



VITAL SHOTS ON THE ELEPHANT

Plate 1

THE DANGER SIGNAL, EARS PRICKED, TRUNK ALERT.
THE TWO FRONTAL SHOTS HAVE BEEN ROUGHLY SHOWN BY RINGS DRAWN ON THE PHOTOGRAPH.

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BIG GAME SHOOTING IN AFRICA

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With one hundred & fifty
ILLUSTRATIONS



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is a herd of five hundred odd on Mount Elgon. There are Elephants on the Aberdares and some on Mount Kenya which, I believe, never descend to the plains. There are a considerable number in the Kerio Valley and Turkana. Some big bulls have been shot, in the past, from all of these herds, and undoubtedly some still remain, but no one wanting heavy ivory would now look for it among them. The bush is the place.

R H I N O

The distribution of Rhino in Kenya is somewhat similar to that of Elephant: practically identical in the eastern part of the Colony, in fact, but less extensive to the west. Unlike the restless Elephant on his perpetual round of feeding grounds and water holes, Rhino remain year in and year out in their own little patch of bush or forest, and to move a family of them needs considerable and persistent persecution. They have thus suffered more than Elephant by the opening up of the Colony; for they won't move and they won't make friends. They have also suffered more in recent years from native poachers, for they are, of course, easily killed by the bush folk with their deadly poisoned arrows; and the high value and portability of Rhino horn, and the greed of Indian and Arab middlemen have supplied the incentive.

In spite of this, Kenya has still a vast number of these great beasts. They are nowadays found mostly in the thick mountain forests or the equally dense thornbush and sansevieria country; only in the Southern Game Reserve may one commonly expect to find them wandering on the open plains at high noon, as they did of old.

There is a widespread belief among the natives that there are two distinct Rhino in Kenya, a forest and a bush type. It is said that the forest animal has longer legs—to allow him to get over fallen tree trunks which litter the forest paths—that he has a longer horn, and that he is more wary and nervous, and less bellicose. Be that as it may, it is certainly the case that seldom indeed is a long horn seen on a bush animal; while some splendid specimens are found on Mount Kenya and the Aberdares. I know of a 42-inch, a 38-inch, and a 37-inch, all three obtained in those forests not so very long ago, while a 20-inch horn is no bad trophy from a low-country beast.

Anyone wanting to shoot a Rhino can find one in an hour if he chooses his times and seasons, and is content with a moderate trophy. One morning I counted the spoor of over a hundred which had watered during the night along a mile and a quarter of the northern Uaso Nyiro; most of them were away back in their thickets before dawn, but I saw seven still lingering near the banks. But if a fine horn is looked for, you must hunt the forest of West Kenya; and if you get something good, you will have earned it thoroughly.

B U F F A L O

These animals are found throughout the Colony, quite frequently, even, on farms. In some few places, where they are left undisturbed, they remain in the open for most of the day, caring little, apparently, for the heat of the sun; but for the most part herds retire to dense thickets or forest patches at or soon after dawn, remaining hidden till darkness again falls.

It is no easy matter to say in what part of the Colony the biggest heads