

THE
INSTRUCTIVE PICTURE BOOK

LESSONS FROM
THE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF ANIMALS,
OR
THE NATURAL HISTORY
OF THE
QUADRUPEDS WHICH CHARACTERISE THE PRINCIPAL
DIVISIONS OF THE GLOBE.

BY

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K

— "look who list, thy gazeful eyes to feed
With sight of that is faire, look on the frame
Of this wyde universe, and therein read
The endless kind of creatures which by name
Thou canst not count, much less their natures aime;
All which are made with wondrous wise respect,
And all with admirable beauty deckt."

EDINBURGH:
EDMONSTON AND DOUGLAS, 88 PRINCES STREET.

MDCCCLX.

C O N T E N T S.

EUROPE

- PLATE
I. LYNX.
II. WILD CAT.
III. AUROCHS OF LITHUANIA.
IV. WILD CATTLE OF BRITAIN OR
BRITISH URUS.
V. MOOSE-DEER.
VI. REIN-DEER.
VII. AMMON SHEEP OR MOUFFLON.
VIII. CHAMOIS.
IX. COMMON AND ITALIAN FOX.
X. ALPINE HARE.
XI. BARBARY APE.
XII. CA'ING WHALE.

ASIA

- XIII. TIGER.
XIV. HUNTING LEOPARD OR CHEETAH.
XV. NYLGHAIL.
XVI. MUSK-DEER.
XVII. ZEBU OR SACRED OX.
XVIII. YAK.

JAVA

- XIX. MALAY TAPIR.
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BORNEO AND NEW GUINEA

- XXI. RED OURANG-OUTANG.
XXII. DENDROLOGUS AND HYSIPRIMNUS.

AUSTRALIA AND VAN DIEMEN'S LAND

- XXIII. KANGAROO.
XXIV. TIGER WOLF AND WOMBAT.
XXV. ORNITHORHYNCHUS.
XXVI. ECHIDNA OR PORCUPINE ANT-
EATER.

AFRICA

- XXVII. LION.
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AFRICA

- PLATE
XXX. ZEBRA AND WHITE RHINOCEROS.
XXXI. ELEPHANT.
XXXII. HIPPOPOTAMUS.
XXXIII. RHINOCEROS.
XXXIV. WART HOG.
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XXXVI. GIRAFFE AND ORYX.
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XXXVIII. GNOO AND SPRINBOK.
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XLII. GUEREZA MONKEY.

SOUTH AMERICA

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XLV. TAPIR.
XLVI. LLAMA.
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XLVIII. GREAT ANT-EATER.
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L. HOWLING MONKEY.

NORTH AMERICA

- LI. GRISLY BEAR.
LII. RACCOON.
LIII. BISON.
LIV. WAPITI, BLACK-TAILED DEER, AND
PRONG-HORNED ANTELOPE.
LV. ROCKY MOUNTAIN SHEEP.
LVI. BEAVER.

ARCTIC REGIONS

- LVII. WALRUS.
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ANTARCTIC REGIONS

- LX. SPERM WHALE.

THE LION. (FELIS LEO.)

PLATE XXVII.

THE LION is chief among the Felinæ of Africa. Large numbers were captured and transported to the utmost limits of the Roman Empire for the games of which the Romans were so passionately fond. In the vast untrodden wilds of Africa, from the deserts of the north to the trackless forests of the south, it reigns supreme and uncontrolled. In the deserts of Arabia, in some of the wilder districts of Persia, and in the vast jungles of Hindostan, it still maintains a precarious footing; but from the classic soil of Greece, as well as from the whole of Asia Minor, both of which were once exposed to its ravages, it has been utterly dislodged, and is almost if not entirely extirpated.

In Africa the Lion inhabits the plains rather than the wooded parts. That country exhibits it in all its grandeur; and in many an unknown desert, it reigns with undisputed sway over the more feeble races; here it is most powerful, and of the greatest size and fierceness, while its disposition is bold and fearless.

