

BIG GAME  
HUNTING  
For Boys

NORTH AMERICA AND ASIA



BY JOHN HYDE

ILLUSTRATED

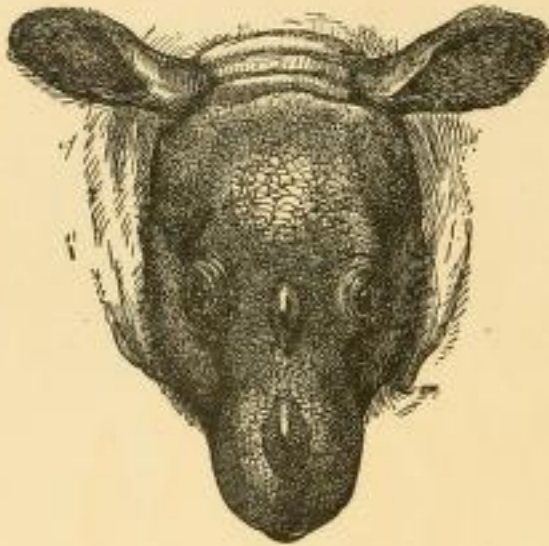
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## THE RHINOCEROS

THERE are three kinds of Rhinoceros found in Southern Asia. The first is the Indian variety, the second the Javan variety and the third the Sumatran variety. The finest of these three is the Indian Rhinoceros. This specimen is very powerfully built, having deep folds in its thick and ponderous skin and above all it has a single short thick business-like looking horn.

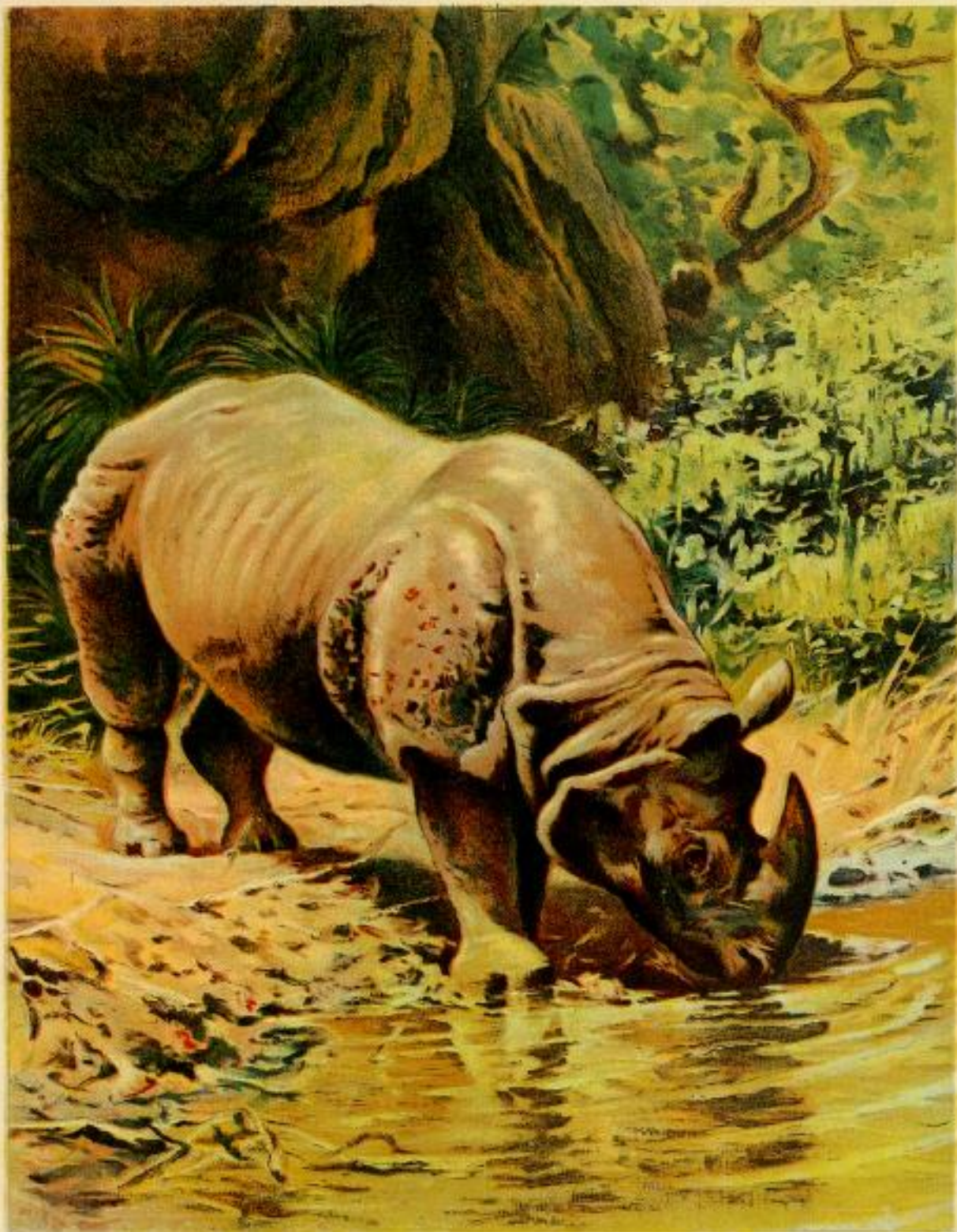
Some specimens of rhinoceros have hardly any horn at all, others a long and tapering one, but the one, worn by the Indian species closely resembles the ram of a modern battle-



