

gift of Mrs. G. A. Ansermet

1874

**HISTORY OF
ANIMALS
AND
LEADING CURIOUSITIES**

CONTAINED IN

P. T. BARNUM'S

WORLD'S FAIR

AND

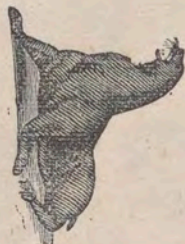
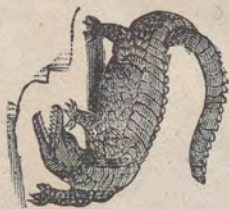
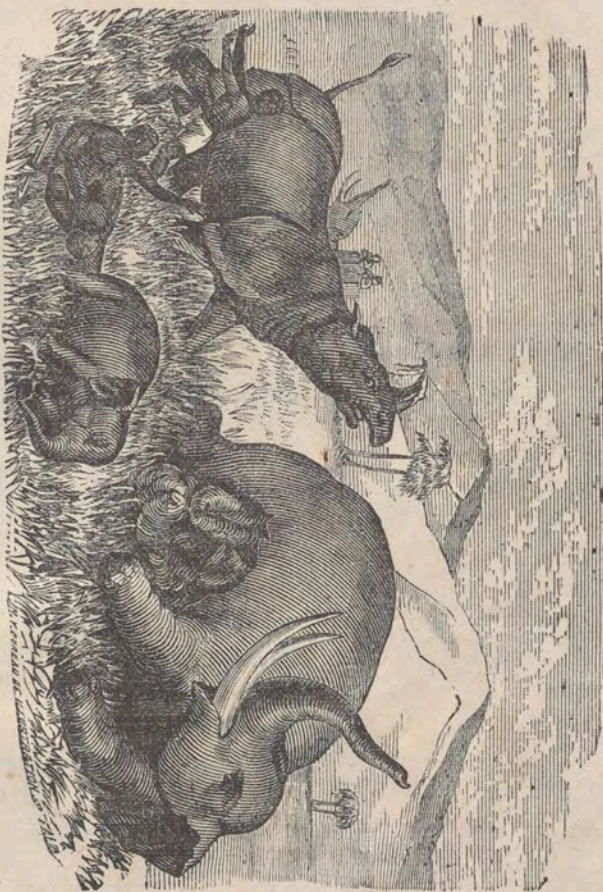
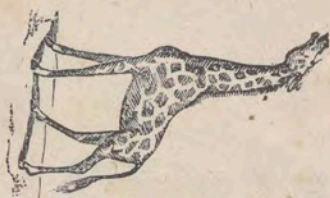
COLOSSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY & ART.

Price, Twenty-five Cents.



P. T.

PICTOR.



ILLUSTRATED

History of Wild Animals

AND

OTHER CURIOSITIES

CONTAINED IN

P. T. BARNUM'S

GREAT TRAVELING WORLD'S FAIR,

Museum, Menagerie, Polytechnic Institute,

AND

INTERNATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN.

COMPILED FROM THE BEST AUTHORITIES.

DEUS REVERENTUS EST IN SCIENTIA ANIMALIA.

NEW YORK:
PRESS OF WYNKOOP & HALLENBECK,
113 FULTON STREET.
1874.

TO THE READER.

IN the compilation of the following pages, and particularly in the brief treatise on animals, especial pains have been taken to divest the subject, as much as possible, of scientific terms and conventional technicalities. There is danger of an extreme, however, in the opposite direction.

In the ordinary language of zoology, a Greek or Latin appellation, which has been so often and so long repeated as to be quite familiar to minds of ordinary capacity, will not be looked upon as very classical or far-fetched; and should an occasional sentence of technical phraseology be used in the description of animal life, or in speaking of their anatomy and physiology, the interest and importance of the subject under consideration, and not a desire to be considered erudite or scholastic, shall be the only apology offered for their occasional substitution.

The subject of Natural History is one of the most fascinating that can possibly engage the attention of the young. It is invested with a degree of romance and thrilling adventure, inseparable from the illustration, historical and descriptive, of the animal kingdom, as we find them furtively lurking or playfully gamboling in the free exuberance of their own native wilds. It has in it, also sufficient to gratify the love of the marvelous, which every person possesses in a greater or less degree. There can be no question as to the proper method to be adopted in treating upon it, provided one pursues it with reference to thoroughness; but when the study is reverted to as a matter of pastime, the anecdotal rather than the descriptive will be likely to touch the popular chord. It is impossible, however, in the brief space allotted in this volume, to enter very largely into the anecdotal style: we

must confine ourselves to pictorial illustrations and personal habits of the diversified forms of animal life, with which an All-wise Providence has "multiplied and replenished the earth." It is truly a wonderful thing to thoroughly understand the structure and anatomical conformation of the lion, tiger, elephant, and rhinoceros; but it is still more marvelous to understand the principle which gives life and animation to those varied forms.

