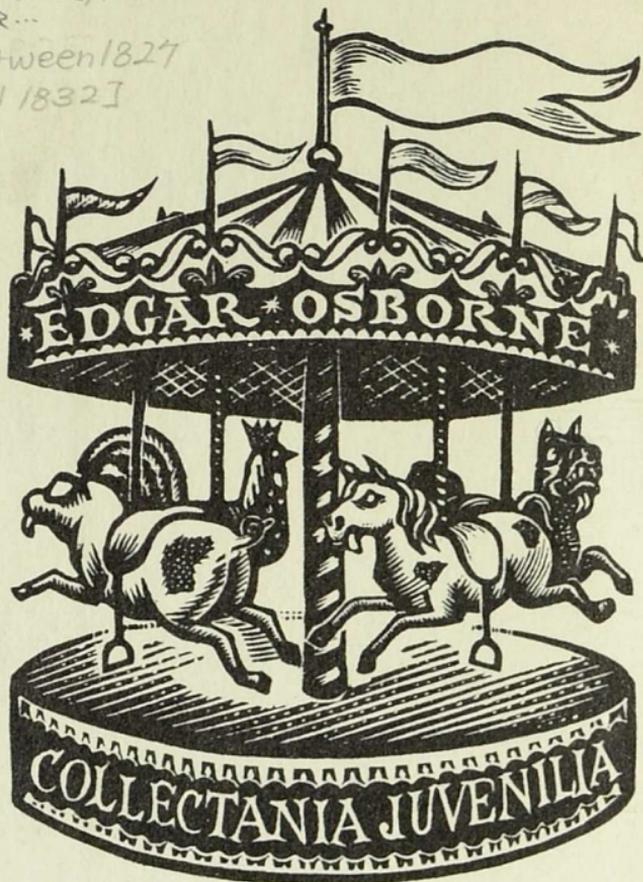


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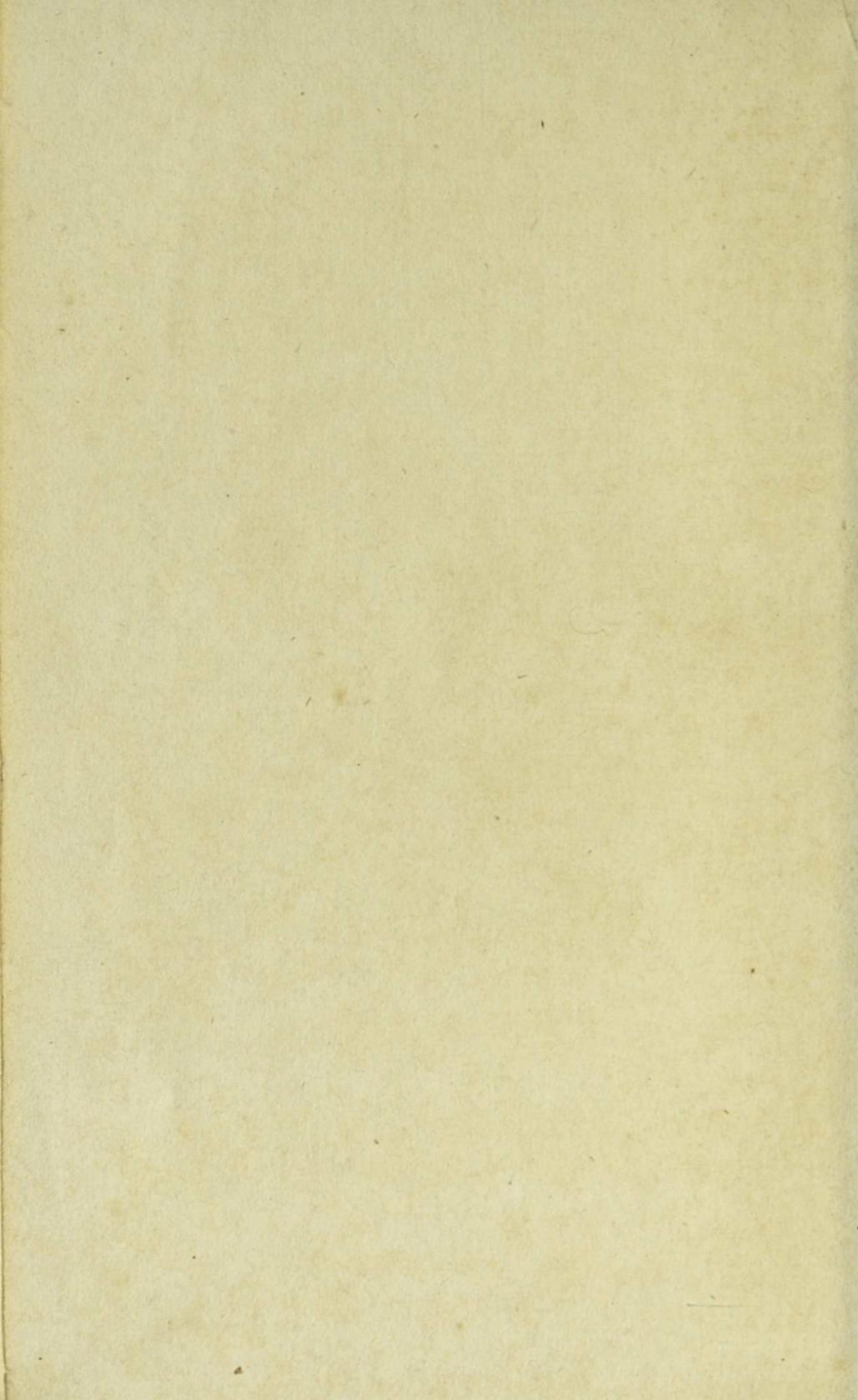


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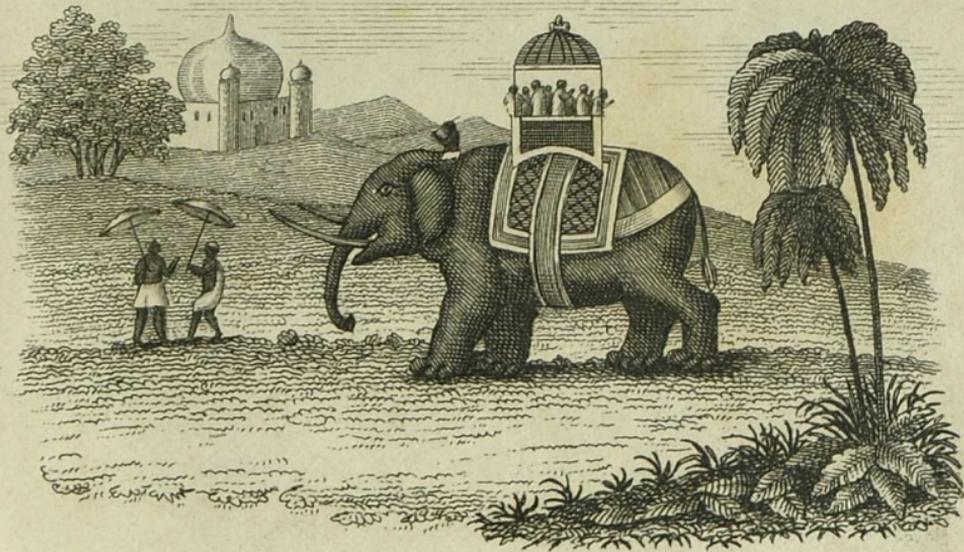




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—but he was discovered, pursued, and overtaken by the animal, which laid hold of him with his trunk, and beat him instantly to death.

THE FOUR FOOTED MONARCH;
or, Anecdotes of the
ELEPHANT:
ILLUSTRATIVE OF
the Instinctive Powers, Vast Strength, &c., of that Noble Animal:
BY
William Gardiner,
Author of the Shepherd's Boy of Snowdon Hill, &c.



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THE FOUR FOOTED MONARCH.

OF all the creatures that have hitherto been taken into the service of man, the elephant is pre-eminent in the size and strength of his body, and inferior to none in sagacity and obedience.

From time immemorial this animal has been employed either for the purposes of labour, of war, or of ostentatious parade; to increase the grandeur of eastern princes, extend their power, or enlarge their dominions.

The elephant is a native of Asia and Africa, and is not to be found in its natural state either in Europe or America. From the river Senegal to the Cape of Good Hope, they are met with in great numbers. In this extensive region, as they are more numerous than in any other part of the world, so are they less fearful of man. The savage inhabitants of this dreary country, instead of attempting to subdue this powerful animal, and render it subservient to their necessities, seem desirous only of avoiding its fury.

Sparman says, that in the country near the Cape they are sometimes seen in large herds, consisting of many hundreds; and thinks it probable, that in the more remote and unfrequented parts of that vast country, they are still more numerous.

They are frequently hunted by the colonists at the Cape, who are very expert in shooting them, and make great advantage of their teeth. The largest teeth weigh an hundred and fifty Dutch pounds, and are

sold to the governor for as many guilders; so that a man may earn three hundred guilders at one shot. It is not therefore to be wondered at, that a traffic so lucrative should tempt the hunter to run great risks. In approaching this animal, great care must be taken to steal upon him unperceived. If the elephant discover his enemy near, he rushes out, and endeavours to kill him. One of these hunters being out upon a plain, under the shelter of a few scattered thorn trees, thought he could be able to advance near enough to shoot an elephant that was at a little distance from him; but he was discovered, pursued, and overtaken by the animal, which laid hold of him with his trunk, and beat him instantly to death.

The height of the elephant at the Cape is from twelve to fifteen feet. The female is less than the male, and her tusks do not grow to such a size.

In proportion to the size of the elephant, his eyes are very small; but they are lively,

brilliant, and capable of great expression. He turns them slowly, and with gentleness, towards his master. When he speaks, the animal regards him with an eye of mildness and attention. His ears are very large, and much longer, in proportion to his body, than those of the ass: they lie flat on the head, and are commonly pendulous; but he can raise and move them with great facility, and frequently uses them as a fan to cool himself, or defend his eyes from dust and insects. His hearing is likewise remarkably fine; for he delights in the sound of musical instruments, and moves in cadence to the trumpet and tabor. There are four grinders in each jaw, closely united together, forming with the jaw-bone, one hard and compact body. One of these grinders sometimes measures nine inches broad, and weighs four pounds and a half. The texture of the skin is uneven, wrinkled, and knotty; full of deep fissures, nearly resembling the bark of an old oak tree, which run in all directions over its surface. It is

of a tawny colour, inclining to citron. In the fissures there are some bristly hairs, which are so thinly scattered over the body. The legs resemble massy columns, of fifteen or eighteen inches diameter, and from five to six feet high. The foot is short, and divided into five toes, covered with the skin, so as not to be visible. To each toe there is affixed a nail or hoof, of a horny substance.

The most remarkable feature of the elephant is his trunk or proboscis, which is composed of membranes, nerves, and muscles. It is both an organ of feeling and of motion. The animal can not only move and bend it, but can contract, lengthen, and turn it in every direction. The extremity of the trunk terminates in a protuberance, which stretches out on the upper side in the form of a finger, and possesses in a great degree the niceness and dexterity of that useful member. It is equally flexible, and as capable of laying hold of objects as the fingers of a man. He lifts from the

ground the smallest piece of money; he selects herbs and flowers, and picks them up one by one; he unties the knots of ropes, opens and shuts gates, &c. With his trunk he grasps any body which it is applied to, so firmly, that no force can tear it from his gripe.

Of all the instruments which nature has so liberally bestowed on her most favourite productions, the trunk of the elephant is perhaps the most complete and admirable. Ray says, it is divided into three partitions or chambers, two of which run in spiral directions, and the other in a right line. It is eight feet long in an elephant of fourteen feet high, and five feet in circumference at the thickest part. The nostrils are situated at the extremity, through which it draws in water by a strong suction, either for the purpose of quenching its thirst, or of washing and cooling itself, which it frequently does, by taking up a large quantity, part of which it carries to its mouth, and drinks; and by elevating the trunk,

allows the remainder to run over every part of its body.

Roots, herbs, leaves, and tender wood, are the ordinary food of the elephant. It does not ruminate, and has but one stomach: this want, however, is amply supplied by the magnitude and length of his intestines, and particularly of the colon, which is from fifteen to twenty feet in length, and two or three in diameter. When one of them discovers a plentiful pasture, he calls to the others, and invites them to partake. As they require a great quantity of forage, they frequently change their pasture, and do considerable damage whenever they happen to stray into cultivated ground. From the weight of their bodies, and the size of their feet, they destroy much more than they use for food. The Indians and negroes use every artifice to prevent the approach of these unwelcome visitants, by making loud noises, and kindling fires round their habitations; but in spite of all their precautions, the elephants often break through

their fences, destroy their whole harvest, and overturn their huts. It is not easy to separate them: they generally act in concert, whether they attack, march, or fly.

The ordinary walk of the elephant is not quicker than that of a horse; but when pushed, he assumes a kind of ambling pace, which in fleetness is equal to a gallop. He goes forward with ease and celerity; but it is with great difficulty that he turns himself round, and that not without taking a pretty large circuit. It is generally in narrow and hollow places that the negroes attack him, and cut off his tail, which they value above every other part of his body. He swims well, and is of great use in carrying great quantities of baggage over large rivers. When swimming, he raises his long trunk above the surface of the water for the sake of respiration, every other part of his body being below: in this manner several of these animals swim together, and steer their course without danger of running foul of each other.

The elephant, when tamed, is gentle, obedient, and docile: patient of labour, he submits to the most toilsome drudgery; and is so attentive to the commands of his governor, that a word or a look is sufficient to stimulate him to the most violent exertions. His attachment to his keeper is so great, that he caresses him with his trunk, and frequently will obey no other master: he knows his voice, and can distinguish the tone of command, of anger, or of approbation, and regulates his actions accordingly: he receives his orders with attention, and executes them with eagerness, but without precipitation. All his motions are orderly, and seem to correspond with the dignity of his appearance, being grave, majestic, and cautious. He kneels down for the accommodation of those who would mount upon his back, and with his pliant trunk even assists them to ascend. He suffers himself to be harnessed, and seems to have a pleasure in the finery of his trappings. He is used in drawing chariots, waggons,

and various kinds of machines. One of them will perform with ease the work of many horses.

The conductor of the elephant is usually mounted on its neck, and makes use of a rod of iron, sharp at the end, and hooked; with which he urges the animal forward, by pricking its head, ears, or muzzle: but in general, a word from the keeper is sufficient to encourage this intelligent creature to proceed on its way, or perform the task assigned to it. In India, where they were once employed in launching ships, one of them was directed to force a large vessel into the water, which proving superior to his strength, the master, in an angry tone, cried out, 'Take away that lazy beast, and bring another in its place.' The poor animal instantly redoubled its effects, fractured its skull, and died upon the spot.

