

*Sajja Rajal. 1929*

# ORIENTAL FIELD SPORTS;

BEING A COMPLETE, DETAILED, AND ACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF THE

## WILD SPORTS OF THE EAST;

AND EXHIBITING, IN A NOVEL AND INTERESTING MANNER, THE

### NATURAL HISTORY

OF THE ELEPHANT, THE RHINOCEROS, THE TIGER, THE LEOPARD,  
THE BEAR, THE DEER, THE BUFFALO, THE WOLF, THE WILD HOG,  
THE JACKALL, THE WILD DOG, THE CIVET, AND OTHER DOMESTI-  
CATED ANIMALS: AS LIKEWISE THE DIFFERENT SPECIES OF  
FEATHERED GAME, FISHES, AND SERPENTS.

THE WHOLE INTERSPERSED WITH A VARIETY OF

ORIGINAL, AUTHENTIC, AND CURIOUS ANECDOTES,

TAKEN FROM THE MANUSCRIPT AND DESIGNS OF

CAPTAIN THOMAS WILLIAMSON,

Who served upwards of Twenty Years in Bengal;

THE DRAWINGS BY SAMUEL HOWITT,

MADE UNIFORM IN SIZE, AND ENGRAVED BY THE FIRST ARTISTS.

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IN TWO VOLUMES.—VOL. II.

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SECOND EDITION.

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## PLATE XXI.

## A TIGER HUNTED BY WILD DOGS.

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I AM aware that the subject of this Plate will be considered, even by many who have passed nearly their whole lives in Bengal, and especially in other parts of India, as being by no means authentic; and I am also sensible that some few have confounded the *dhole*, or wild dog, with the jackall. In fact, it has fallen in the way of very few, to ascertain the absolute existence of the animal in question. However, the want of information in others shall not deter me from offering to the public what I know to be true; and I have only to observe to such as may be sceptics on this subject, that most, perhaps all, of the gentlemen who have been any time resident on the Western frontiers, that is to say, from *Midnapore* to *Chamar*, will be found on enquiry to acknowledge the validity of my assertion.

This very singular animal is, I believe, only to be found along the borders above described; and even there they are so scarce, as not to be generally known. They are by nature extremely shy, and avoid all places which are much



frequented either by men or cattle. Residing, for the most part, in those immense saul-jungles, which, for hundreds of miles, appear like one black dreary wilderness, it cannot be supposed that Europeans in general, who mostly confine their occupations and their ordinary recreations to the open country, could have many opportunities of seeing them. I should perhaps, after more than twenty years residence in Bengal, in which time I had traversed the country in almost every direction, have quitted India, and been inclined to dispute the existence of the *dhole*, had I not been stationed two years in *Ramghur*, in the heart of the Western frontier, and had ocular demonstration of its identity.

Were I to assume a decisive and peremptory tone in describing the *dhole* and its habits, I should but expose myself to the criticism and ridicule merited by any one, who would venture to assert what neither himself, nor any other person to whom reference might be made, could establish. All I shall assert is, the certainty of the *dhole's* existence among the wild animals in India. I have seen them, and diligently enquired of the many natives, who appeared perfectly acquainted with their value, as to their modes of subsistence, and other matters within the scope of their intelligence. The result of my researches I shall faithfully detail.

The *dhole*, commonly so called, though its name varies much in different places, appears to be about the size of a small greyhound. It has an uncommonly keen look; the countenance being highly enlivened by a remarkably brilliant



eye. The body, which is slender and deep-chested, is very thinly covered with a reddish-brown coat of hair; or more properly, of a rich bay colour. The tail is long and thin; becoming, like the feet, ears, muzzle, &c. darker towards the extremities. Their limbs, though light and compact, appear to be remarkably strong, and to be equally calculated for speed, or for power. In my opinion, they much resemble many of the common *pariah* dogs in form; but the singularity of their colour and marks at once proves a complete distinction. Nevertheless, as occasionally *pariahs*, and many greyhounds of the indigenous breed, may be found almost unequivocally answering the above description, questions will probably arise among naturalists, whether the *dhole* be not an accidental variety from the dogs just mentioned? or, whether they may not be deviations from the wild breed?

The *dholes* are said to be perfectly innocent, if unmolested; but, if attacked, extremely fierce and implacable. They do not willingly approach persons; but, if they chance to meet any in their course, they do not shew any particular anxiety to avoid their sight: they view the human race rather as objects of curiosity; appearing not to be actuated either by apprehension or enmity. The natives who reside near the *Knachitty* and *Katcumsandy* passes, in which vicinity *dholes* may frequently be seen, describe them as confining their quests entirely to wild animals, and assert, that they will not prey on sheep, goats, &c. Others again, in the wild country, lying south from *Jelinah* and *Meekungunge*, maintain that



cattle, &c. are lost by their depredations. However, though I could not get any information which to myself proved conclusive, I am disposed to believe, that the *dhole* is not particularly ceremonious; but will, when opportunity offers, and a meal be wanting, obtain it at the expense of the neighbouring village.

The peasants likewise state, that the *dholes* are keen in proportion to the size or powers of the animal they hunt; preferring elks to other deer, and particularly seeking the royal tiger. I have before suggested the probability that some particular enemy exists, which thins the tiger species; or else, from the ordinary course of propagation, their numbers would, inevitably, extend to the destruction of every other animal. Indeed I feel some inclination to attribute such a check on their multiplication to the *dhole*; which, though incapable individually, or perhaps in small numbers, to effect the destruction of a royal tiger, may, from their custom of hunting together, with great ease overcome any beast to be found in the wilds of India; not perhaps excepting the rhinoceros; which, however, is not to be found in any numbers on the south side of the Ganges, where alone the *dholes* are as yet known to exist.

The *dholes* run mute; except now and then, they utter a whimpering kind of note, similar to that expressed by a dog in the moment of anxiety. This probably arises from gratification, as they scent the course of the animal which they pursue; or it may serve as a guide, and call, to other *dholes*



to join in the chase. Although I have at several times seen them singly, when not intent on any particular object, but seeming to be on the wander, the same as jackalls generally are; yet, as I never had but one opportunity of observing them on the hunt, it would be impossible for me to form any conjecture as to the ordinary length of their chases, or of the numbers in which they collect. From their form, I should suppose them to be too fleet to admit of a long run; for it appears to me, that no animal, in the catalogue of game, could stand before a pack of *dholes* for any distance; their speed being so strongly marked in their make.

When I saw them in chase, I could not judge either of their numbers, or what animal they pursued: about a dozen, or more passed, at a smart pace, near me in a mixed jungle; each occasionally uttering a whining, plaintive note; obviously scenting the track of their prey, and so scattered, that it was at least two minutes before they had all passed. In addition to those I saw, many were heard brushing through the cover. On the whole I should suppose there could not have been less than forty *dholes*. I followed their course to the banks of a small rivulet, whose sandy bottom did not, however, retain the impression of the footsteps of the animal hunted, sufficiently for me to distinguish whether it was a tiger, an elk, or a boar: but, from the size of the marks, I judged it to be some large beast. A loose soil, however, affords little or no criterion on such a point; as the plunging of even an inferior sized animal might, by ripping or



shaking the sand, exhibit an appearance far different from the reality.

But, setting apart the celerity of the *dhole*, we may safely conclude, that a tiger could not hold out any length of time. His own tenacious disposition ; his unfitness for rapidity of evasion : and perhaps above all, his treacherous habits, would, no doubt, prompt him to sneak behind patches of cover, and enable the *dholes*, even were they less fleet, to come up with him. Besides, the tiger seems to feel quite differently when he has to cope with animals unaided by the human species ; and, unless we may suppose instinct to govern on such an occasion, he would, probably, be found more ready to oppose than to shun the *dholes*. Leopards are far more active ; and being in the habit of getting up into trees, both for their own recreation, and when in danger, must certainly have a better chance, and in all probability, more generally effect their escape. There are few situations where leopards are found, which are not well supplied with mango, or other trees, adequate to afford an asylum on such occasions.

As to the wild hog, the elk, &c. there appears to be no difficulty in their pursuit : it is obvious that they cannot avoid their fate, when once the *dholes* have fairly got on their scent. On the other hand, we must suppose that great numbers of *dholes* are destroyed in such contests. The tiger, the elk, the boar, and even many of the smaller classes of game, possess the means of making a most obstinate defence ; they are very



strong; and, though numbers will prevail, yet it cannot but happen, that, in the moment of despair, the hunted animal will kill and disable many of the assailants. Hence no doubt, the breed of *dholes* is much circumscribed: a matter of moment, as we must suppose them to be on the same footing with others of the canine species, and that, as with jackalls, foxes, and dogs in general, from three to five may be considered as a fair average for a litter, the race would, but for such casualties, become too numerous. It is curious to observe the balance thus preserved by Providence.

Knowing the immense powers and activity of a tiger, I should perhaps be somewhat sceptical in regard to the reports of the natives who assert, that not even the largest and fiercest can hold out against the *dholes*. When I first heard the people of *Ramghur* detailing their anecdotes on this subject, I was not disposed to give any credit to what appeared to me, such palpable absurdities; and, indeed, I was so illiberal as to ridicule their attempts, for such I considered them, to impose on me with such gross deception. I really could not reconcile it to myself, that dogs of any kind, or however numerous, could cope with a royal tiger. I had witnessed so many circumstances to the contrary, that my mind was made up on the subject; and I treated the stories, which I heard from various quarters, with the most sovereign contempt; frequently, indeed, quoting them as comparisons when I, jeeringly, either astonished the natives with something perfectly true, but to them incredible; or when, as it often happened,



I gave them to understand that I suspected they were drawing too long a bow.

I should, in all probability, have remained in such a way of thinking, and have committed the subject nearly to oblivion, had not my attention been forcibly called to some facts, which could not fail to remove prejudice, and give fair play to a subject where my own ignorance was, in truth, the veil that blinded me. Facts alone could have had this effect.

The first occurrence which tended to induce me to a belief of the possibility that *dholes* could overcome a tiger, was the following; which on my return home I related to the officers of the battalion; who, probably, in their minds thought I might have magnified the object of terror from a *hyæna* or some such animal into a tiger: indeed, I was rallied not a little on the subject; and, many a time, when some marvellous story was dissected, my tale was brought into play, as an instrument suited to expose the supposed wonder.

I was shooting near some underwood, rather thinly scattered among reedy grass, growing on the edges of a large water course, which took its rise near the foot of the large hill at *Muckun Gunge*, when suddenly one of a brace of fine cocking spaniels I had with me, ran round a large bush, greatly agitated, and apparently on some game which I expected every moment to put up. I followed as fast as I could; but *Pâris*, which was the dog's name, was too quick for me, and before I could well get round the bush, which was about ten yards from the brink of the ravine, had come to a stand;



his ears pricked, his tail wagging like lightning, and his whole frame in a seeming state of extacy ! I suspected that he had got a hare under the bank ; and, as the situation was in favour of a shot, I ran towards him with more speed than I should have done, had I known that, instead of a hare, I should find, as I did, a tiger sitting on its rump, and staring Paris in the face ! They were not above two yards asunder. As soon as the dog found me at his side, he barked, and, giving a spring down, dashed at the tiger. What happened for some moments I really cannot say ; the surprise and danger which suddenly affected me, banished, at once, that presence of mind which many boast to possess on all emergencies. I frankly confess that my senses were clouded, and that the tiger might have devoured me, without my knowing a word of the matter. However, as soon as my fright had subsided, I began, like a person waking from a dream, to look about, and saw the tiger cantering away, at about a hundred and fifty yards distance, with his tail erect, and followed by Paris, who kept barking ; but when the tiger arrived at a thick cover, he disappeared.

I had began in my mind, to compose a requiem for my poor dog, as I saw him chasing the tiger ; which I expected every moment would turn about, and let Paris know he had caught a tartar. Though Paris had assuredly brought me to the very gate of destruction, yet he as certainly saved me. I felt myself indebted to him for preservation, and consequently was not a little pleased to see him return safe.

This circumstance gave me the first idea, that a tiger might



feel himself diffident of his own powers, or from other causes be induced to fly before an inferior animal ; and though perhaps my pride would not allow me to relax in the severity with which I was wont to sneer at the history of the *dholes*, yet, in my heart I felt my belief much shaken ; and, as some gentlemen at *Chittra* seemed to confirm what the natives had so unsuccessfully endeavoured to force on my mind, I became more open to conviction. However I should not, probably, have become an entire convert on a subject so little known, had not the most incontestable proofs been publicly witnessed, that common spaniels have been found to attack tigers with great effect.

Lieutenant Colonel Bateman, of the Bengal Cavalry, who was extremely partial to tiger-hunting, in which sport his successes have rendered him conspicuous, being out shooting at *Annopshier*, in the dominions of the Nabob Vizier of *Oude*, came by chance to a spot where a tiger lay concealed. The spaniels he had with him, to the number of five or six, for the purpose of putting up florikens, partridges, &c. did not hesitate to attack the tiger : and though one or two of them felt the force of his paws, yet the others so completely annoyed him and remained staunch, as to be the means of his destruction. They so occupied the tiger's attention, that the Colonel was able to select favourable situations, and to lodge two balls in him with full effect.

Had Colonel Bateman's experience of such a trait in the character of his dogs been confined to one solitary instance,



we might have imputed such an event to accident, and classed it with many memorabilia, highly curious for their singularity, but more to be considered as anomalous, than as forming any datum, in regard to the nature of the animals in question, or as furnishing the smallest grounds for comparison in as far as relates to the *dholes*; but, as it was found afterwards, on repeated trials, that the dogs acted in a similar manner, and with equal success; and indeed farther, that other dogs, being once induced by example, evinced the same dispositions and powers, we may conclude, without appearing too closely attached to an hypothesis, that there are few, if any animals, which dogs, in their wild state especially, are unable to subdue.

Were it necessary to strengthen well-known facts with reasoning, we might with safety refer to the defence made against a tiger by a pariah, mentioned in a former Number; founding on that instance an ample and substantial support in favour of the position assumed. Indeed a great variety of authentic anecdotes might be adduced, which, if they did not give the stamp of certainty, would tend to sustain, by their inclination to the same point, all that I have asserted on the subject. In closing this Chapter, however, I must recal the reader's attention to the difficulty of ascertaining any thing material in so hidden a part of our research; and I have to remark, that, under such circumstances, it has been necessary for me to detail from the authorities of others. I have confessed, that, for some time, I was extremely incredulous; and



that, in the end, I yielded to conviction. I lament much that there are few, if any, gentlemen now in England, who are acquainted with this novel and interesting part of our topic; and hope, if this work should fall into the hands of one who can afford the public a more complete investigation, he will be so obliging as to communicate such particulars, as may fill up the blanks.





Williamson & Howitt

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## PLATE XXII.

A TIGER KILLED BY A POISONED ARROW.

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THE construction of the apparatus for shooting tigers with arrows, either poisoned or not, is extremely simple. There are various modes ; but that in general use is as follows. The bow is fixed at the middle by two stakes, distant enough to allow the arrow to pass freely without touching, and at about eighteen inches, or two feet, from the ground, according to the size of the animal to be killed. The great nicety is, to fix the bow so that the arrow may fly quite horizontally ; or, at least, as much so as the principles of projectiles will admit. The chord of the arc should be parallel to the road frequented by the tiger. The string being drawn back, so as to bend the bow sufficiently, is kept at its stretch by means of a stiff piece of stick, cut just the length, so as to pinch a wedge against the inside of the bow. This wedge comes down six or eight inches, and at its lower end has a strong line fastened to it : which, being carried across the pathway, for perhaps twenty or thirty yards, and strained moderately tight, is there fastened to a strong stake driven into the ground for the purpose,



if no sufficient bush be at hand. This being all done, the arrow is gently deposited in its proper place. To give it the requisite position before the chord were stretched would be dangerous; as, in setting the latter tight, the wedge might be drawn, and the arrow be discharged at the operator. The reader will, from this description understand, that the bow is firmly fixed; and that the wedge introduced between the inside and the extended string of the bow, operates as a lever: for when any power, such as the step of a tiger, presses against the string, and causes it to depart from its right line, the wedge must necessarily give way to the force, and turn the extending stick downwards; thereby setting it at liberty, and occasioning the bow to act instantaneously!

Such is the velocity of the arrow, and so quick does this simple contrivance act, that tigers are, for the most part, shot near the shoulder. But even were it less rapid, we might naturally conjecture, that the tiger, feeling his leg obstructed by the line, would pause, and afford ample time for the arrow to take effect, before he could completely pass its range. Generally, tigers fall within two hundred yards of the fatal spot, they being most frequently struck through the lungs, and sometimes through the heart. If the arrow be poisoned, as is most frequently the case, locality is no particular object; though without doubt, such wounds as would of themselves prove effectual, unaided by the venom, give the *shecarrie* least trouble. The poison never fails to kill within an hour. It is not always necessary, but it is usual, for one or more persons



to be at hand, in the nearest trees, or in some secure situation, commanding a view of the spot, to watch the event, as well as to caution travellers who might inadvertently be proceeding towards the snare, and be liable to its mischief. The bows are, however, with little deviation, laid in places not much frequented, and mostly at a time when all the surrounding villagers, understanding that some tiger has committed ravages, expect the bows to be laid near his haunts ; which in consequence are carefully avoided.

As soon as the tiger is dead, no time is lost in stripping off the skin ; for, were it suffered to remain until the heat might taint it, nothing could effect its preservation : it would rot to a certainty ; and, even were it not to do so, rapidly, the hair would loosen and fall off. Such would result merely from the state of the atmosphere ; but the poison would accelerate its ruin ten-fold. The temperature of a tiger's body is, at all times, highly favourable to corruption ; but, after the torments produced in consequence of the wound, the carcase becomes inconceivably disposed to putrescence.

When bows are fixed in grass jungles, for which indeed they seem peculiarly calculated, the tops of the grass are cut away with a sickle, so as to form a narrow vista for the passage of the arrow. The string, which passes across the path, is however carefully concealed ; the grass being brought over to meet, and cover it from the tiger's observation. It is not that the force of the arrow would be sensibly diminished in so short a course ; but that some rather stiff reed, or stick,



might touch, and divert it from its proper direction. For the bow is ordinarily so very substantial as to require the whole force of a strong, well accustomed man, to bend and draw it properly.

The *Pahariahs*, or hill people, who may be said to be the only persons practising this part of sporting, are, as already observed, quite a distinct race from the rest of the inhabitants of Bengal; and, from every circumstance, may be with reason considered as the aborigines. They are in stature and features very like the Welch; they have customs diametrically opposite to the various people surrounding them, and speak a language equally different. The bow seems to be their principal weapon, and they are amazingly expert at it. I have seen them lie on their backs, steadying the bow with their feet, horizontally; and at the distance of two or three hundred yards, send the arrow through a common water pot, not more than a foot in diameter. They will shoot kites flying, and indeed rarely miss their object. This is not to be wondered at, when we reflect that they have no other means of killing game, on which they principally rely for subsistence; though they cultivate here and there a small valley with rice, and rear immense quantities of fowls. No people in the world are so expert and successful, as the *Pahariahs*, in making capons. They perform the operation with a small blunt iron knife, always kept suspended by a ring on its haft, through which a small cord passes, and serves as a girdle. With this rude instrument they make an ugly laceration,



tearing open the orifice in a manner that would astonish our learned dissectors. They anoint the parts with a little ghee and turmeric; and are so extremely successful as not to lose one in a hundred. Capons are very cheap in consequence of the general practice of cutting, so much so, that the average price may be deemed about twopence or threepence each. I have bought twenty-seven for a rupee; i. e. half a crown. They are chiefly white, and grow very large and fat.

The practice of poisoning arrows is chiefly confined to the Eastern boundaries; it is adopted in some parts of the Jungleterry district, but is little known to the westward, where they appear to rely much on the immense size of the arrow heads, some of which are very broad. I saw one of a crescent form, that was more than four inches across at the barbs. Though such do not penetrate readily, yet when they happen to graze against a limb, they cut desperately. The people of *Tomar*, in particular, use these broad arrows; their aim is not so correct as that of the smaller kind; but when discharged among bodies of troops, they are found to do amazing mischief. It often happens that some refractory *Zemindar*, or landholder, will not pay his rents without coercion; when a small detachment is usually sent to enforce regularity. At such times the military often suffer greatly.

The common arrows throughout India are made of reeds, but those in use against tigers are chiefly made of wood; such as the *dameen*, or ash, especially that kind called the *singeah dameen*, or horny ash; which is very light, tough, and pliant;



and, when choice and well polished, works up in a manner resembling horn. The *cowah*, which is so called from its being of a cow colour, is occasionally adopted for making arrows; but these are remarkably heavy, the wood being next in solidity to the *sissah* or lead tree, which is nearly as black as ebony, and is, I believe, a species of the *lignum-vitæ*. When arrows are made of reeds, the heads are generally fixed on with *dammah*, or resin; but when wood shafts are used, they are bored, and the heads being heated, are fixed in very tight.

The tiger bow is made either of the *singeah dameen*, or of split bamboo; either of which answers admirably. Their ordinary length is from six to eight feet, and they may be about nine or ten inches in girth at the middle. They are made rather flat than round; and those made of bamboo have commonly a thin batten of the same stuff, secured within the bend, and running nearly the whole length; the lashings or fastenings are of the thin rind or bark of rattans, which are very strong. The bow-string is made of strong catgut, twisted together, sometimes upwards of half an inch in diameter. The reader will readily conceive the strength required to bend such a bow, as well as the impetus it imparts to the arrow. It is surprising, that the *Pahariahs*, who are quite a diminutive race, should be able to use hand bows of amazing strength; such as would completely astonish our British toxophilites, and cause them to consider their own weapons as mere toys.



The arrows used for shooting tigers have generally but a moderate barb; I have seen some without any. The poison is for the most part a liquid, in which thread is steeped, and wound round at the back of the barb. We are not acquainted with the real nature of the poisons in general use; but we are certain of their deleterious effects. Some pretend that only one kind is infallible; namely, litharge of lead, poured hot upon some bruised herbs. This may probably be in part true. Litharge appears to be the basis of the poison; but, assuredly, it is blended with some other stimulants, or active body, else it would fail of sufficient powers to operate so very suddenly as poisoned arrows often do. There are not wanting hundreds who boast respectively of their own particular recipes; which, however, they conceal with great caution; vending the prepared venom to such as may give them a preference.

The bows in use among the superior classes, who keep them mostly for show, or amusement, as also such as are carried by travellers for their defence against robbers, which abound in India, and generally murder before they pillage, are formed of buffalo horn. They are made of two pieces, curved exactly alike, and having each a wooden tip for the reception of the string; their other ends are brought together, and fastened to a strong piece of wood, that serves for a centre, and is the part held in the grip of the left hand. Being very neatly fitted, and covered with a size made of animal fibres, especially the bladders and intestines of sheep, they are then wrapt



with very fine tow, laid on thin and smooth. After this they are painted, and varnished in the highest style; so excellently are the better sort finished, that it would be utterly impossible to discover the smallest flaw, or not to suppose that the bow were all of one piece.

The peculiar excellence of a bow of this sort is, that it shall not be in the least uneven, either in its make, or in its action; but, that the string, which is composed of numerous thin cat-guts, laid together without twisting, but lapped with silk in the middle and at the ends, shall invariably fall into its proper place after being strained; that each end be equally strong, else the arrow would deviate in proportion; and that when liberated from the string, the bow curve back into an opposite direction from that in which it appeared when bent; thus causing the inside to appear outward; giving the bow the appearance of a double steel truss, and resembling the figure of a C.

Even these bows are remarkably strong, and it takes some force to string them, which is easiest, and most commonly, done by placing one end under the ham, and with both hands bringing the other to its due position; when the string is easily slipped into the groove made for its reception. Thirty inches of string is a common length, though some are longer. It requires a very strong arm to draw the arrow up to the head with a new bow; though the generality of the natives can, from early habit, do so with ease. They place the left hand opposite the right breast, just far enough from the



body to allow a clear action to the weapon; and having the butt of the arrow pressed to the string, they with the fore and middle fingers of the right hand draw steadily, until the head of the arrow come near to the forefinger of the left hand; which serves as a rest for the arrow in that part. The bow is always held perpendicularly by the natives, who ridicule the European method of levelling it horizontally, or of placing it before the body.

The precision with which many natives, and indeed some few gentlemen who have practised, take an aim, is admirable! They will rarely miss an object, about the size of a tea cup, at sixty or seventy yards. I have seen a *shecarrie*, who was in the employ of the ever-memorable Col. John Mordaunt at Lucknow, repeatedly lodge an arrow in a common walking stick, at about that distance. But the most surprising feat of this kind I ever witnessed, was that of the poor itinerant so well known in Bengal, who was born without arms, having only a thumb at one shoulder, but who, fixing the bow with his feet, and drawing the string with his teeth, laying on his back of course, can direct his arrow with more certainty than most Europeans!

Tigers are extremely fond of basking in the sun during the cold season, and may be often seen asleep, or licking themselves, or stretching as it were in extacy, upon some large stone, or other open space that has been warmed by the solar heat. In this particular they bear a wondrous affinity to cats; which have a great partiality for such situations as retain a



comfortable degree of heat ; but avoiding an excess ; of which both cats and tigers are by no means fond. The tiger, however, has to endure very great transitions from heat to cold, and vice versa ; nearly four months of the year being extremely wet, four months equally hot, and the nights during the other four very cold.

Most persons, conclude the climate of India to be invariably sultry, and scorching ; whereas the months of December and January, are often so cold as to produce a coat of ice on the puddles ; and very commonly, a substantial frost on the grass and vegetation in general. I have known it freeze, or at least the ice to remain compact, during the whole day ; but such was very extraordinary. Cricket, fives, &c. form a part of the diversions of Bengal during the winter months. But, although the air is certainly so much cooler during the evenings and mornings, the sun frequently shews his power during the mid day. It is a rare thing to see the thermometer under sixty at that hour, while it frequently falls below the freezing point in the night time, especially towards day break. On the whole, we may consider the average difference, between the heat of the day and night, in the winter season, to be from twenty to twenty-five degrees.

It is usual to place a small, white, triangular flag, fixed to a bamboo staff, of ten or twelve feet long, at the place where a tiger has destroyed a man. It is common for the passengers also, each to throw a stone, or brick, near the spot, so that, in the course of a little time, a pile equal to a good waggon load



is collected. This custom, as well as the fixing a rag on any particular thorn bush near the fatal spot, is in use likewise on various accounts. Many brambles may be seen in a day's journey completely covered with this motley assemblage of remnants. The sight of the flags and piles of stones imparts a certain melancholy; not perhaps altogether devoid of apprehension. They may be said to be of service, in pointing out the places most frequented by tigers. In some places, many of these superstitious insignia are to be seen nearly together; though probably the accidents which occasioned them were more distantly divided in respect to date.

The haunts of tigers, as before remarked, are by no means certain. They are not of a settled disposition, but roam from place to place; often to appearance in a very fickle manner. No doubt, however, they have their reasons. But we may perhaps be correct in attributing their sudden removal, from places where they have committed depredations, to the appearance of the flags, which serving as a beacon, though not intended solely as such, cause the neighbouring villagers to avoid that part of the cover, and occasion passengers to wait until sufficient numbers are collected to proceed with tolerable safety.

In a former Number it was observed, that tigers would frequently creep for some time parallel to their object, until an opportunity might offer for seizing. The following fact, well known in the old twelfth battalion of sepoys, occurred within my own knowledge, in the year 1791. A sepoy, who



24 A TIGER KILLED BY A POISONED ARROW.

was marching with a small detachment to escort the pay of the regiment from *Chiltrah* to *Hazary*, observed to his comrades, that a tiger was stealing through the jungle, and had set him, as it is well known they sometimes will do, when determined on making a prey. He accordingly divested himself of his arms and every incumbrance, proceeding with a drawn tulwar, or broad sword in his hand. The tiger at length came forth, and made his spring, which the sepoy avoided, at the same time giving the tiger a cut over the loins, such as at once deprived him of the means to escape. He was promoted for his intrepidity.



## PLATE XXIII.

## SHOOTING A LEOPARD IN A TREE.

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THE partiality of the leopard to ascend into trees, especially when pursued, is well known; indeed it is to this propensity it owes the name it bears in most parts of India, viz. the “*lackree baug*,” literally implying the “tree-tiger.” The natives however, in some places, are apt to confound the hyæna and leopard very promiscuously under this designation. Leopards will not ascend into trees which have not some under-wood growing near them: in fact, though they will, when driven to extremity, avail themselves of any shelter, their usual haunts are found in those close woods, of which the intervals are grown up with thorns, &c. and especially where there are old trees with low boughs, favouring their access to the more umbrageous parts of the foliage. It is probably at the junction of the principal branches with the main stem, that the leopard will secrete himself. But it appears from all we can collect on the subject, that such recluse situations are selected more with a view to privacy and coolness, than as



affording any particular advantages in respect to the seizure of prey.

