

which is infinitely more, who owe our all to the forbearance of that God, of whose mercy it is that we are not utterly consumed.

☛ [*To be continued.*]

Method of hunting the Elephant, Rhinoceros, and Buffalo, in Abyssinia: from Mr. BRUCE's Travels, Vol. IV. pa. 293.

MR. BRUCE on his return to Egypt from Gondar, the capital of Abyssinia, made some stay at the town of Tcherkin, situated in the north of that kingdom, on the confines of Atbara. Here he was hospitably entertained by a young nobleman named Ayto Confu, with whom he had been acquainted at Gondar, but was now at his country seat at Tcherkin. Our traveller gives us the following entertaining description of that part of Abyssinia, and the mode practised by the natives in hunting the Elephant, Rhinoceros, and Buffalo.

There is great plenty of game of every sort about Tcherkin; elephants, rhinoceroses, and a great number of buffaloes, which differ nothing in form from the buffaloes of Europe or Egypt, but very much in temper and disposition. They are fierce, rash, and fearless of danger; and, contrary to the practice of every other creature not carnivorous, they attack the traveller and the hunter equally, and it requires address to escape from them. They seem to be, of all others, the creature the most given to ease and indulgence. They lie under the most shady trees, near large pools of water, of which they make constant use, and sleep soundly all the day long. The flesh of the female is very good when fat, but that of the male, hard, lean, and disagreeable. Their horns are used in various manners by the turners, in which craft the Abyssinians are very expert. In the woods there are many civet cats, but they know not the use of them, nor how to extract the civet. The Mahometans only are possessed of this art.

On the 6th of January; 1772, an hour before day, we mounted on horseback, to the number of about thirty belonging to Ayto Confu. But there was another body, both of horse and foot, which made hunting the elephant their particular business. These men dwell constantly in the woods, and know very little of the use of bread, living entirely upon the flesh of the beasts they kill, chiefly that of the elephant and rhinoceros. They are exceedingly thin, light, and agile, both on horseback and foot; are very swarthy, though few of them black: none of them woolly-headed, and all of them have European features. They are called Agageer, a name of their profession, not of their nation, which comes from the word Agar, and signifies to hough or ham-string with a sharp weapon. More properly it means, indeed, to cut the tendon of the heel, and is a characteristic of the manner in which they kill the Elephant, which is as follows:—Two men, absolutely naked, without any rag or covering at all about them, get on horseback; this precaution is for fear of being laid hold of by the trees or bushes, in making their escape from a very watchful enemy.

enemy. One of these riders sits upon the back of the horse, sometimes with a saddle, and sometimes without one, with only a switch or short stick in one hand, carefully managing the bridle with the other; behind him sits his companion, who has no other arms but a broad-sword, such as is used by the Sclavonians, and which is brought from Trieste. His left hand is employed grasping the sword by the handle, and about fourteen inches of the blade is covered with whip-cord. This part he takes in his right hand, without any danger of being hurt by it; and, though the edges of the lower part of the sword are as sharp as a razor, he carries it without a scabbard.

As soon as the elephant is found feeding, the horseman rides before him, as near his face as possible; or, if he flies, crosses him in all directions, crying out, "I am such a man and such a man; this is my horse, that has such a name; I killed your father in such a place, and your grandfather in such another place, and I am now come to kill you; you are but an ass in comparison of them." This nonsense he verily believes the elephant understands, who, chafed and angry at hearing the noise immediately before him, seeks to seize him with his trunk or proboscis, and, intent upon this, follows the horse every where, turning and turning round with him, neglectful of making his escape by running straight forward, in which consists his only safety. After having made him turn once or twice in pursuit of the horse, the horseman rides close up along-side of him, and drops his companion just behind on the off side; and while he engages the elephant's attention upon the horse, the footman behind gives him a drawn stroke just above the heel, or what in man is called the tendon of Achilles. This is the critical moment; the horseman immediately wheels round, and takes his companion up behind him, and rides off full speed after the rest of the herd, if they have started more than one; and sometimes an expert Agageer will kill three out of one herd. If the sword is good, and the man not afraid, the tendon is commonly entirely separated; and if it is not cut through, it is generally so far divided, that the animal, with the stress he puts upon it, breaks the remaining part asunder. In either case, he remains incapable of advancing a step, till the horseman returning, or his companions coming up, pierce him through with javelings or lances; he then falls to the ground, and expires with the loss of blood.

