

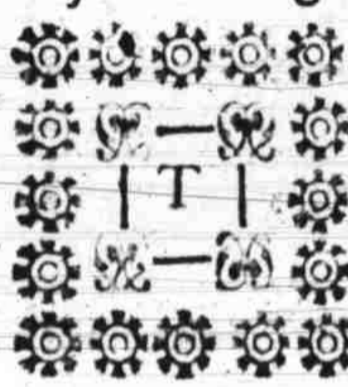
The NORTH-CAROLINA
MAGAZINE;

OR,

UNIVERSAL INTELLIGENCER.

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A Description of the young Elephant, lately presented to his Majesty, by Capt. Sampson, from Bengal.


 HIS elephant is the more curious, as travellers differ in their descriptions of this animal, some affirming that they have no joints in their fore legs, and that they never lie down;

while others assert, that they are so docile, as to lie down, bend the knee, and turn from one side to the other, at the command of their keepers. The elephant, indeed, sleeps standing, but he often rests, as other quadropeds, and may be taught to lie down to take up his burden.

The largest and finest elephants in the world are those in the island in *Ceylon*; next to them, those of the continent of *India*; and lastly, the elephant of *Africa*. The *Moors* who deal in these animals throughout the *Indies*, have a fixed price for the ordinary sort, according to their size. They measure from the nail of the fore foot to the top of the shoulder, and for every cubit high they give after the rate of 100*l.* of our money. An *African* elephant of the largest size measures about nine cubits, or thirteen feet and an half in height, and is worth about 900*l.* but if of the breed of *Ceylon*, four times that sum.

This elephant is of a dark brown, without hair, and is little more than six feet high, not being above eight years old. Travellers affirm, that it is fifty or sixty years before the elephant arrives at his full growth and strength, and that his age is from two to three hundred. Whether they may live in this climate to the full age is not certain; those of them that have

been seen in *England* have been harrassed about by showmen, and have rarely lived longer than the year of exhibition. One of them that was shewn here some years ago, died in *France*, and was dissected at *Paris*, and a particular description published in the *Memoirs* of the Royal Academy, of all the various parts of its body.

The bodies of these creatures are heavy and gross, and far from being beautiful; their eyes are like those of a hog; their legs and feet resemble columns; those protuberances, like toes, being only raised knobs, without joints, consequently not flexible: They cannot turn their necks, or bend their heads, but this defect is sufficiently supplied by the agility of the trunk, which reaches to the ground, and tho' of a vast size, they yet can take up with it even a grain of mustard. With this member they eat, drink, smell, taste, and fight; their ears are large, and hang upon their shoulders, and what is remarkable, there is a little cavity behind them, covered with a thin parchment-like membrane, which if by any accident wounded, the animal certainly dies. At the corners of the mouth, which is proportionably small to their bulk, grow too large tusks, which, in the male, shoot out to an enormous size, weighing 150 weight, and extending upwards to the height of six or seven feet; between these the trunk is situated; but these tusks rarely exceed a foot in the females. Their food, in the woods where they are bred wild, is grass, sugar-canes, the green shoots of trees, or whatever else of the vegetable kind they can find. Corn and rice they are exceedingly fond of, and when tamed, will eat hay, oats, &c. like other cattle.