

**FOREIGN FIELD SPORTS,  
FISHERIES,  
SPORTING ANECDOTES,**

*&c. &c.*

*By J. H. Howitt, Clark, &c.*

**FROM DRAWINGS**

**BY MESSRS. HOWITT, ATKINSON, CLARK, MANSKIRCH, &c.**

**WITH A SUPPLEMENT**

**OF**

**NEW SOUTH WALES.**

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## Anecdote.

## HUNTERS AND A RHINOCEROS.

THE Rhinoceros is a remarkable animal; and its natural history is perhaps less understood than that of any other Asiatic quadruped. We have long been acquainted with its anatomy; but little that can be deemed authentic is known, respecting its habits, powers and other interesting points. The impenetrable *jungles* in which this animal chiefly resides, the unparalleled ferocity of his disposition, his almost invulnerable coat of mail, and the rapidity of his motions, which are quicker than those of the elephant, all oppose the most formidable obstacles to an intimate acquaintance with him in his wild state.

Naturalists, and after them, the different compilers of *Encyclopedias* have asserted, that the Rhinoceros is exceeded in size only by the elephant: but Captain WILLIAMSON, in his "*Wild Sports of the East*," observes, that this animal is not more than four feet and a half or five feet in height, and is very rarely found equal to six feet. The figure of the Rhinoceros is too well known to require minute description. His sole weapon of attack or defence is the blunt, conical horn, which he bears on his nose. He is a granivorous animal, and has teeth similar to those of horned cattle. His legs resemble those of an uncommonly large ox, and his tail is very similar to that of the elephant. The extreme density

of his skin secures his body from injury ; it being in many places nearly an inch thick, and hanging over in wrinkles, the one overlapping the other down to his knees, where they appear to discontinue, or rather, they become more even, not unlike the scales on the legs of poultry : there are no hairs on his surface, except on his tail. It is a fact that a shield made from the skin of a Rhinoceros will resist a leaden bullet, which flattens on it the same as when fired against a stone.

Fortunately this tremendous animal, for some unknown reasons, is not very numerous. Very few have ever been taken alive. It is the mortal enemy of the elephant, with whom it never meets without fighting a most dreadful battle. Of this kind of combat there is an interesting account and representation in the "*Wild Sports*" above mentioned. The anecdote illustrated by the accompanying plate, is as follows :

A hunting party having encamped for the night on the edge of a jungle, rose early in the morning, and prepared for their sport. Their horses were saddled and picquetted to a tree, when a Rhinoceros issued from the cover and destroyed them both, striking his horn in one of them through the skirt of a saddle. Their masters made their escape to the top of a tree, which the Rhinoceros, after vainly endeavouring for some hours, to tear up, thought proper, perhaps from continued exertion and the heat of the sun, to leave, and retire to his haunt. This Rhinoceros afterwards became very famous : it is believed to be the same whose death cost the Company nearly £300 sterling. This very high reward induced a native to conceal himself in the cover, where he shot the Rhinoceros with a *gingal*, carrying a quarter-of-a-pound ball.

## RHINOCEROS HUNTING.

HAVING already spoken of this animal under a previous head, we shall here merely extract M. LE VAILLANT'S account of a hunt of two of them, which he undertook during his second journey. This was one of the most hazardous attempts in which that enterprising traveller had been engaged; for the two Rhinoceroses, a male and a female, were grazing together, when attacked; and, though beset by the dogs, they made at several of the hunters, who were, at intervals, amongst the bushes, and would inevitably have torn some of them to pieces, but for the dexterity of one or other of the men, in shooting at them whichever way they turned.

“ At length I was highly pleased,” observes our author, “ at the flight of the female, which I considered as a fortunate circumstance; for, it is certain, that notwithstanding our number and our arms, we should have been much embarrassed by two such formidable adversaries. I must even confess, that without the assistance of my dogs, we should not have been able to combat, but with great hazard and danger, the one that remained. The bloody traces which he left, wherever he went, announced that he had received more than one wound; but, reduced to despair, he only defended himself with the

greater obstinacy. After a fruitless attack, which continued for some time, he began to retreat, and seemed as if desirous of gaining some bushes, apparently with a view of finding shelter, and to prevent his being harassed in front. I guessed his stratagem; and, in order to disappoint him, I rushed towards the bushes, and made a sign to the two hunters who were nearest to me, to advance thither also. He was only thirty paces from us when we took possession of the post; accordingly, we all, at the same period, presented our pieces, and discharging our three shots, he instantly fell, and was never after able to rise."