The Indians, from very early periods, have employed elephants in their wars: Porus opposed the passage of Alexander over the Hydaspes with eighty-five of them.

M. de Buffon images, that it was some of the elephants taken by that monarch, and afterwards transported into Greece, which were employed by Pyrrhus against the Romans. Since the invention of fire-arms, the elephant has been of little use in deciding the contests of hostile nations; for being terrified with the flash of the powder, and the report that immediately succeeds, they are soon thrown into confusion, and then become dangerous to their employers. They are now chiefly used for the purposes of labour, or magnificent parade.

The Indian princes, in their travels, are attended by hundreds of these animals: some are employed to convey the ladies who compose the seraglio, in latticed cages made for that purpose, and covered with branches of tree; whilst others transport immense quantities of baggage, with which the sovereigns of the East are always accompanied in their marches from one place to another. They are likewise made use of as the dreadful instruments of executing

condemned criminals---a task which they perform with great dexterity. At the word of command, they break the limbs of the criminal with their trunks; they sometimes trample him to death, or impale him on their enormous tusks, just as they are directed by their more barbarous keeper.

It is a singular circumstance in the history of this extraordinary animal, that in a state of subjection, it is unalterably barren; and though it has been reduced under the dominion of man for ages, it has never been known to breed; as if it had a proper sense of its degraded condition, and obstinately refused to increase the pride and power of its conquerors by propagating a race of slaves. It therefore follows, that of all the numerous bands of elephants that are trained to service, there is not one that has not been originally wild, nor one that has not been forced into a state of subjection. To recruit, therefore, the numbers that are unavoidably consumed by disease, accident, or age, the eastern princes are obliged

every year to send into the forests, and use various methods to procure fresh supplies.

The manner of taking, taming, and rendering these animals submissive, is curious, and well deserves a place in the history of the elephant. In the midst of a forest abounding with elephants, a large piece of ground is marked out, and surrounded with strong palisades, interwoven with branches of trees: one end of the inclosure is narrow; from which it widens gradually, so as to take in a great extent of country. Several thousand men are employed upon the occasion, who place themselves in such a manner as to prevent the wild elephants from making their escape: they kindle large fires at certain distances, and make a dreadful noise with drums and various kinds of discordant instruments, calculated for the purpose of stunning and terrifying the poor animals; whilst another party, consisting of some thousands, with the assistance of tame female elephants trained for the purpose, drive the wild elephants slowly

towards the great opening of the inclosure, the whole train of hunters closing in after them, shouting and making a great noise, till they are driven by insensible degrees into the narrow part of the inclosure, through which there is an opening into a smaller space, strongly fenced in, and guarded on all sides. As soon as one of the elephants enters this strait, a strong bar closes the passage from behind, and he finds himself completely environed. On the top of this narrow passage some of the huntsmen stand with goads in their hands, urging the creature forward to the end of the passage, where there is an opening just wide enough to let him pass. He is now received into the custody of two females, who stand on each side of him, and press him into the service: if he be likely to prove refractory, they begin to discipline him with their trunks, till he is reduced to obedience, and suffers himself to be led to a tree, where he is bound by the leg with stout thongs, made of untanned elk or buck skin. The

tame elephants are then led back to the inclosure, and the others are made to submit in the same manner. They are all suffered to remain fast to the trees for several days. Attendants are placed by the side of each animal, who supply him with food by little and little, till he is brought by degrees to be sensible of kindness and caresses, and allows himself to be led to the stable. In the space of fourteen days, his absolute submission is complete. During that time, he is fed daily with cocoa-nut leaves, and led once a day to the water by the tame ones. He becomes accustomed to the voice of his keeper, and at last quietly resigns his prodigious powers to the dominion and service of man.

The elephant is thirty years in arriving at its full growth; and is said to live, though in a state of captivity, to the age of an hundred and twenty or an hundred and thirty years: in a state of unrestrained freedom, it is supposed to live much longer.

The elephant will drink wine, and is fond of spirituous liquors. By shewing him a vessel filled with arrack, he is induced to exert the greatest efforts, and perform the most painful tasks, in hopes of receiving it as the reward of his labour. To disappoint him is dangerous, as he seldom fails to be revenged. The following instance is given as a fact, and deserves to be recorded:— An elephant, disappointed of his reward, out of revenge killed his cornac or governor. The poor man's wife, who beheld the dreadful scene, took her two infants, and threw them at the feet of the enraged animal, saying, 'Since you have slain my husband, take my life also, as well as that of my children.' The elephant instantly stopped, relented, and, as if stung with remorse, took the eldest boy in its trunk, placed him on its neck, adopted him for its cornac, and would never allow any other person to mount it.

Bosinian observes, that the bullets to be made use of in hunting and killing the elephant, must be of *iron*, lead being too soft in its texture to do any execution. He says, "elephants are very difficult to be killed, unless the ball happens to light betwixt the eyes and the ears; to which end the bullet ought to be iron also. Their skin is as good proof against the common musket lead balls, as a wall; and if they hit the above mentioned place become entirely flat." Afterwards he says, "Those who pretended thoroughly to understand the elephant-shooting, told us, that we ought to have shot iron bullets, since those of lead are flatted, either by their bones, or the toughness of their skin."

About the year 1767, a cutler at Sheffield in Yorkshire, in sawing an elephant's tooth into proper laminæ or scantlings of ivory, met with a resistance which he had great difficulty to overcome. After he had got through the obstruction, it proved to be an *iron* bullet, lodged in the very body of the

tooth, without any visible mark externally of the place where it entered.

In 1801, Mr. Charles Combe described to the Royal Society, an elephant's tusk with the iron head of a spear thoroughly imbedded in it. From its position, he presumed it to have been forced by manual strength, through that part of the skull contiguous to the tusk; and that pursuing the natural course of the cavity, it pointed downwards towards the apex of the tusk.

Other substances foreign to the natural growth of the tusks of elephants, are frequently found within them.

It is not until after the discharge of a hundred, or perhaps double the number of rifles, that the elephant is slain in India, when he is chased by persons inured to the danger, and determined on his destruction. There is an account of a splendid hunting party of a late Nawab Asuf-ud-Dowlah, who, with an immense retinue, took the field for

the purpose of destroying every animal they met with. On a large plain overgrown with grass they discovered a wild elephant. The Nawab immediately formed a semicircle with four hundred tame elephants, who were directed to advance and surround him. When the semicircle of elephants got within three hundred yards of the wild one, he looked amazed, but not frightened. Two large and fierce elephants were ordered to advance against him, but they were repulsed by a dreadful shock, and drove by the Nawab, who, as the wild one passed, ordered some of the strongest female elephants to go alongside and endeavour to entangle him with nooses and running knots; the attempt, however, was vain, as he snapped every rope, and none of the tame elephants could stop his progress. The Nawab, perceiving it impossible to catch him, ordered his death, and immediately a volley of above a hundred shots were fired. Many of the balls hit him, but he seemed unconcerned, and moved on towards the mountains. An incessant

fire was kept up for nearly half an hour; the Nawab and most of his omras, or lords, used rifles, which carried two or three ounce balls; but they made very little impression, and scarcely penetrated beyond the skin. Our author, who was mounted on a female elephant, went up repeatedly within ten yards of the wild one, and fired his rifle at his head; the blood gushed out, but the skull was invulnerable. Some of the Kandahar horse then galloped up and wounded the beast in several places. At length, being much exhausted with the loss of blood, from the number of wounds which he had received, he slackened his pace, and became quite calm and serene, as if determined to meet his approaching end. The horsemen, seeing him weak and slow, dismounted, and with their swords commenced a furious attack on the tendons of his hind legs, which were soon divided, and the operation completely disabled the poor animal from proceeding any further; he staggered, and then fell without a groan. The hatchet-

men now advanced, and began to cut away his large ivory tusks, while the horsemen and soldiers in the most unfeeling manner attacked the dying creature with their swords. We can readily believe the writer when he says the sight was very affecting. The noble animal still breathed, and breathed without a groan. He rolled his eyes in anguish on the surrounding crowd, and, making a last effort to rise, expired with a sigh.

Before gunpowder was invented, elephants were used by the nations of Asia and Africa for the purposes of war, and the kings of Ceylon, Pegu, and Arracan, have from time immemorial employed them for this use. Sharp sword-blades were fastened to their trunks, and upon their backs were fixed small wooden castles, containing five or six men, armed with javelins, and other missile weapons. The Greeks and Romans, however, soon learnt the best method of defence against these enormous

warriors. They opened their ranks to let them pass through, and directed their whole attack against their riders. But since fire-arms have become the principal instruments of war, elephants, who are terrified both by the fire, and the noise of their discharge, would be of more detriment than advantage to the party that should employ them. Some of the Indian kings, however, still use armed elephants in their wars. In Cochin, and other parts of Malabar, all the soldiers that do not fight on foot are mounted upon elephants. This is also the case in Tonquin, Siam, and Pegu, where the use of fire-arms is but little known. The leader of the elephant sits astride upon his neck, and the combatants sit or stand upon other parts of his body. The elephants also prove very serviceable in passing rivers, and carry the baggage over on their backs. When their leaders have loaded them with a burden of several hundred weight, they tie cords to it, by which the soldiers hold fast and swim, or are drawn across the river.

In battle, a heavy iron chain is sometimes fastened to the end of their trunk, which they swing about with such rapidity, as renders it impossible for an enemy to approach them. Another service which these animals perform in war, consists in forcing open the gates of besieged towns or fortresses. This they do, by stemming themselves with their haunches against the gates, and moving from side to side till they have broken the hinges, and forced open the gate. In order to prevent this, the besieged have generally large nails fixed in the gates, and projecting to a considerable length.

Elephants are also employed for transporting heavy ordnance over mountains, in doing which they show a singular degree of ingenuity. When oxen or horses are harnessed to a piece of ordinance, it requires the exertion of all their strength to draw it up an ascent. The elephant, in such cases, pushes the carriage forward with his forehead, and after every push, stems

his knees against the wheels, whereby he prevents it from rolling back.

Wild elephants were caught and trained at an early period; since we find Arrian, who flourished about the 104th year of Christ, gives us the following account of the manner of taking elephants in India. The Indians enclose a large spot of ground, with a trench about twenty feet wide, and fifteen high, to which there is access but in one part, and this a bridge, and is covered with turf; in order that these animals, who are very subtle, may not suspect what is intended. Of the earth that is dug out of the trench, a kind of wall is raised, on the other side of which a little kind of chamber is made, where people conceal themselves in order to watch these animals, and its entrance is very small. In this enclosure two or three tame female elephants are set. The instant the wild elephants see or smell them, they run and whirl about so much, that at last they enter the enclosure; upon

which the bridge is immediately broken down, and the people upon the watch fly to the neighbouring villages for help. After they have been broken for a few days by hunger and thirst, people enter the enclosure upon the tame elephants, and with these they attack them. As the wild ones are by this time very much weakened, it is impossible for them to make a long resistance. After throwing them on the ground, men get upon their backs, having first made a deep wound round their necks, about which they throw a rope, in order to put them to great pain in case they attempt to stir. Being tamed in this manner, they suffer themselves to be led quietly to the houses with the rest, where they are fed with grass and green corn, and tamed insensibly by blows and hunger, till such time as they obey readily their master's voice, and perfectly understand his language.

In a description of the process of catching wild elephants, related by John Corse, Esq. in the "Asiatic Researches," he interests the reader by an account of the escape of one which had been tamed, and of his submission to his keeper when he was recaptured. He says, in June, 1787, Jâttra-mungul, a male elephant taken the year before, was travelling in company with some other elephants towards Chittigong, laden with a tent, and some baggage for the accommodation of Mr. Buller and myself on a journey. Having come upon a tiger's track, which elephants discover readily by the smell, he took fright and ran off to the woods in spite of the efforts of his driver. On entering the wood, the driver saved himself by springing from the elephant, and clinging to the branch of a tree, under which he was passing: when the elephant had got rid of his driver, he soon contrived to shake off his load. As soon as he ran away, a trained female was despatched after him, but could not get up

in time to prevent his escape; she, however, brought back his driver, and the load he had thrown off, and we proceeded, without any hope of ever seeing him again.

Eighteen months after this, when a herd of elephants had been taken, and had remained several days in the enclosure, till they were enticed into the outlet, and there tied, and let out in the usual manner, one of the drivers, viewing a male elephant very attentively, declared that he resembled the one which had run away. This excited the curiosity of every one to go and look at him; but when any person came near, the animal struck at him with his trunk, and, in every respect, appeared as wild and outrageous as any of the other elephants. At length, an old hunter, coming up and examining him narrowly, declared he was the very elephant that had made his escape.

Confident of this, he boldly rode up to him, on a tame elephant, and ordered him to lie down, pulling him by the ear at the

same time. The animal seemed quite taken by surprise, and instantly obeyed the word of command, with as much quickness as the ropes with which he was tied permitted; uttering at the same time a peculiar shrill squeak through his trunk, as he had formerly been known to do; by which he was immediately recognised by every person who had ever been acquainted with this peculiarity.

Thus we see that this elephant, for the space of eight or ten days, during which he was in the haddah, and even while he was tied in the outlet, appeared equally wild and fierce as the boldest elephant then taken; so that he was not even suspected of having been formerly taken, till he was conducted from the outlet. The moment, however, he was addressed in a commanding tone, the recollection of his former obedience seemed to rush upon him at once; and, without any difficulty, he permitted a driver to be seated on his neck, who in a few days made him as tractable as ever.

Bruce relates the Abyssinian mode of destroying the elephant from his own observation, during his return from Gondah, and while sojourning with Ayto Confu. His narrative is in these words.

Though we were all happy to our wish in this enchanted mountain, the active spirit of Ayto Confu could not rest. He was come to hunt the elephant, and hunt him he would. All those that understood any thing of this exercise had assembled from a great distance, to meet Ayto Confu at Tcherkin. He and Engedan, from the moment they arrived, had been overlooking from the precipice their servants training and managing their horses in the market-place below. Great bunches of the finest canes had been brought from Kawra for javelins; and the whole house was employed in fitting heads to them in the most advantageous manner. For my part, though I should have been very well contented to have remained where I was, yet the preparations for sport of so noble a kind roused

my spirits, and made me desirous to join in it.

