

ficiently great elevation, the argument founded on the unhealthiness of the country would not of course be applicable to them. But no proof has been adduced before the Committee, of their existence; no veins have yet been traced in these mountain masses, and Lieutenant Nicolson rests his assertion on the vague report of a native, communicated to him in a letter.

“The Committee on mature consideration of all points and guided more particularly by the conviction on their minds of the usual unprofitableness of speculations in gold mines, derived from a careful perusal of various works on the subject, do not feel justified in recommending the adoption of Lieutenant Nicolson’s suggestion.”

On receipt of this report the Government, under date 25th October, 1833, ordered the search for gold to be abandoned—a resolution which was approved by the Court of Directors with the following pithy, addition, “that if the Government had directed these inquiries to be made before they authorized the commencement of any operations, a considerable expense would have been saved to them.”

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VII. *Notice of an Expedition into the interior of Southern Africa, by MR. OSWELL and CAPTAIN VARDON, with a sketch of the course of the Limpopo, and a Figure of a supposed new species of Rhinoceros.*

We have much pleasure in presenting our readers with the accompanying sketch-map, for which we are indebted to Mr. Oswell of the Civil Service, showing the extreme points to which he penetrated in the course of two expeditions into the interior of South Africa made in search of game in 1845 and 1846. On the first occasion accompanied by Mr. Murray, he reached the *Bakaa* mountains and returned by the valley of the *Limpopo*. This line nearly coincides with the track of Mr. D. Hume in 1830. In his next journey he was joined by Captain Vardon, and they together explored the course of the *Limpopo* to a greater extent than had been done by any previous travellers. Mr. Oswell was at first led to suppose that the stream pursued a more northerly course, [indicated by the red line in the map,] and he had placed their turning point in the *Lingwapa* mountains somewhere between the 20th and 21st° S. Lat. But subsequent consideration and the result of a communication from Mr. Living-



stone, the enterprising Scotch Missionary in *Caffraria*, induced him to exhibit the direction of the river as it now stands. "This sketch" observes Mr. Oswell "is not supposed to be strictly accurate. We "laid down the course of the river *Limpopo* as correctly as we could "from the tops of hills, &c., with a compass, but having no other "instrument we are aware that many errors may have crept in and "only hope that others, more carefully provided, may some day or "other give the world a better. The present will at all events "serve to show the wanderer in these parts, where water may be "obtained at a distance from the river and information such as this "even, is not to be despised in Africa."

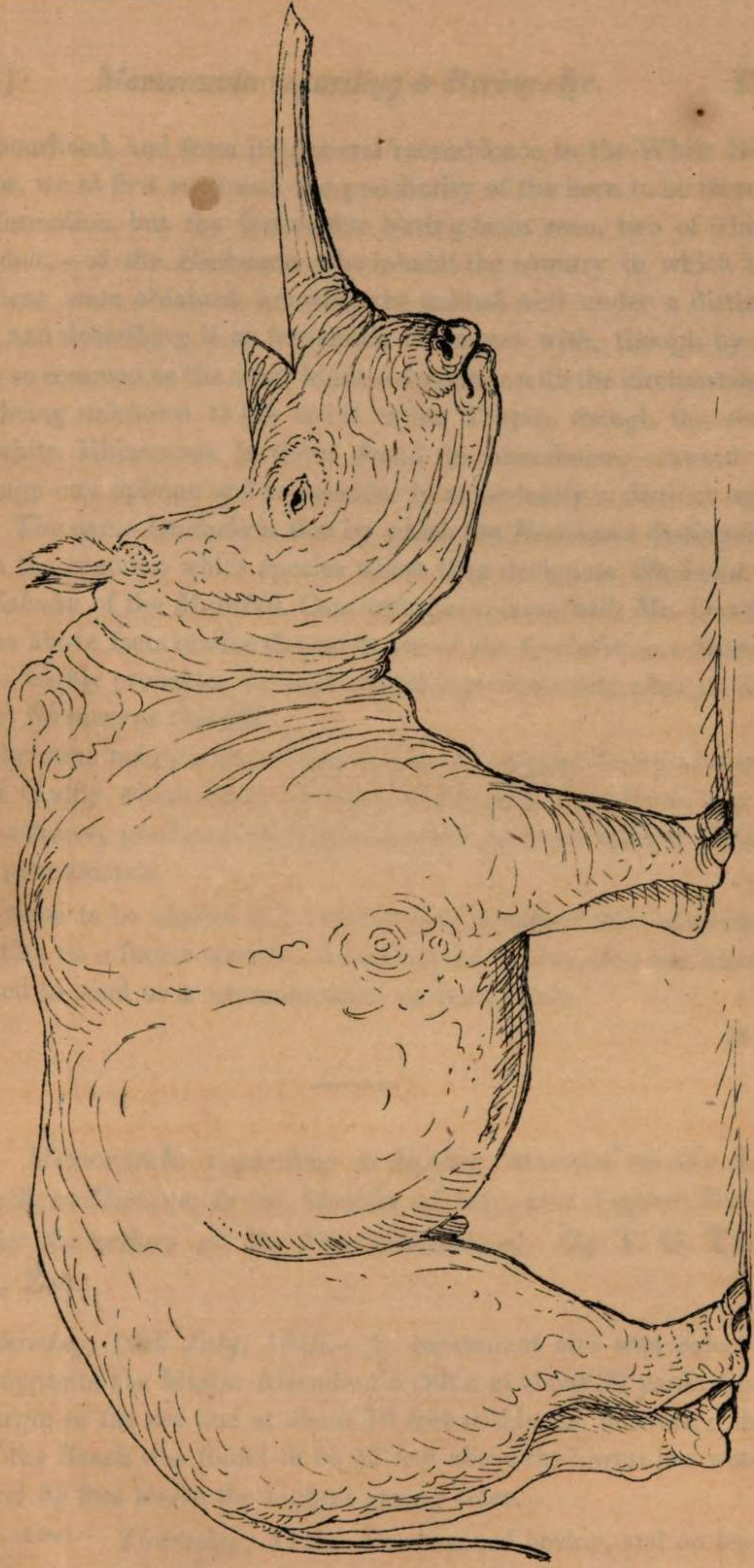
The *Bekaa* and *Bamungwatom* tribes, whom Mr. Oswell visited in his first excursion, mentioned three other people as living to the north of them, viz. the *Makalakka*, *Mancupani* and *Mashuna*. They were also familiar with the existence of the great Lake and had frequently visited it. They described it as lying in a W. N. W. direction from their location, at a distance of 12 or 14 days journey for a man on foot, (which would be about 300 miles,) or a month with a waggon.