The leopard rarely prowls by day, and is seldom seen abroad. His dispositions and habits seem to be more similar to those of cats, than even the royal tiger. Leopards are more shy, more subtle, and far more ravenous than any other of the feline species. They seem to be more intent on small game; and, though when hungry they have been known to attack cattle, they do not appear much inclined to attack the human race. I have remarked that all serious depredations, which have occurred within my own knowledge, have been perpetrated by tigers, and that the losses sustained among the sheep, goats, and even in some instances among poultry, have been attributed to leopards.

We are not to conclude that the leopard foregoes all the advantages he may possess in a competent elevation above his object: on the contrary, we must ever expect, that, when suitable prey may offer, the leopard will freely avail himself of the opportunity, and attack his unwary victim without scruple. Upwards of twenty years ago, it would have been extremely imprudent to walk through *Plassey tope*, which was then infested with leopards. This wood, I have before stated, was called *Lack Peery*, from the hyperbolic assertion that it contained a *lack*, i. e. one hundred thousand mango trees; but by the computation before offered to the reader, it will be found that thirty thousand were as many as *Lack Peery* could boast, even when in its most flourishing state.



That period is long past, and we may safely conclude that, what with decay and depredation, its numbers have been reduced within half the original planting.

*Plassey tope* is situated near the banks of the *Baugratty*, i. e. the tiger's river: it was formerly surrounded by large grass jungles, teeming with tigers, buffaloes, &c. and was besides completely grown up with underwood. The improvements which have taken place in the Cossimbazar Island, in general owing to the many speculators in indigo, have annihilated many of the grass covers, they being converted into arable lands, and as the population increased, the underwoods, with perhaps many of the trees, were cut for fuel; and PAUL, whose exertion in the hunting of tigers, &c. has been amply described in several of the preceding Chapters, dealt forth destruction in such an unprecedented style as, in the course of a few years, absolutely cleared the country within twelve or fifteen miles of his station at *Daudpore*. It seems to be understood among the natives that leopards are fearful of water; and they entertain an opinion, that, when once an island is freed from them, no danger exists of their return; unless at the time of inundation, when in common with other animals they may be floated from their former haunts. Thus much seems certain, that although many tigers may be occasionally found on the large islands, of perhaps one or two miles in length, which abound in the course of all the great rivers in Bengal, yet leopards are seldom or never seen there, be the cover ever so thick, and cattle, &c. ever so abundant. While



we attribute this singular circumstance to their aversion to swimming, we may with propriety add another cause for their avoiding these islands; namely, that being formed during a few years, and swept away perhaps in the course of eight or ten seasons, after acquiring their greatest extent, trees have not time to grow to the size sufficient for a cover: and being but few in number, the leopard's eye is not sufficiently attracted to cause his passing the stream to take possession.

It is curious, however, to observe that, on the low shelving banks of the Ganges and other principal rivers, where the *jow* grows thick, and to the height of seven or eight feet, we ordinarily find numbers of leopards. Such covers may indeed be considered as their head quarters. They seem, as far as I can judge from long observation, to prefer any other kind of cover to the common grass jungle; and accordingly we may state, without much fear of confutation, that leopards should be sought principally among underwoods and *jow*; while those who are in search of royal tigers, should direct their researches to grass jungles chiefly; or to such spots as have mixed covers, especially where the *prau*ss abounds.

Plassey was ever famous both for tigers and leopards: the surrounding country afforded choice covers of every description. The house that formerly stood on the bank of the river was built by *Surajah Dowlah*, formerly Nabob of Bengal, who was defeated at Plassey by Lord Clive about the year 1757. It was intended for a hunting-seat, and was occupied by Lord Clive as his quarters for a day or two previous to that



memorable victory, which gave to the British possession of all the Southern provinces of Bengal. The edifice was completely in the Indian style, and until swept away by the river which undermined the bank, it was kept in a tolerable state of repair, by the succeeding Nabobs of *Moorshedabad*, who never refused such European gentlemen as applied for permission to occupy it while on hunting parties. Latterly the building was neglected altogether, and all who chose took possession for the time, suiting their own convenience. There was a large area, of perhaps an acre of ground, enclosed with a wall, and having in front a large arched gateway. Within this space was once a garden, which, when I first visited Plassey, was kept in excellent order, and supplied such gentlemen as passed up or down the river, or by land, with good vegetables, for which the gardener usually received a present, such as no doubt in the aggregate very fully answered his purpose, and stimulated him to industry.

However, when the house began to decay, and was gradually less resorted to, the garden began to decline, and ultimately became a wilderness of weeds and rubbish. The gate was destroyed for fuel, the wall gave way; and, in lieu of being serviceable, the place became the haunt of wild beasts. Colonel John Mordaunt, about the year 1787, landed from his *budgrow*, as he was proceeding from Calcutta to Lucknow, and found a royal tiger asleep in the *verandah*, or balcony. The Colonel being an excellent shot, with his rifle soon dispatched the brindled visitor. Many have found herds of deer in the



garden. A gentleman once proceeding in his palankeen to join a regiment at Berhampore, alighted, and ordered his *baugy wallah* to prepare breakfast in Plassey House; but on entering the garden, a number of spotted deer were seen in a corner, seemingly in great consternation. On examination, it appeared that their alarm was occasioned by a leopard which lay concealed under a row of *mindy*, that was planted as a hedge, but being neglected, had become extremely luxuriant. Notice was given to PAUL, who was at *Daudpore*, about six miles off, and who lost no time in repairing to the spot, provided with every thing that might be necessary on such occasions.

The noise occasioned by the approach of the elephants caused the leopard to jump over the garden wall; he had, on finding himself discovered, lain very close under the hedge, refraining from any attack on the deer, which no doubt had attracted him to the spot. The *tope* was not far from the house, and was speedily entered by the leopard, who lost no time in penetrating to the inner recesses; where, followed by a host of elephants, which were led to the leopard by numerous *pariah* dogs, that scented him out, he at length mounted into a mango tree. PAUL saw him seated in the fork formed by the meeting of several large boughs, and levelled at him; but the wary animal, keenly watching PAUL's motions, crept along a branch which was nearly horizontal, hiding his body behind it, as much as practicable, till he got towards the extremity, as if with the intention to spring into the next tree.



However, PAUL was not to be tricked, but watching his opportunity while the leopard was peeping over the bough, he shot him between the eyes. The leopard gave a dismal howl, reared almost upright, applied his fore-paws to his head, as it were in agony, and fell dead to the ground! It was not easy to say what passed between the leopard and the *pariahs*, which chased him before he took into the tree; among the notes of exultation, some unpleasant tones were occasionally heard, and one or two of the dogs, which still appeared very keen in their endeavours to mount after the leopard, exhibited substantial tokens of the danger they had encountered.

A General officer, who, I believe, is now resident in England, bears the marks of a leopard's fury very visibly on his countenance. He had incautiously fired at a leopard which was discovered in a tree. The animal enraged by the wound he received, sprang down and maintained a very obstinate contest for superiority. The General, (then Captain in the Bengal artillery,) was happily of an Herculean stature, being about six feet three inches in height, and at least proportionably stout. He was also at that time in the vigour of life. A person less powerful would necessarily have proved utterly incapable of supporting himself against so unwelcome an assault. Whether hope or despair was the General's friend on the occasion, it may be difficult to determine; but we may reasonably suppose one of them, or both at intervals, to have had great influence on the occasion. After a violent struggle, in which the leopard gave the fullest demonstration that his



nails had not been pared, nor his teeth any-wise decayed, the General's exertions were crowned with success; the leopard, finding himself very roughly handled, took an opportunity, when both parties panted for breath, to decline farther hostilities. He skulked away into the adjoining covers; leaving the General deeply impressed with the opinion, that persons on foot should never provoke leopards to attack them.

From all that can be ascertained, leopards have generally from one to five cubs. They multiply extremely when once they take possession of a cover; whence we may conclude that the *dhole*, or wild dog, has not such power over them as over tigers. Leopards attain to a considerable size. They are by no means so heavy in their form as tigers, but they possess great strength, and are far more active. Their disposition is generally treacherous in the extreme! Though I think the rearing of wild animals in general, but especially such as tigers, bears, &c. very imprudent, and though I consider it as folly to trust to such even as may appear inoffensive, yet I confess that as far as my own experience goes, there is less danger from a royal tiger than from either a leopard or a bear. The last is ever sulky, and the leopard ever in a state of vigilance that strongly marks his desire to avail himself of some unguarded moment. There may perhaps be an instance or two quoted where leopards have been kept for years without doing injury; but such accidental forbearance, will even be found on enquiry to result from great precaution. While, on the other hand, numerous proofs could be furnished of the



pacific disposition of some tigers which have been reared in a domestic state. However, such passiveness is ordinarily confined to but a few persons, with whom they have become familiar. And, to confess the truth, I do not believe that even such as handle and feed these extraordinary pets, in their hearts much relish their offices at all times. So many accidents have happened, it is to be hoped that none will in future be allowed to go abroad unchained. The play of tigers and other wild animals too strongly resembles that of the boys and the frogs in *Æsop's* fables.

The Adjutant of our regiment, wishing to send a leopard as a present to a friend in England, procured a very fine cub, which had scarcely opened its eyes, and took every pains to rear it in such manner as might obviate all apprehension. For some months the animal appeared as innocent as a kitten, was playful, and seemed to be peculiarly tractable. I will not say how far its disposition might have continued unexceptionable under any other circumstances; but, unhappily, several of the privates of the artillery having access to the place where the leopard was kept, and of course now and then imprudently worrying him, the leopard became snappish and petulant. One day a soldier provoked him rather too far, when the leopard, now grown to the size of a stout pointer, suddenly reared, and fixing his claw in the nape of the man's neck, tore his shoulder in such a manner as to occasion the soldier's death in the course of a few hours. The leopard from that time became so ferocious as to render it



absolutely necessary to shoot him, a measure which gave universal satisfaction to the many, who, knowing the issue of such matters in general, had repeatedly remonstrated with the gentleman regarding his *protégé*.

We know that dogs once permitted to lick the blood of such sheep as may have been slaughtered, rarely can refrain from committing devastation among flocks : in the same degree we find that the manner of feeding tigers, &c. occasions a certain difference in their dispositions. Raw meat should never be given to them ; it renders them blood-thirsty, and seems to awaken their dormant ferocity : every latent propensity to destruction is called forth into action, and the whole deportment of the animal changes. Boiled meat is known to be equally nutritious ; and when mixed, as is always done in feeding dogs in India, with boiled rice, it is found to render them far more tractable. The several tigers which have been kept for so many years by some of the *faukeers*, or mendicant priests in various parts of Bengal, rarely, if ever, were supplied with meat ; being in general fed with nothing more than boiled rice and *ghee*. These eleemosynary brutes range at large, but they do not stray far from their keepers. I confess that one, which I visited near Colgong, rather disturbed my peace of mind, by a peculiar fierceness indicated in a pair of most expressive eyes ; which, notwithstanding I knew the animal to have been perfectly harmless for several years, seemed to denote an inward wish by no means favourable to my safety. There is a very peculiar appearance at the sight



of strangers, which seems inseparable from the tiger's nature. The *faukeer* seemed to possess ample authority over the tiger, which certainly manifested no dislike to his visitors ; but the animal paced slowly round us with a seeming inquisitive air, creating sensations not of the most pleasing nature. He was not very large, but could with ease have destroyed the whole party in a trice !

However much the *faukeer* was habituated to the tiger's company, still perhaps at some moments he had apprehensions for his safety ; but these he no doubt would never avow. And I doubt not but now and then the sudden appearance of the tiger from the jungle surrounding the habitation, caused in the mind of his stoic patron some very curious qualms. The *faukeer* resided in a small hut in the midst of a wilderness, which was so infested with tigers, as to be absolutely proverbial. *Colgong* and *Peer-Paharry* are too well known in Bengal to leave any doubt as to the very dangerous situation in which the *faukeer* dwelt. It appeared to me wonderful that some stray tiger did not pay him a visit, and convince him that abstinence formed no part of the creed of such of their race as had not the honour of being tutored by man.

The *faukeer's* hut was about three miles from *Colgong*, on a hill overlooking the flat country on the opposite side of the Ganges. He used to walk almost daily to the town, accompanied by the tiger, which apparently created no alarm among the inhabitants, who seemed to have full confidence in his innocence. The *faukeer* had ever interdicted people



from touching the tiger at all times, under the utmost rigours of religious anathema; a prudent conduct, to which probably the tiger's passive state may be chiefly attributed. We received a similar caution, in very civil terms, when we visited the mendicant, who, had he known the state of our minds, or at least of mine, would not have felt any necessity for such a prohibition.





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## PLATE XXIV.

A BATTLE BETWEEN A BUFFALO  
AND A TIGER.

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THE appearance of the wild buffalo is extremely fierce; he seems to look with disdain on every living object, and to rely on the great strength he possesses to overthrow whatever may be opposed to his rage. The smallest provocation irritates him incredibly! And such is his courage, that he will sometimes attack even a groupe of elephants going for fodder. I do not think that there can be a more menacing object than a single wild buffalo, disturbed from wallowing in the mud. His looks are ferocious in the extreme, and the knowledge of his brutal disposition by no means allays the apprehensions to which his countenance and gestures give birth. The whole race, whether wild or tame, have an eye full of mischief, and are never on any occasion to be trusted. Even among the domesticated herds there appears a certain jealousy of strangers, and especially of Europeans, whom they view with a suspicious glance, and not unfrequently attack without any warning. All the cattle in India have a similar propensity;



owing perhaps to injudicious treatment when young ; and increased by their being so little accustomed to see any but the almost naked Indian. There is certainly a very wide contrast between the sable skin of the natives and the white dresses of our countrymen in that sultry climate.

Buffaloes are extremely impatient of heat, and are generally allowed during the day to wallow in muddy stagnate pools, which are never wanting in the neighbourhood of all towns throughout Bengal. During the hot months, the herds of buffaloes are grazed during the night only, when the *gevaullahs* or *aheers*, which are casts, or sects, confining their avocations entirely to the care of cattle, drive them into the woods, generally mounting themselves on the loins of their favourites. In this manner they pass the night in the midst of opake gloomy covers, in which tigers perhaps abound, without apprehension of danger. Sometimes a sort of wooden bell is suspended round the neck of one of the herd, which by its sound, keeps the whole compact ; at least sufficiently so to be collected with ease at the dawn of day, when they are driven to the pools, in which they remain, with little exception, immersed until the cool of the afternoon : when, having slept in the water, they are, as before, driven to their feeding places.

Buffaloes, as well as elephants, scent a tiger very quickly, and by their snorting and agitation soon communicate the alarm to the whole herd. A calf will now and then straggle, when, of course, he runs risk of being carried off. If, however,



the little one's voice be heard, or the mother suspect any danger, nothing can exceed her uneasiness; the signal is given to all, and no time is lost in attacking the sly marauder. Even a single buffalo will not hesitate, under such circumstances, to rush at a tiger; whence we may judge of the spirit and impetuosity with which a whole herd proceed to the charge. The herdsmen are so fully satisfied on this point, as to feel no doubt of their own safety, as long as they continue with their cattle: such as deviate from the common track of prudence must take the consequences. Few accidents are said to happen; the herdsmen generally remain seated on their buffaloes, driving them to the best grass; and, by their usual calls, keeping all within a proper compass.

The great men, that is to say, the Nabobs, and Soubahs of all ranks (for there are many degrees of importance among them, though each deems himself of the highest consideration), at particular times, and especially at the anniversaries of some of their own family, give splendid entertainments. At these is to be seen whatever is rare and attractive. In situations where tigers can be obtained, they are opposed to buffaloes, or occasionally to elephants or other animals. As security is the soul of amusement where conflicts of such a nature are to be exhibited, every precaution is taken to enclose the area in such manner as may obviate all reasonable fear, without obstructing the view of the combat. Where a tiger is of the *dramatis personæ*, too much caution cannot be used. There have been instances of their effecting escapes,



and putting all the spectators completely to the rout. The theatres are, however, in general so high as to banish apprehension, being fully adequate to the purpose; the tiger will, it is true, sometimes make desperate efforts to get over, and at times may appear likely to succeed; but under the disadvantages attendant on his climbing, little force is equal to repel him. A few men stationed with stout poles, along the top of such parts of the paling or barricade, as may be least elevated, easily turn him back.

The construction of the places wherein the combats are usually exhibited are pretty nearly similar. They are ordinarily about forty yards in diameter, of a round or oval form, and surrounded either with large posts, or with bamboos, as may be most easily obtained; but at all events they should be of sufficient height to prevent a tiger from escaping. All battens to bind the work together should be on the outside, else they would greatly facilitate a tiger's escape. From fifteen to twenty feet is a sufficient height, especially if the enclosure be made of bamboo, of which the bark is extremely hard and slippery like that of a fine walking cane; and consequently well adapted to oppose the force of his claws, which in soft wood, might fix, and enable the animal to reach the summit. The spectators are seated in a gallery raised high enough to command a full view of the area, and are protected from the sun, &c. by a *semiana* or large awning, sustained on poles, of which a description has been given with Plate VII. exhibiting the Return from Hunting.



That a tiger should be anxious to avail himself of the partial release he feels while patrolling within the area, appears very natural; but it is found, for the most part, that his efforts do not commence until his courage is overawed by the presence of the buffalo; which being pampered with the highest feeding, for this express purpose, and perhaps conscious of his own prowess from repeated victories, enters the lists with the utmost confidence, and the very reverse of the tiger, which ordinarily shews the most marked symptoms of diffidence, and has recourse to every species of evasion, dreading that issue which he seems from the very first moment to forebode! Exceptions are at times found from this general description; there have been a few instances where the tiger has been triumphant; but this is very uncommon, and may no doubt be more fairly attributed to some accident, or to a neglect of keeping the buffalo in a proper state of feeding, than to the tiger's prowess.

Persons unacquainted with the true character of the tiger, would expect to see him attack the buffalo as soon as he might enter the area. But no: as soon as the buffalo makes his appearance, the tiger, which perhaps till then does not betray any marked apprehension, or probably seems to menace the spectators, swelling his fur, and shewing his teeth, or occasionally snarling and lashing his sides with his tail, all at once sinks into the most contemptible despondency. He sneaks along under the palisade, crouching and turning on his back to avoid the buffalo's charge. He tries every device his



situation will admit, and often suffers himself to be gored, or to be lifted from his pusillanimous lurking by the buffalo's horn, before he can be induced to stand on the defensive. When, however, he does, on such occasions, summon up courage to oppose the assailant, he displays wonderful vigour and activity! His claws are distended, and wherever they touch they fail not to draw streams of blood; actuating the buffalo to the most desperate efforts, but which are not of long duration. The immense strength of the tiger lays in his fore arm, and would prove fatal to the buffalo if there were opportunity given for a blow to take proper effect. The buffalo being on his guard, avoids too close an engagement, but ever keeping a front to his opponent, rushes towards him with his whole force, and recedes with surprising celerity as soon as the tiger shews his intention to strike. Sometimes the tiger will follow and make a desperate spring, which, however, the buffalo either avoids by rapidly shifting his ground, or at the same moment, darting forward meets the tiger with his horns. There are instances that, on such occasions, the tiger has sprung almost over the buffalo's back, causing the combatants to change places, and affording to the buffalo an excellent chance of transfixing the tiger before he could recover from the fall invariably attendant on such a circumstance.

Nothing can well exceed the interest created in the minds of the spectators, when the tiger and buffalo are mutually bent on resistance. But the former does not in general follow



up his successes with sufficient spirit; while on the other hand the buffalo pushes his opponent to the extreme; giving him no respite, but charging with the greatest impetuosity. The tiger seems to be contented with a cessation of arms, but the buffalo carries on a war of extermination.

It is to be observed, that the buffaloes trained to this sport are males of the domesticated breed; they are selected for their size, vigour, and spirit. I cannot say that I ever saw a wild buffalo brought into competition with a tiger; but from what I have witnessed of the sufficiency of a tame one, I am inclined to believe there would be no sport, since the superior prowess of the wild buffalo could not fail to decide the matter in a very short time. Perhaps we may find it hereafter ascertained that the wild buffaloes destroy such tigers as may chance to come near their herds. This they could assuredly do with little difficulty, as they generally keep to grass plains, where if a tiger were once seen, a buffalo would have every advantage, and might make sure of the victory.

It sometimes requires considerable trouble and time to effect the desired rencontre between the buffalo and the tiger. The former must be kept away until the latter may have entered the area; for it is generally found, that the tiger on seeing or smelling the buffalo remains close in his cage, notwithstanding the efforts made to dislodge him. The cage is about ten feet long by seven or eight broad, and from five to six in height, made of strong battens, well inserted into a substantial frame. Some are divided in the middle, to enable



the keeper to go in and clean the refuse and filth away. At each end is a sliding door, or so many bars are made to shift, as when removed form a sufficient opening to admit the tiger. The center partition, which is also of open batten-work, has a slider moving in a groove for the same purpose. The machine ordinarily is made to stand upon four trucks ; so that it may be moved from place to place at pleasure.

The cage being brought opposite to a very strong gate, made in the palisades surrounding the area, of sufficient size to admit any animal that may be usually introduced to fight, and some ropes being fastened so as to prevent any recoil from the tiger's opposition at the entrance, the cage is opened and the tiger goaded towards the aperture. Some avail themselves instantaneously of the opportunity to range more at large ; but the major part, with that peculiar aim of suspicion and sulkiness so strongly marked in the whole race, from the tiger to the cat, hang backwards, and have recourse to every device to avoid that danger, which one would almost believe they had the gift of foretelling. As, however, such cannot be the case, we must conclude that their alarm is generated by the noise and bustle inseparably attendant on all such *spectacles*. The crowd, in spite of every precaution, flock round the cage, and absolutely by their pressure often prevent the persons employed to liberate the tiger, from performing that duty. When all authority may have proved abortive, a sudden alarm has in some instances proved immediately successful. A rumour that the cage has given way, and that the



tiger is about to effect his escape, in a moment puts all the rabble to flight! Fear will from that time render them more cautious, and cause even the most arduous, if the farce be properly supported, to preserve such a respectable distance, as to afford ample space for the keepers to urge the tiger from his prison.

As soon as the tiger has entered the area, the gates are closed, and a short time is allowed him to look round and examine his new situation. It is remarkable that at this time the cowardly animal very rarely quits the palisades, but creeps along close to them, wistfully looking up at their tops, as if intent on escaping over them, and occasionally grinding his teeth at the host of people who surround the area, climbing up to the summit of the enclosure, or peeping through the narrow intervals between the timbers or bamboos of which it is constructed. As soon as the tiger appears somewhat reconciled to the place, and may have proceeded to a sufficient distance from the gate, so that it may be opened with safety, the buffalo is introduced.

Nothing can surpass the animation displayed at this moment! The buffalo on entering the area smells the tiger, and becomes instantly agitated with eagerness. His eyes sparkle with fury, as they quest around for the skulking enemy; which is generally attacked the instant it is distinguished. The buffalo shaking his head and raking the ground for a few seconds with his foot, places himself in the posture of attack, and with his face brought parallel to the surface, his horns pointing



forward, and his tail indicating both his determination, and his vigour, rushes forward at his full speed. It has happened that at such moments, buffaloes have not been able to check themselves, but have run up against the enclosure with a tremendous force, shaking some of the holds aloft, and wounding the lower ranges of the more forward of the spectators. But the cautious tiger rarely fails to shift his ground as the buffalo approaches, thus causing the latter to bend in his course, and consequently diminishing the force of the attack, as well as rendering the aim less certain.

However formidable the horns of a buffalo may be, still experience shews that the tiger's skin is sufficiently strong to withstand such thrusts as the spectator would deem irresistible. I have before stated, that what with the gloss of the thick, though short coating of fur, and the natural pliancy of the hide, it requires a smart ball to penetrate with effect. So we find that a tiger is more bruised than gored by the buffalo's horns, unless in some cases where they have proved more than usually sharp at their extremities; or where they have been accidentally pointed against such parts as were less capable of yielding, so as to break the force of the charge.

From the manner in which the horns are placed, as well as from the position in which the buffalo in common carries his head, that is, with the nose raised, so as to have the face nearly horizontal, whence the tips of the horns lie far below the level of the back-bone, one would be apt to conjecture that they were not calculated to do much mischief, and might



be easily avoided ; but such is by no means the case. The buffalo, perhaps at the distance of thirty or forty yards from the object, inverts his whole position, bringing his nostrils between his fore legs, and carrying the horns, pointed forward, probably not more than an inch or two from the ground. In this manner he proceeds at full speed, his eye sternly bent, according to his aim, which is for the most part so correct as to leave little doubt of the issue, were the opportunity given for the charge to take effect : a quick removal, however, to the right or left, when the buffalo is within two or three yards, is sufficient to ensure safety. The motions of buffaloes are so rapid, and their fury so very urgent, that a second charge must invariably be expected, followed up with others, which seem to become the more keen in proportion as the animal becomes more irritated either by his disappointments, or by any wounds he may have received from his antagonist. The natives assert that a buffalo, not absolutely defeated, will never quit a tiger until its death may proclaim his victory ; and that even when the subdued opponent may be breathless, the buffalo will amuse himself, as it were glutting his revenge, by tossing the tiger about. Such I can easily suppose to be invariably the case ; for I think the buffalo is, like the rhinoceros, of the most implacable disposition. It should be remarked that any red object, especially blood, seldom fails to invite the buffalo's attack.

After a battle, it is not the safest thing in the world to venture into the area. The buffalo being in a state approaching



to madness, and smarting with the scratches probably inflicted by the tiger's claws, or eventually having received a sharp bite, makes no distinction between friends and foes. It is prudent to leave him to cool, and then to approach him with water, or wet grass, of which he will generally partake with avidity. When his violence may have subsided, he is generally returned to his house, the way being previously cleared from passengers, to prevent accidents.



## PLATE XXV.

THE BUFFALO AT BAY.

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It is commonly understood that Providence has allotted to every animal a climate suited to its nature; and a general review, throughout the universe, will add no small weight to this opinion. Whether it be from the original order of things, as arranged by the great Founder of the World; or, that, supposing some chance to exist, such animals as were not in their habits or constitutions, suited to particular soils, or temperatures, necessarily perished and became extinct in such situations, we find the most marked attention to that system. But to this general rule we have to plead one exception; namely, that the buffalo of India is, by no means, suited to the climate of the country. That animal not only delights in the water, but will not thrive unless it have a swamp to wallow in. There rolling themselves, they speedily work deep hollows wherein they lay immersed. No place seems to delight the buffalo more than the deep verdure on the confines of *jeels*, and marshes, especially if surrounded by tall grass, so as to afford concealment and shade, while the body is covered by



the water. In such situations they seem to enjoy a perfect extacy, having in general nothing above the surface but their eyes and nostrils, the horns being, as described in the preceding Chapter, kept low down, and consequently entirely hidden from view.

Frequently nothing is perceptible but a few black lumps in the water, appearing like small clods; for the buffaloes being often fast asleep, all is quiet; and a passenger would scarcely expect to see, as often happens, twenty or thirty great beasts suddenly rise. I have a thousand times been unexpectedly surprised in this manner by tame buffaloes, and once or twice by wild ones. The latter are very dangerous, and the former are by no means to be considered as innocent; their dispositions are extremely savage, and they are very prompt to attack any thing which causes much attraction, especially every red object.

A cow buffalo, having a sucking calf, is ever to be shunned; as are also such single males as may be frequently seen straggling wide from the herds, whence they have probably been driven by males of superior prowess, in the same manner as *saun* elephants, described in Plate IX. The banks of the Ganges abound with buffaloes in their wild state, as does all the country where long grass and spacious *jeels* are to be found. On the Cossimbazar Island they were at one time very numerous, but their numbers have been greatly diminished in that quarter by the extensive improvements that have taken place within the last twenty years. Many



anecdotes are related regarding hair-breadth escapes, of which I think the following to be as extraordinary as any I ever heard. In going towards Daudpore one morning, I met Doctor Knight, then Surgeon of the Berhampore station, who had been out to shoot hogs and deer. A buffalo bull, which was at a considerable distance, after shaking his head and stamping with his forefoot, at length fairly made at the Doctor, who was fortunately provided with an excellent rifle, of a large bore.