This king of beasts has long been celebrated for the grandeur of its head, the stern majesty of the mane, the expression of the eye, and the strength of the colossal fore leg. The general colour of the African Lion is a tawny yellow, the head and neck is covered with long flowing and shaggy hair called the mane, which gives the idea of great power, and this mane and the tuft at the extreme end of the tail are peculiar to the male Lion alone; in some the mane is quite black, and these are reckoned by the Hottentots to be by far the fiercest and most daring—an opinion which may be perhaps heightened by the dark and formidable appearance given by the shaggy covering. These are the principal outward marks which distinguish this formidable creature; but there is still another variety which till lately has been known only by the records of antiquity—the maneless Lion of ancient Egypt, the exquisite proportions of which, as they are still preserved in the sculptures of that country, fail to compensate to a modern eye for the absence of those stately honours so profusely adorning the head of the Barbary animal, and which, if the Lion be the king of the animal world, doubtless compose his regal robe! It was conjectured that an animal without the mane must have at one time existed, or did still exist in unexplored regions, and the researches of travellers and sportsmen of the present day have brought it to our knowledge. Some years ago a maneless lion was seen at Bagdad, and the same species extends in Guzerat through a range of about forty miles of country, where it is known as the “Camel Tiger,” a name derived from its colour. In the hot months it is found in the low bushy wooded plains that skirt the rivers, where it is destructive to cattle, but does not appear to attack man. When struck by a ball, it exhibits great boldness, standing as if preparing to resist its pursuer, and then going off slowly, and in a very sullen manner; unlike the tiger, which on such occasions retreats springing and snarling. Besides the absence of the extensive mane, it is distinguished from the ordinary Lion by a somewhat shorter tail, furnished at its tip with a much larger brush. At the time of the discovery of Lake Ngami, two lions were shot entirely destitute of mane. The most marked distinction between the African and Asiatic Lion is the very pale tint, approaching almost to a fawn colour, which pervades the whole body of the latter, and the mane is scarcely so ample. The size is also somewhat less, and its strength and fierceness are generally held in comparatively less estimation.

The Lion possesses the most tractable and mildest disposition among the cats, is easily tamed, and in confinement shows itself the most susceptible of recollection and attachment for those who have treated it with kind-

ness. In a wild state, when encountered in the day-time, a circumstance not unfrequent to travellers in Africa, the Lion stands a second or two gazing, then turns slowly round, and walks away for a dozen paces looking over its shoulder, then begins to trot, and when it thinks itself out of sight, bounds off like a greyhound. By day, or even in clear moonlight, there is not, as a rule, the smallest danger of Lions which are not molested, attacking man. The Lion feeds generally at dawn and twilight, and is easily disturbed; its most common and favourite prey is the numerous species of antelopes and deer which abound in the plains of Africa and jungles of India. Where game is abundant, there lions may be expected in large numbers; they are never seen in herds, but six or eight, probably one family, occasionally hunt together. When a Lion is very hungry and lying in wait, the sight of an animal makes him commence stealthily creeping towards it, and in one case, a sportsman, while stalking a rhinoceros happening to glance behind him, found to his horror a Lion *stalking him*; he only escaped by springing up a tree like a cat. The power of voice which this quadruped possesses, when urged by the cravings of hunger, is, of sounds emitted by animals, the most terrific; the roaring of the Lion impresses even man himself with a feeling which he cannot control. “The Lion hath roared, who will not fear?” and when it becomes instinctively known as the prelude to a sure destruction, it is dreadful indeed.

It is questionable if a Lion singly, ever attacks a full-grown African buffalo, but frequently when a buffalo calf is caught, the cow rushes to the rescue, and a toss from her often kills the assailant. One toss from a bull-buffalo would kill the strongest Lion. Lions never go near any elephants except the calves, which when young are sometimes torn by them. Every living thing retires before the lordly elephant, yet one full grown would be an easier prey than the rhinoceros; the Lion rushes off at the mere sight of this latter beast. It has been stated that if one of a troop of lions is killed, the others take the hint, and leave that part of the country. During Dr. Livingstone’s residence in Africa, the herds belonging to the people with whom he resided were attacked, and to assist and encourage them, he accompanied an expedition for the purpose of attempting to destroy the marauders. It had nearly proved fatal to that traveller, who has given the following account of it:—

