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A BULL BISON BROUGHT FROM CANADA BY THE MARQUIS OF LORNE.

[Gambier Bolton.

HOW ANIMALS COME TO THE ZOO.

BY C. J. CORNISH.

Illustrated from Photographs by GAMBIEB BOLTON, F.Z.S.



DECIDEDLY, "All roads lead to the Zoo," might take its place among the proverbial philosophy of the animal world. The Secretary of the Society himself would probably find it a difficult task to schedule and tabulate the sources from which the menagerie is recruited year by year by the most varied and often purely accidental circumstances

occurring in every part of the globe. Not the least tribute to the *status* of the Society, and the confidence which its management inspires, is that Englishmen in all the four Continents seem to bear it in mind, wherever their activities are engaged; and there is no one—from Her Majesty the Queen and the princes of the blood, and the satraps of vast provinces and dependencies, who contribute whole collections of rare and costly animals, to the missionary in Central Africa, who, in the intervals of work and fever, despatches a cocoon of some unknown silk moth with his six months' budget of letters home—who may not from time to time augment the interest and variety of the collection. This is entirely apart from the nexus of correspondence maintained with scientific men or collectors in foreign countries, and the gifts of Fellows of the Society, some notion of which may be gathered from the lists published in the annual reports.

From the early days of the Society, Royalty has always taken an interest in its collections. In 1831 the King became Patron, and presented the whole of the Royal menagerie at Windsor to the Society. It consisted mainly of such animals as could be kept at

the Home Farm at Windsor, Wapiti deer, sambar, gnus, nylghaus, emus, zebras—including the now rare mountain zebra—wild boars and kangaroos. Later in the year he also presented the whole of the menagerie kept at the Tower. This enabled the committee to help to stock the Dublin Gardens then about to be formed.* It seems a paradox to say that the finest collection ever destined for the Zoo was lost before the Society was founded. It is, however, a fact. The Zoological Society was founded in 1826, and the person most active in its promotion was that great and good Englishman, Sir Stamford Raffles. Sir Humphry Davy and other eminent men had their share in the movement, but Sir Stamford Raffles' astonishing energy, his love for natural history, and his personal efforts for years previous to his return to England to make a complete collection, catalogue, and museum of the animals and plants of Sumatra, Java, and Borneo had already anticipated in some degree what took shape later. Sir Stamford was fifty years "before his time"; but the man who would have kept Java for the British Empire, and did induce his superiors to found Singapore, now the greatest port in the East, met with more encouragement from the men of light and leading in the scientific than in the political world. When at last he was able to leave the East and return home, he put all his property, his collections, his writings, and a whole menagerie of rare animals into one ship, the *Fame*, and embarked with Lady Raffles for England. Late in the evening of the first day the flames broke out under his cabin, close to the powder magazine. The ship's company had just time to get into the boats, saving the one sick man on board, and with the words, "Keep your eye on a star, Sir Stamford; there's one just visible," the captain shoved off, and the ship was left one mass of flames. Sir Stamford lost nearly all his property in this ship; "but what I have

* The big bull bison, whose portrait we give, was kept for some time at the Windsor Farm in recent years. It was brought from Canada by the Marquis of Lorne.

most to regret," he wrote, "is, beyond all, my papers and drawings, all my notes and observations, with memoirs and collections, sufficient for a full and ample history, not only of Sumatra, but of Borneo and almost every island of note in these seas." (This task was partly accomplished later by Mr. Wallace, and given to the world in his "Malay Archipelago.") "My intended account of the establishment of Singapore—the history of my own administration—my Eastern grammars, dictionaries, and vocabularies, and a grand map of Sumatra. This, however, was not all; my collection in natural history, all my splendid collection of drawings—upwards of 2,000 in number; *and, to conclude, I will merely notice that there was scarce an unknown animal, bird, beast, or fish, or interesting plant which we had not on board—a living tapir, a new species of tiger, splendid pheasants, all domesticated for the voyage. We were, in this respect, a perfect Noah's ark.*"

