

# HOME & SCHOOL.

VOL. IV.]

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER 25, 1886.

[No. 20.]

## Hippopotamus.

If we were to visit Africa we should see along the waters large, clumsy-looking animals like these in the picture. The name Hippopotamus is taken from two Greek words, meaning horse and river. This animal has a great frame, and when on land is very clumsy, although it is quite active in water. Its immense stomach is large enough to hold five or six bushels of vegetable matter. It is usually about fourteen feet long from the tip of its nose to the tip of its tail, although it has been known to be seventeen feet long. Its mouth is two feet wide and looks almost like a cave when its owner opens it at the command of its master. The ears seem to be almost out of proportion, as they are only three or four inches long. The young are born on land, but at once flee to water when frightened. While very young they cling to the necks of their mothers while in the water.

## The Hanging Gardens of Babylon.

VERY early in the history of the world people saw the use and beauty of gardens. As far back, indeed, as we have any trace of men, we find that they were in the habit of cultivating flowers and shrubs, and so decorating and arranging nature as to supply a pleasant spot whither they could retreat and enjoy bright colours, rich, shady foliage, and sweet perfumes.

In all the oldest nations of which we read—in Egypt and Assyria, in China, in India, in Greece—the art of gardening was carried to a high state of cultivation.

To natural beauties were added the graces of the painter, the sculptor, and the architect. Temples were built in the centre of the lovely gardens; frescoes adorned the walls of stone summer-houses and of lofty towers; nestled amid the shrubbery, rising from flower-beds, placed at the crossing of paths were to be seen statues of gods and heroes, of cupids, muses and graces.

Among the most famous of the ancient gardens, the ruins of which still remain to give an idea of their vastness and grandeur, were "the Hanging Gardens of Babylon." These have a

special interest for those who are familiar with the Bible, in which Babylon, the mighty city over which the warlike kings of Assyria ruled, is referred to.

The Hanging Gardens of Babylon were one of the seven wonders of the world; and truly, if we can judge anything by the remains of them which still exist, they well deserved a place among the marvels of the olden time.

The story of their origin is an interesting one. It is said that there once lived a great Assyrian king, of vast

luxury which money could bring, tired of the uninteresting views from her palace windows; and remembering the lovely scenes of her childhood, she pined for them, and begged the king to make for her a garden which should remind her of her native valley.

The king hastened to gratify her; and setting an army of labourers, some of whom he called from Persia, to work, in the course of time the wilderness about Babylon was converted into the magnificent Hanging Gardens.

They were constructed on the sides

vast square. From the bottom of the hills on which they rose, they were reached by broad flights of stone steps leading from terrace to terrace, the terraces rising one above another in a series. At the foot of the hills were noble archways, with paved roads, and sculptured figures of great size lining the walls on either side; and beneath these archways the Assyrians might pass with ease on the backs of their largest elephants.

At the end of each terrace, just before the next stairway, was either an arch, or a pavilion supported by massive pillars; while at the tops of the staircases were to be seen immense vases filled with flowers, and vines which hung down their sides, and carved figures of lions and tigers.

It was upon the broad terraces, which rested on gigantic columns, that the gardens were laid out with tasteful and lavish hand.