The Doctor, knowing what sort of a business it was likely to prove, if he awaited the buffalo's arrival, mounted a smart *tanian*, or hill poney, which was led by his *syce*, or groom, and made off towards a very heavy cover; the *syce* running by his side, aided by a hold on the stirrup leather. Fortunately the man got into the cover, and had time to conceal himself; the buffalo passed on after the Doctor, who did not fail to give Punch, which was the horse's name, every provocation to exertion. His speed did not however equal that of his pursuer, which, though appearing to labour much, took immense strides, and was coming up fast: the Doctor finding it impossible to escape in this way, reined up suddenly, and dismounted. He had scarcely time to turn his horse's flank, and to level his rifle over the back of the saddle, before the buffalo, being within the usual distance, lowered his head and commenced the charge. The Doctor, who was a remarkably good shot, fired, and happily lodged the ball between the horns of the animal; which, though killed outright, did not,



however drop, until within three or four yards of Punch's side!

A few weeks after the above occurrence, as I was hunting with a party at the same place, a hog which we were chasing, led us through a heavy cover, into a plain thinly overspread with water after some very heavy rains. About an hundred yards to the left, as we cleared the high grass, we saw a herd of wild buffaloes. We pushed on after our game, not, however, without observing that they were throwing out signals for a general engagement. A servant, who happened to be on an old grey horse, attracted the attention of three of the herd in particular, which galloped after him. The poor fellow was extremely terrified, as indeed we all were, and roared out lustily for assistance, which, under such circumstances, could not have been afforded him. His horse was not less frightened, and made every exertion; but it did not appear he would have succeeded in his flight, had not the buffaloes confined their attention to the man's turban, which was red, and which, on being called to by us, he had thrown from his head. We had the pleasure to find this device fully successful; the buffaloes amused themselves with tossing the turban about, till it by degrees had opened to its full length, which might be from eighteen to twenty yards, when they soon ripped it to pieces with their horns, of which they made such a handsome display, as completely satisfied us how agreeably they would have been amused with the owner, had he fallen into their power.



The late Doctor Baillie, who was a very keen and capable sportsman, used, in my ideas, to run many very foolish risks among buffaloes. I often remonstrated with him on his temerity, but he was so infatuated, that all was to no purpose. One morning as we were riding on the same elephant to the hunting ground, to save our horses as much as possible, we saw a very large buffalo lying in the grass, which was rather short and thin: as usual, the Doctor would have a touch at him, and, heedless of my expostulation, dismounted with his gun. The buffalo seeing him approach, rose, and shook his head as a prelude to immediate hostilities. My friend fired, and hit the buffalo in the side. The enraged brute came thundering at the Doctor, who lost no time in running round to the opposite side of the elephant; the *mohout* at the same time pushed forwards to meet and screen him from the buffalo, which absolutely put his horns under the elephant's belly, and endeavoured to raise him from the ground. We had no other gun, and might perhaps have felt some more severe effects from the Doctor's frolic, had not the buffalo, from loss of blood, dropped at our side. What with the sense of our danger, and the elephant's alarm, we were in a dreadful fright. The Doctor swore it should be his last adventure in that way; but I heard afterwards that he had forgotten the lesson, and was repeatedly in imminent danger. The buffalo above mentioned was upwards of six feet high at the shoulder, and measured nearly a yard in breadth at the chest. His horns, which were above five feet and a



half in length, were kept by my friend, I believe, until he demised.

Tame buffaloes rarely grow larger than a moderately sized cow; but they give a great quantity of milk, which, though extremely rich, yields a very poor butter. The natives never use it in the state to which we are accustomed; they simmer the butter over a gentle fire for a few minutes, and cool it gradually: it thus becomes granulated, not much dissimilar to the soft fat of beef, or to fine crowdy, such as is in common use throughout Scotland, and may occasionally be seen in our more southern counties. This preparation of butter is known by the name of *ghee*; as to butter, which is called *muckun*, the natives do not apply it to any use, conceiving it to be crude and unwholesome, unless granulated. Buffalo butter is scarcely eatable; it is white, and tastes tallowy; there is however no want of good cow butter in all situations frequented by Europeans; though if great care be not taken, it will be made of smoaky milk, or by not being sufficiently cleared of the whey, will be acid, and soon becomes rancid. *Ghee* is remarkably sweet when fresh, and at that time is excellent as a substitute for butter, as well as being in general two thirds cheaper. In most European families *ghee* is used for all culinary purposes; it is semi-liquid; pouring from the vessel like oil half frozen. If the air be carefully excluded, it will keep for a long time in a cool situation. The natives, although they prefer fresh *ghee*, yet rather than be totally deprived of it, will not hesitate to use it in such a state



as would effectually sicken an European ! They not only employ it in their *curries*, and other made dishes, in profusion, but scruple not to eat a pound or more of it, and that perhaps not of the sweetest sort, without any accompaniment of bread, &c. They look upon it as conducive to fatness, which, as well as a very large head, is considered throughout India as one of the most precious gifts of Heaven. An enormous skull is absolutely revered, and the happy owner is looked up to as a superior being. To a prince, a joulter head is invaluable ! It ensures him the good opinion of his subjects, let him be ever such a dolt. I have remarked, that the generality of men of rank throughout India have been blessed with this very unequivocal symbol of greatness !

A lean person rarely commands respect : there is a certain sort of tacit reference to the body, which, in the eyes of a Bengallee, decides the due proportion of veneration. Some dignitaries are so unfortunate as to retain their slim forms in spite of oceans of *ghee*, administered in all shapes, and in defiance of that *otium cum dignitate*, which precludes the nobility, &c. of India from every species of athletic or manly diversion. They sleep and lounge all day among pillows or carpets, drink sherbet, and other cooling liquors, smoke their *hookahs*, and, unless on an elephant, surrounded by a cavalcade or mob, in which every individual seems to vie who shall raise most dust, may be said to take no exercise whatever. Such a life cannot well be very wholesome ; and accordingly we find most of the natives subject to dreadful attacks



of the bile. They are, however, so moderate in respect to the use of spirituous liquors, and they avoid the sun so much, that, in spite of such occasional ailments, we see them thrive in bulk. Many very young men of rank are to be seen, who may be called lumps of pinguefaction. These may be classed among the happiest of mortals; they have arrived at the mistaken goal of felicity; namely, in having become the objects of envy, and have only one care, which is, to add still more to their masses of rotundity.

But to return from this digression. The buffalo possesses great strength, and would be highly serviceable were his qualities equal to his powers. He is extremely slow, which, added to his invincible attachment to water, in which he will always lie down, in spite of every exertion to prevent him, renders him far inferior in value to the oxen usually employed throughout India, for all the purposes of agriculture, and conveyance of goods. It is obvious, that with such a propensity, no merchandize, or other articles, subject to injury from moisture, could be trusted on the back of a buffalo. For draught, they may be said to answer better, though in general they are found to be too tardy, and so very uncertain, that nothing but necessity, or their superior strength, could induce a person to employ them in *hackeries*, or carts. Although the slowness of their pace is in every instance a formidable objection, yet it seems to be of less moment in the plough, than in any other situation. The peasantry throughout India are both poor and penurious: they employ whatever



they can obtain in their ploughs; hence we may sometimes see an ox and a buffalo, or a buffalo and a tattoo, or eventually even an ass, in the same plough. The donkies of India are remarkably small, being generally not more than twenty-eight or thirty inches high, and very much cat-haired. They are however, very strong, and carry a single sack, placed on their loins, containing bricks, &c. to a considerable weight. Their general use is among the washermen, for carrying the cloaths. This class of people, whose employment is hereditary and immutable, have the sole privilege of riding asses. Any other sect, either riding or employing an ass, would be irreparably degraded, and be subject to the severest anathemas of their respective *jaut-baies*, or brothers of the same persuasion. Our ladies who exhibit at Brighton, &c. would, in India, be classed with the lowest of the rabble.

The skin of the buffalo is somewhat like that of the elephants, black and tough, with few hairs, and the flesh, like that animal's, is extremely cellular and coarse. Buffalo beef is perhaps the worst of viands, in whatever manner it may be dressed; and I should be strongly disposed to believe, that from its being hard and rank, it must be unwholesome diet. It is rarely very fat. The hides are very substantial, and when well tanned, prove equal to every purpose to which our ox and bull hides are in general applicable.

Buffaloes swim remarkably well, or I may rather say, they float. It is very common to see droves crossing the Ganges,



and other great rivers, at all seasons ; but especially when the waters are low. At a distance one would take them to be large pieces of cork or dark coloured wood : nothing appearing but their faces. It is no unusual thing for a boat to get into the thick of them, especially among reedy waters, or at the edges of *jow* jungles, before it is perceived. In this no danger exists : the buffaloes are perfectly passive, and easily avoid being run down, be the vessel ever so large. The *aheers*, or herdsmen, would not be able to accompany their cattle across such extensive rivers, often two or three miles between the banks, and the streams frequently very rapid, but for the aid they receive from their buffaloes. The herdsmen place one hand on the loins or croup of a buffalo, one man generally driving the foremost, and the rest supporting themselves on others of the drove. As the buffalo swims very slow, a drove having to pass a river, which many do repeatedly in the course of the day, on their way to and from grazing, may be carried down the stream at least as much as the utmost breadth of the water. The calves on such occasions require no aid ; but keeping among the herd, and seemingly making little exertion, appear to be buoyed up, as it were naturally, and rarely, if ever fail to land with the most robust. Whether it be that their strength be equal to such labours, which few other animals could undergo, or that the act of swimming have the peculiar property of fatiguing them in less proportion than it does other quadrupeds, may not be very easy to determine. Be it as it may, the drove appear



when landed, as fresh as when they entered the water, and in general proceed to their meal with an excellent appetite.

We may indeed, from the following circumstance, collect that buffaloes do not find their vigour impaired by swimming. I was riding with a friend along the bank of the Ganges, when a large drove, which were just landing from a tedious passage across a very broad part, approached the road which passed along the edge of the water. It happened that a calf had got out of the water before its mother, and my friend, attended by his *syce*, or groom, passed close behind it. The mother thinking perhaps that its offspring was intercepted, rushed forward, and would certainly have gored the horse terribly, but for the instant obedience which he shewed to a powerful application of the spur. The gentleman was obliged to make the best of his way, and got clear. The buffalo, however, turned after the *syce*, who had taken to his heels, and had fortunately got into a small mango plantation, followed by the snorting animal. No doubt but the poor fellow would have received some injury, had not a friendly branch, which was within his reach, enabled him, by seizing it with both hands and throwing his legs over, to escape the many attempts made by the buffalo to dislodge him. There is no saying how long this state of jeopardy might have been continued, or what might have been the result, had we not diverted the buffalo from her object, by approaching as near as prudence justified among the trees, and attracting her attention. A person less active than the *syce* happened to be, might have been



very roughly handled. This incident alone, were others wanting, might serve to caution gentlemen from approaching too near to buffaloes, however tame they may appear.

Buffaloes are chiefly hunted on elephants, much in the same manner as tigers, with the exception, that the scene of action usually lies in very heavy grasses, or in a *jeel*; to either of which the buffalo instantly resorts, when attacked by numbers, such as he feels diffident of opposing with success. When buffaloes charge, they often gore elephants severely, but have not the effect of frightening them so much as tigers. The bulk of the buffalo renders it sufficiently easy to hit, almost to a certainty; but, unless the balls be large, and be directed to a vital part, they ordinarily do more harm than good; irritating the stupendous and powerful animal to the most formidable exertions.





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PLATE XXVI.  
PEACOCK SHOOTING.

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ABOUT the passes in the *Jungleterry* district, especially near *Terriagully*, I have seen such quantities of pea-fowls, as have absolutely surprised me! Whole woods were covered with their beautiful plumage, to which a rising sun imparted additional brilliancy! The small patches of plain among the long grass, most of them cultivated, and with mustard then in bloom, which induced the birds to feed, increased the beauty of the scene! And I speak within bounds when I assert, that there could not be less than twelve or fifteen hundred pea-fowls, of various sizes, within sight of the spot where I stood for near an hour. Quite fascinated with the grand display, I refrained from disturbing them. I have frequently seen great numbers assembled, or within my view from some eminence, but nothing to compare to what I witnessed at the *Terriagully* pass, where one might have thought all the peacocks within fifty miles had assembled by common consent. When they are in numbers scattered in a jungle, it is easy to get a shot; but I have always found much difficulty when the



birds flock together; as they frequently do to the amount of forty or fifty, when they are extremely shy. At such times it is not easy to raise them: they run remarkably fast, and I doubt whether a heavy spaniel or pointer could catch one.

When on the wing they fly very heavy and strong, generally within an easy shot: it may be reasonably supposed that they fall very heavy, but if only winged, they speedily recover, and if not closely pursued, will nine times in ten disappear. When the *peepul* berries, or figs, are in season, their flesh is rather bitter, but when they have fed awhile among corn fields, they become remarkably sweet and juicy. This is to be understood of the young birds, which make excellent roasters. The older birds are sometimes put to the spit, but are by no means so good as when the breasts are made into cutlets, and the residue boiled down into a rich soup. I have always thought such peacocks as frequented the mustard fields, after the pods were formed, to be very superior. Mustard is cultivated throughout India in very large quantities. The oil is used both for burning, and for culinary purposes in lieu of *ghee*, especially for frying fish; and the cake is given to cattle, which thrive amazingly on it, but their fat becomes extremely yellow. A kind of wild rice grows in many parts of the country, especially in swampy lands; the grain is very small, but sweet, and is much relished by every kind of game.

With regard to the peacock itself, there is little occasion to enter into any minute description; suffice it to say, that the



only species I ever saw or heard of in India, is the blue-necked sort, common in all the menageries. They abound chiefly in close wooded parts, particularly where there is an extent of long grass for them to range in. They are very thirsty birds, and will remain only where they can have easy access to water. *Rhur* plantations are their favourite shelter, being close above, so as to keep off the solar ray, and open at the bottom sufficiently to admit a free passage for the air. If there be trees near such spots, the peacocks may be seen mounting into them every evening towards dusk to roost; and in which they generally continue till the sun rises, when they descend to feed, and pass the mid-day in the heavy covers. They are very jealous of all quadrupeds, especially of dogs; no doubt, from finding the jackal, and probably the tiger, to be such inveterate enemies. When peacocks are discovered in a tree, situate on a plain, if a dog be loose and hunt near it, the bird will rarely move from its situation; though it will probably shew extreme uneasiness. In such case it is easy to get a good shot.

But the most certain mode of killing one or two birds, is by stealing under the trees at night: if there be a clear moon, so much the better. In this way, by looking up among the foliage, the peacocks may be readily distinguished. Where they are very numerous, and only one bird is wanted, as certain a mode as any is to lie in wait behind a bush near their feeding haunts. But without the most perfect silence this will not succeed. They are strong birds, and require a



smart gun to take proper effect, unless within twenty-five or thirty yards. The best size is No. 4, patent shot; and with that size it is best to aim under the wing, if the position of the bird favour such an intention; otherwise, and more especially if the shot be smaller than the size above mentioned, it is best to aim at the head.

Pea-fowls are not to be found within a large circuit around Calcutta; their general rendezvous seems to be in the *Jungleterry* district: indeed they are to be met with more or less in all covers, such as I have above described, and especially in those which are but little inhabited. All the jungles in the Nabob of Oude's territories are full of them; but I do not recollect ever having seen one in all the great islands formed by the junction of the Ganges with the *Hooghley* river, through which so many streams pass to the sea, and which are known by the designation of the delta of the Ganges.

It will appear curious, but it is very certain, that peacocks have often been hunted and run down by horsemen. The fact is, that the wings of a peacock are by no means proportioned to the great weight of its body and limbs; besides, they are not accustomed to long flights, and being of a very thirsty habit, are soon out of wind. When a bird is discovered in a tree standing in a plain, which is frequently the case, when game is abundant, a person mounted on a tolerably active and governable horse, being also provided with a lash whip, may, after keeping as near as possible during the first flight, and urging the bird when it lights to its utmost



exertion, so completely fatigue it, as to find some opportunity for whipping, and perhaps entangle the whip so as to obtain a complete command. If a dog be at hand, success is more certain. The peacock does not very easily ascend into the air, especially when frightened. If, however, the bird gets among cover, it must be closely watched, else the first substantial bush into which it can creep, will serve it for a shelter, and occasion the horseman to lose his game.

Though pea fowls invariably roost in trees, yet they make their nests on the ground; and ordinarily on a bank raised above the common level, where, in some sufficient bush, they collect leaves, small sticks, &c. and sit very close. I have on several occasions seen them in their nests, but as I refrained from disturbing them, they did not offer to move, although they could not fail to know that they were discovered. They usually sit on about a dozen or fifteen eggs; but I will not venture to state what is their term of incubation. The old birds may often be seen leading out broods of a dozen or more of chicks. They are generally hatched about the beginning of November; and from January to the end of March, when the corn is standing, are remarkably juicy and tender. When the dry season comes on, they feed on the seeds of weeds, and insects; and their flesh becomes dry and muscular.

During the cold season every little unfrequented puddle will at times be visited by every description of wild fowl. Geese, ducks, teal, wigeons, &c. are often in such numbers as absolutely to cover the surface. To give an idea of their



numbers, I will state that, being at *Bogwongolah*, where there are many tanks and jeels formed by the remains of the annual inundations, I fired almost at random among some teal that were so thick on the water as scarcely to let the element be seen, and with a single discharge from a common fowling piece, at about forty yards distance, I killed no less than eighteen, all of which I obtained, besides wounding at least as many more, which, either by diving, and flitting about, or that fell in the fields around the tank, evaded the search of my servants.

It is curious that many sorts of ducks, such as the *seety*, or whistler, as well as the wigeon, both roost and build in trees. With regard to storks, cranes, herons, &c. which in all their varieties, are to be seen in Bengal, they always do so. The British fowler will, however, be surprised to learn that the red partridge, such as is common in England, though it does not build, yet is very often to be found in woods and plantations, up among the boughs, calling lustily, and seeming to enjoy its elevation! Quails and florikens, on the contrary, invariably confine themselves to the ground.

There are various kinds of hawks, which are exceedingly troublesome to the sportsman. The sparrow hawk is particularly bold, and will often accompany, hovering over the dogs, and intimidating the game from rising. Should a poor bird take flight, it has but little chance of escape, for, if the gun fail, the hawk is almost certain of his aim! Indeed it often occurs when a partridge, quail, or snipe, is killed by the



shot, that the hawk will stoop and carry it off, before a servant or a dog can get up to secure it. As I commonly used a double barrel, these interlopers sometimes got a wound, which, if it did not kill, generally caused restitution: but they are inconceivably numerous in some places, and their cunning is wonderful. I have frequently had three or four attending me, which generally kept aloof from my range, or would perhaps sit upon some mound. They commonly carried off all those which I missed, as well as a portion of what I killed.

The natives keep the middle sized grey hawk, known by the name of the *bauz*, for the purpose of hovering over ducks, &c. which will not rise on such occasions: thus any quantity of wild fowl may be killed on small waters, where they cannot swim to such a distance as to be out of reach. If the *bauz* attempt to pounce among them, all are under water instantly. There is a larger species of hawk called the *byree*, extremely strong and bold: it kills hares with ease, and is frequently sent in chase of the larger kinds of water fowl. They will even attack the *cyrus*, of which a pair are represented in the annexed Plate. These birds are of a beautiful form, of a light lead colour, with the head and about three or four inches down the neck, of a rich crimson. Their beaks are very short in proportion to their size, not being more than four or five inches in length. The *cyrus* is to be seen in very large flights on the sands in the great rivers, and in the shallow *jeels*. Their scream is very shrill and loud, and on a still



night it may be heard from two to three miles off. They stand at least six feet high to the crown of their heads.

When the hawk is sent in pursuit of the *cyrus*, or of the *manickjoor*, *currakeel*, or any of the larger aquatic birds, he is compelled to make a very wide circle, and to mount spirally, lessening his range as he gets higher. The *cyrus* can mount almost in a perpendicular direction; but it would appear that in so doing he is greatly fatigued, for the hawk seldom fails in a few minutes to obtain the ascendancy. When the *cyrus* perceives the hawk to be above his own level, he screams loudly, and presents his beak as a defence. The hawk, however, generally keeps moving round until he can get towards the *cyrus's* back, when he darts down upon him like a shot. The *cyrus* on such occasions either bends his neck back, or, throwing himself over, presents both his beak and his feet to avert the fatal blow. In this way, the battle is often prolonged for a considerable time; but if the *byree* be staunch, he will in the end so weary the *cyrus*, that it cannot act with sufficient promptitude to prevent being seized by the head, where the *byree* fixing his talons, commonly into the very brain, or in at the eyes, and closing his wings, they are both precipitated together. But if the hawk find himself in danger, from the violence of the fall, he, in approaching the ground, spreads his wings, which serving as a parachute, causes him to keep above the *cyrus*, and enables himself to alight with less force. At this time the hawkers must gallop to secure the *byree*, which, after eating the brains,



would be very apt to take a long flight, and occasion great trouble.

The *mooty*, so called from being barely a handful, is carried in the hand, when quails or other small birds are quested. As soon as one is observed to rise, the *mooty* is thrown, as you would cast a stone, after it, when on an instant the *mooty* collects itself, and without the smallest hesitation, follows the game, which rarely escapes. I have seen a *mooty* in this manner kill near a dozen of quails in succession.

Eagles are often seen to the northward: they are in general very large, and of that kind which, like the bantam, has feathers down to the heels. They occasionally trouble the shepherds, but for the most part live on hares, vermin, &c. The natives state, that they often take away children; but I never could hear this report substantiated: it appeared to me to be held out rather as an object of terror, to keep the brats from wandering; especially in places frequented by wolves, hyænas, &c. I shot an eagle near Caunpore, which measured upwards of eight feet from wing to wing!

Monkeys abound almost every where: their usual haunts are in thick mango topes, near to cultivated spots. They are of various sizes. The *lungoon* is at least equal in weight to a lad of fourteen; and, when erect, stands five feet and a half and upwards in height. These are extremely mischievous, and have, in many instances, been guilty of the most brutal violence. Nothing can surpass their boldness. If in numbers, they will strip a moderate sized *maize* plantation during a



few hours, in spite of the opposition of a small party of men. Their disposition is so libidinous, that where they exist, women cannot pass their haunts in safety. They are of a curious appearance, being of a greenish dun colour, with black faces and paws, and a grey rim of hair surrounding their foreheads, so as to resemble a small *toupee* wig! I have at various times seen these gentry in a field of vegetables, when, until approached very nearly, I mistook them for natives weeding. Apes are scarce; and, except in particular situations, the *ourang-outang* is not to be seen. The common kind of monkey, which is found almost everywhere, is the *bhunder*, or woodman. These, when erect, may measure about two feet in height: they are docile and affectionate. Under the tuition of the jugglers, who, among many other curious matters, exhibit a variety of tricks, done most naturally by the *bhunders*, it is very diverting to see these little mimics counterfeiting the gait and motions of various professions, and especially corroborating, by their actions, the deluge of flattery which the jugglers pour forth in praise of every thing relating to the English character. Their antics are so excellently just on these occasions, that many human professors of the mimic art might, without the smallest disparagement, take a lesson from these diminutive imitators!

In many places there are established revenues allotted for feeding whole tribes of *bhunders*. These generally depend on a *faukeer*, or mendicant priest, or on a *milky*, who has lands bestowed on him, by some bequest, as an object of charity.



These having either a small hut, or being attached to some particular mausoleum erected in honour of their benefactor, maintain themselves and the *bhunders* by an appeal to all travellers; who, pleased with the familiarity of the monkeys, rarely fail to give a few *pice*, or small copper coin, part of which is disbursed at the shop of a neighbouring vender of provisions, who always resides near such a regular scene of consumption in that line. The monkeys are very orderly; coming when called, and never molesting any person. It has, indeed, happened, that these pensioners have taken offence at mere trifles, and done some mischief: their bite is very severe, and they display uncommon unanimity and perseverance in their resentments.

The red flamingo is very scarce in India. I never saw more than one there, and that, I believe, had been brought by Colonel Burrington from the Cape of Good Hope. The grey kind may occasionally be seen, but they are scarce. Curlews of every description abound: they are extremely shy, but remarkably fine flavoured. I should except the black sort from this description: they being very coarse and fishy. These grow to a large size, being, when plucked, as bulky as a pheasant. Plovers are numerous in their season; and the *pee-wit* is to be found at all times.

The power of the sun is a great drawback on the pleasures of the field. Most sportsmen provide themselves with white turbans of quilted linen, which, covering the crown of their hats, keeps off the heat. The skin of a pelican, with the soft



down adhering, like our swan-skin powder puffs, is, however, much lighter and cooler. Snipe-shooting is particularly insalubrious in India, being mostly in extensive swamps; and as the birds do not lay but in the middle of the day, the lower extremities are freezing, while the head is melting with heat. It is very unpleasant to follow game through quags, and to be sometimes nearly up to the neck in mud and water. A facetious gentleman, Lieutenant George Boyd, who was an excellent and keen sportsman, whenever he went snipe-shooting, used to squat down in the first sufficient puddle he came to, so as to wet himself up to the neck; observing that he found it very unpleasant to be getting wet by inches, and that by this process he put himself out of pain. He did not live long!

In *jeels* the natives often catch wild fowl by means of large pots, at first left to float about among the birds, which soon become reconciled and approach them without fear. When this effect is produced, a shecarry wades among the birds with his head in a similar pot, and pulls them under water, fastening them to a girdle prepared for the purpose. The *braminy*, or red and white goose, is, however, very wary, and is seldom taken by any device. A pair of them with a flock of grey geese, will commonly keep up such an alarm as to defy the powers of small shot.

The flights of water fowl that arrive in Bengal immediately as the rains subside, are astonishing. The *cyruses*, and all the larger kinds, may be seen during the early time of the rains in immense flights; each string forming an angle, led by one



bird which, at times, is relieved by some other : they invariably fly to the same quarter. If one be wounded, it always separates from the flock, and generally changes its course. I have known a goose to fly nearly four miles before it has dropped.

Pheasants of several kinds are found to the south-east near Chittagong, but no where else. A green and gold breed are sometimes brought in cages, as presents, or for sale, from the borders of Napaul ; but I do not recollect seeing any young produced from them in Bengal. The *guana*, which resembles an overgrown lizard, destroys much game : its bite is not dangerous, but it curls its tail towards its mouth when in danger, and lashes with it in a dreadful manner : often occasioning the flesh to mortify. There is a beautiful breed of owls in the northern provinces : they appear, when on the wing, as if spangled with gold, on a fine straw-coloured ground. Bats also abound : that sort known by the name of the flying fox is the most curious ; many having bodies as big as crows, with heads and teeth in proportion. They hang in clusters during the day in recluse situations, mostly on bamboos, by means of the hooks on their wings. I have shot some that measured nearly four feet across the wings ! They do no harm ; but, on the contrary, destroy an infinity of reptiles and vermin,



## PLATE XXVII.

## SHOOTING AT THE EDGE OF A JUNGLE.

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PROBABLY few dogs are to be found better qualified for the gun than the pointers of India. The prodigious quantities of game, especially of hares, partridges, quails, and, in some places, of florikens, render it necessary for the Indian sportsman to be choice in his breed of dogs, whose staunchness is an important object where the jungles are so numerous; and into which, if game should escape, it is not easy to follow. This may cause a pointer to be somewhat sluggish, not having such fine open ranges as in the turnip fields and stubbles in this part of the world; but for the edges of heavy covers, where the game is generally found, it is an indispensable qualification. For the open field the cross-bred dog, produced from the admission of a good spaniel once in six or seven generations, though extremely difficult to break in, is certainly the most lively and most capable of enduring fatigue. For India, a dog can scarcely be of too light a frame, and should have all the dew-claws, that is to say, all but the four on each foot, cut off, when about fifteen or twenty days old; else the



hard clods and numerous stumps occasion great pain and trouble.

It is necessary to have a *dooreah*, or dog-keeper, for every brace of greyhounds taken out to course; for few, or none, are so well broke as to remain with a horseman without playing truant so much as to fatigue himself, and render his exertions, when required, of no avail. Each dog wears a leather collar, on which is fastened a ring, large enough to admit a rope of about an inch in circumference. One end of the rope is looped and passed over the *dooreah's* wrist: the other end is passed through the ring and returns to the hand, whence it is liberated when game is put up. The greyhounds are commonly kept near the horsemen, who lay them to the proper course.

The hares in India are, in many places, large and bony; affording excellent diversion. Those to the northward about *Oude*, Ferruckabad, and in Rohilcund run surprisingly well! None but very fleet dogs can equal them. Such hares as are found in Bengal and Bahar, being for the greater part bred in heavy grass jungles, and of a smaller kind, are by no means so swift. They get their food, which is extremely nourishing, with great ease, and taking but little exercise, cannot compare for foot with those produced on the extensive wastes, and which subsist on less delicate provision. The same greyhounds that may catch four or five hares within the provinces, will often find the utmost exertion requisite to bring home one from the plains of *Bareilly* or *Joosy*.



