



THE INDIAN EMPIRE:

ITS HISTORY, PEOPLE, AND PRODUCTS.

BY

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of £3600. In the season of 1873-74 no less than 53 were captured at one time by Mr. Sanderson, the superintendent of the Kheda Department in Mysore, who has made a special study of the Indian elephant, as Sir S. Baker has of the same animal in Ceylon. Though the supply is decreasing, elephants continue to be in great demand. Their chief use is in the timber trade, and for Government transport. They are also bought up by native chiefs at high prices for ostentation.

The Rhinoceros.

Of the rhinoceros, four distinct varieties are enumerated, two with a single, and two with a double horn. The most familiar is the *Rhinoceros unicornis*, commonly found in the Brahmaputra valley, and in the Sundarbans. It has but one horn, and is covered with massive folds of naked skin. It sometimes attains a height of 6 feet; its horn, which is much prized by the natives for medicinal purposes, seldom exceeds 14 inches in length. It frequents swampy, shady spots, and wallows in mud like a pig. The traditional antipathy of the rhinoceros to the elephant seems to be mythical. The Javan rhinoceros (*R. sondaicus*) is found in the same localities. It also has but one horn, and mainly differs from the foregoing in being smaller, and having less prominent 'shields.' The Sumatran rhinoceros (*R. sumatrensis*) is found from Chittagong southwards through Burma. It has two horns and a bristly coat. The hairy-eared rhinoceros (*R. lasiotis*) is only known from a specimen captured at Chittagong; and now (1881) in the Zoological Gardens, London.

The wild Hog.

The wild hog (*Sus scrofa, var. indica*) is well known as affording the most exciting sport in the world—'pig-sticking.' It frequents cultivated localities, and is the most mischievous enemy which the husbandman has to guard against; doing more damage than tigers, leopards, deer, and antelope, all put together. A rare animal, called the pigmy hog (*Porcula salviana*), exists in the *tarai* of Nepal and Sikkim, and has been shot in Assam. Its height is only 10 inches, and its weight does not exceed 12 lbs.

The wild Ass.

The wild ass (*Asinus onager*) is confined to the sandy deserts of Sind and Kachchh (Cutch), where, from its speed and timidity, it is almost unapproachable.

Sheep and Goats.

Many wild species of the sheep and goat tribe are to be found in the Himálayan ranges. The *Ovis ammon* and *O. poli* are Tibetan rather than Indian species. The *urial* and the *shapu* are kindred species of wild sheep, found respectively in Ladákh and the Suláimán range. The former comes down to 2000 feet above the sea, the latter is never seen at altitudes