On the 6th, an hour before day, after a hearty breakfast, we mounted on horse back, to the number of about thirty, belonging to Ayto Confu. But there was another body, both of horse and foot, which made hunting the elephant their particular business. These men dwell constantly in the woods, and know very little of the use of bread, living entirely upon the flesh of the beasts they kill, chiefly that of the elephant or rhinoceros. They are exceedingly thin, light, and agile, both on horseback and foot; are very swarthy, though few of them black; none of them woolly-headed, and all of them have European features. They are called *Agageer*, a name of their profession, not of their nation, which comes from the *agar*, and signifies to hough or hamstring with a sharp weapon. More properly it means the cutting of the tendon of the heel, and is a characteristic of the man-

ner in which they kill the elephant, which is shortly as follows :

Two men, absolutely naked, without any rag or covering at all about them, get on horseback; this precaution is for fear of being laid hold of by the trees or bushes in making their escape from a very watchful enemy. One of these riders sits upon the back of the horse, sometimes with a saddle, and sometimes without one, with only a switch, or short stick in one hand, carefully managing the bridle with the other; behind him sits his companion, who has no other arms but a broad-sword, such as is used by Slavonians, and which is brought from Trieste. His left hand is employed grasping the sword by the handle; about fourteen inches of the blade is covered with whipcord. This part he takes in his right hand, without any danger of being hurt by it; and, though the edges of the lower part of the sword are as sharp as a razor, he carries it without a scabbard.

As soon as the elephant is found feeding,

the horseman rides before him as near his face as possible; or, if he flies, crosses him in all directions, crying out, "I am such a man and such a man; this is my horse, that has such a name; I killed your father in such a place, and your grandfather in such another place; and I am now come to kill you; you are but an ass in comparison of them." This nonsense he verily believes the elephant undertands, who, chased and angry at hearing the noise immediately before him, seeks to seize him with his trunk, or proboscis; and, intent upon this, follows the horse every where, turning and turning round with him, neglectful of making his escape by running straight forward, in which consists his only safety. After having made him turn once or twice in pursuit of the horse, the horseman rides close up alongside of him, and drops his companion just behind on the off side; and while he engages the elephant's attention upon the horse, the footman behind gives him a severe stroke just above the heel, or what

in man is called the tendon of Achilles. This is the critical moment; the horseman immediately wheels round, takes his companion up behind him, and rides off full speed after the rest of the herd, if they have started more than one; and sometimes an expert agageer will kill three out of one herd. If the sword is good, and the man not afraid, the tendon is commonly entirely separated; and if it is not cut through, it is generally so far divided, that the animal, with the stress he puts upon it, breaks the remaining part asunder. In either case, he remains incapable of advancing a step, till the horseman's return, or his companions coming up pierce him through with javelins and lances: he then falls to the ground, and expires with loss of blood.

The agageer nearest me presently lamed his elephant, and left him standing. Ayto Engedan, Ayto Confu, Guebra Mariam and several others, fixed their spears in the other before the agageer had cut his tendons. My agageer, however, having wounded the

first elephant, failed in the pursuit of the second; and being close upon him at the entrance of the wood, he received a violent blow from the branch of a tree which the elephant had bent by his weight, and, after passing, allowed it to replace itself; when it knocked down both the riders, and very much hurt the horse. This, indeed, is the great danger in elephant-hunting; for some of the trees, that are dry and short, break by the violent pressure of so immense a body moving so rapidly, and fall upon the pursuers, or across the roads. But the greatest number of these trees being of a succulent quality, they bend without breaking, and return quickly to the former position, when they strike both horse and man so violently, that they often beat them to pieces. Dexterous too as the riders are, the elephant sometimes reaches them with his trunk, with which he dashes the horse against the ground, and then sets his feet upon him, till he tears him limb from limb with his proboscis; a great many hunters

die this way. Besides this, the soil at this time of the year is slit into deep chasms, or cavities, by the heat of the sun, so that nothing can be more dangerous than the riding.

The elephant once slain, they cut the whole of the flesh off his bones into thongs, like the reins of a bridle, and hang these like festons upon the branches of trees, till they become perfectly dry, without salt; and then they lay them up for their provisions in the season of the rains

A very interesting account of the affection of a young elephant for its mother, concludes Bruce's description of this cruel amusement.

There now remained but two elephants of those that had been discovered, which were a she one with a calf. The agageer would willingly have let these alone, as the teeth of the female are very small, and the young one is of no sort of value, even for food, its flesh shrinking much upon

dying; but the hunters would not be limited in their sport. The people having observed the place of her retreat, thither we eagerly followed. She was very soon found, and as soon lamed by the agageers; but when they came to wound her with their darts, as every one did in turn, to our very great surprise, the young one, which had been suffered to escape unheeded and unpursued, came out from the thicket, apparently in great anger, running upon the horses and men with all the violence it was master of. I was amazed, and as much as ever I was, upon such an occasion, afflicted at seeing the great affection the little animal defending its wounded mother, heedless of its own life or safety. I therefore cried to them for God's sake to spare the mother, though it was then too late; and the calf had made several rude attacks upon me, which I avoided without difficulty; but I am happy to this day in the reflection that I did not strike it. At last, making one of his attacks upon Ayto Engedan, it hurt him a little

upon the leg; upon which he thrust it through with his lance, as others did after, and then it fell dead before its wounded mother, whom it had so affectionately defended.

The bodies of elephants are frequently oiled, to prevent the effects of the sun on them. They are fond of the water in hot weather, and seem delighted when they are rubbed with a brick, or any hard substance, on the upper part of the head. They are very sure-footed, have an active, suffling gait, and generally travel about three or four miles an hour, but may be urged on to six when goaded by a man who runs behind the animal for that purpose. They are very fond of sugar-canes, and the leaves of the banyan; they can free a cocoa-nut from its tough coat, crack it, and take out the nut free from the shell. A small race of elephants, from five to six feet in height, are much used about the court in the northern part of India. When the elephant passes

through a crowd, he is very careful to open a way with his trunk, that he may not injure any one. This observation is strengthened by M. d'Obsonville, who informs us that the baron de Lauriston was induced to go to Laknaor, the capital of the Soubab, or viceroyalty of that name, at a time when an epidemic distemper was making the greatest ravages amongst the inhabitants. The principal road to the palace gate was covered with the sick and dying, extended on the ground, at the very moment when the nabob must necessarily pass. It appeared impossible for the elephant to do otherwise than tread upon and crush many of these poor wretches in his passage, unless the prince would stop till the way could be cleared; but he was in haste, and such tenderness would be unbecoming in a personage of his importance. The elephant, however, without appearing to slacken his pace, and without having received any command for that purpose, assisted them with his trunk, removed some, and stepped

over the rest with so much address and assiduity, that not one person was wounded.

It is related by M. Navarette, that at Macassar, an elephant driver had a cocoa nut given him, which, out of wantonness, he struck twice against his elephant's forehead to break, and that, the day following, the animal saw some cocoa nuts exposed in the street for sale, one of which he took up with his trunk, and beat it about the driver's head, till the man was completely dead. "This comes," says our author, "of jesting with elephants."

A sentinel at the Menagerie in Paris, used often to desire the visitors not to give the elephants any thing to eat. This admonition was particularly disagreeable to the female elephant, and she took a great dislike to the sentinel. She had several times endeavoured to make him desist from interfering, by squirting water over his head, but without effect. One day when

several persons came to see these animals, one of them offered a piece of bread to the female, which being perceived by the sentinel, just as he was opening his mouth to repeat his usual admonition, the elephant stepped opposite to him, and threw a large quantity of water into his face. This excited the laughter of all the by-standers; but the sentinel coolly wiped his face, placed himself a little on one side, and was as usual very vigilant. Not long after he again found occasion to repeat his former admonition to the spectators; but scarcely had he done it when the elephant tore his musket out of his hand, wound her trunk round it, trod upon it, and did not deliver it again to him till after she had twisted it completely into the form of a screw

The proboscis of the elephant is the most distinguished character in his formation. It is hollow all along, but with a partition running from one end of it to the other; so, though outwardly it appears like a single

pipe, it is inwardly divided into two. This fleshy tube is composed of nerves and muscles, covered with a proper skin of a blackish colour, like that of the rest of the body. It is capable of being moved in every direction, of being lengthened and shortened, of being bent or straightened, so pliant as to embrace any body it is applied to, and yet so strong, that nothing can be torn from the gripe. To aid the force of this grasp, there are little eminences, like a caterpillar's feet, on the underside of this instrument, which, without doubt, contribute to the sensibility of the touch as well as to the firmness of the hold. Through this trunk the animal breathes, drinks, and smells, as through a tube; and at the very point of it, just above the nostrils, there is an extension of the skin, about five inches long, in the form of a finger, and which, in fact, answers all the purposes of one; for, with the rest of the extremity of the trunk, it is capable of assuming different forms at will, and, con-

sequently, of being adapted to the minutest objects. By means of this the elephant can take a pin from the ground, untie the knots of a rope, unlock a door, and even write with a pen. "I have, myself seen," says Ælian, "an elephant, writing Latin characters on a board, in a very orderly manner, his keeper only showing him the figure of each letter. While thus employed, the eyes may be observed studiously cast down upon the writing, and exhibiting an appearance of great skill and erudition." It sometimes happens that the object is too large for the trunk to grasp; in such a case the elephant makes use of another expedient, as admirable as any of the former. It applies the extremity of the trunk to the surface of the object, and, sucking up its breath, lifts and sustains such a weight as the air in that case is capable of suspending. In this manner this instrument is useful in most of the purposes of life; it is an organ of smelling, of touching, and of suction; it not only provides for the animal's

necessities and comforts, but it also serves for its ornament and defence.

A person resident in Ceylon, near a place where elephants were daily led to water, often used to sit at the door of his house, and occasionally to give to one of these animals some fig-leaves, a food to which elephants are very partial. Once he took it into his head to play the elephant a trick. He wrapped a stone with some fig-leaves, and said to the cornack (the keeper of the elephants) "This time I will give him a stone to eat, and see how it will agree with him." The cornack answered, "that the elephant would not be such a fool as to swallow the stone." The man, however, reached the stone to the elephant, who taking it with his trunk applied it to his mouth, and immediately let it fall to the ground. "You see," said the cornack, "that I was right." Saying these words, he drove away his elephants, and after having watered them, was con-

ducting them again to their stable. The man who had played the elephant the trick with the stone was still sitting at his door, when, before he was aware, the animal made at him, threw his trunk round him, and dashing him to the ground trampled him immediately to death.

All Naples, says Sonnini, in one of his notes to Buffon's "Natural History," has witnessed the docility and sagacity of an elephant then belonging to the king. He afforded great assistance to the masons that were at work upon the palace, by reaching them the water they required, which he fetched in large copper vessels from a neighbouring well. He had observed that these vessels were carried to the brazier's when they wanted any repair. Observing, therefore, one day that the water ran out at the bottom of one of them, he carried it of his own accord to the brazier, and having waited while it was repairing, received it again from him, and re-

turned to his work. This elephant used to go about the streets of Naples without ever injuring any one; he was fond of playing with children, whom he took up with his trunk, placed them on his back, and set them down again on the ground without their ever receiving the smallest hurt.

Mr. Corse affirms, that the usual height of the male Asiatic elephant is from eight to ten feet, and, in one instance only, he saw one of ten feet six inches. The young one at its birth is thirty-five inches; one grew eleven inches in the first year; eight, six, and five, in the three succeeding years. The full growth is at nineteen years. He says, elephants that have escaped from confinement have not sagacity to avoid being retaken, and they will breed in confinement. The young, he observes, begin to nibble and suck the breast soon after birth, pressing it with the trunk, which, by mutual instinct, they know will make the milk flow more readily into their mouths

while sucking. Elephants never lie down to give their young ones suck; and it often happens, when the dam is tall, that she is obliged, for some time, to bend her body towards her young, to enable him to reach the nipple with his mouth; consequently, if ever the trunk were used to lay hold of the nipple, it would be at this period, when he is making laborious efforts to reach it with his mouth, but which he could always easily do with his trunk if it answered the purpose. In sucking, the young elephant always grasps the nipple, which projects horizontally from the breast, with his mouth. Mr. Corse often observed this; and so sensible were the attendants of it, that, with them, it is a common practice to raise a small mound of earth, about six or eight inches high, for the young one to stand on, and save the mother the trouble of bending her body every time she gives suck, which she cannot readily do when tied to her picket. Tame elephants are never suffered to remain loose in India, as in-

stances occur of the mother leaving even her young and escaping into the woods. Another circumstance deserves notice : if a wild elephant happens to be separated from her young for only two days, though giving suck, she never afterwards recognises it. This separation happened, sometimes, unavoidably, when they were enticed, separately, into the kiddah.

Elephants in India are taught to reverence the various sovereigns to whom they belong, when they appear in his presence. They are then trained to warfare, and rushing upon the enemy, as if conscious of their superior strength, beat down all before them. They have even been known to brave the hottest fire of the enemy's artillery. Beauleu, in his "Voyage to the East Indies," mentions that the king of Achen places his whole strength in nine hundred elephants, which are bred to tread fire under their feet, and to be unmoved at the shot of cannon, and likewise to salute

the king when they pass by his apartments, by bending their kness, and raising their trunks three times. This traveller adds, that they are influenced by exemplary punishment; and gives an instance of the fact. The king of Achen, he says, having ordered the embarkation of a hundred elephants for the siege of Dehly, when they were brought to the coast not one of them would enter the ship. The king being acquainted with their behaviour, went in person to the shore, and after expressing passion and rage at their disobedience, ordered one of them to be cut asunder in the presence of the rest; on which they all peaceably embarked, and were more than ordinary tractable during the whole voyage.

There is a remarkable instance of an elephant's attachment to a very young child. The animal was never happy but when it was near him: the nurse used, therefore, very frequently to take the child in its

cradle, and place it between his feet, and this he became at length so accustomed to, that he would never eat his food except when it was present. When the child slept he used to drive off the flies with his proboscis, and when it cried he would move the cradle backward and forward, and thus again rock it to sleep.

White elephants are revered throughout the east, and the Chinese pay them a certain kind of worship. The Burmese monarch is called the "king of the white elephants," and is regarded under that title with more than the ordinary veneration which oriental despotism exacts from its abject dependants.

The little island of Elephanta, opposite to the fort of Bombay, derives its name from a sculptured figure in stone, of the same colour, and on the back of this granite elephant was a smaller one, apparently of the same stone, which had been broken off.

