

CURIOSITIES
OF
NATURAL HISTORY.

Third Series.

BY
FRANCIS T. BUCKLAND, M.A.

LATE STUDENT OF CHRIST CHURCH, OXFORD;
HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTOR OF SALMON FISHERIES; ETC.

SECOND EDITION.



IN TWO VOLUMES.—VOL. I.

LONDON:
RICHARD BENTLEY, NEW BURLINGTON STREET,
Publisher in Ordinary to Her Majesty.
1868.

very bad bargains with their coppers, getting small halfpenny or penny worths either. When not served immediately, they ring a bell to call the attention of the black man who keeps the stall, and let him know they wish to make a purchase.

These elephants are worth from 600*l.* to 800*l.* each, according to the market, whether "there were many elephants in the country or not." I saw a small elephant the other day at Mr. Jamrach's, in Ratcliff Highway, about as big as an Alderney cow, the price of which was 500*l.* It is now sold to the Zoological Gardens at Turin.*

Mr. Edmonds had a very fine one-horned rhinoceros,

* My friend H. P. Le Mesurier, Esq., of Mahabad, lately received the following:—

"Some time since you wrote me about elephants. If you are still in want of some I can procure them for you on very reasonable terms. I think the prices of newly-caught elephants run from 600*rs.* to 2,000*rs.*, according to their size and sex. Males are dearest. There is also a young rhinoceros for sale here at 350*rs.*, if you should want it.—W. MILLETT (Tetellee Gooree, Dibroo Ghur, Upper Assam, April 25th, 1866)."

In January 1867, when paying a visit to Jamrach, I saw two skulls of Indian rhinoceros in his shop. These two skulls were the only result of a speculation on the part of my poor friend. He sent his son to India on purpose to get them. Having purchased them up the country, Jamrach Junior drove them some 200 miles down to the seaport—I believe Calcutta. He managed this task by tying ropes on to the animals, and with the aid of some forty coolies, literally "conducted" them to their destination. Food for 120 days was shipped for the poor

which has been in the show twenty-one years, and which cost 1400*l.* at the sale of the animals at the Manchester Zoological Gardens: he always rides in his van, being a valuable animal and worth his carriage. Formerly they had a giraffe, but it died; and in its place they have four "war camels from the Crimea." These form part of the triumphal procession when it enters a town. Two of these camels are walked round and round inside the show, and people allowed to ride, three or four at a time. I had a ride too myself, but found it most difficult to keep my seat: I can compare the motion, especially when trotting, to nothing except what I imagine would be the sensation of riding on the end of a long scaffold pole, projecting from the tail of a cart.

I have since heard of a gentleman who was thrown off a camel in Egypt, and so seriously injured that he died of the accident. The Bedouins never make the camel kneel in order to mount, but either cause the animal to drop his neck in order to receive their foot, and thus get hoisted up, or else they climb up from behind.

animals on board the "*Persian Empire*," but the voyage being protracted to an unusual length, both the specimens of rhinoceros, which Jamrach valued at 1,600*l.*, died of starvation. The poor things were reduced to such extremities that they ate sawdust and gnawed great holes in a spare mast. They died between St. Helena and England, and the doctor of the ship and young Jamrach preserved their skulls and hides.

Mr. Edmonds has a very fine collection of lions, both Asiatic and African, most of them young. He has also a magnificent lion and lioness with cubs, which were born at Southampton. Outside the show is a very excellent portrait of the big lion, painted on a panel. With this not even Mr. Ruskin, I think, could find a fault—that is, if the perfection of painting is the faithful representation of nature. Inside the caravan one sees the “Lion-slayer,” who goes into the den with seven or eight of the young lions, and makes them jump over sticks, through hoops, and perform other feats of activity. I was informed that it is “much easier to train a ‘forest-caught lion’ than an ‘exhibition lion’”—a fact which is very curious, and much surprised me, but a practically-ascertained fact for all that. The “Lion-slayer” uses a mixture of kindness with severity (the former predominating) in training his animals—handling and the voice doing much; the animals did not show in their countenances the least fear of their tamer, which they would have done if unkindly used.

It is a remarkable fact that lions in travelling menageries are generally in a much better state of health than those which spend their lives in stationary cages, such as at the Zoological Gardens. A very extraordinary malformation or defect has frequently occurred among the lions born during the last twenty years in the Gardens. This imperfection consists in the roof of