

language from his narrative. 'I cannot here (says he) forbear relating a singular circumstance respecting myself, namely, that on waking about four o'clock one morning in my hammock, I was extremely alarmed at finding myself weltering in congealed blood, and without feeling any pain whatever. Having started up, and rung for the surgeon, with a fire-brand in one hand, and all over besmeared with gore; to which, if added, my pale face, short hair, and tattered apparel, he might well ask the question,

Be thou a spirit of health, or goblin damn'd,  
Bring with thee airs of heav'n, or blasts  
from hell?

The mystery, however was, that I had been bitten by the Vampire, or Spectre of Guiana, which is also called the Flying-dog of New Spain, and by the Spaniards Perro-volador; this is no other than a bat, of a monstrous size, that sucks the blood from men and cattle while they are fast asleep, even sometimes till they die; and as the manner in which they proceed is truly wonderful, I shall endeavour to give a distinct account of it.—Knowing, by instinct, that the person they intend to attack is in a sound slumber, they generally alight near the feet, where, while the creature continues fanning with his enormous wings, which keeps one cool, he bites a piece out of the tip of the great toe, so very small indeed, that the head of a pin could scarcely be received into the wound, which is consequently not painful; yet through this orifice he continues to suck the blood, until he is obliged to disgorge. He then begins again, and thus continues sucking and disgorging till he is scarcely able to fly, and the sufferer has often been known to sleep from time into eternity. Cattle they generally bite in the ear, but always in places where the blood flows spontaneously. Having applied tobacco ashes as the best remedy, and washed the gore from myself and my hammock, I observed several small heaps of congealed blood

all round the place where I had lain, upon the ground; on examining which the surgeon judged that I had lost at least twelve or fourteen ounces during the night.'

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#### RHINOCEROS.

MR. Bruce's description of the manners of the two horned rhinoceros, is highly worthy of notice. He informs us, that, 'beside the trees, capable of most resistance, there are, in the vast forests within the rains, trees of a foster consistence, and of a very succulent quality, which seems to be destined for his principal food. For the purpose of gaining the highest branches of these, his upper lip is capable of being lengthened out so as to increase his power of laying hold with it, in the same manner the elephant does with his trunk. With this lip, and the assistance of his tongue, he pulls down the upper branches, which have most leaves, and these he devours first; having stripped the tree of its branches, he does not therefore abandon it, but, placing his snout as low in the trunk as he finds his horns will enter, he rips up the body of the tree, and reduces it to thin pieces like so many laths; and, when he has thus prepared it, he embraces as much of it as he can in his monstrous jaws, and twists it round with as much ease as an ox would do a root of celery, or any such pot-herb or garden-stuff.'

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#### ELEPHANTS.

A SOLDIER at Pondicherry was accustomed to give a certain quantity of arrack to one of these animals, every time he got his pay; and having one day intoxicated himself, and being pursued by the guard, who wanted to put him in prison; he took refuge under the elephant, and there fell fast asleep. The guard in vain attempted to drag him from this asylum, for the elephant defended him with its trunk. Next day the soldier having recovered from his intoxication, was in dreadful apprehensions when he found himself under the belly of this enormous animal. The ele-