

A
HUNTER'S WANDERINGS
IN AFRICA

BEING

A NARRATIVE OF NINE YEARS SPENT AMONGST THE GAME
OF THE FAR INTERIOR OF SOUTH AFRICA

CONTAINING ACCOUNTS OF EXPLORATIONS BEYOND THE ZAMBESI,
ON THE RIVER CHOBE, AND IN THE MATABELE AND MASHUNA COUNTRIES,
WITH FULL NOTES UPON THE NATURAL HISTORY AND PRESENT
DISTRIBUTION OF ALL THE LARGE MAMMALIA

BY FREDERICK COURTENAY SELOUS



With 19 Full-Page Illustrations by J. Smit, E. Whympere, and Miss A. B. Selous.

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CHAPTER XXIV.

Ancient track of Hippopotami—Starving Hippos to death—Elephant-hunt
—Mountainous Country—Buffaloes—Rhinoceros—Paddling a dead Hippo
—Nasty Accident—Lionesses.

EARLY the next morning we packed up our traps, divided the sea-cow meat, now pretty well dry, amongst our Kafirs, and bidding good-bye to Lo Magondi, whom we voted to be a very decent old fellow if it were not for his begging propensities, made a start for the Banyai village on the Umniati, where I had already been, and from whence we had determined to make a trip to its junction with the Umfule. We crossed again at the Beaconsfield Cataracts, and early the following day reached the Umniati, crossing a good deal of buffalo spoor on the way; then, leaving some of the boys to make a camp, we took the rest and went out to look for fresh meat. Jameson went up the river and knocked over two fine old waterbuck rams with a right and left shot from his 500 Express. I also shot one at a little distance from the river.

The following day we were up betimes, and leaving Bokkie and three boys to look after the bulk of our traps, started with the rest for the junction of the rivers, taking our blankets, some ammunition, and provisions for a week. We first went to the kraal—about a mile down the river—where, by the offer of ten loaded cartridges, we got a man to go with us as guide, it being at the same time understood that we were, if possible, to shoot him a buffalo or sea-cow,

in which expectation he took with him three young fellows to help carry the meat. At this kraal the people had a large canoe with which they cross the river when it is flooded in the rainy season. After half-an-hour's delay, we again made a start, and for about three hours kept along a well-beaten Kafir footpath, running in a north-easterly direction parallel with and not far from the Umniati. We then left the path, which our guide told us led to another kraal on the banks of the river, and about eleven o'clock reached a large hole of water in the bed of a dry stream. At this place it was evident from the spoor that several black rhinoceroses were in the habit of drinking nightly. Here we made a cup of tea and fried some meat, and then pushed on again; the country had not been very level all the morning, but we now got into a mass of hills of a very rough, broken character; we saw no small game, but a good many black rhinoceros spoor. Whenever we topped a higher hill than usual, the prospect that met our eyes was always the same—an unbroken succession of wooded hills, that stretched as far as the eye could reach towards the north, north-west, and north-east.

Upon reaching another deep gully with a pool of water in its bed about three in the afternoon, our guide told us that we must sleep here, as the next water was a long way ahead. Here, as at the last pool, there was a good deal of rhinoceros spoor, so, leaving all the Kafirs but our gun-carriers to make a camp, Jameson and I went for a ramble, taking different directions in order to cover more ground; neither of us, however, saw anything. A four hours' walk through a hilly country brought us the following morning to the banks of the Umfule. At the point where we struck the river we found a large pool enclosed on all sides by a thick hedge, and on the beach the remains of a lot of huts and poles for drying meat showed where a large number of people had made temporary homes. Here, our guide informed us, his people had last year starved to death and slaughtered a herd of seven hippopotami; as a few days later we had an opportunity of observing this process of starving a herd of these

animals to death in a large pool in the Umniati, about which I shall in due course give some account, I will here say nothing more concerning this cruel and exterminating practice. Close to this place I wounded a waterbuck, and whilst following its spoor, came upon another herd, one of which Jameson shot; he had hardly put a fresh cartridge into his rifle, when two wild pigs (wart-hogs) rushed past him, one of which he bowled over in fine style, as it dashed at full speed down the hill. About here the river runs through a succession of rocky gorges, dashing over huge boulders of granite (?) rock. Through these ravines hippopotami must have wandered for countless ages, for in one place where a ledge of rock ran along the bank of the river, they had worn a path for about twenty yards across it, at least four inches deep into the hard stone. This path worn into the solid rock was the very facsimile of those recently made in soft ground, having the slight ridge all along the centre which I have before described.

Now, from the nature of the river, and the sparseness of vegetation along its banks, I do not think that hippopotami could ever have been much more plentiful about here than they are at the present day; so that as they do not every night make use of the same path, the time required by them to wear a track four inches deep with their soft feet in this excessively hard rock, seems almost beyond calculation.

Late in the afternoon of this same day, as we were approaching a small stream, an old buffalo bull jumped out of the long grass in front of us, and rushing down the bank climbed out on the farther side; upon reaching the top he turned to take a look at us, standing broadside on. I only had my little Express in my hands, and Jameson was some distance behind, so I aimed for his lungs, high up behind the shoulder, as I was afraid that the hollow bullet would not penetrate the thick flesh and shoulder-blade that would have to be pierced before a bullet could reach his heart. On receiving the shot he galloped away at full speed, and we heard him clattering over the stony ridge beyond; we were, however, soon on his spoor, which, from the quantity of blood

he evidently threw out from his mouth and nostrils, was easy enough to follow; we had not very far to go, as we came upon him lying dead, about 300 yards from where I had fired at him. Upon cutting him up we found that the little bullet had gone through the centre of both lungs. That night we slept alongside of the carcass, after being informed by our guide that we should reach the junction of the rivers early on the following day.

August 11th.—Up at daylight, and after a two hours' scramble over the great masses of rock through which the Umfulu here runs, at last reached its junction with the Umniati. Although there are large deep pools of water, the home of the hippopotamus, more than a hundred miles nearer the sources of the former river, it only pours a narrow stream of water three or four yards wide and knee-deep into the Umniati at this season of the year. The Umniati itself is narrow and rocky just at this point, but a little below the junction it opens out into a sandy bed, fully 400 yards broad, through which two or three narrow channels of water find their way.

Just below where the waters of the two rivers met, there was a fine deep-blue pool, in which a herd of about ten hippopotami were disporting themselves. They evidently did not know anything of firearms, and appeared to be as unconcerned at our presence, and as unsuspecting of danger, as the hippopotami are, when inspected by visitors at the Zoological Gardens. For some time we sat on the rocks at the edge of the pool, and the uncouth-looking beasts kept coming to the surface not more than thirty yards from us, staring at us in a stolid, lazy sort of way, and then again sinking to the bottom. Our guide now clamoured loudly for us to shoot one for him, and as our boys and we ourselves also wanted some more fat meat, Jameson killed a fat cow. As the pool was very narrow, we might easily have shot them all, but, with the exception of this one, we did not molest them in any way.

During the heat of the day we occupied ourselves in superintending the cutting up of the meat, and in jotting down the directions of the two rivers by compass.

The Umniati here runs to the north-east, and the Umfule enters it almost at right angles. About four miles below the junction, however, the united Umniati runs right against a chain of hills, and then taking a sudden turn, flows along their base towards the north-west, which is the general course it must hold until it finally empties itself into the Zambesi, just at the entrance of the Kariba Gorge.

The following day we remained where we were in order to partially dry the meat, and on the 13th started on our return journey, following the course of the Umniati all the way. Of this journey there is but one circumstance to record, and that is our coming upon a party of Kafirs engaged in starving a herd of hippopotami to death. The pool in which the poor brutes were enclosed was a large one, over two hundred yards broad and about four hundred in length. On the farther side, where the bank was low, a thick hedge had been made all along the water's edge, behind which several temporary huts had been erected; above and below the pool, where the river ran in several streams amongst little bushy islands and rocks, strong dams had also been made and more huts erected. On our side of the river the bank was about twelve feet high and very steep, so that egress from the fatal pool was impossible for the poor prisoners, unless indeed they could muster up courage to make a rush and burst their way through one of the barriers, and this, even when in the last extremity of hunger, they do not appear ever to attempt. When we came to the pool there were still ten living hippopotami in it; eight of these seemed to be standing on a bank in the middle of the water, as more than half their bodies were exposed; the poor brutes were all huddled up in a mass, each with his upraised head resting on another's body. It was a very pitiful sight; two more were swimming about, each with a very heavily-shafted assegai sticking in his back; these assegais are plunged into them at night when the starving beasts come near the fences seeking for a means of exit from their horrible prison. Besides these ten living hippopotami, two dead ones were being cut up in a corner of the pool, and many more

must have already succumbed to hunger and assegai wounds, for all round the pool festoons of meat were hanging upon poles to dry, and besides this, there were at least a hundred natives, men, women, and children, encamped round about, all of whom were living upon nothing but hippopotamus meat.

As far as I could make out, these poor animals had been enclosed for about three weeks, and it was self-evident that the survivors were all but played out, for it must be remembered that as the Umniati here runs over either sand or stone, there is no vegetation whatever in the bed of the river, and therefore, as the natives remarked, the poor brutes had nothing but water with which to sustain life. Judging by the amount of meat we saw drying, I calculated that when the remaining ten hippopotami had died or been killed, not less than twenty of these animals would have been destroyed at one fell swoop. Although this mode of circumventing and killing game must be most revolting to all men with any humane or sportsmanlike feeling about them, yet, after all, the natives can scarcely be blamed for employing the only means in their power for obtaining a supply of animal food; for they have no firearms, and trust entirely to pitfalls, and traps of the above description, for killing large game; at any rate, when they do kill anything, nothing is wasted, and it is not too much to say that out of these twenty hippopotami not a pound of meat, and but very little of the hides, was allowed to rot. I do not think that these natives often succeed in enclosing such a large herd, and I fancy that usually the greater part of the animals manage to get out at nights before the dams are completed; otherwise hippopotami could not be so numerous as they are, both on this river and the Umfule.

The following day, the 16th, we again reached our camp, and found Bokkie and the three Kafirs we had left there in a great state of excitement, and busy packing up the things, with the intention, in case we did not return, of sleeping at the native village down the river, because the night before a lion had paid them a visit and frightened them considerably. It appeared that in the middle of the night one of

the Kafirs had awakened, and sitting up, saw a large male lion standing in the moonlight not ten yards in front of him; he gave a yell of fear, and sprang to his feet, upon which the lion at once bolted; they had then kept up the fires and sat up talking till morning, fearing that their unwelcome visitor might return, which they felt sure he would do to-night. At first I thought the fellow was rather drawing upon his imagination when he said the lion had been so near, but upon asking him to show me the spoor, he pointed out the footprints of a large lion, plainly enough discernible in the sandy ground; the brute had walked slowly up to within ten paces of the fire, and then turned round and gone off at a run, frightened, I suppose, by the shouting of the Kafir. Upon further examination, I found he had come along a footpath running near the bank of the river, and that evening I set a gun across the path, hoping that he would return, but he did not.

The following morning we again struck camp and started homewards, intending to follow the course of the Umniati, and, later on, its tributary the Umzweswe, from which river we could strike across to our camp on the Umfule. In order to avoid the hills, at whose base the river ran, we kept away at some distance from its banks, and had been walking for about three hours through leafless, dreary-looking mopani forests and patches of dense scrub, when we emerged upon a large open valley, where we saw feeding several herds of zebras and a large troop of impala antelopes.

