

## THE BABIROUSSA.

The babiroussa is an Indian hog, not a very pleasant sort of animal to look at, and an exceedingly disagreeable one to meet when it is not in the best humor. As shown in the illustration, it has two pairs of tusks, those in the lower jaw being somewhat like a wild-boar's, but the pair which spring from the top of the upper jaw are very long, and curve inward, almost touching the skin of the forehead. The upper tusks do not spring from between the lips, but cut their way through the skin, and have the appearance of growing out of the upper part of the snout.

The animal usually grows to the ordinary size of wild hogs, but some have been killed that were as large as a donkey. It can run very fast, and is a most dangerous enemy when brought to bay. It is of a gray color, the skin hanging in folds or wrinkles about the body, which is covered very thinly with short bristles. The tail is nearly without hair, save at the end, where it forms a sort of tassel.

The female has the merest apologies for tusks, the bone hardly showing through the skin, and in many cases she cannot even boast of that much.

These animals hardly ever have a regular home; they wander from one part of the forest to the other, but always in the wet, marshy portions, feeding on leaves, grass, and water plants. They are remarkably good swimmers, and often cross large lakes rather than walk around them, and they never hesitate to take to the water when in flight. Swimming appears to be as much an instinct with the young babiroussa as with ducks, for they plunge boldly into the water as soon as they can walk.

If suddenly roused in its lair, instead of seeking safety in flight, the babiroussa rushes out upon its assailant with the utmost fury, and although its tusks are curved so nearly to the flesh, it can inflict most dangerous wounds. By the natives its flesh is considered a great delicacy, and all the more so because they rarely succeed in killing one save at the expense of several lives.

These hogs usually are found in herds of six or eight, and the males as well as the females care for the young, petting them in their swinish way as human parents do their offspring. Savage as they are, there is no more dangerous time to approach them than when the young are small. The females will gather around the young ones, while the males will rush out to give battle without waiting for an attack.

Funck, the naturalist of Cologne, tells of an encounter with a babiroussa which was related to him by a sea-captain. Two sailors and three natives came suddenly

upon a herd of five full-grown hogs and two young ones. The two females of the party immediately covered the young with their bodies, while the males dashed forward with such fury that all the party, save one of the sailors, were overturned, and at the mercy of the savage brutes.

One of the natives was instantly killed the lower tusks of the hog being driven through his eye into his brain. Another was fatally wounded, and not one of the party escaped serious injury. During the affray, which did not last many minutes, the hunters had had an opportunity to fire among the herd but once, and that without inflicting any injury. It was almost impossible for the party even to drag their wounded companions out of the reach of

of the grunting of hogs but a short distance away. It was more of a low, whistling sound than a grunt, although now and then could be heard the squeal peculiar to the common hog when angry or frightened."

The guides were familiar with the sound, and without stopping to explain their course, or even to give any advice to the traveller in their charge, they started off at full speed, leaving the explorer with no weapon save a light gun, and no ammunition save the two charges it contained.

Brun knew from the stories he had heard from the natives that his guides had been frightened by the hogs, and he was all the more anxious to capture one because of their rareness.

"The noise, which at first seemed near

fighting that day, cannot be told, but certain it is that, contrary to their usual habits, instead of rushing upon the intruder, they ran swiftly past him to a brook near by, leaping in as if in the greatest excitement and fear.

"They certainly swam under the water at least forty yards, for from the time they plunged in I could see no more of them until they scrambled out, squealing and whistling, on the other side. My gun was loaded with large shot, and since, owing to the absence of my ammunition carrier, I had no bullets, I gave the largest of the party my compliments in the form of a charge of shot."

The animal was hit just behind the foreleg, and tumbled over dead, while his com-

panions, instead of continuing their flight, surrounded him as if to aid him in his trouble.

A second shot had the effect of dispersing them, and the brave hunter had the satisfaction of examining the prize at his leisure. It proved to be a full-grown hog, weighing about one hundred and fifty pounds, while its thick, round body measured three feet in length, and over two feet in height.—*Harper's Young People.*