ship. The rhinoceros is not very common in India, being confined to the dense swampy jungles, but once in a while it roams in search of a change of diet and then it becomes a terrible nuisance. The rhinoceros loves any young growing green thing and when the crops are just coming to perfection a visit from one of these hungry creatures is a calamity to the farmer.

It is not that the appetite of the rhinoceros is so great but its bulk is so large that it will trample a wheat field to pieces. Furthermore, the strength of the creature allows it to make straight for its chosen object, passing ruthlessly over walls, hedges and ditches. The bill for repairs is large after a visit from a rhinoceros.

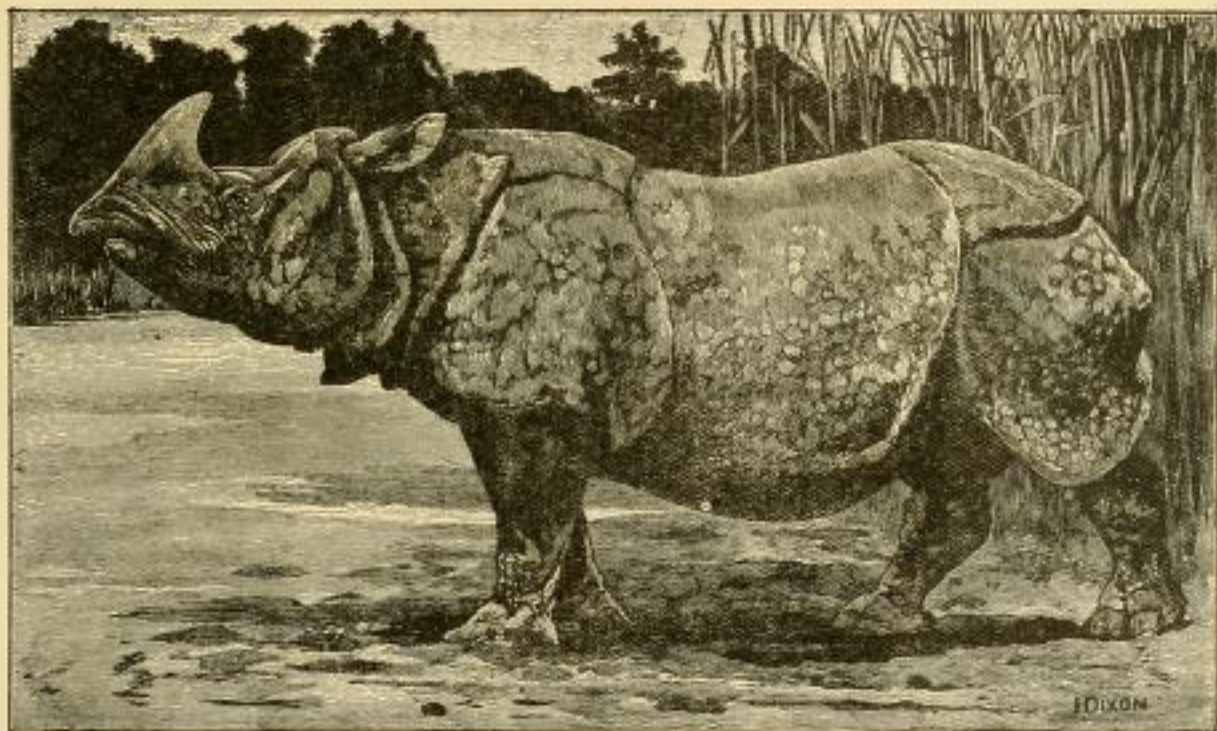
The hunting of this huge animal is full of excitement and danger. Two men bent on killing a rhinoceros heard that one was lying at the edge of a swamp not far from the village. At sunrise they started on their hunt, with a native shikari for