“We found the lions on a small hill about a quarter of a mile in length, and covered with trees. A circle of men was formed round it, and they gradually closed up, ascending pretty near to each other. Being down below on the plain with a native schoolmaster named Mebálwe, a most excellent man, I saw one of the lions sitting on a piece of rock within the now closed circle of men. Mebálwe fired at him before I could, and the ball struck the rock on which the animal was sitting. He bit at the spot struck, as a dog does at a stick or stone thrown at him; then leaping away, broke through the opening circle and escaped unhurt. The men were afraid to attack him, perhaps on account of their belief in witchcraft. When the circle was reformed, we saw two other lions in it; but we were afraid to fire lest we should strike the men, and they allowed the beasts to burst through also. If they had acted according to the custom of the country, they would have speared the lions in their attempt to get out. Seeing we could not get them to kill one of the lions, we bent our footsteps towards the village; in going round the end of the hill, however, I saw one of the beasts sitting on a piece of rock as before, but this time he had a little bush in front. Being about thirty yards off, I took a good aim at his body through the bush, and fired both barrels

THE ZEBRA. (ASSINUS ZEBRA.)

PLATE XXX.

AMONG the group of animals to which the Zebra belongs, the Ass is perhaps the best known to our young readers, and it is to be feared there are few boys who have not tormented that much enduring and patient animal. Why it is so used it would be hard to tell, for no animal of its size can bear heavier burdens or perform a larger of work, and that with scanty and coarse fare, and often with cruel and oppressive treatment; and no animal has ever borne so sacred a burden, for our Lord made his entry into Jerusalem "upon an ass and a colt the foal of an ass." In Persia and Arabia, which, with Northern Africa, are the native lands of the Ass, it is a very different animal from the poor, neglected, ill-used, half-starved creature of the greater part of our own country; there it runs wild and free, far from the thralldom and blows of the "donkey-boy." The well-treated asses of Arabia are among the most handsome of the domestic animals in the world; their coat is smooth and clean, they carry their heads elevated, and have fine and well-formed legs, which they throw out gracefully in walking or galloping; they are used only for the saddle, and being taught a kind of easy ambling pace, are richly caparisoned, and used only by the rich and luxurious nobles.

The Zebras, although entirely confined to Africa, form only an artificial group, very slightly separated from the true asses, and still more nearly allied to the dun or fawn-coloured species of India, and the high regions of Thibet and Tartary. The scientific name of *Hippotigris*, or tiger-horse, has been applied to them only from the striped markings which characterize the species. Two of these, the Quagga and Burchell's Zebra, are confined to the open plains, and are striped only on the head, neck and fore-quarters. The third, or true Zebra, inhabits the more alpine regions, and has the whole body and limbs striped, and the hoofs much narrower and hollow below. The ancients knew very little about them—one specimen of the common Zebra only having found its way to the Roman circus, which was exhibited by the Emperor Caracalla. The Zebra of the Cape of Good Hope is about twelve hands high at the shoulders, and about double in extreme length. In shape it is light and symmetrical,

the limbs slender, and the hoofs narrow, the ears rather long, and much more open than in the ass, but the tail, with a tuft of hair at the tip, resembles that of the latter animal; the ground colour of its coat is white, sometimes tinged with yellow, and what distinguishes the species from others is, that having all the under-parts unmarked, it is cross-banded with black or dark-brown over head, neck, body and limbs, in regular distinct undivided bands; when in health and fine condition it is an exceedingly beautiful animal. The mane is stiff and erect, is throughout broadly and deeply tipped with black, and is marked by a continuation of the transverse bands of the neck.

All the species of Zebras are gregarious, sometimes assembling in very large flocks with the different antelopes. They are constantly met with by sportsmen, and are sometimes used by them when badly off for food. The flesh is eatable, but is by no means good; for besides possessing a very strong odour and peculiar flavour, it has a very oily taste. However, "with plenty of pepper and salt, mustard and a few good pickles, a steak is not to be despised by the hungry traveller." The flesh of the Wild Ass is much relished by the Persians and Tartars, and by the Romans was eaten as venison. The epicures among the latter people also considered "fat ass foals" as a delicacy.