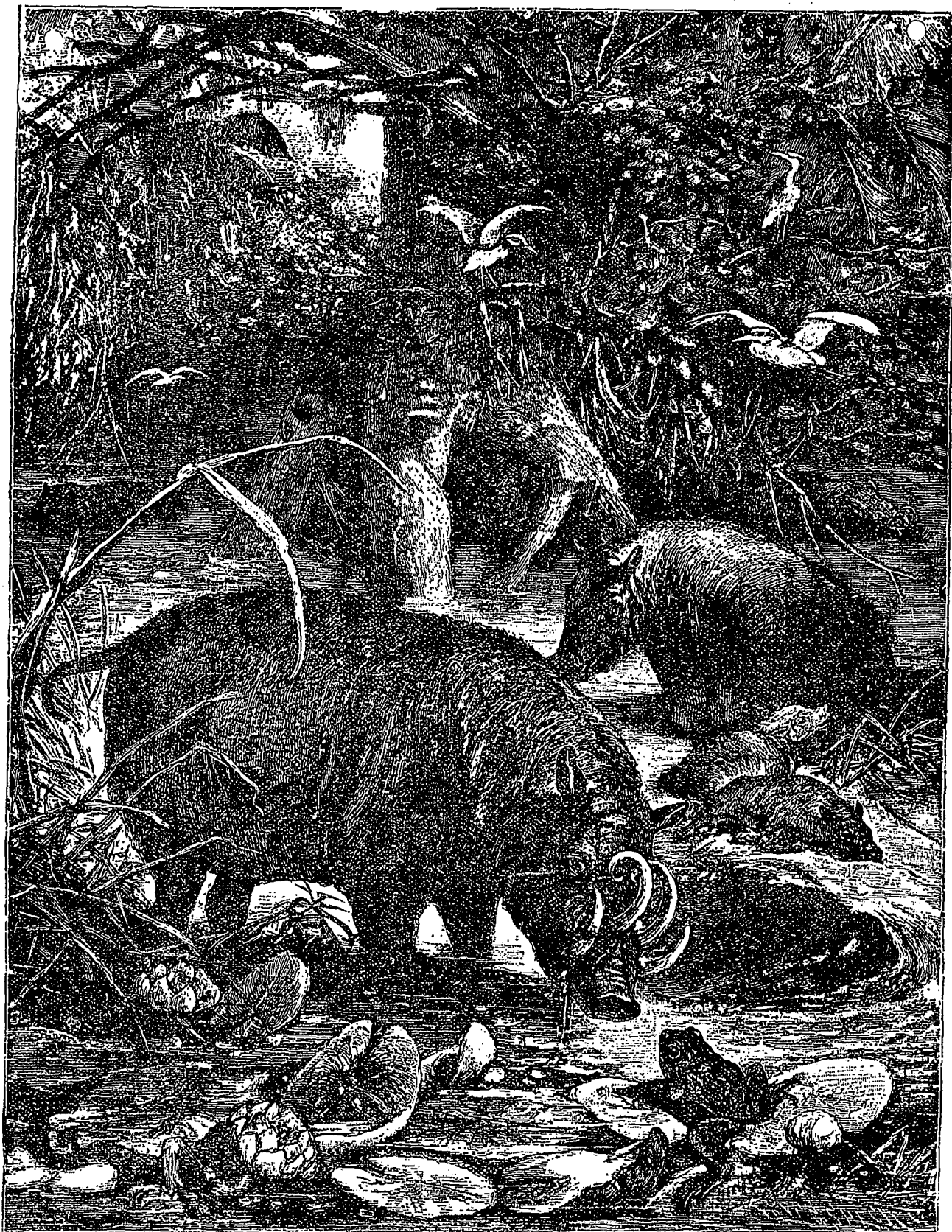
## BURIAL IN CHINA.

When the Chinese wish to declare the extreme vexatiousness of any piece of work, they say, "It is more trouble than a funeral;" the obsequies of a parent being reckoned the most maddening affair in human experience.

Infants are buried summarily, without coffins, and the young are interred with few rites; but the funerals of the aged, of both sexes, are elaborate in proportion to the number of the descendants and to their wealth. When a childless married man dies, his widow may perform all the duties of a son toward him, may remain in his house, and may adopt children to rear as his heirs. If his widow purposes marrying again, a young male relative may, with the consent of senior members of the clan, undertake the services expected from a son, and may inherit the estate of the deceased.

When one is about to die, he is removed from his couch to a bench or to a mat on the floor, because of a belief that he who dies in bed will carry the bedstead

as a burden into the other world. He is washed in a new pot, in warm water in which a bundle of incense-sticks is merged. After the washing, the pot and the water are thrown away together. He is then arrayed in a full suit of new clothing, that he may appear at his very best. He breathes his last in the main room, before the largest door of the house, that the departing soul may easily find its way out into the air.—*Adèle M. Fiedle, in the Popular Science Monthly.*



A FAMILY OF BABIROUSSAS.

the infuriated beasts, and they did not succeed in doing so until after several more severe wounds had been inflicted by the hogs, which pursued them quite half a mile.

The traveller Brun, writing of the fortunate chance which gave him an opportunity of carefully examining the babiroussa, was much more successful. He says:—

"I was once in a low, damp forest on one of the Malaccan islands, when one of my guides drew my attention to a noise as

by, was farther away than I thought, for it was not until I had walked quite a mile and a half through the thick underbush that I could distinguish any living thing. Then the gray forms of several large hogs could be indistinctly seen through the foliage, and I determined to risk everything for the sake of bagging the finest of the herd."

Whether the hogs were startled by something other than the hunter, or whether it was because they were in no mood for