We at once guessed there was water not far off, and soon afterwards found a beautiful vley covered with water lilies,¹ and surrounded by some fine wide-spreading thorns, amongst them a huge old wild fig-tree, whose thick dark-green foliage offered a splendid shade. On the surface of the vley several of the large black-and-white spur-winged geese were slowly swimming to and fro, not to mention a large flock of wild duck or teal. There was, too, a good deal of black rhinoceros, buffalo, and other game spoor about, that showed it to be a favourite drinking-place; indeed,

¹ Rather smaller than our own, but of a pale beautiful forget-me-not blue.

whilst we were breakfasting, a herd of koodoos came down the opposite slope, walking slowly and warily towards the water; upon seeing us, however, they bounded away again, and soon regained the shelter of the bush.

Our meal over, we filled our calabashes with water, and struck away to the south-west, intending to curve down towards the river in the afternoon. We had been walking in this direction for maybe two hours, and had just emerged from a large patch of very thick bush, a splendid cover for either elephants or buffaloes, upon a tract of open forest, devoid of underwood; here every blade of grass had been burnt off by a recent fire, and the stunted trees, denuded of leaves, had their trunks scorched black by the flames, the whole landscape presenting a picture of dreary desolation. My gun-carrier, April, was leading, I being just behind him, and Jameson behind me. Suddenly I heard Jameson say excitedly, “Look, man! look! elephants, by God!” and upon looking where he pointed, straight ahead, I saw two elephant bulls coming towards us at a quick walk. Hastily throwing up a little sand to see that the wind was right, we knelt down and prepared to receive them. Unfortunately, the Kafir who carried Jameson’s heavy rifle was right behind, so that he had to trust to his Express, which, though a splendid weapon of its kind, is not the sort of rifle one would choose for elephant-shooting. However, there was nothing else to be done; the two mighty beasts were fast approaching, one behind the other, at a quick pace, bringing their huge ears forward with a twitch at every step. We had a splendid view of them; the sight was nothing new to me, but yet my heart beat fast with excitement, and what my friend’s feelings must have been—for it was the first wild elephant his eyes had ever beheld wandering free and unfettered in its native wilds—I leave to any lover of the wilder sports to imagine.

The elephants were now almost abreast of us, and about sixty yards off. The first was a big full-grown bull, but the tusk on our side, which was all we could see, was broken short off, not far beyond the lip; the other was a younger

and smaller animal, but showed two long, even, white tusks, projecting far beyond the lip. "Wait till they get square and then shoot the second one," I said to my friend; "I will take the one in front." In another moment they were broadside to us, and not over fifty yards off. "Now then," I whispered, and we fired almost simultaneously. I ought to have shot my bull right through the heart, but my rifle was a most execrable weapon (the one before mentioned), upon which no dependence whatever could be placed; so that I never knew whether to attribute the loss of an animal to my own bad shooting or to the fault of my rifle. Like lightning the great brutes swung themselves round on their hind legs, and went off at top speed, we following at our best pace. Jameson's elephant was probably but little the worse for the two expanding Express bullets that he carried in his ribs, and mine appeared to be equally lively. As my friend waited, shouting and cursing, for the Kafir to come up with his big rifle, I got on ahead, and soon found myself alone with my gun-carrier April, a strong active Makalaka, and a Matabele boy named Jonas. After a severe run of half-a-mile or so, the elephants settled to a steadier pace, and we, going at a smart trot, began again to overhaul them. Soon I was not more than eighty yards astern of them, April in close attendance, and Jonas, who had run a little wide, ranging up level with them. "Tiba, tiba, Jonas!" I shouted, upon which he, a Kafir who understands elephant-shooting, made a spurt, and, when level with the foremost, shouted as loud as he could yell; at the first shout the elephants wheeled quickly away from the sound, giving me, who had run a little wide of them on the opposite side in expectation of this move, a splendid broadside shot at about sixty yards' distance. Taking a hasty aim I fired; to my disgust the cap did not explode, but on cocking again, and taking a second aim, it went off. I had fired at my own elephant, and soon saw that the shot had taken effect, for he slackened his speed at once, and his companion, with a generosity which did him credit, but cost him dear, did the same. They now walked side by

side at a good swinging pace, with which, however, I could keep up without any great exertion.

I now gave Jameson's elephant a shot just at the root of the tail, upon which he at once stopped, and wheeling to the right, stood broadside to me. My elephant also stopped, standing just in front of him. Pushing in another cartridge I gave him a second ball about the shoulder, when he wheeled towards us and came on with head raised and ears outspread at a half run. I think there is little doubt that he wanted to charge, and was trying to make us out. I stood perfectly still with my rifle at full cock, April crouched behind me. This is the best thing to do in such cases, as, so long as you are motionless and the wind does not betray you, an elephant seems to think that you are a tree or something inanimate, and will stand quite close to you without appearing to make you out; but if you only move, he knows at once what you are. My friend was now coming unpleasantly near, indeed, he was within twenty yards, so, just as he passed a tree, I put a bullet fair into his chest, upon which he reeled backwards and swerved off to one side, where Jameson, who had come up with his big rifle, saluted him with a couple more balls. My elephant now moved on again, so I went after him, leaving Jameson to finish his. I killed mine about a mile farther on, in the centre of the patch of thick bush through which we had come in the morning.

He was evidently a very old animal, not having any hair left on his tail. Unfortunately he had only one tusk, and that was broken off a few inches beyond the lip. This tusk, when weighed at the waggon, turned the scale at 32 lbs.; on the following day we measured him carefully, taking a straight line between two assegais placed parallel, one at his shoulder, the other at the sole of his foot. Thus measured, he must have stood nine feet eleven inches in vertical height at the shoulder;¹ of course the top of his back would have been some inches higher.

¹ Two more old bull elephants, subsequently shot by Mr. Jameson and myself, and carefully measured in a similar manner, must have stood 10 feet

We were just leaving my elephant when Jameson came up with the rest of the Kafirs. He had despatched his also, and we went back to where it lay in the open burnt forest. It was comparatively a young bull, but carried fine tusks for its size, long and very white; they weighed 32 lbs. and 34 lbs. respectively. We slept that night beside the dead elephant, without water, or grass to make a camp with—Jameson upon one of the huge ears, and I upon a square flap of skin. At the first streak of dawn we sent some boys back to the vley we had left the preceding day to get water, and upon their return made a capital breakfast off elephant's heart, roasted upon a forked stick before the fire, and then set to work to chop out the tusks.

When the boys I had sent to my elephant returned to us with its single tusk, they reported that they had seen fresh elephant spoor. It was then too late to do anything, but we thought our best plan would be to go back again to the vley we had left, and hunt about for a few days. This we did, and making a comfortable camp, remained there eight days, hunting the country round about, and returning every evening to our vley. We were unfortunate with elephants, for twice we got close to some of them in the thick bush, but they must have detected our tread upon the dead leaves, for we only heard them crashing through the branches, and never even saw them.

These thickets we found to be full of buffaloes, which drank in the river, passing the noontide heat in the shade of the thick bush. Almost every day we saw large herds of them, and might have killed several, but we only shot two cows for food.

The open valley in front of the vley of which I have before spoken was a great resort of zebras, sometimes as many as a hundred of these beautiful animals standing round us in troops of from ten to thirty, as we crossed it on our way to or from camp. There were also great numbers of the graceful little oribi antelopes always to be seen in twos and threes in this valley.

and 10 feet 4 inches at the shoulder respectively. The tusks of the smaller of these two elephants weighed 50 lbs. apiece.

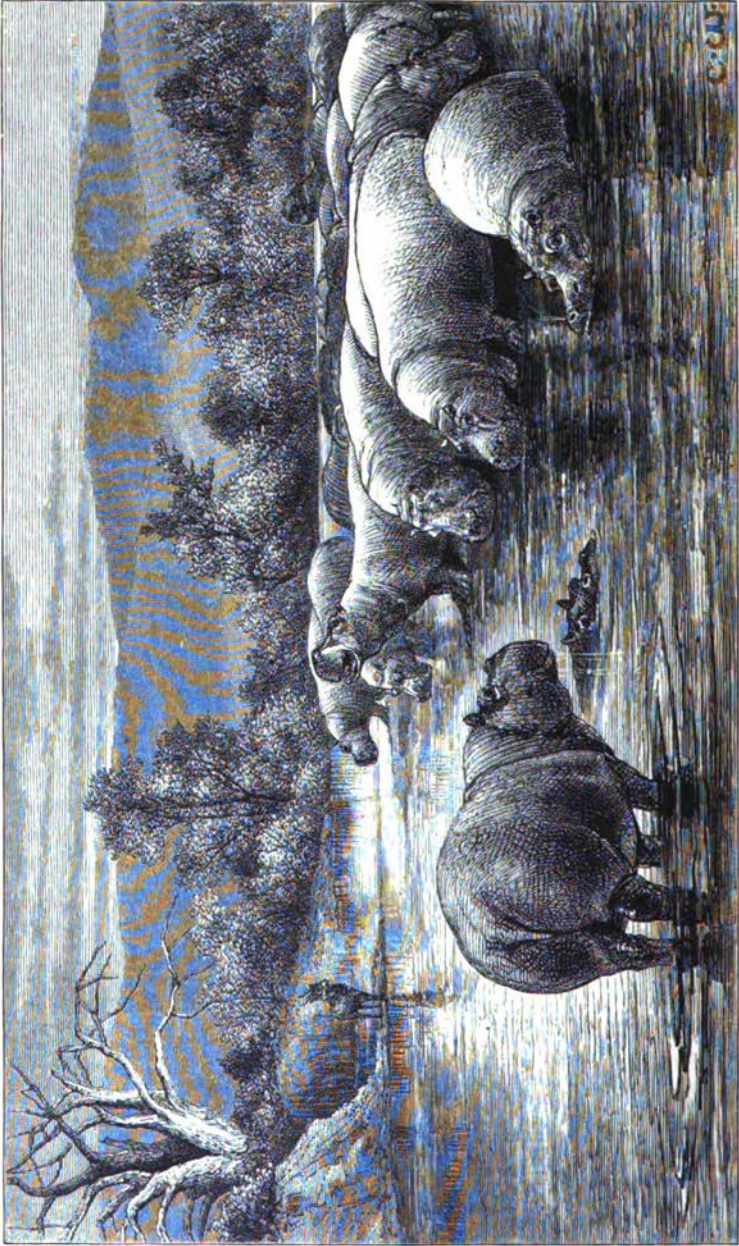
One day we did not get back to camp from our day’s hunting till about ten o’clock at night ; we had had a hard day of it, and a most toilsome walk home in the dark through the thick thorny bush. When we reached the valley on the other side of which, at a distance of about two miles, our camp was situated, the moon was well up, and cast a soft, subdued light over the long dry grass. We were stepping along the edge of the valley in single file, following a game path, when the leading Kafir stopped, and pointing across the vley, said, “Ini loco” (What’s that?) adding, “There’s a rhinoceros ;” and looking in the direction he pointed, we saw something dark looming in the moonlight : it was coming towards us, and we soon saw plainly that it was a black rhinoceros. When he was about thirty yards from, and half facing us, we both fired, dropping him on his knees ; however, he was up again in an instant, and wheeling round, went off at a gallop, snorting loudly, across the open valley. We followed the path, plainly perceptible in the moonlight, that he had made through the long thick grass ; by sweeping our hands along it we could feel that it was wet with blood, and we returned to camp, determined to take up the spoor again on the morrow.