It is not because of the fangs, talons, strength, or ferocity of the tiger that he is predacious, but because the very elements of his constitution are eminently predacious, and in his midnight depredations for prey he simply obeys the behests of Nature's first law—self-preservation. In searching to find out something of the tiger, therefore, we look to the spirit that animates him, and not to the mere outlines of his physical being.

The tiger, lion, leopard, wolf, etc., belong to a separate class, called *carnivora*; this, from the Latin, means "feeding on flesh." All animals that feed on flesh are *predacious*, that is, "live by hunting." Whether feeding exclusively on flesh makes animals savage or ferocious, or whether the imperative demands of appetite beget ferocity, are questions which need not enter into discussion here.

There is another class of animalia called *herbivorous*. All herbivorous animals are *ruminant*, that is, chew the cud. All ruminants are comparatively harmless and inoffensive. Of these, the ox, deer, moose, eland, giraffe, gazelle, sheep, etc., which will suggest themselves as the student of natural history familiarizes himself with their generic distinctions.

There are diversified species of animals; these are, for convenience' sake, divided into groups, and there are certain properties belonging to each family, common to all animals comprehended under that class. "And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every fowl of the air, and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof."—GEN. ii. 19.

It is worthy of remark that the names affixed to the different animals in Scripture always express some prominent feature and essential characteristic of the creature to which they are applied; and there seems to be no valid excuse, in this enlightened age of the world, for the ignorance, which is so prevalent, of the multi-

plied forms and characteristics of the animal kingdom, when every possible means of enlightenment are placed within the reach of all. There is nothing unreasonable in the supposition that Adam, because of his wonderful knowledge of the attributes and habits of animal life, which caused him to properly name every creature that passed before him, had, on this account, more confidence and faith in the beneficence of the Creator, and a corresponding sympathy and compassion for the aggregated forms of God's universal creaturehood.

We acknowledge, however, the utter impossibility of the great masses becoming adepts in zoölogy, since the Government has done so little to establish, in convenient localities throughout the country, regularly organized Zoölogical Gardens, where all may resort and personally examine the myriad varieties of color and form with which the Almighty clothes His living poems.

In the absence of these advantages to the inhabitants of the cities, as well as the country, a partial remedy is found in the liberality of private enterprise. P. T. BARNUM—the most liberal and enterprising capitalist of the age, and, in the way of public benefactions, a hundred years in advance of all his compeers—in 1865 instituted a project which, had it been carried out, would have culminated in a monumental triumph, and been of incalculable benefit to scientific zoölogy in America. After the burning of his Broadway Museum and the destruction of valuable acquisitions of years, it occurred to him that, if our government representatives abroad could use their influence to secure curiosities in the respective countries to which they were accredited, a free public Museum might at once be instituted in New York, and proposed the liberal offer of a part of his own establishment, rent free, in furtherance of the plan.

A memorial was accordingly addressed to the President of the United States, asking him to give his sanction to the contemplated project. This memorial was dated July 20th, 1865, and signed by Messrs. E. D. Morgan, Moses Taylor, Abram Wakeman, Simeon Draper, Moses H. Grinnell, Stephen Knapp, B. R. Winthrop, Chas. Gould, William C. Bryant, — Wadsworth, J. C. Quick, Willis Gaylord, — Wetmore, Henry Ward Beecher, and Horace Greeley. Mr. Barnum, encouraged by such a distinguished list of poets, philanthropists, statesmen, and divines, went to Washington with the memorial, where it was in due time presented, and received the following endorsement:—

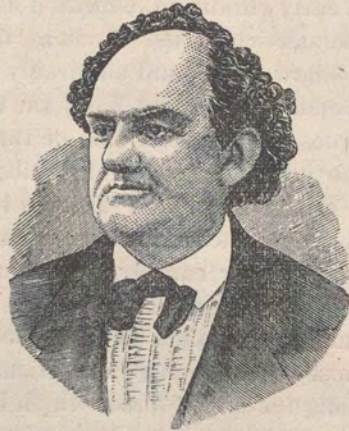
“EXECUTIVE MANSION, Washington, D. C., April 27, 1866.

