

THE
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OF
NATURAL HISTORY.

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Cuvier, more Equi, of the asinine type, have been added to the list, and several species of swine. Among the bovine ruminants the three species of flat-horned taurine cattle proper to south-eastern Asia have only recently been properly distinguished; also the *Bubalus brachyceros* of intertropical Africa; and there are others, as I believe, not yet sufficiently established, and more species also of large deer and antelopes. Among the Carnivora, no animal worthy of much note, unless Phocidæ (as might have been expected), and the like with Cetacea, my *Balænoptera indica*, for example, which is perhaps the largest of existing animals, but these latter are not four-limbed. Among the Quadrumana, the grandest of all, the huge gorilla, has been recently re-discovered, for its reputed existence was regarded as fabulous by Baron Cuvier. Lastly, in the bird class, it is most remarkable that the number of brevipennate species has quite recently been more than quadrupled;* still, however, no remarkable new genus, excepting the New Zealand moa, and of this at least two species have just been discovered to maintain a lingering existence, as I have learned from a letter recently received from Mr. E. L. Layard, who is at present in New Zealand as private secretary to Governor Sir G. Grey. One of these, of comparatively small size (about $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet high), has actually been killed and eaten by a famishing party of explorers, and fifteen others seen. Of the other, one of the large moas, only the fresh foot-steps, fifteen inches long, have been traced, as Mr. Layard states, by a party who had lost themselves; and therefore the instance does not appear to be the same as that lately recorded in the 'Zoologist' (Zool. 7847). Both of these living species inhabit the little-explored Middle Island.

EDWARD BLYTH.

Calcutta, March 1, 1862.

A further Note on Elephants and Rhinoceroses.—There is a notice of the wild elephants of Borneo in Mr. Spencer St. John's 'Life in the Forests of the far East' (1862), vol. i. p. 95. This author writes, "Among our Malays was one who had frequently traded with the north-east coast of Borneo, and the mention of 'gading' (ivory) brought to his recollection that elephants exist in the districts about the river Kina Batangan. I have seen many tusks brought to Labuan for sale,

* Even a *sixth* cassowary has since been added by the Baron von Rosenberg, of Amboyna. It is from the island of Salawatti, and has *no wattles*, as in all the others. He terms it *Casuarius Kaupi*. The *Balæniceps Rex* must be considered as a remarkable discovery among large birds; and this is quite a new genus.

but never measured one longer than six feet two inches, including the part set in the head. I have met dozens of men who have seen the elephant there, but my own experience has been limited to finding their traces near the sea-beach. It is generally believed that about a hundred years ago the East India Company sent to the Sultan of Sulu a present of these animals; that the Sultan said these great creatures would certainly eat up the whole produce of his little island, and asked the donors to land them at Cape Unsang, on the north-east coast of Borneo, where his people would take care of them. But it is contrary to their nature to take care of any animal that requires much trouble, so the elephants sought their own food in the woods, and soon became wild. Hundreds now wander about, and constantly break into the plantations, doing much damage; but the natives sally out with huge flaming torches, and drive the startled beasts back to the woods. The ivory of Bornean commerce is generally produced from the dead bodies found in the forests, but there is now living one man who derives a profitable trade in fresh ivory. He sallies out on dark nights, with simply a waist-cloth and a short sharp spear: he crawls up to a herd of elephants, and, selecting a large one, drives his spear into the animal's belly. In a moment the whole herd is on the move, frightened by the bellowing of their wounded companion, who rushes to and fro, until the panic spreads, and they tear headlong through the jungle, crushing before them all the smaller vegetation. The hunter's peril at this moment is great, but fortune has favoured him yet, as he has escaped being trampled to death. In the morning he follows the traces of the herd, and, carefully examining the soil, detects the spots of blood that have fallen from the wounded elephant. He often finds him, so weakened by loss of blood as to be unable to keep up with the rest of the herd, and a new wound is soon inflicted. Patiently pursuing this practice, the hunter has secured many of these princes of the forest." In another place (vol. i. p. 396), but again with reference to the valley of the Kina Batangan river, Mr. St. John remarks, "As this is the only country in Borneo where the elephants are numerous, it is the only one where ivory forms an important article of trade in the eyes of the natives." Now, I am well aware of Mr. Darwin's calculation as to what the accumulated progeny of one pair of slow-breeding elephants might amount to in the course of five centuries, supposing that nought happened to check their increase in the geometrical ratio; but I doubt exceedingly that, in the instance under consideration, the existing great herds of elephants in the north-eastern peninsula of Borneo have descended from some two or three

individuals put ashore by the order of the Sultan of Sulu, a little more than a century ago, continually decimated, too, as these elephants would seem to have been and are at this time; and I doubt it all the more because it appears that herds of wild elephants existed until recently in Sulu! Why, therefore, should the few tame elephants presented to the Sultan of Sulu be landed in Borneo? The remnant of the wild race existed in Sulu within the memory of people now living. On this subject, Mr. St. John fortunately helps us with information. In his notice of Sulu, he remarks, "Remembering Forest's statement that elephants were found in his time in the forests which clothed so much of the soil of the island, I asked Dater Daniel about it; his answer was, that even within the remembrance of the oldest men then alive, there were still a few elephants left in the woods, but that, finding they committed so much damage to the plantations, the villagers had combined and hunted the beasts till they were all killed: I was pleased to find the old traveller's account confirmed."—Vol. ii. p. 243. Why should the elephant of Borneo have been introduced by human agency any more than the *Rhinoceros sondaicus* or the *Bos sondaicus*, which latter would appear to be remarkably numerous on the vast island?—*E. B.*

Enormous and deformed Horns of Red Deer and Roe.—I have been trying to find out the history of the big head, and have at last succeeded. It appears that it was the head of a stag shot several hundred years ago in Wallachia, whence it was sent down the Danube to Constantinople, and thence found its way to Sheffield for cutlery purposes; but a Viennese, seeing it in a cutler's store, bought it and brought it back to Vienna for his collection. He died, and it was then sold, with the rest of his collection, to a Mr. Exinger, a large game-dealer here, who also deals in deers' horns, skins, &c. It was then exposed for sale in the game market, where Julian Fane bought it for me. This story is told me by Mr. Vynes, a Queen's messenger, whom I met at dinner at the Embassy here, and he says he has known the head for years here in Vienna; it was celebrated as a wonder in Hungary and Wallachia, and was said to be one of the largest specimens of red-deer horns in the world. He says it has been examined here and found to be real, though much broken and repaired; the skull, however, was adapted to the horns, which were fastened on to it. I can now tell you what I have hitherto been a little in the dark about myself, that since I have been in Germany I have seen heads in old collections (not for sale) not only as large and with as many points, but larger and with more points. The most remarkable collection in Germany, I believe, is that of the King of Saxony, at the Castle of Moritzburg, about five miles from Dresden; there are there 120 red deers' heads, seventy gigantic ones in one room, and the rest, being deformed and singular specimens, are in another room by themselves. The heads in the large room vary from twenty-four points to fifty, of which latter number there are two, but they are by no means the largest