

A  
DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNT  
OF  
ASAM:  
WITH A SKETCH OF  
THE LOCAL GEOGRAPHY,  
AND A CONCISE HISTORY OF  
**The Tea-Plant of Asam:**

TO WHICH IS ADDED,  
A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE NEIGHBOURING TRIBES,  
EXHIBITING THEIR  
HISTORY, MANNERS, AND CUSTOMS.

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ILLUSTRATED WITH FOUR MAPS, DRAWN EXPRESSLY FOR THE WORK.

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herds, and are very destructive to the crops, and not unfrequently to human life also.

The Asam elephants are commonly supposed to be less hardy than those of Chittagong, chiefly from the circumstance of many of them having died when newly caught, and exported from the country. This prejudice against them will, however, wear off as they become better known. In point of courage they cannot be surpassed, though in appearance probably they are not so handsome as those exported from Chittagong, having in general smaller heads, and a blown-out appearance about the belly, solely attributable to the nature of their food.

From seven hundred to a thousand elephants are exported from Asam every year, but the speculation is very precarious. About twice as many as are exported are generally killed in training; and if to this sum we add the great number of these animals annually killed by the hill tribes for their tusks, we may form some faint idea of the vast multitude that usually roam in the forests.

Gen. *Rhinoceros*.

*Rhinoceros Indicus*, *Cuv.*

This animal inhabits the densest parts of the forests, and is generally found to frequent swampy places. The old ones are frequently killed for their skin or their horn. The skin is valuable, the best shields in the country being made of it, and a great degree of sanctity is attached to the horn. The horn is not a process of the bones of the nose, but united to them by a concave surface so as to admit of being detached by laceration or a severe blow. The rhinoceros makes no use of its horn as a weapon of offence, but for this purpose invariably makes use of its teeth.