“The purpose set forth in this Memorial is highly approved and commended, and our Ministers, Consuls, and Commercial Agents are requested to give whatever influence, in carrying out the object within stated, they may deem compatible with the duties of their respective positions, and not inconsistent with the public interest.

“ANDREW JOHNSON.”

In the meantime, Mr. Barnum had erected his new Museum, farther up Broadway, and had commenced in good earnest to carry out his plan, when another and still more disastrous conflagration than the first put an end to his favorite project; so that, except a small collection which has been gathered in the Central Park, through the liberal contributions of a few private gentlemen, the whole vast continent of America stands to-day with scarcely an apology for a free public exhibition of Natural History and Art. With this consideration staring him in the face, Mr. Barnum has recently instituted a great moral enterprise, by means of which he hopes to be so far recognized by a generous and appreciative public as to be able to keep in motion a Mammoth Museum and Zoölogical Garden on wheels, to transport it throughout the country, and, by constantly adding to its attractions unique curiosities and rare living wild animals from every quarter of the globe, supply a cosmopolitan *vade mecum*, the need of which has seriously been felt for many years.

In carrying out this long-contemplated plan, he has established reliable agencies and opened up communication with all the world, to secure, regardless of cost, the most remarkable curiosities, whether living or representative, that have ever been witnessed, and, by means of many colossal pavilions, afford ample opportunity for all to visit without extra charge. To this list will be added, from time to time, such rare living wonders from the realms of zoölogy as Mr. Barnum may, through unceasing energies, be able to procure. These will be shipped directly to his private Zoölogical Gardens, in Bridgeport, Conn., now in process of enlargement, and thence be forwarded to the Traveling Museum and Menagerie, to swell the aggregation or take the place of those which may die.



P. T. BARNUM.

“Every man is immortal until his work is done.” God did not intend that all men should be either priests, evangelists, or prophets. The occupations of men are as diversified as their physiognomies. The demands of the race as are imperious and multiform as the laws that govern our physical being. The elements of human character are as separate and distinct as the species in the animal kingdom. The large, soft, placid eye of the gazelle does not reveal more effectually the sweetness and amiability of its character, in contradistinction to that of the indomitable hyena, or the morose rhinoceros, than the fact which is everywhere recognized of the “eternal fitness of things” in that order of Divine Providence which imposes a diversity, not only in facial contour, but of constitutional idiosyncracies as well.

This diversity in unity, which characterizes the *genus homo*, is manifest in all the ramifications of human affairs. P. T. Barnum was born to be a showman—but not a charlatan nor a mountebank. In an eminent degree is he endowed by nature to cater to the wants and amusements of the great mass of his fellows. The organs of cheerfulness and mirth are very largely developed; but these are kept in admirable subjection to the greater developments of benevolence and veneration. These inhere from the

very nature of that austere and rigid system of moral discipline which marked his early childhood, educated as he was under the "blue code" of Connecticut laws. Look at the conformation of that massive head—how evenly and admirably balanced! Behold the kindness and beneficence of that face; the tenderness of those eyes; the cheerfulness and exuberance of that mild, expressive countenance. Who could dream of shrinking or turning away from such a look—from such a face? That is the head which has planned and carried into successful execution the most gigantic amusement enterprises ever conceived in Europe or America. Those are the quick, piercing eyes which take in at a single *coup d'œil* the ever-recurring demands of the race for diversion and amusements. Those craniological elevations, so prominently developed, are among the active forces which impel him to blend with those amusements a very large preponderance of wholesome moral instruction. A lively conception of the proper relation and utilization of things; a happy predominance of the moral and intellectual faculties; an inherent love of justice and magnanimity, united with a native conscientiousness, cultivated and refined by association with good men and great, have inspired within him an utter contempt for any exhibition which will not repay the visitor a hundredfold for the trouble and expense incurred in witnessing it. For more than forty years has he been intimately identified with the people of both worlds; and so well and favorably is he known as showman, statesman, lecturer, journalist, author, and traveler, as well as a founder of cities, and an institutor of the Great American Museum and Colosseum of Natural History and Art, that a bare mention of the name of P. T. Barnum will be quickly understood by the masses, and a synonym for all that can possibly enter into the composition of a successful managerial career. He is, in point of health and vigor, in the very midst of his years. He is capable of bringing to his aid more experience and a riper judgment than ever; and it seems eminently fitting that this last great effort should be the key-stone which is to complete that triumphal arch, the segments of which have been in process of completion for nearly half a century. He appears on the theatre of life's busy stage as modifier and purifier of many of the abuses which have crept into public amusements, and, through his persistent efforts to divest them of immoralities, will challenge the admiration of a carping world.