Thus, at an early hour the following day, we were once more upon his blood-stained tracks. For about a mile he had never stopped galloping, and all the time had been throwing blood in jets from his nostrils in astonishing quantities, so that we knew he had been struck in the lungs, and expected to find him dead at every instant. After a time, however, the blood almost ceased flowing, and he seemed to have settled down to a very slow walk, as we had great difficulty in following his spoor ; but one of my Makalakas, with a patience and sagacity which would have done credit to a Bushman, got it away into some softer ground, and we then went along briskly for several miles till we came to a place where the animal had lain down and rolled in the sand ; here there was a pool of blood. A little farther on we found a second place where he had been lying, and we then thought he was about done for, but we were greatly mis-

taken ; he seemed to have once more arisen, like a giant refreshed, and led us for many a mile, always holding one course towards a large patch of thick bush which we knew of. At last, still sticking to his spoor, we entered the bush, and I felt sure that we should find him dead or alive within that sombre thicket. A quarter of an hour later we found a place from which he had only just risen ; he had evidently heard us. I was peering about in front of me when I suddenly saw him standing, half-facing us, perfectly still and motionless ; the next instant we both fired. For a short distance he crashed through the dense scrub, and then pulled up, when another bullet from my friend's rifle finished him.

He must have heard us approaching as we trod upon the thickly-strewn leaves, and in such dense bush had a splendid opportunity for a charge, yet he never attempted it. Upon cutting him up we found that only one of us had hit him on the preceding evening, and that the bullet had raked one lung, which accounted for the quantity of blood he had thrown from his nostrils. This lung was quite white-looking and empty of blood, except that portion discoloured by the bullet wound.

Upon returning to camp we found some natives who had come to cut up the elephant left in the thick bush, and which, except that its tusks had been chopped out, and its trunk cut off, had not been disturbed by us. This carcass we had passed almost daily during the last week, and on the preceding evening the hyænas must have torn it open for the first time, as the stench was sickening, at a distance of at least half-a-mile below the wind ; and now these men were going to cut up and eat the putrid, stinking meat, which had lain eight days and nights festering beneath the fierce rays of a tropical sun ! Truly some tribes of Kafirs and Bushmen are fouler feeders than either vultures or hyænas. This is not an isolated case, as they are constantly in the habit of eating putrid meat, and there is little doubt that they like it just as well as, if not better than, good, sweet flesh ; curiously, too, it does not seem to do them any harm.



HIPPOPOTAMI AT HOME; LOWER UMNIAI RIVER, AUGUST 23, 1880.

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It was on the second day after we had turned our faces homewards, as we were following the course of the river, that we heard a hippopotamus blow in the pool below us, from which we were separated by a narrow strip of bush. Making our way through this and climbing down the steep bank, we beheld a scene interesting at once both to the sportsman and to the naturalist.

Upon a spit of white sand which jutted into the pool from the opposite bank, stood, high and dry, a herd of at least twenty hippopotami, their huge, bulky carcasses looking, as they all stood huddled together, like so many great black rocks. Exactly opposite to us, motionless as a statue, with ears pricked and gaze fixed intently upon us, stood a noble old waterbuck bull, poised upon a ledge of rock overhanging the water. From just below our feet a skein of about a dozen of the handsome Egyptian geese winged their way across the deep-blue pool, whilst a pair of the large white-headed fish eagles wheeled in rapid circles above the whole scene. The waterbuck soon made up his mind that we were dangerous neighbours, and climbing the steep bank above him, quickly disappeared amongst the bushes. The hippopotami, however, though we were in full view and only about 250 yards from them, did not seem to notice us, but stood quite motionless and apparently asleep, except that now and then one would move his enormous head slowly to the one side or the other. We might have crept down to the edge of the water and fired upon them, as they stood from within a hundred yards, but both Jameson and myself felt it would not be quite the thing to do so, and preferred to let them get into the river, where, as the pool a little below them was both broad and long, they would have a fair chance for life. At length they heard us talking, and commenced, one after the other, to walk into the river. When their bodies were half immersed they let themselves down with a splash, and either swam into deep water with just the tips of their heads out, or dived out of sight at once; I suppose there must have been a ledge beside which the water deepened suddenly. There were some quite

small calves amongst them, and these little beasts all ran into the water with a splash, whilst the full-grown animals stepped in slowly and sedately. As we only wished to kill two, which would furnish us with a sufficient supply of fat meat to last us on our way back to the waggons, and were anxious not to wound any more, we were a long time before firing a shot. At length, however, finding themselves undisturbed, they gained more confidence and kept their heads longer above water, so that a little before sundown we each struck a large cow fair in the head. Jameson caught his under the ear, whilst I shot mine from behind, right between the ears. They sank at once, and though we thought we had killed them we were not absolutely sure, and as the carcasses would not rise for several hours the question could not be settled before the morrow.

At daylight the next morning we were at the water's edge, and at once saw that two dead hippopotami had floated to the top during the night; all the rest of the herd had taken advantage of the darkness to beat a retreat to some other part of the river. One of the dead hippos was already in the shallow water at the tail of the pool, but the other had been taken by the wind to the other side and was now stationary against the bank exactly opposite us. This was very awkward, as it necessitated our carrying the meat nearly three-quarters of a mile round the pool although the carcass was only the breadth of the river (about two hundred and fifty yards) from our camp. Under these circumstances I determined to go round and paddle the now inflated and buoyant carcass to our side; this I accomplished with the aid of a thick stick for a paddle. It was rather difficult to keep one's balance, as the body rolled most alarmingly from side to side, and when I was just in the middle of the river, aided by a strong breeze, the slippery carcass heeled over so much, that I could not maintain my seat astride of it, but fell off into the water. The pool was full of crocodiles, or at any rate I thought it was, so I lost no time in regaining my position, for the thought that my naked legs might attract the attention of one of these voracious monsters added ten-

fold to the strength of my exertions ; I then paddled quietly to the bank just below our camp, and by sundown our boys had cut up every scrap of the two hippos. I may here mention that I shot my animal with a hollow 450 Express bullet. At dusk when I went down to the remains of the carcass I found a lot of large barbers¹ tugging away at the shreds of meat that still adhered to the bones.

The two following days we remained where we were, drying the meat ; on the second day I went out for a stroll, and whilst running down a steep, stony hill, rifle in hand, in pursuit of a black rhinoceros which I had wounded, fell heavily, and jamming my hand between my rifle and a stone, tore the nail of my middle finger clean out ; however, although it looked a nasty place, it gave me no trouble, but healed up right away by first intention. There is nothing, I should fancy, like elephant-shooting on foot to keep the blood in good order.

In the afternoon we were visited by a small party of Matabele hunters ; they told us what we already knew—that elephants were very scarce this year, and that they themselves had only killed a calf. Just after they left our camp we heard a shot, and soon one of them came running back to say that he had killed an “imbabala,” and asking if I would buy the skin. This I was very glad to do, and for a few cartridges I obtained the skin, horns, and skull of a fine spotted bushbuck ram ; it proved, too, a very interesting specimen, being an intermediate stage between the dark-coloured, slightly - spotted bushbuck of the Cape Colony, and the beautifully - striped and spotted bushbuck found to the north-west, on the banks of the Chobe. The next morning we again continued our journey, following the course of the river ; during the morning the walking was pretty good, but by midday we again got amongst a lot of stony hills, up and down which we clambered during the rest of the day. Just as the sun was sinking we reached the junction of the Umzweswe river with the Umniati,

¹ A species of siluroid fish, common, I believe, to most African rivers, and called barbers by the Cape colonists.

and here we camped for the night. The next morning we followed the course of the Umzweswe, which we found ran over a rocky bed full of immense boulders, between a series of high and precipitous hills. First we tried following the river's bed, a task of no small difficulty, owing to the great boulders over which we had continually to climb. It was not so bad for us who had only our rifles to carry, but some of our Kafirs had loads of from 30 to 40 lbs., and these poor fellows had a very rough time of it. We then tried keeping away from the river among the hills, but here we found the ravines so steep and frequent, that we took to the river again. At last, about twelve o'clock, we emerged from the hills, and during the rest of the day travelled over a comparatively level country, always following the course of the stream. During the day, besides waterbucks and klipspringers, we saw three magnificent old koodoo bulls; and when night came, we slept on a little island in the river.

The following morning we continued our journey, always keeping along the river's bank, until about midday, when we reached a chain of hills at a little distance from the river. My boy Jonas now knew the country, and as he said it would be our best plan to leave the Zweswe here, and strike across due east to the Umfule, we determined to follow his advice. During the whole morning we had seen troop after troop of waterbucks and impala antelopes, and in a valley which we reached just after leaving the river we found an immense mixed herd of these animals quietly feeding, besides a lot of wild pigs. It was not long after this, that, as we were walking along in single file, Jonas leading, I saw, just from the corner of my eye, and during just a second of time, a lioness enter a patch of grass away to our left. However, though the vision was so momentary, I was quite certain that it was no delusion. Here was another chance for Jameson to get what he so much coveted—a lion; for although he had wounded one before, it managed to make its escape. The long grass I have spoken of was a little patch about ten yards square, which had somehow escaped the grass fire that shortly before had swept over the whole

country. On one side it was scarcely separated by twenty yards from a patch of forest and scrub, and it was from this side that I had seen the lioness enter it. On the other side lay an open valley as bare of cover as a billiard-table. Close to the farther side of the patch of grass stood a single mopani tree. Jameson and I now advanced with our rifles on full cock, my friend being ready to take the first shot. We had got right up to the grass without seeing anything, and I had just said, "Well, I know she went in here; go round that side," when, with a startled sort of purr, a lioness followed by a cub sprang through the grass, and gained the shelter of the bush without giving either of us a chance of a shot. She had come from the foot of the mopani tree, and as our eyes were again turned there, another lioness, that must have been asleep, stood up, and with her hind-quarters turned towards us, stood looking fixedly right away from where we were: at the same time I saw that a half-grown cub was still lying at the foot of the tree, watching us intently. At that instant Jameson fired, dropping the lioness in her tracks, and then let go the second barrel at the cub as it made for the bush. The lioness was dead, my friend's bullet having caught her in the neck just behind the head. We found that these lions had killed an eland cow just within the edge of the forest, and the one I so opportunely saw must just have been coming from a luncheon off the carcass, to join the other under the mopani tree.

The next day we had a very long walk, as we stuck at it, with few and short intervals of rest, until sundown, when we camped beside a stream running beneath a hill which we had taken to be our old friend "Intaba go Umbundwan."

On the morrow, however (August 30), making an early start, we did reach the hill in question by nine o'clock, and by two P.M. the same afternoon once more got home again to our waggons, after an absence of nearly six weeks.

From this date until the rains commenced to fall, I continued hunting on horseback, sometimes alone, at others in company with Mr. Jameson; but as no very stirring incidents happened during that time, and as the country

through which I hunted, and the game I encountered, was for the most part similar to that met with in 1878, I think the reader will agree with me, that any detailed account of my proceedings would be superfluous.

In November we left the hunting-grounds of the Mashuna country, and trekked out to Gubulawayo, where we spent a few pleasant days with Mr. James Fairbairn, the well-known Matabele trader. This gentleman's name I have, I think, mentioned more than once in the course of these pages; but let me here assure him, on the chance that these lines may some day meet his eye, that the many acts of kindness I have received at his hands, and the many pleasant days—and nights—I have spent from time to time, during my visits to the Matabele country, beneath the homely but hospitable roof of "New Valhalla" will ever live green in my memory.

In December we bade adieu to Lobengula, and again started southwards, and journeying slowly along, enjoying a little shooting here and there, reached Bamangwato towards the end of the month, where we spent a very merry Christmas with Mr. John Bennion and some of the other resident traders and their wives.