Unlike others of its tribe, the Zebra spurns the yoke of servitude, and proves one of the most rebellious subjects of the lord of the creation. Many attempts have been made at the Cape to discipline this animal, but to no purpose. An instance is related of a rich citizen who had brought up, and to a certain extent tamed some Zebras, with the view of accustoming them to harness or the saddle. He one day had them yoked to his chariot, although they had been utterly unaccustomed to anything of the sort. But he had nearly well paid for his folly, for the Zebras rushed back to their stalls with such terrible fury as to leave him (he narrowly escaped with life) very little inclination to repeat the experiment. Some of the other striped animals have been tamed; and Colonel Hamilton Smith writes that he has ridden a Quagga, and that a pair of them were once driven in Hyde Park.

THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT. (ELEPHAS AFRICANUS.)

PLATE XXXI.

THE ELEPHANT inhabits the tropical forests of Africa and Asia, living in troops or herds in a state of inoffensive quiet, unless when attacked by some of their larger and stronger animal assailants, or their powerful and more relentless enemy man.

In Africa the Elephant is widely diffused through the vast and boundless forests, and is met with in herds of various numbers; old bull elephants are found singly or in pairs, or consorting together in small herds, varying from six to twenty individuals. The younger bulls remain for many years with their mothers, and these are met in large herds of from twenty to a hundred. Like the whale in the ocean, the elephant on land moves over wide and extensive tracts; they generally choose for their resort the most lonely and secluded depths of the forest, generally at no great distance from the rivers and springs at which they drink, and where they can enjoy the luxury of a cold bath, and wallowing in it, they are protected at once from the influence of the sun, and the torment of insects. In dry and warm weather they

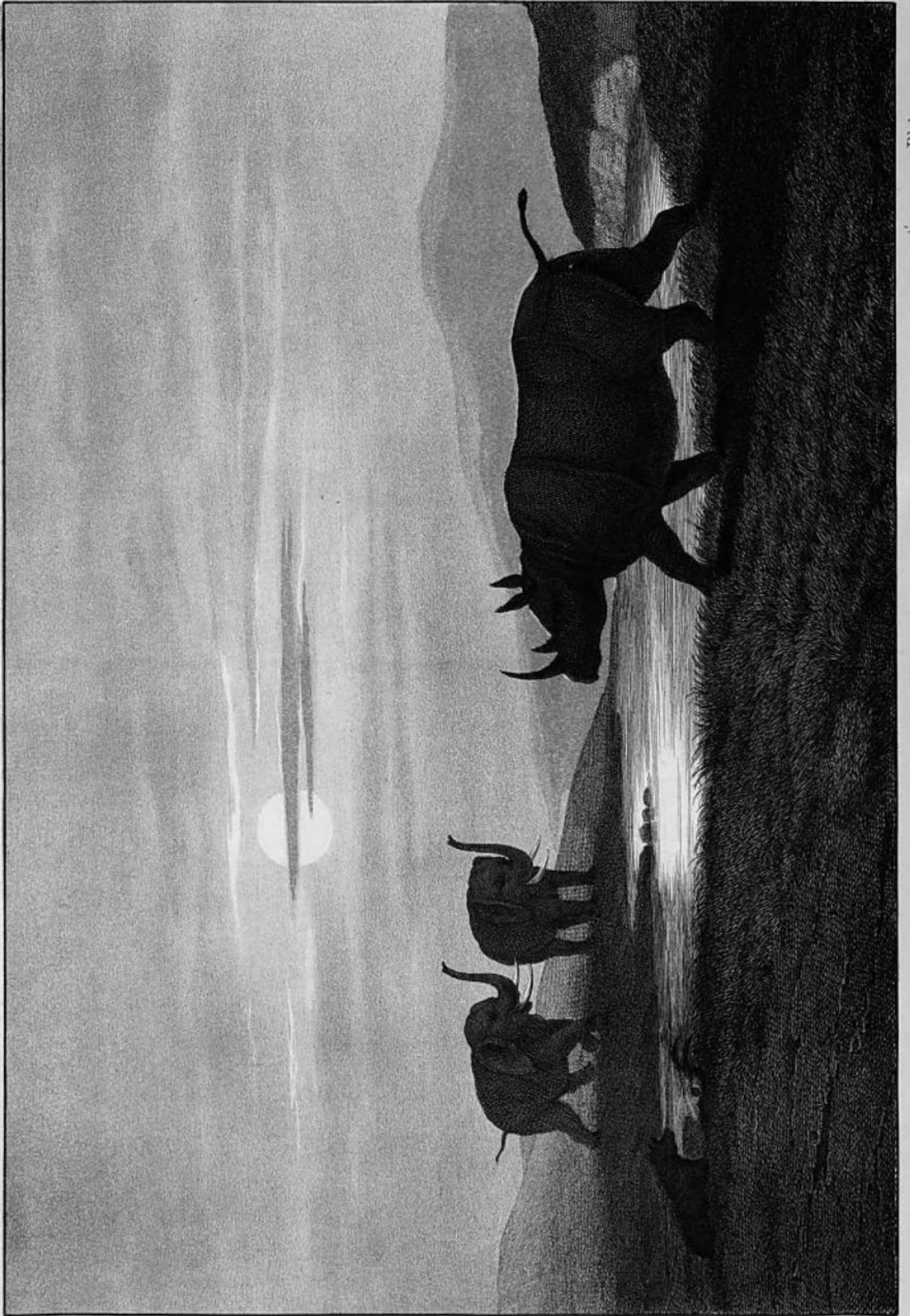
visit these waters nightly, but when it is cool and cloudy they drink only once every third or fourth day. About sundown the Elephant leaves its mid-day haunt, and commences its march to the rivers, which may be twelve to twenty miles distant. This it generally reaches between the hours of nine and midnight, when, having slaked its thirst, and cooled its body by spouting large volumes of water over its back with its trunk, it resumes the path to its forest solitudes.

