

The Mirror

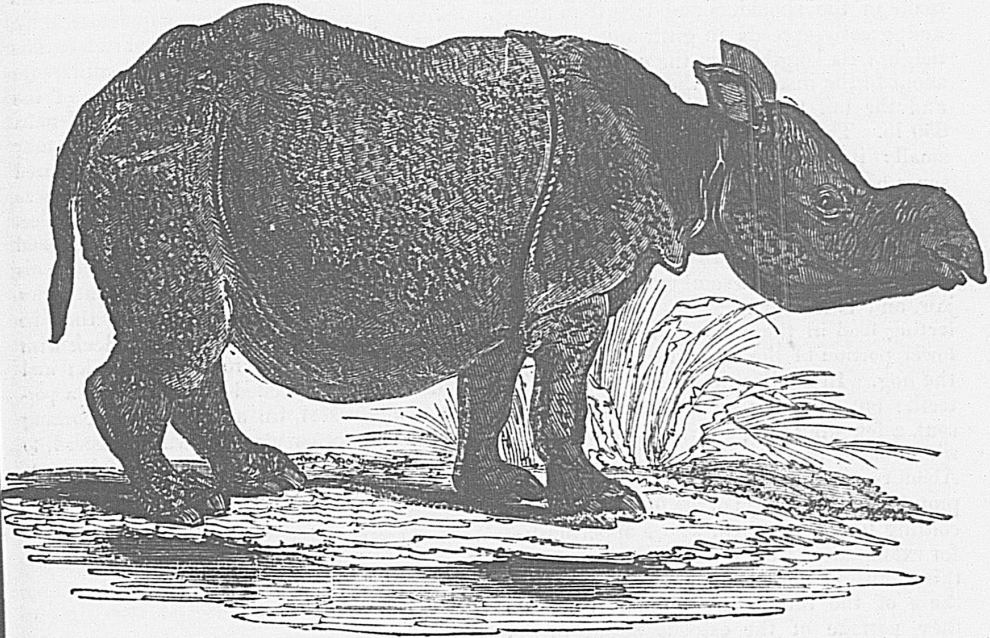
OR

LITERATURE, AMUSEMENT, AND INSTRUCTION.

No. 658.]

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[PRICE 2d.]



THE RHINOCEROS,

AT THE SURREY ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.

THIS is, unquestionably, one of the most important and interesting additions yet made to our knowledge of animated nature, through the establishment of "Zoological Gardens" in this country. It is a fine specimen of the Indian one-horned rhinoceros, (*Rhinoceros Indicus*, Cuv.) and is the only rhinoceros that has been brought to England for the last twenty years.* To the young

* The first rhinoceros which was exhibited in Europe after the revival of literature, was a specimen of the one-horned species. It was sent from India to Emmanuel, king of Portugal, in the year 1513. This sovereign made a present of it to the Pope; but the animal being seized during its passage with a fit of fury, occasioned the loss of the vessel in which it was transported. A second rhinoceros was brought to England in 1685; a third was exhibited over almost the whole of Europe in 1739; and a fourth, which was a female, in 1741. That exhibited in 1739 was described and figured by Parsons, in the *Philosophical Transactions*, (vol. xlii. p. 583.) who mentioned also that of 1685 and 1741. A fifth specimen arrived at Versailles in 1771, and it died in 1793, at the age of twenty-five or twenty-six years. The sixth was a very young rhinoceros, which died in this country in the year 1800: some account of its anatomy was published by Mr. Thomas, in the *Philosophical Transactions* for that year. The seventh, a young specimen was in the possession of Mr. Cross about twenty years since: lastly an eighth specimen

lover of natural history, it must, therefore, be an entire novelty; and to the experienced zoologist, from its extreme rarity, it must be considered a fortunate acquisition. The great value attached to the possession of a living specimen of this animal, and the difficulty of procuring one, may be inferred from the fact, that the cost of the present, from the time that it was taken in the Birman empire, and the charge of its food and conveyance to England, have exceeded one thousand pounds.

This rhinoceros is somewhat more than a year and a half old. It is, however, though so young, (for the rhinoceros is only full grown at twenty years of age,) strong and apparently healthy; yet not the least remarkable are its close points of resemblance to the adult animal, which might not be expected in so young an animal. It has, in miniature, the thick rugous folds or plaits of skin, so conspicuous in the full-grown rhinoceros; and which the older naturalists, with their usual

was living a few years ago in the Garden of Plants at Paris. All these specimens were one-horned, and all from India. So that the two-horned rhinoceros has never been brought alive to modern Europe,

love of marvellous exaggeration, figured as armour, completely encasing the stupendous body.

