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THE
NATURAL HISTORY
OF
QUADRUPEDS,
AND
CETACEOUS ANIMALS,
FROM THE WORKS
OF THE
BEST AUTHORS, ANTIEN T AND MODERN,
EM BELLISHED WITH
NUMEROUS PLATES,
ACCURATELY COLOURED FROM NATURE.

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**IN TWO VOLUMES.**  
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VOL. I.



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RHINOCEROS

Several other varieties of armadillos are obscurely described, but as this animal lives chiefly in retired situations, it is very probable that other species of it may exist.

RHINOCEROS TRIBE.

WE now come to a race of animals of huge size and bulk, inhabitants only of the tropical climates. They are dull and sluggish in their manners, but in their disposition sufficiently peaceable, except when attacked or provoked. They have on the nose a solid, conical horn, not fixed in the bone ; this is never shed, but remains, unless broken off by accident, during life. Their skin is tuberculated and hard, but on the under parts of the body sufficiently tender to be cut through with a knife. The general internal structure of the animals of this tribe corresponds with what is observed in the horse.

SINGLE-HORNED RHINOCEROS.

THE single horned rhinoceros is not exceeded in size by any land animal except the elephant, and in strength and power it gives place to none. Its height is eight feet, and its length is usually about twelve feet, and this is also nearly the girth of its body.

Its nose is armed with a formidable weapon, a hard and very solid horn, sometimes above three feet in length, and eighteen inches in circumference at the base, with which it is able to defend itself

against the attacks of every ferocious animal. The tiger will rather attack the elephant than the rhinoceros, which it cannot face without danger of having its bowels torn out. "With this horn," says Martial, "it will lift up a bull like a football."

The upper lip is disproportionately large; hanging over the lower, and terminating in a point. It is furnished with muscles, which enable the animal to move it with great dexterity in collecting his food, and introducing it into the mouth. The nostrils are in a transverse direction. The ears are rather large, erect, and pointed. The skin is naked, rough, and extremely thick. About the neck it is gathered into enormous folds; a fold extends between the shoulders and the fore legs; and another from the hinder part of the back to the thighs. The tail is slender, flat at the end, and covered on the sides with very stiff, black hairs. In consequence of the vast bulk of the body, and the disproportionate shortness of the legs, the belly hangs low. The breadth of the feet does not much exceed the circumference of the legs.

The body and limbs of the rhinoceros are defended by a skin so hard as to be impenetrable, except in the belly, by either a knife or spear. It is said, that even to shoot a full-grown rhinoceros of an advanced age, it is necessary to make use of iron bullets, those of lead having been known to flatten against the skin.

Dr. Parsons, in the year 1743, published a history of the rhinoceros, containing a very minute description of one that was brought from Bengal into Europe. He was only two years old, and the expence of his food and journey amounted to near one thousand pounds sterling. He had every day, at three meals, seven pounds of rice, mixed with

three pounds of sugar, besides hay and green plants; he also drank large quantities of water. In his disposition he was very peaceable, readily suffering all parts of his body to be touched. When he was hungry, or was struck by any person, he became mischievous, and nothing would appease him but food. He was not at this time taller than a young cow.

A rhinoceros brought from Atcham, in the dominions of the King of Ava, was exhibited in 1748, at Paris. It was very tame, gentle, and even caressing; was fed principally on hay and corn, and was much delighted with sharp or prickly plants, and the thorny branches of trees. The attendants frequently gave him branches that had very sharp and strong thorns on them; but he bent and broke them in his mouth without seeming in the least incommoded. It is true they sometimes drew blood from the mouth and tongue, "but that," says father Le Comte, who gives us the description, "might even render them more palatable, and those little wounds might serve only to cause a sensation similar to that excited by salt, pepper, or mustard, on ours."

As an equivalent for a very dull sight, Dr. Parsons remarks, that this animal has an acute and most attentive ear. It will listen with a deep and long continued attention to any kind of noise; and although it be eating, lying down, or obeying any pressing demands of nature, it will raise its head, and listen till the noise ceases.

