

affairs: "The great merchants are the soul of honour, and foreigners prefer transacting business with them."

THE LAST OF THE UNICORNS.

A wondrous brute, which only within the present century emerged from the region of myth into that of scientific knowledge, has within the present year passed into the realms of history. Reports from South Africa declare (according to the "New York Tribune,") that the last white rhinoceros has been killed, and that its skeleton, hide, and horn are now being shipped to England to enrich the Natural History Museum. Thus the largest of modern quadrupeds, excepting the elephant, becomes extinct, along with the beautiful quagga, the dodo, the great auk, and other noteworthy members of the animal kingdom which have vanished from the world before the rapacity of man.

The white rhinoceros demands some special obituary notice, partly because of his extraordinary physical characteristics, and partly because of the part he and his skin have played in legend and in heraldry. Every schoolboy, as Macaulay would say, is familiar with the conventional figure of the unicorn, a sort of horse-shaped brute with a single straight horn protruding from its forehead. And every schoolboy has probably been told that there never was such a creature, save in imagination, which is doubtless quite true. Yet modern science not only destroys some old-time beliefs, but vindicates others, and shows many a grotesque fairy tale to have a basis of solid fact. Shakespeare repeated not a myth but truth in speaking of the poison which the woad distils. Midsummer madness and moon madness are recognized as facts by the latest science. And if no man ever saw in life the lindworm and the griffin of Teutonic legend, we need only to look into a palaeontological museum to find their prototypes. So with the unicorn. For ages its only known habitat was on a coat of arms. True, the ancients had written of it as real. But were they not notorious liars? Herodotus, for example, with his story of a race of dwarfs in the region of the Mountains of the Moon, and near the sources of the Nile, was the very Prince of Liars until Mr. Stanley rediscovered those very dwarfs in that very region, and Emin Pasha sent some living specimens of them to Europe. The one-horned beast was similarly discredited until an actual one-horned rhinoceros was found in India and Sumatra, when folk began to revise their syllabuses of repudiated legends.

Still the Asiatic rhinoceros was a poor sort of creature for such heroic fame, and it was not until the opening of the present century that the unicorn was fully identified with the uncouth pachyderm. At that time Burchell discovered, in the region of South Africa between the Orange and Zambesi Rivers, the stupendous creature known as rhinoceros simus, or, in common phrase, the white or one-horned rhinoceros. This animal was not at all like the heraldic unicorn. But it was of heroic mould, and it wore on its forehead, or on its snout, one enormous horn, long, sharp, and powerful. Huge and unwieldy as it was, it was swift of foot; in temper it was choleric; in valour it was fearless. Wherefore the classic legends and the mediæval heraldic designs stood at the last approved. The unicorn was at last materialised. Nor did the remoteness of its habitat deter such identification. That very region was the ancient land of Ophir, familiar to King Solomon and to the Phœnician merchants. But at any rate the great white one-horned rhinoceros was shown by Burchell to be a reality; though, indeed, neither white nor, strictly speaking, one-horned. Its colour was a dirty grey, almost verging on mouse-colour. And it had two horns, though one was so small as to be scarcely perceptible; a mere hump with a tuft of stout bristles, three or four inches high. The other real horn was from three to four feet long, thick, and tufted about with bristles at the base, and curving and tapering gracefully to a hard, sharp point. This might have been a formidable weapon in a battle, though the rhinoceros usually dealt with its foes by trampling them under foot, and used the horn as a rod of guidance for its young.

The full grown white rhinoceros was nearly 7ft. high at the shoulders, and from 14ft. to 16ft. long, and thus in bulk surpassed every other modern quadruped except the elephant, which it almost rivalled. Its head was 3ft. or 4ft. long, and held very low, its chin being normally only a few inches from the ground. Its truncated muzzle was 1½ft. broad, and designed to facilitate the cropping of grass, the sole food of the creature. The brain, placed just beneath the big horn, was scarcely as large as that of a man. The eyes were very small, and so set as to have a remarkably limited range of vision. For this reason the animal, when either pursuing or pursued, invariably ran in a straight line, and thus was easily dodged. In habit the white rhinoceros was usually more dull, slow, and wallowing than its black, two-horned kinsman. But, like the latter, it was singularly stubborn and perverse, and subject to sudden and senseless fits of the most violent fury. It would at times, for no conceivable reason, bar the passage of a road with the persistence of the Greeks at Thermopylæ; or bound from its lazy wallowing and pursue some innocent passer-by with the utmost manifestations of ferocious wrath. It was, however, little feared by the natives, who easily avoided its straightforward charges and drove their heavy assegais into its sides with deadly effect. The Zulus and Matabeles called it the Mokochoo, and greatly prized its flesh for food, its hide for whips and shields, and, above all, its horn for the handle of the battle-axe. When killed the giant creature did not fall upon its side, but sank down upon its knees and hams, doubling its short, thick legs beneath it.