The burning of the *Fame* took place on February 4th, 1824; yet on March 1st, 1825, we find the first prospectus of the Zoological Society issued, with a strong and influential committee, and Sir Stamford Raffles as its chairman. After the King became Patron, the Society's collection assumed the calibre of a national institution; and the yearly increments began to accrue from the varied and independent sources from which they are still obtained. The course of foreign politics often has an effect upon the menagerie; animals always seem to "drop in" at the Zoo after foreign wars and expeditions. Our soldiers and sailors cannot resist making pets of creatures which strike them as interesting or are captured as loot, even if they cost them endless trouble in most difficult circumstances. After the Crimean War the Royal Engineers presented the Society with a young dromedary, which had been born in the camp before Sebastopol, and survived the "drums and trappings" of the desperate double siege of the garrison by the Allies and of the Allies by the Russian Army of Observation. A "side scene" in this conflict in the East was the aid given by our fleet to the insurgents and Turkish garrisons at the foot of the Caucasus; and there were captured and brought home to the Zoo two Persian deer, taken at the Black Sea end of the Caucasus chain, the uttermost western limit of this species. So, after the Suakin campaign, a fine baggage camel was brought home, and is now working for its living at the Zoo, one of the few survivors

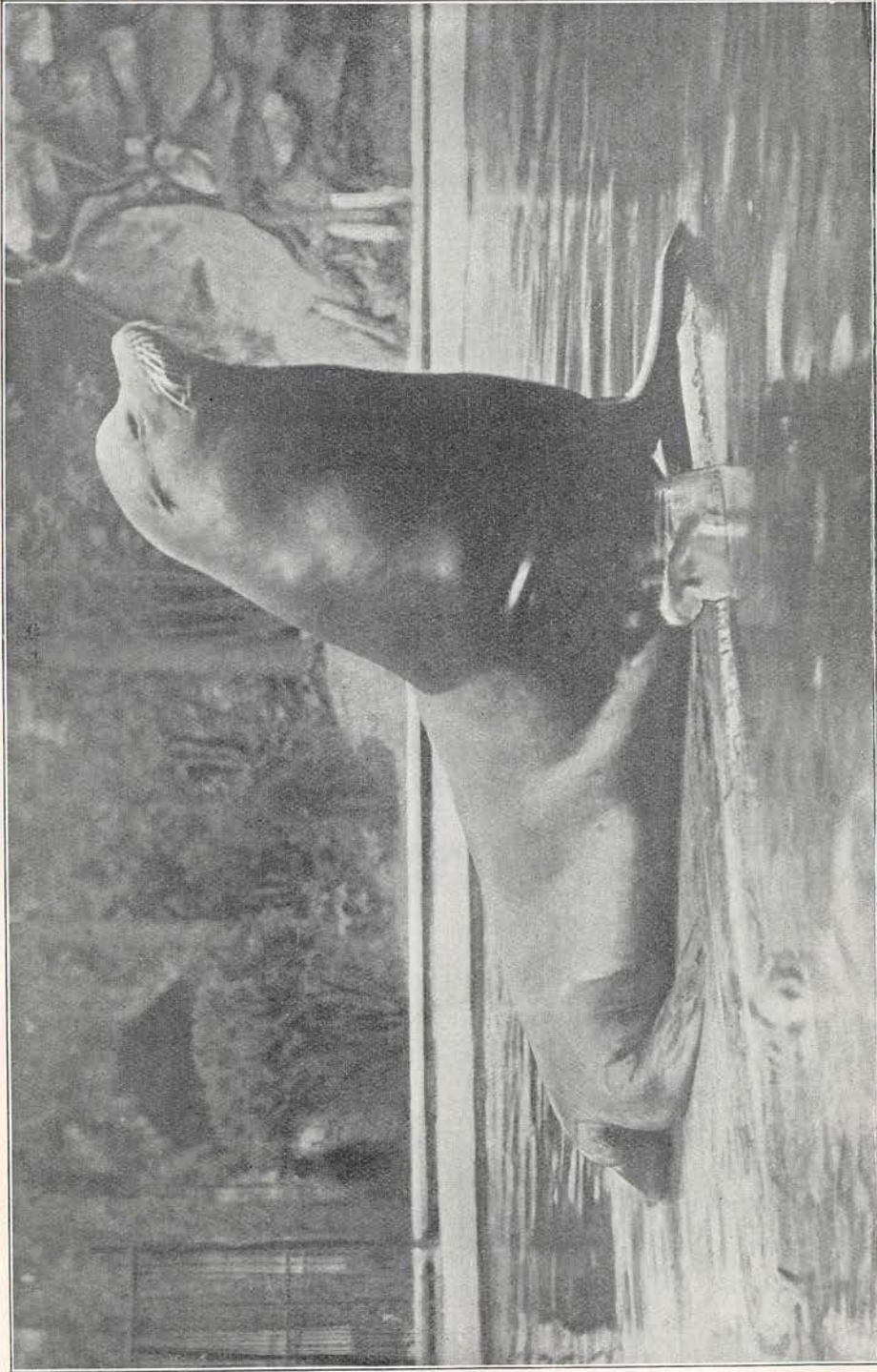
of the awful massacre of the baggage animals by the Dervishes during the attack on MacNeil's zeriba. A "fettered cat," the supposed original of our domestic species, was also brought from Suakin.