The food of the Elephant consists of the branches, leaves, and roots of trees, and especially sugar-cane, which it discovers by its exquisite sense of smell. To obtain them it turns up the ground with its tusks, and whole acres may be seen thus ploughed up. It is extremely particular in always frequenting the freshest and most verdant districts of the forest, and when one district is parched and barren, it will forsake it for years, and wander to great distances in quest of better pasture. When the Elephants are feeding, they spread out from one another, and proceeding in a zigzag course, smash



Zebra. White Rhinoceros.

AFRICA.



Rhinoceros.

AFRICA.

THE RHINOCEROS. (RHINOCEROS AFRICANUS.)

PLATE XXXIII.

THE Pachydermes or thick-skinned animals, so named from the strength of their almost impenetrable hides, contain the largest land animals in creation. The Elephant, Rhinoceros and Hippopotamus in the present day, and the Mastodons, those huge relics of a former world, belong to this group. In form these animals are very bulky, unwieldy and clumsy in their proportions, yet possess immense strength as well as activity beyond what would be supposed. They are herbivorous animals, living amidst the luxuriant foliage of a vegetation proportionate to their bulk.

The Rhinoceros belongs to this group of enormous animals, and the form is peculiar to Africa and Asia, inhabiting the districts where vegetation is profuse, and where there is abundance of water. They are characterized by the thickness and strength of their skin, which is nearly destitute of hair, is often arranged in folds and presents as it were a mailed armour, almost impenetrable to an ordinary leaden bullet, the fold which protects the shoulder bearing an odd sort of analogy to the fixed shield which in days of old protected the bridle-arm of our knights in tilting;—and by the nose and snout being furnished by one or two excrescences having the form and appearance of formidable curved horns. These, unlike the horns of other animals, possess no central sheath, are of a substance resembling hair glued together and rendered compact, and are unconnected with the bone of the skull. The Indian Rhinoceros has only one large, strong horn, that of Sumatra has two, and almost all the Asiatic species have an exceedingly coarse hide, covered with large folds, whilst that of the African species is comparatively smooth.

The Rhinoceros is one of the most remarkable of South African animals; it inhabits a large portion of that continent, and formerly it used to be common even in the vicinity of Cape Town, but owing to persecution, is now rarely met with farther to the southward on the west coast than Walfisch Bay; in the interior, however, it is still very numerous. Four distinct species of Rhinoceros are known in Africa, two of which are of a dark colour, and two of a whitish hue. Hence they are usually designated the "black" and the "white" Rhinoceros. Both are double-horned, and the upper lip being pointed overlaps the lower, and is capable of extension; it is pliable, and the animal can move it from side to side, twist it round a stick, collect its food, or seize with it anything it wishes to carry to its mouth. All the species are extremely fierce, and excepting the buffalo, are perhaps the most dangerous of all the animals of Southern Africa.