This giant unicorn was gregarious, and Burchell found it in vast droves all through the Bechuanaland country. Many years later Captain Harris found it still numerous, encountering scores in the course of a day's ride. But as the number of European hunters increased the number of these great brutes decreased, and when firearms came into general use among the natives the work of destruction went forward at a fearful pace. Of dull perception and sluggish habits, the white rhinoceros fell an easy prey to the Bechuanas and Matabeles, who slaughtered thousands merely for their horns and for their humps, which were a favourite article of food. A few years ago the animal was believed to be extinct. Then a group of six was discovered in a swamp in Mashonaland. These have now all been killed, and there is no reason to suppose that a single specimen remains alive. No one who has not visited South Africa has ever seen a white rhinoceros, since no living specimen was ever taken out of that country for exhibition. No complete skeleton nor entire hide, even, has ever found its way to Europe or America, and we are, therefore, in the curious situation of having more satisfactory relics of so prehistoric animals than of one of the greatest and most interesting of our own time. The skeleton and hide of one of the last killed are, however, said to be under shipment to England, where they will form an impressive memorial of one of the greatest creatures that have vanished from earth before the destructive power of man.

MORNING EXPRESS.

COURIER OFFICE, WEDNESDAY, 8 A.M.

(BY PRIVATE WIRES)

SPAIN AND MOROCCO.

(STANDARD TELEGRAMS)

Madrid, Tuesday Night.

The Moorish authorities at Tangier yesterday officially informed the inhabitants that the Sultan had at last reached his capital city. The Madrid papers say that the consequence of this all further negotiations between El Araaf and Marochi Campes at Melilla will cease. Local questions concerning the delimitation of the Spanish zone round Melilla, and all the Spanish claims against the Rif tribesmen, will now be merged into the more important points which the Madrid Government will henceforth discuss with the Emperor. The Spanish Minister at Tangier, the Marquis Potedal, has been instructed to take steps to ensure rapid communications with the Moorish capital, with the view to begin at once the negotiations for a final treaty of the conflict between Spain and Morocco.

AUSTRIAN TRADE UNION CONGRESS.

(DAILY CHRONICLE TELEGRAMS)

Vienna, Tuesday Night.

Today's sitting of the Austrian Trade Union Congress was taken up by the discussion on the question of future organization. Herr Smith's recommendations, referred to in yesterday's issue, were not without two dissentients. These recommendations were in effect that the trade unions should be organized on a national basis, and that a distinct group, which would send one of its members as a delegate to represent it as the central body in Vienna. A resolution was then passed to the effect that the Congress should be a trade union, and that women may likewise be admitted to the organization. It is evident from the above that the Congress is far from being a trade union, and that women may likewise be admitted to the organization. It is evident from the above that the Congress is far from being a trade union, and that women may likewise be admitted to the organization.

FURTHER TROUBLES IN SICILY.

(DAILY CHRONICLE TELEGRAMS)

Palermo, Tuesday Night.

Public opinion is becoming increasingly alarmed respecting the troubles in Sicily. The Government has made a small concession, but without any means of enforcing it, and the situation remains unchanged. The Government has made a small concession, but without any means of enforcing it, and the situation remains unchanged.

UCANDA.

(STANDARD TELEGRAMS)

Berlin, Tuesday Night.

News has been received from Uganda, dated the 24th inst., that the British Government has been driven out by the agents of the British East Africa Company. The British East Africa Company has been driven out by the agents of the British East Africa Company.

FORGIVERS IN FRANCE.

(STANDARD TELEGRAMS)

Paris, Tuesday Night.

An agitation is being got up against an English company forming a syndicate to exploit the mines of the Boy of Tonkin. An agitation is being got up against an English company forming a syndicate to exploit the mines of the Boy of Tonkin.

A STRANGE EXCUSE FOR MURDER.

(STANDARD TELEGRAMS)

London, Tuesday Night.

Prague on suspicion of having murdered their countryman, Mrs. Tom, had already made a full confession of the crime. Prague on suspicion of having murdered their countryman, Mrs. Tom, had already made a full confession of the crime.

IRELAND AND THE RADICALS.

