

THE HARBINGER:

OR,

NEW MAGAZINE

OF

The Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion.

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London :

WARD AND CO., 27, PATERNOSTER ROW.

THE HARBINGER.

JANUARY, 1852.

ADDRESS FOR 1852.

THE British Population is fast becoming a nation of readers. Already the power of the press is proverbial. Like every other power in the hands of man, it may be wielded for good or evil. We fear, at the present, the evil predominates. Myriads of cheap serial publications,—popularizing infidelity, scoffing at most things sacred, and appealing to the worst passions of the people—fly over the land weekly, and enter our cities, large and small towns, villages, and even hamlets. They arrive towards the end of the week in time to do their deadly work on the Lord's day; and inflict irreparable injury wherever they go. If "the land be as the garden of Eden before them, behind them it becomes a desolate wilderness."

The Pulpit *alone* cannot cope with this evil,—the Press must be its auxiliary; and that to an extent which Christians generally have not thought of. As British Christians our obligations in this respect are instant, imperative, and absolute.

As members of a religious Body, which has hitherto occupied no doubtful position either in the defence or the spread of Christ's holy Evangel, it were dishonourable to shrink from a bold and earnest part in the coming conflict and labour. Our former laurels—not yet faded—will be our disgrace if we do not win more.

As a living Connexion we *must* have a Magazine. It is essential not only to our prosperity, but even to our existence. A Magazine which our ministers write and our people read. In which the latter may be also welcomed to express *their* opinions. A Magazine which shall circulate freely among

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THE RHINOCEROS, OR UNICORN OF SCRIPTURE.

OF the rhinoceros there are four varieties in South Africa—two white and two black. Both varieties of the black rhinoceros are extremely fierce and dangerous, and rush headlong and unprovoked at any object which attracts their attention. Their food consists almost entirely of thorny branches. Their horns are much shorter than those of the other varieties, seldom exceeding eighteen inches in length. They are finely polished with rubbing against the trees. The skull is remarkably formed, its most striking feature being the tremendous thick ossification in which it ends above the nostrils. It is on this mass that the horn is supported.

The horns are not connected with the skull, being attached merely by the skin, and they may thus be separated from the head by means of a sharp knife. They are hard and perfectly solid throughout, and are a fine material for various articles, such as drinking cups, mallets for rifles, handles for turners' tools, &c. The horn is capable of a very high polish. The eyes of the rhinoceros are small and sparkling, and do not readily observe the hunter, provided he keep to leeward of him. The skin is extremely thick and only to be penetrated with bullets hardened with solder.

During the day the rhinoceros will be found lying asleep or standing indolently in some retired part of the forest, or under the base of the mountains, sheltered from the power of the sun by some friendly grove of the umbrella-topped mimosas. In the evening they commence their nightly rambles, and wander over a great extent of country. They usually visit the fountains between the hours of nine and twelve o'clock at night, and it is on these occasions that they may be most successfully hunted and with the least danger. The black rhinoceros is subject to paroxysms of unprovoked fury, often ploughing up the ground for several yards with its horn, and assailing large bushes in the

most violent manner. On these bushes they work for hours with their horns, at the same time snorting and blowing loudly, nor do they leave them in general, until they have broken them into pieces; the rhinoceros is alluded to by Job, chapter xxxix, verses 10 and 11, where it is written, "Canst thou bind the Unicorn with his band in the furrow? or, will he harrow the valleys after thee? Wilt thou trust him because his strength is great? or, wilt thou leave thy labours to him?" Evidently alluding to an animal possessed of great strength and of untameable disposition, for both of which the rhinoceros is remarkable. All the four varieties delight to roll in the mud, with which their rugged hides are generally encrusted. Both varieties of the black rhinoceros are much smaller and more active than the white, and are so swift that a horse with a rider on his back can rarely overtake them. Mr. Cumming, the African traveller, gives the following account of his being chased by a rhinoceros. 'Shortly after this I found myself on the banks of the stream, beside which my waggons were outspanned. Following along its margin, I presently beheld a black rhinoceros, standing within a hundred yards of me. Dismounting from my horse, I secured him to a tree, and then skulked within twenty yards of the huge beast under cover of a large strong bush. The rhinoceros hearing me advance, came on to see what it was, and suddenly protruded his horny nose within a few yards of me. Knowing well that a front shot would not prove fatal, I sprang to my feet and ran behind the bush. Had his activity been equal to his ugliness, my wanderings would have terminated there, but by my superior agility I had the advantage in the turn. After standing a short time, eyeing me through the bush, he got a whiff of the wind passing me, which at once alarmed him. Uttering a blowing noise and erecting his insignificant, yet saucy-looking tail, he wheeled about, leaving me master of the field.'