There being very few hedges, and the ditches being very insignificant throughout the upper country, coursing is easy to the horseman; who may generally at a moderate canter keep near enough to enjoy the chase, and to come in at the death. This is especially the case with foxes, which often trusting too much to their tricks, neglect urging their way to cover, but seek for ridges, and little tufts of grass or briars, among which they wind with incredible agility; protracting the fatal moment a thousand times by a multitude of involutions and vaultings, while the spectator is in continual expectation of seeing each device the last. The natives have an opinion that a fox can double nine times within the square of his own length, without checking his speed; but this is merely proverbial, and exactly tallies with the usual strain of hyperbole current among all ranks. That a fox will turn and twist through a pack of hounds, each of which makes a snap with the apparent certainty of seizure, is well known to all sportsmen: but according to the old adage "the pitcher will be broken at last." If greyhounds be not somewhat too forward, they never can pick up a hare, much less a fox, whose wiles and suppleness supply such abundant means of evasion. The reader must here understand that the Indian fox is very small; being, indeed, not much heavier than a very large jack-hare. He is long and low, of a beautiful form, his fur of a handsome reddish brown, each hair having a fine white tip; and, in contradistinction to the European fox, his muzzle and the tip of his tail are white. The fur is



nearly as thick and as soft as that of a rabbit ; if they could be procured in any quantity, they would be a valuable acquisition to the furrier.

Foxes may be seen frequently about day-break, or at sunrise, sitting in pairs, or with their young, at the entrances of their earths ; which are, for the most part, on spots rather elevated, so as to preclude the danger of being deluged. The sight of any alarming object causes the whole to vanish in a second. They are extremely snappish when young, but are not very difficult to domesticate.

Those who shoot in India will find from No. 6 to 9 patent, the best sizes for shot. The covers being thick, the game is usually sprung within a short distance ; so that even the smallest shot may, from being little dispersed, kill heavy birds. One of the best shots I ever saw, never used any other than No. 9 ; and I would venture to say his game bag, in the same number of discharges, might vie with that of any sportsman ! In shooting, much depends on a good eye, quickness of covering, and a smart lock. A person possessing these requisites with proper coolness, might be backed on all occasions, against any more precise but more dilatory sportsman. It often happens that a bird rises from the midst, or at the very border, of a heavy cover, and no time is to be lost. When the game lies among *rhur*, the diversion bears a strong resemblance to woodcock shooting ; as that kind of cover is sometimes thin and scattered. If it have a good mat of grass, &c. at the bottom, abundance of quails may generally be found.



There are various kinds of partridges ; the most common is the red bird, very similar to what is seen in England ; but they are so given to running, especially among interspersed covers and ravines, as to make the pursuit of them very fatiguing, and very precarious. They spoil young dogs, which losing their tempers, reject controul, and frequently become totally unfit for the field. Nothing but a rapid pursuit gives the sportsman a chance of success, and even then a long shot must be expected. If the bird be only winged, he is nearly as secure as ever ; for his legs will carry him fast enough to effect his escape. This kind of partridge is commonly very dry eating, except in the corn season, when the chicks are excellent.

There are two distinct kinds of partridge, both known by the name of *chuckore*. That which is the true fire-eater, for it will swallow red hot cinders, &c. is a native of Napaul, and is rarely seen wild in the Company's territories. It has a short neck, a leather-bound eye, is very plump and round in its form, and has a remarkable figure of a crescent on its breast. This crescent is of a deep brown or chocolate colour : the rest of its plumage differs little from that of the common grey bird. the other kind of *chuckore* is to be found along the banks of all the great rivers, and indeed in all low situations where the cover is high, along the whole extent south of Monghyr. I cannot describe it better than by saying that it is, in my opinion, the common grouse of Europe. It subsists chiefly on beetles, and a large flat seed produced by a species



of weed, whose capsules resemble those of the carrot. The Napaul *chuckore* will rarely thrive unless ants are in abundance.

The black partridge is most in request, both as affording the best sport, and being best for the table. These are to be found generally in short close grass, particularly on large plains supplied with water, and near cultivation. Sometimes they abound in very heavy grass jungles, such as the *surput*. They are rather larger than the common red bird, and far heavier in proportion to their difference of bulk. The hen is not unlike a cock grouse, but has a reddish band of about an inch or more in breadth round the neck, and the plumage is somewhat darker, being of a deep chocolate colour. The cock is a fine bird! His eyes are leather bound, his beak is of a bright nut colour, and his neck and breast are of a jet black, the latter, in particular, having on every feather a milk white spot about the size of a tare. The rest of the body has strong game plumage, rather darker than that of the hen bird. In some places I have observed anomalies from this description; among which I have to notice that of a deficiency of the white spots on the breast.

During the winter months quails are very numerous. They are birds of passage, begin to shew themselves as soon as the rains subside, and remain in general till about the middle of March. They are partial to short tufted grasses interspersed with low bushes; taking to the stubbles of rice grounds for food. This affords a curious change; it being



extremely common to find them in mud and puddles, sitting on small clods, or patches of straw, while on the other hand snipes may be put up in abundance from the dry covers. This, however, is confined to the large brown quail; for of the smaller kinds, such as the blue-beaks and others, many may be found in bevvies as well as single throughout the year among underwoods and heavy grasses. The blue-beaks, which are not larger than wrens, teaze dogs very much by their running and short flights. The red-breasts are rarely to be seen alone, they are nearly as large as the annual or brown quails. It is very curious that the flesh of their breasts is mostly half white and half brown; but they seldom are so fat as the annual quail, which being fed in cages, become quite a lump of marrow. In the month of March they can scarcely fly, being then in the highest state of perfection, and too rich to be eaten in any quantity. A kind of quails with dappled wings and speckled breasts is found to the northward; as is also a species, which, like the fire-eater before described, is marked on the breast with a crescent: both these sorts are small but of an excellent flavour.

Woodcocks are so extremely scarce, that most of the best and oldest sportsmen doubt whether one is to be found in India. However, two or three have to my knowledge been shot. Indeed, I am greatly mistaken if I did not one day see several brace, as I was following the course of a small spring through an extensive jungle of underwood near *Hazary Baug*. They flitted before me for at least a mile, suddenly dropping



as they got out of my reach, and taking great care to dog in such a manner through the bushes as to destroy every possibility of taking an effectual aim. It was in the month of January, when we had as sharp a frost as ever I can remember to have experienced in India. There was also a number of snipe, of which I got a few brace.

Snipes come in with the cold weather, but will not lie except during the mid-day. They abound in all low swampy covers, and are very high flavoured. The painted snipe, so called from its being, about the wings in particular, richly ornamented with beautiful, though dark colours, is about as large as a thrush, and flies as heavy as a crow. In reeds and bull-rushes standing at the edges of pools, they are often numerous. Their flesh is by no means delicate. They live chiefly on water weeds, which are found in them when killed.

The floriken is a species of the bustard, but never, I believe, grows to the size of what have been considered as a fair average in England. I think the largest I ever saw would not weigh so much as a moderate sized goose. This bird is peculiarly characterised by a pink-coloured down to every feather, and by its having only three toes to each foot. The cock is a noble bird, but its flight is very heavy and awkward; consequently when within reach, which, however, is very difficult to effect, is easily brought down. But if only a wing be broken, or, the great body of the charge be not lodged very forcibly in him, he will run off at such a rate as would baffle most spaniels. The floriken has fine game plumage, with a



short olive coloured beak, a long neck and long legs; the cock has beautiful black hackles pendant around his neck, especially near the ears; which are leather-bound. The rims of the eyes are reddish, and the tips of the wings white. There are several kinds of the floriken; but their chief variation is in the form of the head and beak. The bastard floriken is much smaller, but has all the characteristic points, except the black hackles and white wings, of the larger kind. The latter are most commonly seen single, or, at most, in pairs; whereas the bastards are often found eight or ten together. Both kinds frequent the same sort of cover: they delight in grassy plains, keeping clear, like antelopes, of heavy covers, in which however, when in danger, they are very ready to hide themselves. They are wonderfully shy; and will rather take to an open plain, where they can see and be seen a mile off, than venture where they may be taken by surprise. Their flesh is esteemed a delicacy: and their breasts are, like some kinds of quail, composed of white and brown intermixed. Such as feed on the *jow* are supposed to be bitter; but those found in the *putlayrah*, or upland bull-rushes, are generally the largest and best flavoured.

Hares are as numerous in India as in any other country, I have often started thirty or forty in a morning, and have been so successful more than once as to bring home eight or nine. I once shot eleven in the same day. It is common to put up three or four from the same patch of grass. However, there is not a wild rabbit to be seen throughout the country.



Towards the conclusion of the cold season, that is to say, about the beginning of March, the ortolans make their appearance, and assemble in such flights as can be compared to nothing better than to an immense swarm of bees. They are partial to stubbles, and new ploughed land; in the latter it is extremely difficult to distinguish them. They are most numerous in April, and May, especially if the squalls of wind and rain called north-westerns, be not frequent. Those violent gusts disperse them. In clear, hot weather, perhaps a score of large flights may be seen in various directions: they are not very difficult to approach; indeed, whole flights will sometimes settle close to persons who happen to be on a favourite or inviting spot. Though many be killed by firing at random, while the cover is on the ground, it is best to take them on the wing. Major Ducarel, whose monument opposite Daudpore House has been described, once killed more than thirteen dozen by one discharge of dust-shot at a flight that passed close to him.

Wild pigeons abound every where, but more especially to the northward. They live chiefly in banks and old buildings. The green pigeon is chiefly to be found in the *peepul* and *burghut* trees: the berries of the former, which are somewhat like small unripe figs, are their favourite food, but communicate a very bitter taste to their flesh. These birds may frequently be seen to enter a tree, in large flights, but on approaching, not one will be visible. I have often walked round and round a tree full in leaf, in which I had seen



hundreds take shelter, without being able to distinguish one ! Their colour is so similar to that of the foliage, that, added to their trick of hanging like a parrot by their legs, it requires much vigilance and steadiness to discover them. They are as large as the common tame pigeon ; of which India may be considered the head quarters. The Mussulmans rear immense numbers ; and the late Nabob Vizier Asoph ul Dowlah was so fond of them that he appropriated very large buildings and great sums of money for their maintenance. At a mud fort about ten miles from Lucknow, I saw one of his collections, amounting to at least twenty thousand pigeons, divided into flights according to their several colours : each covey was perfectly uniform. The most beautiful was a flight of white birds, with bright purple heads and necks. They were very numerous ; I doubt not but I am rather under the mark in estimating them at twelve hundred. The keepers at my request, put the whole collection on the wing, when they absolutely darkened the air. The display was far beyond my expectation ; but I should have enjoyed it more, had I not reflected that at that very moment thousands of the Nabob's subjects were dying daily for the want of that grain which was lavished in support of so useless a vanity.

In shooting, or indeed whenever there is occasion to beat a cover, not only the kind of game sought will generally be found, but probably some of every species. It is common to start deer and hares while questing for peacocks or partridges ; and on arriving at the banks of a tank or *jeel*, often one



or more wild hogs will be found wallowing or rooting for *cussaroos*, and *singharas*.

The small tree in the front ground of the Plate, which appears something like a fan, is the manner in which the palmira or toddy tree makes its first appearance. The tree in the back ground with horizontal branches and red catkins, is the *seemul*, or cotton tree. The pods contain a short-grained silky sort of floss, which is used in India for stuffing beds, &c. It is extremely soft, and very warm. The wood is uncommonly light, and is worked up for sword-scabbards, &c. but is very subject to be worm-eaten. The stem of the tree is covered with obtuse covers, ending in very sharp spines. After shedding the cotton pods, which open with the sun's heat, and disperse their contents, the tree assumes a beautiful green foliage.



## PLATE XXVIII.

## DRIVING A BEAR OUT OF SUGAR CANES.

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MANY persons have disputed the existence of bears in India, and as a foundation for their objections on a subject of which they were totally ignorant, they assert, that, owing to its heavy coat of hair, it is adapted to a cold climate only! In reply it may be expedient to remark, that a variety of birds and beasts, with little difference in their plumage or furs, are found indigenious throughout the habitable world. The crow, the sparrow, and the swallow, are met with every where; and the dog, horse, and other quadrupeds abound in both hot and cold temperatures. The objection made is plausible, and with such as do not understand the matter, or do not consider for themselves, it may appear to easy conviction. Facts, however, impose a silence on all attempts at reasoning on the point; for, to the great annoyance of the villagers, bears not only exist in India, but do much mischief to the crops, and occasionally devour many of the inhabitants.



The Bengal bear is distinguished by the deep black colour of his hair, and by a crescent of white hair, like a gorget, on his breast. The hind legs are shorter, and the paws flatter and longer than those of the European breed; his pace is more shuffling, awkward, and laboured, though quick enough to overtake a man on foot; and his hair is long, and thinly scattered over his body. He is remarkably active in climbing; frequently when not more than a month old a cub will ascend to the shoulder of his keeper with great ease, and descend again, stern foremost, with equal adroitness.

Bears are partial to trees, into which they occasionally mount for amusement, or in search of ants; of which they are very fond, and find great numbers in mango and other trees. Their principal shelter and resort is commonly under steep unfrequented banks; where they often take possession of natural cavities, or enlarge burrows made by jackals and other animals. They are of a most sanguinary disposition, and will chew and suck at a limb, till it be a perfect pulp, and both to the touch and in appearance precisely like a sausage. They do not bite away the flesh like most beasts of prey, but prefer extracting the blood and juices by suction: neither will they touch what has been killed by other animals. When surprised, or pursued closely, they assume an erect position, scratching and endeavouring to embrace their assailants. They are very impetuous in their attacks, in which they proceed open mouthed, with a sharp snarling



kind of bark; this produces an incredible effect on most animals, but more especially on horses; which are with great difficulty brought to approach them, even when in chase. The alarm is doubtlessly occasioned by the unusual and uncouth appearance of the bear, which waddles in a very ludicrous manner from side to side, very differently from the generality of quadrupeds.

Experience proves that horses are, in general, more afraid of small than of large animals; though at first view we might entertain an opinion perfectly contrary. They shew little uneasiness, in the presence of camels, which, except in the case of individuals that are perfectly vicious, may be considered as sufficiently passive. At least when we consider the tempers of most of the domesticated animals in India, we shall find that the camel is not of the most vicious disposition. Great care is necessary in approaching them; especially while loading, when they for the most part express great impatience, and growl in a very unpleasant tone: nor do they refrain from taking a bite if opportunity offers. They do not snap and let go as dogs do, but having once fairly made a seizure, retain their hold in spite of every effort to obtain a release, and will sometimes suffer themselves not simply to be beaten or burnt with firebrands on such occasions, but even to be killed without giving up the point! Of this I was once an eye-witness. Horses certainly do not approach elephants without some diffidence; but this originates with the elephant, which being uncommonly averse



from all quadrupeds, especially from one at all towards its rear, and being too greatly alarmed at the clattering of a horse's hoofs, shifts about from side to side, snorting, and evincing much uneasiness. This agitation alarms the horse, which, were the elephant to proceed in a regular manner, would rarely hesitate to bear it company in the most sociable style.

Bears are very fond of ants, for which they will dig to a great depth, tearing up their nests, and making cavities sufficient to bury themselves. The several reddish mounds exhibited in front of the Plate, represent the hills raised by those very curious insects, the white ants. They are perhaps the most destructive little animals in the whole creation. They are particularly fond of all soft woods, such as fir, mango, &c.; preferring such as, like those trees, are strongly impregnated with turpentine. They frequently have been known to eat away the bottom of a chest in the course of a night. A pleasant anecdote, for the authenticity of which, however, the reader must get some other authority to vouch, is related of a gentleman who had charge of a chest of money, which being put on the floor in a damp situation was speedily attacked by the *termites*, or white ants, which had their burrow accidentally just under the place where the treasure stood. They soon annihilated the bottom, and were not more ceremonious in respect to the bags containing the specie, which being thus set loose, fell gradually into the hollows in the ants' burrow. When the cash was called



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for, all were amazed at the wondrous powers, both as to the teeth and stomachs of the little marauders, which were supposed to have consumed the silver as well as the wood. However, after some years of consternation and amazement, the house requiring repair, the fabulist informs us that the whole amount was found some feet deep in the earth; and the termites were rescued from that obloquy, which the supposed power of feasting on precious metals had cast on their whole race!

The cunning of the white ants is truly admirable. They ordinarily work within plastering, occasionally appearing externally, and forming a shelter by means of earth, which though taken from situations apparently dry as powder, yet when worked up is perfectly moist. Whence they derive the moisture is not yet known! In this manner they often construct a kind of tunnel, or arched passage, sufficient to admit passing each other in their way up and down, with such rapidity as cannot fail to surprise. Hence they not only arrive unseen, though their ways are obvious, at any part of a house, but when, from finding such articles as they might else attack, insulated by means of frames, of which the feet are placed in vessels full of water, they have been known to ascend to the upper flooring, and thence to work downwards in filaments, like the ramifications of the roots of a tree, and thus descend to their object. In fact it is scarcely possible to prevent them from injuring whatever they take a fancy to. The only preventative I have ever



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known to be successful, has been the earth-oil, extracted from a kind of clay found near Chittagong, its smell is very offensive, and is fatal to most insects, but after a few months, it loses its properties. The white ant is about the size of a small grain of rice, has a white body, appearing like a maggot, and a very strong head, which is red, and armed with powerful forceps: it has four short legs.

When a bear finds a nest of any kind of ants, but especially white ants, he is in his glory! he tears up the whole burrow, licking up all the clusters he can get at, and lying with his tongue out to entice the little prey into his mouth. By this means he, no doubt, often obtains an ample meal; for, I think I may with propriety assert, that, frequently, a bushel of white ants may be found in the same nest.

The presence of bears in the vicinity of a village is generally pretty well known by the nature of the covers, and their having been, perhaps time out of mind, regular visitors: sometimes, however, they change their haunts, on which their neighbourhood is commonly first discovered by the ant hills, and burrows near the sides of roads, being found in a state of destruction. The sugar canes are also beaten down and destroyed, and the marks of the bear's paws are seen in the little rills of water, which serve, as described in a former Number, to convey water from the wells to the cultivation, according to the system of irrigation prevalent in India. I have before touched upon this subject, but it may be agreeable to the reader, especially as it is a part of



the Plate under consideration, to be more explicit as to the methods of drawing water.

In regard to the levers in common use, they have been sufficiently described. Another mode is equally prevalent, viz. the raising water by means of cattle proceeding down an inclined plane. For this purpose the earth, excavated in digging the well, is formed into a talus or sloping causeway, proceeding directly from the brink, and farther raised by means of an additional excavation at the lower extremity of the walk thus formed for the bullocks, which is consequently for half its length above the level of the lands, and for the other half is below it. A strong forked timber is then placed at the upper end, well fixed into the artificial mound, and projecting over the well: within the fork a solid sheave, or wooden block, rests on a wooden axis, to sustain the rope, which has one end fixed to the yoke, and the other is furnished with a few yards of chain, or green ox-hide, as better resisting the effects of constant moisture. The bag which raises the water is of good tanned leather, the size varying according to circumstances, but generally from twenty to forty gallons. Its upper part, or mouth, is kept open by an iron ring, to which the chain is fastened with a swivel. One person drives the cattle up and down the slope, and another empties the *moot*, or leather bag, when arrived above the brink, into a reservoir, usually made of clay; whence it runs off through small channels, as before described; and is directed, at pleasure, into the several small banked



beds, or compartments, into which each field is previously divided.

In general, only one or two *moots* can be worked at the same well, but at some of the large wells to be found in the upper country, lined with masonry, and frequently from fifteen to twenty feet in diameter, six or eight yokes of bullocks could be employed, provided the springs proved equal to their supply. These wells are generally the gifts of individuals, are sunk at a vast expense, and appear, from the pompous display made of the founder's titles, to be rather intended as monuments of admiration than as benefits to the country. Indeed, the good folks of India, like most others, when they erect an edifice, such as a *dhurgaw*, or a *mhut*, of which some idea may be collected from the small pavilion-like building on an eminence described in the Plate, are not sufficiently attentive to the adage of a celebrated poet;

“ Who builds a church to God, and not to fame,

“ Will ne'er pollute the marble with his name !”

Plantations of sugar cane are frequented by almost every kind of game, deer excepted, which I never knew to harbour in them. The great desiderata of meat and drink being so happily united, prove a great incitement to beasts, and as the cover is so thick and cool, birds also resort to canes as much as to grass. The bear seems to be particularly fond of such a residence, and ordinarily after a night's ramble may be distinctly traced into some extensive plantation.



When the sugar cane happens to be insulated, bruin has but an indifferent chance. However, the fears of his pursuers, and their consequent want of management, often befriend him far beyond what his forlorn situation, amidst hundreds of assailants, could entitle him to expect, and gain him a victory, where he takes but little pains to defeat. The very sight of a bear, however distant, disheartens nine in ten of the natives; who knowing the strength and savage disposition of the sable shuffler, rarely remain within the possible extent of his prowess.

Urged, however, by an assumed boldness, and spirited on by each other, or eventually called forth by the authority of the purse of Europeans, whole villages pour forth their timid inhabitants to attack the bear. Drums, trumpets, fireworks, and every kind of arms, are brought forward on the occasion. An uncommonly diverting scene is presented to the cool and disinterested observer; who should, however, take good care to select some situation where he may be as secure from the random shots of the party, as from the attack of the bear. No sooner does an animal appear, or a rustling of the canes give cause to suspect one to be about to break cover, than the firing commences. Perhaps some poor village cur, in the hurry of agitation, becomes the victim of that panic which, in lieu of oppressing the bear, occupies the heart of each assailant! I really cannot say that bear-hunting ought literally, to be classed among the diversions of the field: at least in the way that I have seen it practised. Nor can I



ever think, that, until both the natives of India and the bears undergo a complete change, in regard to the fears of the former, and the ferocity of the latter, there appears the smallest reason to believe that this branch of sporting will ever be rendered moderately safe.

In regard to the bear, as opposed to a steady corps of hunters, I estimate him as not being more formidable than a stout boar. There is certainly a difficulty in getting either horses, or dogs, to come to close quarters with him; but one well mounted, and possessing that kind of rational coolness without which even the most puny species of hunting becomes dangerous, will rarely fail to place a spear to advantage, and at all events so harass, and impede a bear's progress, as to afford the fairest opportunities for such as may be mounted on elephants, or be able to keep up on foot, to shoot with tolerable precision.

The moment when a bear may be attacked with the greatest safety, and consequent certainty, is when he is approaching very near to a cover. Eagerness to be again concealed from his pursuers, renders him heedless of all attempts to obstruct his course. His whole attention is devoted to the asylum in view; his anxiety to reach the goal even causes him to submit to the snappings and teazings of the dogs, which taking courage from his evasion, and construing his indifference into fear from their attacks, seize on his hinder parts; and, though usually in vain, endeavour to arrest his flight.



Bear's grease is in no estimation in India for any of the purposes for which Europeans in general obtain it. The natives consider it as useful in removing stiffness from the joints, but I apprehend any other unctuous substance would be equally efficacious. It is generally taken after the animal has been many hours dead, whence, in addition to its being exposed to the air without due precaution, it is commonly very offensive.

As in hog-hunting, so, in this diversion, it is common to see the ploughs, &c. at work while the covers are beating. The appearance of bruin, however, soon alters the case; both the peasant and his oxen quickly take the hint, and scour away at speed. The ploughs are of very simple contrivance: they are formed of a crooked piece of wood, of which one end serves as the handle, the other, being somewhat broader, and having a small bar sock grooved in, secured by one or two staples, turns the soil to the depth of four or five inches, in a very rude manner. The beam is a single stick inserted at the bend, and about eight feet long. The harrows, if they may be so called, are beams of about ten or twelve feet long, and perhaps six inches square: near to each end is harnessed a yoke of bullocks; the driver standing on the beam, which is thus drawn horizontally over the surface of the field. This machine serves to break a few clods, and to cover the seed, which is more effectually done in some places by bushes fastened behind the beams. In a country, however, where two and three crops of



various kinds are produced annually, almost voluntarily, the peasants do not consider themselves necessitated to pay much attention to minutiae in husbandry.

In fact, every thing in India is on the most simple construction. The houses of the natives, except in the cities where brick dwellings are to be seen, are usually built with mud or mat walls, and thatched with grass; they rarely have any upper story. The houses of Europeans are on a large scale, suited to the climate, mostly confined to two stories, and with the offices, the kitchen in particular, detached. The floors are invariably of mortar cement, laid upon strong beams. Ceilings are not in use, so that a room to a new-comer appears naked and unfinished. Such a plan is, however, essential, both on account of the white ants, and the frequent occasion to repair the roofs, which are all flat. The walls are plastered, and the windows furnished both with glazed sashes and Venetian blinds. Few houses have chimnies.



## PLATE XXIX.

## THE DEATH OF THE BEAR.

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IN the preceding Plate the bear is seen running from his pursuers ; he is now exhibited at bay, and in that erect position which he assumes when closely followed. His characteristic marks are by this means fully displayed ; they, as well as his sable coat of hair, have been already noticed ; the latter, though as long as that of the European bruin, is not half so thick. A full grown bear when standing upright may measure about five feet ; they are very broad for their length, and their strength is prodigious.

Bears are granivorous, but have a strong propensity to suck the blood of such animals as unhappily fall within their brutal gripe. When first born they are said to be mis-shaped : the natives indeed have an opinion that in their pristine state they are nothing more than clots of blood which the mother by cherishing brings to life, and forms after her own image. Perhaps were we to visit the old lady immediately after her *accouchement*, we should find the young to be as perfect as those of other animals : this, however, would be a dangerous



sort of inspection; and as few might wish to investigate the subject under such disadvantages, we must judge for ourselves, taking nature in general for our guide.

It has often been in my way to see the operations of bears, and I am confident that no animals exist more cruel, more fierce, nor more implacable than they are! Such as have suffered under their brutality, have in all instances within my knowledge, borne the proofs of having undergone the most dilatory torments. Some have had the bones macerated with little breaking of the skin; others have had the flesh sucked away into long fibrous remnants, and in one instance the most horrid brutality was displayed.

While stationed at Dacca, I went with a party several times to the great house at *Tergong*, distant about five miles from the town. I had on several occasions seen bears among the wild mango topes, and did not consider them as being so dangerous, until one day, as I was returning with a friend from hunting some hog-deer, we heard a most lamentable outcry in the cover through which we had to pass.

Having our spears, and being provided with guns, we alighted, not doubting but a leopard had attacked some poor woodcutter. We met a woman whose fears had deprived her of speech, and whose senses were just flitting. She, however, collected herself sufficiently to pronounce the word *bauloo*, which signifies a bear. She led us with caution, to a spot not more than fifty yards distant, where we found her husband extended on the ground, his hands and feet, as I



before observed, sucked and chewed into a perfect pulp, the teguments of the limbs in general drawn from under the skin, and the skull mostly laid bare; the skin of it hanging down in long strips; obviously effected by their talons. What was most wonderful was, that the unhappy man retained his senses sufficiently to describe that he had been attacked by several bears, the woman said seven, one of which had embraced him while the others clawed him about the head, and bit at his arms, and legs, seemingly in competition for the booty. We conveyed the wretched object to the house, where, in a few hours, death relieved him from a state, in which no human being could afford the smallest assistance!

While questing for game of various kinds, whether for the chase or the gun, I have repeatedly fallen in with bears; luckily without any damage to myself or attendants. On one occasion I began to feel something very like apprehension, on seeing a bear rise on his hind legs about ten yards from me. A dog was barking at him, and a gentleman who was with me, and who had never seen a bear before, was very imprudently about to shoot at him with small shot. He was with difficulty prevailed upon to desist from his rash intention; which would, if carried into execution, most certainly have been attended with unpleasant consequences; for we could not hope to escape without experiencing how vehemently bears express themselves when wounded. The same gentleman happened afterwards to see the body of the poor woodcutter at *Tergong*; when he congratulated himself on



being attentive to my solicitation: I believe it would have taken something beyond the common powers of rhetoric, to persuade him after that time to have any dealings with bears.

These merciless brutes are not always content with laying wait for such as may, by chance, deviate from the path of safety towards their haunts; they have been known to dash out from covers, both single and in numbers, to attack passengers! Nature certainly never meant so strange a form to be occupied in motions of celerity, at least it must appear that bears are not calculated to pursue. As to escaping into trees, that would be a poor evasion; for the bear climbs with astonishing ease, and seems quite at home on such occasions. The natives do not scruple to assert that when the mangos are ripe, the bears may sometimes be seen to climb into the trees, and shake them so as to cause the fruit to drop. Of this, however, I must beg leave to express my doubts; as also regarding Esop's celebrated story of the bear not being able to distinguish a dead from a living subject: at least I should be very loth to take my chance, under the circumstances detailed in the fable, with a modern Bengal bear, for whose sense of discrimination I entertain the most profound respect.