The height of this young specimen is thirty-one inches, or about that of a good-sized Hampshire hog, to which, when lying down, it has some similitude; but this resemblance is lost when the animal walks about; while it is much stouter and stronger made in the shoulders and legs than a hog, and greatly exceeds in girth any hog of its height; its length, from the extremity of the snout to the insertion of the tail, is 58 inches, and the tail 9 inches; its weight is about 650 lb. The head is long, and the eyes very small: its sight is weak, but its hearing and sense of smelling are remarkably acute, as it perceives the approach of man at a great distance. That portion of the snout which belongs to the upper jaw is very flexible, can be protruded at will to some extent beyond the jaw, and is thus particularly formed for collecting food in the manner of the tapir: the lower portion of the snout resembles that of the hog. In adult animals there are no fore teeth; but in young specimens, like the present, a few straggling cutting teeth are found, which stand at a considerable distance apart. About two or three inches above the snout is a protuberance, the germ of the future horn. According to Mr. Burchell, whose opportunities for examination were abundant, the horns of this genus do not envelope a bony core, like those of the ruminating animals; nor do they partake of the osseous nature of the horns of stags, but appear to be formed of horny fibres growing from the skin, like thick hairs closely cemented together.* The colour of the skin is grey, with a violet tint; it is tuberculated, very hard, and hangs loose about the neck and shoulders; that under the plaits or folds thus formed being of a flesh colour.

The present rhinoceros is quiet and harmless, and will follow its keeper, or any one who offers it bread or biscuit, which it will eat greedily. Its chief food is rice, mixed with sugar, in equal quantities; but it will also eat bran and hay, and seems pleased with prickly plants, and the small branches of thorny shrubs.

Upon our visit to the Gardens, we found the rhinoceros located, we suppose temporarily, in the semicircular glazed monkey-house, with two Indian goats, who had been its *compagnons de voyage*; a circumstance which reminded us of the almost universal aversion of animals to solitude.†

* A specimen of the adult horn to be seen in the Gardens, measures 1 ft. 10 in. long, and 9 in. diameter at the base; and weighs 14 lb.

† Mr. Jesse, in his second volume of *Gleanings*, says: "Solitude seems to be very distressing to animals. At the Zoological Farm, on Kingstou Hill, animals have been put together to prevent their pining to death." We regret to find that the

Having detailed such particulars of the present specimen as we have been able to collect, by the intelligent aid of Mr. Warwick, of the Surrey Zoological Gardens, it is presumed that a few brief notices of the specimens of the rhinoceros, which have been exhibited in England, may not be unacceptable in illustrating the general economy of the animal; and we intend, in our next Number, to present them thus supplementarily, to prevent interference with our brief outline of this young specimen: for the difference in the habits and certain appearances of the young and adult animals are worthy of note. Before proceeding with these facts we may mention that the rhinoceros already referred to as in England twenty years since, was for a considerable period in the collection of Mr. Cross, of Exeter 'Change; and that a full-grown specimen, that was on his voyage to this country from Calcutta, a few months since, became so furious that he was fastened down to the ship's deck with part of a chain-cable round his neck; and even then he succeeded in destroying a portion of the vessel, till a heavy storm coming on, the rhinoceros was thrown overboard, to prevent the serious consequences of his getting loose in the ship. 277

"THEN DOST THOU COME."

By M. L. B.

WHEN, like a dew, sleep lies upon my brain
And weary heart,
When dreams are many, and their flow'ry chain
Twines, not to part,
Round my lull'd senses, till Day's holy light
Dissolves it, and the trancing spells of Night,
Then dost Thou come!

When amid darken'd hills the storm-gust sighs,
When wails the sea;
When from forsaken hearths the red fire dies,
When things that be,
Unreal seem to the drows'd waking sense,
Or when the Sleeper roams in realms far hence,
Then dost Thou come!

When Fancy in her orient Eden dwells,
When Care is dead,
When Mem'ry sleeps with all her mournful spells,
When vanished
Is Hope, the Shadow which aye points and pines,
And lengthier grows, as the soul's day declines,
Then dost Thou come!

Mother! in thy sweet beauty, but more pale
Than waning star;
Or the wild light before the rising gale,
Or hopes that are
Fading within the heart like dreams, and flowers:
In Nature's hush, in slumber's painted hours,
Then dost Thou come!

Mother! the coral strawberry in its bed
Gleam'd like a gem,
When thou to join the Sabaoth of the Dead
Wert call'd from them
Who wept Thee! Yet Thou livest still to me;
Yea, in Night's hush, when the soul's wings are free,
Then dost Thou come!

Zoological Society quitted their farm on Lady-day last, and that in a month, the establishment will be at an end.