



T H E

Gentleman's Magazine;

For D E C E M B E R, 1771.

DEBATES in a Newly-established SOCIETY, continued from p. 484.



ON the 13th of December, a motion was made, That a conference be desired with the Lords upon a matter highly con-

cerning the good correspondence between the two Houses of Parliament, and the mutual civility usually shewn by each House to the members of the other House. It passed in the negative.

Against it	77
For it	42

Majority 35

On the 14th, the order of the House was read, That the House should go into a committee of the whole House on the Mutiny Bill.

Governor P--n- said, That, having considered, on one hand, the danger which might arise to the constitution, from permitting the civil magistrate to arm himself with the military power, by calling it out upon the slightest occasion, without being answerable for the consequences, as well as to the subject, by the improper, as well as wanton use of this force; and, on the other hand, the dangerous snares, to which the officers and soldiers of his Majesty's forces were exposed, by the manner in which they were expected to act, when called out upon such occasion; he had prepared a clause for the prevention of the evils on both sides, which he should be glad to offer, if the House would authorize the committee to receive it. He added,

that he had the pleasure to find, by conversation with Gentlemen on all sides, that his idea was generally approved, and that no opposition was intended against it; and, therefore, that in this stage of the business he should only explain his clause, without adducing any arguments in support of it. It was intended, he said, to oblige the Magistrate, when he thought proper to call out the military force, to do it by writing; and that he should either sign his name to the reasons upon which he founded his requisition, or the officer should take down the message, assigning those reasons in writing. The clause was then read.

General I-w-n seconded the motion; and the House unanimously made it an instruction to the committee, that the clause should be received.

The House then went into a committee; and the Bill being read, Lord B-r-r-g-n offered a clause, purporting that individuals in courts martial should be at liberty to conceal their opinions.

The Hon. Capt. P--ps objected, because, he said, that if the proceedings of courts martial should be regulated by such a clause, it would give the appearance of unanimity to every sentence, which, in some cases, would be injurious to the members of the court, and to the persons tried; he wished, therefore, that the inserting the clause might be suspended, at least for the present, and that the noble Lord would withdraw his motion.

Mr. C--w--l spoke to the same effect, and illustrated Capt. P--ps's argument by particular cases.

Lord B-r-r-g-n replied, that the clause

which Lucern can in this country be cultivated to advantage: But till the culture of it is better known, he advises the common farmer to content himself with the improvements he has been most accustomed to, of common St. Foin, or still more common clover.

In Chap. 17, Of BURNET, the author recapitulates what has been said for and against this newly-introduced plant, and concludes with Mr. Milier in cautioning gentlemen, who may be inclined to make trials of it, to begin with small quantities.

Chap. 18 treats of GRASSES PROPERLY SO CALLED, and particularly REY-GRASS, which the author recommends to the farmers cultivation preferably to almost every other sort. if, says he, those writers, who so strongly recommend the selecting of grasses, were farmers, they would know, that one good, sound, and wholesome species of *perennial* grass, that will flourish in almost every arable soil, and by the culture of which their lands are easily converted from corn to pasture, and from pasture to corn again, is to them of more value than all the tribes of *annuals* added together.

From grasses artificial and natural, the author passes to those leguminous plants that have lately been introduced for the winter-feed of cattle; particularly,

Chap. 19, Of the TURNEP-CABBAGE; Chap. 19, Of the TURNEP-ROOTED CABBAGE; and Chap. 20, Of CABBAGES PROPERLY SO CALLED; the culture of all which is very judiciously directed, and the great advantage of propagating them demonstrated.

Chap. 20, Of COLESEED, contains the whole process of raising, reaping, thrashing, and bagging, of coleseed, and preparing it for the mill. The account is, indeed, very curious, and very particular.

The TEAZLE, in Chap. 22; HOPS, in Chap. 23; SAFFRON, in Chap. 24; FLAX, in Chap. 25; HEMP, in Chap. 26; WELD, in Chap. 27; WOAD, in Chap. 28; MADDER, in Chap. 29; and LIQUORICE, in Chap. 30; are all treated of with great propriety, and the cultivation of them shewn to be attended with uncommon advantages.

The conclusion is an epitome of Mr. Dossie's last volume of *Memoirs of Agriculture*, published with permission of the Society of Arts, in which is included an account of a

newly-discovered species of potatoes highly commended by the first discoverers.