There is no history, nor any well grounded tradition, relative to this statue. The island itself is distinguished for extraordinary antiquities, particularly a magnificent temple hewn out of the solid rock, adorned by the arts of sculpture and painting with statues and pictures, probably of more remote age than the earliest efforts of Greek or Roman genius. Many of these venerable representations suffered irreparable injury, and vast numbers were wholly destroyed, by the barbarian ravages of the Portuguese, who formerly obtained possession of the place, and dragged field-pieces to the demolition of these the most curious and, possibly, the most ancient monuments of oriental grandeur. Queen Catharine of Portugal, who held the island in dower, was so sensible of the importance of this spot, that she imagined it impossible that any traveller on that side of India would return without exploring the wonders of the "Cave of Elephanta." The island is destitute of all other interest.

Ælian relates that a man of rank in India, having very carefully trained up a female elephant, used daily to ride upon her, and gave her many proofs of his attachment to her. The king of the country, who had heard of the extraordinary gentleness and capacity of this animal, demanded her of her owner; but he, unwilling to part with his favourite, fled with her to the mountains. By order of the king he was pursued, and the soldiers that were sent after him having overtaken him when he was at the top of a steep hill, he defended himself by throwing stones at them, in which he was faithfully assisted by the elephant, who had learnt to throw stones with great dexterity. At length, however, the soldiers gained the summit of the hill, and were about to seize the fugitive, when the elephant rushed amongst them with the utmost fury, trampled some of them to death, dashed others to the ground with her trunk, and put the rest to flight. She then placed her master, who was wounded in

the contest, upon her back, and conveyed him to a place of security. There are numerous well-attested anecdotes of similar instances of the affection of elephants towards their owners.

If elephants meet with a sick or wounded animal of their own species, they afford him all the assistance in their power. Should he die, they bury him, and carefully cover his body with branches of trees.

During a war in the East Indies, an elephant, that had received a flesh-wound from a cannon-ball, was conducted twice or thrice to the hospital, where he stretched himself upon the ground to have his wounds dressed. He afterwards always went thither by himself. The surgeon employed such means as he thought would conduce to his cure; he several times even cauterized the wound, and although the animal expressed the pain which this operation occasioned him, by the most piteous

groaning, yet he never showed any other sentiments towards the operator than those of gratitude and affection. The surgeon was fortunate enough to completely cure him.

There is a further anecdote of this animal's gratitude. A soldier at Pondicherry, who was accustomed, whenever he received a portion that came to his share, to carry a certain quantity of it to an elephant, having one day drank rather too freely, and finding himself pursued by the guards, who were going to take him to prison, took refuge under the elephant's body and fell asleep. In vain did the guard try to force him from this asylum: the elephant protected him with his trunk. The next morning the soldier recovering from his drunken fit, shuddered to find himself stretched under the belly of this huge animal. The elephant, which, without doubt, perceived the embarrassment of the poor fellow, caressed him with his trunk, in order to dissi

pate his fears, and make him understand that he might now depart in safety.

That elephants are susceptible of the most tender attachment to each other, is evinced by the following occurrence, which is recorded in a French journal:—Two very young elephants, a male and a female, were brought from the island of Ceylon to Holland. They had been separated from each other to be conveyed from the Hague to the Museum of Natural History, in Paris, where a spacious stable had been constructed for them. This was divided into two partitions, which communicated to each other by means of a trap-door. Both of the divisions were surrounded with strong wooden paling. The morning after their arrival they were brought into this habitation: the male elephant was introduced first. With an air of suspicion he examined the place, tried each of the beams by shaking it with his trunk to see if it was fast. He endeavoured to turn round the large screws

which held them on the outside, but this he found impracticable. When he came to the trap-door between the two partitions, he discovered that it was secured only by a perpendicular iron bolt, which he lifted up, pushed open the door, and went into the other partition, where he ate his breakfast.

It was with great difficulty that these animals had been separated in order to be conveyed singly to Paris, and having now not seen each other for several months, the joy they expressed at meeting again is not to be described. They immediately ran to each other, uttered a cry of joy that shook the whole building, and blew the air out of their trunks with such violence, that it seemed like the blast of a smith's bellows. The pleasure which the female experienced seemed to be the most lively; she expressed it by moving her ears with astonishing rapidity, and tenderly twining her trunk round the body of the male. She laid it particularly to his ear, where she held it

for a considerable time motionless, and after having folded it again round his whole body, she applied it to her own mouth. The male in like manner folded his trunk round the body of the female; and the pleasure which he felt at their meeting seemed to be of a more sentimental cast, for he expressed it by shedding an abundance of tears. Afterwards they had constantly one stable in common, and the mutual attachment between them excited the admiration of every beholder.

The following example shows that elephants are capable also of forming attachments to animals of a different species.

An elephant which the Turkish emperor sent as a present to the king of Naples, in the year 1740, displayed a particular attachment towards a ram, that was confined, together with some other animals, in his stable. He even permitted him to butt at him with his horns, as these animals are wont to do. But if the ram abused the

liberty he gave him, the only punishment he inflicted upon him for it was, that he took him up with his trunk, and threw him upon a dung-heap, though if any of the other animals attempted to take liberties with him, he dashed them with such violence against the wall, that he killed them on the spot.

An elephant rendered furious by the wounds he had received in an engagement at Hambour, rushed into the plain uttering the most hideous cries. A soldier, whose comrades made him sensible of his danger by calling to him, was unable on account of his wounds, to retreat with sufficient expedition out of the way of the enraged animal. But the elephant, when he came to him, seemed to be apprehensive lest he should trample him with his feet, raised him with his trunk, and having laid him gently on one side, continued his progress.

At Mahie, on the coast of Malabar, the owner of an elephant lent him out for hire. His occupation consisted in drawing timber for building out of a river, which he performed very dexterously with his trunk, under the guidance of a boy. He then piled the beams upon each other with such regularity, that no human being could have done it better.

Elephants do not merely obey the commands of their keeper while he is present, but they perform also in his absence the most singular operations when they have previously been made acquainted with the nature of them. I once saw, says M. Obsonville, two elephants employed in demolishing a wall, in obedience to the orders previously received from their cornacks, who had encouraged them to undertake the task by a promise of fruit and brandy. They united their powers, placed their trunks together, which were defended by a covering of leather, and pushed with them

against the strongest part of the wall; repeated their efforts, carefully watching at the same time the effect of the equilibrium, which they followed till the whole was sufficiently loose, when they exerted their whole strength in one more push, after which they speedily retreated out of the reach of danger, and the whole wall fell to the ground.

Bosmann relates, that in December, 1700, an elephant came at six o'clock in the morning towards Fort Mina, on the Gold Coast, and took his road along the river at the foot of Mount St. Jago. Some of the negroes ran unarmed about him, which he permitted without appearing to be in the least degree suspicious of them. But a Dutch officer shot at him, and wounded him over his eye. The animal did not alter his course, but pricking his ears, proceeded to the Dutch garden, where he saw the director-general and other officers belonging to the fort, sitting under the shade of some

palm-trees. He had torn down about a dozen of these trees with the greatest facility, when upwards of an hundred bullets were discharged at him. He bled over his whole body but still kept his legs, and did not halt in the least. A negro now, to plague the elephant, pulled him by the tail, at which the animal, being provoked, seized him with his trunk, threw him to the ground, and thrust his tusks twice through his body. As soon as the negro was killed, he turned from him, and suffered the other negroes to take away his body unmolested. He now remained upwards of an hour longer in the garden, and seemed to have directed his attention to the Dutchman who were sitting at a distance of fifteen or sixteen paces from him. As these had expended their ammunition, and feared that the elephant might attack them, they made their retreat. In the mean time the elephant was come to another gate, and although the garden-wall consisted of a double row of stones, he easily threw it

down, and went out by the breach. He then walked slowly to a rivulet, and washed off the blood with which he was covered: after that he returned to the palm-trees, and broke some boards that were placed there for the purpose of building a vessel. The Dutchmen had in the mean time procured a fresh supply of powder and ball, and their repeated shots at length put the elephant out of condition to make further resistance. They then with great difficulty cut off his trunk, upon which the elephant, who till then had not uttered a sound, set up a hideous roar, threw himself down under a tree, and expired.

We might quote many other facts equally curious and interesting: those we have already recited are sufficient to shew that the elephant is possessed of instinctive faculties superior to those of any other animal. We must at the same time admire the admirable order of that dispensation, which, to an animal of such unequalled powers, has

added a disposition so mild and tractable. What ravages might we not expect from the prodigious strength of the elephant, combined with the fierceness and rapacity of the tiger!

It certainly does appear by the foregoing account, that, if we except man, the elephant is the noblest animal with which we are acquainted. In size he surpasses all other terrestrial creatures; and, by his intelligence, he makes as near an approach to man as matter can approach spirit. Of all animated beings, the elephant, the dog, the beaver, and the ape, have the most admirable instinct. But this instinct, which is only a result of all the animal powers, both internal and external, manifests itself by very different effects in each of these species. Naturally, and when left at full liberty, the dog is as cruel and bloody as the wolf; but amidst all this ferocity of disposition, there is one flexible point which we have cherished. Hence the natural dispositions of the dog differ not from those of other rapacious animals, but by this point of sensibility,

which renders him susceptible of affection and attachment. It is from Nature that he derives this germ of sentiment, which man has cultivated and expanded by living long and constantly in society with this animal. The dog alone was worthy of this distinguished regard; for, being more susceptible of foreign impressions than any other quadruped, all his relative powers have been brought to perfection by his commerce with man. His sensibility, his docility, his courage, his talents, and even his manners, are modified and formed by the example and qualities of his master. We ought not, therefore, to ascribe to him all the powers he appears to possess. His most brilliant qualities are borrowed from us. He has acquired more than other animals, because he is more capable of making acquisitions. Instead of having a repugnance to man, he has a natural bias in favour of the human race. This gentle sentiment, which is always alive, is made evident by the desire of pleasing, and has produced docility,

fidelity, perpetual submission, and, at the same time, that degree of attention which is necessary for acting accordingly, and for giving ready obedience to all the commands he receives.

The ape, on the contrary, is as untractable as he is extravagant. His nature, in every point, is equally stubborn. He has no relative sensibilities, no gratitude, no recollection of good treatment, or of benefits received. Averse to the society of man, and to every kind of restraint, he has a violent propensity to do every thing that is hurtful or displeasing. But these real faults are compensated by apparent perfections. In his external figure, he resembles man: he has arms, hands, and fingers, the use of these parts alone renders him superior in address to other animals; and the relations they give him to us, in similarity of movements and conformity of actions, please and deceive us, and lead us to ascribe to internal qualities, what depends solely on the structure of his members.

The beaver, whose individual qualities seem far inferior to those of the dog and ape, has, notwithstanding, received from Nature a gift almost equivalent to that of speech. He makes himself so well understood to his own species, that they unite in society, act in concert, undertake and execute large and long continued works; and this social attachment, as well as the result of their mutual intelligence, are more entitled to our admiration than the address of the ape, or the fidelity of the dog.

Hence the genius of the dog (if we may be permitted to profane this term) is borrowed; the ape has only the appearance of it; and the talents of the beaver extend no farther than to what regards himself and his associates. But the elephant is superior to all the three; for in him all their most exalted qualities are united. In the ape, the hand is the principal organ of address. The trunk of the elephant affords him the same means of address as the ape. It serves instead of an arm and a hand; and by it he

is enabled to raise and lay hold of small as well as of large objects, to carry them to his mouth, to place them on his back, to embrace them fast, or to throw them at a distance. He has, at the same time, the docility of the dog, and, like that animal, he is susceptible of gratitude, capable of attachment, is easily accustomed to man, submits less by force than good treatment, serves him with zeal, fidelity, knowledge, &c. In fine, the elephant, like the beaver, loves the society of his equals, and can make himself to be understood by them. They are often observed to assemble together, to disperse, and act in concert: and if they receive no mutual edification, if they carry on no common operation, it must, perhaps, be ascribed to the want of room and of tranquillity; for men have been very anciently multiplied in all the countries inhabited by the elephant; he is, therefore, perpetually disturbed, and is nowhere a peaceable possessor of sufficient space to establish a secure abode. We

have seen, that all these advantages are necessary to unfold the talents of the beaver, and that in every place frequented by men, he loses his industry, and receives no edification from associating. Every being has a relative value in Nature. To form a just estimation of the elephant, he must be allowed to possess the sagacity of the beaver, the address of the ape, the sentiment of the dog, together with the peculiar advantages of strength, largeness, and long duration of life. Neither should we overlook his arms, or tusks, which enable him to transfix and conquer the lion. We should also consider that the earth shakes under his feet; that with his hand he tears up trees; that by a push of his body, he makes a breach in a wall; that, though tremendous in strength, he is rendered still more invincible by his enormous mass, and by the thickness of his skin; that he can carry on his back an armed tower filled with many warriors; that he works machines, and carries burdens which six

horses are unable to move; that to this prodigious strength he adds courage, confidence, coolness, and punctual obedience; that he preserves moderation even when in his most violent passions; that he is constant and impetuous in love; that, when in anger, he mistakes not his friends; that he never attacks any but those who offend him; that he remembers favours as long as injuries; that, having no appetite for flesh, he feeds on vegetables alone, and is born an enemy to no living creature; and, in fine, that he is universally beloved, because all animals respect, and none have any reason to fear him.

Men likewise, in all ages, have had a kind of veneration for this first and grandest of terrestrial creatures. The ancients regarded him as a miracle of Nature; and, indeed, he is her highest effort. But they have greatly exaggerated his faculties. They have, without hesitation, ascribed to him intellectual powers and moral virtues. Pliny, Ælian, Solinus, Plutarch, and other

authors of a more modern date, have given to these animals rational manners, a natural and innate religion, a kind of daily adoration of the sun and moon, the use of ablution before worship, a spirit of divination, piety towards heaven and their fellow creatures, whom they assist at the approach of death, and after their decease bedew them with tears, cover them with earth, &c. The Indians, prejudiced with the notion of the metempsychosis, or transmigration of souls, are still persuaded that a body so majestic as that of the elephant must be animated with the soul of a great man or a king. In Siam, Laos, Pegu, &c., the white elephants are regarded as the living *manes* of the Indian emperors. Each of these animals has a palace, a number of domestics, golden vessels filled with the choicest food, magnificent garments, and they are absolved from all labour and servitude. The emperor is the only personage before whom they bow the knee, and their salute is returned by the monarch. By all these at-

tentions, honours, and marks of respect, they are flattered, but not corrupted. This circumstance alone should be sufficient to convince the Indians, that these animals are not endowed with human souls.