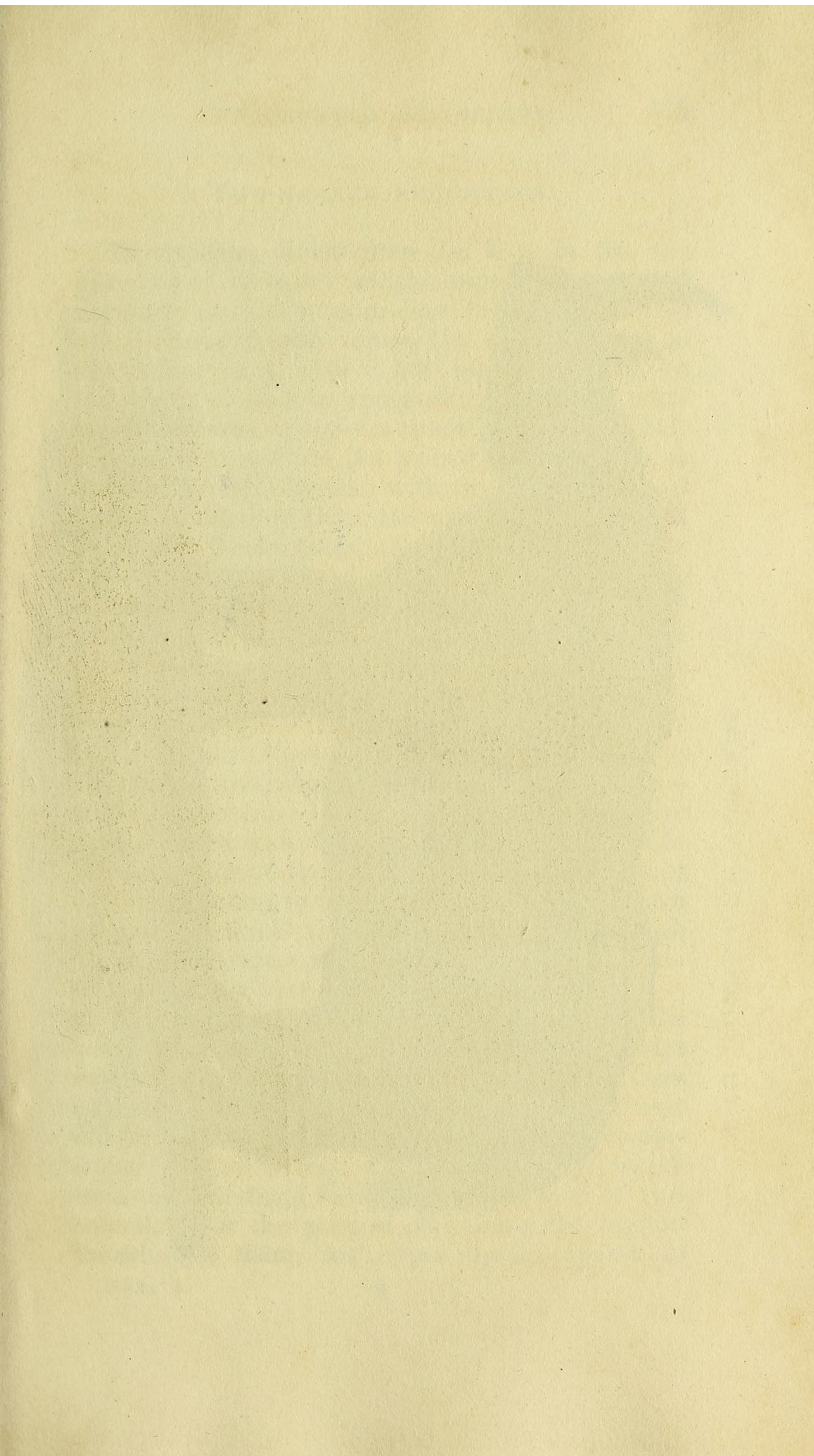
The rhinoceros is said to run with great swiftness, and from his strength and impenetrable covering, is capable of rushing with resistless violence through woods and obstacles of every kind; the smaller trees bending like twigs as he passes them. In his general habits and manner of feeding he resembles the elephant; residing in

cool sequestered spots, near waters, and in shady woods. Like the hog, he delights in occasionally wallowing in the mire.