Among the many anecdotes related on the topic before us, the following, which I believe to be true, having heard it as authentic from many most respectable authorities, is perhaps as whimsical as any that could be adduced.



A gentleman who was proceeding post to Midnapore, found his *palankeen* suddenly put down, or rather dropped, without much ceremony or regard to its contents, by the bearers, who as abruptly took to their heels in various directions. On putting his head out, to ascertain the cause of so unpleasant a circumstance, the gentleman discovered a half-grown bear smelling about the machine. Bruin no sooner saw the traveller, than he boldly entered at one side, and, as the *palankeen* was of the old fashion, with an highly arched bamboo, he could not be opposed. The gentleman thought it necessary to relinquish his situation in favour of his shaggy visitor, who with as little ceremony as he had entered passed through, following the gentleman, with some very auspicious hints; such as barking and champing of the teeth. After some manœuvres on both sides, a close action commenced, in which either party at times might claim the victory.

The bearers had collected themselves on a high spot, whence they could have an excellent "bird's-eye view" of the battle; but whether from prudence, or impelled by curiosity to ascertain what would be the result of an engagement between an English gentleman and a Bengal bear, all kept aloof from the combatants. As the chances varied, so did the bearers express their approbation; applauding each as he seemed by his superiority to merit their plaudits. When the gentleman chanced to have the upper hand, they cheered him with "*sawbash saheb*," i. e. well done, master; and when the bear became lord of the ascendancy, they paid the



just tribute to his exertions with "*sawbash bauloo*," i. e. well done, Mr. Bear. Now and then an interjectory *wau ! wau !* expressive of the highest admiration, was uttered with no small emphasis, indiscriminately as it might in justice be merited by either party.

Fortunately the gentleman succeeded, and after receiving many desperate wounds throttled the bear. When the contest was over, the bearers returned, and after overwhelming their master with compliments, bore him on his journey. On their arrival at the next stage, the bearers were all taken into custody, and the magistrate, according to the laudable custom prevalent in India, where offences are punished without very nicely examining the exact spot, and hour of perpetration, bestowed on each of the critics a hearty chastisement in the market place; while the applauding croud of spectators did not fail, at each turn of the instrument, to repeat "*sawbash saheb*;" and when pain induced the culprits to writhe, in hopes to evade the whip, others would ironically exclaim, "*sawbash bauloo*."

To the best of my information the gentleman is yet living, and occasionally amuses those who, being strangers, are curious to know the cause of his countenance being so disfigured, with the recital of his close intimacy with brother bruin.

I cannot refrain from again remarking, how strange it is that persons who have resided for many years in Bengal, should doubt that bears are natives of that country; many



of the eastern and western provinces are infested with them equally as much as with tigers. To the east of the Ganges and Megna they are very numerous; and on the western frontier, *Rogonaulpore* may be considered their principal station. In marching through that country I scarcely ever missed seeing one or more daily, without deviating from the high road. Once, in particular, our camp-colour-men, who arrived some hours before the line, to mark out the ground for our new encampment, could scarcely approach a bush, lest a bear should dispute possession of the premises. Travelling in my palankeen on the new road, from Chemar to Calcutta, I was frequently stopped, and once, like the gentleman in the foregoing anecdote, was set down by my bearers, on account of bears that either crossed the way, or were seen so near the road side as to occasion much alarm. It was in the month of June, when all the pools in the country were nearly exhausted; and the greater part of the bears we discovered were either near to small streams, or appeared muddy, as though they had been wallowing in the mire from which the waters had been exhaled.

The jugglers occasionally have bears and goats as well as monkeys: the former are taught to dance, and to understand various phrases, to which they make appropriate signs of dissent or approbation, as may suit the occasion. Many are very adroit in making a *salaam*, or obeisance, and shew more docility than one would suppose such an heavy animal could possess. Amidst all their acquiescence to the master's will,



however, they often betray their natural disposition, and resist every attempt to bring them to subordination.

Their tutors sometimes wrestle with them, but this is a mere piece of mummary, and ill supports the pretended difficulty which a man has in overcoming a bear. The poor jaded animal is far different from one in a wild state; which instead of being harassed throughout the day, and being allowed a bare subsistence, is in the height of vigour, and would speedily make the merry displayer of bruin's antics know the difference! Monkeys, which have been before spoken of, necessarily form a part of the juggler's retinue. These, dressed in various apparel, for once or twice are highly amusing; and perform a variety of tricks, which must have cost both man and master infinite pains to bring to such perfection.

The goat on which the monkey generally rides, though now and then he skips over to the bear, plays his part in the pantomime. The juggler has with him several pieces of wood about the size and form of a common hour-glass. One of these being placed on its end, the goat ascends, and contracts all his four feet so as to stand on its top, which is barely of a size to receive them. This being done, the man brings another block, and gradually introduces it over the edge of the first, and causes the goat to shift to it, one foot after another, until by this means he rests all his four feet entirely on the second block, which now stands perpendicular over the first. In this manner the whole number of blocks, amounting to perhaps eight or nine, are in their turn introduced, till at



length the goat is raised as high as the operator can reach so as to give due assistance; when the blocks are withdrawn, one after another, and the goat is by degrees brought back to the ground. The care and sense of the difficulty displayed by the goat are truly interesting.

The feet of bears, which are very tough and callous, appear to be perfectly calculated for the soil of those parts in which they are mostly to be seen. The boundaries of Bengal, both to the east and west, where bears are most numerous, are mountainous, very rocky, and over-run with low underwood. In such places, unless the feet were extremely hard, the soles would soon be injured; especially as bears are extremely partial to craggy situations, and are fond of climbing among the rugged stones which every where cover the sides of the hills; often indeed the violent north-westers, or squalls, precipitate immense masses, which, being separated by some convulsion of nature from the main substances, and being undermined by a long course of time, when rains have washed away the soil which supported them, they roll down with an awful crash, and sometimes are hurried by their impetus far into the plains.

The figure seen in the annexed Plate, about to fire at the bear, is a seapoy in his undress, that is to say, without his coat and accoutrements. The dress of the native soldiery is light and convenient; extremely well calculated for a hot climate, and allows the free use of the limbs. The head dress is certainly somewhat exceptionable: it consists of a



turban of about eighteen yards in length, and half a yard broad, made of blue linen, wound round on a block, similar to a barber's, and firmly cemented together by means of a very strong infusion of lint-seed in water. When dry, it is japanned with copal, and shines considerably. There is little or no rim to these military turbans; their form is nearly flat, and does not embrace the head sufficiently; rendering it necessary to have a band or tape, from one side to the other, which, passing under the back of the skull, keeps this ill-contrived, heavy article of dress in its place. In the front is a triangular piece of wood, of about five inches by three, grooved and painted blue; the sides are mounted with solid silver, and a neat device, distinguishing the regiment, is placed in the centre. This ornament is called a coxcomb.

The jackets are of English aurora, and are neatly made; the lappels are stitched down, and the skirts fly off very much, as is certainly proper in so hot a climate. The buttons are cast with the number of the regiment. The waistcoat is of stout calico, white, with a very narrow blue cord round its edges: the breeches are a kind of very short drawers, reaching not more than mid-thigh, and vandyked at the bottom with blue between two narrow cords of the same colour. The *cummerband* is made of leather covered with blue cloth, with a cross of white linen in front. This part of the dress, which is purely oriental, and was formerly made of a long piece of cloth similar to the turban, is intended as a support to the loins; and certainly may be useful in that respect. I doubt, however, whe-



ther the manner in which they are laced up, added to their being in general too substantial and broad, be not productive of bad effects; and it may not be improper to notice, that the casting off so warm a vesture, as many are apt to do in a state of fatigue and impatience, has, in my opinion, often induced bowel complaints, which have perhaps been attributed to less probable causes.

The legs are left naked, except in some corps, which wear tight pantaloons. The shoes are very thick and heavy, and require no buckles. Throughout the Honourable Company's service the belts of every description, as well as the pouches, are of black leather, which being well cleaned, have a neat, and by no means so dull an appearance as would be expected. The native officers are cloathed by the Honourable Company, and their coats are ornamented with thread, silk, or gold and silver lace, in proportion to their respective ranks.



## PLATE XXX.

HUNTING A KUTTAUSS, OR CIVET.

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THE *kuttauss* is but little known to Europeans, although, under the designation of the *civet*, such profuse encomiums are lavished on its alleged perfumes. The fact is, that, like many other scents which may be too strong to please, the *kuttauss* is really offensive, and absolutely sickens both man and beast. It has a rank smell, somewhat like musk, and so powerful as to occasion such dogs as mouth it, to vomit. However, a faint specimen of it is by no means disagreeable.

This animal is perhaps the most obnoxious of all the wild tribes known in India. It is seldom, if ever, seen on a plain, except at night; when it leaves its haunt in quest of prey. The *kuttauss* is remarkably bold, sparing nothing which it can overcome, and frequently killing, as it were, merely for sport. Its principal devastations are among sheep and swine, from which it purloins the young, and commits dreadful havoc among poultry. To the rapacity of the wolf it joins the agility of the cat, and the cunning of the fox. Its figure is a strange compound of the fox and pole-cat; its head being



long and sharp with pricked ears, its body low and long, and its tail rather long, but not very bushy. Its claws are concealed at pleasure. The colour of its body is a dirty ash colour, somewhat striped with a darker shade, and its tail has many rather indistinct circles, of the same tint.

This obnoxious animal is generally found in short under-wood covers, mixed more or less with long grass, and especially where palmyra, or cocoa trees are to be seen. Although it is sometimes met with in various detached jungles, yet, for the most part, its residence is confined to such as border old tanks, or jeels. These banks being formed by the excavation, are often very high and broad; with time they settle and become flatter, and are generally over-run with very strong brambles, through which even an elephant could not make his way without extreme difficulty. Of such covers the *kuttauss* is a regular inhabitant; seldom stirring in the day, during which time he appears to hide himself in the most opake recesses.

Such is the caution with which the *kuttauss* acts by night, that his depredations are ordinarily attributed to jackals, &c. Being from his size, which is equal to that of a full grown English fox, able to bear away a substantial booty, he is also capable of making a powerful resistance; and being familiar to trees, into which he can ascend with facility, it is not a very easy thing to overcome him.

His bite is very sharp; and such is the strength of his jaw, that sometimes he is found to snap the legs of such dogs as



incautiously subject their limbs to his powers. Like the camel, he has a very uncouth trick of keeping a fast hold, though worried by a dozen of sturdy dogs, all tugging at various parts. This we may presume operates much in his favour when seizing a prey. Jackals and foxes, and even wolves, when closely pursued, especially if hit with a stick or a stone, frequently drop what they have seized, and content themselves with an escape. The *kuttauss* is so very secret in his operations, that, were not the bones of his victims found in his haunts, one might almost doubt whether he were carnivorous.

Hounds are wondrously incited by the scent of a *kuttauss*; it seems to derange them; they defy all control, and often disregarding the voice of the hunter, as well as the sickness occasioned by the nauseous stench of the animal, remain in the cover, barking and baying, until a sharp bite sends them off howling; after which they shew great aversion from a fresh attack. If a jackal, or other hunted animal cross near the haunt of a *kuttauss*, he rarely fails to make his escape. The dogs all quit the chase and surround the stinking animal. Whether they be successful in killing, or not, it matters little; for their scent is completely overcome for that day, and the hunter may assure himself that unless a jackal may take to a plain, and be run in open view, no chance exists of killing him. Indeed, after having worried a *kuttauss*, dogs treat all other game with perfect indifference.

Hence it is an object with those who hunt with hounds,



which, however, are very scarce, there not being more than four or five packs in all Bengal, to avoid the banks of tanks, and rather to forego the abundance of game to be found there, than to risk the failure of their morning's diversion. Polecats, which affect hounds in the same manner, though not by any means so forcibly, are usually met with in the same situations. They are large and savage, and are started in sugar canes, maize, &c. where they kill great quantities of vermin; not confining themselves to rats, mice, and birds, but attacking large snakes, generally with success; seizing them by the back of the neck, and shaking them violently.

It is a curious fact that jackals, foxes, and *kuttausses*, are most numerous near to the villages inhabited by Mussulmans. This probably is to be attributed to their rearing poultry, which the Hindoos never do. Although fowls are very cheap throughout India, being generally from twopence to fourpence each, yet one may travel a whole day through a populous country without being able to obtain either an egg or a chicken! The Hindoo religion proscribes them as being unclean; whence a native of that persuasion will not even touch one! It is from the Mussulmans only that poultry can be obtained; though they are occasionally reared by the lower casts, or sects, who are considered as perfect outcasts, and are only tolerated on account of the convenience they afford by occupying the most menial offices, or by following the lowest occupations. The degenerate Portugeze, who abound in many parts of India, who, generally speaking, may



be deemed as the most despicable of the human race, and who retain all the pride, without the valour of their illustrious ancestors, deal extensively in all kinds of poultry. These sable gentry are for the most part of the lowest classes, and supply the regiments with drummers and fifers; in which capacity many serve with credit. Indeed there are in Calcutta and in other parts of India, but especially on the west coast, numbers of opulent and highly respectable individuals, who engage in trade both inland and by sea to a very great extent. Their credit is extensive; and I have remarked, that although with few exceptions they are not classed upon a fair equality with the British merchants in that quarter, yet that fewer, in proportion to their numbers, fail; and that in hospitality, loyalty, and liberality, especially in public and private contributions, they at least equal our own countrymen!

In the back ground of the Plate attached to this Number is exhibited a large tree, called the *burghut*. It has before been noticed in the description given of the second Plate, where a distant view of it may be seen. The *burghut*, generally known among Europeans by the name of the *banian* tree, grows to an immense size; being often known to measure from twenty-five to thirty feet in girth. It is distinguished from every other tree hitherto known, by the very peculiar circumstance of its throwing out roots from all its branches. These being pendant, and perfectly lax, in time reach the ground, which they penetrate, and ultimately become substantial props to the very massy horizontal boughs, which,



but for such a support, must either be stopped in their growth, or give way, from their own weight. Many of these *quondam* roots, changing their outward appearance from a brown rough rind to a regular bark, not unlike that of the beech, increase to a great diameter. They may be often seen from four to five feet in circumference, and in a true perpendicular line. When they are numerous, as sometimes happens, an observer, ignorant of their nature and origin, might think them artificial, and that they had been placed for the purpose of sustaining the boughs from which they originated.

I am almost afraid to state what I have seen on this subject; and I fear that I shall be considered as having made a trip to Abyssinia, when I inform the reader that there was, some years since, a *banian* tree growing not far from *Nuddeap*, which, probably aided by art, had spread nearly round a tank, of about two thirds of an acre in size, so that the branches diverging to the right, nearly met those proceeding from the left. Many will perhaps avail themselves of the assertion I offer, that, "if I had not seen I should not have believed it." This wonderful tree was supported by its radial columns in a most extraordinary manner, and probably would have long since become an object of that spirited research which has of late years prevailed in India, were it not, that in consequence of an ox having been killed under it by some European, the spot had been considered as defiled, and the tree, during the paroxysm of fanatical zeal, destroyed, which



caused the *faukeer*, who resided under its extensive shades, to level it to the ground !

We may safely consider the *burghut* as an unique in nature ; for we may, I believe, search in vain for its parallel. We know of no production in the vegetable world, which thus searches for support ; and, which, inverting its order of circulation, procures sap from that limb, which was originally produced and fed by one of its branches. These roots proceed from all the branches indiscriminately, whether near or far removed from the ground. They appear like new swabs, such as are in use on board ships : however few reach sufficiently low to take a hold of the soil, except those of the lower branches. I have seen some do so from a great height ; but they were thin, and did not promise well. Many of the ramifications pendant from the higher boughs are seen to twine round the lower branches ; but without any obvious effect on either. Possibly, however, they may derive sustenance, or support, even from that partial mode of communication.

The height of a full grown *burghut* may be from sixty to seventy feet ; and many of them, I am fully confident, cover at least two acres. Their leaves are similar to, but rather larger than those of the laurel. The wood of the trunk is used only for fuel : it is light and brittle ; but the pillars formed by the roots are valuable, being extremely elastic and light, working with ease, and possessing great toughness : it resembles a good kind of ash. Hence it is found to answer



well for tent poles, and such articles as are usually made of that wood.

The heat of the climate renders it expedient to have great numbers of wells and tanks, all of which are the work of individuals, who frequently lay out large sums in this way, though in very few instances any claim rests as to their being private property. Few are enclosed, but being formed in the most frequented situations, are intended for the public use. Some of these tanks are of very great extent, often covering eight or ten acres, and besides having steps of masonry perhaps fifty or sixty feet in breadth, are faced with brick work, plastered in the most substantial manner. The corners are generally ornamented in the round or polygon pavilions, of a neat appearance. The great misfortune attendant upon all matters of this kind, throughout India, is, that each founder of a building or institution pays but little attention to its success or stability, never repairing any thing done by his predecessor, be he who he may; looking more to the commemoration of his own name invariably attached as a designation to his ostentatious work, and jealous of every slight offered to that which may go to ruin before he will replace a brick, or disburse another cowrie towards its decent appearance.

These works are nevertheless of considerable utility: they follow each other rapidly, and thus the country has become amply stocked with water, partaking of which the way-worn traveller occasionally offers a fervent ejaculation in praise of him who, in all probability, never thought of gratifying any



thing but his own pride. Let us not, however, depreciate too much those ambitious measures, which produce such acceptable effects. In our own country we have to regret that immense sums are lavished on the most insignificant occasions, in lieu of being applied towards the many important and substantial benefits for the industrious portion of mankind, among whom, instead of an execrated name, the most heartfelt gratitude and praises of a benefactor might be heard.

Though in a subsequent number the alligator will be spoken of more particularly, it may in this place be proper to remark that, although these tanks may be far inland, and far removed from other waters, they are occasionally found to contain this animal. These creatures sometimes announce themselves suddenly by seizing a person bathing; but as they, fortunately, are amphibious, and cannot exist without often inhaling the air, it rarely happens but that some discovery is made. It is wonderful, that, often in spite of such daily depredation, the Hindoos cannot easily be deterred from performing their diurnal ablutions, even at the fatal spot.

When an alligator is known to be in any water, numbers of people may be seen awaiting with the intent to shoot him. They often succeed; but the most certain mode is to catch him by means of a hook. A large bait, such as a bullock's liver, &c. being secured on a proper hook, is left hanging in the water just over the edge of a large board or timber to which the chain is made fast. This being urged into the deep water, usually attracts the ravenous animal, which may



sometimes be seen for a whole day agitating the waters in a most violent manner, in the vain attempt to obtain a release from the unexpected detention. The distress he suffers from the floating appendage is inconceivable! He flounders about, striking at it with his tail, and drags it to the shore, moaning vehemently and chattering his teeth so as to be heard at a distance, occasionally pawing with his fore legs. I saw one taken in this manner at a tank near *Barraset*; he was about seven feet long, and of the *koomeer*, or bull-headed species. A *shecarry* shot him as he lay panting, half out of water. The alligator had struggled very hard, and was near escaping; he had succeeded so far as to leave the hook but little bent, and would infallibly have got away had not the point passed under the jaw bone, where the barb held him fast. Small as this animal was, it had several ornaments, such as are worn by the children of the natives, together with a brass dog-collar in its maw.

When tanks happen to be situate near to very marshy plains, and are not much frequented by travellers, &c. good shooting may always be expected: hares, partridges, and other game may always be found on their banks, while in the proper season their surfaces will generally be well covered with water-fowl. Hogs and hog deer frequently make such places their abode.

Every matter relating to dogs may be seen treated of in the account of Plate XXXVIII. which is allotted exclusively to that subject. At present it may suffice to observe, that a pair



of stout greyhounds often are found too strong for a *dooreah*, who to age, or natural weakness, often adds the infirmities incident to such as partake too copiously of arrack, mowah, or *ganjah*. Hence it is extremely common to see, as represented in this Plate, many a dog-keeper pulled flat on his face by his eager charge; which, rather than be dragged on the hard soil, he mostly finds proper to liberate.

The tree in the front ground is a *kudjoor*, or date tree; its leaves are more pointed than those of the cocoa, and stand more at right angles with the center ribs of the branches; which are not so long as those of that tree. Its bark is rougher and more graduated in horizontal strata, not very unlike the scales of an alligator. The fruit hangs in bunches close under the head, where the leaves diverge from it. The internal part of the crown is, when boiled, tolerably good; not unlike a cabbage in flavour.

The quantity of matter which crowded on the discussion of Plate XXVI. precluded noticing at that time the curious nests made by a kind of very small birds, similar to wrens; which being composed of very short grass, and lined with wool and feathers are affixed most artfully by the little inhabitants under the branches of the cocoa and *kudjoor*. Their entrances are at the bottom, which the birds can close at pleasure by means of those materials within the nests, obviously collected for that purpose. Exclusive of being sheltered sufficiently from the sun and rain, such situations are secure from the visits of snakes, which are often to be found in trees of this kind, but



are unable to make their way down the branches ; the leaves not only being slippery, and difficult to compress so as to afford a sufficient hold, but their edges, which are sharp, and rough, causing considerable uneasiness. It is pleasant to see hundreds of little birds issuing from these nests, which are about the size and shape of the largest pear.



## PLATE XXXI.

## JACKALS RESCUING A HUNTED BROTHER.

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ALL European dogs degenerate extremely in India. Hounds, after the third or fourth generation, lose their characteristic qualifications, and for the most part become arrant curs. This may be considered as a general rule from which, however, some few exceptions have been found; whence some persons are led to believe the defect arises from want of due precaution. Such has perhaps been partially the case, but the majority of sportsmen are perfectly sensible, that, even when the utmost caution had been used to select such parents as were not only good in themselves, but of the best blood, the degeneracy proved as inveterate as under the most heedless management.

The hounds received from England are sure and eager, but the climate soon destroys them. For this reason they are mostly purchased to breed from, and are kept from the field for the first season; after which, the original intention being fulfilled, and the dogs themselves better seasoned, they are blended with the pack, where they rarely fail to distinguish



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themselves. Not but what at times a gentleman has been very much imposed upon by purchasing an imported pack consisting of half-bred or babbling dogs.

It is surprising to see what a mortality is often prevalent among European-born hounds. The chases are in general very short, rarely exceeding seven or eight miles, and being often at a fault or crossed by other game, the burst is never so animated as in this climate, where the scent lies so well, and where game is by no means so abundant. If a jackal can get a good heading, and find a cover, which is generally very easy for him to do, he may stand it out for two or three hours, and after all, probably be killed in some jungle, where the horsemen cannot follow, and thus render the sport dull and insipid. From this it will be seen that the mortality is not to be imputed to excess of fatigue; especially as, on account of the scent breaking up shortly after the sun's appearance, the dogs are seldom out more than three hours in a day; while at the same time they are rarely hunted more than twice or thrice in a week.

On the other hand the remarkable cunning of the jackal proves very obnoxious. He will so harass the hounds, by incessantly crossing the haunts of his brethren, that the pack is frequently broken into four or five divisions, each following a separate course. This, as the packs are in general very weak as to numbers, proves very destructive, especially if such dogs as follow any one of the various chases be not matched as to speed. The necessity for tying up dogs in their ken-



nels is a considerable advantage to their wind. They are besides fed too indiscriminately, and if not closely watched, have too much food given them at a time. The *dooreahs*, or dog keepers, think it sufficient if they furnish to each dog his daily allowance, at once, disregarding all but how to save themselves trouble. They are in this instance like the man who, on receiving a box of pills, was told, that when he had taken them all he would be well; in consequence of which he speedily swallowed all the contents of the box, and Death cured him of every ailment!

The great expense attendant on the original purchase, and on the keeping of a regular supply for renovation, added to the consequent trouble and vexation, and the chance of a gentleman being removed to some other station, after having, perhaps at a great charge, completed his kennels, &c. as well as the very great losses occasioned by the severity of the climate, all operate as insuperable obstacles to the keeping of hounds with any pleasure or effect; and, as I before remarked, is the cause why so few hounds are kept in India.

In questing for jackals, it is very common to come upon hogs and other game: in a former Number an incident has been recorded when a tiger was roused and hunted by a pack. Such circumstances, however, are by no means desirable; for they often in a few hours do as much mischief as a sickly season. Perhaps the danger, added to the facility with which the diversion of hog and deer hunting may at all times be followed, should be considered as being equally severe



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drawbacks on jackal hunting as all the foregoing objections put together.

The surest and most pleasant method of coursing jackals, for which strong greyhounds should be particularly selected, is to entice them into a large trap made of an old wine chest, or some such thing, when being removed to an open plain, where the chase can be distinctly viewed, the trap is opened, and on the jackal bolting, two or more dogs, as may be judged necessary, are slipped after him. I have more than once seen a brace of jackals taken at the same time. And it frequently happens, that though at first only one jackal may be observed to break from cover, yet when the dogs have followed him, several others also make their appearance. For the most part, on seeing a horseman they will trot off, leaving the fugitive to his fate; though it is not uncommon to find them stand at a distance, looking at the chase. If, however, they be in numbers, the dogs must be well supported; it having several times happened that the pursuers have been pursued, and compelled to maintain a very sharp contest, in which the jackals have more than once gained the day. A jackal generally pushes for a cover; not always towards the nearest, but where he knows his friends are to be found. If he be so fortunate as to reach it, the greyhounds may be suddenly surprised by an attack, commenced with the utmost fierceness, and maintained with the most obstinate perseverance. The following instance, which occurred within my own knowledge, may give a correct idea on this subject.



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A gentleman who had a brace of very fine greyhounds, one of them remarkably large and stout, the other of a fair stature, but strong and of known courage, slipped them after a jackal which made across a bog to a rising ground covered with grass, and a few small bushes. The jackal and greyhounds passed over the treacherous slough, which bore a fine verdure, without the least difficulty; but by the time his horse had got a few paces into the mud, he was fairly fixed. While in this situation, he had the mortification to see several jackals pour forth from the cover, being called by the significant tones of their brother in distress; these instantly attacked the greyhounds, which for a long time defended themselves with incredible effect; but they certainly would have been destroyed by their too numerous opponents, had not another gentleman rode round the end of the bog; when, being joined by the dooreahs, as also by some small dogs, and ultimately by him who had been quagged, and had dismounted, they succeeded in rescuing the long dogs from the fury of the jackals. It was really a grievous sight. The smallest, which was a bitch, was so dreadfully mauled in the hind quarters, as to be unable to walk; and was carried home on a bedstead, with little probability of surviving. The dog's ears were nearly torn off, and he was so roughly handled that the blood came oozing out of his sides and limbs exactly as though he had been fired at with buck shot. With great care they both recovered, though it was a long time before they were able to return to the field. However, they frequently afterwards



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repaid with interest to such unfortunate *Johnnies* as came within their power, the drubbing they had received !

The foregoing is sufficient to establish the fact that jackals will unite to repel an attack on an individual ; but a circumstance still stronger may be adduced. Mr. Kinlock, who was well known as an excellent sportsman, and who when at Midnapore kept a famous pack of hounds; having one morning chased a jackal, which entered a thick jungle, found himself under the necessity of calling off his dogs in consequence of an immense herd of jackals which had suddenly collected on hearing the cries of their brother, which the hounds were worrying. They were so numerous that not only the dogs were defeated, but the jackals absolutely rushed out of the cover in pursuit of them; and when Mr. Kinlock and his party rode up to whip them off, their horses were bit, and it was not without difficulty a retreat was effected ! The pack was found to have suffered so severely as not to be able to take the field for many weeks.

Jackals are extremely troublesome: they possess such a steady adherence to their purpose as seldom fails in the end to overcome the small portion of care and vigilance usually to be found among servants. They will attend from dusk to daylight, patrolling near their object, and though repelled by stones, or perhaps by a gun, will persevere, in hopes to reap the harvest due to their patience. The Indian fox subsists chiefly on small birds, rats, &c. confining himself generally to the covers, and rarely approaching villages; he will snap up



such poultry, &c. as stray; but the jackal will wait at your door; nay, will enter your house, and avail himself of the smallest opening for enterprize. He will rob your roost, and steal kids, lambs, pigs, and sometimes even take a pup from its sleepy mother. He will strip a larder, or pick the bones of a carcase: all with equal avidity. It is curious to see them fighting almost within reach of your stick, for proximity to expected booty! It may readily be supposed that when any meat or poultry is purloined by servants, the jackal bears the blame. An officer of our battalion in one night lost twenty-seven fowls from the hut in which they were kept; on which one of his servants did not hesitate to declare that, on hearing their uproar during the night, he had run to see what was the matter, and saw twenty-seven jackals, each bearing away his bird!