After removing the fabulous credulities of antiquity, and the puerile fictions of superstition, which still exist, the elephant, even to philosophers, possesses enough to make him be regarded as a being of the first distinction. He deserves to be known and to be studied. We have, therefore, endeavored to write his history with impartiality.

Further particulars relative to the hunting, &c. of the elephant, extracted from various authors.

I went to see the grand hunting of the elephants, says M. Chevalier, which was performed in the following manner. The king sent a great number of women into the woods; and, when the report was brought that they had discovered a troop

of elephants, he dispatched thirty or forty thousand men, who made a large circle round the place. They posted themselves in fours, at the distance of twenty-five feet from each other, at every station they kindled a fire, which was raised about three feet above the surface of the earth. There was another circle composed of elephants trained to war, distant from one another about a hundred or a hundred and fifty paces; and, in such places as the wild elephants might most easily escape, the war elephants were posted closer. There were cannons in several places, which are discharged when the wild elephants attempt to force a passage; for they are terrified at fire. This circle is daily diminished, and at last becomes so small, that the fires are not above five or six paces distant. As the elephants hear a great noise all round them, they dare not fly, though it is not uncommon for some of them to make their escape; for I was told that ten of them got off in one day. When the hunters want to seize them, they

are made to enter a place surrounded with stakes, where there are also some trees, between which a man can easily pass. There is another circle of war elephants and soldiers, into which some men enter mounted on elephants, who are extremely dexterous in throwing ropes round the hind-legs of these animals. When fixed in this manner, the wild elephant is put between two tame elephants, and a third one is appointed to push him behind in such a manner, as obliges him to go forward; and, when he grows mischievous, the others give him blows with their trunks. He is then led off into captivity; and the others are seized in the same manner. I saw ten of them taken. The king was present, and gave every necessary order.

At a quarter of a league from Luovo, says P. Tachard, there is a kind of large amphitheatre, of a rectangular figure, surrounded with high terrace walls, upon which the spectators are placed. Within these

walls, there is a pallisade of strong posts fixed in the ground, behind which the hunters retire when pursued by the enraged elephants. A large opening is left on the side next the fields, and opposite to it, next the city, there is a smaller one, which leads to a narrow alley, through which an elephant can pass with difficulty, and this alley terminates in a large shade, where the operation of taming is finished.

When the day destined for the chase arrives, the hunters enter the woods, mounted on female elephants trained to this exercise. The men cover themselves with leaves of trees, to prevent their being observed by the wild elephants. When they have advanced into the forests, and think that some elephants may be in the neighbourhood, they make the females utter certain cries, fitted to allure the males, who instantly reply by frightful roarings. Then the hunters, when they perceive the elephants at a proper distance, return, and lead the females gently back toward the amphi-

theatre above described. The wild elephants never fail to follow. The male, which we saw tamed, entered the enclosure spontaneously along with the females, and the passage was immediately shut. The females continued their march across the amphitheatre, and filed off one by one into the narrow alley at the other end. The wild elephant, who had followed them all along, stop at the entrance of this defile. Every method was tried to make him enter. The females, who were now beyond the alley, were made to cry. Some Siamese irritated him, by clapping their hands, and crying *pat, pat*. Others tease him with long poles armed with sharp points; and, when pursued, they slip through between the posts, and conceal themselves behind the pallisade, which the elephant cannot surmount. Lastly, after having pursued several hunters in vain, he singles out one, whom he sets upon with extreme fury. This man runs into the narrow alley, and the elephant follows him. But he no sooner

enters, than he perceives himself to be in a snare; for the man escapes, and two port-cullises, one before and another behind, are instantly let fall; so that, being unable either to advance or retreat, the animal makes the most astonishing efforts, and raises the most hideous cries. The hunters endeavour to sooth him by throwing pails of water on his body, by rubbing him with leaves, by pouring oil upon his ears, and by bringing to him tamed elephants, both male and female, who caress him with their trunks. They fix ropes, however, round his body and hind-legs, to enable them to drag him out, and they continue to throw water on his trunk and body, in order to refresh him. In fine, a tamed elephant, accustomed to instruct noviciates, is made to approach him. The former is mounted by a servant, who makes the animal advance and retire, to show the wild elephant that he has nothing to fear, and that he may go out. The port is then opened, and he follows his neighbour to the end of the

aney. When there, two elephants are tied one to each side of him, another marches before, leads him the way they want him to go, while a third pushes him behind with its head, till they arrive at a kind of shade, where he is tied to a large post, which turns round like the capstan of a ship. There he is left till next day, to allow his rage to subside. But, while he frets around this post, a Bramin, of those Indian priests who are extremely numerous in Siam, dressed in white, approaches the animal, mounted on an elephant, turns gently round him, and bedews him with a consecrated water, which the priest carries in a golden vessel. They believe that, by this ceremony, the elephant loses his natural ferocity, and is rendered fit for the king's service. Next day, he walks along with his enslaved neighbours; and, at the end of fifteen days, he is completely tame.

P. Tachard further remarks, that they had no sooner alighted from their horses, and

mounted the elephants which were prepared for them, than the king appeared, accompanied with a great number of mandarins, riding on elephants of war. They all proceeded about a league into the wood, when they arrived at the place where the wild elephants were enclosed. This was a square park, of three or four hundred geometrical paces, the sides of which were fenced with large stakes; in which, however, considerable openings were left at certain distances. It contained fourteen large elephants. As soon as the royal train arrived, a circle was formed, consisting of a hundred war elephants, which were placed round the park to prevent the wild ones from forcing through the pallisades. We were stationed behind the fence, near the king. A dozen of the strongest tame elephants were pushed into the park, each of them being mounted by two men, furnished with large ropes and nooses, the ends of which were fixed to the elephants they rode. They first ran

against the elephant they wished to seize, who, seeing himself pursued, endeavoured to force the barrier and make his escape. But the whole was blockaded by the war elephants, who pushed him back; and, in his course, the hunters, mounted on the tame elephants, threw their nooses so dexterously upon the spots where it behoved the animal to place his feet, that the whole were seized in the space of an hour. Each elephant was then bound with ropes, and two tame ones placed on each side of him, by means of which he is tamed in fifteen days.

A few days after, says P. Tachard, I had the pleasure of being present at the hunting of elephants. The Siamese are very dexterous at this species of hunting, which they have several modes of performing. The easiest, and not the least entertaining, is executed by means of the female elephants. When a female is in season, she is conducted to the forest of Luovc. Her guide rides on her back, and covers him-

self with leaves, to prevent his being perceived by the wild elephants. The cries of the tame female, which she never fails to set up upon a certain signal given by the guide, collect all the elephants within the reach of hearing, who soon follow her. The guide, taking advantage of their mutual cries, returns slowly towards Luovo with all his train, and enters an enclosure made of large stakes, about a quarter of a league from the city, and pretty near the forest. A great troop of elephants were in this manner, brought together; but one of them only was large, and it was very difficult to seize and to tame him.—The guide who conducted the female, went out of the enclosure by a narrow passage in the form of an alley, and about the length of an elephant. Each end of this alley was provided with a portcullis, which was easily raised or let down. All the young elephants followed the female at different times. But a passage so narrow alarmed the large one, who always drew back. The female

was made to return several times; he uniformly followed her to the port; but, as if he foresaw his loss of liberty, he would never pass. Several Siamese, who were in the park, then advanced and endeavoured to force him, by goading him with sharp pointed poles. The elephant, being enraged by this treatment, pursued them with such fury and quickness, that not one of them would have escaped, had they not nimbly retired behind the stakes of the pallisade, against which the ferocious creature broke its large tusks three or four times. In the heat of the pursuit, one of those who attacked him most briskly, and who was most keenly pursued, ran into the alley, which the elephant entered in order to kill him. But the animal no sooner fell into the snare, than the Siamese escaped by a small passage, and the two portcullises were instantly let down. The elephant struggled much; but he found himself obliged to remain in his prison. To appease him they threw pailfuls of water on his body. Ropes, however,

were put round his legs and neck. After being fatigued for some time, he was brought out by means of two tame elephants, who drew him forward with ropes, while other two pushed him behind, till he was fixed to a large post, round which he could only turn. In an hour after he became so tractable, that a Siamese mounted on his back; and next day he was let loose, and conducted to the stables along with the others.

As the Europeans give a high price for elephants' teeth, the love of gain arms the negroes perpetually against these animals. For this species of hunting they sometimes assemble in great bodies, with their arrows and darts. But the most common and most successful method is that of digging ditches in the woods, because they are never deceived in distinguishing the track of the elephants. There are two methods of taking these animals, either by digging ditches and covering them with the branches of trees, into which the creatures inadvertently

fall, or by hunting them, which is performed in the following manner. In the island of Ceylon, where the elephants are very numerous, the hunters keep female elephants, which they call *alias*. As soon as they learn that there are wild elephants in any place, they repair thither, accompanied with two of these *alias*, which, whenever a male is discovered, they let loose. The females come up on each side of him, and keeping him in the middle, squeeze him so hard that he cannot escape.

M. de Constance says, that the king of Siam, had twenty thousand elephants in his dominions, without reckoning those that are wild, and live in the woods and mountains, of which, fifty, sixty, and even eighty, are sometimes taken at a single hunting match.

When the elephants are led to war, they serve two purposes; for they either carry small wooden towers, from the top of which soldiers fight, or they have swords fixed to their trunks with iron chains, and in this manner they are let loose against the

enemy, whom they assail with courage, and would unquestionably cut to pieces, if they were not repelled by spears, which throw out fire; for, as elephants are terrified at fire, this artifice is employed to put them to flight.

In Cochin, as well as in other parts of Malabar, no horses are used in war. Those who fight not on foot, are mounted on elephants, of which there are great numbers in the mountains; and these mountain elephants are the largest in India.

In the kingdom of Tonquin, the women of rank generally ride upon elephants, so very tall and massy, that they can carry, without any danger, a tower with six men in it, beside the conductor on their neck.

The grandeur of the princes consists in the number of elephants they are able to keep, which is the chief source of their expense. The Great Mogul has several thousands of them. The king of Madura, the lords of Narzinga and of Bisnager, and the kings of Naires and of Mansul, have

several hundreds, which they distinguish into three classes. The largest are destined for the service of the prince. Their harness is extremely rich. They are covered with cloth embroidered with gold, and studded with pearls. Their teeth are adorned with fine gold and silver, and sometimes with diamonds. Those of a middle size are employed in war; and the least are used for common labour.

The elephants, of which I daily saw great numbers along the banks of the river Senegal, says a celebrated traveller, no longer astonish me. On the 5th day of November, I walked into the woods opposite to the village of Dagana, where I found a number of their fresh tracks, which I followed near two leagues, and at last discovered five of these animals; three of them lay wallowing, like hogs, in their own soil, and the fourth was standing with its cub, eating the branches of an acacia tree, which they had broken off. By comparing the animal with the height of the tree, I

perceived that its crupper was at least eleven or twelve feet high, and its tusks near three feet long. Though my presence did not disturb them, I thought it proper to retire. In pursuing my route, I met with the impressions of their feet, which measured near a foot and a half in diameter. Their dung, which resembled that of a horse, formed balls seven or eight inches in diameter.

The elephants often pass the night in the villages, of Africa, and are so little afraid of frequented places, that instead of turning when they perceive the houses of the Negroes, they march straight forward, and overturn them like nut-shells.

Some persons who lived long in Pondicherry, seem to doubt the existence of white and red elephants; for they affirm, that in this part of India, at least, the elephants are all black. It is true, they remark, that, when these animals are long neglected to be washed, the dust which adheres to their oily and naked skin gives

them the appearance of a dirty gray colour; but when washed with water, they become as black as formerly. I believe that black is the natural colour of elephants, and none of any other colour are to be found in those parts of India which these people have had an opportunity of seeing. But, at the same time, it seems not to admit of a doubt, that in Ceylon, Siam, Pegu, Cambaya, &c., some white and red elephants are accidentally to be met with. Hortenfels, who has collected, in his *Elephantographia*, a great number of facts from different voyages, assures us, that the white elephant has not only a white skin, but that the hair of its tail is also white. This variety in the colour of elephants, though rare, is certain, and very ancient. It has, perhaps, proceeded from their domestic condition, to which the Indians have been long accustomed to reduce these animals.

In the procession of the king of Pegu, two red elephants are led before, harnessed with silk and gold stuffs, which are followed

by four white elephants, harnessed in a similar manner, with the addition of precious stones, and the tusks covered with rubies.

M. Constance conducted the amboassador to see the white elephant which is so esteemed in India, and has given rise to so many wars. He is very small, and so old that he is all wrinkled. Several mandarins are appointed to take care of him, and his victuals are served up to him in large golden vessels. His apartment is magnificent, and the inside of it is handsomely gilded.

In a country house belonging to the king, situated upon the river about a league from Siam, I saw a small white elephant, which was destined to be successor to the one in the palace, which is said to be three hundred years old. This little elephant is somewhat larger than an ox, and is attended by many mandarins; and, out of respect to him, his mother and aunt are kept along with him.

When the king of Pegu walks abroad, four white elephants, adorned with precious stones and ornaments of gold, march before him.

When the king of Pegu gives audience, the four white elephants are presented to him, who do him reverence by raising their trunks, opening their mouths, making three distinct cries, and then kneeling. When raised, they are led back to their stables, and are separately fed in large golden vessels. They are twice a day washed with water taken from a silver vessel. During the time of their being dressed in this manner, they are under a canopy supported by eight domestics, in order to defend them from the heat of the sun. In going to the vessels which contain their food and water, they are preceded by three trumpets, and march with great majesty, regulating their steps by music, &c. White elephants are held to be sacred by the natives of Pegu: having learned that the king of Siam had two, they sent ambassadors offering any

price that should be demanded for them. But the king of Siam would not sell them. His majesty of Pegu, incensed at this refusal, came with his army, and not only carried off the elephants by force, but rendered the whole country tributary to him.

I was informed, says a traveller, that the elephant at Versailles always rolled in the dust after bathing, which he did as often as he was allowed; and it was observed that he threw dust upon all the places which had been missed when he rolled himself, and that he drove off the flies with handfuls of straw, or by throwing dust with his trunk on the places where he felt himself stung; there being nothing which the flies avoid so much as falling dust.

About eight or nine o'clock before noon, we went to the river to see the elephants belonging to the king and the nobles bathed. The animal goes into the water till it reaches his belly, and, lying down on one side, fills his trunk several times, and throws the water upon the parts which are

uncovered. The master then rubs off, with a kind of pumice-stone, all the dirt that has been collected on the creature's skin. Some authors tell us, that, when the elephant lies down, he is unable to raise himself. But this assertion is not founded in truth; for the master, after rubbing on one side, desires the animal to turn to the other, which he does very quickly; and after both sides are well curried, he comes out of the river, and stands some time on the bank till he dries. The master then brings a pot of red or yellow paint, and draws lines on the elephant's face, round the eyes, and upon the breast and rump. He is next rubbed over with oil, to strengthen his nerves.