This capture of the enemies' "flocks and herds" after aggressive warfare on our part has its proper counterbalance. The outbreak of the Indian Mutiny stopped the despatch of one of the most promising contributions ever destined for the Zoo. This was the collection of Indian pheasants, mainly from the hills, ordered by Lord Canning to be made for the Society. The rude awakening of the Sepoy Revolt postponed these good intentions for many years to come, though those sent over by Lord Harding, Lord Canning's predecessor, thrived and multiplied.

Both the Afghan Boundary Commissions brought interesting specimens to the collections. The first, which was engaged in settling the frontier between Russia and Afghanistan, produced the finest Central Asian tiger ever seen in this country. One of the officers was going home *viâ* Turkestan and the Caspian, and at Khiva he found a fine young tiger in a cage. Asked if it was for sale, the men in charge said that it was sold to a Russian professor from Warsaw. The money, however, had not been paid, and British gold prevailed. After an adventurous journey by rail—where he would never have been allowed transit if he had not won the heart of the Russian superintendent's daughter by playing tricks—and thence by boat, he arrived safe in London, and with him some Central Asian antelopes, both being part of the contribution of the "Penjdeh incident" to the Royal Zoological Society. The delimitation of the frontiers between Afghanistan and Persia, and Afghanistan and Baluchistan, sent us two cheetah cubs, presented by Mirzah Hassan Ali Khan, and a female "northern" tiger, and, incidentally, the beautiful snow leopard which has lately died.

Most people, or even societies, who have made collections of any kind, from postage stamps to wild animals, know that the early days of collecting are always the most exciting. There are big gaps to be filled up, and until this is done all is new and easy.

