

N**NATURAL HISTORY.**

T H E E L E P H A N T

AS HE EXISTS

**IN A WILD STATE, AND AS HE HAS BEEN MADE
SUBSERVIENT, IN PEACE AND IN WAR, TO
THE PURPOSES OF MAN.**

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THE elephant, whether considered in relation to his natural or domestic condition, is undoubtedly the most remarkable of quadrupeds. If, by reason of his vast size and strength and his surprising sagacity, he is to be regarded, in his state of native wildness, as at once the mightiest and the wisest of the brute creation, his history is still more calculated to excite our curiosity and wonder, in as far as, notwithstanding all his formidable qualities, he has been made subservient to the uses of man. We are at a loss, indeed, in this latter view, whether we should most admire the astonishing docility and acuteness of the half-reasoning brute, or the all-mastering power of human ingenuity and skill.

The following pages contain a very full and particular account of this interesting animal, both in his wild and domestic state; and they so abound in entertaining and instructive matter, that they may be read with equal advantage and delight by persons of every age and of every degree of intellectual advancement. So connected, indeed, is

the history of the elephant with the social institutions, the customs, and the most striking events of the East, that, in studying it, we cannot fail of becoming incidentally acquainted with many collateral facts of no little importance and interest; and of which the reader will be satisfied in going over this amusing volume.

This work was originally published by the British Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge; it has been carefully revised, and some of its least interesting portions have been omitted in the present edition. It is presented to the public in entire confidence that it will be found in all respects worthy of perusal.

H. & B.

New-York, Sept., 1839.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

Elephant of the Menageries Page 9

CHAPTER II.

The Structure of the Elephant, exhibited in connexion with its
Natural Habits 32

CHAPTER III.

The Structure of the Elephant, exhibited in connexion with its
Natural Habits—continued 71

CHAPTER IV.

The Indian Elephant.—Fertility in a State of Confinement.—
Growth.—Modes of taking wild Elephants in Asia 95

CHAPTER V.

The African Elephant.—Elephant Hunts 130

CHAPTER VI.

Domestic Employment of Elephants in the East.—Training.—
Docility 153

CHAPTER VII.

Employment of Elephants in the East.—Travelling Sports 174

CHAPTER VIII.

Employment of Elephants in the East, continued.—Exhibitions
of Cruelty.—Processions and Ceremonials 197

CHAPTER IX.

Employment of Elephants in the Wars of Modern Asia . . 216

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER X.

Employment of Elephants in war by Alexander the Great, and his successors Page 247

CHAPTER XI.

Employment of Elephants in war and in triumphs by the Carthaginians and Romans 262

CHAPTER XII.

The Roman Amphitheatre.—Conclusion 280

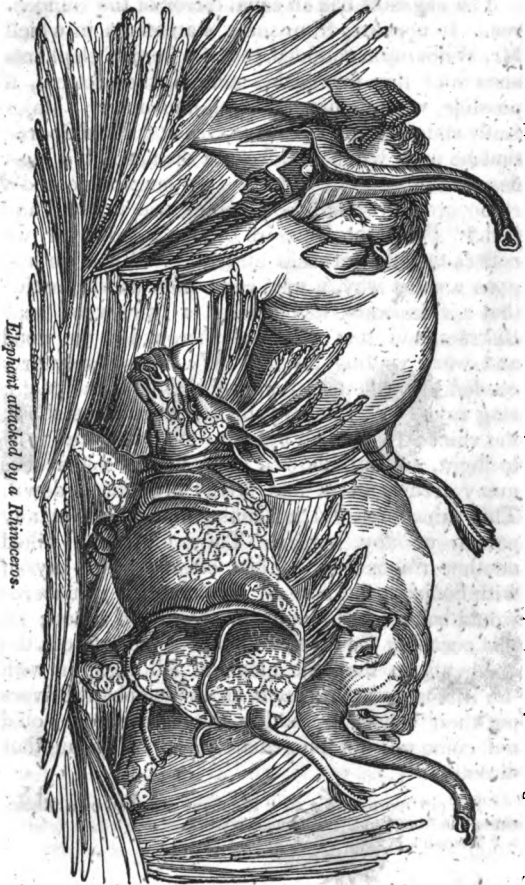
ILLUSTRATIONS.