The Asiatics sometimes tame and bring these animals into the field of battle, to strike terror into their enemies. They are, however, in general so unmanageable, that they do more harm than good ; and in their fury it is not uncommon for them to turn on their masters.

The flesh is eaten by the inhabitants of the country. The skin, flesh, hoofs, teeth, and even the dung, are also used medicinally. The horn, when cut through the middle, is said to exhibit on each side, the rude figure of a man ; the outlines being marked by small white strokes. Many of the Indian princes drink out of cups made of this horn ; imagining, that when these hold any poisonous draught, the liquor will ferment till it runs quite over the top. Goblets made of the horns of the young, are esteemed the most valuable. Professor Thunberg, when at the Cape, tried these horns, both wrought into goblets and unwrought, both old and young horns, with several sorts of poison, weak as well as strong, but did not observe the least motion, or effervescence ; when, however, a solution of corrosive sublimate was poured into one of them, there arose indeed a few bubbles, which were produced by the air that had been inclosed in the pores of the horn, and was now disengaged from it. Martial informs us, that the Roman ladies of fashion used these horns in the baths to hold their essence bottles and oils. The Javanese make shields of the skin.

The single horned rhinoceros is a native of several parts of India, as well as of the islands of Ceylon, Java, and Sumatra. It is also found in Ethiopia. The female produces only one young one at a birth.



TWO HORNED RHINOCEROS.

PLATE



TWO-HORNED RHINOCEROS.

THIS species differs from the last, in the appearance of its skin ; which, instead of vast and regularly marked armour-like folds, has merely a very slight wrinkle across the shoulders and on the hinder parts, with a few fainter wrinkles on the sides ; so that, in comparison with the common rhinoceros, it appears almost smooth. What, however, constitutes the principal distinction, is the nose being furnished with two horns, one of which is smaller than the other, and situated above it. These horns are said to be loose when the animal is in a quiet state, but to become firm and immoveable when he is enraged.

In its habits and manner of feeding, this differs but little from the single-horned rhinoceros. Le Vaillant says, that when these animals are at rest, they always place themselves in the direction of the wind, with their noses towards it, in order to discover by their smell the approach of any enemies. From time to time, however, they move their heads round to look behind them, and to be assured that they are safe on all sides ; but they soon return to their former position. When they are irritated they tear up the ground with their horn ; throwing the earth and stones furiously, and to a vast distance, over their heads.

Mr. Bruce's description of the manners of the two-horned rhinoceros, is deserving of particular notice. He informs us that, " besides the trees capable of most resistance, there are, in the vast forests within the rains, trees of a softer consistence, and of a very succulent quality, which seem to be destined for the principal food of this animal. For the purpose of gaining the highest branches of these, his upper lip is capable of

being lengthened out so as to increase his power of laying hold with it, in the same manner as the elephant does with his trunk. With this lip, and the assistance of his tongue, he pulls down the upper branches, which have most leaves, and these he devours first. Having stripped the tree of its branches, he does not immediately abandon it; but placing his snout as low in the trunk as he finds his horns will enter, he rips up the body of the tree, and reduces it to thin pieces like so many laths; and when he has thus prepared it, he embraces as much of it as he can in his monstrous jaws, and twists it round with as much ease as an ox would do a root of celery, or any small plant.

“ When pursued, and in fear, he possesses an astonishing degree of swiftness, considering his size, the apparent unwieldiness of his body, his great weight before, and the shortness of his legs. He has a kind of trot, which, after a few minutes, increases in a great proportion, and takes in a great distance; but this is to be understood with a degree of moderation. It is not true that in a plain he beats the horse in swiftness. I have passed him with ease, and seen many worse mounted do the same; and though it is certainly true that a horse can very seldom come up with him, this is owing to his cunning, and not to his swiftness. He makes constantly from wood to wood, and forces himself into the thickest parts of them. The trees that are dead or dry, are broken down as with a cannon shot, and fall behind him and on his sides in all directions. Others that are more pliable, greener, or fuller of sap, are bent back by his weight, and the velocity of his motions. And after he has passed, restoring themselves like a green branch to their natural position, they often sweep the incautious pursuer and

his horse from the ground, and dash them in pieces against the surrounding trees.