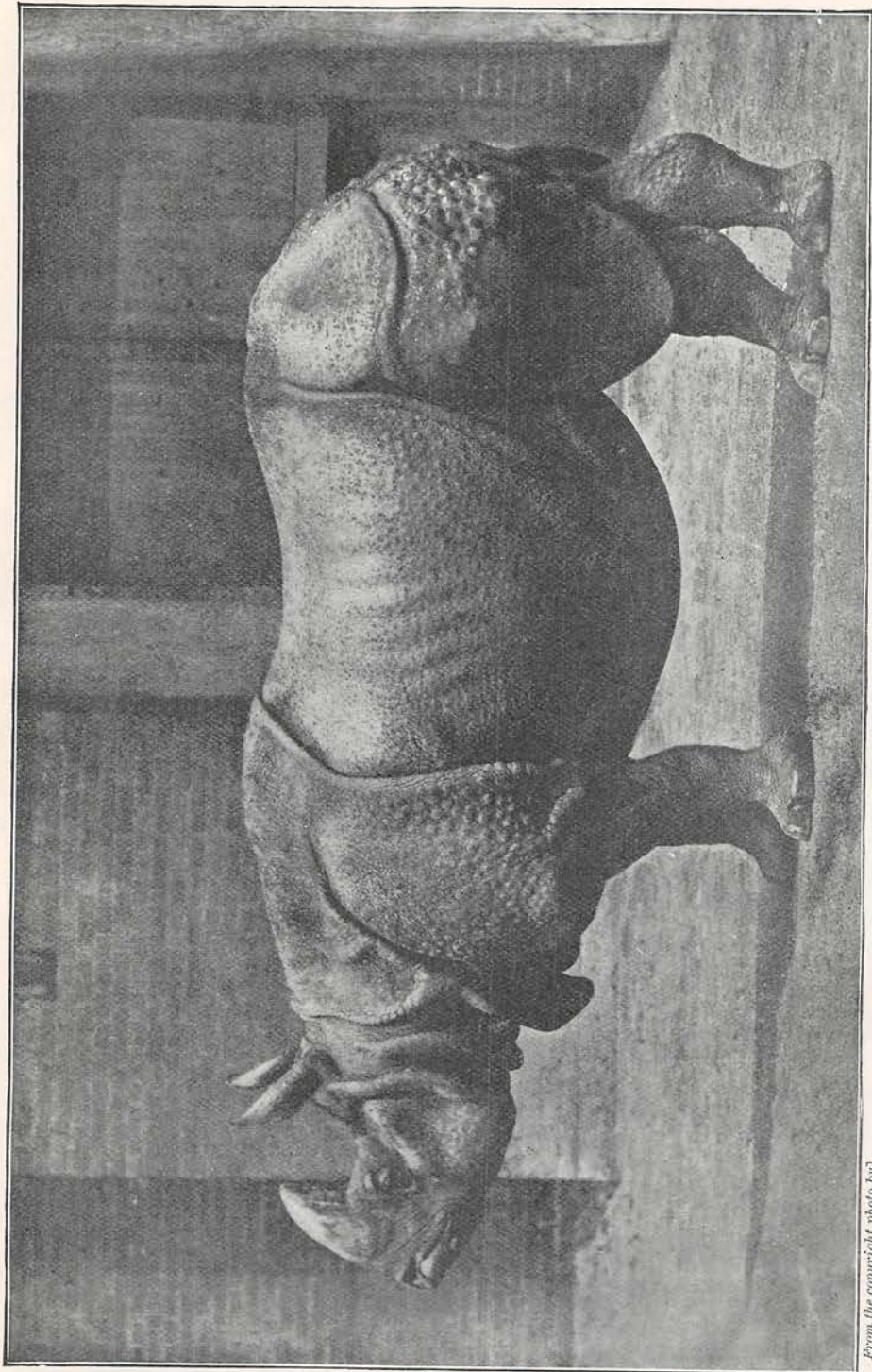
In the "sixties," though the Gardens were well filled, the absentees were too numerous for the Zoo to be considered a representative collection. But the Society were enterprising, and the times were just suited for making great captures for the Gardens.



[Gambier, Bolton.]

A SEA-LION AT THE ZOO

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[Gambier Bolton.]

AN INDIAN RHINOCEROS.

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English sportsmen, both in India, South Africa, and North America, had found and reported, but not destroyed, the vast quantities of wild animals then existing in the jungle, the veldt, and the prairies. Those were the great days of C. J. Anderson, Oswell, and Captain Harris in South Africa, of Colonel Campbell and the "Old Skikarry" in India, and men like Albert Spiers and the frontier pioneers on the western prairies. Big game of all kinds swarmed in three continents, and fresh species were constantly being discovered by explorers like Livingstone, Speke, and Grant, who made these minor discoveries during their quest for the sources of the Nile and the Zambesi. Speke's antelope, Livingstone's eland, mountain zebras, and several South African animals now almost extinct, were not difficult to obtain.