The huntsman nearest me presently lamed his elephant, and left him standing, but failed in the pursuit of the second, and, being close upon him at entering the wood, he received a violent blow from a branch of a tree which the elephant had bent by his weight, and after passing, allowed it to replace itself, when it knocked down both the riders, and very much hurt the horse. This, indeed, is the great danger in elephant-hunting; for some of the trees, that are dry and thott, break, by the violent pressure of so immense a body moving so rapidly, and fall upon the pursuers,

fuers, or across the roads. But the greatest number of these trees, being of a succulent quality, they bend without breaking, and return quickly to their former position, when they strike both horse and man so violently, that they often beat them to pieces, and scatter them upon the plain. Dextrous, too, as the riders are, the elephant sometimes reaches them with his trunk, with which he dashes the horse against the ground, and then sets his feet upon him, till he tears him limb from limb with his proboscis; a great many hunters die this way. Besides this, the soil, at this time of the year, is split into deep chasms, or cavities, by the heat of the sun, so that nothing can be more dangerous than the riding.

The elephant once slain, they cut the whole flesh of his bones into thongs, like the reins of a bridle, and hang these, like festoons, upon the branches of trees, till they become perfectly dry, without salt, and they then lay them by for their provision in the season of the rains.

I shall take upon me to resolve a difficulty, viz.—for what use the teeth of the elephant, and the horn of the rhinoceros were intended. The sheep, goats, horses, cattle, and all the beasts of the country live upon branches of trees. They are, in every part of these immense forests, trees of a soft, succulent substance, full of pith. These are the principal food of the elephant and rhinoceros. They first eat the tops of their leaves and branches: they then, with their horns or teeth, begin as near to the root as they can, and rip, or cut the more woody part, or trunks of these, up to where they were eaten before, till they fall in so many pliable pieces of the size of laths. After this, they take all these in their monstrous mouths, and twist them round as we could do the leaves of a lettuce. The vestiges of this process, in its different stages, we saw every day throughout the forest; and the horns of the rhinoceros, and teeth of the elephant, are often found broken, when their gluttony leads them to attempt too large or firm a tree.

There now remained but two elephants of those that had been discovered, which were a she one with a calf. The people having observed the place of her retreat, thither we hastily followed. She was very soon found, and as soon lamed; but when they came to wound her with the darts, as every one did in their turn, to our very great surprise, the young one, which had been suffered to escape unheeded and unpursued, came out from the thicket, apparently in great anger, running upon the horses and men with all the violence it was master of. I was amazed; and as much as ever I was, upon such an occasion, afflicted, at seeing the great affection of the little animal defending its wounded mother, heedless of its own life or safety. I therefore cried to them, to spare the mother, though it was then too late; and the calf had made several rude attacks upon me, which I avoided without difficulty; but I am happy, to this day, in the reflection that I did not strike it. At last, making one of its attacks upon a gentleman, it hurt
him

him a little on the leg ; upon which he thrust it through with his lance, as others did after, and it then fell dead before its wounded mother, whom it had so affectionately defended. It was about the size of an ass, but round, big bellied, and heavily made ; and was so furious, and unruly, that it would easily have broken the leg either of man or horse, could it have overtaken them, and jostled against them properly.

Here is an example of a beast (a young one too) possessing abstracted sentiments to a very high degree. By its flight on the first appearance of the hunters, it is plain it apprehended danger to itself, it also reflected upon that of its mother, which was the cause of its return to her assistance. This affection or duty, or let us call it any thing we please, except instinct, was stronger than the fear of danger ; and it must have conquered that fear by reflection before it returned, when it resolved to make its best and last efforts, for it never attempted to fly afterwards.

The huntsmen having procured as much meat as would maintain them a long time, could not be persuaded to continue the hunting any longer. Part of them remained with the she elephant, which seemed to be the fattest ; though the one they killed first was by much the most valuable, on account of its long teeth. It was still alive, nor did it seem an easy operation to kill it, though it was totally helpless, except with its trunk.