Their howling at night is extremely unpleasant. They stand at your very door, barking and uttering a very melancholy note. They are, however, very innocent if unmolested, but care must be taken not to leave any sort of viands in their way, lest they should scent them out, as they infallibly would do. An excellent story is told by many of the *kahanah-wollahs*, or reciters, a profession which has abundance of followers in India. These people deliver their fabulous ware in a most animated, pleasing, and natural style; such as evinces a complete knowledge of the subject which is detailed entirely from memory.

“A certain Prince possessed an ample territory, abound-



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“ ing with the choicest productions of nature. His attention  
“ was devoted to the welfare and happiness of his subjects,  
“ who under the benign influence of his mild and fostering  
“ government were prosperous and contented. The Prince  
“ was so fortunate as to give the utmost satisfaction to his  
“ people, and certainly was entitled to that repose which his  
“ virtues merited. But, alas ! he never could get a good  
“ night's rest ! What could be the cause ? He felt no remorse  
“ from any perpetrated crime. His seraglio abounded with  
“ the most beautiful women, all adoring their royal lover !  
“ He was at peace with all the world ! His revenues flowed  
“ as it were spontaneously ! He was not afflicted with  
“ disease ! Yet sleep disdained to attend to his earnest solici-  
“ tations !

“ Now this resulted entirely from the barking of those  
“ abominable, polluted vermin, the jackals ; which, by their  
“ incessant clamours, kept the royal brain in a perpetual  
“ state of agitation. Conjurers were employed to charm the  
“ noisy roll to silence, but in vain. Many proposed to  
“ destroy them, but to this the beneficent sovereign, whose  
“ heart had nearly burst at the very suggestion, would never  
“ assent. At length the Vizier, prime-minister, suggested to  
“ his Majesty that doubtless hunger occasioned their vocifer-  
“ ation. The Prince acquiesced, and gave immediate orders  
“ to the provident suggestor to draw a lack of rupees from  
“ the treasury, in order that abundance of food might be in  
“ readiness every evening to satisfy their appetites. The



“ money was accordingly delivered to the minister, and the  
 “ Prince comforted himself not only with the reflection of  
 “ making so many animals happy, but with the hope of  
 “ enjoying, for the first time, a good night's rest. Poor man!  
 “ he was grievously disappointed! The jackals, allured by  
 “ some small provision served out on the occasion, to save  
 “ appearances, flocked from all quarters. They made more  
 “ noise than ever! In the morning betimes, the minister was  
 “ summoned, and on being interrogated, stated that an im-  
 “ mense quantity of proper food had been dispersed. What  
 “ then, asked the Prince, can occasion the continuance of  
 “ their cries? Doubtless, answered the Vizier, it is the change  
 “ of weather, which is becoming colder, and affects them  
 “ severely; and your Majesty knows they have no clothing.  
 “ The Prince, full of humanity, immediately ordered another  
 “ lack of rupees to be dispersed in clothing the jackals;  
 “ which, however, resumed their usual howlings, and ren-  
 “ dered the poor Prince completely unhappy. The Vizier  
 “ was again summoned, when his Majesty being satisfied that  
 “ all had been done agreeable to his orders, pathetically  
 “ inquired, what farther cause could exist for the jackals  
 “ continuing the nuisance. The Vizier comforted his Majesty  
 “ with assurances that the serenade of the last night was  
 “ occasioned entirely by that warm effusion of gratitude  
 “ which both men and beasts could not refrain from giving  
 “ vent to for the benefits they received at his Majesty's  
 “ hands!”



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This little sarcastic fable may serve to shew that nothing will stop a jackal's mouth. Custom, however, soon familiarises us to their howlings, sufficiently to make us forget, or at least not to mind them, any more than the inhabitants near St. Paul's do the striking of that sonorous bell, which almost deafens one not habituated to its sound.

Many publications assert that the jackal is the lion's provider, and that the noble patron will not injure his purveyor. If a judgment may be formed from the very respectable distance at which jackals keep from tigers, we may suspect the truth of such an hypothesis. A variety of circumstances, among which the obvious danger is most prominent, necessarily debar the possibility of minutely investigating the subject. Many who hear the *pheaul*, which is but the jackal bitch, at particular seasons calling the male, contend that at that moment the jackal is summoning the tiger to a prey. Their strong scent at such times assuredly allures the tiger, and causes many of their supposed providers to become the meal in question. This has been witnessed, but had it not, the solution would be far more probable than that one animal should quest for another. As to lions, there are none in Hindostan. The only one ever seen in that country was that sent from Ghod in 1781, as a present to Mr. Hastings, then Governor General of India. It was considered as an unique, and had been brought from the north of Persia, where lions are said to abound.

I have before observed, that foxes are very numerous



throughout India, and that they in general have their earths on rising grounds, to prevent being inundated. They are remarkably small, and may be opened in an hour by any common labourer. The foxes are very cunning, at least as much so as their brethren in Europe. I have several times known them, when pushed hard by greyhounds, to conceal themselves in rice-fields, or among bull-rushes, &c. with only their noses peeping out of the water. On such occasions, unless there be some questing dog at hand, reynard will often escape unnoticed.

Both jackals and foxes sham dead to admiration. After having been almost pulled to pieces by dogs, and left to all appearance lifeless, they sometimes gradually cock their ears, then look askance at the retiring enemy, and, when they think themselves unobserved, steal under a bank, &c. and thus skulk along till they find themselves safe; when setting off at a trot or a canter, they make the best of their way to some place of security. Many a *Johnny* have I watched during his artifices, and seen him recover, in a most surprising manner, without the aid of Fierabras' celebrated balsam. The bites of foxes and jackals are very severe, and produce very bad sores; as I have observed generally to result from the teeth of such animals as feed on carrion.

In the back ground a *rhunt*, or carriage, drawn by two oxen, is exhibited. These are usually kept by the natives, both for their own travelling, and for their families to take the air in; if riding with all the curtains closed can so be called.



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The *rhunt* has four wheels, the *hackery* has but two. Both these are for the conveyance of passengers; but the *chuckrah* having no body, is intended for the transportation of merchandize, &c. The bullocks are driven by a man who sits on a broad collection of laths covered with green hide, which serve for a pole. The price varies much: a common pair of oxen may be had for about fifty rupees, fully equal to the purpose. But a large breed, originally from Guzzerat, which sometimes grow to the height of sixteen hands, will cost from three to five hundred rupees, according to their age, form, and the evenness of their colour, which is generally a fine white. They are mostly disfigured, by having their legs, &c. stained with the mindy, and their horns painted.



## PLATE XXXII.

### CHASE AFTER A WOLF, WHEN CARRYING OFF A LAMB.

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ALTHOUGH the neighbourhood of tigers necessarily creates considerable anxiety, yet it is very far short of the uneasiness produced by the incursions of wolves. These animals conceal themselves during the day in burrows formed among deep ravines, where it is not easy even to seek, much less to follow them. They do not prowl, at least they do not commence their depredations until the night begins to close in. However, they may often be seen about dusk stealing from their haunts towards villages. They are very partial to such ruins as are situated near ravines, and are surrounded, or perhaps grown up with grass and underwood.

When wolves venture abroad in the day, it is generally among flocks of sheep, or goats; whence they will occasionally seize a lamb or kid, or perhaps a larger prey, and drag it away at a smart pace towards the nearest cover. Sometimes they throw their booty over their shoulders, so as to raise it off the ground; holding fast with their mouths, by the



throat, and in such case galloping off fast enough to escape all foot followers, and indeed most dogs; which, though they may possess speed enough to overtake the wolf, are, nine times in ten, contented with barking; and, taking the hint from the wolf's growling, which intimates his being by no means disposed to relinquish his prize, generally remain satisfied with a distant view of his teeth, and do not put themselves in the way to feel their power.

In riding over *Joocy* plain, near *Cawnpore*, I was once called to by a shepherd who pointed to a wolf that had just quitted his flock, and was bearing away a large lamb. The poor fellow was in great distress, and said he should have to pay for it, unless the carcass were recovered to shew to his master. I had no spear, but under the hope of forcing the wolf to abandon his prey, I galloped after him. The result was not, however, so very favourable as I expected. On my arrival near the plunderer, I perceived him to bristle up; and it seemed that he was determined to dispute the matter to extremity. However I pushed on, when to my surprise, he dropped the lamb, and, after giving me one or two very uncomfortable grins, was proceeding in the most formidable style to attack my horse. I judged it prudent to retire, when the gentleman trotted back to his prey, and placing his fore feet on the body applied his teeth with such effect to the stomach, that in less than half a minute he pulled out the entrails, of which he made but few bites; not forgetting, however, to warn me now and then by a look, and growl



most expressively, not to disturb him any more. Having thus lightened the burthen, he again took up the lamb by the throat, and throwing it over his shoulders, resumed his journey. I crossed his way several times without the least effect, any more than occasioning him to deviate a mere trifle from a straight line, and had the mortification to see him gain a cover, in which he no doubt speedily finished what he had so successfully begun.

On the occasion just mentioned, the dogs belonging to the shepherds joined in the chase, but the only effect they produced was, an entire conviction in my own mind that the wolf might have taken away, not only the flock of sheep, but their masters also, without any danger of being arrested in his proceedings by the pack of pariahs! As to the shepherds themselves, they were too old and decrepit to have been of the least service. One or two of the more youthful affected to join the chase, but whether, judging from former circumstances of inutility of exertion, or that the display made by the wolf, of a most terrific set of teeth, disheartened them, might be difficult to decide; certain it is, however, that the shepherds did not shew much inclination to become active sharers of the danger; but resting on their latties, remained calm spectators of my defeat.

When a wolf enters a camp or village, he proceeds with the utmost silence and circumspection. His favourite object is a child at the breast; which, when opportunity serves, he seizes by the throat, thereby not only preventing it from



giving the alarm by its cries, but taking a hold such as enables him to bear away his prize without impeding his progress. He will thus carry it through crowds who, at the first notice, rush from all quarters to intercept him in his flight. Often when closely pursued, especially if hit by a stick or stone, he will drop the child; but if it be not taken away immediately, the ferocious brute will sometimes make a turn to the spot and snap it up again. Few children survive the bite; though I have seen several grown persons, who carried the marks of the wolves' teeth.

Troops in general move with an host of camp-followers; many of them having families. Numbers of young children, especially such as, being at the breast, cannot be sent by water, necessarily accompany. In many parts of the country, especially in the dominions of the Nabob Vizier of Oude, all are kept in a perpetual state of alarm. When a wolf is seen by the centries, who dare not fire among such crowds, a general shout and pursuit immediately takes place. Yet it often happens that three or four young children are carried off, or at least seized and dropped, in the course of a night. Many are taken from the very arms of their mothers, though covered with quilts, and surrounded perhaps by a dozen of persons, who take every possible precaution, except that of watching, for the preservation of the infants.

The wolf proceeds in so subtile a manner, that often a child is taken from its mother's breast, and not missed until the beating of the drums may rouse the whole camp for the



purpose of marching, when the parent first becomes acquainted with her loss. The melancholy effect produced by the cries of mothers whose children have been purloined, and to whom no kind of aid can avail, nor consolation be administered, surpasses imagination. They continue to distress the feelings of all during the whole night, and occasion reflections that debar the mind endued with sensibility from enjoying a moment's repose.

I cannot call to mind more than one attempt made to rear a wolf cub; but it became so completely savage by the time it was four months old, that the possessor was under the necessity of shooting it: not, however, before it had bit several persons very severely. The natives consider it a race which no art can domesticate. This applies to both the *beriah*, or real wolf, which is similar to the kind common in many parts of Europe, and the *hoondar*, or hyæna. The former is of a light fox colour, somewhat inclining to a dun, and has rather a long head, with ears not unlike those of a jackal; he is slim made, but bony; his tail is long, and not much furnished with hair. When full grown he may be about as tall as a full sized greyhound.

The hyæna differs from the wolf in having far heavier limbs; a shorter head, not unlike a mastiff, of which its figure somewhat partakes, and its colour is a kind of rig-rag dappling of a dirty brown, or a light-sand colour. The hyæna is certainly the most formidable in point of strength, though smaller in general than the *beriah*, which far exceeds it in



speed and agility. Both kinds are blended by the natives rather indiscriminately under the designation of *beriah*; that term, however, is strictly applicable only to the real wolf, which probably took its designation from its being such an enemy to sheep, which, in the Moors' language, are called *berry*. The *hoondar*, which has long shaggy poil, is said to derive its name from *hoon* and *dar*; signifying the bearer of wool.

I cannot exhibit the cunning, as well as the impudence and strength of a wolf, better than by laying before my readers a most extraordinary circumstance that occurred at Cawnpore, during the famine of 1783 and 1784. Thieves, wolves, and goats, being particularly obnoxious in the upper provinces, the areas surrounding bungalows, and especially such as are detached for sleeping in, where the females are in a manner secluded from society, are enclosed with walls made of mud, usually from seven to ten feet high. These have, besides, copings of tiles, which may be estimated at a foot more. The average of such as enclose *zannanahs*, or the apartments appropriated to the women, are ordinarily of sufficient height to prevent a horseman from looking over; therefore may be averaged at nine feet.

Two wolves succeeded in getting into the area of a bungalow occupied by the present Lieutenant Colonel Powell, then post-master at Cawnpore, where they found a lad of about thirteen years of age, a relation to the family, asleep. They soon killed him in their usual manner of seizing the throat,



after which they dragged him carefully to the foot of the wall. The falling of a tile from the coping created an alarm, when the wolves were discovered, one standing on his hind legs, his fore feet resting against the wall, and holding up the lad by the throat; the other wolf on the wall, leaning down as much as he could in the endeavour to obtain a hold so as to drag him over. Human ingenuity could scarcely have devised better means for accomplishing such a purpose. It is to be observed, that in every respect but the seizure at the throat, there was no mark or bite about the unfortunate youth. The wolves, no doubt, expected to succeed in getting him over the wall, when they would have begun that ceremony which they were fearful might have been too eagerly performed, within the premises, and baulked them of their meal.

During the time above noticed, the wolves had become extremely bold. Till then they had rarely been known to attack adult persons. Finding so many to become an easy prey, they either lost the power of discrimination, or from that audacity so often attendant upon success, so little attended to the age, sex, or station of such persons as fell in their way, that numbers of the stoutest men in our camps were attacked, and many of them killed sometimes by a single wolf; though they were generally observed to be two or three in company. An European centry was taken from his post; and a sepoy who was sent as a guard to some people employed to cut grass for thatches from *Joocy* plain, was attacked at mid-day by



several wolves. He destroyed five with his arms, and probably would have got rid of some others that remained, had not one of them, going round to his back, sprung upon his neck, and brought him to the ground, when the poor fellow was soon torn to pieces. This circumstance was too well known to be here much insisted upon as a matter of fact. But I cannot help observing that the grass-cutters, who fled on the appearance of the wolves, and, like the bearers in the adventure of the bear, kept a safe distance, insisted on there being seven wolves. The reader should understand that, with the natives of India, seven is called in aid on a thousand occasions. It has there, as well as in our superstitious idea of a seventh son's son, some peculiar properties, and is often called up to represent any number. Thus the woman whose husband was killed by bears, at *Tergong*, counted seven; though I should have thought, from the state in which we found her, that her arithmetical powers might have passed for nought at that time.

Two officers, who were proceeding in a gig to the artillery practice-ground, near *Jaujmow*, saw a wolf put his head forth from a millet field as they passed. One of them very imprudently alighted, and went back with the whip in his hand; and made a cut at the wolf, which ran at him, and scarcely allowed time for his jumping at random into the carriage, against which the wolf sprang with considerable force; luckily, however, missing his object. The horse being instantly in motion, the wheel passed over the wolf's loins, and



disabled him from renewing the attack, as he doubtless would have done but for the impediment happily opposed to his future exertions.

I confess I do not perceive any merit in such conduct. I should have scrupled to fire at a wolf under such circumstances, unless I were certain of killing him outright. Such temerity reminds me of a very rash act which took place some few years back at Calcutta. Captain James Collier, of the Bengal artillery, had a remarkably fine mastiff, of an immense size, and very handsome. He was a noble dog both in temper and appearance; and though very fierce at night, when he was chained by his master's bed, which no soul would venture to approach, yet during the day he was perfectly familiar and playful.

Two friends who had called upon Captain Collier, at his small house in the country, had got into their gig to return, when he who drove, and who admired Lion as he lay at the gate wagging his tail, very gently drew his whip over the dog's back. No sooner did Lion feel himself, as probably he thought, attacked, than he sprang at the gentleman's arm. Happily, instead of succeeding in his attempt, he snapt away the wing of the gig. He was not, however, content, on seeing the gentleman drive away, but followed, and made an effort to jump into the gig. He fell short, but recovering himself, ran forward, and seizing the horse by the nose, shook the poor animal fairly out of the harness. There is no saying what might have been the consequence of this unintentional



provocation, had not Captain Collier made haste to secure Lion, and prevent farther mischief.

I really think, if some of our stage coachmen and others, who, in driving through towns, &c. pay more attention to cutting at dogs, cats, &c. than they do to the safety of their passengers, were now and then to be served in this way, they would only reap the due rewards of their very dexterous skill in putting harmless animals to pain.

In the annexed Plate the wolf is seen bearing away the lamb which he has thrown over his shoulder, and the shepherds and peasants are described as doing all that they in general attempt towards a rescue. The shepherds are usually very old; they are armed only with a bamboo latty. They ordinarily wear a black blanket, which being tied together, by collecting the edges, over the head, equally serves to repel the heat in summer, to throw off the rain in the wet season, and to keep them warm during the winter. The ploughs are seen at work, and a boat is tracking up the river by means of small cords made of the *moonje*, or silky grass, of which each *dandy*, or boatman, has a distinct coil, which he can lengthen or curtail according as the water, being deep or shallow, renders it necessary to keep the boat more or less from the shore. At the end of each cord, the respective dandy has a short thick piece of bamboo, which rests on his shoulder. The whole of the cords unite to one strong rope near the mast head, which passing through a block, enables the people on board to veer out as much line as may be necessary. *Budj-*



*rows* are in general tracked by a single rope, of about two inches in circumference, to which each dandy makes fast by means of a short stout line, and thus all track with tolerable ease. It is really surprising to observe what this class of people undergo. Dandies are of all religions and sects: the profession is one of the few that can be resorted to by either Hindoos or Mussulmans. Though they are in general little better than common thieves, and steal their provision as they proceed, yet on many occasions they give great proofs of attachment and courage.

Some general idea may be formed of the bridges throughout India, from that portrayed in the Plate. The arches are generally Gothic, standing on very substantial piers, with heavy buttresses both above and below. Their great fault is that, like London bridge, they hold up the water above them too much, and often occasion it to rise so high as to blow up the arches. It has often happened that this evil has increased to such a height as to occasion the rivers rising so as to inundate the country. *Juanpore* bridge is very high, yet owing to the bulk of the piers, and the narrowness of its arches, it has happened more than once within the memory of the inhabitants, that the stream has passed over and carried away the parapets. To look at the bridge one would think this impossible; but the periodical rains sometimes come on so heavily and suddenly as to occasion all the lesser rivers to rise in a wonderful manner. It is common for many of them to be nearly dry at night, and in the morning to be nearly



overflowing; though their bed is perhaps twenty-five or thirty feet deep. This often happens in the Cossimbazar river, formerly noticed under the designation of the *Baug-rutty*, which depends entirely on the Ganges for its supply, and forms the most western branch of its delta.





Williamson & Howitt.

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PLATE XXXIII.  
THE COMMON WOLF TRAP.

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Nothing could be more distressing than the effects produced by the famine, which, owing to the extreme drought of the year 1783, prevailed during all the subsequent season throughout the whole of the northern provinces, but was especially felt in the dominions of the Nabob Vizier of Oude. Even in the fertile and well cultivated districts subject to the control of our Government, a very alarming scarcity prevailed, which would probably, but for the timely precautions adopted, have proved of irremediable injury. In the Nabob Vizier's territories, where order was wanting, and where industry is by no means a characteristic, the inhabitants were reduced to the utmost distress. The more opulent had hoarded up their grain: some, perhaps, did so under the limited and prudent intention of securing their own families from want; while many, foreseeing what was inevitable, strained every means to procure corn of all descriptions with the nefarious view of taking advantage of the times, and bent on raising their fortunes on the miseries of their fellow creatures. Few,



however, succeeded in their speculations. The hordes of famished wretches, who patrolled the country, made no distinction of property, but urged by the imperious calls of nature, plundered alike the savings of the provident and the accumulations of the monopolists.

This, besides being but a temporary relief, had the baneful effect of encouraging a spirit of depredation; whereby, in lieu of retailing what did exist with a sparing hand, all was profusion for the moment, and not a little lost in the scramble. Such was the blind infatuation of the million of walking spectres, that, in the moment of phrenzy and despair, many granaries were burnt. Resentment overcame even the principles of self-preservation, and impelled them to the perpetration of follies, such as indicated the wish, not to obtain redress, but to involve all under one general ruin.

Here it may be proper, to prevent illiberal suspicions from attaching to Europeans, both at that period and on other occasions, to state, that, throughout the country the most zealous and unanimous means were adopted to check the evil. So far from blemishing the national character, the philanthropy displayed by the gentlemen, of all professions, in India, justly entitles them to the foremost rank: their sensibility and energy did them immortal honour. Of this, however, it would not be very easy to satisfy a famished multitude: we cannot expect discrimination from the poor wretch whose cravings guide his thoughts to one object only, and which moreover he views according to his own disconsolate situation.



When it became obvious that the famine could not be averted, Government sent supplies, which indeed could be ill afforded, from Bengal, where the scarcity was least felt, to the troops throughout the upper country. This measure, however salutary, could have but a partial effect; but more could not be done. To lessen the evil as much as possible, the European gentlemen entered into large contributions for the purposes of procuring grain from other parts. The liberal scale on which these subscriptions were conducted will be sufficiently understood, when it is stated that, at Cawnpore alone, where about eight thousand men were cantoned, no less a sum than a lack of rupees, equal to £12,500, was collected, and being vested with a Committee, whose economy and assiduity merit the warmest encomiums, was applied to the relief of as many persons as it was supposed could be maintained until the next harvest.

All could not be relieved: consequently the station occasionally exhibited a scene of the most horrid licentiousness, which few, however necessary it might be, could harden their hearts sufficiently to repel! As to live stock, little was left. Religious boundaries were annihilated, and all casts, or sects, were seen to devour what their tenets taught them either to respect, or to abhor. Many devoured their own children! And thousands perished while attempting to force open pantries, and other places containing victuals; insomuch that it was common to find in the morning the out-offices of our houses half filled with dying objects; who with their ghastly



countenances seemed to express hope, while their tongues gave utterance to curses!

The good intention of the donors was productive of a very serious evil, which in the first instance was not, perhaps, sufficiently guarded against. The intelligence was rapidly spread throughout the country, that the Europeans at the several military and civil stations had made provision for supplying the poor with rice. This induced all to bend their course towards the nearest asylum. Thousands perished by the way from absolute hunger; while numbers fell an easy prey to the wolves, which, being bereft of their usual means of subsistence, by the general destruction of all eatable animals, were at first compelled, and afterwards found it convenient, to attack the wretched wanderers. The little resistance they experienced in their depredations on these unfortunate creatures emboldened them in an astonishing manner, and taught them to look with contempt and defiance towards a race, of whose powers they heretofore had been in awe.

Such numbers, however, succeeded in finding their way to the cantonments, that we were to all intents in a state of siege. The wolves followed, and were to be seen in all directions committing havoc among the dying crowd. They absolutely occupied many gardens, and outhouses; and often in open day, trotted about like so many dogs, proceeding from one ravine to another, without seeming to entertain the least apprehension; so familiar had they become with mankind, and so little did they seem disposed to remove, from what to



them was a scene of abundance ! I cannot give a stronger idea of our situation, than by informing the reader, that not only the wolves, but even the swine, were to be seen in all directions attacking the poor wretches, whose feeble endeavours to drive away their ravenous devourers, were the only indication that the vital sparks were not quite extinct.

The demise of such numbers tainted the air, and caused a sickness among the troops. Many officers died of putrid fevers ; and the most serious consequences would inevitably have followed but for the setting in of the rains, which both abated the extreme heat of the atmosphere, and carried off immense quantities of offensive remains. It is not easy to assert how many died ; but I heard it stated by some gentlemen of the committee for managing the subscription money, that at least two hundred thousand persons had flocked from the country, of whom not more than one in twenty could be maintained for the number of months which must elapse before the soil could render its aid. To calculate upon less than a regular supply till such should be the case, would have been absurd ; for there was not the smallest possibility of the scourge being abated in the mean while : the lower provinces, as before remarked, could do little more than support themselves ; and no periodical supply of the fruits, &c. usually produced in the rainy season, could be expected in a country of which nearly two thirds of the population was destroyed.

This mournful scene, however, gradually drew to a close :



the unfortunate groupe had either died or had been restored to health, and were capable of returning to their occupations. The wolves now felt themselves bereft of their usual prey, but did not lose their habit of attacking men, many of whom, though in general provided with some means of defence, which circumstances had rendered necessary, yet became victims to their depredations. At length measures could be taken to check their rapacity, and they were obliged to have recourse to their former researches for food.

The attempt to catch wolves in traps, while they could glut on such abundance of provision, proved abortive; but when that plenty began to subside, they became eager, and many were taken. The great number of old wells existing throughout the country, and especially about the cantonments, offered a ready means of adopting the ordinary method of catching them. To effect this, however, required some prudence and management; for it was found that a wolf would not venture where the earth was newly dug, although a very tempting bait was in view. In consequence, such old wells as were found of sufficient depth, and in other respects appeared calculated for the purpose, were selected for traps, and left as much as possible in their natural state of decay.

The construction of the trap was extremely simple; and nothing could exceed the certainty with which it acted in detaining the animal after once he had plunged in. The wells that had the widest mouths were preferred, and had a gal-lows of about eight or nine feet high built across their centres.



To the middle of this, by means of a small pulley, a bucket or cage was suspended, bearing a kid or lamb, so tied down that it could not deviate. Over this bait was placed a pot of water, in the bottom of which was a small hole stopped with a rag, rather loosely, so that the water might keep dripping slowly upon the kid, which from its irritation and unusual position rarely failed to bleat the whole night through.

The surface of the well being covered thinly with slight laths of bamboo, over which grass, &c. was strewed so as to hide the mouth, a hedge of about a yard high was made round it of briars, &c. strong enough to keep the wolf from breaking through. The wolves were often seen examining the premises, and occasionally rising on their hind legs to look over. It happened occasionally, that, after a minute investigation, they would all leave the place; no doubt from an instinct which warned them of their danger. Whether it depended on the place itself, or that the methods of some persons were better than others, I could not ascertain; but it is certain that some were very often successful, while others, who seemed to adopt every precaution, scarce ever could catch a wolf.

When they were taken, it was with extreme difficulty they were got out of the wells. What with passing slip knots over them, and other expedients, though the wolf certainly could not very easily avoid being brought to the surface, yet it was not very easy to set him free. Many, like the old fable of the rats and the cat, suggested means of effecting the desideratum,



but none could be got to execute even their own proposals. It happened that an old soldier, who had formerly been a huntsman in England, and was not very nice about having a finger more or less, had one morning, while endeavouring to pass the usual loop over a wolf's head, as he lay at the bottom of a trap made near the barracks by the men of the regiment, by some accident tumbled in, and became involuntarily a companion to the brindled captive. We may conclude that GUNNELL, which was the veteran's name, must have been at the least as much alarmed at his situation as he no doubt was with the fall. Finding, however, to his infinite surprise, that the wolf, far from commencing hostilities, was the most frightened of the two, he very courageously passed the rope round the brute's neck, and giving the signal to his colleagues, soon had him drawn out. But here the affair took a serious change ; the wolf, on finding himself extricated from the abyss, felt his courage return, and soon made the exulting circle lower their tones. Nothing more than a hint was wanted, as to his disposition to make battle ; when, as it were by general consent, all took to their heels.

GUNNELL several times afterwards voluntarily descended into wells to muzzle and otherwise secure wolves previous to hoisting them out. I believe only one exception ever took place, from that coward state in which they appeared when in the trap. All, as in the instance just quoted, as soon as they found themselves on the level ground, and surrounded by people, became ferocious, and, but for due precautions,



would have done considerable mischief. The best mode I ever saw practised was the lowering of a jackal trap, made of an old box, into the well; when the wolf being urged into it, was secured, and thus carried to the plain to be hunted.