## The Dusty Room.

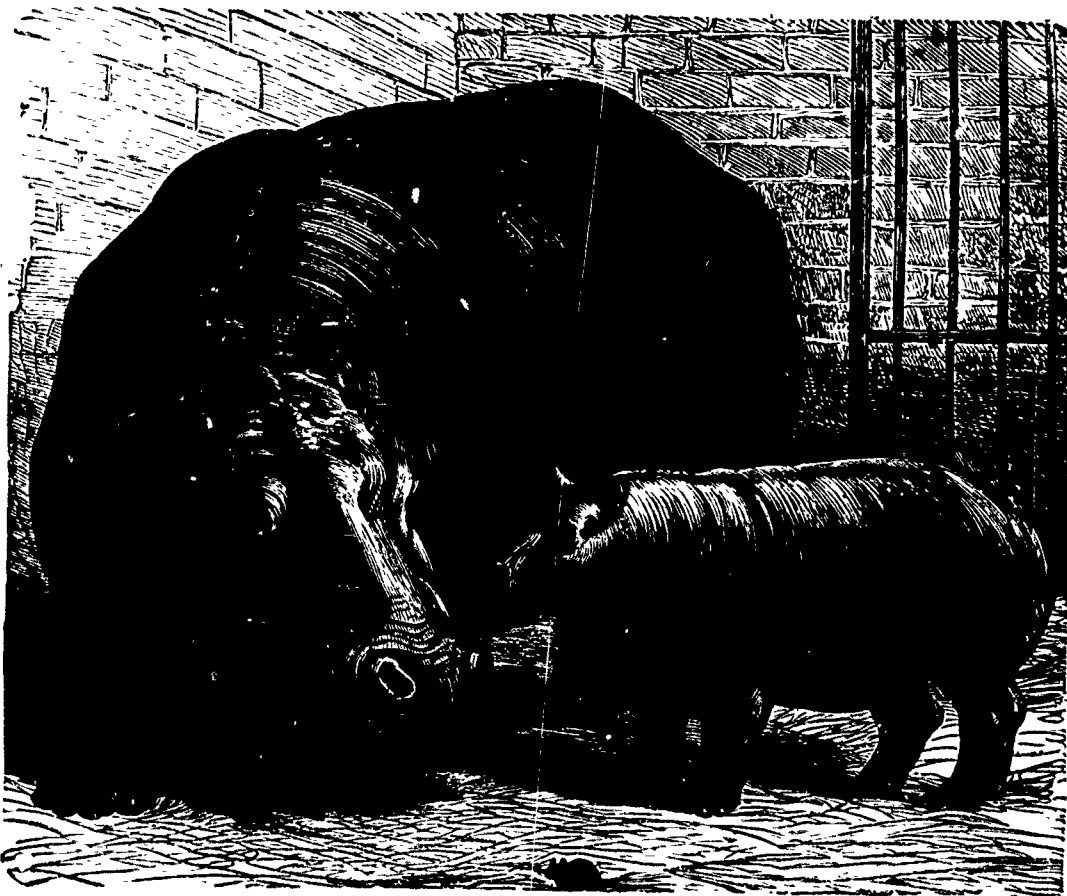
A YOUNG girl was sweeping a room one day, when she went to the window blind and drew it down. "It makes the room so dusty," she said, "to have the sunshine always coming in."

The atoms of dust which shone golden in the sunbeams were unseen in the dimmer light. The untaught girl imagined it was the sunlight which made the dust.

Now many people imagine themselves very good people. One poor old man, who lived all his life without a thought of love to God, said he was willing to die. He didn't owe any man a shilling.

If the Spirit of God should shine brightly into such a heart, how would it look? It would show him sins enough to crush him. The light of the Spirit is like the sunshine in the dusty room. When we begin to feel unhappy about our sins let us never try to put away the curtain and fancy there is no dust. It is the Holy Spirit's voice in our hearts. He is showing us ourselves, and, better still, He will show us the true way to happiness.—*Presbyterian*

DR. SAMUEL JOHNSON once said: "I can abstain, but I cannot be moderate."



THE HIPPOPOTAMUS

wealth and power, who was devotedly attached to his wife. Everything that she asked of him he was wont to grant. The moment that she formed a wish, it was gratified.

Now this fair queen came from one of the most beautiful valleys of Persia, in which she was born and reared. She had been accustomed to live amid the most romantic scenery, to delight in avenues of trees and banks of flowers.

But Babylon was a dull place, and around it were nothing but bare fields and dreary heaths

So the queen, though she had every

of some sloping hills not far from the royal palace. Of course, as they were intended for the pleasure of the queen, they must be made on the most splendid scale. Vastness was the ancient idea of magnificence. Not long ago, the royal palace at Nineveh was explored, and found to cover a space larger than that covered by Boston Common and the Public Garden put together.

So the Hanging Gardens were made to cover a very large expanse. They were adorned with noble edifices and the most skilfully carved statues and pillars. In form, the gardens were a