

ledgment to the rest of the royal family, for the distinguished preference they give to the wrought silks of this kingdom.

That your majesty's reign may be happy, long, and glorious, will be the constant prayer of us, your majesty's most faithful subjects.

Weavers-Hall, Eb. Briggs, Clerk.
4th Jan. 1768.

A Letter from James Parsons, M. D. F. R. S. to the Right Honourable the Earl of Morton, President of the Royal Society; on the double Horns of the Rhinoceros.

[Read before the R. S. Feb. 27, 1766.]

My Lord,

WHEN I had the honour of laying my natural history of the Rhinoceros before this learned society in 1743, which is printed in number 470, page 523, of the Transactions, I had not an opportunity of shewing a double horn to the members; I have, therefore, taken this first occasion to entertain the present members with a sight of a noble specimen of the horns of an African Rhinoceros, brought from the Cape of Good Hope, by my curious and worthy friend William Maguire, Esq; among many other curiosities; presuming that few of the society have ever seen a pair of the like kind. But what renders this subject the more particular, and worthy of observation, is that, by means of knowing there is a species of this animal, having always a double horn upon the nose, in Africa, Martial's reading is supported against the criticism of Bochart, who changed the true text of that poet, in an epigram upon the strength of this animal; for when Domitian ordered an exhibition of wild beasts, as it was the custom of several emperors, the poet says: The Rhinoceros tossed up a heavy bear with his double horn:

Namque gravem gemino cornu sic extulit ursum.

and as Bochart knew nothing of a double horn, he changed this line both in reading and sense, thus:

Namque gravi geminum cornu sic extulit eurum.

as if two wild bulls were tossed up into the air, by the strong horn of the Rhinoceros.

Mr. Maittaire adopted the notion

of a single horn, but was of opinion that the *geminum eurum* of Bochart ought to have been plural, *geminos euros*, as being more elegant; and he was followed by Doctors Mead and Douglas, with this difference, that these changed the *euros* for *ursos*, as imagining they were rather bears than bulls, that were thrown up by this noble animal.

Our then worthy president Martin Folkes, Esq; had seen my account of this subject, at the end of which, I endeavoured, however presumptuously, to defend Martial's reading against Bochart and the other eminent persons mentioned; and desired I would let it be read and printed, which I very readily agreed to, as his request did me much honour.

Before my paper was printed, Mr. Maittaire and Doctor Douglas died; and the learned Doctor Mead was the surviving critic, upon this line, of the three. Upon this occasion, therefore, I have a double pleasure; first in amusing the present gentlemen with a most curious specimen in natural history; and, secondly, in remembering, in this place, the nice candor and generosity of Doctor Mead upon that subject. For, about four months after the paper was printed, he received a present of several curious shells, seeds, &c. and with them the bones of the face of a young Rhinoceros, with two horns *insitu*, all intire, by a captain, of an African trader, who brought them from Angla.

As soon as he saw the horns, he sent to invite me to breakfast, and there, in company, ingenuously gave up his past opinion, and declared for Martial; and, indeed, I must add to the praise of that great man, that, as I was happy in being frequently at his house, I was witness to many such instances of the most disinterested candor and generosity, where any part of science was the topic, among his select friends.

This anecdote I thought proper to mention upon the present occasion; nor can too much be said to his honour, among all lovers of philosophical learning. I am,

Your lordship's

most obedient servant,

JAMES PARSONS.

P. S. The figure of the double horn

*The Double Horn of an African Rhinoceros, brought
from the Cape of Good Hope, by William M. Guire Esq^r.*



horn of the Rhinoceros here described is seen in the PLATE. The dimensions are as follows, viz. The length of the anterior horn, measuring with a string along the convex fore part, is 20 inches; perpendicular height 18; circumference $21\frac{1}{2}$ at the base; the posterior horn is in perpendicular height $19\frac{1}{2}$; circumference round the base 18: length of both bases together upon the nasal bones 14; and the weight of both together is 14 pounds 10 ounces.

The Rhinoceros of the year 1739, described in the Transactions, was three years old; and the horn not three inches high; and hence by comparing that with this, one may imagine this to be many years old, perhaps above twenty; and that this animal lives to a great age.

It is also plain that the horns are perpetual as are those of oxen.

Anecdotes of Luca Jordano, an eminent Painter.

LUCA Jordano was born in Naples in the year 1632, in the neighbourhood of Joseph Ribera, called Spagnoletto; a native of Valencia in Spain, and disciple of Caravaggio; whose works attracted Luca so powerfully, that he left his childish amusements for the pleasure he found in looking on them. Luca's father (a middling painter) finding in his son so manifest an inclination for painting, placed him under the directions of Ribera, with whom he made so great advances, that, at seven years old, his drawings were surprizing. Hearing that at Venice and Rome were many excellent models for painting, he privately left Naples and went to Rome; and from Rome he and his father went together to Bologna, Parma, and Venice. At every place Luca made sketches and studies from the works of all the great masters, but particularly Paul Veronese, always proposing him for a model to himself. His father who sold his designs and sketches at a great price, kept him close to his work; and that he might not quit it, prepared his dinner for him himself, often calling on him *Luca fa presto*, or dispatch: a name which he always retained. Luca was a great copyist; and the number of his studies gave him a surpriz-

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ing easiness, and was the first rise to the elevation of his thoughts: but being desirous of gaining a higher degree of perfection, Luca and his father set out for Florence, and there copied the works of Leo da Vinci, Michael Angelo, and Andrew del Sarto. Then he returned to Rome, whence after a short stay he went back to Naples, and there married. Luca quitted his master's manner, and by having a happy memory he recollected the manners of all the great masters, which occasioned Bellori to write "that he was like the ingenious bee, that had extracted his honey from the flowers of the works of the best artists, and had the art of imitating them so well as to occasion frequent mistakes." Some of his pictures getting into Spain, pleased Charles II so that he engaged him to come to his court in 1692, to paint the Escorial, (his palace). The king and queen often went to see him work, and commanded him to be covered in their presence. In the space of two years he finished the ten arched roofs and the stair-case of the Escorial. He was so engaged to his business, that he did not rest from it on holidays; for which a painter of his acquaintance upbraided him: to whom he pleasantly answered, "If I was to let my pencils rest, they would grow rebellious; and I should not be able to bring them to order, without trampling on them." His lively humour and smart repartees amused the whole court. The queen of Spain one day enquiring after his family, wanted to know what sort of a woman his wife was: Luca painted her on the spot, in a picture he was at work on, and shewed her to the queen; who was the more surprized, as she had not perceived what he was about; but was so pleased, that she took off her pearl necklace, and desired him to present his wife with it in her name. The king being desirous of a companion to a picture he shewed him, which was painted by Bassan, Luca painted one for him so exactly in his manner, that it was taken for a picture of that master. The king, in return, knighted him, gave him several places, made one of his sons a captain of horse, and nominated another judge and president of the vicariate