FEARFUL ENCOUNTER WITH A LIONESSE,

In the neighbourhood of one of the Missionary Stations in South Africa.

"THE lioness having had a long start of me, we went over a considerable extent of ground before I came up with her. She was a large, full-grown beast, and the bare and level nature of the plain added to her imposing appearance. Finding that I gained upon her, she reduced her pace from a canter to a trot, carrying her tail stuck out behind her, and turned a little to one side. I shouted loudly to her to halt, as I wished to speak with her, upon which she suddenly pulled up, and sat on her haunches like a dog, with her back towards me, not even deigning to look round. She then appeared to say to herself, "Does this fellow know who he is after?" Having thus sat for half a minute, as if involved in thought, she sprang to her feet, and facing about, stood looking at me for a few seconds, moving her tail slowly from side to side, showing her teeth, and growling fiercely. She next made a short run forwards, making a loud, rumbling noise like thunder. This she did to intimidate me; but, finding that I did not flinch an inch, nor seem to heed her hostile demonstrations, she quietly stretched out her massive arms, and lay down on the grass. My Hottentots now coming up, we all three dismounted, and, drawing our rifles from their holsters we looked to see if the powder was up in the nipples, and put on the caps. While this was doing, the lioness sat up, and shewed evident symptoms of uneasiness. She looked first at us, and then behind her as if to see if the coast were clear; after which she made a short run towards us, uttering her deep-drawn murderous growls. Having secured the three horses one to another, we led them on as if we intended to pass her in the hope of obtaining a broadside. But this she carefully avoided to expose, presenting only her full front. I had

given Stofolus my Moore rifle with orders to shoot her if she should spring upon me, but on no account to fire before me. Klemboy was to stand ready to hand me my Purdey rifle, in case the two-grooved Dixon should not prove sufficient. My men as yet had been steady, but they were greatly afraid, their faces having assumed a ghastly paleness; and I had a painful feeling that I could place no reliance on them.

"Now, then, for it! She is within sixty yards of us, and she keeps advancing. We turned the horses' tails to her. I knelt on one side, and taking a steady aim at her breast, let fly. The ball cracked loudly on her tawny hide, and crippled her in the shoulder, upon which she charged with an appalling roar, and in the twinkling of an eye, she was in the midst of us. The lioness sprang upon the horse Colesburg, and fearfully lacerated his ribs and haunches with her horrid teeth and claws; the worst wound was on his haunch, which exhibited a sickening, yawning gash, more than twelve inches long, almost laying bare the very bone. I was very cool and steady, and did not feel in the least degree nervous, having fortunately, great confidence in my own shooting; but I must confess, when the whole affair was over, I felt that it was a very awful situation, and attended with extreme peril, as I had no friend with me on whom I could rely.

"When the lioness sprang on Colesburg, I stood out from the horses, ready with my second barrel for the first chance she should give me of a clear shot. This she quickly did, for, seemingly satisfied with the revenge she had now taken, she quitted Colesburg, and turned her tail to one side, trotted sulkily past within a few paces of me, taking one step to the left. I pitched my rifle to my shoulder, and in another second, the lioness was stretched on the plain, a lifeless corpse."
—*Travels in the Interior of Africa.*