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London, Deptford

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of dulcifying Sea-Water, like to be of mighty consequence:¹

18 I went againe to Lond: about my suite in Chancery, returned in the Evening:

19 Mr. Bohune preached on a former Text: 29: 30,² shewing very pressingly the necessity of repentance, from the assurance of an approaching Judgement to come, a learned Philosophico Theological discourse:

Afternoone the Curate on 9th Heb: 27: 28. upon almost the former subject, the necessity of preparation, from the frequent burials hapning at this time, by reason of much sicknesse in these quarters:

21^a I went to Lond: about buisnesse at this Terme:^b

22 Sir William Godolphin and I went to see the Rhinoceros (or Unicorne) being the first that I suppose was ever brought into England: It more resembled a huge enormous Swine, than any other Beast amongst us; That which was most particular & extraordinary, was the placing of her^c small Eyes in the very center of her^c cheekes & head, her^c Eares in her^c neck, and very much pointed:^d her^c Leggs neere as big about as an ordinarie mans wast, the feete divided into claws, not cloven, but somewhat resembling the Elephants, & very round & flatt, her^c taile slender and hanging downe over her Sex, which had some long haire at the End of it like a Cowes, & was all the haire about the whole Creature, but what was the most wonderfull, was the extraordinary bulke and Circumference of her body, which though very Young, (they told us as I remember not above 4 yeares old) could not be lesse than 20 foote in compasse: she had a set of most dreadfull teeth, which were extra-

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^a Altered from 22.
^d Followed by *but* deleted.

^b Altered from *Tr.*

^c Altered from *his*.

¹ A machine for the purification of sea-water had been patented by a cousin of Boyle's, Captain R. Fitzgerald; Boyle himself was not immediately concerned, but a letter from him to Beale, approving of the results, is printed in Fitzgerald's

Salt-Water Sweetned, 1683. For the machine see further *London Gazette*, 16 Oct., 17 Nov. 1684.

² Acts xvii. 29, 30: above, p. 386.

³ Michaelmas Term, beginning on 23 October.

ordinarily broad, & deepe in her Throate, she was led by a ring in her nose like a Buffalo, but the horne upon it was but newly Sprouting, & hardly shaped to any considerable point, but in my opinion nothing was^a so extravagant as the Skin of the beast, which hung downe on her^b hanches, both behind and before to her knees, loose like so much Coach leather, & not adhering at all to the body, which had another skin, so as one might take up this, as one would do a Cloake or horse-Cloth to a greate depth, it adhering onely at the upper parts: & these lappets of stiff skin, began to be studded with impenetrable Scales, like a Target of coate of maile, loricated like Armor, much after the manner this Animal is usualy depicted: she was of a mouse Colour, the skin Elephantine; Tame enough, & suffering her mouth to be open'd by her keeper, who caus'd her to lie downe, when she appeared like a [greate]^c Coach overthrowne, for she was much of that bulke, yet would rise as nimbly as ever I saw an horse: T'was certainly a very wonderfull creature, of immense strength in the neck, & nose especialy, the snout resembling a boares but much longer; to what stature she may arive if she live long, I cannot tell; but if she grow proportionable to her present age, she will be a Mountaine: They fed her with Hay, & Oates, & gave her bread.

She belonged to Certaine E. *Indian Merchants*, & was sold for (as I remember) above two-thousand pounds:¹

At the same time I went to see a living Crocodile, brought from some of the W: Indian Ilands, in every respect resembling

^a Followed by *more* deleted.

^b Altered from *his*.

^c Interlined.

¹ For this animal see Lady Newdigate-Newdegate, *Cavalier and Puritan*, pp. 245-6; North, *Life of Guilford*, p. 280. She was put up to auction, and sold for £2,320; but the purchaser failing to pay, no one would bid at a second auction. She was then put on view 'at twelve pence apiece, and two shillings those that ride him. They get fifteen pound a day'. This was at the

Belle Savage Inn on Ludgate Hill: *London Gazette*, 13, 20, 30 Oct. She apparently remained on exhibition until 14 April 1686; *ibid.*, 22 March 1686. For the rhinoceros as commonly represented at this time see J. Bontius, *Hist. naturalis . . . Indiae orientalis*, p. 51, printed with G. Piso, *De Indiae utriusque naturali*, &c., 1658.