I certainly expected that such very fine dogs as were at the station would have been able to cope with a wolf; but repeated experiments satisfied me that few, even of the most savage, would attack one. Nay more; not only did they want inclination, but, for the most part, even greyhounds were deficient in speed, and gave up after a very short essay. I saw several wolves taken out to *Jooley* plain, which is very extensive, but out of at least two hundred dogs that at first seemed eager to follow, only two or three very superior greyhounds could keep up, and not one of them ventured to seize. This induced gentlemen rather to shoot the wolves in the well, than to risk their getting away, as all had done that were turned out to be hunted.

Wolves are not to be found in Bengal Proper, except occasionally some stragglers, which now and then come up from the *Cuttack* and *Berar* countries, towards *Midnapore* and the other western boundaries. A few are at times seen in *South Bahar*. I have known them to come within ten miles of *Patna*; in general, however, they do not burrow, but return to the hills, or to the north-west, where they abound. From *Chunar* upwards they are very numerous, and too much precaution cannot be used. In the more central parts of Bengal they are never seen, although there is abundance of cover.



Wolves generally tear out the bowels of their prey, eating whatever they can tear away with their teeth. They are extremely partial to such parts as are muscular and fleshy; seldom caring much about picking the bones. They delight in warm blood, and will not readily touch carrion, or what has been killed by others, unless extremely hungry. The she-wolf has rarely more than two whelps, which may frequently be seen trotting after the mother. They are very fleet, having at the age of seven or eight months more foot than most greyhounds. Wolves travel great distances; their depredations have been ascertained at five and six miles from where they have been known to burrow. I am rather inclined to think they do not regularly resort to their earths; but that they occasionally carry their prey thither to avoid interruption, and that they fly to them for safety. I have often seen them lying in grass covers. Once, indeed, I was a little alarmed. I thought I saw four antelope does proceeding through some scattered long grass, and made a circuit as quick as I could without disturbing them, so as to get a shot at a snug spot where I expected them to come out of the cover. I was just time enough to come face to face with my game, which however proved to be four large wolves. A gentleman who was with me, but whom I had left far behind, had mounted his horse, and, on my calling, rode up, and eased my mind by his presence; for though the wolves were at least twenty yards from me, and did not shew any immediate intention to injure me, I did not consider my situation



as being at all eligible. The wolves, however, on seeing the horse, trotted off.

I was informed that another kind of trap, adopted from the German mode, was constructed by a gentleman with great success. Having a large quantity of sheep for the supply of his table, which was as famous for its excellence, as he himself was for many good qualities, and finding they were often taken away by wolves, he enclosed an area with bamboos of about fifteen feet long, set into the ground at about four or five inches asunder, and sloping outwards at an angle of about five or six degrees. At about two feet distance another circle of bamboos, arranged in the same manner, was fixed, but not more than four feet long, and pointing inwards; thus forming a conical covered way. A hatch was made, through which sheep could be let into this fold; on the right side of the hatch was a triangular swinging gate, made to fit across the covered way, and opening inwards, so that a wolf might easily pass in, but as the gate would shut after him, he was secure: to the left of the hatch the covered way was strongly closed with bamboo work. So that the wolf, or a dozen or two of wolves, indeed, might freely enter, but could not go completely round. I cannot conceive any device more simple, and, in my opinion, more likely to prove successful, than such a trap; I am the better pleased with the German trap, from my experience, that it must be an immense wall, and totally detached from all means of communication, that will keep wolves from sheep, for which, as also for children at the breast, they seem to have a great partiality.



## PLATE XXXIV.

## SMOKING WOLVES FROM THEIR EARTHS.

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I HAVE, on several occasions, been of parties where our principal object has been to drive wolves from their earths. This is best effected when on a march : after having breakfasted, the necessary materials may be collected from the neighbouring villages ; and there being plenty of persons at hand, it generally happens that the most complete success follows. It is curious that the natives, though they are perfectly sensible of the importance of the measure, and that they are fully competent to the undertaking, yet seldom, if ever, take the pains to smoke the wolves from such burrows as may be in the neighbourhood of their villages. It is difficult to assign any other cause than mere idleness for an omission of this nature on the parts of such as are almost daily in the habit of witnessing the diminution of their own and other families by the nightly ravages of these rapacious animals. I never heard of natives attempting to destroy wolves, in their burrows, unless under the influence and guidance of some European.



## SMOKING WOLVES FROM THEIR EARTHS. 157

The mode of smoking out wolves is extremely simple, and, as may be readily supposed, is not attended with any heavy expense. Such entrances of the burrows as face the wind, or that, from their position, favour the undertaking, are left open: all the rest are stopped sufficiently to leave a draught of air, but to create difficulty, or perhaps altogether impede the sortie of the wolves. As the burrows are usually found in deep rugged water courses, and the smoke has a natural tendency to rise, it will mostly happen that the apertures situated towards the bottoms of the ravines are best suited to receive the fuel; especially as there are generally flats sufficient to admit the operators and their apparatus with due convenience. There are often ten or twelve entrances; all of which communicate under ground. They are of such size as would admit a wolf freely without crouching, and such holes as are on the level ground, for the most part are perpendicular for four or five feet in depth, like small wells, and then strike off in horizontal directions. These are also generally larger than the lateral apertures.

While the entrances are being stopped, due care should be taken, to prevent the wolves from escaping; for they are sometimes very sly; and dart forth on hearing persons at work near them. To ensure their retention for a while, the whole of the apertures may be stopped until every thing is ready for the operation. The materials required are nothing more than abundance of straw, part of which should be moistened to increase the fumigation, and a few pounds of brimstone, to



be had in any quantity throughout India. The straw, together with some dry sticks, is put, as far as can be effected by means of poles, into the lower apertures, but in a very loose open state, so as not to impede the access of air, on which the passage of the smoke throughout the interior recesses evidently depends. Occasionally small bundles of straw containing the sulphur, coarsely powdered, are thrown into the fire, which should be well supported by a constant, but not too abundant supply of fuel.

The great object is to destroy the wolves, and so to damage the burrows, which being very deep and spacious, would require labour to dig up, that in case any wolves belonging to it should be out and return thereto, they might, from the smell and other indications of the past attack, be deterred from continuing their residence in that neighbourhood. Hence it is preferable to leave but little opening at the superficial entrances: it being far more desirable to suffocate the wolves than to give them the chance of escape. Some will, however, by that violent exertion attendant upon pain and danger, make their escape; but for the most part they arrive at the surface in such a state, as consigns them to the fate attendant upon a moment's delay after getting out of the burrow. They are generally seen to gasp, and not unfrequently fall seemingly in a fit. Their approach is uniformly marked by a cessation, or considerable diminution, of the column of smoke issuing from the aperture. The earths are too large for them to fill with their bodies; but often in the agony of



suffocation, when they may be heard to whine and moan, they are contorted, and by lying in a heap, obstruct the current of air. If their heads be clear, they may recover in some measure, and make their way out; but under such circumstances they cannot fail to be easily subdued by the numbers of persons, armed with spears, guns, &c. who watch their motions, and take every advantage.

In the year 1780 I was witness to a very interesting scene at a village called *Quoilah*, about fourteen miles from Allahabad, on the Cawnpore road. I was attached to a corps then proceeding to that station, and had heard in the course of the morning of two children having been taken the night before from the town of Nabob Gunge, situate about two miles from *Quoilah*. The villagers stated, that the wolves which had committed the depredations, and which grievously infested that neighbourhood, harboured in an extensive burrow, on the edge of a large ravine, not more than a quarter of a mile from our camp. The officers, on hearing what had happened, agreed to repair to the spot and dig up the earths; but on its being observed how laborious and tedious such a process would be; and indeed, that most of the wolves would probably escape, it was resolved to smoke them. The *Jemmadar*, or superior, of the village, was sent for, and he offered to provide every necessary material, if we would do our endeavours to extirpate his obnoxious neighbours. Accordingly we repaired to the spot, with every destructive weapon we could collect, and accompanied by a Havildar of one of the Nabob's Nujeeb



battalions, whom we found to be more of an European, than a native, in his ideas. This man, I should observe, entered into our service; and being afterwards promoted to the rank of *Soubadar*, or native commander of a company, distinguished himself on many occasions.

Every thing being ready, the process began in the most orderly manner, and in a short time the moanings of the wolves were distinctly heard. As the idea of smoking the burrows was new to us, we did not adopt those precautions which we afterwards had recourse to, as being necessary to complete success. We inconsiderately left the superficial apertures open, instead of partly closing them so as to delay, if not totally obstruct, the passage of the wolves. This caused us to be taken somewhat by surprise, and enabled the first wolf to escape. The error was, however, speedily corrected by fixing our spears obliquely across the apertures, so that we had notice of any approach; when a person with a gun immediately shot the wolf while struggling to pass. Three full grown wolves were killed in this manner; one of them, indeed, got away for about fifty yards, but being very languid, was easily speared, and as he was making his way down the ravine, received a shot which completely dispatched him. As soon as our operation, which lasted near an hour, was over, the villagers turned out by common consent, and dug up the burrows. Many more wolves, old and young, were found lying dead, to the great joy of all parties. But it is impossible to describe the emotions of the crowd as, in the



course of digging, the bones of children were found scattered in the burrows, occasionally intermixed with the little ornaments of gold, silver, and other metals, that had been worn by them. Nothing can equal the effect produced by their recognition, among the several parents and other relatives of the lost infants. I often thought it a subject worthy of a master's pencil! I am confident I speak within bounds in stating, that the aggregate weight of the trinkets must have been at least ten pounds.

We had not many days march left, but such was the effect our enterprize had made on our minds, that we daily inquired for wolves' earths on arriving at our new encampment; and though we did not always hear of any sufficiently near to warrant our undertaking their destruction, we had the satisfaction to smoke two other burrows with complete success. Our fame ran before us, and we had various invitations to assist on similar occasions; but the places were too remote for us to acquiesce with the entreaties which were made.

We found our friend the *Nujeeb* an enterprising fellow, and that a perfect reliance was to be placed on his coolness and intrepidity. He had a matchlock, sword, shield, and bow and arrows; in the exercise of all which he was tolerably expert; with the latter in particular. He struck the wolf that escaped us at *Quoilah* with an arrow, not, however, so as to kill him. The *Nujeebs* are usually clothed in blue vests and drawers; they furnish their own arms and ammunition, and their discipline is very contemptible. They answer well



enough for garrison duty, but cannot stand the charge of cavalry, having no bayonets, and their arms being totally unfit for prompt execution. In fact, although we see large bodies of men maintained in the service of the native powers, little is to be apprehended under their present system. The Nabob Vizier of Oude had until very lately an host of troops of various descriptions, but most of them organized in imitation of the Honourable Company's sepoy battalions. The British mode of discipline was also mimicked in a most ludicrous style, while the arms, &c. completed the burlesque to the highest possible finish. I have seen them on actual service in such a state, that, like Falstaff's celebrated new levies, they seemed to be absolutely, "food for powder." Such as had bayonets, had no locks: those who had hammers to their locks, had not cocks: at least if they had, the flints were wanting. To complete the business, few had ammunition; and such cartridges as were among them, had by damp and time, been so completely incorporated with the wooden pouch blocks, that although to one who did not examine them closely, the paper tops indicated a sufficient state of preservation, yet when touched they came off, leaving the concreted powder and ball a perfect fixture! A battalion of the *Nujeebs*, though their system be apparently less regular, having no colours, drums, &c. would with ease cut to atoms half a dozen of these mock regiments. Not only the natives in the Honourable Company's service ridicule such pageantry and pride as is displayed among the battalions in the service of



the Vizier, but even the *Nujeebs* treat them with sovereign contempt; laughing, as all must do who are acquainted with the subject, at the idle attempt to arrive at any tolerable proficiency in European discipline under native officers.

Experience proves, that it is only under the superintendence of Europeans, the natives can ever be trained with effect. We cannot have a more complete demonstration of this than by a reference to the troops in the service of native powers; particularly of Scindeah, whose army was certainly, in many respects, superior to any, excepting the British troops. They were officered principally by Europeans, and practised much of our tactics; but the guidance and aid of an enlightened government was wanting, whose liberality should promote emulation, and under which no jealous suspicions or intrigues could exist. And perhaps no stronger confirmation of my position could be adduced, than the well known fact that, whenever a mutiny has arisen, and the European officers have been dispensed with, the discontented corps have invariably been beaten and brought to punishment by very inferior forces under European officers. Farther, it has on several occasions happened, that when these officers have been killed or disabled, the native officers have conducted themselves in such a manner as to obtain those successes, which, had they been in the service of Indian princes, never could have been achieved.

I cannot conclude this part of my subject without remarking that, whether for sobriety, patience, personal prowess or



courage, I cannot think any army can surpass the troops of the Honourable Company's establishment. Upwards of twenty years' service enables me to pronounce their just eulogium; and I feel the utmost pleasure in observing, that the many who have visited India, whither they went fraught with prejudice, have in the most candid and handsome manner, avowed the completest acquiescence as to their infinite merits.

The annexed Plate, while it conveys to the reader a tolerably exact idea of the situations in which the earths of wolves are generally found, and of the manner of fumigating them, serves to exhibit the dress of the *Nujeebs*. In the front ground the servants are seen attending their masters, and bearing large umbrellas to keep off the sun and rain. Another kind of parasol is in use with many. It is made round and flat, with a stick fastened to one side; and the circle, which is usually covered with chintz, and has a full flounce of about a foot long all round, being applied laterally, serves to keep off the sun when not in the zenith. This shade, which is called a *punkah*, is useful, and at times more commodious than an umbrella, to attend upon palankeens, and has the farther convenience of being used as a fan within doors; for this purpose the staff is placed on its end, and a bearer, laying hold of the small part which is above the place where the circle is affixed, swings the *punkah* backwards and forwards, with more or less force as occasion may require; thus causing a most refreshing ventilation.

At a distance in the back ground is seen a small encampment



of a battalion. The large flag which is displayed is the *bazar*, or market-flag, near which all the tradespeople, who travel with the corps, are encamped in their little booths. The *bazars* are respectively attached to corps, and that of each battalion has its particular standard, made of strong calico, and affixed to a bamboo, which is kept perpendicular by four strong ropes stretched out in different directions. Each flag has the distinguishing device of the corps, or its numerical rank portrayed on it in some conspicuous or contrasting colour. As these flags are very large, being sometimes as spacious as a frigate's ensign, and as the wind is very strong during the day, a smaller flag of a similar pattern is affixed above; so that when the large one is furled round the bamboo, there may remain sufficient indication as to each market respectively.

Those who live near the Ganges never fail to burn their dead on its banks, and to throw the ashes into the stream. The bedstead on which a Hindoo is conveyed to the water side is sometimes burnt also; at least it is ever after considered as impure; nor would a Gentoo, however distressed for fuel, take one for that purpose. The body of the deceased should be completely burnt, but such is rarely the case; a small pile of wood sufficient to singe it, is ordinarily provided, which being expended, the remains are launched into the river, where they float in a putrid state for a long time, to the great annoyance of such as travel by water. Those villages situated inland, and remote from any great river, have recourse



to any small stream for the purpose of performing the last offices: eventually, though not often, a tank, or jeel, if more commodious, is substituted, when numbers of bedsteads and human bones may be seen along the banks.

A Hindoo would be miserable were he to know that his body would not be burnt. Many in their old age, or when seriously ill, remove to the banks of the Ganges, whose waters are held sacred among the Hindoos (for the Mussulmans inter their dead), and when about to resign their breath, are taken to the edge of the river on their beds, where a *Bramin*, or priest, attends to perform various superstitious ceremonies. No doubt that many who might recover with due attention, are thus consigned to an untimely end. The damp borders of the stream, with a burning sun, rarely fail, however favourable the season may be, to put a speedy termination to the sick person's pain. But it has often happened, that the attendants become tired by the delay the poor wretch makes in "shaking off his mortal coil," and, perhaps, with the humane intention of terminating his sufferings, either place the bed at low-water-mark, if the spot be within the flow of the tide, or smear the dying man with the slime of the holy waters; not forgetting to take care that a due portion of the precious mud pass into the mouth. This doubtless will shock the European reader; but is nevertheless strictly true. Indeed, when we come to consider one particular tenet of the Hindoo religion, we may rather consider what at first may appear inhuman, to be an act of charity.



SMOKING WOLVES FROM THEIR EARTHS. 167

When a person has been taken to the side of the Ganges, or other substituted water, under the supposition that he is dying, he is, in the eye of the Gentoo law, dead, his property passes to his heir, or according to bequest ; and in the event of recovery, the poor fellow becomes an outcast. Not a soul, not even his own children, will eat with him, or afford him the least accommodation. If by chance they come in contact, ablution must instantly follow. The wretched survivor from that time is held in abhorrence, and has no other resort but to associate himself in a village inhabited solely by persons under similar circumstances. There are but few such receptacles ; the largest, and most conspicuous, is on the banks of the Mullah, which passes near *Sooksorgah*, about forty miles north of Calcutta.



## PLATE XXXV.

THE GANGES BREAKING ITS BANKS,  
WITH FISHING, &c.

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HOWEVER extraordinary it may appear at first mention, it is nevertheless certain, that most of the accidents which happen from the breaking of the *Poolbundies*, or artificial banks, raised for the purpose of keeping the rivers within due bounds during the rainy season, by which large tracts of country are preserved from annual inundation, are to be attributed to snakes, rats, and other vermin. These burrowing in the banks, in time work their way completely through. Though they generally are near the surface, still the effect is much the same: for when the water rises to such a height as to enter any of the apertures, it penetrates rapidly into every crevice, and having a vent towards the land side, occasions such a draught, as, by a gradual increase, soon becomes sufficiently powerful to tear away very large masses; when the torrent completes the destruction.

Like most wild animals, snakes are more inclined to retire than to attack. I believe that very few instances can be





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adduced of their not availing themselves of any opening that offers for evasion. They throw themselves over broad ditches and banks when pursued, as if they had wings. When confined without the hope of escape they become desperate, and attack whatever presents itself to view. Their mode of attack varies: the large kinds, such as the *adjeghur*, which has been known to grow to the length of twenty-eight feet, and as thick as a man's body, generally make an horizontal dart. The *covra capella*, which usually measures about eight or nine feet, rears to about half its length, and often darts to a distance equal to its whole measurement. This snake is peculiarly venomous, as is the *covra manilla*, which rarely exceeds eighteen inches in length, and a sort of snake, rarely to be found but in the hills, which is perfectly cylindrical, except for about an inch at each end; these being conical, leaves a doubt as to which is the head; whence many suppose it to have two heads. The grass snake, which indeed is often to be seen in trees, and is particularly fond of secreting itself in very curious places, such as under the flaps of tables, &c. is deserving of particular notice: it is of a beautiful green, with a crimson or purple head, and grows to about four feet in length. It is extremely venomous, and so very active, that it can skim over the tops of grass, and scarcely be seen: its velocity is incredible!

During the campaign in Rohilcund in 1794, while the army was encamped at about five or six miles from the *Kammow* hills, a remarkable snake was brought to a gentleman, skilled



in natural philosophy, which appeared to be replete with venom. It was not more than eight or nine inches long, and was of a light ash colour, with a black head. The natives consider it to be the most dangerous of the whole tribe. But may we not suppose this to be the class, of which we have so little account as to consider the designation to imply any venomous reptile?

In digging under old walls, &c. a beautiful snake is often found, of a lively bottle colour, not usually exceeding seven or eight inches, and thin in proportion: it is difficult to distinguish without a glass, which is its head. Hence it is like the cylindrical serpent just mentioned, called the double-headed snake. It is said to be venomous, but I never heard of its injuring any animal; and unless it have a sting, which does not appear probable, I should consider it as being perfectly innocent: especially as the size of its mouth would not allow of sufficient distension to embrace enough even of the skin to bite through it.

All snakes have a great propensity to enter houses, not only as a temporary shelter, but to possess themselves of the numerous rat-burrows wherein to remain concealed. The abundance of vermin to be seen in houses even of the first class, proves the original incitement for snakes to venture in. The rats, however, soon smell their enemy, and lose no time in shifting their quarters. Yet snakes and rats frequently inhabit the same thatch in numbers. The presence of the former is generally announced by some of the family being



bit in their beds, or elsewhere; or perhaps in the contests between the parties, both the snake and the rat come tumbling down from the inside. I was once dining with a friend, when our attention was suddenly arrested by a *covra capella* and a rat falling from the thatch upon one of the dishes on the table. I know not which of the four was first out of the room!

The *dhameen*, which grows to a considerable size, often measuring ten or twelve feet, rarely bites; but coiling itself up, and awaiting the approach of its enemy, it lashes with its tail in a most forcible manner. The flesh usually sphacelates, and leaves a considerable sore, which the natives attribute to venom. Such, however, cannot be the case; and we may safely conclude, that the severity of the stroke with so rough a weapon is the sole cause of the mischief, which in so warm a climate, and where surgery is so little understood, increases rapidly. Fortunately the temperance of the generality of the natives in regard to their viands and beverage, renders their habits highly favourable towards a speedy cure; to which the cleanliness enforced by their religious ablutions necessarily adds.

The poison of a snake operates with certainty if fairly introduced into the circulation: the effect will be more or less rapid according to circumstances, and not a little depends on the state of the sufferer's body, whether he be cool, or heated with exercise. It is proper to inform the reader, that only the two eye teeth can impregnate any subject with the poison.



They have at their roots, within the jaw, each a small cyst, or bag, containing the venom. These being pressed in the act of biting, discharge their contents through the fangs respectively, by means of a very small channel or groove, which reaches from the place where the bag envelopes the root, about half way up the tooth, having its vent on the inside of the fang. Hence it is obvious that, if the person be thickly cloathed, or that the jaws be not sufficiently compressed to force the venom out of the cyst, no mischief will ensue. This not being duly attended to, has, no doubt, given credit to many supposed antidotes, which, when the real nature or kind of snake has been ascertained to be venomous, has been supposed to work a cure; when in truth the absence of the deleterious matter has been the sole cause of safety.

I have made numerous experiments with snakes, and invariably found, that every kind I ever saw would freely enter the water. The natives have an opinion, that their venom loses its fatal properties when immersed; but of this we have no proof; and our knowledge of the anatomy of the parts containing the poison should induce us to reject such a wild conjecture: it being sufficiently evident, that the puncture receives and buries the venom, without the least chance of its being washed away or diluted by the liquid.

Persons working in fields are often bitten, and as no puncture, in general, appears, the poor fellows are apt to attribute the uneasiness first felt, to the prickings of thorns, thistles, &c. A few minutes, however, never fail to exhibit the real state



of the case, the unfortunate victim becoming sick, with cold sweats, and stupor, and gradually subsiding, perhaps occasionally convulsed, into the arms of death ! Few survive more than half an hour, and many die within five minutes.

The snake-catchers in the Carnatic are said to possess a medicine which renders them totally secure from the effects of venom. This had been doubted ; but they have occasionally supplied some of our faculty with a sufficient quantity to become convinced, by their own personal knowledge, of its complete resistance thereto. Many bribes have been offered for the recipe, but without success. Fictitious directions have been given, which failing, the properties of the real antidote have been too hastily condemned. The only medicine which has ever been found to answer, except that above noticed, has been a very pure preparation of eau de luce, which being swallowed in the proportion of a tea spoonful to a wine glass of water, and repeated two or three times, if occasion require, has been known to prevent fatal consequences. As to the wounds themselves, they do not seem to admit of any effectual treatment. Oil is generally rubbed in and drunk ; but no reliance whatever can be placed on such a course. The eau de luce appears to prevent that stagnation of the blood and fluids, which we may reasonably infer takes place, from knowing that a snake's venom dropped, in the smallest quantity, into milk, instantly acts as powerfully as a very large portion of rennet.

When snakes are known to infest particular places, the



*cunjoors*, or snake-catchers, are called in. These, by smelling at the different burrows, at once decide in which the snake then harbours. Taking care to keep out of sight, they play on an instrument not unlike a hautboy; and having scattered some scents on the floor, of which the *dunneah*, or coriander, is one, the snake soon comes forth, when one of the colleagues watching his opportunity, seizes the delighted reptile by the tail, and rapidly slipping the other hand up to its neck, holds it firm; while the musician, having thrown aside his pipe, and taken a pair of pliers, soon robs the snake of its fangs, and their concomitant venom. Thus the formidable *covra capella* becomes an innocent instrument of display, at the command of his dexterous captor! Very large snakes are taken by means of nets and bags.

Ichneumons are very numerous throughout India. They are the natural enemies of the serpent race, searching them out, and attacking them without fear of their bulk or venom. They are the quickest of all quadrupeds in their motions; and, by their perseverance and activity, so worry a snake, that in the end they find an opportunity to seize on the back of the head, where, in spite of the writhings of the agonized animal, they keep a firm hold, and to a certainty prove victorious. They are, however, sometimes bitten: on such occasions they hunt about among the common grass, and there find some antidote, of which having eaten, and rubbed themselves by rolling on the spot, they return to the charge; never failing to scent the snake's course perfectly correct. It is a thou-



sand pitie that the antidote resorted to by the ichneumons has never been ascertained.

It is very remarkable that all large snakes are very fond of sucking cows, goats, &c.; twining their bodies round the animal's hind legs, and drawing at the teats with great composure. They are equally fond of eggs, which they swallow whole. The late Major Darby, when at Cawnpore, had a hen turkey sitting on some eggs, of which one vanished daily. He suspected that the servants stole them; and to convince himself locked up the room and took the key with him: still the eggs disappeared! At length he changed his hour of visiting the place, and going very early one morning saw a large *cobra capella* coiled up under the hen, with its throat quite distended by an egg, it was then swallowing. The snake was killed, and the remaining eggs were hatched.

Whether it be owing to the soil or to the very frequent and dreadful flashes of lightning, which pervade all countries abounding with iron, it is certain that, in the vicinity of iron mines, very few snakes are to be found, on dry land at least, though some are occasionally seen in the neighbouring waters. Along the banks of great rivers, but especially near Buxar, there is a sort of yellow snake abounding in the waters; these frequently ascend into *Budjrows* and other boats by means of the rudder ropes, and by the oars which are constantly suspended in the water.

Even crows and starlings will attack small snakes, and hover over them in flights. The larger birds, such as the



*cyrus*, *argeelah*, &c. are particularly fond of killing them, as are peacocks. They dance round the snake, which rears to defend itself, and keeping it in a perpetual state of alarm, weary it out; or if there be other birds at hand, they watch their opportunity to catch hold near the throat, and giving a hearty shake, speedily sicken and kill it. They then very deliberately take the reptile by the tail and swallow it whole; not, however, without much competition among the fraternity, of which each individual perhaps gets the snake half way down his long throat, when another, making a snap at the pendant remainder, pulls it forth, and flying off drops it as he proceeds through the air, followed by his disappointed kindred.

Snakes swallow animals which often are more than five or six times as thick as themselves. Thus it is common to see one not more than an inch in diameter with a large rat or frog in its maw; appearing like a great swelling. The skeleton of an *adjeghur*, which was discovered near Chittagong, is, I believe, yet to be seen: it measured upwards of twenty-five feet in length. The skeleton of an antelope was found in its throat. There was every reason to believe that the snake was in the act of swallowing the antelope, whose horns, though compressed by the snake's jaws and gullet, yet forced their way through, before they passed among the ribs, and prevented digestion.

The birds seen in this Plate attacking the *covra capella* are the *argeelah*, or adjutant. This last name was given them by



the European soldiery, in consequence of their being always seen in numbers on the parades, waiting for such bones and offal as might be thrown out. When erect, many of them measure at least six feet. They devour large rats, &c. with perfect ease; and after some turnings will rarely fail to swallow a joint of meat weighing four or five pounds.

Whether there ever was a snake answering individually to the description we have of the cockatrice, may be difficult to ascertain; certain it is, however, that all snakes fascinate their prey. I have frequently seen little birds so frightened by them as to lose the power of escaping.

Considering the numbers of snakes found in all covers, it is wonderful that so few accidents happen in sporting. I recollect but one instance, when the late Lieutenant Colonel Hutchinson, of the Tonnah establishment, was bit in the leg. The Colonel, with equal presence of mind and fortitude, seized a large firebrand, with which he burnt a deep hole in the part—an instance of resolution which we may not always find equalled!

