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“It will flourish, if naturalists, chemists, antiquaries, philologists, and men of science in different parts of *Asia*, will commit their observations to writing, and send them to the Asiatic Society at Calcutta. It will languish if such communications shall be long intermitted: and it will die away, if they shall entirely cease.”

SIR WM. JONES.

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A further Note on Elephants and Rhinoceroses.

There is a notice of the wild Elephants of Borneo in Mr. Spencer St. John's 'Life in the Forests of the Far East' (1862), I, 95. This author writes—"Among our Malays was one who had frequently traded with the north-east coast [of Borneo], and the mention of *gading* (ivory) brought to his recollection that Elephants exist in the districts about the river Kina Batañgan. I have seen many tusks brought to Labuan for sale, but never measured one longer than six feet two inches, including the part set in the head.

"I have met dozens of men who have seen the Elephant there, but my own experience has been limited to finding their traces near the sea-beach. It is generally believed that above a hundred years ago the East India Company sent to the Sultan of Sulu a present of these animals; that the Sultan said, these great creatures would certainly eat up the whole produce of his little island, and asked the donors to land them at Cape Unsang, on the north-east coast of Borneo, where his people would take care of them. But it is contrary to their nature to take care of any animal that requires much trouble, so the Elephants sought their own food in the woods, and soon became wild.

"Hundreds now wander about, and constantly break into the plantations, doing much damage; but the natives sally out with huge flaming torches, and drive the startled beasts back to the woods.

"The ivory of Bornean commerce is generally produced from the dead bodies found in the forests; but there is, now living, one man who derives a profitable trade in fresh ivory. He sallies out on dark nights, with simply a waist-cloth and a short, sharp spear: he crawls up to a herd of Elephants, and, selecting a large one, drives his spear into the animal's belly. In a moment, the whole herd is on the move, frightened by the bellowing of their wounded companion, who rushes to and fro, until the panic spreads, and they tear headlong through the jungle, crushing before them all the smaller vegetation. The hunter's peril at that moment is great, but fortune has favoured him yet, as he has escaped being trampled to death.

"In the morning he follows the traces of the herd, and, carefully examining the soil, detects the spots of blood that have fallen from

the wounded Elephant. He often finds him, so weakened by loss of blood as to be unable to keep up with the rest of the herd, and a new wound is soon inflicted. Patiently pursuing this practice, the hunter has secured many of these princes of the forest."

In another place (I, 396), but again with reference to the valley of the Kina Batañgan river, Mr. St. John remarks—"As this is the only country in Borneo where the Elephants are numerous, it is the only one where ivory forms an important article of trade in the eyes of the natives."

Now, I am well aware of Mr. Darwin's calculation as to what the accumulated progeny of one pair of slow-breeding Elephants might amount to, in the course of five centuries, supposing that naught happened to check their increase in the geometrical ratio; but I doubt exceedingly that, in the instance under consideration, the existing great herds of Elephants in the N. E. peninsula of Borneo have descended from some two or three individuals put ashore by the order of the Sultan of Sulu, a little more than a century ago; continually decimated, too, as these Elephants would seem to have been and are at this time: and I doubt it all the more, because it appears that wild herds of Elephants existed until recently in Sulu! Why, therefore, should the few tame Elephants presented to the Sultan of Sulu be landed in Borneo? The remnant of the wild race existed in Sulu within the memory of people now living! On this subject, Mr. St. John fortunately helps us with information. In his notice of Sulu, he remarks (II, 243),—"Remembering Forest's statement that Elephants were found in his time in the forests which clothed so much of the soil of the island, I asked Dater Daniel about it; his answer was, that even within the remembrance of the oldest men then alive, there were still a few Elephants left in the woods, but that, finding they committed so much damage to the plantations, the villagers had combined and hunted the beasts till they were all killed: I was pleased to find the old traveller's account confirmed." II, 243.*

* Unfortunately, Mr. St. John is no naturalist. The little 'Mouse Deer' he calls the 'Moose Deer' (II, 52), like some of our countrymen in Ceylon; thus confounding the very smallest of the Deer tribe with the very largest; and the tiny animal of the tropics with the giant of northern regions! Of his two kinds of horned Deer (I, 33), I take the *Rusa Balum* to be the Javanese *Rusa*, and the *Rusa Lalang* to mean the Muntjac. The latter, however, is elsewhere

Why should the Elephant of Borneo have been introduced by human agency, any more than the RHINOCEROS SONDAICUS, or the BOS SONDAICUS; which latter would appear to be remarkably numerous on the vast island?

I have been assured that there is no notice of the Rhinoceros in the early Sanscrit writings; but then the river Ganges is mentioned once only in the whole course of the Vedas. Questioning Mr. E. B. Cowell on the subject, he obligingly writes word—"There are at least two Sanscrit words for Rhinoceros, *Khadga* or *Khadgin* (*Khadga* properly means 'a sword'—then the horn, and lastly the animal, —*Khadgin* means the 'sword-bearer,') and *Gandaka* (*ganda* properly means 'a cheek'). Both words are found in the *Amara Kosha* dictionary about 56 B. C., and the words *Khadgin* and *Khadga* occur in the *Mahábhárata* and *Rámáyana*. The Hindustani word is *Gaindá*; and I suspect Báber used this term, as all our Indo-Persian writers use Hindustáni terms pretty freely. There is, however, a good Persian word for it, *Karkadan*; and I find in Richardson's dictionary a new fact in Natural History which I doubt if even you have found out. I transcribe his whole account.