The outbreak of the war in the Transvaal, just at this juncture, prevented our travelling through that state, as had been our intention, so we journeyed along the borders of the Kalahari desert to Griqualand, and ultimately reached the Diamond Fields on 15th February 1881, after having been much delayed on the road by heavy rains.

I here disposed of my waggon, oxen, and horses, and went down by passenger-cart to Port Elizabeth, where I soon afterwards took ship for England, which I reached, after a very fine and quick passage, early in April, just in time to hear that the wretched war with the Transvaal—a war that will leave a legacy of hatred for generations to come, to be equally divided between the Dutch and English colonists in South Africa—had been concluded by a most humiliating peace, and a more disgraceful page added to the

history of England than any that have yet been written in its annals.

My work is now over, and should my pages have afforded either amusement or instruction to any sportsman-naturalist, or supplied definite information to any roving spirit, whose inclinations bid him bend his steps towards the splendid hunting-grounds which still exist in the far interior of South Africa, I shall feel amply compensated for the time and trouble that the compilation of this volume has cost me.



SINGLE 10-BORE RIFLE.

Used by the Author from 1876 to 1880.

LIST OF GAME SHOT DURING THE YEAR 1879.

- | | | | |
|----------|---|----------|---|
| Jan. 25. | Two tsessebe antelopes
(Impaqui river). | Feb. 13. | Two hartebeests (Boat-
lanarma). |
| | 30. One Burchell's zebra
(Macloutsie river). | 28. | Three blesbucks (Trans-
vaal flats). |
| Feb. 3. | One blue wildebeest
(Serule river). | | |

Notuane River.

- | | | | |
|----------|---|----------|---------------------|
| April 5. | One steinbuck. | April 7. | One licluse jackal. |
| | 6. Three impala antelopes.
One serval (tiger-cat). | | One steinbuck. |

Mahakabe Vley.

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| April 22. | One Burchell's zebra. | April 25. | Two blue wildebeests. |
| | 23. One steinbuck.
Two elands. | 27. | Two elands (Inkouane
vley). |

Botletlie River.

- | | | | |
|--------|---|---------|-----------------------|
| May 8. | Three giraffes.
One lion. | May 11. | One gemsbuck cow. |
| | 10. One impala antelope.
One great-crested bus-
tard. | | 15. One gemsbuck cow. |
| | | | 16. One giraffe cow. |
| | | | 18. One eland cow. |

Between the Botletlie and Sode-Garra.

- | | | | |
|---------|------------------|---------|---------------|
| May 20. | One eland cow. | May 26. | Three elands. |
| | 22. One giraffe. | | |

Mābābe River.

- | | | | |
|---------|------------------------------------|---------|----------------------|
| June 4. | Two lionesses. | June 6. | Two giraffes. |
| | 6. One great-crested bus-
tard. | | 12. Two elands. |
| | Two lions. | | 15. Three buffaloes. |

Machabe River.

- | | | | |
|----------|--|----------|--------------------------|
| June 19. | One wildebeest bull.
Two impala antelopes.
One reedbuck ram. | June 19. | One reedbuck. |
| | 20. One lechwe ram. | | 21. One blue wildebeest. |
| | | | 22. Three buffaloes. |

Sunta Outlet.

- | | | | |
|----------|---------------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|
| June 28. | Two lechwe rams.
One reedbuck ram. | June 30. | One lechwe ram.
One wart-hog. |
|----------|---------------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|

Chobe River, near Mai-ini's Town.

- | | | | |
|------|--------------------------|------|------------------------|
| July | 2. One hippopotamus. | July | 5. Three buffaloes. |
| | 5. One black rhinoceros. | | 11. Three impala rams. |

Sunta Outlet.

- | | | | |
|------|------------------------|------|--------------------------|
| July | 12. One lechwe ram. | July | 15. One koodoo bull. |
| | 13. One lechwe ram. | | One sable antelope bull. |
| | 14. One tsessebe bull. | | Two buffaloes. |
| | 15. One wart-hog. | | 20. One waterbuck bull. |

Chobe River, near Linyanti.

- | | | | |
|------|----------------------------|-------|---|
| July | 22. Three buffaloes. | Aug. | 12. Three buffaloes. |
| | 24. Two lechwe rams. | | 14. One impala ram. |
| | 26. Two spotted bushbucks. | | 17. One koodoo. |
| | 27. One spotted bushbuck. | | 18. Two buffaloes. |
| | 28. Three elephants. | | 20. Six buffalo bulls. |
| | 30. One koodoo cow. | | 21. One wildebeest bull. |
| Aug. | 2. One buffalo cow. | | 22. One koodoo bull. |
| | 6. One buffalo bull. | | 25. One impala antelope. |
| | One sable antelope bull. | | 27. One koodoo. |
| | 8. Two buffaloes. | | 30. One impala antelope. |
| | 9. One wart-hog. | Sept. | 2. Three wildebeests Mā-
bābe Flat). |
| | 10. Two Burchell's zebras. | | |

Chobe River.

- | | | | |
|-------|------------------------|-------|---------------------|
| Sept. | 4. One sable antelope. | Sept. | 7. One buffalo cow. |
| | 5. One buffalo cow. | | |

Near Linyanti, between the Chobe and Zambesi.

- | | | | |
|-------|---------------------------|-------|----------------------------|
| Sept. | 8. One lechwe ram. | Sept. | 18. One buffalo cow. |
| | 9. One Burchell's zebra. | | 19. One buffalo cow. |
| | 10. One Burchell's zebra. | | 20. Two buffaloes. |
| | 12. Two buffaloes. | | 23. One Burchell's zebra. |
| | 13. One lioness. | | 25. Five elephants. |
| | 16. One blue wildebeest. | | 29. Two Burchell's zebras. |
| | Two buffaloes. | | 30. One reedbuck. |

Chobe River, Southern Side.

- | | | | |
|------|-------------------------|------|-------------------------|
| Oct. | 4. One impala antelope. | Oct. | 5. One impala antelope. |
|------|-------------------------|------|-------------------------|

Mābābe Flat.

- | | | | |
|------|-----------------------------|------|----------------------------|
| Oct. | 11. One blue wildebeest. | Oct. | 14. One tsessebe antelope. |
| | 12. Three blue wildebeests. | | 17. One blue wildebeest. |
| | 14. Two blue wildebeests. | | One tsessebe antelope. |

- | | | | |
|----------|---|----------|--|
| Oct. 20. | One lioness and a cub. | Oct. 24. | Two tsessebe antelopes. |
| 21. | One roan antelope bull.
Two Burchell's zebras. | 26. | One blue wildebeest.
Two Burchell's zebras. |
| 22. | One blue wildebeest. | 27. | One tsessebe bull (Gat Garra). |
| 24. | Three blue wildebeests. | | |

Sunta Outlet.

- | | | | |
|----------|---|---------|---|
| Oct. 28. | One impala antelope.
One waterbuck bull. | Nov. 3. | One koodoo bull. |
| 29. | One buffalo cow. | 4. | One wart-hog. |
| 30. | One elephant.
One reedbuck ram. | 5. | One koodoo bull.
One reedbuck ram.
One buffalo cow. |
| 31. | One reedbuck. | 6. | One reedbuck ram. |
| Nov. 1. | Two reedbucks. | 7. | One buffalo bull. |
| 2. | One reedbuck ram. | 8. | One impala antelope. |

Mābābe River.

- | | | | |
|----------|---------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Nov. 12. | Three tsessebe antelopes. | Nov. 23. | Four buffaloes. |
| 14. | Two tsessebe antelopes. | 25. | One steinbuck. |
| 16. | Two buffaloes. | 28. | Two buffaloes. |
| 21. | Three tsessebe antelopes. | | |

Mābābe Flat.

- | | | | |
|----------|---------------------------------------|---------|--------------|
| Nov. 30. | One Burchell's zebra.
One ostrich. | Dec. 1. | One ostrich. |
|----------|---------------------------------------|---------|--------------|

Between the Mābābe and Botletlie Rivers.

- | | | | |
|---------|----------------------------------|----------|----------------------|
| Dec. 3. | One Burchell's zebra. | Dec. 12. | One gemsbuck bull. |
| 6. | Nine zebras.
Two eland bulls. | 16. | One blue wildebeest. |
| 8. | One gemsbuck bull. | 20. | One steinbuck ram. |
| 10. | Two eland bulls. | | |
| | | | TOTAL—229 head. |

LIST OF GAME SHOT DURING THE YEAR 1880.

In North-Eastern Mashuna Land.

- | | | | |
|----------|---|----------|---|
| May 5. | One koodoo antelope. | June 26. | Two zebras. |
| 10. | One zebra. | 27. | One spotted hyæna |
| 15. | One koodoo antelope. | 30. | One tsessebe antelope.
Two black rhinoceroses. |
| June 14. | One waterbuck. | July 1. | One python. |
| 18. | One sable antelope.
One zebra. | 2. | One waterbuck. |
| 20. | One koodoo. | 7. | One lioness. |
| 23. | One tsessebe antelope. | 8. | One waterbuck. |
| 24. | One lion. | 10. | One tsessebe antelope.
One roan antelope. |
| 25. | One waterbuck.
Two tsessebe antelopes. | | One eland. |

July	13. One sable antelope.	Sept.	23. One wart-hog.
	14. Two sable antelopes.		24. One tsessebe antelope.
	15. One eland.		26. One eland.
	16. One tsessebe antelope.		One wart-hog.
	Three lions.		28. One reedbuck.
	19. One reedbuck.		29. One reedbuck.
	20. One oribi antelope.		* One impala antelope.
	One spotted hyæna.	Oct.	1. One reedbuck.
	One wart-hog.		One waterbuck.
	23. Two zebras.		One koodoo.
	One waterbuck.		4. Two eland bulls.
	24. One oribi antelope.		5. One eland bull.
	28. One waterbuck.		13. One sable antelope.
	31. Two hippopotami.		16. One sable antelope.
Aug.	3. One buffalo bull.		19. One koodoo bull.
	8. One waterbuck.		One black rhinoceros.
	10. One buffalo bull.		22. Two tsessebe antelopes.
	15. One elephant bull.		24. One steinbuck.
	18. One buffalo cow.		Two tsessebe antelopes.
	19. One black rhinoceros.		26. One eland bull.
	23. One hippopotamus.		One sable antelope.
	26. One klipspringer.	Nov.	27. One koodoo bull.
	28. One duiker.		One steinbuck.
Sept.	1. Two koodoo bulls.		28. One wart-hog.
	2. One oribi antelope.	Dec.	2. One reedbuck.
	One cock ostrich.		One steinbuck.
	4. Two sable antelopes.		4. One giraffe bull.
	5. One sable antelope.		5. One giraffe bull.
	7. One zebra.		One great-crested bustard.
	8. One eland bull.		6. One steinbuck.
	10. One elephant bull.		9. Two steinbuck rams.
	12. One sable antelope.		One impala ram.
	14. One sable antelope.		14. One zebra.
	15. One sable antelope.		28. One hartebeest bull.
	17. One waterbuck.		29. Two springbucks.
	19. One roan antelope.		30. One impala ram.
	22. One tsessebe.		TOTAL—112 head.
	One sable antelope.		

LIST OF GAME SHOT BETWEEN THE 1ST OF JANUARY
1877 AND THE 31ST OF DECEMBER 1880.

Elephant	20	Hippopotamus	4
White rhinoceros	2	Giraffe	18
Black rhinoceros	10	Buffalo	100

Zebra (Burchell's)	48	Crested bustard	6
Wart-hog	17	Lion	13
Ostrich	3	Spotted hyæna	3

Antelopes.