“ The eyes of the rhinoceros are very small; he seldom turns his head, and therefore sees nothing but what is before him. To this he owes his death, and never escapes if there is so much plain as to enable the horse to get before him. His pride and fury then make him lay aside all thoughts of escaping, but by victory over his enemy. He stands for a moment at bay: then, at a start, runs straight forward at the horse, like the wild boar, which, in his manner of action, he very much resembles. The horse easily avoids him by turning short to one side; and this is the fatal instant: the naked man, with the sword, drops from behind the principal horseman, and, unseen by the rhinoceros, who is seeking his enemy, the horse, he gives him a stroke across the tendon of the heel, which renders him incapable of further flight or resistance.

“ In speaking of the great quantity of food necessary to support this enormous mass, we must likewise consider the vast quantity of water which he needs. No country but that of Shangalla, which he possesses, deluged with six months rain, and full of large and deep basins, made in the living rock, and shaded by dark woods from evaporation, or watered by large and deep rivers, which never fall low or to a state of dryness, can supply the vast draughts of this monstrous creature; but it is not for drinking alone that he frequents wet and marshy places; large, fierce, and strong as he is, he must submit to prepare himself against the weakest of his adversaries. The great consumption he constantly makes of food and water, necessarily confines him to certain limited spaces; for it is not every place that can maintain him; he cannot emigrate or seek his defence among the sands of

Atbara," His adversary is a fly (probably of the Linnæan genus *æstrus*) which is bred in the black earth of the marshes. It persecutes him so unremittingly, that it would in a short time subdue him, but for a stratagem which he practises for his preservation. In the night when the fly is at rest, the rhinoceros chuses a convenient place, and there rolling in the mud, clothes himself with a kind of case, which defends him against his adversary the following day. The wrinkles and plaits of his skin serve to keep this muddy plaister firm upon him, all but about his hips, shoulders, and legs, where it cracks and falls off by motion, and leaves him exposed in those parts to the attacks of the fly. The itching and pain which follow, occasion him to rub himself in those parts against the roughest trees ; and this is one cause of the numerous pustules or tubercles that we see upon him.

He enjoys so much the rubbing himself, that he groans and grunts so loud during this action, as to be heard at a considerable distance. The pleasure he receives from this employment, and the darkness of the night deprive him of his usual vigilance and attention. The hunters guided by his noise, steal secretly upon him ; and while lying on the ground, wound him with their javelins, mostly in the belly, where the wound is mortal.

It is by no means true that the skin of this rhinoceros, as it has been often represented, is hard or impenetrable like a board. In his wild state he is slain by javelins thrown from the hand, some of which enter his body to a great depth. A musket shot will go through him, unless interrupted by a bone ; and the Shangalla, an Abyssinian tribe, kill him by the clumsiest arrows that ever were used by any people practising that weapon, and cut him in pieces afterwards with the very worst of knives.

In order to afford some idea of the enormous strength of the rhinoceros, even after being severely wounded, I shall quote Mr. Bruce's account of the hunting of this animal in Abyssinia: "We were on horseback (says this gentleman) by the dawn of day, in search of the rhinoceros, many of which we had heard making a very deep groan and cry as the morning approached; several of the Agageers (hunters) then joined us: and after we had searched about an hour in the very thickest part of the wood, one of them rushed out with great violence, crossing the plain towards a wood of canes that was about two miles distant. But though he ran, or rather trotted with surprising speed, considering his bulk, he was, in a very little time, transfixed with thirty or forty javelins; which so confounded him, that he left his purpose of going to the wood, and ran into a deep hole, ditch, or ravine, a *cul de sac*, without outlet, breaking above a dozen of the javelins as he entered. Here we thought he was caught as in a trap, for he had scarcely room to turn; when a servant, who had a gun, standing directly over him, fired at his head, and the animal fell immediately, to all appearance dead. All those on foot now jumped in with their knives to cut him up; but they had scarcely begun, when the animal recovered so far as to rise upon his knees; happy then was the man that escaped first; and had not one of the Agageers, who was himself engaged in the ravine, cut the sinew of the hind leg as he was retreating, there would have been a very sorrowful account of the foot-hunters that day.