We sought about for the buffaloes and rhinoceroses, but though there were plenty of both in the neighbourhood, we could not find them ; our noise and shooting in the morning having probably scared them away. One rhinoceros only was seen by a servant. We returned in the evening to a great fire, and lay all night under the shade of the trees. Here we saw them separate the great teeth of the elephant from the head, by roasting the jaw-bones on the fire, till the lower, thin, and hollow part of the teeth were nearly consumed ; and then they came out easily, the thin part being of no value.

The next morning we were on horseback by the dawn of day in search of the rhinoceros, many of which we had heard make a very deep groan and cry as the morning approached ; several of the huntsmen then joined us, and after we had searched about an hour in the very thickest part of the wood, one of them rushed out with great violence, crossing the plain towards a wood of canes that was about two miles distance. But though he ran, or rather trotted, with surprising speed, considering his bulk, he was, in a very little time, transfixing with thirty or forty javelins ; which so confounded him, that he left his purpose of going to the wood, and ran into a deep hole, ditch, or ravine, a *cul de sac*, without outlet, breaking above a dozen of the javelins as he entered. Here we thought he was caught as in a trap, for he had scarce room to turn ; when a servant, who had a gun, standing directly over him, fired at his head, and the animal fell immediately, to all appearance dead. All those on foot now jumped in with their knives

knives to cut him up, and they had scarce begun, when the animal recovered so far as to rise upon his knees; happy then was the man that escaped first; and had not one of the huntsmen, who was himself engaged in the ravine, cut the sinew of the hind-leg as he was retreating, there would have been a very sorrowful account of the foot-hunters that day.

After having dispatched him, I was curious to see what wound the shot had given, which had operated so violently upon so huge an animal; and I doubted not it was in the brain. But it had struck him no where but upon the point of the foremost horn, of which it had carried off above an inch; and this had occasioned a concussion that had stunned him for a moment, till the bleeding had recovered him. I preserved the horn from curiosity, and have it now by me. I saw evidently the ball had touched no other part of the beast.

While we were busy with the rhinoceros, Ammonios joined us. He was a man of approved courage and conduct, and had been in all the wars of Abyssinia, and was placed about Ayto Confu, to lead the troops, curb the presumption, and check the impetuosity of that youthful warrior. He was tall and awkwardly made; slow in speech and motion, about sixty years of age, and more corpulent than the Abyssinians generally are; in a word, as pedantic and grave in his manner, as it is possible to express. He spent his whole leisure time in reading the scripture, nor did he willingly discourse of any thing else. He had been bred a foot-soldier; and, though he rode as well as many of the Abyssinians, yet, having long stirrup-leathers, with iron rings at the end of them, into which he put his naked toe only, instead of stirrups, he had no strength nor agility on horseback, nor was his bridle such as could command his horse to stop, or wind and turn sharply among trees, though he might make a tolerable figure on a plain.

A Boar, roused on our right, had wounded a horse and a footman of Ayto Confu, and then escaped. Two buffaloes were found by those on the right, one of which wounded a horse likewise. We killed the other, without being in any sort of danger. Our horses were considerably blown, not tired, and though we were beating homewards, still we were looking for more game. Ammonios was on the left among the bushes, and some large trees, close on the banks of the river Bedowi, which stands there in pools. Whether the buffalo found Ammonios, or Ammonios the buffalo, is what we could never get him to explain to us; but he had wounded the beast slightly in the buttock, which, in return, had gored his horse, and thrown both him and it to the ground. Luckily, however, his cloak had fallen off, which the buffalo tore in pieces, and employed himself for a minute with that and with the horse, but then left them, and followed the man as soon as he saw him rise and run. Ammonios got behind one large tree, and from that to another still larger. The buffalo turned very awkwardly,

wardly, but kept close in pursuit; and there was no doubt he would have worn our friend out, who was not used to such quick motion.