In 1864 Mr. Thomson, the head keeper to the Society, went to India, and returned in the following year in the ship *Hydaspes*, after a voyage of nearly four months, with a collection worth £1,516. Among the animals were two rhinoceroses and a number of interesting birds, such as the black parasitic cuckoos, hornbills, cranes, and a further consignment of Himalayan pheasants. One of the Indian rhinoceroses then obtained is still living in the Gardens, and is the oldest animal in the collection.

There was at this time a rich and enthusiastic native collector of wild animals, who had a private Zoo at Calcutta. His name was the Rajendra Mullick. Lord Derby and Lord Harding had procured some Impeyan pheasants from the Himalayas. These were acclimatised so far as to lay eggs, and some of the young birds were presented to the Queen. Next year the Queen, the Marquis of Breadalbane, and Lord Hill each subscribed £100 to procure more Indian pheasants, while the Governor-General co-operated by directing the Resident at Darjeeling, Captain James, to help in collecting specimens. He procured a splendid assortment of the hill pheasants, not only Monauls, but Cheer pheasants, Kaleege pheasants, hill partridges, and others. The Rajendra Mullick added a number from his collection at Calcutta, and the birds were brought back by Mr. Thomson, the greater number surviving. The Impeyan pheasants and purple Kaleeges laid eggs as soon as they reached London. These were hatched in September, and the young birds wintered at Lord Hill's park. The co-operation of the Sovereign, the Governor-General of India,

the Rajendra Mullick, and three English peers were thus all enlisted to obtain animals for the Zoo.

"Job lots" of animals, like that brought back in the *Hydaspes*, filled the larger gaps in the Society's collection. Then rarer animals began to appear, which had been the object of expeditions equipped specially for their capture by the Society's own funds. Mr. C. Bartlett, for instance, was sent all the way to Surinam to obtain a manatee, which, by his incessant care, was brought as far as Southampton, though it died on arrival. The story of the voyage to the Falkland Islands in search of sea-lions gives a good idea of "how animals come to the Zoo" when special expeditions are equipped on a large scale to fetch them. The Society voted £500 for the expenses of this voyage, and sent out Alexander Lecompte, the owner of the first tame sea-lion kept by the Zoo, with a general commission to "catch sea-lions." The Falkland Islands had previously been a noted haunt of these animals; but the story of the expedition shows the difficulties often encountered by the Society's agents. The sea-lions had been killed down in such numbers since Lecompte had last sailed in those seas that very few were seen. When, after great difficulties, he had collected four young ones and a number of sea-fowl, the vessel had a bad passage to Monte Video, and seventy-one animals, mainly birds, died. The sea-lions survived, but as one of the crew died of yellow fever, the supply of fish for the animals was thrown overboard. Improper food caused the death of all but one, which was saved by being fed on flying-fish which fell on the ship's deck at night near the coast of Portugal. The number of animals which die on reaching England, or just after they have been sent to the Gardens, is much to be regretted. What commonly happens is that the creature, which, if small and delicate, has, perhaps, been kept in the engine-room of the ship, is taken from these warm quarters to be exhibited with other treasures to the home circle. Then, when thoroughly chilled, it is sent to the Zoo. If the authorities were told of the intended gift, they would send for the creature, and, from their long experience, would provide for its comfort and warmth on the way. Even large tropical insects, like the giant *Mygale* spiders, can be made comfortable in their box by "hot-water bottles," even if they arrive in the depth of winter. The "bottles" in this case would be soda-water bottles filled with warm water. On a large scale,

