

traced by savages on the rocks?(1) Ignorant of perspective, and wishing to present in profile the horned antelope, they could only give it *one* horn, and thus originated the oryx. The oryx of the Egyptian monuments are most probably but the productions of a similarly crude style, which the religion of the country imposed on the artist. Many of the profiles of quadrupeds have only one leg before and one behind; why then should they show two horns? It is possible that individual animals might be taken in the chase, whom accident has despoiled of one horn, as it often happens to chamois and the Scythian antelope (siaga;) and that would suffice to confirm the error which these pictures originally produced. It is thus, probably, that we find anew the unicorn in the mountains of Thibet.

All the ancients, besides, have not reduced the oryx to a single horn; Oppian(2) expressly gives it several; and Ælian mentions some of the oryx who had four.(3) Now if this animal were ruminating and cleft-footed, it certainly had the frontal bone divided in two, and could not, according to the accurate remark of Camper, have had a horn on the suture.

But, we may be asked, what two-horned animal could give the idea of the oryx, and present the features which are given of its confirmation, even in depriving it of its unity of horn? I reply with Pallas, it is the horned antelope, improperly called the *pasan* by Buffon. It inhabits the deserts of Africa, and would have reached the confines of

(1) Barrow, Voyage to the Cape.

(2) Oppian Cyneg. lib. ii. v. 468, and 471.

(3) De An. lib. xv. cap. 14.