Eland	39	Flat-horned hartebeest	3
Sable antelope	33	Tsessebe	42
Roan antelope	12	Blesbuck	3
Gemsbuck	4	Springbuck	3
Koodoo	19	Impala	29
Spotted bushbuck	5	Duiker	5
Waterbuck	19	Oribi	4
Lechwe	16	Steinbuck	16
Pookoo	5	Klipspringer	2
Reedbuck	19		
Blue wildebeest	23		
Hartebeest	3		
			548

CHAPTER XII.

NOTES UPON SOUTH AFRICAN RHINOCEROSSES.

(Read before the Zoological Society on June 7, 1881.)

IN those portions of Southern and South Central Africa in which I have hunted, I have only met with two true species of rhinoceroses, namely, the large, square-mouthed, grass-eating species (*Rhinoceros simus*), and the smaller prehensile-lipped rhinoceros, which feeds exclusively upon bush (*R. bicornis*). In making this statement I am well aware that I express an opinion at variance with that held by many naturalists upon the subject; however, as the conclusions at which I have arrived are the results of eight years devoted entirely to hunting in the most out-of-the-way portions of the interior of South Africa, during the first three of which (that is, in 1872, 1873, and 1874), rhinoceroses were still very plentiful, and as ever since that time I have had many opportunities of personally observing the habits and peculiarities of each and every variety of these animals, and as, moreover, I shall support my views by specimens of horns, I think that I am warranted in expressing an opinion upon the subject. At any rate I think it is now quite time that the question of how many species of rhinoceroses do really exist in South Africa should be finally set at rest; and it is only by comparing the statements of men who are really competent to give an opinion upon the subject that this is ever likely to be done.

For my part I am fully persuaded that there are only two species in South Africa, or, indeed, in all Africa; for the North African rhinoceros in the gardens of the Zoological Society I have no hesitation in pronouncing to be specifically identical with the South African prehensile-lipped rhinoceros.

I will first speak of the square-mouthed rhinoceros (*R. simus*). Twenty years ago this animal seems to have been very plentiful in the western half of Southern Africa; now, unless it is still to be found between the Okavango and Cunene rivers, it must be almost extinct in that portion of the country. And this is not to be wondered at, when one reads the accounts in Andersson's and Chapman's books of their shooting as many as eight of these animals in one night, as they were drinking at a small water-hole; for it must be remembered that these isolated water-holes, at the end of the dry season, represented all the water to be found over an enormous extent of country, and that therefore all the rhinoceroses that in happier times were distributed over many hundreds of square miles were in times of drought dependent upon perhaps a single pool for their supply of water. In 1877, during several months' hunting in the country to the south of Linyanti, on the river Chobe, I only saw the spoor of two square-mouthed rhinoceroses, though in 1874 I had found them fairly plentiful in the same district; whilst in 1879, during eight months spent in hunting on and between the Botletlie, Mābābe, Machabe, Sunta, and Upper Chobe rivers, I never even saw the spoor of one of these animals, and all the Bushmen I met with said they were finished. In 1878 and 1880, however, I still found them fairly numerous in a small tract of country in North-eastern Mashuna Land, between the Umniati and Hanyane rivers. Their range, however, is rather limited towards the north, as they only inhabit the country lying to the south of the belt of rough stony hills which in this district extend for more than a hundred miles southwards from the banks of the Zambesi river. Their extermination in this portion of the country may therefore, I am afraid, be

expected within a very few years; and the square-mouthed rhinoceros will then only exist in a few small tracts of S.E. Africa, in the neighbourhood of the river Sabi.

The square-mouthed rhinoceros feeds exclusively upon grass, and is therefore more partial to open countries, or districts where there are broad grassy valleys between the tracts of bush, than the prehensile-lipped species, which is more partial to thickets or rough hills clothed with short scrub. Both species are a sort of dark slate-colour; and so far from one being white and the other black, I should be sorry to state upon oath which was the darker of the two.

The square-mouthed species is a huge ungainly-looking beast, with a disproportionately large head, a large male standing 6 feet 6 inches at the shoulder. Like elephants and buffaloes, they lie asleep during the heat of the day, and feed during the night and in the cool hours of early morning and evening. Their sight is very bad, but they are quick of hearing and their scent is very keen; they are, too, often accompanied by rhinoceros-birds, which, by running about their heads, flapping their wings, and screeching at the same time, often give them notice of the approach of danger. When disturbed they go off at a swift trot, which soon leaves all pursuit from a man on foot far behind; but if chased by a horseman they break into a gallop, which they can keep up for some distance. However, although they run very swiftly, when their size and heavy build are considered, they are no match for an averagely good horse. They are, as a rule, very easy to shoot on horseback, as, if one gallops a little in front of and on one side of them, they will hold their course and come sailing past, offering a magnificent broadside shot: whilst under similar circumstances a prehensile-lipped rhinoceros will usually swerve away in such a manner as only to present his hind-quarters for a shot. As with elephants, it is very unsatisfactory work following up wounded rhinoceroses, as they do not go and lie down, but walk on and on until their strength gives way. They die very quickly when shot through both lungs or the upper part of the heart; but if shot from in front, and the bullet only perforates one

lung, they will go on to all eternity, though throwing blood out of their mouth and nostrils by the gallon. With a broken shoulder they will run, first at a gallop and then at a halting trot, for more than a mile; but if they have a hind leg broken, they do not appear to be able to budge a step. When either walking or running, the square-mouthed rhinoceros holds its head very low, its nose nearly touching the ground. A small calf always runs in front of its mother, and she appears to guide it by holding the point of her horn upon the little animal's rump; and it is perfectly wonderful to note how in all sudden changes of pace, from a trot to a gallop or *vice versa*, the same position is always exactly maintained. During the autumn and winter months (*i.e.* from March till August) the square-mouthed rhinoceros is usually very fat, and its meat is then most excellent, being something like beef, but yet having a peculiar flavour of its own. The part in greatest favour amongst hunters is the hump, which, if cut off whole and roasted just as it is in the skin in a hole dug in the ground, it would, I think, be bad to beat either for juiciness or flavour.

In the square-mouthed rhinoceros the horns vary much in different individuals—so much so, indeed, that it would not be difficult to find two specimens (taking both horns, of course) exhibiting types of horns as widely divergent one from another as are the typical horns of *R. bicornis* from those of *R. keitloa*.

The anterior horn of a full-grown square-mouthed rhinoceros will measure from 18 inches to over 4 feet in length, a cow having a thinner and usually a longer horn than a bull. Nowadays, however, owing probably to all those that possessed remarkably long horns having been shot, it is very rarely one sees a horn from a freshly-killed animal measuring over 3 feet in length. This anterior horn usually has a curve backwards, more or less pronounced; but specimens are by no means uncommon which are perfectly straight, or even bend slightly forwards. When the horn is quite straight and about 3 feet in length, the point touches the ground as the animal walks along feeding; and thus, in

specimens of long straight horns, it may usually be noticed that just at the point the anterior surface of the horn has been rubbed flat by friction against the ground. I never remember to have seen an anterior horn of a square-mouthed rhinoceros that was perfectly round: they always have the front surface partially flattened, and may thus at a glance be distinguished from the invariably rounded anterior horn of the prehensile-lipped species. In different individuals, too, the posterior horn of the square-mouthed rhinoceros varies from a lump only 3 or 4 inches in height to a horn of 2 feet in length. In some specimens the anterior horn is long, whilst the posterior is very short; in others, again, both are well developed, and in some, again, both are short. In fact, the horns of all South African rhinoceroses differ to such an extent in different individuals that if their classification is to be based upon the length and shape of their horns alone, it would be as easy to make twenty species as four. If *R. Oswellii*, a variety of *R. simus*, which is based entirely upon the shape of the anterior horn, were a true species, I presume that the square-mouthed rhinoceros with a straight anterior horn would not interbreed with those carrying the commoner form of horn slightly curved backwards; yet in the Mashuna country I have seen square-mouthed rhinoceroses consorting together whose anterior horns showed the greatest divergence of shape; and as a series of horns could be obtained showing every gradation of form between the extreme form of *R. Oswellii*, which is bent forwards, to one so bent back as to describe half the arc of a circle, I do not think there are any adequate grounds for considering *R. Oswellii* to be a true species. As for the assertion that the horn of the ordinary square-mouthed rhinoceros never attains the length of those of *R. Oswellii*, the longest horn I have ever seen was brought out by a trader named Reader, and is (or was a few years ago) in the possession of a gentleman residing in Hope Town, in the Cape Colony. This horn measured 4 feet 6 inches, and had a very strong curve backwards. Upon these grounds I consider *R. Oswellii* to be a false species, and think that in future works upon natural history it ought to be omitted from the list of South African rhinoceroses.

I now come to the prehensile-lipped rhinoceros (*R. bicornis*), of which I maintain that there is but one true species, in spite of whatever may be said by old Dutch hunters or natives to the contrary. This animal is still fairly numerous in many districts of South-Eastern Africa, although, like its congener, the square-mouthed rhinoceros, it has been almost exterminated in the more westerly portions of the country. In 1879 there were still two or three drinking in the Upper Chobe, to the north-west of the Sunta outlet. Between the Chobe and the Zambesi there are none, and according to the natives there never were any there, even when the Makololo first came into the country; but directly the Zambesi has been crossed they are again found, and extend apparently through all Central Africa right up to Abyssinia. The prehensile-lipped rhinoceros lives exclusively upon bush and roots, eating not only the young leaves as they sprout from the end of a twig, but also chewing up a good deal of the twig itself. It is owing to the fact that this species lives upon bush that its range is very much more extended than that of the square-mouthed rhinoceros; for there are many large districts of country in the neighbourhood of the Zambesi to the eastward of the Victoria Falls covered almost entirely with an endless succession of rugged hills, almost devoid of grass, though well wooded, in all of which districts the prehensile-lipped rhinoceros is numerous, as it thrives well upon the scrubby bush with which the hill-sides and valleys are covered; whereas the square-mouthed species, though common in the forest-clad sand-belts and broad grassy valleys which always skirt the hills, is seldom or never found amongst the hills themselves, which is doubtless because the pasturage is too scanty to enable them to exist.

The prehensile-lipped rhinoceros is usually represented as an animal of so morose and vicious a disposition that it will almost invariably attack unprovoked any man or animal that it happens to meet; and I think that the general impression of people who are in the habit of reading books upon South African sport, and have had no personal

experience of the animals described, must be that this animal is the most dangerous to be met with in the country.

It may be that they differ in disposition in different parts of the country; but wherever I have met with them I have never found them to be by any means a dangerous animal, and, indeed, only remember to have seen one make any attempt at a charge, and that was in the Mashuna country last year, and under strong provocation, for I galloped close in front of an old cow, endeavouring to turn her from her course, upon which she came straight for me, snorting loudly, but upon my spurring to one side did not follow me, but resumed her way. Accidents have certainly happened in encounters with the prehensile-lipped rhinoceros; but many cases are also upon record of hunters having been killed or badly injured by the square-mouthed species, which is always represented as the most harmless and inoffensive of beasts. Mr. Oswell had his horse killed by one of the latter animals (*vide* Livingstone's *Missionary Travels*); the veteran elephant-hunter, Mr. Hartley, was also very severely injured by one of these animals in the Mashuna country, I think, in 1869. David Jacobs, too, a son of the well-known Dutch hunter, Petrus Jacobs, and who had been constantly hunting with his father for many years, told me that the only narrow escape he ever had from a rhinoceros was from a square-mouthed one, which chased him for over a hundred yards through some nasty bush; and I myself, in November 1874, saw a white rhinoceros bull which I had wounded make a very decided charge at a boy of mine, who threw down his gun and took refuge in a tree. I only mention these facts to show that, although the square-mouthed rhinoceros is usually a most inoffensive animal, occasional specimens may be found that are capable of resenting ill-treatment; and, as far as my small experience goes, I have found vicious animals to be equally few and far between amongst the prehensile-lipped species. These animals are very quick and restless in their movements, and either very inquisitive or mistrustful of their eyesight, for usually, when

disturbed by any one approaching from below the wind, they will jump up with a snort, gaze fixedly at the intruder, then, with another snort, trot quickly a few steps nearer, stand again, move their heads with a quick motion, first to one side, then to the other, advance again perhaps, and finally, when shouted at, whisk quickly round and trot away in grand style, with tail screwed up over their backs.