THE RHINOCEROS COMES DOWN TO DRINK

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guide. They made their way to the thicket and then separated. One hunter who was considerably in advance of his partner nearly walked on top of the huge beast. The rhinoceros was standing in the shade of a large tree and its dirty hide matched the shadows exactly, rendering it all but invisible. The beast had heard its enemies coming and had stood motionless waiting to see who it might be. The man and beast eyed each



A FULL GROWN INDIAN RHINOCEROS.

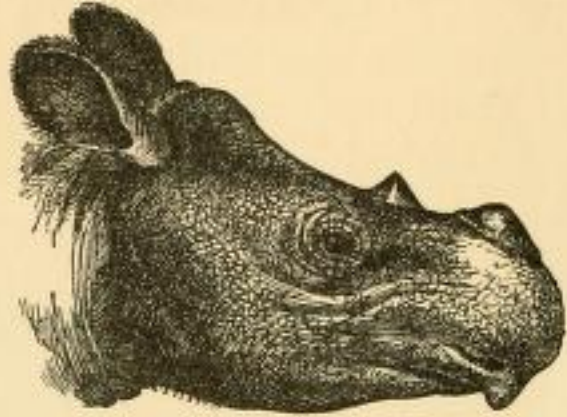
other for a moment or two in mutual astonishment and then the rhino snorting angrily charged. The hunter got out of the way and allowed his companion to shoot. The rhinoceros wheeled and charged first one man, then the other. After a stern battle the beast fell dead.

The rhinoceros is a very difficult animal to kill. Its skin is extremely tough and its bones so huge that it takes a first class bullet to penetrate them. The most deadly spot to shoot at, and the most difficult to hit, is the brain. The horn of the