From this brief review of the COMPLETE ENGLISH FARMER, the reader may judge of the importance of its contents. Few books, in this or any other language, comprise so much PRACTICAL INSTRUCTION in so small a volume. That the author writes from knowledge, is apparent. When he differs in opinion from authors of established credit, he supports his dissent by arguments founded on his own experience. He is an enemy to hasty projects, and cautions gentlemen and farmers against attempting improvements in improper situations. The whole work is interspersed with many sensible observations; and we may venture to recommend it to the intelligent husbandman's perusal as a work that will afford him profit and entertainment.

35. *Synopsis of Quadrupeds*, by Thomas Pennant, Esq; 1771, 8vo.

The ingenious author of this work, has already given many proofs of his great abilities as a Naturalist. His former publications have more particularly interested the English readers, as they concerned the animals of Great-Britain; but in the present work, he enlarges his plan, and treats of all the known quadrupeds on our globe, displaying an equal share of learning and of discernment. In his preface, he lays open the reasons which induced him to offer this work to the public, and accounts for forming a system of his own, by pointing out the defects of those already published, but politely acknowledging the merits of each, and the assistance he had derived from them all.

Mr. Pennant's plan is new, and keeps a just medium between that of the great *Linnaeus*, and that of *M. de Buffon*. To avoid the confusion, which must have been the consequence, had he followed the latter, by introducing no arrangement at all in his work, he has formed a system, taking care, however, not to imitate the former, in that strict and rigid adherence to it, which must of course, lay it under many inconveniencies. He has improved upon the Swedish Natural Historian, by giving an account of the œconomy of each animal, besides its bare description. This he has done in as concise, and yet as compleat a manner as possible, avoiding the prolixity, which in too many instances

instances has unnecessarily swelled the voluminous work of M. de Buffon, and which would frequently render it tedious, if that French Naturalist had not embellished it by his peculiar elegance of style.

Our author has likewise taken care to correct the false assertions which abound in the writings of M. de Buffon, who often opposes facts merely because they are contrary to his opinion, as is the case with the Opossum * and the Sloth, two kinds of animals, which M. de Buffon endeavours to confine to the new Continent, *i. e.* America; notwithstanding the positive testimony of several writers of good authority, who have seen them wild in several parts of the East-Indies.

The chief merit of Mr. Pennant's work certainly lies in the number of new species which he has described in it, and the correct accounts he has given of those that were but little known before. It is true, we can flatter ourselves, that, on account of the great extent of our commerce, we can offer such treasures from all parts of the world to the Naturalist, as no other country can afford; and our author had accordingly a great advantage over all other Natural Historians. But, besides this great superiority, the Synopsis of Mr. Pennant will likewise not be found defective in the secondary and less necessary points, requisite to make a work of that kind agreeable to the public; we mean the plates, and the style. The former are thirty one in number, and very well engraved, illustrating many of the new species, which are described in the work itself; and, as to the latter, we believe our readers will be perfectly convinced of its being justly adapted to the subject, from the following article, which we have inserted here for that purpose, and which may, at the same

* Pifo, Le Eran, and Valentyn, assert the existence of some species of this genus in the Molucca isles, and on Java; and Seba has drawn one of these animals, which he says he got from Amboina. M. de Buffon endeavours to invalidate the authority of these writers upon very weak grounds, but the observation of one of his countrymen, M. de Bougainville, who has made the voyage round the world, overthrows all M. de Buffon's arguments. In his *Voyage autour du monde*, p. 313, he says, that he saw them upon the isle of Boers; a circumstance, which confirms Mr. Pennant's opinion, and adds weight to the authority of former writers.

time, serve to convey a general idea of the work †.

“ Rhinoceros, with a single horn, placed near the end of the nose, sometimes three feet and a half long, black, and smooth; the upper lip long, hangs over the lower, ends in a point, is very pliable, and serves to collect its food, and deliver it into the mouth; the nostrils placed transversely; the ears large, erect, pointed; eyes small and dull; the skin naked, rough, or tuberculated, lying about the neck in vast folds; there is another fold from the shoulders to the fore legs; another from the hind part of the back to the thighs; the skin so thick and so strong, as to turn the edge of a scymeter, and resist a musket-ball; slender, flattened at the end, covered on the sides with very stiff, thick, black hairs; the belly hangs low; the legs short, strong, and thick; the hoofs divided into three parts, each pointing forward.

“ Those which have been brought to Europe, have been young and small; Bontius says, that, in respect to bulk of body, they equal the Elephant, but are lower, on account of the shortness of the legs.