" 'The horn of this animal, it is said, sweats on the approach of any species of poison, for which reason many Eastern princes make use of it constantly at table; when split through the middle there is the resemblance of a man represented by white lines, together with the figures of several birds.'

"There are several Arabic names for the Rhinoceros, as *Mirmís*, *Hirmís*, *Karkaddan*; but these names tell nothing." The Arabs, however, most probably obtained their knowledge of the genus from one or more of the African species. *Gondá* is the name applied in Bengal (misspelt *Gomdá* in Parsons's paper in the *Phil. Trans.*), passing into *Gorrá* in Upper Hindustán: *Kyen* or *Kyeng* is the Burmese name; and *Bádák* or *Bodok* the Malayan. *Gondá* has at least the merit of brevity over *Rhinoceros*, and is quite as *euphonous*.

With respect to the history of the skeleton of RH. SONDAICUS in the Society's museum, *vide J. A. S.* III, 142, IX, 518, X, 928. The

mentioned by him by its name of *Kijang*. So familiar a bird (in museums at least) as a Trogon, he does not know by that name, but terms it the 'Omen-bird' (II, 62, 67, 95); and the remarkable wild Boar of Borneo (SUS BARBATUS) he fails to recognise as a peculiar species. The BOS SONDAICUS would appear to be very common in the part of Borneo traversed by Mr. St. John, and he designates it by the name *Tambadau*.

animal was shot by Sir J. Barlow, Bt., (then Mr. Barlow,) in the Jessore district, and his people brought the carcass to Calcutta by Tolly's nullá. It was conveyed to the Mint, and was there prepared as a skeleton by Mr. W. E. Templeton (subsequently employed as a taxidermist by the Society) for the late James Prinsep, who afterwards presented it in the name of Mr. Barlow for the Society's museum.*

Báber's account of the Rhinoceros, as given in Mr. Erskine's translation, is as follows:—

In his notice of the "animals peculiar to Hindustán, after describing the Elephant, he remarks—

"The Rhinoceros is another. This also is a huge animal. Its bulk is equal to that of three Buffaloes. The opinion prevalent in our countries, that a Rhinoceros can lift an Elephant on its horn, is probably a mistake. It has a single horn over its nose, upwards of a span in length; but I never saw one of two spans. Out of one of the largest of these horns I had a drinking-vessel made and a dice-box, and about three or four fingers' bulk of it might be left. Its hide is very thick. If it be shot at with a powerful bow, drawn up to the arm-pit with much force, and if the arrow pierces at all, it enters only three or four fingers' breadth. They say, however, that there are parts of his skin that may be pierced and the arrows enter deep. On the sides of its two shoulder-blades, and of its two thighs, are folds that hang loose, and appear at a distance like cloth-housings dangling over it. It bears more resemblance to the Horse than to any other animal. As the Horse has a large stomach, so has this:† as the pastern of a Horse is composed of a single bone, so also is that of the Rhinoceros. It is more ferocious than the Elephant, and cannot be rendered so tame or obedient. There are numbers of them in the jungles of Peshâwer and Hashnagar, as well as between the river Sind and Behreh in the jungles. In Hindustán, too, they abound on the banks of the river Sirwû. In the course of my expeditions into Hindustán, in the jungles of Peshâwer and Hashnagar, I frequently killed the Rhinoceros. It strikes powerfully with its horn, with which, in the course of these hunts, many men, and many horses,

* I find that, in the Catalogue of the mammalia in the India House Museum (p. 195), the *habitat* of RH. SONDAICUS is set down as "Java exclusively!"

† Linnæus remarks—"Viscera ad equina accedunt."

were gored. In one hunt, it tossed with its horn, a full spear's length, the horse of a young man named Maksûd, whence he got the name of Rhinoceros Maksûd."*

Again, in the course of his narrative, he states—

“ We continued our march till we came near Bekrâm and then halted. Next morning we continued halting in the same station, and I went out to hunt the Rhinoceros.

“ We crossed the Siâh-Ab, in front of Bekrâm, and formed our ring lower down the river. When we had gone a short way, a man came after us with notice, that a Rhinoceros had entered a little wood near Bekrâm, and that they had surrounded the wood, and were waiting for us. We immediately proceeded towards the wood at full gallop, and cast a ring round it. Instantly on our raising the shout, the Rhinoceros issued out into the plain, and took to flight. Hûmâiûn, and those who had come from the same quarter, never having seen a Rhinoceros before, were greatly amused. They followed it for nearly a kos, shot many arrows at it, and finally brought it down. This Rhinoceros did not make a good set at any person, or any horse. They afterwards killed another Rhinoceros. I had often amused myself with conjecturing how an Elephant and Rhinoceros would behave if brought to face each other; on this occasion the elephant-keepers brought out the Elephants, so that one Elephant fell right in with the Rhinoceros. As soon as the elephant-drivers put their beasts in motion, the Rhinoceros would not come up, but immediately ran off in another direction.”

The description which Báber gives of a mailed single-horned Rhinoceros is unmistakeable; but it still seems passing strange that these huge *pachyderms* should have been killed with arrows.

E. BLYTH.

* Some of Báber's observations are amusingly correct. Thus, of the common large Indian Frogs (*RANA TIGRINA*), he remarks—“ The Frogs of Hindustân are worthy of notice. Though of the same species as [*i. e.* akin to] our own, yet they will run six or seven *guz* [twelve or fourteen feet] on the face of the water.” I have known more than one European naturalist-traveller to have been at once struck with this peculiarity.