

THE HAIRY RHINOCEROS AT THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.

The collection in the elephant house is just now a grand sight. There are four elephants—two Indian, two African, and four Rhinoceroses—one Nubian (probably the Muchóch or "white rhinoceros" of Gordon Cumming), two single-horned Indian rhinoceroses, and lastly the new arrival, the double-horned Sumatran rhinoceros. The peculiarity of this beast—I cannot call it handsome—is that it is hairy. The great pig-like, watchful, ever-moving ears, are fringed with a row of long erect hairs, giving the appearance of a horse wearing worsted ear caps to keep off the flies. The hair on the back is something like the hog mane of a horse, and of the rusty sand colour of the old-fashioned Berkshire pig. The sides are also covered with this kind of hair, only shorter. The rest of the body is covered with a shortish light down, like the hair on a baby's head. The physiognomy is not like that of other rhinoceroses. "Begum," for she is a lady rhinoceros, has an ancient and antediluvian look about her, and very likely the old English *Rhinoceros trichorhinus*, whose bones my father discovered in the celebrated hyæna cave in Kirkdale, in Yorkshire, had the same kind of phiz. Her face is covered with wrinkles. There is a great "crow's foot" on her cheek, and deep wrinkles round her eyes, so that she has somewhat the appearance of a very aged disagreeable old man. She has also the peculiarity of shutting her lower eyelid instead of the upper, when she wants to take "forty winks."

Although called the Sumatran rhinoceros, "Begum" was caught near Chittagong, and was partly led and partly driven, with ropes round her legs, like a pig going to market, all the way through the jungle from that place to the river, a task which does Mr. Jamrach much credit. She travelled best at night, and would then follow her keeper, who walked in front with a lighted lantern kept close to the ground. The guide used to sing to her at night as she trotted along, and the natives joined in chorus. In the streets of Calcutta she lay down like a sulky pig, and they had to wet the road, so as to make it semi-mud, and drag her along bodily. She was shipped on board the steamer *Petersburgh* at Calcutta, and brought direct to the Millwall Docks in a gigantic cage made of teak.

The transfer of this valuable animal—for she cost more than £1,000—from her travelling-box to the elephant-house along the path was effected by Mr. Bartlett with his usual ability and tact. He was, of course, assisted by Mr. Jamrach, who knew the habits of the animal well. She had to walk comparatively loose some sixty or eighty yards.

Mr. Bartlett has just performed a successful operation on a rhinoceros. The front horn of the Indian rhinoceros had become bent and diseased. Mr. Bartlett has cleverly amputated this horn with a sharp saw, and this without the least injury or inconvenience to the animal. The portion of horn cut off weighed 8½lb., and the "old gal looks quite young again."

FRANK BUCKLAND.

—*Land and Water.*