“ It inhabits Bengal, Siam, Cochinchina, Quangsi in China, the isles of Java and Sumatra, Co go, Angola, Ethiopia, and the country as low as the Cape; loves shady forests, the neighbourhood of rivers, and marshy places; fond of wallowing in mire like the hog; is said by that means to give shelter in the folds of its skin to scorpions, centipedes, and other insects; is a solitary animal; brings one young at a time, very solicitous about it; quiet and inoffensive, but, provoked, furious; very swift, and very dangerous. I knew a gentleman who had his belly ripped up by one, but survived the wound. Is dull of sight; but has a most exquisite scent; feeds on vegetables, particularly shrubs, broom, and thistles; grunts like a hog; is said to consort with the tiger,—a table founded on their common attachment to the sides of rivers, and on that account are sometimes found near each other. Is said, when it has flung down a man, to lick the flesh quite from the bone with its rough tongue. This very doubtful; that which

† We have been favoured with an accurate drawing of the Rhinoceros and Elephant, by a friend, and have inserted it here, as it will illustrate the article from Mr. Pennant's Synopsis.

wounded the gentleman retired instantly after the stroke.

“Its flesh is eaten: *Kolben* says it is very good; and the skin, flesh, hoofs, teeth, and very dung, used in India medicinally; the horn is in great repute as an antidote against poison †, especially that of a virgin *Abbada*; cups are made of them. Found sometimes with double horns*. *Marial* alludes to a variety of this kind, by his *Ursus cornu gemino*.

“Is the Unicorn of HOLY WRIT, and of the Ancients, the *Onyx* and *Indian ass* of *Aristotle* †, who says it has but one horn? His informers might well compare the clumsy shape of the *Rhinoceros* to that of an ass, so that the philosopher might easily be induced to pronounce it a whole-footed animal. This was also the *Bos Unicornis* and *Fera Monoceros* of *Pliny* ‡: both were of *India*, the same country with this animal; and in his account of the *Monoceros*, he exactly describes the great black horn, and the hog-like tail.

“The Unicorn of *Holy Writ* has all the properties of the *Rhinoceros*; rage, untameableness, great swiftness, and great strength.

“It was known to the *Romans* in very early times: Its figure is among the animals of the *Prænestine* pavement. *Augustus* introduced one into the shows ‖, on his triumph over *Cleopatra*; and there is extant a coin of *Domitian*, with a double-horned *Rhinoceros* on it §.

“The combats between the Elephant and *Rhinoceros*; a fable, derived from *Pliny*.”

36 *Travels through that Part of North-America formerly called Louisiana, by M. Bossu, Captain in the French Marines. Translated by John Reinhold Forster, F. A. S. Illustrated with Notes relative chiefly to Natural History. To which is added, by the Translator, a Systematic Catalogue of all the known Plants of English North-America, together with an Abstract of the most useful and necessary Articles contained in the Travels of Peter Leffing through Spain and Gu-mana, in South-America. In 2 Vols. 8vo.*

AN account of the Travels of *Bossu* is intended to give the English reader a good account of a territory newly acquired by Great Britain, and

† It was not every horn that had this virtue; some were held very cheap, while others took a vast price.

GENT. MAG. Dec. 1771.

capable of very great improvement; and *Leoffing's* descriptions of the Spanish and South-American plants, which are said by *Mr. Forster* to be the only things in the journal which deserve attention, complete the English version of the voyages and publications of the Linnæan school; the works of *Hasselquist*, *Osbeck*, *Toreen*, and *Kalm*, having been translated before.

The Travels of *Bossu* are very entertaining. The following extract may serve as a specimen: it contains a description of an Indian nation called the *Akanzas*, which, the author says, will give a general idea of all the nations of North-America.

“The *Akanzas* live on the banks of a river that bears their name: It arises in New Mexico, and falls into the *Mississippi*. These Indians are tall, well made, brave, good swimmers, and very expert in hunting and fishing.

“The country of the *Akanzas* is one of the finest in the world; the soil of it is so fertile, that it produces, without any culture, European wheat, all kinds of food, and good fruit unknown in France. Game of all kinds is plentiful there; wild oxen, stags, roebucks, bears, tygers, leopards, foxes, wild cats, rabbits, turkies, grouse, pheasants, partridges, quails, turdies, wood-pigeons, swans, geese, bustards, ducks of all kinds, teals, divers, snipes, water-hens, golden plovers, stares, thrushes, and other birds which are not known in Europe.