Before we close our account of the elephant, we shall take some notice of the teeth of that animal, which have been so frequently found in a fossil state in various parts of the world. Some years ago, two great grinding teeth, and part of the tusk of an elephant, were discovered, at the

depth of forty-two yards, in a lead mine, in Flintshire, lying in a bed of gravel: the grinders were almost as perfect as if they had been just taken from the living animal; the tusk was much decayed, and very soft. Near the banks of many rivers in Siberia, large tusks and teeth have been frequently dug up, which were formerly attributed to a creature called the *Mammoth*; but they are now universally believed to have belonged to the elephant. The molares or grinders are perfectly the same with those of the present race; but both they and the tusks are much larger: some of the latter have been known to weigh four hundred pounds; and grinders of the weight of twenty-four pounds have not unfrequently been discovered. One of these was taken from a skeleton of the same head in which the tusks were found: and as the ivory of the latter was in every respect the same as that generally known, and made use of for the purposes of useful and ornamental works, we cannot deny our assent to the

opinion of those who suppose them to have been once parts of the animal we have just described. Tusks of a prodigious size, teeth, jaw-bones, thigh-bones, and vertebræ, have likewise been frequently found on the banks of the river Ohio, in America, five or six feet beneath the surface. Some of the tusks are near seven feet long, one foot nine inches in circumference at the base, and one foot near the point. They differ from those of the elephant in having a larger twist or spiral curl towards the small end. There is a still greater difference in the form of the grinders, which are made like those of a carnivorous animal, not flat and ribbed transversely on their surface, like those of an elephant, but furnished with a double row of high and conic projections, as if intended to masticate, not grind, their food. Specimens of these teeth and bones are deposited in the British Museum, that of the Royal Society, and in the cabinet of the late ingenious Dr. Hunter. These fossil bones are also found in Peru and in the

Brazils. As yet, the living animal has evaded the search of the curious naturalist; but it is not improbable, that it may exist in some of those remote parts of that vast continent, yet unpenetrated by Europeans.

Many fossil remains of elephants have been found in the British islands.

Sir H. Sloane had a tusk, found imbedded in gravel, twelve feet under the surface of the ground, in Gray's Inn Lane. He was also in possession of another, dug up in Northamptonshire, besides other bones belonging to the elephant, which were found in the same county.

Two teeth and a portion of a skull were discovered in 1630 at Gloucester.

Trentham in the county of Suffolk, Wrabness near Harwich, Norwich, Kew, Salisbury Plain, the Isle of Sheppey, and the Isle of Dogs, have all furnished specimens of the elephants' bones. Brentford must not be omitted, where the teeth of a hippopotamus, and the entire tusk of an elephant, nine feet long, were discovered

by some workmen employed by Mr. Trimmer.

Pennant mentions two great grinding teeth, and part of the tusk of an elephant, which were given him by some miners, who discovered them at the depth of forty-two yards, in a lead mine, in Flintshire. They were imbedded in gravel, and the grinders, he observes, were almost as perfect as if just taken from the animal; the tusk much decayed, soft, and exfoliating.

The bones of elephants have been found in several of the northern parts of Ireland.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE DEATH

OF THE

ELEPHANT,

AT EXETER CHANGE, &c.

THE ACCOUNT OF THE

REV.

STEPHEN

BY HENRY CHURCHILL

AN ACCOUNT, &c

We cannot close our history of the elephant without giving an account of the death of that which was for several years exhibited at Exeter Change, in London, which took place in March 1826; to which in conclusion we shall add an account of the destruction of one of those remarkable animals at Geneva, in 1820.

The first owner of the elephant exhibited at Exeter Change was Mr. Harris, proprietor of Covent-garden theatre. He purchased it in July, 1810, for nine hundred guineas on its arrival in England, aboard the *Astel*, Captain Hay, and the elephant "came out" as a public performer the same year, in the procession of a grand pantomime, called "Harlequin Padmanaba." During his "stay" at this theatre, Mr. Polito, the then

proprietor of the Royal Menagerie, Exeter Change, agreed for its purchase with Mr. Harris. On the death of Mr. Polito, in 1814, Mr. Cross, who for twenty years had been superintendent of the concern, became its purchaser, and the elephant, thus transferred, remained with Mr. Cross at the Menagerie, till the termination of his life.

On the elephant's first arrival from India he had two keepers; these accompanied him to Exeter Change, and to their controul he implicitly submitted, until the death of one of them, within the first year after Mr. Cross's proprietorship, when the animal's increasing bulk and strength rendered it necessary to enlarge his den, or rather to construct a new one. The bars of the old one were not thicker than a man's arm. With Mr. Harrison, the carpenter, who built his new den, and with whom he had formed a previous intimacy, he was remarkably docile, and accommodated himself to his wishes in every respect. He was occasionally troublesome to his builder from

love of play, but the prick of a gimblet was an intimation he obeyed, till a desire for fresh frolic prompted him to further interference, and then a renewal of the hint, or some trifling eatable from the carpenter's pocket, abated the interruption. In this way they went on together till the work was completed, and while the elephant retained his senses, he was happy in every opportunity that afforded him the society of his friend Harrison. The den thus erected was that wherein he remained till his death.

About six years ago this elephant indicated an excitement which is natural to the species, and which prevails every year for a short season. At the period now spoken of, his keeper having gone into his den to exhibit him, the animal refused obedience; on striking him with a slight cane, as usual, the elephant violently threw him down: another keeper seeing the danger, tossed a pitchfork to his comrade, which the animal threw aside like a straw. A person then

ran to alarm Mr. Cross, who hurried down stairs, and catching up a shovel, struck the animal violently on the head, and suddenly seizing the prostrated man, dragged him from the den, and saved his life.

This was the first appearance of those annual paroxysms, wherein the elephant, whether wild or confined, becomes infuriated. At such a period it is customary in India to liberate the elephants and let them run to the forests, whence, on the conclusion of the fit, they usually return to their wonted subjection. Such an experiment being impossible with Mr. Cross, he resorted to pharmacy, and, in the course of fifty-two hours, succeeded in deceiving his patient into the taking of twenty-four pounds of salts, twenty-four pounds of treacle, six ounces of calomel, an ounce and a half of tartar emetic, and six drams of powder of gamboge. To this he added a bottle of croton oil, the most potent cathartic perhaps in existence; of this, a full dram was administered, which alone is sufficient for

at least sixty full doses to the human being; yet, though united with the preceding enormous quantity of other medicine, it operated no apparent effect. At this juncture Mr. Nyleve, a native East Indian, and a man of talent, suggested to Mr. Cross the administration of animal oil, as a medicine of efficacy. Six pounds of marrow from beef bones were accordingly placed within his reach, as if it had been left by accident; the liquorish beast, who would probably have refused it had it been tendered him in his food, swallowed the bait. The result justified Mr. Nyleve's prediction. To my inquiry whether the marrow had not accelerated an operation which would have succeeded the previous administration, Mr. Cross answered, that he believed the beef marrow was the really active medicine, because, after an interval of three weeks, he gave the same quantity wholly unaccompanied, and the same aperient effect followed. He never, however, could repeat the experiment; for the elephant in successive

years wholly refused the marrow, however attempted to be disguised, or with whatever it was mixed.

In subsequent years, during these periods of excitement, the paroxysms successively increased in duration; but there was no increase of violence until the present year, when the symptoms became more alarming, and medicine produced no diminution of the animal's heightened rage. On Sunday, (26th of February,) a quarter of a pound of calomel was given to him in gruel. Three grains of this is a dose for a man; and though the entire quantity given to the elephant was more than equal to six hundred of those doses, it failed of producing in him any other effect than extreme suspicion of any food that was tendered to him, if it at all varied in appearance from what he was accustomed to at other times. On Monday morning some warm ale was offered him in a bucket, for the purpose of assisting the operation of the calomel, but he would not touch it till Cartmell, his keeper, drank

a portion of the liquor himself, when he readily took it. The fluid did not appear to accelerate the wished-for object; and, in fact, the calomel wholly failed to operate. Though in a state of constant irritation, he remained tolerably quiet throughout Monday and Tuesday, until Wednesday, the 1st of March, when additional medicine became necessary, and Mrs. Cross conceived the thought of giving it to him through some person whom the elephant had not seen, and whom therefore he might regard as a casual visitor, and not suspect. To a certain extent the feint succeeded. She sent some buns to him by a strange lad, in one of which a quantity of calomel had been introduced. He ate each bun from the boy's hand till that with the calomel was presented; instead of conveying it to his mouth, he instantly dropped the bun, and crushed it with his foot. In this way he was accustomed to treat every thing of food that he disliked.

It was always considered that the ele-

phant's den was of sufficient strength and magnitude to accommodate, and be proof against any attack he was able to direct against it, even in his most violent displeasure. In the course of the four preceding years the front had sustained many hundred of his powerful lounges, without any part having been substantially injured, or the smallest portion displaced, or rendered rickety in the slightest degree; but on this morning, (Wednesday,) about ten o'clock, he made a tremendous rush at the front, wholly unexcited by provocation, and broke the tenon, or square end at the top of the hinge story-post, to which the gates are hung, from its socket or mortise in the massive cross beam above; and, consequently, the strong iron clamped gates which had hitherto resisted his many furious attacks upon them, lost their security. Mr. Cross was then absent from the menagerie, and, in the urgency of the moment, his friend Mr. Tyler, a gentleman of great coolness and faculty of arrangement, gave

orders for a strong massy piece of timber to be placed in front of his den, as a temporary fixture against the broken story-post; and offered every thing he could think of to pamper, and, if possible, to allay the animal's fury. On Mr. Cross's arrival he rightly judged, that another such lounge would prostrate the gates; and, as it was known that Mr. Harrison, the carpenter of the den, who formerly possessed great influence over him, had now lost all power of controuling him, it was morally certain, that if any other persons attempted to repair the mischief in an effectual way, their lives would be forfeited. Mr. Cross, under these circumstances of imminent danger, instantly determined to destroy the elephant with all possible despatch, as the only measure he could possibly adopt for his own safety and the safety of the public. Having formed his resolution, he went without a moment's delay to Mr. Gifford, chemist in the Strand, and requested to be supplied with a potent poison, destitute if possible

of taste or smell. Mr. Gifford, sensible of the serious consequences to Mr. Cross in a pecuniary point of view, entreated him to reflect still further, and not to commit an act of which he might hereafter repent. Mr. Cross assured him that whatever irritation he might manifest, proceeded from his own feelings of regard towards the elephant, heightened by a sense of the loss that would ensue upon his purpose being effected; adding, that he had a firm conviction that unless the animal's death was immediately accomplished, loss of human life must ensue. Mr. Gifford replied, that he had never seen or complied more reluctantly with his wish on any occasion, and he gave him four ounces of arsenic. Mr. Cross declares that on his way back, the conflict of his feelings was so great at that moment, that he imagines no person contemplating murder could endure greater agony. The arsenic was mixed with oats, and a quantity of sugar being added by way of inducement, it was offered to the elephant as his ordinary mea-

by his keeper. The sagacious animal wholly refused to touch it.

His eyes now glared like lenses of glass reflecting a red and burning light. In order to soothe him, some oranges, to which fruit he had great liking, were repeatedly proffered; but though these were in a pure state, he took them, one after the other, as they were presented to him, and dropping each on the floor of his den instantly squelched it with his foot, and having thus disposed of a few he refused to take another. This utter rejection of food, with amazing increase of fury, heightened Mr. Cross's alarm. He again went out, and in great agitation procured half an ounce of corrosive sublimate to be mixed in a quantity of conserve of roses, securely tied in a bladder, to prevent, if possible, any scent from the poison, and with some hope that if the animal detected any effluvia through the air-tight skin it would be the odour of roses and sugar, which were substances peculiarly grateful to him. The elephant was accu-

stomed to swallow several things lying about within reach of his proboscis, which, if tendered to him, he would have refused; and this habit suggesting the possibility that he might so dispose of this, which, it was quite certain, if presented would have been rejected, the ball was placed so that he might find it; but the instant he perceived it he seemed to detect the purpose; he hastily seized it, and as hastily letting it fall, violently smashed it with his foot.

■ The peril was becoming greater every minute. The elephant's weight was upwards of five tons, and from such an animal's excessive rage, in a place of insecure confinement, the most terrible consequences were to be feared. Mr. Cross therefore intrusted his friend, Mr. Tyler, to direct and assist the endeavours of the keepers for the controul of the infuriated beast. He then despatched a messenger to his brother-in-law, Mr. Herring, in the New Road, Paddington, a man of determined resolution, and an excellent shot, stating the danger,

and requesting him to come to the menagerie. As he arrived without arms, they went together to Mr. Stevens, gunsmith, in High Holborn, for rifles. On their way to him they called at Surgeons-hall, Lincoln's-Inn Fields, where they hoped to see the skeleton of an elephant, in order to form a judgment of the places through which the shots would be likeliest to reach the vital parts. In this they were disappointed, the college of surgeons not having the skeleton of the animal in its collection; but Mr. Clift, who politely received them, communicated what information he possessed on the subject. Mr. Stevens lent him three rifles, and at his house Mr. Cross left Mr. Herring to get the pieces ready, and after instructing him to co-operate with Mr. Tyler, in attempting the destruction of the animal, if it should be absolutely necessary before he returned himself. From thence Mr. Cross hastened to Great Marlborough-street, for the advice of Mr. Joshua Brookes, the eminent anatomist. He found that gentle-

man in his theatre, delivering a public lecture. Sense of danger deprived Mr. Cross of the attentions due to time and place under ordinary circumstances, and he immediately addressed Mr. Brookes; "Sir, a word with you, if you please, immediately: I have not an instant to lose." Mr. Brookes concluded his lecture directly, and knowing Mr. Cross would not have intruded upon him except from extreme urgency, withdrew with him, and gave him such instructions as the case seemed to require. Mr. Cross, accompanied by one of Mr. Brookes's pupils, hastened homeward. They were met near the menagerie by Mr. Tyler, who entreated Mr. Cross to run to Somerset-house and obtain military assistance from that place, for that they had been compelled to use the rifles in their own defence, and had put a number of shot in him without being able to get him down. Mr. Brookes's pupil accompanied Mr. Tyler, to assist him, if possible, while Mr. Cross rapidly proceeded to Somerset-house, where he found

a sentry on duty, who did not dare to quit his post, and referred him to the guard-room, where there were only two other privates and a corporal, who, at first, declared his utter inability to lend him either men or arms; but on the earnest entreaties of Mr. Cross for aid, and his repeated representations, that he would be responsible in purse and person, and compensate any consequences that could be incurred by a direliction from the formalities of military duty on so pressing an occasion, the corporal relented, and, with one of the privates, hastened to the menagerie.