it was a similar plan which enabled the young manatee recently shown in the gardens to be transported alive and well to the Zoo. The tank in which it travelled was full of water at a temperature of 80°. To maintain this, the station-master was asked for, and provided two dozen of foot-warmers. These were stacked round the tank after it was put in the van, and the animal lived for several months in the reptile house, and became a great attraction to the gardens. Snakes, poisonous and others, generally arrive in boxes. The keeper whose duty it is to receive them was accustomed to go down to the docks to meet his snakes, and to put all the non-poisonous kinds into a bag. Twenty years ago he went to fetch the big python which is now the largest snake in the collection, measuring twenty-one feet. It was then sixteen feet long, and the captain refused absolutely to allow him to handle it, much less to carry it home in a sack. Nothing less than the "Society's van" was, he felt, adequate for the transport of so formidable an animal.

The circumstances by which birds sometimes reach the Zoo would form a curious page in the chapter of accidents in animal life. One very fine heron flew down the ventilating cowl of a Mediterranean steamer, and was caught in the engine-room. An eagle was found fighting so desperately with another that it was caught before it could disengage itself, and in due course found its way to Regent's Park. An eared grebe, which arrived recently from Lincolnshire, was taken in fall nets set not far from Peterborough for the capture of plovers. Some birds come to the Zoo of their own accord. The ostrich, whose portrait we give, walked nearly 1,000 miles to the African coast on its way to the Zoo, but some even fly there. Mr. Travers, who was keeper of the western aviary for very many years, used, every autumn, to catch water-wagtails which visited their companions in the cages when on their migration to the south coast. These birds would nest next year in the aviary.

Visitors who are delighted every spring and summer by the sight of the lovely tropical moths and the butterflies from North and South America, fluttering and basking in their glass cases in the insect house, must wonder how these come to the Zoo. They are mainly sent over in the previous year in the chrysalis state, or when they have shut themselves up in cocoons.

Dozens of these big cocoons, sometimes as large as plums, arrive from the Himalayas and the Santhal forests, and are put in the cases till the insect awakes and develops, many months, or sometimes a year, later. Some species of clear-wing are enclosed in chambers hollowed in alder-branches, and little piles of these "billets" of alder-wood may be seen lying at the bottom of the cases.

The readiest source from which to fill up *lacuna* in the Zoo is the stock-in-hand of the wild beast dealers, such as the Jamrachs, Cross of Liverpool, or the surplus stock of foreign menageries, or of men like Mr. Hagenbeck, of Hamburg, who both own menageries and import wild animals obtained by their collectors abroad. The animals at the English dealers are recorded weekly in the *Field*; but the prices paid for really rare animals do not, as a rule, transpire. The first expensive purchase made for the Zoo was an Indian rhinoceros, bought in 1834. The price was merely alluded to as "heavy"; but, as for that year the cost of purchasing animals was £1,200, while in the previous year only £160 was spent, the animal probably cost not much less than £1,000. The Society had extraordinary luck in their rhinoceros collecting, whether by purchase or otherwise, though the animals cost a small fortune. In 1875 they bought of Mr. Jamrach a rhinoceros, never before seen in Europe, for the great price of £1,250. This was believed to be a Sumatran rhinoceros, though it came from Chittagong. A few months later some undoubted Sumatran rhinoceroses were shipped to England, and one was purchased, also of Mr. Jamrach, for £600. This was found to differ from the first, which was not only a new species, but at that time the only specimen known to exist! It was named the "hairy-eared rhinoceros," and several have since been obtained. Another rhinoceros, from the Straits of Sunda, was then bought for £800, so that at a cost of £3,850 the Zoological Gardens were able to exhibit all the species of rhinoceros found in Asia. Other high prices paid are £100 for the first chimpanzee, £800 for a young hippopotamus, and £600 for a giraffe. Some of the rarest and most interesting animals are obtained by naturalists of the first rank, who make this a special object when engaged in scientific work covering wide areas of research in distant countries. Thus Mr. A. R. Wallace, after his sojourn among the islands of the Malay Archipelago, brought home the first living bird of paradise to the Zoo in 1861. Another case of a rare

and curious animal procured by an eminent naturalist for the collection was the extraordinary "frilled lizard" which was recently exhibited, brought to this country

tion are "deposited"—in other words, they are left at the Zoo as a loan. Sometimes they are accepted to oblige the owners; sometimes, on the other hand, the owner