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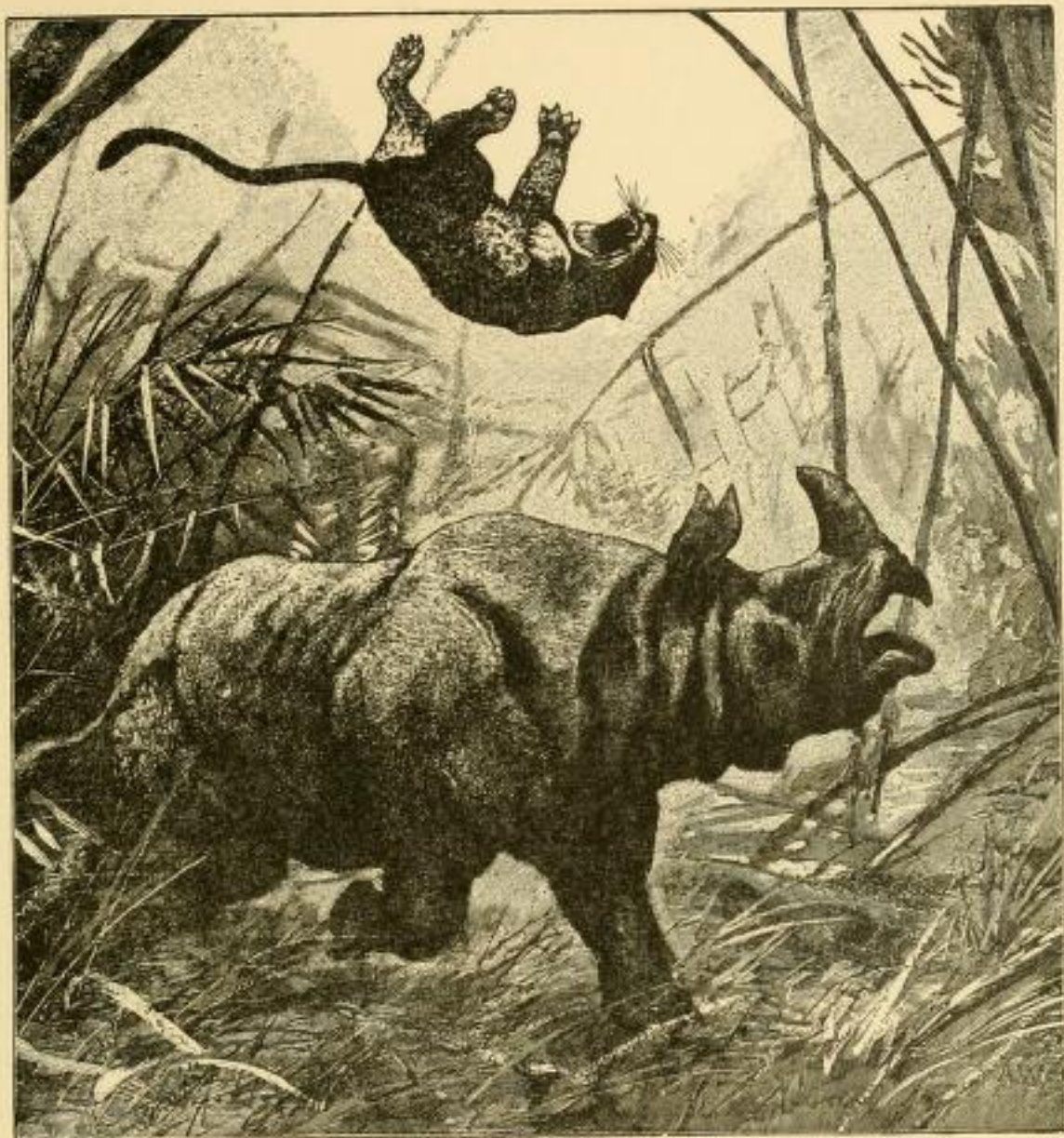
rhinoceros forms a natural protection to the brain which in itself is ridiculously small for so huge an animal.

The rhinoceros represents blind, stupid pluck, for once its temper is roused it charges anything and everything and it will keep up the fight when loaded with lead, and will return to the charge and move about quickly even on three legs.



The Rhinoceros of Java is another single-horned variety, but it is nothing like as large, nor as imposing as its Indian cousin. At the same time however its hunting is just as difficult and the danger entailed in its pursuit is very great. The natives sometimes succeed in killing this beast without the help of modern high-powered rifles. To conquer one of these animals in this way it is necessary to have numbers. The rhinoceros cannot kill a hundred of its human enemies and the chances are that it will be seriously wounded in the struggle. Quite often though these hunts end with the maiming or killing of half a dozen natives. Men who have witnessed the rhinoceros killing say that the business is very exciting and that the natives show great pluck in facing the enraged brute. The efforts of the crowd are always directed towards hamstringing it and then its killing is an easy matter. Spears and heavy two-handed swords are the favorite weapons and they can only be wielded by an expert. In spite of the clumsy appearance of the rhinoceros it is a swift animal and can run a short distance with astonishing speed. It is said that a rhinoceros on rough ground will overtake a horse, that is, unless the latter has a flying start.

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The Sumatran Rhinoceros is another small specimen, but it possesses two, not very imposing horns, furthermore its skin is entirely smooth, and to a small degree is hairy. This is a true swamp dweller and is a quarrelsome animal to deal with.

The beast is said to be the swiftest runner of the whole family and is frequently referred to by the natives as the "trotting" rhino.