ethiopia‡.” The two-horned rhinoceros, which was frequently exhibited by the Romans§, is known to inhabit Abyssinia, Congo, Angola, the Cape of Good Hope, and other countries in Africa. “The rhinoceros brought by Mr Campbell from the interior of Africa, as far as respects the appearance of the horns, is entirely a new species. The horn is a yard long, very small at the point, and two feet in circumference at the base: the small horn is close to it, and stands up perpendicularly behind the base of the long one, and is only twelve inches high, while its circumference at the base, is twenty-four inches ||.”

\* Abbé Grosier, Vol. I. p. 112.

† Bruce’s Travels, Vol V. p. 85.

‡ Sir John Chardin’s Travels.

§ See Rees’s Cyc. “Rhinoceros,” where it is said there are five species: that described by Sir E. Home makes a sixth. See also Martial’s Epigrams.

|| Sir Everard Home, Phil. Trans. 1821.

CHAP.  
XV.

*Hippopotamus*—is found in Senegal\*, Abyssinia, Dongola, Dar-Fur, Bornou†, and many parts of southern Africa. Also in the Nile in upper Egypt: sometimes in lower Egypt. Two were killed near Damietta, A. D. 1600‡. They are not known to inhabit Asia. In a French translation of Pallas, Vol. V. p. 204, the walrus is named Hippopotamus.—See Ch. XVI. of this Vol.

*Ostriches*.—Numidia, Dar-Fur, Bornou, and numerous other places.

*Tigers*.—Senegal§, Hindostan, Chinese Tartary, the Altai mountains, and many other parts of Asia||.

*Lions, Leopards, Panthers*.—India, Persia, Abyssinia, Bornou, Morocco, Dar-Fur, and many other parts of Africa and Asia.

*Buffaloes*—are found in most parts of India, and many parts of Asia and Africa. In Pegu they are of a monstrous size\*\*.

*Hyenas*.—Hindostan, Persia, Asia Minor, Syria, Barbary, Abyssinia, Dar-Fur, &c.

*Asses*.—Plentiful in Persia and Armenia††.

*Zebras*.—Congo, Abyssinia, and other parts of Africa‡‡.

\* Adanson.

† The river Shary empties itself by two branches into the lake Tsad. Crocodiles were basking on the banks, fish and water fowl abounded, and the huge hippopotami came so near as to be struck with the paddles.—Quarterly Review, LXII. March 1825.

‡ Rees's Cyc. "Hip." Bruce, Vol. V. p. 85.

§ Adanson. "What are called Tigers, in Morocco, are leopards. The royal tiger is there unknown."—Chenier, Vol. I. p. 171. The first tigers seen by the Romans, were those presented by the Indian ambassadors to Augustus, while he was at Samos.—See Crevier, "Augustus." This may be deemed a proof that tigers are not known in Africa.

|| Leopards, panthers, &c. are frequently called tigers by travellers.

\*\* Purchas, Vol. I. p. 566. B.

†† Xenophon, Exp. of Cyrus, p. 27; and Sir R. K. Porter's Travels, with an engraving of one.

‡‡ Mod. Univ. Hist. Vol. VI. p. 185. Lobo, Vol. 1. p. 291. Rees's Cyc.

*Camelopards*.—Siam in Asia\*, Senegal, Abyssina, Bornou, Dar-Fur, the Cape of Good Hope, and other parts of Africa. The *Reem*, translated in the book of Job *unicorn*, is most probably the camelopard, which must have been known to Job. Bruce remarks that *Reem*, in the Hebrew and Ethiopic, is derived from erectness, or standing straight; and he supposes that it alludes to the upright position of the horn, as the rhinoceros has bending knees. The commentators on Job, Chapter XXXIX. and on Numbers, Ch. XXIII. v. 22, think that the original means wild bull, goat, antelope, &c. The camelopard was probably not known to the translators; it is but recently that it has been *accurately* known. Heliodorus speaks of the camelopard being brought, among other presents, by the Ethiopian ambassadors to Rome. They were often exhibited at the games after Egypt belonged to the Romans.

*Bears*—were found in perhaps every part of the continent of Europe, and also in Africa and Asia. Bears' flesh was much esteemed by the ancients as food, and is still served up at the tables of princes. The Emperor of China will send a hundred leagues to procure bears for an entertainment. The fur has always been valuable. The *Ursarii* were servants in great families among the Romans, who had the care of breeding and feeding these animals. The English nobility had officers of this kind: the fifth earl of Northumberland paid one of them a salary of twenty shillings†. In early times it is not improbable that bears were fed and bred by the barbarous nations of Germany as ordinary food.

\* Vincent Le Blanc, p. 115. As I have not met with any other authority, I venture to conjecture, that those mentioned by Le Blanc had been imported from Africa, for the parks of the sovereigns.

† Rees's Cyc. "Bear's flesh," and "Bear wards."—The Romans exhibited *Numidian* bears.—See Beloe's Herodotus, Melpomene, CXCI. and note 188; and Ch. XI. of this Vol.