Mr. Cross now met Herring, of the public office, Bow-street, to whom he communicated the situation of affairs at Exeter Change, and requested his assistance in obtaining arms. Herring suggested an application to Bow-street for that purpose. It appears that from accident they were not procurable there, and deeming it possible that they might be got at Sir W. Congreve's office, Mr. Cross ran thither, where he was

also disappointed. Mr. Brooks, glassman of the Strand, informed Mr. Cross there was small arms in the neighbourhood of Somerset-house; these, on returning to that place, were discovered to be old howitzers, and, therefore, useless. From thence he went on board the police-ship stationed on the Thames, near Waterloo-bridge, expecting to find swivels, and was again disappointed; being informed, however, that swivels were fired during civic processions from Hawes's soap manufactory, on the Surry side of the river, near Blackfriars-bridge, he rowed over and obtained a swivel, with a few balls, and the head of a poker, and the assistance of one of Mr. Hawes's men. The use for either, however, ceased to exist; for they arrived at the menagerie within a few minutes after the conclusion of such a scene as had never been exhibited in that place, nor, probably, in any other in this country. The elephant was dead.

To describe the proceedings of Exeter Change, from the time of Mr. Cross's leav-

ing it, it is necessary to recur to the period of Mr. Herring's appearance thither, on his return from Mr. Stevens's, in Holborn, with three rifles, and one of Mr. Stevens's assistants. He found that the violence of the elephant had increased every minute from the period of his departure with Mr. Cross, and that at great personal hazard Mr. Tyler, with Cartmell and Newsam, and the other keepers, had prevented him from breaking down the front of the den.

The keepers faced him with long pikes or spears, to deter him as much as possible from efforts to liberate himself from the confinement, which at ordinary periods he had submitted to without restraint. When he lounged furiously at the bars, they assailed him with great bravery, and their threats and menaces prevented the frequency of his attacks. In this state of affairs Mr. Herring concurred with Mr. Tyler, that to wait longer for Mr. Cross would endanger the existence of every person present; and having communicated

the fact to Mrs. Cross, who had the highest regard for the animal from his ordinary docility, she was convinced, by their representations, that his death must be accomplished immediately, and therefore assented to it.

For the information of persons not acquainted with the menagerie, it is necessary to state that it occupies the entire range of the floor above Exeter Change, the lower part of which edifice withinside is occupied by shops, belonging to Mr. Clarke. This part of the building, on the business of the day being concluded, is closed every night by the strong folding gates at each end, which, when open, allow a free passage to the public through the Change. It will be perceived therefore, that the flooring above is Mr. Cross's menagerie, or, at least, that very important part of it which is allotted to his matchless collection of quadrupeds. A large arrangement of other animals is in other apartments, on a higher story. Nero, not Wombwell's Nero, which was baited

by that showman at Warwick, but a lion not only in every respect finer than his namesake, and, in short, the noblest of his noble species in England, occupies a den in the menagerie over the western door of the Change. Other lions and animals are properly secured in their places of exhibition, on each side of the room, and the east end is wholly occupied by the den of the elephant; its floor being supported by a foundation of brick and timber more than adequate to the amazing weight of the animal. The requisite strength and construction of this flooring necessarily raise it nearly two feet from the flooring of the other part of the menagerie, which, though amazingly stable, and capable of bearing any other beast in perfect safety, would have immediately given way beneath the tread of the elephant; and had he forced his den he must have fallen through.

As soon, therefore, as his sudden death was resolved on, Mr. Tyler went down to Mr. Clarke, and acquainting him with the

danger arising out of the immediate necessity, suggested the instant removal of every person from the Change below, and the closing of the Change gates. Mr. Clarke, and all belonging to his establishment, saw the propriety of their speedy departure, and in a few minutes the gates were barred and locked. By the adoption of these precautions, if the elephant had broken down the floor no lives would have been lost, although much valuable property would have been destroyed; and, in the event contemplated, the animal himself would have been confined within the basement. Still, however, a slight exertion of his enormous strength could have forced the gates. If he had made his entry into the Strand, it is impossible to conjecture the mischief that might have ensued in that crowded thoroughfare from his infuriated passion.

On Mr. Tyler's return up stairs from Mr. Clarke, it was evident from the elephant's extreme rage, that not a moment was to be

lost. Three rifles therefore were immediately loaded, and Mr. Herring, accompanied by Mr. Stevens's assistant entered the menagerie, each with a rifle, and took their stations for the purpose of firing. Mr. Tyler pointed out to the keepers the window places, and such recesses as they might fly to if the elephant broke through, and enjoining each man to select a particular spot as his own exclusive retreat, concluded by showing the danger of any two of them running to the same place for shelter. The keepers with their pikes, placed themselves in the rear of Mr. Herring and his assistant, who stood immediately opposite the den, at about the distance of twelve feet in the front. Mr. Herring requested Cartmell to call in his usual tone to the elephant when he exhibited him to visitors, on which occasions the animal was accustomed to face his friends with the hope of receiving something from their hands. Cartmell's cry of "Chunee! Chunee! Chuneelah!" in his exhibiting tone, produced a somewhat fa-

vourable posture for his enemies, and he instantly received two bullets aimed from the rifles towards the heart; they entered immediately behind the shoulder blade, at the distance of about three inches from each other. The moment the balls had perforated his body he made a fierce and heavy rush at the front, which further weakened the gates, shivered the side bar next to the dislodged story-post, and drove it out into the menagerie. The fury of the animal's assault was terrific, the crash of the timbers, the halloeing of the keepers in their retreat, the calls for "rifles! rifles!" and the confusion and noise incident to the scene, rendered it indescribably terrific. The assailants rallied in a few seconds, and came pointing their spears with threats. Mr. Tyler having handed two other rifles, they were discharged as before; and, as before, produced a similar desperate lunge from the enraged beast at the front of his den. Had it been effective, and he had descended on the floor. his weight must

have inevitably carried it, together with himself, his assailants, and the greater part of the lions, and other animals, into the Change below, and by possibility have buried the entire menagerie in ruins. "Rifles! rifles!" were again called for, and from this awful crisis it was only in the power of Mr. Tyler and some persons outside, to load quick enough for the discharge of one rifle at a time. The maddened animal turned round in his den incessantly, apparently with the design of keeping his head from the riflemen, who after the first two discharges could only obtain single shots at him. The shutter inside of a small grated widow, which stood in a projection into the den, at one of the back corners, was now unshipped, and from this position Mr. Herring fired several shots through the grating. The elephant thus attacked in the rear as well as the front, flew round the den with the speed of a race-horse, uttering frightful yells and screams, and stopping at intervals to bound from the back against

the front. The force of these rushes shook the entire building, and excited the most terrifying expectation that he would bring down the entire mass of wood and iron-work, and project himself among his assailants.

After the discharge of about thirty balls, he stooped and sunk deliberately on his haunches. Mr. Herring, conceiving that a shot had struck him in a vital part, cried out—"He's down, boys! he's down!" and so he was, but it was only for a moment: he leapt up with renewed vigour, and at least eighty balls were successively discharged at him from different positions before he fell a second time. Previous to that fall, Mr. Joshua Brookes had arrived with his son, and suggested to Mr. Herring to aim especially at the ear, at the eye, and at the gullet.

The two soldiers despatched from Somerset-house by Mr. Cross came in a short time before Mr. Brookes, and discharged about three or four rounds of ball cartridge,

which was all the ammunition they had. It is a remarkable instance of the animal's subjection to his keeper, and though in this deranged state, he sometimes recognised Cartmell's usual cry of "Chunee! Chunee! Chuneelah!" by sounds with which he was accustomed to answer the call, and that more than once, when Cartmell called out "Bite Chunee! bite!" which was his ordinary command to the elephant to kneel, he actually knelt, and in that position received the balls in the parts particularly desired to be aimed at. Cartmell, therefore, kept himself as much as possible out of view as one of the assailants, in order that his voice might retain its wonted ascendancy. He and Newsam, and their comrades took every opportunity of thrusting at him. Cartmell, armed with a sword at the end of a pole, which he afterwards affixed to a rifle, pierced him several times.

On the elephant's second fall he lay with his face towards the back of the den, and with one of his feet thrust out between the

bars, so that the toes touched the menagerie floor. At this time he had from a hundred and twenty balls in him; as he lay in a posture, Cartmell thrust the sword into his body to the hilt. The sanguinary conflict had now lasted nearly an hour; yet, with astonishing alacrity, he again rose, without evincing any sign that he had sustained vital injury, though it was apparent he was much exhausted. He endeavoured to conceal his head by keeping his rear to the front; and lest he should either make a successful effort at the gate, or, on receiving his death-wound, fall backwards against it, which would inevitably have carried the whole away, the keepers availed themselves of the juncture to rapidly lash the gates of his den with a chain and ropes so securely, that he could not force them without bringing down the entire front.

Mr. Herring now directed his rifle constantly to the ear: one of these balls took so much effect, that the elephant suddenly rushed round from the blow, and made his

last furious effort at the gates. Mr. Tyler describes this rush as the most awful of the whole. If the gates had not been firmly lashed, the animal must have come through; for, by this last effort, he again dislodged them, and they were kept upright by the chain and ropes alone. Mr. Herring from this time chiefly directed his fire at the gullet; at last he fell, but with so much deliberation, and in a position so natural to his usual habits, that he seemed to have lain down to rest himself. Mr. Herring continued to fire at him, and spears were ran into his sides, but he remained unmoved, nor did he stir from the first moment of his fall. Four or five discharges from a rifle into his ear produced no effect: it was evident that he was without sense, and that he had dropped dead, into the posture wherein he always lay when alive.

The fact that such an animal, of such prodigious size and strength, was destroyed in such a place, without an accident, from the commencement to the close of

the assault, is a subject of real astonishment.

The situation of Mr. Cross's menagerie, after the removal of the elephant, was equally and almost as agreeably surprising. A partial dissection took place on Sunday, and in the course of the same day the body of the animal, with the skeleton, hide, and every particle of the remains, were removed. A stranger entering the place on Tuesday, ignorant of the recent event, could not have suspected such an occurrence. The menagerie was destitute of offensive smell, and, in every respect, preserved its usual appearance of order and cleanliness.

This elephant was a very * * * * in money matters, and returned nothing that came to hand. A friend of mine once witnessed a pleasant example of his proficiency in these affairs. The keeper having stated that the beast was so sagacious that he could distinguish good money from bad,

a French from an English half-crown, a Frenchman present observed, that he should like to try him, and threw into the cage a half-crown, which the elephant raised from the ground with his trunk, and having lifted it to his eye, and seen and approved it, deposited it very soberly in a box at the top of his den. The keeper, upon this, highly extolled the sensible proceeding of the beast; but the Frenchman demurred, observing, that he had not signified whether it was good or bad.—“Oh, no fear of that, Sir,” said the keeper, “your Honour may be sure that it’s good by his taking of it. The *hanimal’s* as sensible as a Christian, and he would not have taken the money if it had been bad.” “In that case rejoined the foreigner, “I am satisfied, and should like to have my half-crown back again.” “Oh!” said the keeper, “if your Honour fancies going into the cage, to get the half-crown out, your Honour’s very welcome, and I’ll open the door for your Honour with all my heart; but, for my

part, I would not go in to take any of his money out—no, not for a thousand pounds—for the *hanimal's* for all the world like a Christian, and would tear any body limb from limb that did but look at his money, much more go to take any of it away from him.”

DESTRUCTION OF AN ELEPHANT, AT GENEVA,
IN MAY, 1820.

For about a fortnight a fine Bengal elephant had been exhibited at Geneva. The elephants of this species are taller than those of Africa. They have an elevated cranium, which has two protuberances on its summit; the frontal bone is rather concave, and the head proportionably longer; their tusks are smaller than those of the African elephant. The animal in question had but one; he had lost the other by some accident. He was nine feet high, and of a dark-brown colour. He was ten years old, and was bought in London six years ago.

Mademoiselle Garnier (the niece of his proprietor), to whom he was much attached, always travelled with him. This lady was the proprietor of the elephant which broke loose at Venice a few years ago, and which was killed by a cannon shot, after it had committed considerable ravages in the city. The one in question was of a much gentler character, and had excited a general interest during its stay in Geneva, by its docility and intelligence; it performed at the command of its keeper all the usual tricks which are taught these animals, with a promptitude and obedience, a dexterity, and one might almost say a grace, which were quite remarkable. Whenever Mademoiselle witnessed his exercises, which was frequently the case, her presence seemed to call forth all those qualities to an extraordinary degree. We learn from this lady, that he was so familiar and social, that he had more than once appeared on the stage in large towns—for instance, at Lille, Antwerp, &c.—playing the principal part

wisely calculating, that it would be more easy to secure him within the town, than without it, and that he might do immense mischief on the high-roads. He re-entered the town without any hesitation, pursuing rather than following his keeper and guides, between whom and himself all influence, whether of attachment or fear, seemed at an end. From this moment he was his own master; he walked for some time in the Place de St. Gervais, appearing to enjoy his liberty and the beauty of the night. He lay down for a few minutes on a heap of sand, which had been prepared for some repairs on the pavement, and played with the stones collected for the same purpose. Perceiving one of his guides, who was watching him at the entrance of one of the bridges over the Rhone, he ran at him, and would have attacked him, and probably done him some serious injury, if he had not escaped just in time. Mademoiselle Garnier being informed of what had passed, immediately hastened to him,

and, trusting to the attachment he had always shewn for her, she ventured to try her influence in leading him to some place of safety; she went up to him with great courage, and, having furnished herself with some dainties, of which he was particularly fond, and speaking to him with gentleness and confidence, she led him into a place enclosed with walls near the barrack he had inhabited, into which he could not be induced to return. This place, called the Bastion d'Hollande, adjoined a shed, containing caissons, waggons and gun carriages; there were also cannon balls piled up in an adjoining yard. The animal being left alone, and the gates shut upon him, he amused himself with trying his strength and skill upon every thing within his reach; he raised several caissons and threw them on their sides, and seemed pleased at turning the wheels; he took up the balls with his trunk, and tossed them up in the air, and ran about with a vivacity which might have been ascribed either to gaiety or to