A well-known African hunter was once stalking two of these beasts, and as they came slowly to him, knowing that there is but little chance of hitting the small brain by a shot in the head, he lay (expecting one of them to turn its shoulder) till it approached within a few yards. He then thought that by making a rush to its side he might succeed in escaping, but the Rhinoceros, too quick in its movements, turned upon him, and though he discharged his gun close to the animal's head, the ball took so little effect upon it that it tossed him in the air. He was insensible for some time, and on recovering, found large wounds on his thigh and body.

Of the white species, there is the common white Rhinoceros, and the long-horned white Rhinoceros the horn of which not unfrequently exceeds four feet in length; the latter is very rare, and is only found in the interior of Africa.

The distinguishing characteristics of the long-horned white Rhinoceros are the extraordinary prolongation of its head, which is not far from one-third of the whole length of the animal's body, its square nose, and the greater length of its horns. In size it is only exceeded by the elephant. A full-grown one measures, from the snout to the extremity of the tail (which is about two feet

long), between fourteen and sixteen feet, with a circumference of ten or twelve. When used in the "bush cuisine," one of these animals was reckoned equal to three good-sized oxen, and the flesh is considered very good, and much sought after by natives and colonists.

The "black" and the "white" Rhinoceros, though so nearly allied to each other, differ widely in their mode of living. The chief food of the black consists of roots of certain bushes, which it ploughs up with its strong horn, and the shoots and tender boughs of the "wait-a-bit" thorn; the white Rhinoceros feeds chiefly on grasses; water is indispensable to them, and even if the usual haunts be distant from the fountain, they seek it at least once in the twenty-four hours, as well to quench their thirst as to wallow in the mud, leaving to thirsty travellers nothing but a mass of well-kneaded mire.

The general appearance of the African Rhinoceros is not unlike that of an immense hog shorn of its hair, or rather bristles, for with the exception of a tuft at the tips of the long and erect ears and tail, it has no hair whatever, and, as if in mockery of its giant form, its eyes are ludicrously small and sunk, so small, indeed, that at a short distance they are imperceptible.

In strength the Rhinoceros is scarcely inferior to the elephant. An instance of its strength and fury is related by a missionary party, who, as they crossed the Swakop river, observed the tracks of a rhinoceros, and after unyoking the oxen, the men requested to be allowed to go in search of the animal. This was readily granted, the missionary only reserving one native to assist him in kindling the fire and preparing the meal. While thus engaged, they heard shouting and firing, and on looking in the direction of the noise, discovered to their horror a rhinoceros rushing furiously towards them at the top of its speed. Their only chance of escape was the waggon, into which they hurriedly flung themselves. And it was high time that they should seek refuge, for the next instant the enraged brute struck its powerful horn into the bottom-boards, with such force as to push the waggon several paces forward, although it was standing in very heavy sand. Most providentially it attacked the vehicle from behind, for if it had struck it on the side, it could hardly have failed to upset it, ponderous as it was. From the waggon it made a dash at the fire, overturning the pot that was alongside it, and scattering the burning brands in every direction. Unfortunately the men had taken with them all the guns, otherwise those left behind might easily have shot it dead on the spot. The native, however, threw his assegai at it, but the soft iron bent like a reed against its thick hide.

Ungainly and heavy as the Rhinoceros looks, it is nevertheless so exceedingly swift of foot—at least as regards the black species—that a horse with a rider can rarely manage to overtake it; and one would never suppose, from its clumsy appearance, that it could dart about with the activity that it does.

The sense of hearing and smell of the Rhinoceros is most acute. Even when feeding, lying down, or occupied in any way, it will listen with a deep and continued attention until the noise that has attracted it has ceased. Its sight, on the other hand, is not good. From the peculiar position of its eyes—which are deep set in the head—and its unwieldy horns, it can only see what is immediately before it.

The horns of the Rhinoceros, which are capable of a high polish, are a valuable article of commerce, and are much used for sword-handles, drinking-cups, ramrods for rifles, and a variety of other purposes. These horns, which possess a reddish tint about the grain, are much prized in Turkey for drinking cups; the Turks believe them to have the virtue of detecting poison. Many people of fashion at the Cape of Good Hope have cups turned out of these horns, some being mounted in silver and some in gold.