DESCRIPTION OF ANIMALS, &c.,

CONTAINED IN

BARNUM'S MUSEUM, MENAGERIE, AND COLOSSEUM
OF NATURAL HISTORY AND ART.

THE GIRAFFE. (*Giraffa Camelopardalis.*)

THE height of a full-sized male Giraffe is from eighteen to twenty feet—by far the tallest and most stately of all the dwellers that ever walked on the face of God's earthly heritage. It is an inhabitant of the various parts of Africa, the color of the coat being darker in the southern than that of the northern regions of that fertile abode of the most marvelous of the zoölogic race. It towers above its fellows, unique in its proportions, mild in disposition, majestic in mien, and peerless in the lustre of its large loving eyes. While it includes in its physical make-up the char-

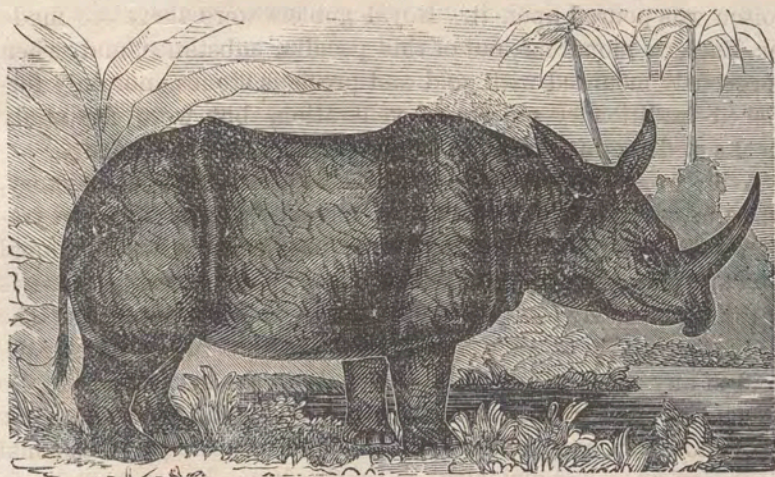
acteristics of an entire tribe, it really seems to partake of the attributes of no other species mentioned in the compendium of generic distinctions. It is an animal of enormous size, but its altitude is attributable to its extraordinary long neck and shoulders. There are in the neck of the Giraffe seven vertebræ, the same as other animals; but they are extremely elongated,

while the articulation is admirably adapted to the purpose they are called upon to fill.

On first looking at this beautiful animal, one would suppose that the fore-legs were longer than the hinder limbs. This, how-



The habits of the Lion and the Lioness afford many spirited and oftentimes sublime metaphors to the sacred writers, and give to the Hebrew poets some of the happiest allusions and inspirations found in the Old Testament scriptures. The "Lion of the tribe of Judah" is one of the sublimest sentiments in the entire apocalyptic vision. "Behold, he shall come up like a lion from the swelling of Jordan."—JER. i. 44. Isaiah, describing the happy time of the Messiah, says, "the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf, and the young lion, and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them." "The lion hath roared, and who shall not hear." "The king's wrath is as the roaring lion." Solomon says, "A living dog is better than a dead lion,"—showing that death renders those contemptible who are otherwise great, powerful, and terrible. "Then went Samson down, * * and behold, a young lion roared against him. And the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand."—JUDGES xiv. 5, 6. Parallel passages multiply upon the mind, but, fearing the danger of prolixity, we forbear.



THE RHINOCEROS. (*Rhinoceros Unicornus.*)

THE Rhinoceros is one of the most remarkable of the pachydermatous mammalia, closely allied to the elephant, tapir, and the hippopotamus. There are several varieties still extant, many of the earlier species having become extinct, which can only be recog-

nized by their fossiliferous remains. There are two or three species found in Asia, Sumatra, and Borneo, while there are several inhabiting the various portions of Africa.