Whilst hunting in the Mashuna country in 1872, and to the west of the river Gwai in 1873, I encountered almost daily one or more prehensile-lipped rhinoceroses, often seeing five, six, or even eight in one day. When these animals got my wind they invariably made off at once; but when they only saw me, they usually acted as I have described above. Upon these latter occasions my Kafirs were in the habit of shouting to me to run away, climb a tree, etc., and often did so themselves; however, I always stood where I was, throwing sometimes sticks, stones, or assegais at them, sometimes only shouting; and although some of them advanced from a distance of say forty yards to within about twenty, they always turned and ran off in the end. Upon several occasions I have fired into a rhinoceros thus facing me, which, dropping upon its knees to the shot, has sprung up again immediately, and come rushing straight forwards, snorting like a steam-engine, and passing perhaps within a few yards of me. In these cases, however, it always appeared to me that the animal had no idea of charging, but was just rushing madly forwards, half stunned by the shock of the heavy bullet. I have seen the same thing happen to some people, both black and white, who described it afterwards as the most terrific charge; and many a black rhinoceros story has originated, I feel sure, in this way. That a prehensile-lipped rhinoceros when in full career, and either wounded or tired, will charge any one or anything, even to a waggon or span of oxen, that he sees directly in his path and close in front of him, I know well enough, but so will an elephant, buffalo, or lion. What I wish to argue is, not that the black rhinoceros is a sweet-tempered animal, but that, at any rate in the great majority of cases, he is by no

means the surly, morose, and dangerous beast that some travellers would have one believe. Somehow or other he has got an evil reputation, which, however unjust, will outlive the last of his species in South Africa. Kafirs who have never seen a rhinoceros will tell you that it is a witch, that they will follow up a man's spoor, attack him in the night, etc., simply because that is the character tradition has given him. Similarly, many Hottentot and white hunters, who have only been hunting since rhinoceroses became very scarce, and who, perhaps, have not seen half a dozen of these animals in their lives, will relate endless stories of their unprovoked ferocity; for it is one of their articles of faith that a prehensile-lipped rhinoceros is a most ferocious animal, and they therefore invent stories to suit his supposed character. Now there are very few Kafir or Hottentot hunters who will meddle with a lion, unless they meet him under exceptionally favourable circumstances; but except when on elephant spoor, or afraid of disturbing these animals, they will seldom pass a rhinoceros, no matter of what species, without attacking him, for they know that they have to deal with an animal easy to approach and easy to kill, and that will give them a great quantity of good meat; yet, to hear them talk about the animals, you would imagine the rhinoceros to be the more dangerous of the two. What first gave rise to the very general impression that the prehensile-lipped rhinoceros is such a very dangerous animal I cannot imagine, unless, perhaps, in former years, before the introduction of firearms, there did exist some old and morose animals that committed a great many atrocities, and which have since been shot, leaving only their evil name to their descendants. However, be that as it may, and speaking of the prehensile-lipped rhinoceros of the present day, after an experience of eight years, during which time I have encountered over one hundred of these animals, I can conscientiously say that I consider their pursuit to be attended with less danger than that of either the lion, elephant, or buffalo.

In the end of November 1874, I chased a prehensile-lipped rhinoceros bull round and round on an open flat (at

Thamma-Setsi, on the Zambesi road), until he stood still with his mouth open, and I then dismounted within twenty yards of him, yet he never attempted to charge. Now I doubt if there is a lion, an elephant, or a buffalo, which, under similar circumstances, would not have charged. In my experience of hunting, many fatal accidents, and still more narrow escapes, from lions, elephants, and buffaloes, have come within my personal knowledge, but not one hunter, black or white, has been injured by a black rhinoceros.

I will now give my reasons for asserting that *R. bicornis* and *R. keitloa* are not two distinct species, but merely varieties of the same animal. Perhaps the most convincing argument in favour of their being two distinct species is that all the old Dutch hunters and most of the natives declare that such is the case, and have different names for the two animals. This, however, is by no means so strong an argument as it would at first appear. At first sight the typical *R. keitloa*, with both horns of equal length, is a very different-looking animal from the typical *R. bicornis*, with a posterior horn of only a few inches in length; and it is only after a careful study of their habits, and the knowledge that every variety of horn between the two extremes may be found, that I have become convinced that *R. keitloa* and *R. bicornis* are only varieties of the same animal. Now the greater part of the old Dutch hunters, although they may have shot very many rhinoceroses in the course of their hunting careers, know nothing whatever about the animals from a scientific point of view. They shot rhinoceroses because they wanted meat, but the only examination they ever made of them was to see if they were fat. When now and again they shot a rhinoceros with both horns of equal length, or nearly equal length, it struck their eye as being unusual, and so they gave these equal-horned animals the name of blue rhinoceroses, to distinguish them from the white and the black, as they call *R. simus* and *R. bicornis* respectively. Now, I have questioned many of these old hunters upon the subject, and find that the only point upon

which they all agree is that the blue rhinoceros has both horns of equal length, whilst the black has always a short second horn; beyond this none of them know of any definite distinction; but many, not liking to appear ignorant, make assertions that will not bear investigation, and often contradict the statements of other equally experienced men. Now in the same way every Dutch hunter will tell you that there are three, or even four, distinct species of lions in Southern Africa, each species possessing its own distinctive characteristics. These species they determine according to the length and colour of the mane in different individuals; yet I think that naturalists are now agreed that there is but one species of lion in all Africa. Therefore, as regards lions, the testimony of old Dutch hunters is worthless from a scientific point of view, and I believe it to be equally worthless with regard to the plurality or unity of species of the prehensile-lipped rhinoceros. One famous old Dutch hunter even affirms that there are three species of square-mouthed rhinoceros, and four of the prehensile-lipped, seven in all, and he bases his distinctions almost entirely on the shape and length of the horns in different individuals.

Now, I have carefully examined and measured many specimens of prehensile-lipped rhinoceroses, and have never been able to discover that they differed in any way the one from the other, except in the length and shape of the posterior horn; nor could I ever discover the differences between the two mentioned by Mr. C. J. Andersson and other writers upon the subject. Some specimens had long curly hair upon their ears; but some of the most marked types of *R. bicornis* had this peculiarity equally strongly marked as others whose horns showed them to belong to the so-called species *R. keitloa*. Many writers upon the subject state that whereas *R. bicornis* eats nothing but bush, *R. keitloa* eats both grass and bush indiscriminately. Now if this were the case, how is it that during eight years, more than three-fourths of which I have spent in the wilderness, engaged in a continual search for elephants, and always in countries where rhinoceroses may still be found in greater

or lesser numbers, I have only observed two kinds of dung—the black dung, composed entirely of grass, evacuated by the large square-mouthed grass-eating rhinoceros, and the dark-red dung (with a greenish tinge when the animal has been feeding upon sprouting shoots), full of little chips of wood, evacuated by the prehensile-lipped species; for it appears to me that if there were a species which fed indiscriminately upon grass and bushes, one would see a third kind of dung, in which sometimes bush and sometimes grass would predominate; but this is most certainly not the case. Again, every Kafir and Masara in the interior will tell you that there are three kinds of rhinoceroses, namely, *R. simus*, which the Matabele call “Umhofo,” and the Bechuanas “Chukuru;” *R. bicornis*, which the former call “Upeygan,” and the latter “Borele;” and, lastly, *R. keitloa*, which they name respectively “Shangainea” and “Keitloa;” but when questioned beside a dead rhinoceros, I have found that they all base their distinction between *R. bicornis* and *R. keitloa* upon the length of the posterior horn alone. Some, indeed, will say that the two varieties differ in size or in the length of hair upon the ears; but I have proved, by actual measurement and personal observation, that the variations in size and the length of the hair upon the ears have nothing to do with the length of the posterior horn, which is the fundamental point upon which all Dutch and native hunters base the distinction between the two species. Again, when one comes upon a rhinoceros-spoor in the bush, any Bushman or Kafir hunter can say whether it is the spoor of a square-mouthed rhinoceros or of a prehensile-lipped one, simply judging from the size of the footprint. But no Kafir or Bushman can tell you, when he sees the smaller spoor of a prehensile-lipped rhinoceros, whether it be that of *R. bicornis* or *R. keitloa*, nor even when he sees the dung can he tell you; for, as I have said before, there is no difference in this particular. However, when the animal has been shot they will say to which species it belongs. If the second horn is not over seven or eight inches in length, they will be all agreed that the animal is *R. bicornis*

(Upeygan or Borele); if the second horn is from 12 inches to 2 feet long, they will be unanimous that the animal is *R. keitloa* (Shangainea or Keitloa); whereas if the posterior horn be neither short nor long, but just betwixt and between, they will argue for hours amongst themselves as to whether the animal be *R. bicornis* or *R. keitloa*; but their main argument is always based upon the length of the horn.

Every one who has wandered over country frequented by rhinoceroses must have noticed that the square-mouthed species leaves its dung alone, not throwing it about with its horn, nor ploughing up the ground every now and again as it walks along; whereas the prehensile-lipped rhinoceroses almost invariably throw their dung all over the place, sometimes ploughing up holes a foot deep with their noses and horns, and they are, too, continually making semicircular furrows in the ground as they walk along. This is done by every prehensile-lipped rhinoceros irrespective of the length of the posterior horn; therefore, if there be two species, it must be conceded that their habits are exactly similar in this respect. Again, the square-mouthed rhinoceros (*R. simus*) walks and runs with its nose close to the ground, whilst all prehensile-lipped rhinoceroses walk and run with their heads carried high in the air. A calf of the square-mouthed species always runs when small in front of its mother, whereas a small calf of the prehensile-lipped rhinoceros always follows its mother. Therefore, whilst there are many and wide differences of form and habit between the square-mouthed and all prehensile-lipped rhinoceroses, the habits of both species of the latter (if there be two species) are exactly similar. In conclusion, I have only to bring to your notice the series of horns which is now upon the table, and ask those gentlemen who believe that there are two distinct species of prehensile-lipped rhinoceroses in Southern Africa to point out where *R. bicornis* ceases and *R. keitloa* commences.



J. Smith lith

HORNS OF RHINOCEROS BICORNIS *the Nat. Hist.*

PLATE 10. 1830

List of Specimens exhibited.