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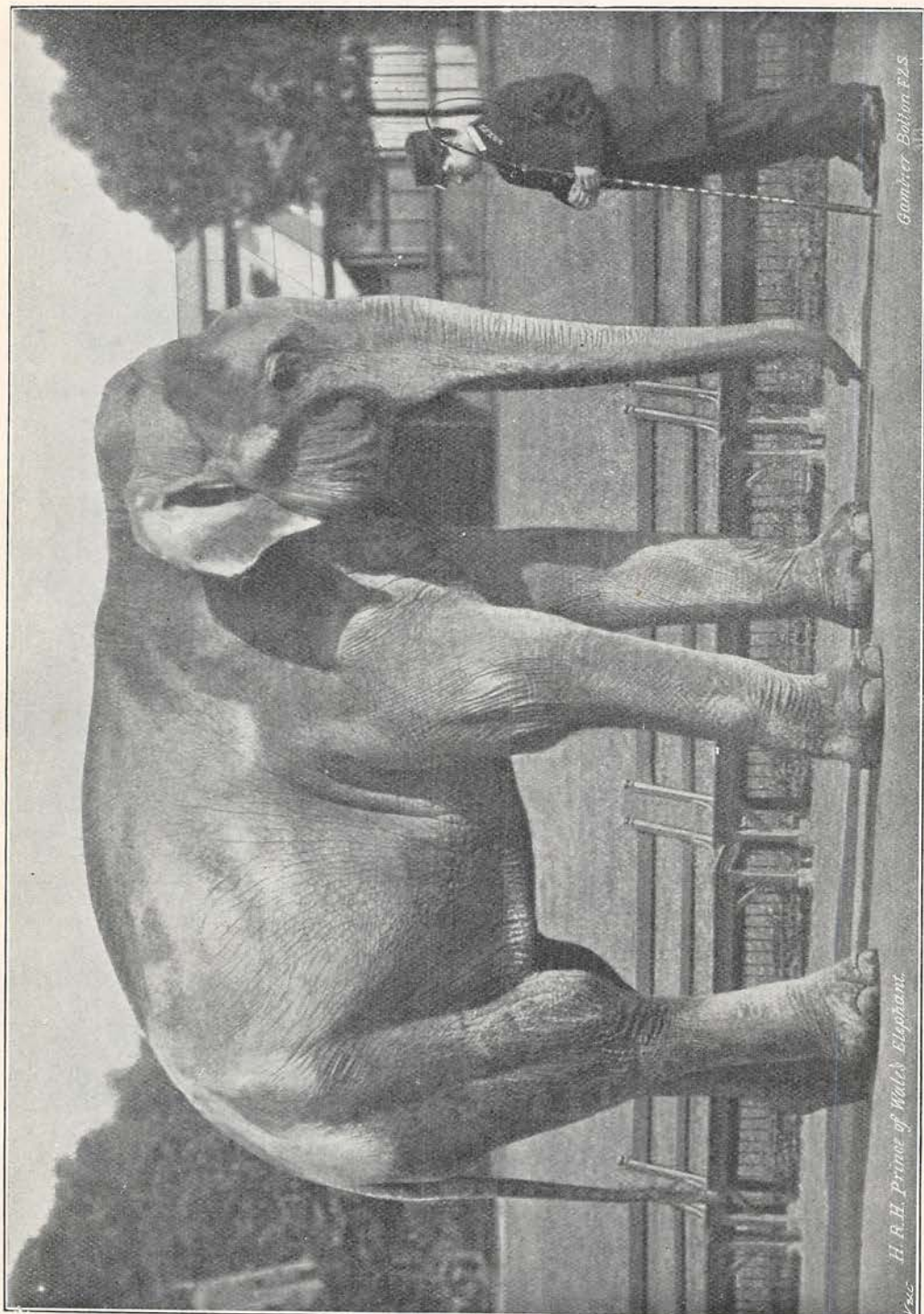
THE OSTRICH WHICH WALKED 1,000 MILES.