“On my arrival at the *Akanzas*, the young warriors received me with the dance of the calumet. It is necessary that I should inform you, that dancing enters into all sorts of transactions with these nations; they have religious, physical, merry, ceremonious, warlike, pacific, nuptial, funeral, playful, hunting, and lewd dances: the last is abolished since our arrival in America.

“The dance of impudicity was performed privately and in night-time, by the light of a great fire. All that entered into the lascivious assembly

* *Hamilton*, in his voyage to the *East-Indies*, I. 8. says, that he saw, brought from *Natal*, in *Africa*, three horns growing from one root; the longest 18, the next 12, and the third 8 inches long.

† *Hist. An.* lib. II. c. 1.

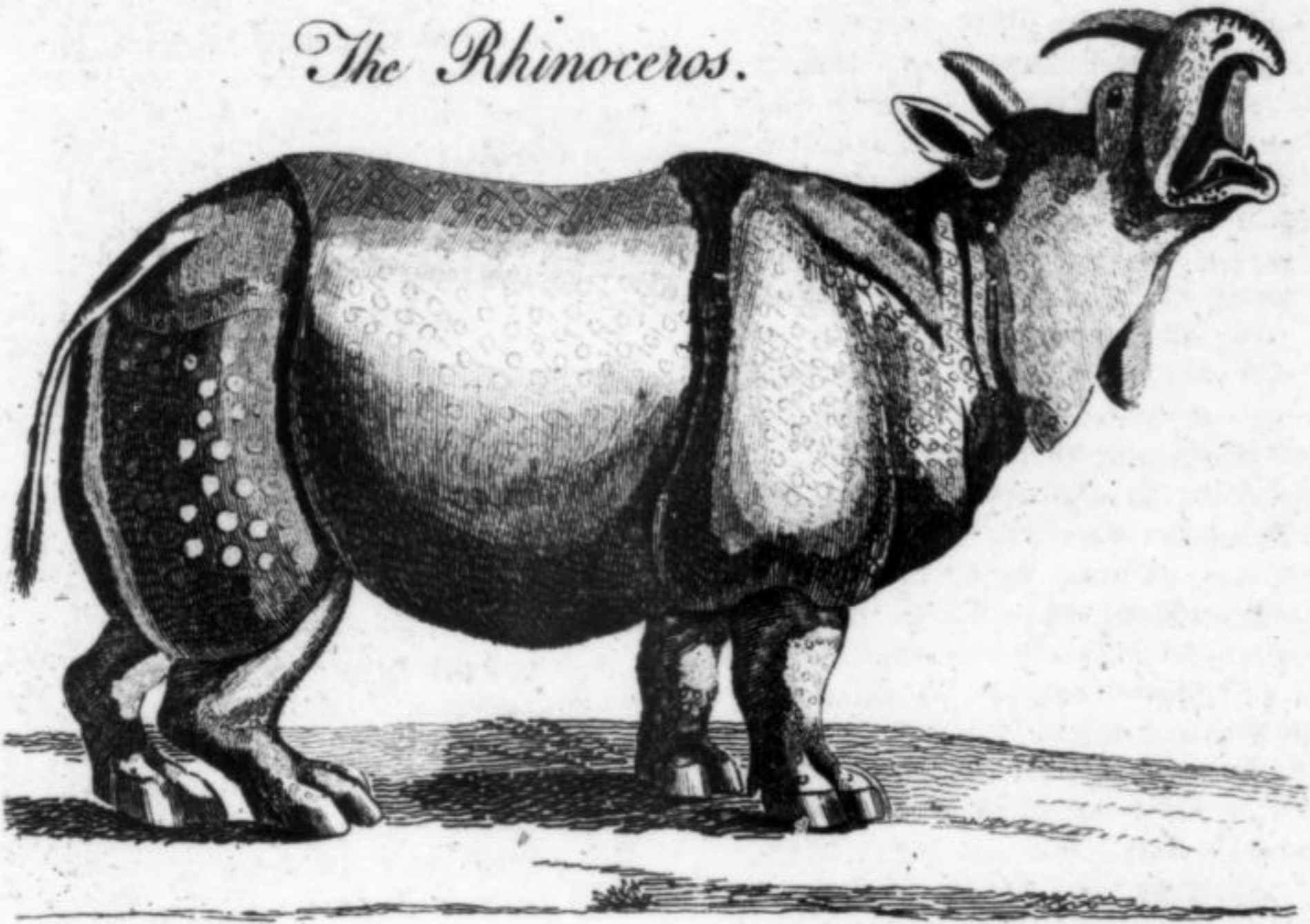
‡ *Lib.* VIII. c. 21.

