



Plate XIII. Captain Hugh Clapperton
From the painting by G. Manton in the Scottish National Portrait Gallery
(by permission of the National Galleries of Scotland)

MISSIONS TO THE NIGER

VOLUME III

THE BORNU MISSION

1822-25

PART II

Edited by

E. W. BOVILL

6640

CAMBRIDGE
Published for the Hakluyt Society
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS
1966

state of weakness in which I found Captain Clapperton, he yet spoke of returning to Soudan after the rains.¹

July 28. — I had now determined on proceeding by Woodie to Kanem, and approaching as near as possible to Tangalia, the spot where I had left Barca Gana, when I had passed by the southern extremity of the lake; and if I succeeded, and returned before the departure of the *kafla* after the Aid Kebir, I fostered a hope of retracing my steps across the desert, with all the satisfaction of a man who had accomplished to the full the duties that had been assigned him. Yagah Menamah, the chief eunuch of the sheikh's favourite wife, came to me soon after daylight, and presented me with two *kansara*, or fly-flappers, made of the tail of the camelopard; and in her name said that she had burnt salt for my departure, praying that neither the devil nor any of his imps might be able to play me any malicious tricks on my journey. The sheikh had consented to Mr. Tyrwhitt's remaining as consul: and on my inquiring whether he would protect one or two English merchants, if they came to his country — 'Certainly: why not?' said he, 'and assist them to the extent of my power; but they must be small traders, or the journey will never pay them.' He expressed his wish to write to the king, and added, 'whatever I can do in Soudan, remember I am ready. I have influence there certainly, which may increase, and probably shortly extend to Nyffé. As to yourself, I shall write to beg the king will send you here, with any English whom he may wish to visit Bornou. You are known, and might now go any where in Bornou without fear. Even the Shouaas on the frontiers, and the Dugganah, all know Rais Khaleel: but this has not been done hastily; you have been nearly eighteen months amongst us, and you remember when you could not go to Angornou without inconvenience. I then thought you would never be as much at liberty here as you are. Time and yourself may be thanked for this, not me; for I could not, by any orders I might have given, have done for you what your mixing freely with the people, and gaining their good will, has brought about — and yet you are a Christian!'

July 30. — This morning the sheikh sent to Mr. Clapperton, Mr. Hillman, and myself, as a present, a very fine camel, a horse, and two water-skins, two leopard skins, and two dressed-leather sacks. In the course of the morning another cargo was brought to me, consisting of eight elephants' tusks, with the horns of three other animals. The horns were, first, the *maremah*, a long horn similar to one I had seen at

¹ Clapperton had returned to Kukawa from Sokoto on 8 July.

Kabshary — the animal has two, bending backwards at the point; *kirkadan*,¹ a two-horned animal, with one long horn and a second shorter just above it, nearly between the eyes, was described to me as having, on the sheikh's late expedition to Gulphi, carried a man and horse, spiked on his horn, more than one hundred yards, when, frightened by the cries of the people, he dropped them, and made his escape: the man was unhurt, but the horse died.

This animal is extremely ferocious, and by no means common, and was described to us as being equal to a good sized bullock in height: part of the head which I saw resembled very much that of a large hog, except about the mouth, which wanted the tusks, and resembled that of a buffalo.*

* Mr. Children,² of the British Museum, expresses himself in the following manner, in allusion to this animal:

'B. M. May 1, 1826.

'My dear sir,

'Although the body of the Kerkadan was not defended like that of the Indian species of rhinoceros, it was probably, nevertheless, an animal of that genus, namely, the two-horned, or *R. Africanus*, of *Desmarest*, whose skin lies evenly on its body, and has none of those folds, or overlappings, which give the Asiatic rhinoceros the appearance of being clothed, as it were, in plate mail.

'Sparman³ appears to have been aware of the power of the rhinoceros to carry off a man and horse on his horns, as may be gathered from the following extract from his *Voyage to the Cape of Good Hope*, II. p. 113. — His companion, Immelman, had left him dissecting a rhinoceros, to return to their encampment: — "In order to go, as it appeared to him, a nearer way, he rode over a hill overgrown with branches. From this spot a rhinoceros rushed out upon him, and he would certainly have been trampled to death by this huge creature, or else have been taken up by it on its horns, and, TOGETHER WITH HIS HORSE, thrown into the air, had not the latter," &c. &c.

'At p. 117, Sparrow relates a still more extraordinary freak of one of these monsters, on the authority of some Cambedo colonists: "— a rhinoceros ran up to a waggon, and carried it a good way along with him, on his snout and horns."

'The Kerkadan is said not to be common, neither is the rhinoceros, except in places where there is plenty of wood and water. See Bruce,⁴ as quoted by Shaw,⁵ *Gen. Zool.* I. p. 206.

'With respect to the Kerkadan chewing the cud, it is to be observed, that all the ruminating animals, except the camel, lama, and musk-deer, want the canine teeth altogether, and have no incisor teeth in the upper jaw; and though the system of dentition of the rhinoceros is different in different species, as far as regards the incisors, none of the genus have any canine teeth, and the *R. Africanus* also wants the incisors in both jaws. No inference, therefore, as to the Kerkadan's chewing the cud or not, can safely be drawn from its teeth, unless the form and structure of its grinders have been carefully and minutely observed.

'I am ever,

'My dear sir,

'Faithfully yours,

J. G. CHILDREN.

'Major Denham, &c. &c. &c.'

¹ From the Arabic *karkaddan* or *karkadann*, rhinoceros.

² John George Children, see Part 1, p. 113 n. 3.

³ Anders Sparman, author of *Voyage to the Cape*, 2 vols., London, 1785.

⁴ James Bruce, author of *Travels to Discover the Source of the Nile*.

⁵ George Shaw (1751–1813), author of *General Zoology*, vols. I to VIII (London, 1810–12).