

inveigled and blindfolded by a stout young knave, disguised as a maiden and drenched with scent :—

“Tis then the huntsmen hasten up, abandoning their ambush ;
Clean from his head they chop his horn, prized antidote to poison ;
And let the docked and luckless beast escape into the jungles.”

—V. 399, *seqq.*

In the cut which we give of this from a mediæval source the horn of the unicorn is evidently the tusk of a *narwhal*. This confusion arose very early, as may be seen from its occurrence in Aelian, who says that the horn of the unicorn or *Kartazōnon* (the Arab *Karkaddan* or Rhinoceros) was not straight but twisted (*ἐλιγμούς ἔχον τινάς*, Hist. An. xvi. 20). The mistake may also be traced in the illustrations to Cosmas Indicopleustes from his own drawings, and it long endured, as may be seen in Jerome Cardan's description of a unicorn's horn which he saw suspended in the church of St. Denis ; as well as in a circumstance related by P. della Valle (II. 491 ; and Cardan, *de Varietate*, c. xcvi.). Indeed the supporter of the Royal arms retains the narwhal horn. To this popular error is no doubt due the reading in Pauthier's text, which makes the horn *white* instead of black.



Monoceros and the Maiden.*

We may quote the following quaint version of the fable from the *Bestiary* of Philip de Thaun, published by Mr. Wright (*Popular Treatises on Science*, etc. p. 81) :

“ Monosceros est Beste, un corne ad en la teste,
Purceo ad si a nun, de buc ad faun ;
Par Pucele est prise ; or vez en quel guise.
Quant hom le volt cacer et prendre et enginner,
Si vent hom al forest ù sis riparis est ;
Là met une Pucele hors de sein sa mamele,
Et par odurement Monosceros la sent ;
Dunc vent à la Pucele, et si baiset la mamele,
En sein devant se dort, issi vent à sa mort
Li hom suivent atant ki l'ocit en dormant
U trestout vif le prent, si fais puis sun talent.
Grant chose signifie.”

And so goes on to moralise the fable.

NOTE 6.—In the *J. Indian Archip.* V. 285, there is mention of the *Falco Malaiensis*, black, with a double white-and-brown spotted tail, said to belong to the ospreys, “but does not disdain to take birds and other game.”

* Another mediæval illustration of the subject is given in *Les Arts au Moyen Age*, p. 499, from the binding of a book. It is allegorical, and the Maiden is there the Virgin Mary.