No.		Page
1.	The Indian Elephant. <i>Elephas Indicus</i> , CUVIER	9
2.	Elephant of the Jardin des Plantes	27
3.	Elephant lying down	31
4.	Skeleton of the Elephant shot at Exeter Change	47
5.	Skeleton of the Horse	48
6.	Section of the skull of the Elephant	52
7.	Sections of the trunk of the Elephant	59
8 to 14.	Extremity of the proboscis of the Elephant, exemplifying the manner in which it grasps different objects	63-65
15.	An Elephant pulling down the branch of a tree	65
16.	Front view of an Elephant's head, with the trunk turned, showing the construction of the mouth	66
17.	Elephants drinking	67
18.	Elephant swimming	70
19.	Surfaces of the cheek-teeth of the Indian and African Elephant	92
20.	Skull of the Indian Elephant	93
21.	Skull of the African Elephant	94
22.	Female Elephant and young one sucking	98
23.	Wild Elephant captured by means of decoy female Elephants	116
24.	Wild Elephant left after having been bound	118
25.	Elephant harnessed in a keddah. From an original drawing by Mr. Corse Scott, engraved in Brewster's Encyclopædia	129
26.	African Elephant. <i>Elephas Africanus</i> , CUVIER	130
27.	Enraged Elephant destroying his driver	158
28.	Warren Hastings's Elephant	172
29.	Method of descending from an Elephant by a rope	177
30.	Tiger springing	192
31.	Elephant killing a tiger	194
32.	Elephant attacked by a rhinoceros	195
33.	Elephant killing a horse	202
34.	Elephant worshipping the sun and moon, from a Chinese sacred picture	215
35.	Elephants conveying artillery through bad roads	223
36.	Triumph of Alexander, from Seb. le Clerc	251
37.	Exterior View of the Colosseum of Vespasian	288

the elephant to bear a dead tiger on his back. Mr. Williamson saw a tiger, which had been insufficiently secured on the back of an elephant, fall off on the way home from the chase; the poor animal was so terrified at the moment, that he resisted every attempt to replace the carcass, and no other elephant in the field would endure the hateful burden.



Dead Tiger.



Elephant attacked by a Rhinoceros.

The elephant has an equal terror of the rhinoceros. It appears, from some statements in which Mr. Williamson confided, that if a herd of elephants encounter this formidable animal, they retreat, if possible, without hazarding an encounter. Major Lally stated to the author of *Oriental Field Sports*, that he once witnessed, from a distant hill, a most desperate engagement between a large male and a rhinoceros, in which the elephant was worsted and fled.* From the *Memoirs of Baber*, however, we collect that the terror is mutual. "When we had gone a short way, a man came after us with notice that a rhinoceros had entered a little wood near Bekrâm, and that they had surrounded the wood and were waiting for us. We immediately proceeded towards the wood at full gallop, and cast a ring round it. Instantly, on our raising the shout, the rhinoceros issued out into the plain and took to flight. They followed it for nearly a kos, shot many arrows at it, and finally brought it down. This rhinoceros did not make a good set at any person or any horse. They afterward killed another rhinoceros. I had often amused myself with conjecturing how an elephant and rhinoceros would behave if brought to face each other; on this occasion the elephant-keepers brought out the elephants so that one elephant fell right in with the rhinoceros. As soon as the elephant-drivers put their beasts in motion, the rhinoceros would not come up, but immediately ran off in another direction."†

* The cut representing an "Elephant attacked by a Rhinoceros," is from Capt. Williamson's work.

† *Memoirs*, p. 292.