irritation. At two in the morning, the syndic of the guard being informed of the circumstance, went to the spot to consult on the measures to be taken. He found Mademoiselle Garnier in a state of the utmost distress and agitation, entreating that the elephant might be killed in the most speedy and certain way possible. The magistrate, who shared in the general feeling of interest this noble and gentle creature had excited in the town, at first opposed this resolution. He represented to his mistress, that he was now in a place of security against all danger, whether to the public or himself; that his present state of irritation was in its very nature transient, and would soon yield to a proper regimen. These representations were ineffectual. Mademoiselle Garnier, having still present to her mind the occurrences at Venice, and feeling the whole weight and responsibility of the management of the animal thrown on herself alone (for the keeper and guides had decidedly refused to attend upon him again, and it

was not easy to find successors who would undertake the task, or whom the elephant would suffer to approach him), persisted in her demand. The magistrate would not give his consent until it was put in writing and signed. From that moment arrangements were made for putting him to the most sure and speedy death, either by poison or fire arms. On the one hand, the chemists were laid under contribution for the necessary drugs; while, on the other, two breaches were made in the wall, at each of which a four-pounder was placed, which was to be the *ratio ultima*, if the poison failed in its effect. M. Mayor, an eminent surgeon, a learned lover of natural history, and one of the directors of the Museum, had taken great delight in visiting the elephant during the whole time of his stay, and the animal had evinced a particular affection for him. This fact, which was known to the magistrate, induced him to request M. Mayor to administer the poison. M. Mayor felt an extreme repugnance to an

action which seemed to him almost treacherous; but the supreme law, the *salus populi*, was imperative, and silenced every other consideration. M. Mayor at first made choice of prussic acid; after mixing about three ounces of it with about ten ounces of brandy, which was the animal's favorite liquor, he called him by his name to one of the breaches. The elephant came immediately at the sound of a well-known and beloved voice, seized the bottle containing the fatal beverage with his trunk, and swallowed it at one draught, as if it had been his usual drink. But this poison, the operation of which, even in the smallest doses, is usually tremendously rapid, did not appear to produce any sensible effect on him; he began to walk backwards, but with a firm step to the middle of the enclosure, where he lay down for some moments. It was now thought that the poison was beginning to act, but he soon rose again and began to play with the caissons, and to walk about in the court yard of the arsenal.

M. Mayor, presuming that the prussic acid, which had been kept some time, had lost its strength, prepared three boluses of an ounce of arsenic each, mixed with honey and sugar. The elephant came again at his call, and took them all from his hand. At the expiration of a quarter of an hour he did not appear at all affected by them. A fresh dose was then offered him; he took it, smelt at it for some minutes, then threw it to a distance, and began again to play all sorts of tricks. Sometimes he came to the breach, and twining his trunk round the mouth of the cannon, pushed it back, as if he had some indistinct notion of the danger which threatened him. It was five in the morning when the first dose of poison was administered; an hour had now elapsed, and no symptom of its internal action appeared. Meanwhile, the time at which the market is held drew near; the space round the walls was rapidly filling, and would soon be blocked up by inquisitive spectators. The order was therefore given to

fire. The gunner dexterously seized the moment in which the elephant, had just advanced to the breach, was retiring, and presented his side. The mouth of the cannon almost touched him. The ball entered near the ear, behind the right eye, and came out behind the left ear; it had still strength enough to go through a thick partition on the opposite side of the enclosure, and at length spent itself against a wall. The animal stood still for two or three seconds, then tottered and fell on its side, without any convulsion or movement whatever. The event circulated through the town with the rapidity of lightning; the people, led by a feeling stronger than mere curiosity, rushed in crowds to the spot; grief and regret were painted on every face. "They have killed the elephant!!" "What had the noble creature done? he was so good, so gentle, so amiable!" "What a pity!" And then they ran with one accord to the spot, to satisfy themselves with a nearer view. The eagerness was so great

that the authorities were obliged to take steps for keeping order in the crowd, and a small sum of money was demanded from each, for the benefit of the proprietor. The same evening, in consequence of an arrangement entered into with Mademoiselle Garnier, for securing the remains of the animal for the Museum, the surgeons proceeded to open the body, which they continued to dissect for several successive days. The operations were very skilfully directed, and almost entirely executed, by M. Mayor, the Chevalier Bourdet, and M. Vichet. Their courage and perseverance, in braving for whole days, and in hot weather, the inconvenience inseparable from such a task, can only be appreciated by those, who like ourselves, were constant and grateful witnesses of them. In the course of these operations, and even before they were begun, they took an exact measurement of the animal's dimensions, that its form might be perfectly preserved in the artificial carcase. They traced its *silhouette* with the

greatest accuracy, on the opposite wall, which had been previously covered with a coat of very smooth plaister; they also took separate casts of its head, and the two feet of one side. All the principal viscera, except the liver, which decomposed too rapidly, and the brain, which was shattered by the ball, were carefully removed, and preserved in a solution of oxygenated muriate of mercury. Their enormous dimensions render them precious to the observant and studious anatomist. The spleen was six feet long. As for the muscular or fleshy parts, as the season would not allow of their slow dissection, they were taken away rather by the hatchet than the bistoury; and there was no difficulty in disposing of them; they were given to the public, who were extremely eager and anxious to eat elephant's flesh, and much tempted by its excellent appearance, dressed as it was with every variety of sauce. They seemed perfectly regardless of the poison, which, indeed, had not time to develope itself in the

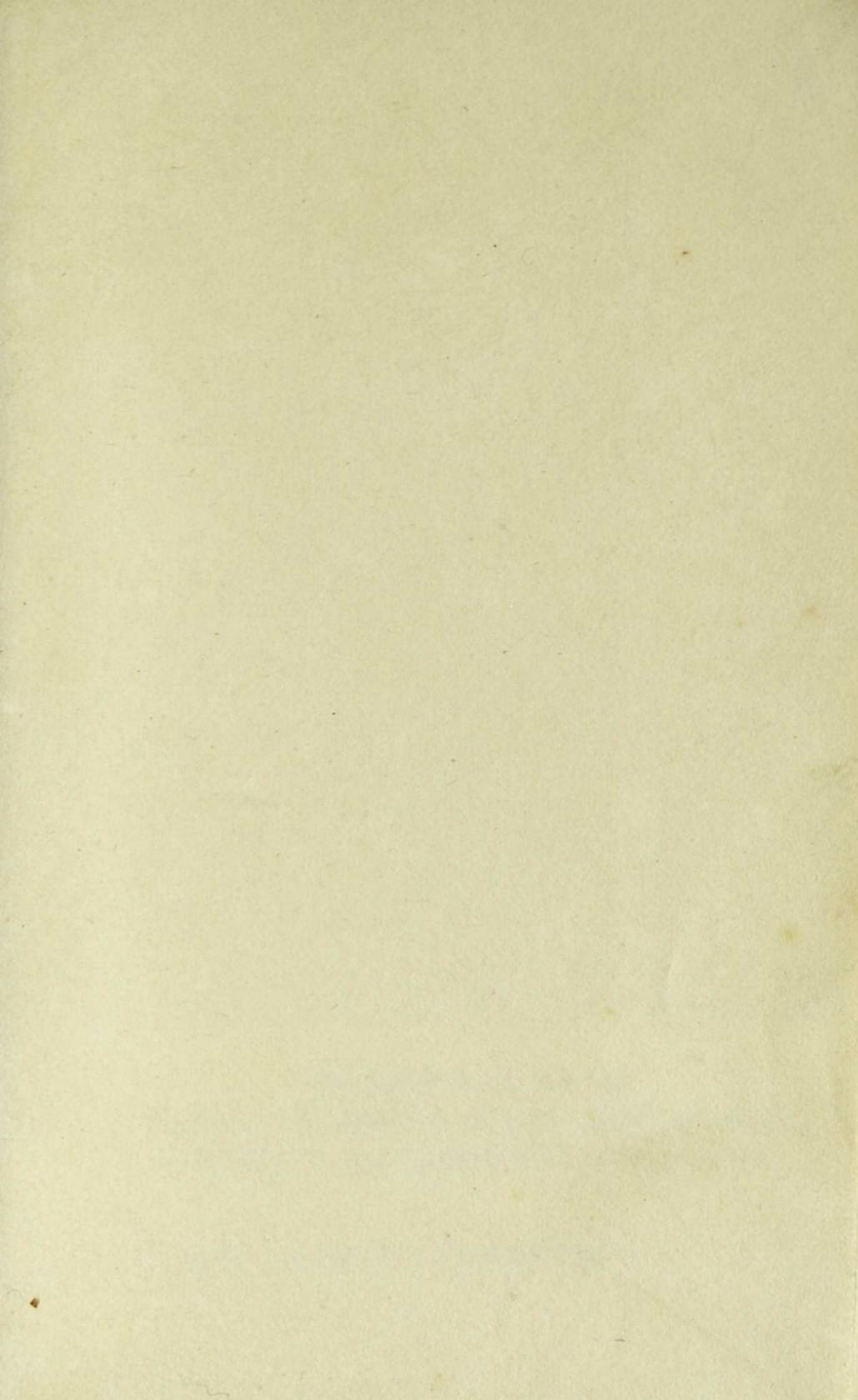
muscular system. Three or four hundred persons ate of it, and no one was, to our knowledge, the worse, except one of two individuals, who brought on a fit of indigestion by eating to excess. The osseous carcase has been the object of peculiar care and attention, and was put into a state of maceration, previous to recomposing the skeleton, which is to be disposed in the Museum of Natural History.

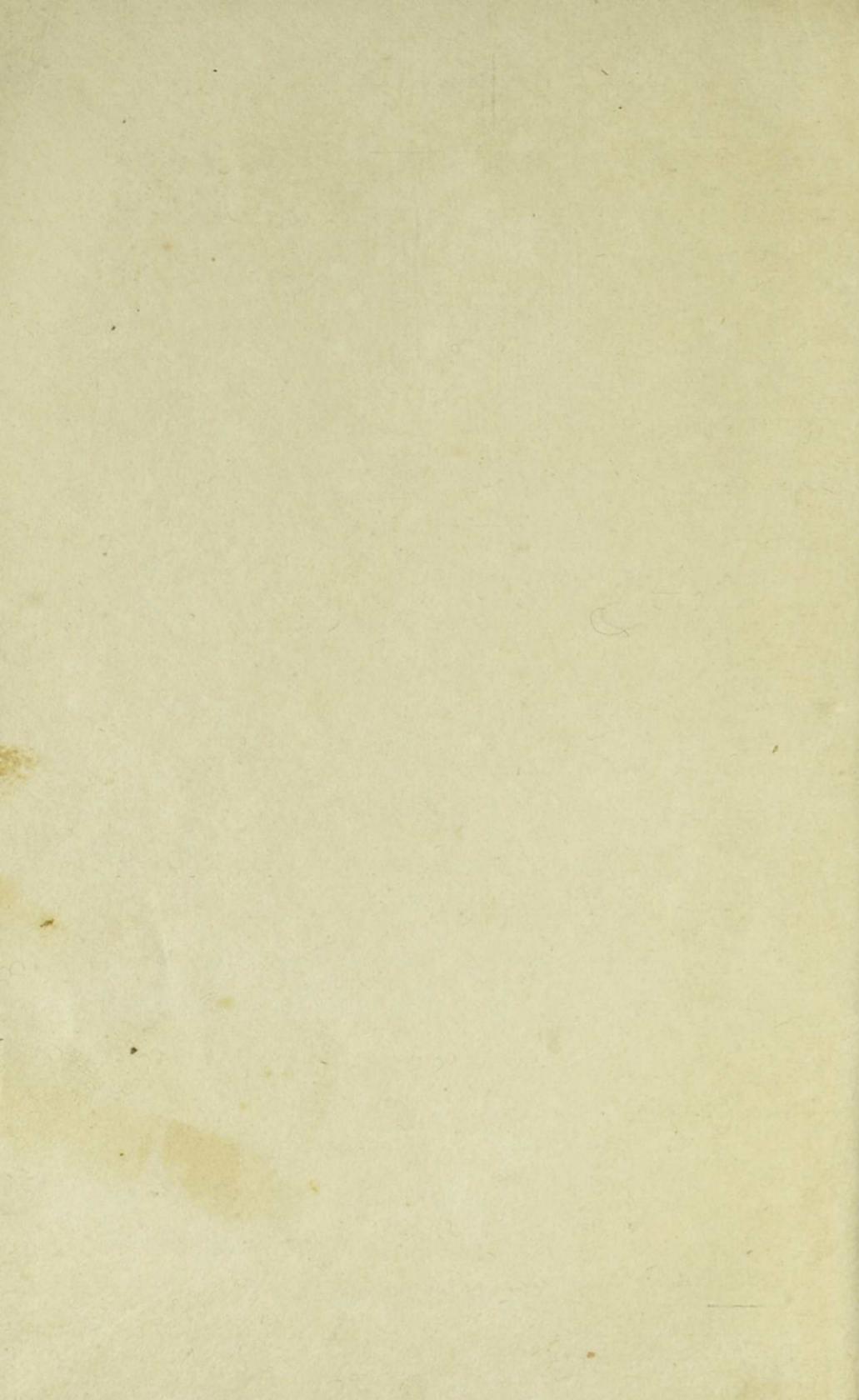
The interest taken in this Establishment is so strong, that the large sum required to secure possession of the entire carcase of the elephant was raised by subscription in a few days. The skin was found too thick to be tanned by the ordinary process, and as the epidemis began to detach itself naturally, it was carefully separated from the dermis, which it was not essential to preserve entire. The epidermis retains its proper consistency, and will be rendered supple by a well-known process, when it is wanted to cover the artificial carcase, which is constructing by several able mechanics,

under the direction of Messrs. Mayor and Bourdet. The event that happened at Venice, and that of which we have now given the principal details, seem to prove that the owners of elephants ought not to be permitted to travel with them on foot and at liberty. In India, where these animals are, in some sort, domesticated, when one of them is attacked by the paroxysm to which this fell a victim, two old and well-trained elephants are sent after him; they seize him with their trunks, and drag him to a place of safety, where he is subjected to a regimen. If he struggles violently, a third elephant is sent to push him behind with the points of his tusks, so that he is compelled to yield. As precautions of this kind cannot be taken in Europe, it is incumbent on the Police to supply the want of them by adequate provisions against a danger which cannot be denied. A very little more, and our elephant would have been perfectly at large in broad-day light, and in a populous city, on a market-day.

The possible and even probable consequences cannot be thought of without shuddering.

THE END.





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