- (1) Black rhinoceros, ♂. Shot by J. S. Jameson and myself near the Umniati river, North-eastern Mashuna land, August 1880.
- (2) Black rhinoceros, ♂. Shot by myself at Thamma-Setsi, on the Zambesi road, November 1874.
- (3) Black rhinoceros, ♀. Shot by J. S. Jameson on the lower Umfule, North-eastern Mashuna land, August 1880.
- (4) Black rhinoceros, ♀. Shot by myself near the junction of the Gwai and Shangani rivers, Matabele country, September 1873.
- (5) Black rhinoceros, ♂. Shot by J. S. Jameson near the river Umsengaisi, North-eastern Mashuna land, September 1880.
- (6) Black rhinoceros, ♀. Shot by H. C. Collison near the river Umsengaisi, North-eastern Mashuna land, September 1880.
- (7) Black rhinoceros, ♂. Shot by myself on the bank of the river Chobe, August 1874.
- (8) Black rhinoceros, ♀. Shot by one of my hunters between the Umfule and Umzweswe rivers, North-eastern Mashuna land, August 1880.
- (9) Black rhinoceros, ♀. Shot by one of my hunters between the Umfule and Umzweswe rivers, North-eastern Mashuna land, September 1880.

as the last fell dead, Messrs. Clarkson and Cross came galloping up, and our Kafirs followed soon after, all having heard and been guided by our shots. Finding water in a valley close to the dead beasts, and having our blankets and other traps with us, we camped on the spot, and spent the following day, Sunday, in idleness, whilst our Kafirs were engaged in chopping out the tusks.



HORNS OF WHITE RHINOCEROS (*Rhinoceros simus*) ♂.

Shot in the Mashuna Country, between the Umzweswe and Umniati rivers,
July 1880. Scale 1 inch to the foot.

CHAPTER XX.

Hunting Trip to Mashuna Country continued—An Eland Bull—Hanyane River—Elephants—Hippopotami trapped in Pool—Game-nets—Notes on “Fly”-bites—Bush Pigs—Sable Antelope Bull—Rhinoceros—Hunting in the Machabi Hills—Rhinoceros Cow—Elands—Male Sable Antelope pursued and attacked by Wild Dog—Nineteen Elephants shot—Oribi Antelope and its Distribution—Standard-winged Nightjar—Poor “Bill” killed by Crocodile—Rhinoceros and Little Calf—Shoot Lioness at Viljoen’s Camp—Christmas with Rev. W. Elliott.

ON Monday, September 23, we again turned our faces to the north-east, and made for the Hanyane river. On the following day, as we were riding along, we spied an old eland bull, standing in the shade of a tree. As we thought he would be fat, and we were in want of this luxury, Wood, who had the best horse, was deputed to shoot him, whilst we held in our nags and watched events. The eland, all unconscious of these designs upon him, stood quietly swishing the flies from his sides, and it was not until his enemy had approached to within 200 yards of him that he became aware of his proximity, and trotted out into the open. Wood then let “Wildfire” out, and a fast horse he was; but the eland, heavy though he looked, broke into a springing gallop, and held his own for the short distance that the chase was within our view. Soon, however, we heard a shot, and cantering up found Wood surveying his victim, which stood, poor thing, on the farther side of a gully, looking ruefully with his soft brown eyes upon his destroyer. What a grand-looking beast an eland bull is, with his

heavy though shapely body, low hanging dewlap, fine clean-cut limbs, and small game-looking head! He is one of those stately creatures that few reflecting men can slay without regret, and fewer still, I hope, would kill for sport alone, leaving the carcass to rot in the wilderness or fatten the wolves and vultures; but at the same time, it is as necessary for the hunter, upon whose rifle, perhaps, a score of hungry savages are dependent for food from day to day, to shoot many beautiful and harmless animals, as it is for a butcher in a civilised land to poleaxe an ox.

We now drove him gently along to a hole of water, some distance down the gully before mentioned, when a bullet put a term to his misery. He had a very pretty, even pair of horns, with white tips, which measured 2 feet 4 inches in length.

The following day, September 24, we made an early start, still keeping a north-easterly course, and at about 10 A.M., within a few miles of the Hanyane river, crossed the fresh spoor of a troop of elephant bulls, which of course we followed, and as they were feeding quietly along, it was hardly noon when we sighted them. At the same moment they got our wind, and ran. There were, I think, nine altogether, five of which we shot, the other four, I am sorry to say, making good their escape. Those we shot were all old animals. Two carried tusks weighing 60 lbs. apiece, within a pound or two, and those of the other three were all over 40 lbs. each. There being water close by, we camped where we were. On the following day a lot of Mashunas came to our camp and asked permission to cut up the meat, which we granted. They own allegiance to the petty Mashuna chief, Lo Magondi, whose kraals were situated amongst the hills, which we could see from our camp, and which were not more than ten miles distant.

On September 27, we rode down to have a look at the Hanyane river, as it is marked in Mr. Baines's last map. By the Matabele this river is called "Hanyane," but by the Mashunas, "Manyame," and near its confluence with the Zambesi, "Panyame." It is a fine running river, with long

reaches of deep-blue water, neither few nor far between, along its course. In many parts of it there are hippopotami, though about here the natives have persecuted them so much that they have gone in quest of fresh fields and pastures new. At one place we found a large deep pool, fenced completely round, rude dams, as it were, having been built across the shallow water, both above and below it; several stages, too, had been erected in the pool itself, surmounted by small platforms. These preparations, the Mashunas told us, had been made to circumvent some hippopotami that were in the pool. The fence was made to prevent their coming out to feed, and on the various platforms men were stationed with heavy spears, which they plunged into the backs of the amphibious monsters whenever they showed themselves above water. Altogether, the hippopotami must have had a rough time of it in that pool. Two, at any rate, must have met their death, for we saw their skulls lying there. Just after leaving this pool we crossed the spoor of some elephants that had passed in the night, and, it being still early, followed them. We stuck to the spoor until about four o'clock in the afternoon, when we gave it up, as, from the appearance of the leaves that they had been eating, we were still as far behind them as when we started. They had described a regular circle round our camp, so that although we had ridden many miles we were still at no great distance from it, and managed to get home just before dark. The following day we rode out again in the direction of Lo Magondi's town, which lies amongst the hills to the north of our camp; we saw no elephant spoor, but whilst returning home came across a fine old eland bull, which we shot for the sake of the meat and fat.

During the next three days we rode out regularly both up and down, and on the farther side of the Hanyane river, but saw no more fresh elephant spoor, though the country about here must have been full of these animals only eight days before, when we shot the five bulls. Our firing seemed to have frightened them all away, so shy are elephants at the present day. What may perhaps have had something to

do with their disappearance, too, was the presence of bands of Mashunas all over the country, engaged in netting game, parties of whom we came across constantly. These nets are neatly made of cord manufactured from the inner bark of the machabel tree. Each individual net is from fifteen to twenty yards in length, and six or seven feet in breadth, and when set for game a great number of them are arranged upon poles in a row, so as to form a continuous line of netting, several hundred yards in length. Into these nets antelopes of all kinds are driven and entangled, and as they are very elastic, and give to their weight, it is only the very largest animals that can break through them; indeed the Mashunas assured us that they would hold anything running, with the exception of the elephant and rhinoceros.

On the evening of October 1, my driver Jantje came to our camp from the waggons at the Umbila river, bringing rather alarming news, for he informed us that upon the day of his arrival there, the cattle-herd had caught three tsetse flies in the kraal, and that he himself had seen "fly" not a mile from the waggons. Being a Hottentot blessed with more "nous" than the generality of his tribe, whose rule is always to let things slide, he had at once inspanned the waggons and trekked over to the Umsengaisi river, and then came on to our camp to tell us what he had done. Of course we thought that all our oxen and the two horses we had left at the waggons were "fly-stuck," and cursed our luck accordingly; but we were eventually very agreeably disappointed, for we did not lose a single ox, though two of mine and one of Wood's showed evident signs of having been bitten, becoming very thin, and running at the eyes. They were all young animals, however, and at last pulled through, though one of mine did not commence to make flesh again for more than a year. These facts convinced me that it takes more than one fly-bite to kill an ox or any other animal, and that recovery from tsetse bite is possible when the blood has not been too strongly impregnated with the poison. Jantje had shot a fine old elephant bull, whose tusks weighed 56 lbs. and 57 lbs. apiece, and two cows,

besides two hippopotami which he came across in the Umniati river.

The following day, October 2, my horse being again very lame, I left my friends, and walked over to the waggons at Umsengaisi, with the intention of going into the "fly" on foot, for ten days or so. I reached the river just at dark, and thinking I was below the waggons, followed its course for a long way in the night. When day broke, however, I saw by some hills that I was wrong, and so had to retrace my steps, and did not reach the encampment until midday. Here I found Goulden, who had come over from our big camp on the Umfule to look us up.

During the following night four elephant bulls passed close by the waggons, so near indeed that the dogs ran out and barked at them, and the next morning we took their spoor. However, the dogs must have given them a fright, for they walked on in single file, mile after mile, without ever stopping to feed, so that we never gained upon them in the least, and eventually left the spoor, reaching the waggons late. That day I saw two bush pigs, which I think are rare in this part of the country, as they are the only ones I have seen. They were of a reddish colour, with long hair down their backs, their heads and snouts being like those of a domestic pig. When they ran their tails hung down, whereas a wart hog, the common wild pig of the country, always carries his tail held straight in the air. I had only twice seen these animals before, and that was in the thick bush to the west of, and not far from, the river Gwai.

The following day, just before sundown, Messrs. Clarkson, Cross, and Wood rode in from the Hanyane, having seen no more elephant spoor since I had left them. Next day being Sunday, we took things easy, and had a day's rest. About midday two Boer hunters—Cornelius Engelbreght and Karl Weyand—rode up to our camp, having followed on our waggon spoor from Umfulé to try and get some powder, coffee, etc., from us. They had shot a few elephants near the sources of the Umfule, and had also seen fresh spoor on this side of our main camp. When we

showed them the ten fine tusks of the bulls we had shot at the Hanyane, Cornelius exclaimed enviously, "Alle-mächt'ig, yella Engelesche is geluckach gewes; de duyvil pajs yella goed op"—*i.e.* By the Almighty, you English have been lucky; the devil looks well after you.

It was now arranged that Cross, Goulden, and Wood should return to our big camp with the Boers on the following day, and hunt the country between the Umfule and Zweswe rivers, whilst Clarkson and I remained behind for a short time to hunt the mahobo-hobo forests in the neighbourhood of our present camp. On the 8th of October Clarkson went out on foot to look for a pig down the river, whilst I, having hurt my foot the day before, remained at the waggons alone. About ten o'clock the cattle-herd came running up, saying there were some elephants amongst the oxen. Of course I got up the horses, and taking one of Clarkson's, rode with the boy to where he had seen the elephants, which had now decamped. I soon got the spoor, and as they had run off in single file, was able to gallop along it at a good pace. Now and then, however, they had separated, and I had then to go slowly, and take the spoor carefully. At last, after I had been riding for about an hour, I sighted their dusky forms, and was soon alongside of them. Never was an expectant hunter more disappointed. There were about a dozen elephants, three large, tuskless cows, and the rest little bits of things, not one amongst them worth shooting. I rode twice round them, and was very nearly turning back without firing a shot, but thinking that the meat, at any rate, would come in handy, I shot the largest amongst them, a heifer with tusks about 5 lbs. in weight. I then left them and rode back to the waggons, intensely disgusted at the bad luck I had met with, for the veldt was very open, and had the elephants only been worth shooting, I might have had a good and remunerative day's sport with them.

The next day we rode across to the Umbila river to look for elephant spoor, but saw none. Whilst on our way back I shot a sable antelope cow, with a very fine pair of horns.