The moment I heard his repeated cries, I galloped out of the bushes to the place where he was, and could not help laughing at the figure of our friend, very attentive to the beast's motions, which seemed to dodge with great address, and keep to his adversary with the utmost obstinacy. Confu immediately arrived, but did not offer to interfere; on the contrary, he clapped his hands, and cried, "Well done, Ammonios," declaring he never saw so equal a match in his life. The unfortunate Ammonios had been driven from tree to tree, till he had got behind one within a few yards of the water: but the brush-wood upon the banks, and his attention to the buffalo, hindered him from seeing how far it was below him. And well he might be on his guard; for the animal was absolutely mad, tossing up the ground with his feet, both before and behind. "Sir, said I to Ayo Confu, this will be but an ugly joke to-night, if we bring home that man's corpse, killed in the very midst of us, while we were looking on." Saying this, I parted at a canter behind the trees, crying to Ammonios to throw himself into the water, when I should strike the beast; and seeing the buffalo's head turned from me, at full speed I ran the spear into the lower part of his belly, through his whole intestines, till it came out above a foot on the other side, and there I left it, with a view to hinder the buffalo from turning. It was a spear which, though small in the head, had a strong, tough, seasoned shaft, which did not break by striking it against the trees and bushes; and it pained and impeded the animal's motions, till Ammonios quitting the tree, dashed through the bushes with some difficulty, and threw himself into the river. But here a danger occurred that I had not foreseen. The pool was very deep, and Ammonios could not swim; so that though he escaped from the buffalo, he would infallibly have been drowned, had he not caught hold of some strong roots of a tree shooting out of the bank; and there he lay in perfect safety from the enemy, till our servants went round, and brought him out of the pool on the further side.

In the mean time, the buffalo, mortally wounded, seeing his enemy had escaped, kept his eyes intent upon us, who were about forty yards from him, walking backwards towards us, with intent to turn suddenly upon the nearest horse; when Ayo Confu ordered two men with guns to shoot him through the head, and he instantly fell. The two we first killed were females; this last was a bull, and one of the largest, confessedly, that had ever been seen. Though not fat, I guess he weighed nearer fifty than forty stone. His horns from the root, following the line of their curve, were about fifty-two inches, and nearly nine where thickest in the circumference. We were now within sight of home, to which

we went straight, without further hunting. Neither the ridicule nor the condolence of the young men could force one word from Ammonios; only when I asked him whether or not he was hurt, he answered from the scripture, "He that loveth danger shall perish in it," Eccl. iii. 26.

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The Experience of Mrs. ANN GILBERT, of Gwinear, in Cornwall.

I was well acquainted with Mrs. GILBERT, and believe the following Narrative of her Life and Experience is strictly true; I therefore recommend it to be inserted in the Arminian Magazine.

JOSEPH TAYLOR.

Bristol, August 1, 1794.

**F**ROM my infancy, so far as I recollect, I led what is called a moral and inoffensive Life; and was strictly educated in the doctrine and worship of our established Church. My parents watched over me with an affectionate concern; and it is chiefly on that account, I was happily preserved from the grosser vanities and follies of the world.

In the year 1743, I was induced to go with the crowd to hear Mr. Williams, one of the first itinerant preachers that visited Cornwall. His serious and earnest manner of praying and preaching were such as I never heard before; and his word was as a flame of fire, to soften and melt my heart. I shed many tears during the sermon, and was clearly convinced that the Methodists were a people going to heaven. O! how gladly would I, from that moment, have lived and died in the closest fellowship with them: but alas! having no religious connection, nor any one to take me by the hand, I suffered these convictions to die away. However, from that instant, I was always conscious I wanted something to make me happy.

In this state I continued till the year 1760, when the Lord, by a gracious providence, was pleased to establish the preaching in our parish; the first time I attended, he sent his word to my heart, and visited me again with my former convictions. As I returned home, I prayed very earnestly that I might not lose these divine impressions, through a worldly spirit, as I had lost the other thro' childish vanities. To avoid which, I embraced the first opportunity of joining the Society. O! it is a pity that so many thousands lose their good impressions, for want of laying themselves open to some experienced person, and helping each other in the ways and work of the Lord.

My distresses were exceeding great for the space of six weeks; for the Lord was shewing me the vileness of my heart, and the multitude of my sins. It is true, I had not been what is called a five-hundred pence debtor; but I saw I owed him more than fifty pence, and that he might justly consign me over to everlasting misery.