Mr. Oswell adds with reference to the sketch-map, "The lines dotted and plain mark the track of the waggons, but the country was well quartered on horseback for 40 or 50 miles on either side. The *Limpopo* is supposed to reach the sea at or somewhere a little to the North of *Delagoa Bay*."

It was on the banks of the *Makólwé*, an important tributary of the *Limpopo*, that the travellers first met with the singular animal of which we have given the accompanying figure, the fidelity of which is attested by Mr. Oswell. He describes it as resembling generally the white Rhinoceros (*Rh. Simus*) "except in the formation of the horn, which is longer, much straighter and curved, though but slightly, in exactly the contrary direction: the two specimens of the horn which we brought from the interior, are abraded at the points, on the lower sides, probably from coming in contact with the ground whilst the animal is feeding. When running at speed also or when alarmed, it carries the head very low, as do likewise the other species, and the horn then standing nearly straight out from the nose with a trifling curve downwards, may occasionally strike or rub against the inequalities of the ground."

"From the circumstance of the *Quebaba* being found in the same





Dumphy, Lith.

Rhinoceros Oswelli.



The first of these is the *Trilobites*, which are found in the lower part of the Cambrian system. They are the most abundant and characteristic fossils of this period. The second is the *Crinoids*, which are found in the middle and upper parts of the Cambrian system. They are the most characteristic fossils of this period. The third is the *Graptolites*, which are found in the upper part of the Cambrian system. They are the most characteristic fossils of this period.

The *Trilobites* are the most abundant and characteristic fossils of the Cambrian system. They are found in the lower part of the Cambrian system. The *Crinoids* are the most characteristic fossils of the middle and upper parts of the Cambrian system. They are found in the middle and upper parts of the Cambrian system. The *Graptolites* are the most characteristic fossils of the upper part of the Cambrian system. They are found in the upper part of the Cambrian system.

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neighbourhood, and from its general resemblance to the White Rhinoceros, we at first supposed the peculiarity of the horn to be merely a malformation, but the fact of five having been seen, two of which were shot,—of the *Bechuana* who inhabit the country in which the specimens were obtained, knowing the animal well under a distinct name, and describing it as frequently to be met with, though by no means so common as the other kinds,—together with the circumstance of its being unknown to the south of the Tropic, though the common white Rhinoceros is there found in abundance,—caused us to change our opinion and to consider it as certainly a distinct species.” The name *Quebaba* is that by which the *Bechuana* distinguish it from the common white species which they designate *Chakuru*,—the *Mahuhu* of the *Matabili*. Concurring in opinion with Mr. Oswell, that the above facts render the existence of the *Quebaba* as a distinct species, highly probable, we have named it provisionally after its discoverer *Rhinoceros Oswelli*.

In the same neighbourhood they fell in with a most destructive species of Gadfly, which stung the cattle and horses to madness, and in many instances produced such painful sores, as to occasion the death of the poor animals.

We hope to be able to add some farther details of this interesting expedition on a future occasion from Captain Vardon, who has kindly promised to send us a communication on the subject.

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VIII. *Memoranda regarding a Boring executed on the Sea Beach, at Madras, in the Months of July, and August, 1845, under the orders of the Pier Committee. By T. G. TAYLOR, Esq.*

*Wednesday, 16th July, 1845.*—A convenient site was selected nearly opposite the Master Attendant's Office at about 30 yards from the margin of the sea and at about 10 feet within the bulwark; this part of the Beach was found to be 13 feet above the lowest low water level and  $8\frac{1}{2}$  feet above the highest spring tides.

First day, 10 feet. *Thursday, 17th.*—Commenced boring, and on leaving off in the evening found the depth attained to be 10 feet, the soil was dry and extremely uniform in its composition, being ordinary