On the 11th, as we were getting no fresh elephant spoor about the Umsengaisi, we inspanned the waggon and started back for the Umfule. We had just outspanned late in the afternoon, and were getting things square for the night, when the cattle-herd ran up to tell us that two rhinoceroses were coming down to water a few hundred yards up the valley. We seized our rifles, and ran down to try and get a shot at them, and soon espied two black rhinoceroses just emerging from the bush on their way to the water. The bush was very open, and the sharp-scented though short-sighted beasts seemed suspicious of danger; however, taking advantage of the cover afforded by a very small bush, I managed to approach within seventy yards of the cow, which was then standing broadside to me. I was just raising my rifle to fire when she must have made me out, for she wheeled round and faced towards me. Seeing that there was no time to be lost, I gave her a shot between the neck and the shoulder, which brought her to her knees, but she recovered herself at once, and wheeling round, was just starting off when Clarkson gave her another shot in the ribs that again knocked her down. She was up again in an instant, however, and galloped off after the other as if unhurt. They both of them soon settled into a trot, but a rhinoceros trots as fast as an eland, and although we ran as hard as we could, we did not get near them. The dogs having heard the shots, now came rushing past, and were soon barking and jumping up at the ears of the rhinoceroses. However, they pursued the even tenor of their way, never stopping to fight with the dogs, and having crossed the open valley, were soon lost to our sight in the bush beyond.

Early the following morning we again inspanned and trekked on, but as I thought that there was a chance of finding the rhinoceros cow we had wounded the previous evening, I saddled up my horse and rode on her spoor, but after following her for several miles, and finding she had never once stopped, I gave it up and returned to the waggons, which I found outspanned. I will take this opportunity of remarking that I have found it, as a rule, of

very little use following either elephants or rhinoceroses, however desperately they may have been wounded, unless, indeed, one of their legs has been injured; for these beasts, unlike other animals, do not go and stand, but walk on and on until they drop. This, I say, I have found, after considerable experience, to be the rule, though, of course, it is not an invariable one. On reaching the waggon I found that Clarkson had just shot an eland bull which he had seen as he was trekking.

Early on October 15 we reached our camp on the Umfule, and found that our friends Cross, Goulden, and Wood were still away hunting near Intaba Insimbi, between the Umfule and Zweswe rivers.

On the 16th, taking with us provisions and corn for the horses sufficient to last ten days, Clarkson and I again left camp, and following the waggon-track, rode towards Zweswe, intending to hunt for a few days amongst the Machabi hills, through which that river runs. That day we only got as far as the Griqua encampment, and on the way Clarkson shot a sable antelope. The Griquas, we found, had shot no elephants during the last month. The following day we rode on again, still keeping the waggon-track, and crossing the Zweswe river, reached Gwāzān early in the afternoon. Here we set to work to make a rude sort of hut that would protect us from the weather, as we intended to remain where we were for several days, and a heavy thunderstorm was brewing, which, indeed, burst upon us before our hut was completed. Early the following day we were again in the saddle, and leaving all our baggage at the skerm, in charge of a couple of boys, took a round through the hills to the south of the waggon-road. These hills are clothed for the most part with forests of the machabel tree, the favourite food of the elephant; but, though several herds of these animals had been about during the last month, we did not find any very fresh spoor. At last we emerged from the hills, and rode out upon the open treeless downs which lie between this range and Intaba Insimbi. Here we came across a black rhinoceros cow, right in the open plain, and

as we wanted meat for ourselves and our boys, shot her, though not without a hard gallop, for these unwieldy-looking beasts run at a pace that, with their short legs and heavy bodies, one would not believe them capable of. She was in excellent condition for a black one, and we got some very good meat from her ribs, which was probably due to the fact that she was within a few days of calving.

Two days later we were again riding amongst the hills, and had just entered a large opening, when I espied two elands, a bull and a cow, standing in the shade of a small tree about four hundred yards distant. Clarkson at once went for the bull, and as he was much better mounted than I, I just followed at a canter, not caring to distress my horse needlessly. The elands stood watching my friend's approach until he was within two hundred yards of them, then, his real character seeming all at once to strike them, they wheeled suddenly round, and made off at a hard trot. This, however, availed them but little, for soon the pursuing steed, now urged to his utmost speed, dashed up to within fifty yards of them. Then, indeed, they broke into a gallop, each one taking his own course, and my friend followed the bull. I had a fine view of the chase, for, as the eland ran in a semicircle, I was never very far distant. The bull ran hard for his life, as most elands in this part of Africa do, when not overburdened with fat. For quite a mile, I think, he never broke from his gallop, and as long as he galloped my friend could not pass him, but just kept about twenty or thirty yards behind him. Then, however, his race was run, for directly he broke into a trot, the longer-winded horse dashed past him. Clarkson did not at once shoot him, but brought him back at a hard trot—the foam flying in long silver threads from his mouth, as he turned his head alternately from side to side—to where I was standing, near the steep bank of a deep gully, in which there were several pools of water; then cantering past him, and pulling in his horse, he fired from the saddle as the eland trotted broadside past him; but the horse must have moved slightly as he fired, for the bullet, instead of inflicting a mortal wound, struck the

animal too high up just in front of the loins, and must have just grazed the backbone, for he fell to the shot as if struck by lightning.

As we had but very few cartridges left, and feared to run short in case of meeting with elephants, and as the eland appeared unable to rise, we did not at once despatch him, but waited for the Kafirs to come up and administer the *coup-de-grace* with their assegais. In the meantime, we led the horses down to the nearest pool of water, about a hundred yards distant, and after off-saddling, knee-haltered them. The Kafirs were now close up, so calling to them to come on quickly, Clarkson and I walked back to the eland. As we neared him he made another violent and almost successful effort to rise, so I turned again and shouted to the Kafirs to bring an assegai. Three of them ran up, but not having heard what I said, and seeing the eland lying flat on the ground, apparently dead, they had only brought knives to cut up the meat. As they rushed up, the eland made another tremendous effort, and this time gained his feet. For an instant he stood still, then staggered forwards, gaining strength at every step, till he was soon going off at a trot that a footman stood no chance of keeping up with. Having neither rifle nor assegai, we were unable to hinder his escape in any way. Clarkson and the boys ran after him, shouting to the other Kafirs to bring a rifle; whilst I, thinking they would never get up to him on foot, ran back to the water, hastily caught and saddled up Clarkson's horse, and then seizing my rifle, galloped at full speed in the direction taken by the eland, that was now out of sight in a patch of scattered bush. At length I caught sight of him, and galloping in front, endeavoured to turn him back again to the water, but do what I might he would not swerve from his course, so I jumped off and gave him a shot through the heart, as he trotted past me. That day several of our Kafirs having lagged behind, missed our spoor, our blanket-carriers amongst them, and as they did not come up by nightfall, we had to sleep upon the bare ground, which, however, as it was fine, did not inconvenience us much.

On the 21st we rode back to our waggons at Umfule to see if our friends had returned. They had not arrived, but we heard from a boy they had sent on, that they would be in camp on the following day. We this day witnessed a very pretty sight, as we were riding across a wide, open down between the Zweswe and Umfule rivers. We had a short time previously noticed a solitary old sable antelope bull feeding on the edge of a small strip of bush that intersected the plain. Suddenly this antelope, which was six or seven hundred yards distant, came running out into the flat straight towards us, on perceiving which we reined in our horses, and looked around for the cause of its alarm. This was soon apparent, for before long we saw that an animal was running on its tracks, and though still distant, overhauling it fast, for the sable antelope not being pressed, was not yet doing its best, so that when it was about two hundred yards from us, its pursuer, which we now saw was a wild dog, was not more than fifty yards behind it. The noble-looking antelope must just then have seen us, for it halted, looked towards us, and then turning its head, glanced at its insignificant pursuer. That glance, however, at the open-mouthed dog thirsting for its life-blood must have called up unpleasant reminiscences, for instead of showing fight, as I should have expected it to have done, it threw out its limbs convulsively, and came dashing past us at its utmost speed. It was, however, to no purpose, for the wild dog lying flat to the ground as a greyhound, its bushy tail stretched straight behind it, covered two yards to its one, and came up to it in no time. It just gave it one bite in the flank, and letting go its hold instantly, fell a few yards behind; at the bite the sable antelope swerved toward us, and upon receiving a second, in exactly the same place, turned still more, so that, taking the point on which we stood for a centre, both pursuer and pursued had described about a half-circle round us, always within two hundred yards, since the sable antelope had first halted. As the wild dog was just going up the third time it got our wind, and instead of again inflicting a bite, stopped dead and looked

towards us, whilst about a hundred yards from it the sable antelope also came to a stand. The baffled hound then turned round, and, pursued by Clarkson, made off one way, whilst the sable antelope, delivered from its tormentor, cantered off in another. This is the only time I have ever heard of a wild dog pursuing an animal by itself, especially such a formidable antagonist as a sable antelope bull, which can use its horns with wonderful dexterity. The wild dog, I fancy, must have been well aware of this fact, and if so, that would account for its only inflicting a bite, and at once letting go its hold, for if, like a tame dog, it were to have held on, it would have been infallibly transfixed. Whether in time it would have succeeded in tearing the sable antelope's flank open, and then pulling its entrails out piecemeal, which was its evident intention, I cannot say; but I think it a curious fact, and one well worth noticing, that an African hunting dog is capable of overtaking and attacking single-handed such a powerful animal as a male sable antelope.

On the following day, Cross, Goulden, and Wood came into camp just before sundown. They had shot two white rhinoceroses not more than three miles from the waggons, and that same morning had ridden out and shot a solitary old buffalo cow, the only buffalo seen by any of our party this season. They had also been more fortunate with elephants than Clarkson and myself, for one afternoon as they were sitting in their camp, near the river Zweswe, their Kafirs sighted a herd of these animals coming towards them. They rode after them at once, and the country being very open, and favourable for working with horses, they killed the entire troop, consisting of twenty-one elephants, with the exception of two tuskless ones, which they allowed to escape.

The next day we sent all the Kafirs and two pack oxen to bring in the meat of the two white rhinoceroses. I myself took a round to look for oribi antelope, but though I saw several, they were very wild, and I could not manage to bag one. These graceful little antelopes are common

about here, and become more numerous towards the north-east; but to the south-west, in the direction of the Matabele country, I have never seen any after crossing the river Zweswe. They stand higher on their legs than steinbucks, and can be at once distinguished from them by their black tails and ringed horns. They are, I think, specifically identical with the oribi of the Cape Colony. Besides on the higher portions of the Mashuna country, I have met with the oribi on the open plateau of the Manica country, to the north of the Zambesi, at Gazuma vley, about thirty miles to the south-west of the Victoria Falls (but nowhere else in the surrounding country), and on the marshy flats in the neighbourhood of Linyanti, on the northern bank of the river Chobe. All over this part of the country the remarkable standard-winged nightjar (*cosmetornis vexillarius*) is very common; indeed, one can scarcely ride ten miles through the veldt without putting one up. The males had now assumed their long wing-feathers, which, if I am not mistaken, they only retain during the breeding season; at least I have observed that one does not see any nightjars with long feathers in their wings before September, or after December, and it is in the former month that the females usually lay. Like all other nightjars, these birds lie very close during the daytime, and when disturbed only fly twenty or thirty yards, and again alight and lie close to the ground. The females when sitting will almost allow one to tread upon them before they move; indeed, I have seen one sit still whilst four horsemen and about thirty Kafirs walked past within a yard of her in single file. Like its European congener, the African standard-winged nightjar lays two eggs upon the bare ground, the only difference being that the marblings are pinky-brown instead of gray. There is another species of nightjar, the *Caprimulgus mozambicus*, also very common in this part of the country, whose nesting habits and the colour of whose eggs are very similar to those of *C. vexillarius*, from which species, however, it may be at once distinguished by being of a grayer colour, and wanting the six bars across the wings which