(STANDARD TELEGRAMS)

Berlin, Tuesday Night.

The leader of the Parliament has been complaining over Mr. Gladstone's speech at Birmingham. The leader of the Parliament has been complaining over Mr. Gladstone's speech at Birmingham.

TO-DAY'S RACING PREDICTIONS.

KEMPTON PARK MEETING.

SPRINGFIELD MEETING.

WOLVERHAMPTON (DUNSTON PARK) MEETING.

SPRINGFIELD MEETING.

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A LIFE FOR A BILLION DOLLARS.

(STANDARD TELEGRAMS)

London, Tuesday Night.

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DEBTS OF HONOUR IN CHINA.

(STANDARD TELEGRAMS)

Peking, Tuesday Night.

The Department of State at Washington has received news from Peking that the Chinese Government has decided to pay the debts of honor of the late Emperor. The Department of State at Washington has received news from Peking that the Chinese Government has decided to pay the debts of honor of the late Emperor.

SANITARY CONDITIONS IN ITALY.

(STANDARD TELEGRAMS)

Rome, Tuesday Night.

The Italian Government has issued a decree regarding sanitary conditions in Italy. The Italian Government has issued a decree regarding sanitary conditions in Italy.

TRADE OF QUILLIMORE.

(STANDARD TELEGRAMS)

London, Tuesday Night.

The British Vice-consul at Quillimore has reported that the trade in opium has increased during the past year. The British Vice-consul at Quillimore has reported that the trade in opium has increased during the past year.

THE CATHEDRAL—THIS DAY.

(STANDARD TELEGRAMS)

London, Tuesday Night.

The Cathedral of St. Paul's, London, was the scene of a grand service on Tuesday night. The Cathedral of St. Paul's, London, was the scene of a grand service on Tuesday night.

THE VINEYARD OF EARLY NEW YORK.

(STANDARD TELEGRAMS)

London, Tuesday Night.

The Vineyard of Early New York is a subject of great interest to historians. The Vineyard of Early New York is a subject of great interest to historians.

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JOHN.

(STANDARD TELEGRAMS)

London, Tuesday Night.

The Parish Church of St. John, London, is a fine example of Gothic architecture. The Parish Church of St. John, London, is a fine example of Gothic architecture.

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH, VICTORIA.

(STANDARD TELEGRAMS)

London, Tuesday Night.

St. Christopher's Church, Victoria, is a prominent landmark in the city. St. Christopher's Church, Victoria, is a prominent landmark in the city.

CURIOSITIES OF CONSTANTINOPLE.

(STANDARD TELEGRAMS)

London, Tuesday Night.

The Curiousities of Constantinople are a subject of great interest to travelers. The Curiousities of Constantinople are a subject of great interest to travelers.

DRUMMERS' ADVENTURES.

(STANDARD TELEGRAMS)

London, Tuesday Night.

The adventures of drummers are a subject of great interest to the public. The adventures of drummers are a subject of great interest to the public.

NEW YORK IN A FOG.

(STANDARD TELEGRAMS)

London, Tuesday Night.

New York was shrouded in a thick fog on Tuesday night. New York was shrouded in a thick fog on Tuesday night.

QUACKS AND QUACKERY.

(STANDARD TELEGRAMS)

London, Tuesday Night.

The quack and quackery trade is a subject of great interest to the public. The quack and quackery trade is a subject of great interest to the public.

THE LAST OF THE UNIFORMS.

(STANDARD TELEGRAMS)

London, Tuesday Night.

The last of the uniforms is a subject of great interest to the public. The last of the uniforms is a subject of great interest to the public.

HOWLERS.

(STANDARD TELEGRAMS)

London, Tuesday Night.

Howlers are a subject of great interest to the public. Howlers are a subject of great interest to the public.

UCANDA.

(STANDARD TELEGRAMS)

London, Tuesday Night.

Uganda is a subject of great interest to the public. Uganda is a subject of great interest to the public.

FORGIVERS IN FRANCE.

(STANDARD TELEGRAMS)

Paris, Tuesday Night.

Forgiveness in France is a subject of great interest to the public. Forgiveness in France is a subject of great interest to the public.

IRELAND AND THE RADICALS.

(STANDARD TELEGRAMS)

Berlin, Tuesday Night.

Ireland and the radicals are a subject of great interest to the public. Ireland and the radicals are a subject of great interest to the public.

TO-DAY'S RACING PREDICTIONS.

KEMPTON PARK MEETING.

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THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AT WASHINGTON.

(STANDARD TELEGRAMS)

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