There are a few characteristics common to all the varieties of this remarkable group: one is the almost uniform conformation of the body, excepting size, and the other is the horny projection from the nose, the Indian Rhinoceros having but one, while the African varieties have two. This so-called horn is of peculiar structure, and is no way connected with the skull. It seems to be developed exclusively from the skin, and belongs to the same rank as the hirsute, bristles, spirus, and quills of other animals. They grow with the development of the animal, until they become long, sharp, and inflexible, capable of doing fearful execution as a weapon of aggressive or defensive warfare. If closely examined, these *cornia* will be found hard and smoothly polished at the tip, while the base is rough and split into innumerable filaments, constituting a kind of cushion to soften the concussion caused by its frequent onsets with its enemies. In the days of Pliny (*Historia Animalia*), a notion obtained that the substance of which the horn of the Rhinoceros is composed possessed a sure antidote for poison, by causing effervescence whenever a liquid poison was poured upon it. Royal goblets were therefore made for Eastern monarchs, out of this peculiar substance, and, when gorgeously mounted with gold and precious stones, not only furnished traditionary objects of veneration, but were the ready means of detecting attempts to administer any deadly drug.

Aside from the interest inspired by the study of natural history, while investigating the diversified forms of animal life, and tracing the analogy which exists in the physical and constitutional development of the aggregated forms of the mammalia, there is nothing peculiarly inviting in the appearance or manner of the Rhinoceros. He is an ugly and disagreeable brute, utterly devoid of any sense of gratitude, and irate to the last extreme. No amount of good treatment or caressing will avail with him. Possibly, however, as is evidenced in the swine species, an occasional titillation upon the abdomen, while the brute happens to be in one of his most felicitous moods, may pacify his vehemence and cause him, for the time being, to *passer hors de lui-même*, or forego his habitual *penchant* for mischief, being constitutionally bellicose. On looking at him for the first time, the first thought that suggests itself is the striking similarity between the Rhinoceros and

an overgrown hog, or the vlacke vark. They both belong to the same generic class. One has just about as much intellectual sense as the other, and both will habitually "return to their wallowing in the mire." There is, however, an instinct of jealous gallantry even in this thick-skinned monster; for, like the elephant, buffalo, lion, and other animals, during the season of "wooing" he becomes vicious, concealing himself in the midst of the thick jungles, whence he dashes out suddenly and attacks every object that comes within his reach. In every species, whether of the unicornus or bicornus varieties, the Rhinoceros is defective in sight, from the fact of his not being able to see objects perfectly, in front of him, so deeply are his eyes set in his head. This discrepancy, however, is more than compensated in the fact of his superior acumen in scent and hearing, warning him of the approach of danger.

The skin of the Rhinoceros is very thick, capable of resisting the force of an ordinary bullet. In the Asiatic species, the heavy flabby folds in which the skin is gathered hang massively over the shoulders, throat, flanks, and haunches, which give the animal a very rough, uncouth appearance. The skin upon the abdomen is comparatively soft, which, like the heel of Achilles, seems to be the only vulnerable point of attack. The horn of the Indian Rhinoceros is not so long nor well-developed; yet, even with this short weapon, he is capable of doing fearful execution in ripping up the earth and defending himself against the onsets of the largest elephants, against many of which he is represented, by experienced hunters, to be more than a match. The average height of the Rhinoceros is about four feet, although they have been known to attain to six feet. Its color is dark purplish brown, approximating, in some of the Borele varieties, to a deep black.

There is a white species of the Rhinoceros; but, like the white elephants, they are objects of religious veneration on the part of the inhabitants. It is considered an ill-omen when one of them is permitted to be carried into captivity. Mr. Barnum, conscious of this fact, tried for many years, when he owned the old Broadway Museum, to obtain these varieties, but could never succeed, notwithstanding the fabulous prices (in gold) offered to overcome the scruples of those superstitious natives. King Ava, who glories in the title of "Lord of the White Elephants," generally monopolizes every white elephant and rhinoceros in his domain, as he em-

ploy them, especially the former, in state processions and parades, decorating them with rich ornaments of gold and priceless jewels, quartering them in the most magnificent houses of state—their eating-troughs being made of solid silver, decked with gold. This will account for the fact that none of these white varieties, either of the elephant or rhinoceros, have ever been imported into this country. Mr. Barnum, in December last, offered \$25,000 each for a white elephant and rhinoceros, safely landed on the dock in New York City; and he hopes, therefore, through the influence of his personal friend, Lord Bright, whose son is *en bon rapport* with the royal court of the “Lord of the White Elephants,” to be able to gratify the curiosity of his American friends, although at a fabulous price, by affording them an opportunity of seeing the first white elephant and rhinoceros ever witnessed in America.

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