[Gambier Bolton.

by Mr. Savile Kent, the author of "The Great Barrier Reef" and "The Natural History of Australia."

Some of the most interesting animals seen from time to time in the collec-

tion confers an obligation on the Society by lending them. Occasionally the owner wishes to sell a rare animal, which the Society is indisposed to buy, but is glad to exhibit, while the creature, like a picture hung at



Gambier Bolton F25.

[Gambier Bolton.]

THE PRINCE OF WALES' ELEPHANT AT THE ZOO.

H. A. H. Prince of Wales' Elephant.

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the Academy, is more likely to find a buyer. In the present autumn two very rare banded iguana lizards were deposited in this way, and before long found a purchaser in an eminent naturalist who is "keen" on lizards. One very able and very wealthy naturalist, who possesses a private museum, often purchases some rare animal and leaves it with the Society, only making the stipulation that when it dies he shall have the skeleton for his zoological gallery. The Duke of Newcastle recently presented the black leopard; the Hon. Walter Rothschild the giant tortoise from Mauritius; Lord Delamere—a mighty hunter—some lion cubs; Mr. Arnold Pike a pair of bear cubs from the Caucasus and a Polar bear from Novaya Zemlya; Lord Lilford a wild cat, long on deposit, now, since its owner's lamented death, the property of the Society. One of the oddest gifts recently made was a very bony old buffalo cow. This beast had been brought over to supply a Hindu rajah with milk during his voyage to England. Buffalo milk is richer than cow's milk, and the rajah was partial to it. For some reason he decided not to take the buffalo back to India, so he had it sent to the Zoo in a Parcel Post van. The van was too short, and the buffalo's head stuck out at the end at which the parcels are usually put in, behind the cart, producing, with its big curling horns and melancholy countenance, a deep impression on the early rising part of the population who saw it on its road to the Zoo. "Swapping," which is a great joy to young collectors of stamps, birds' eggs, and butterflies, is sometimes done on a gigantic scale at the Zoo. We use the adjective in its literal sense. The "largest" swap ever known was that of a male African elephant for a female rhinoceros. This took place in 1865.

In nearly every case mentioned of early importation one is struck by the time taken on the voyage. Sailing ships on the Cape route made an average passage for the Zoo animals from India last nearly four months. For a long time Eastern India was almost the furthest limit from which animals were drawn, though in the early days of the Zoo they were obtained occasionally from the far East. All Indian animals come round the Cape. It would then have been almost impossible to ship such a collection as that presented by the Prince of Wales in 1893, which Mr. Clarence Bartlett brought home by the Suez Canal. This collection included five tigers, seven leopards, two bears, and four Indian elephants, one of which, Jung Persad, died last year, after growing into one of the finest elephants either in this country or in India.

The list of species new to the collection noted in each year's report shows the varied sources from which such additions are now drawn. A comparison of various lists issued in different years shows that monkeys form a very large proportion of ladies' gifts to the Zoo. One wonders whether they prefer monkeys to all other species, or whether they get tired of them sooner than they do of their other pets. I believe that, in nine cases out of ten, the monkeys have fallen into the lapse which is common to most of their kind, of biting someone severely, and that nearly all ladies who keep them look on the Zoo as something between a public school and a reformatory for their pet monkeys. When Harry or Fred grow unmanageable at home, they conclude, sorrowfully, that it is time they went to school. So, when Jacko bites the housemaid, he is sent off in a cab to the Zoo.