‖ *Dior. Cassin*, lib. LI.

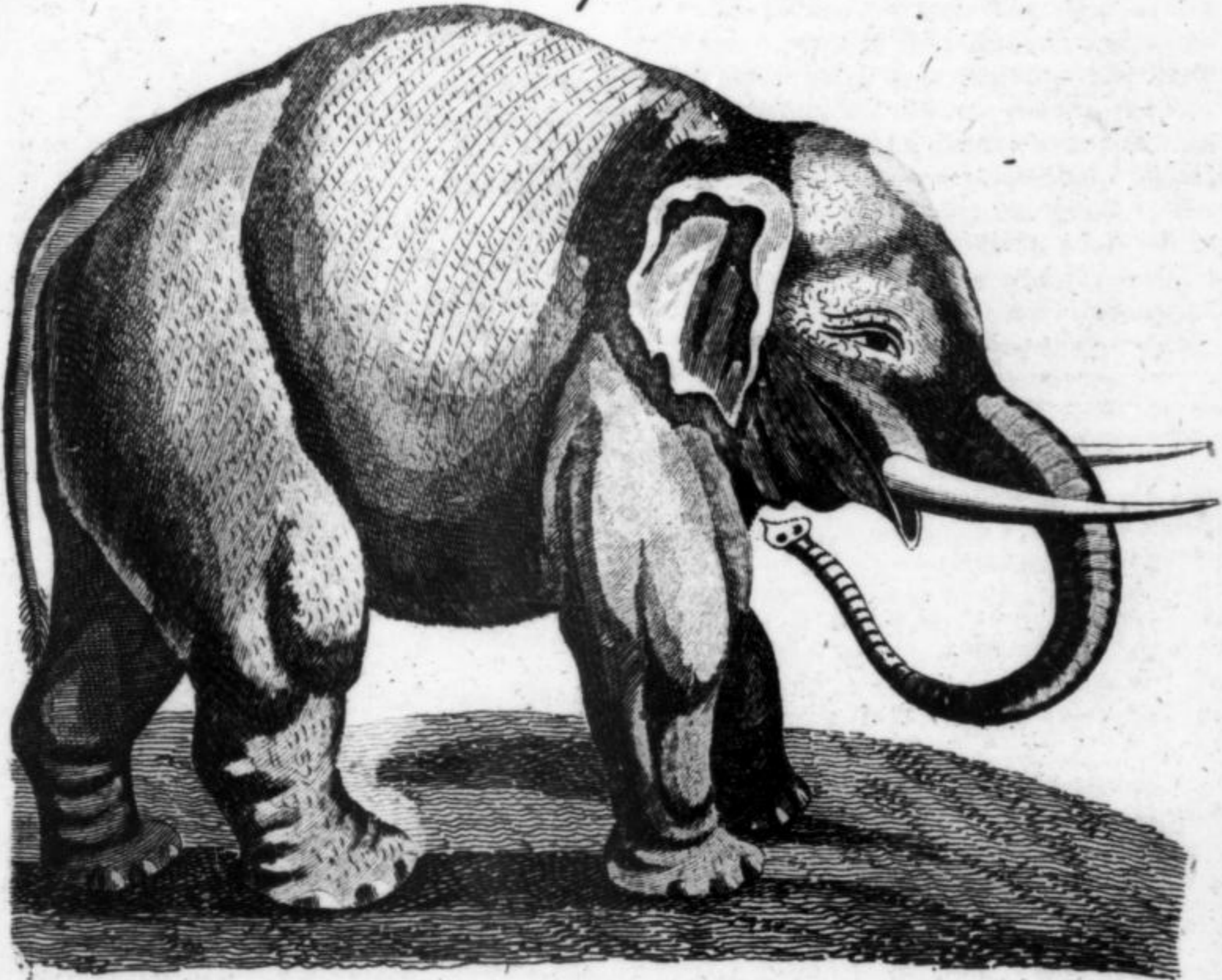
§ *Ph. Transf.* XI. 913.

WERS

The Rhinoceros.



The Elephant.



The Rhinoceros.



The Elephant.