"After having dispatched him, I was curious to see what wound the shot had given, which had operated so violently upon so huge an animal; and I doubted not it was in the brain. But it had struck no where but upon the point of the foremost

horn, of which it had carried off above an inch ; and this occasioned a concussion that had stunned him for a minute, till the bleeding had recovered him."

The rhinoceros, though next in size, yet in docility and ingenuity greatly inferior to the elephant, has never yet been tamed so as to assist the labours of mankind, or to appear in the ranks of war. The Romans introduced him on the amphitheatre, and opposed him to the elephant ; it is even asserted that he appeared no unequal match. The bear was a contemptible antagonist to the rhinoceros.

The flesh of this animal, though by no means a delicate dish, is with the Shangalla and a great part of the inhabitants of Lower Abyssinia, a principal article of food. The soles of his feet, consisting of a gristly substance, soft like the soles of a camel, are the most delicate part. The rest of the flesh is said to taste like pork ; but is much coarser, and smells of musk. The negro hunters of Abyssinia eat it without salt. The hairs about the tail are so thick and strong, that with ten of them a whip may be made, which will draw blood at every stroke. The skin cut into thongs forms excellent whips.

SUMATRAN RHINOCEROS.

IN the Philosophical Transactions for the year 1793, we also meet with a good figure of a two-horned rhinoceros, with an accurate description by Mr. Bell, surgeon, who had resided some time in Sumatra. The specimen, however, which he describes was but young, and probably far short of its full size.

"The shape of the animal was much like that of the hog. The general colour was a brownish ash ;

under the belly, between the legs and folds of the skin, a dirty flesh colour.

“ The head resembled that of the single-horned rhinoceros. The eyes were small, of a brown colour; the membrana nictitans thick and strong. The skin surrounding the eyes was wrinkled. The nostrils were wide. The upper lip was pointed, and hanging over the under.

“ There were six molares, or grinders, on each side of the upper and lower jaws, becoming gradually larger backward, particularly in the upper. Two teeth in the front of each jaw. The tongue was quite smooth. The ears were small and pointed; lined and edged with short black hair, and situated like those of the single-horned rhinoceros. The horns were black; the larger was placed above the nose, pointing upwards, and was bent a little back; it was about nine inches long. The small horn was four inches long, of a pyramidal shape, flattened a little, and placed above the eyes, rather a little more forward, standing in a line with the larger horn, immediately above it. They were both firmly attached to the skull, nor was there any appearance of joints or muscles to move them. The neck was thick and short; the skin on the under side thrown into folds and these folds again wrinkled. The body was bulky and round, and from the shoulder ran a line or fold, as in the single-horned rhinoceros, though it was but faintly marked. There were several other folds and wrinkles on the body and legs; and the whole gave rather the appearance of softness. The legs were thick, short, and remarkably strong; the feet are armed with three distinct hoofs of a blackish colour, which surrounded half the foot, one in front, the others on each side. The soles of the feet were convex, and of a light colour, and the cuticle on them

not thicker than on the foot of a man who is used to walking. The whole skin of the animal is rough, and covered very thinly with short black hair. The skin was not more than one third of an inch in thickness at the strongest part ; under the belly it was hardly a quarter of an inch ; any part of it might be cut through with ease by a common dissecting knife.

“ The animal had not that appearance of armour which is observed in the single-horned rhinoceros.

“ Since I dissected the male, I have had an opportunity of examining a female, which was more of a lead colour ; it was younger than the male, and had not so many folds or wrinkles in its skin : of course it had still less appearance of armour.”

The height of the first of these specimens, or the male, was, according to Mr. Bell, four feet four inches at the shoulders ; nearly the same at the rump ; and eight feet five inches from the tip of the nose to the end of the tail.

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ELEPHANT TRIBE.

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THESE animals have no front teeth in either jaw ; and from the upper jaw proceed two long and stout tusks, which, in a state of nature, are used in tearing up trees for food, and as weapons of defence against their enemies. They have a long, cartilaginous, prehensile trunk, which is capable of laying hold even of the most minute substances. Their body is very thinly scattered over with hairs.

“ Of all quadrupeds,” says M. de Buffon, “ the