The greater part of the fish in India are excellent for the table. The *rooe*, which is a species of carp, grows to a large size, as does the *cutlah*, which is a kind of perch. These often weigh thirty or forty pounds. The *meergy* is likewise of the carp species, and having fewer bones, is preferable to the *rooe*. Eels, shrimps, prawns, and claw fish abound, as do mullets. The finest fish is, however, the sable; it is in flavour like a salmon, and not unlike it in form. It rarely weighs more than



four pounds. It is esteemed very heating on account of its being very fat and oily. The *cockup* is evidently the salt-water pike. Such as do not weigh more than five or six pounds are in great request. I once saw a cockup taken near Dacca, that measured more than eight feet in length, and required four men to take it to Mr. Bebb's, the commercial Resident. There are great varieties of fish, all very good, but not known in Europe. Skait abound; they take a bait well, but are apt to hug the bottom. It is dangerous to handle them, on account of a large spike in the middle of their tails. A Mr. Campbell was killed by a skait which struck at him in the water, and with this terrible weapon cut the artery which lies between the bones of the leg. The poor man died from loss of blood, much regretted.

Bathing is very dangerous on account of the alligators. The sharp-nosed kind called the *gurriol*, lives on fish; but the blunt-headed kinds, such as the *muggar*, (which name is often applied to the shark) and the *koomeer*, make cattle and men their chief prey. These amphibious devils grow to an enormous size. Some are kept in tanks, and are said to be tame, as they will come when called to receive their daily allowance. Still, after what I have known, I would not trust myself to them, even when in a state of reflection. The Nabob had some *tame* alligators in a tank at Lucknow, which, however, occasionally snapt up a bather! It is very common to see dogs pulled down by alligators in small rivulets. A gentleman who was shooting near *Rajemahal*, in some long grass on



the banks of a nullah, or small river, suddenly saw two of his pointers seized and swallowed by an alligator which lurked in the cover; and he might himself have been added to the meal, but for a round of small shot which he poured down the animal's throat.

In the ditches of some forts in the Carnatic, alligators are encouraged, to prevent desertions. Such pariah dogs as are found in the fort are thrown in as food for the alligators, which soon devour them. Only one dog was ever known to swim across, and his escape was occasioned by the number of his pursuers, which crowding together, obstructed each other from seizing the fugitive. It is remarkable, that the alligator returns to the place where she has laid her eggs in the sand, at the time when she expects the breed to hatch. She awaits in the water opposite to the spot, and sweeps them up as they arrive at the element, to which instinct leads them.

The quantities of fish caught when a bank or *poolbundy* gives way, are astonishing; baskets, having holes at their tops, are used for this purpose: the fish being seen in the shallows, these are thrown over them; and the hand being introduced, they are taken out with ease. The common seine and casting net, as also the tunnel, are all in use in India. Those who fish in shallow waters have a triangular net fixed to two cross bamboos; which, being sunk nearly to the bottom, the fishermen moving on slowly, is raised up occasionally, when often both large and small fish are taken. The natives use spears and gigs with success.



I shall briefly observe that *budjrows* are boats for pleasure and travelling, and that a large kind of wherry, called a *din-gee*, is in use for expedition, fishing, &c. The common merchant boats vary in size, and are mostly thatched over. Some carry from fifty to seventy tons, and row from ten to sixteen oars. None of the boats in India have keels, except those built by Europeans.

In closing this head, I should inform the reader, that the breaking of a *poolbundy* is rarely attended with considerable damage, as the river seldom remains long at its full height; it often falling several feet in a few hours. I recollect seeing a village saved by presence of mind in an old man, who had once witnessed the place destroyed, owing to the inundation following a course through some low lands. As soon as he found the *poolbundy* giving way, he collected all the people, and repairing to the spot whence the waters had before found their way to the village, set all hands to work, and completed a dam just in time to prevent a repetition of the calamity.



## PLATE XXXVI.

KILLING GAME AT THE INUNDATION  
OF AN ISLAND.

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THE several rivers throughout India, like those in Africa, have their annual period of increase. Perhaps a slight rise of a few inches, rarely so much as a whole foot, may take place about the latter end of May, in those principal rivers which have their sources among the mountains to the northward. This partial effect is attributed to the heat of the weather, which, dissolving the snows that often cover their summits during the whole year, increases the lakes, and by their overflowing adds a slight augmentation to those small streams which, issuing from them, form the commencement of the most important rivers, such as the Ganges and the Barampooter. Unless we consider such to be the cause, we may in vain seek to account for the increase; especially as the whole country presents an arid, parched surface; and, with the exception of the few slight showers which occasionally attend the squalls called north-westerns, no rain ever falls from the month of September to the middle of June.



North-westers are so called from their usually commencing or terminating with a violent gust from that quarter. For the most part they occur towards the evening, after very sultry days, and give ample notice by a gradual collection of opaque clouds extending slowly as the squall gathers strength, or approaches; and are ushered in with deep thunder, and remarkably vivid lightning. The force of these north-westers is prodigious; sometimes large vessels are struck at their anchors, being absolutely blown under water. Should a large ship not sufficiently ballasted, by accident expose her side to the gale, it would be a chance but she were laid down, and perhaps completely upset: and this, though at Calcutta, at a distance of at least, seventy miles from the sea. Often immense trees, the sturdy *burghut* not excepted, are laid prostrate; being torn up by the roots, leaving cavities of many thousands of cubic feet! Houses are not only unroofed, but at times are blown down. Substantial thatches, of a foot in thickness, may be seen flying like sheets of paper, or are perhaps curled up like rolls of leather, &c.

For the most part, north-westers commence with a violent gust of wind, conveying clouds of dust, which obscure the atmosphere. A remarkable instance occurred in May 1795, when a north-wester, which came on very suddenly, produced the most awful sensations; it was attended with such darkness as far exceeded nocturnal obscurity: it was not a "darkness visible," but absolutely precluded the possibility of distinction or discernment even of the nearest objects on



the earth. There was not a cloud of any size to be seen; the sun shone bright, and through the immense body of dust which floating to a great height in the air, had bereft us of its influence, presented the appearance, when looking to the west, of an immense conflagration. The storm, which was at first so severe as to dash birds to the ground, lasted for about an hour, during which our sense of seeing became a mere nullity: indeed the dust was so very obnoxious as to render it necessary to put handkerchiefs over our faces. The *bungalows* trembled under their creaking roofs; and it became doubtful whether the plain were not to be preferred to the dwelling. At length the tenebrous power subsided, and we sat down to an excellent dinner which, by means of a clean table cloth spread over it just as it had been put into the dishes, was tolerably clear from grit; the bottle circulated; and our apprehensions not only vanished, but made way for raillery at our mutual symptoms of consternation.

It should be remarked, that some years before, a very large cantonment had been almost destroyed during a north-wester. A boat was repairing on the bank of the river, and the first gust of wind carried some embers from under the pitch kettle into a thatch, from which the fire soon expanded, and was, by the force of the tempest, communicated to many others; whence a very large portion of the barracks and officers' bungalows were destroyed. The sun being then nearly in the north-west, and the wind coming from the same quarter, presented a terrifying memento of the former accident, and



caused the most lively apprehensions to us, who, had there been occasion to retreat easterly, must have swam over a branch of the Ganges, ere we could have been in safety. It is worthy of being recorded that this most extraordinary phenomenon extended in breadth, on the same day, from Arnopshier to Patna: a distance of at least four hundred miles in the most direct line! Not a drop of rain fell in its whole course.

The rains, like other changes of season, vary as to the date of their commencement; but for the most part they set in between the 10th and 15th of June. They have been known to be a month earlier or later: such deviations however are very rare. When late, they occasion an interval of the most obnoxious sultry heat, peculiarly distressing to the feelings, and teeming with destruction, both to health and vegetation. Their commencement is for the most part gradual and gentle, resembling our spring showers. Sometimes they have begun with violent storms, and such heavy falls of water, as might give the hint to Noah, were he living, of the expediency of embarking. I have known the rains to subside with the first week in September; which is, however, a great misfortune, as the solar heats, the equinox not being past, burn up the rice crops, and occasion the verdure to disappear. The effects on the human constitution are not more favourable; in such seasons many persons are carried off suddenly. Although the rains have occasionally continued until the first week in November, such instances, however, are rare; when it so



happens, a good crop may be expected, and a fine winter invariably follows. But as an average we may look to the 10th of October for their cessation.

Rice, which will not grow but in the water, is sown on the banks of *jeels*, &c. or on the borders of rivers, in the mud, during the month of May. Too much seed can scarcely be used: the plants come up so thick as almost to bear up a man on their points: they resemble a beautiful green carpet. When the low grounds have been well irrigated, by the first showers, they are ploughed; though at times that operation has previously taken place; and the rice, which is taken up from the seed beds to be transplanted in the fields, now becomes so very heavy, that the setters wade up to their knees in slime, as they set the plants at about six or eight inches distance each way. This is done with their hands, no tools being necessary.

The rice grows amazingly fast; in fact, it is not easy to drown it. The great rivers often rise twelve or fourteen feet in twenty-four hours, yet strange to behold! the rice increases with equal haste, and still displays its fine green top above the flood. I have often pulled up rice straw eighteen and twenty feet long, from places which a week before were nearly dry. I was for a long time puzzled by this curious circumstance, but my wonder ceased when I examined the plant. Each joint of the straw is to a certain degree perfect from the time that the rice is a foot high, and as the water rises, exclusive of the growth of each joint in itself, the whole



of the several tubes or joints draw forth in a manner similar to the insertions of a pocket telescope. After a certain time the straw becomes hard, and contracting, forms a *callus*, much the same as the joint in wheat or other straws. If a very high flood come, the rice floats, and is lost; as the tubes in such case slip out altogether.

I cannot say in what depth of water rice will grow; but if the rise be not very rapid, I conceive its increase would bear a suitable proportion, even to the depth of forty or fifty feet. We may suppose that in some places it must be of that length, when vessels of considerable burthen can sail through it for a whole day without touching the ground.

When the rice is ripe it is generally gathered in boats throughout the lower country, else it must be left till the water withdraws, when it is cut in the usual way. The length of the straw, in its prostrate position, forms an admirable asylum for game. Snipes are found in thousands, as are in some parts wild hogs. But riding over it is very dangerous; many a horse being thrown down in spite of the utmost precaution. Such situations breed very large musquitos, which bite with extreme severity.

The villages throughout the low country, which is subject to annual inundation, are invariably built upon eminences or knobs of land; of which many appear to be artificial. Nevertheless in some very extraordinary season, towns are swept away. This, however, is not so alarming an event as might at first be supposed. Such places as are considered of



insufficient height, are farther secured by building the houses on stakes or piles, over which the floors, composed of bamboo laths and mats, are laid, perhaps five or six feet from the ground. The openings below are sufficient, on one hand, to let the water pass freely; which it does at a slow rate, seldom exceeding a mile in the hour; while, by means of a few additional battens during the dry season, a convenient enclosure is formed for keeping calves, &c. As long as the waters are up, the cattle of each village are kept in boats, crowded as thick as their prows can be brought together all around the insulated village; and green fodder is daily procured by means of long wooden forks pushed down in the water near to the bottom, whence they come up well laden with a remarkably sweet kind of bent grass, providentially abounding at this juncture, and remarkably fattening to every species of cattle, &c. Few horses are kept, except for riding; all the labours of husbandry being performed by oxen, which are in general use both for draught and carriage.

The innumerable islands to be seen, in the great rivers, all derive their origin from the same cause. There can be no doubt but they were in the first instance formed by the great body of sand, floated by the violence of the currents during the rains. The smallest object suffices for the commencement of a new island; perhaps a bramble, carried down by the stream, lights on a shallow part; or, when the waters subside, is casually left on a spot which afterwards becomes dry, or from which it is not again propelled. This seems to be a ral-



lying point for all small rubbish which, during the hot season, obstruct the sands, and by the next rains will have greatly accumulated. In the course of a few years its extent is so far increased as to render it an object of the husbandman's attention; when it is cultivated, and produces fine crops. By degrees it rises above the water's utmost level, and villages make their appearance. But it should not be forgotten, that such formations do not always display sufficient stability; they sometimes vanish in the course of a few days or hours. This is generally occasioned by some accident above, such as a headland giving way, and causing the force of the stream to be directed to the new island; in such case it cannot stand its ground. In the same manner an island frequently proves the destruction of the next below it; which vanishes, and its component particles, after floating for miles, are probably arrested by some new accumulation.

Such islands as owe their formation to a root of the *jow*, which is a very large kind of aquatic plant, always prove the most solid and durable. The *jow* increases very fast, and soon covers the surface: its strong and extensive roots bind the soil, and the foliage decaying annually, supplies the surface not only with an additional stratum, but an excellent manure.

From this we are to understand, that the chains of islands throughout the great rivers are in a constant state of removal downwards towards the sea, where they form those extensive lands which may be reckoned among the natural defences of Bengal, and are so extremely dangerous even to such as from



study or habit are best acquainted with their situations. It appears plain, that the large tract of country overgrown with woods and underwood, and so intersected with rivers and small streams, most of them navigable, known by the name of the Sunderbunds, was once a part of the Bay of Bengal. There are sufficient grounds indeed to conjecture that the present salt-water lake, distant about six miles south-east from Calcutta, was, in former times, the limit of the ocean in that quarter.

The Ganges and the Barampooter are the two largest rivers in Bengal; and what is highly curious, they take their rise from different sides of the same hill. After diverging into opposite directions, so as to be upwards of a thousand miles asunder, they meet again about twenty miles below the city of Dacca; where, losing their respective designations, they form that immense river called the Megna. Throughout their course they are replete with such periodical islands as have been described. Of these many are four or five miles in length, and having in course of time become covered with a substantial quantity of *surput* grass, and other cover, are resorted to by wild beasts in general. Though some of these islands are richly cultivated, and come under the cognizance of the collectors' servants, yet many are, from various causes, uninhabited. Up the *Cogra* and the *Soane* in particular, those large rapid rivers, which issue from ranges of mountains covered and skirted with immeasurable jungles, and subject to sudden inundations, the game is most frequently dislodged.



On the banks of the Gogra, the rhinoceros and the elephant are seen in great numbers; nor are tigers wanting. As for deer and wild hogs, they will frequent any place affording cover, and the means of subsistence. Hence it occurs, that in those seasons when the rivers rise to an unusual height, which they sometimes do to the extent of three or four feet beyond their general plenitude, vast numbers of animals are dislodged from haunts where, for many years, they may have existed and bred in quiet. These are launched, much against their will, into an immense expanse of waters. On many occasions buffaloes, tigers, deer, hogs, &c. may be seen floating in groupes.

To the buffalo it is mere pastime; that animal being almost amphibious, and fond of floating about in deep waters, in which he is apparently more refreshed than fatigued. To the tiger, however, it is a serious moment, and totally repugnant to his general ideas of privacy and safety. Hogs do not seem to be, by any means, so much distressed as either tigers or deer; they swim very strong, and are often known to land far below where other animals have been found in a state of complete exhaustion.

When it is perceived that the waters are rising, so as to create an expectation that the islands will be submerged, the villagers make the necessary preparations for availing themselves of the opportunity offered, both of acquiring a supply of game, skins, &c. and of destroying those animals of whose depredatory habits they have probably had abundant proofs.



The boats are held in readiness, while a few are sent among the long *surput* grass, which perhaps may be twelve or fourteen feet high, to watch closely the effect of the inundation. The spears are sharpened, as also the *tulwars* or broadswords; the bucklers are fitted, the matchlocks cleaned, and in fact all is in trim for the occasion. The buffaloes generally are the last to quit, both as being the largest, and least alarmed at the influx of the element. However, they sometimes attempt to escape, and attack the boats when in shallow water. The prudent crew, composed of all classes and professions, such as fishermen, peasants, shecarries, and other adventurers, gradually decoy the buffalo into deep water, where his horns become quite useless, on account of the impossibility of their being brought to the charging position without the animal's head being far under water; he is thus rendered incapable of making a competent resistance, and is speedily killed.

The tiger sometimes makes a most desperate defence, and rearing up in the water as the boats approach, plunges towards them with the intent to board. I have been told that some have succeeded; which I think very likely, when we consider what a motley gang are leagued to assault him. However, even if a shot should miss, or not disable him, a good stroke of a *tulwar* over the paw could rarely fail of its intent. At such moments his motions are very decisive; for his whole strength and activity are summoned for the critical essay. Under common circumstances, although a tiger may



hold out, and occasion much confusion for a while, I should think he could not possibly escape with impunity.

Hogs and deer are generally attacked with confidence : the former are best secured by a smart cut over the loins, which instantly deprives the animal of power either to resist or to escape ; and the latter are mostly knocked on the head by a lattie, an oar, or whatever may be at hand.

The Plate will give a correct idea of the form of a dingy, and of the manner in which it is platformed with bamboo laths. The vessel seen at a distance is a common baggage or merchant vessel. Boats are baled by means of wooden scoops, something like the shovels used for watering cloths in bleaching grounds : the right hand grasps the handle, while the left holds a cord fastened near to the broad part, serving to raise the scoop when filled, while the right hand, with a swinging motion, casts the water over the edge of the boat.

It is pleasant to see with what ease a large quantity of water is raised in some parts of India ; a palmira or cocoa tree being scooped out, and the butt-end closed with a board, &c. is fixed on a pivot on a level with the place to which the water is to be raised ; a man having a pole to sustain him, throws his weight towards the butt end, which thus sinks into the water, when the balance being again changed to the other end, the water is raised as the butt-end ascends, and shoots into a channel or reservoir made for the purpose. The quickest method, however, is by means of an osier scoop, about three feet square, and having a raised ledge on every side, except that



which is immersed into the water. Two men place themselves on the opposite sides of the reservoir whence the water is to be raised, and by means of four ropes, one at each corner of the scoop, and passing to the men's hands respectively, the water is raised by a swinging motion to about four or five feet above its former level. All these methods are excellent. They lift immense quantities, and are exempt from the expenses attendant on all machinery.



## PLATE XXXVII.

DOOREAHS, OR DOG-KEEPERS,  
LEADING OUT DOGS.

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THE food of dogs in India should be simple, and moderately nutritious. Meat alone is not found to answer the purpose, as it heats the blood, and is very apt to occasion the distemper. Dogs are extremely subject to bile, which they get rid of by eating the leaves of a kind of grass, very common in every country, and which never fails to vomit them. Besides, such dogs as are kept too high, are frequently attacked with the staggers, and commonly are troubled with very large worms. The best aliment that can be given them is about half a pound of meat, and an equal quantity of rice, daily. These being boiled together with a little salt and turmeric, are found to answer admirably. Such as are particular regarding the health of their dogs, make a point of feeding them three times in the day; but in general the allowance recommended is divided into a morning and an evening meal. If given all at one time, the animal's health would be much injured.

The English sportsman will start at the expense of such a



provision; but we must advert to the current prices of the country, where a pound of rice rarely costs an halfpenny, and where meat, such as is proper for the purpose, is seldom double that price.

Diseases of every description proceed in a warm climate with the most rapid strides; and, in general, allow no time for reflection or reference. Hence every precaution should be adopted to repel distemper, and obviate the necessity for medicine. The mange has usually taken a firm hold before it is observed; and the appearance of one blotch or deficiency in the coat of hair, serves but as a prelude to a complete baldness, which often supervenes, notwithstanding immediate remedies are used. Pans filled with water should be placed throughout the kennel, and in each a small quantity of pounded sulphur should be mixed: indeed the flour of sulphur, in small quantity, ought to be occasionally sprinkled in the food: the absence of disease, where such a precaution is adopted, will sufficiently justify the practice, and save much expense as well as anxiety. The floors and platforms should be daily washed; and every precaution used to keep the dogs cool and comfortable. Nothing is so good as a common mat for them to sleep on, it being clean, and not retentive of heat.

Under such management not only flies and fleas will be less numerous, but that dreadful disease, the hydrophobia, be less frequent. I never observed less of the complaint, nor fewer vermin than in the kennel of a gentleman who, as the



hot season advanced, had the hair of his dogs clipped, and saw that they were daily rubbed with suds; after which they were led to a pond, in which they swam about for a short time. They were healthy, and required less food than appeared absolutely necessary before this plan was adopted.

The hydrophobia, I am apt to think, is not uniform in its attack, nor in the symptoms it exhibits in its various stages. With respect to that violent spasm, or paroxysm, generally understood to be excited by the sight of water, I cannot say that I ever saw it in any dog; though I have witnessed it in a man who died of the bite which he had received from a dog that exhibited the most complete derangement, but was not in any degree convulsed when water was presented to him. We are told that in the true canine madness, the hydrophobia is a constant attendant. Having seen some hundreds of dogs that were not only mad themselves, but that communicated the malady to such as they bit, not one of which ever appeared agitated by the presence of water, I must conclude either that, in particular climates, or in some particular anomaly of that terrible disease, the hydrophobia is not an inseparable symptom.

The languor, dulness, and obvious state of melancholy which generally first give reason to suspect the approach of madness, so far from being attended with any dislike to water, in all cases that have come under my observation, have evinced a tendency to the reverse. When dogs, under such an oppression, have neglected their victuals, they have freely



repaired to the drinking vessels. As the disease proceeded, not only an indifference to their meat was evinced, but the relish for the liquid seemed to abate; and generally, instead of lapping, the dogs would get their noses under the pans and upset them. To this period, they generally retain some sense, and discriminate sufficiently to recognize their keepers. But the change is very rapid; and the increase of mucus from their mouths, the bristling of their hair, the fulness and redness of their eyes, with a constant restlessness and a disposition to gnaw whatever is in their way, may be said to finish this dreadful visitation. Still I never yet saw a dog in any stage of it, that was affected by water more than by any other object.

In the early part of the disease, I am of opinion that the cure is by no means difficult; at least I can assert that in numerous instances I have been successful in averting the danger. The operation of administering medicine to a dog reputed to be mad, and perhaps at all times shy of strangers, (nay some do not like even those who reared them, to handle their noses,) assuredly is not among the most agreeable of occupations; but to a dog of my own, of whose temper and attachment I might be satisfied, I should never hesitate to administer the following medicines with my own hands. I have frequently done so, and have had my labours rewarded with complete success.

To about six grains of calomel add thirty of powdered jalap and ten of scammony, make them into a pill with



honey, or any other convenient vehicle, and give it to the dog immediately. In all probability an abundant evacuation will succeed, from which alone the cure sometimes results. This medicine, however, should not be solely relied on, but should be followed up by pills of about the size of a very large marrow-fat pea, given half-hourly. These pills are to be made of pure camphor dissolved sufficiently to be worked into a mass, by means of a few drops of spirit of wine, which should be added drop by drop, as it is very easy to render the camphor too liquid. A very short time will decide the case: if the medicine take proper effect, the jaws will be freed from that slimy, ropy excretion occasioned by the disease; and in its stead a free discharge of saliva will appear, rather inclined to froth like soap suds. I can only assure the reader, that I have more than once saved the life of dogs by these means, although they were so far gone, as to snap at me while administering the medicine. I offer these remarks as the result of experience, without knowing how far they may meet the approbation of the faculty, or of theorists!

The kennels are rarely built either on a proper plan or in a proper situation. It is too common to see large packs of dogs crowded into a small hut, perfectly inadequate to their accommodation, merely because it happens to be at hand, or because it may not be worth while, owing to the short stay expected to be made, to erect a suitable habitation. Greyhounds, pointers, spaniels, and every kind of dogs, may be seen huddled together; and several litters of puppies may be



commonly observed crawling about the floor. Such a want of regulation is of itself sufficient to create and propagate disease, even were the place itself fully commodious. The strong oppressing the weak, and the snarling cur keeping his neighbours in a perpetual state of irritation and alarm, cannot fail to injure their health. What adds to the evil is, that, all being tied up by-ropes of about four feet long, it is not easy to avoid the mischief.

The only good plan for a kennel, where it is indispensably necessary to keep the dogs tied up, is an airy room, detached from every other building, and having, besides a good sized door, a number of windows towards that side whence the wind commonly blows during the hot season, which in general will be found to correspond with the course of the great river that happens to be nearest. Thus in Calcutta, and all the way up to Rajemahal, the hot winds generally blow from the south; and in the upper country, where the Ganges takes a westerly turn, the winds deviate, in proportion, to that point. The floor of a kennel should be of clay, well beaten down, and smoothed. Lime is a dangerous article, and should never be used, for young dogs are apt to eat it in large quantities; they will even destroy the plastering, and tear up the terraces to get it. It has the good effect of occasionally expelling worms, but if persisted in, never fails to expel life also.

Around the whole of the interior, except at the door, a platform should be made of boards, or of bamboo laths



covered with mats: this platform should be raised on substantial posts, about three feet high, but rather sloping inwards, so as to cause water, &c. to drain off. On the platform the dogs should be fastened, but classed according to their powers and tempers: the lower part being divided into small apartments, and fenced in to a certain height, serves admirably for breeding, and keeps the pups from straggling so as to teaze loose dogs during their slumbers, and from being trodden upon. I have seen kennels of this formation, in which a sick dog was as great a rarity as a healthy one in many others, where no attention was paid to order or cleanliness.

The victuals for a kennel are usually boiled in a large earthen pot over a *chooalh*, or mud-chaffer formerly described, and which requires very little fuel. When the food is dressed, if the weather permit, the dogs are taken out and tied to pickets driven in the ground, at proper distances, to prevent squabbles, where each is served with his mess, when cooled, in a piece of a broken pot, collected for the purpose; after which he is supplied with water in the same remnant of crockery. If the weather be hot, the dogs as well as the dooreahs generally remain out all night in the open air; a measure which in that climate is not generally attended with bad effects; on the contrary, it is found to refresh animals very considerably.

Every precaution to preserve the health of dogs of European blood will be found nugatory, unless the kennel be kept remarkably cool. This cannot be better effected than



by applying to the windows, frames made of bamboo, split into small ribs, and intersecting so as to leave intervals of three or four inches square. Between two such frames, which should be a foot each way larger than the window against which they are to be placed, a coating of *jewassah* or of *cuss-cuss*, should be secured. The frames being supported against the window, by means of bamboo forks, are kept constantly watered by a *bheesty*, whose sole occupation it is to supply and sprinkle them. The hot parching wind is now changed into a cool refreshing breeze; and the poor animals, which else would pant under its oppressive influence, now consign themselves to repose, and pass the day in comfort.

The *jewassah* is a very prickly-weed growing on the plains throughout the upper country during the hot season, in great abundance; it rarely exceeds a foot or fifteen inches in height, and may be as large as a common rue-bush, to which its leaves, though not near so numerous, bear some resemblance. The plant itself does not possess any particular quality, but is selected on account of its being in abundance, and because the leaves do not shed, or break off from the stalks so soon as other plants in general, which, but for these considerations, would answer equally well. The *jewassah* requires changing every third or fourth day, at farthest; as, exclusive of the leaves disappearing, it then begins to disperse an offensive smell.

The *cuss-cuss* is nothing more than the roots of the common jungle grass called *khur*, such as is in use with us for making



carpet brooms, and occasionally may be seen substituted in coat brushes instead of hair. It is commonly sold for about twelve shillings the hundred weight. It is the most expensive, but requires no change during the three or four months that *tatties* are in use; and if carefully put by, may be made to last for two or perhaps three seasons. The fresh *cuss-cuss* is, however, by far more pleasant on account of its agreeable odour, and because it is not so subject to decay, and dirt the interior. *Cheeks*, such as are described in the first number, as applicable to the doors and windows of tents and houses, are also made of *cuss-cuss* for the sides of palankeens; and are of singular use in that respect. What with a complete reform in the manner of living, and the general adoption of *tatties* of *cuss-cuss*, and *jewassah*, the climate of India may be considered as being nearly on a par with Europe on the scale of health.

During the cold season and rains, the door-ways, (for shutters of any kind are little used in India for subordinate buildings,) are closed by means of mats secured between bamboo frames, and suspended by cords to pins or rings fastened in the walls for that purpose. When they are intended to remain open, their lower ends are brought up nearly on a level, by means of bamboo forks, on which they are supported to any height that may be found proper. The rains fall tremendously heavy, absolutely in torrents occasionally. At other times a kind of sleety fall prevails for four or five days and nights without intermission. This latter kind of rain is



peculiarly unfavourable to old houses, especially such as are cemented with clay instead of lime; by causing them to give way, often with very little notice. One would suppose, that the thick coat of good plaster with which every part of the exterior is universally faced, would preserve them from such a fatality; but the roofs being all flat, and covered with a terrace probably a foot thick, become so very heavy at this time of the year, that the walls, from the damp, usually warp in some place, when the water finds its way at pleasure, and fairly dissolves the connection between the bricks and the yielding cement.

It appears remarkable, that our countrymen in India should so long have persisted in the prevalent custom of whitewashing the outsides of their houses. That they thence assume a lively and cleanly appearance for a while, cannot be denied: but though the eye be gratified in that respect, it suffers proportionably by the glare, which is not only unpleasant, but often causes the most painful and obstinate diseases in that tender organ. Of late years, however, a change has taken place, in consequence of its being discovered, that a due mixture of a brown sand with the lime was more hard and durable, than the cement formerly in use. Many houses are in consequence now plastered with this composition, which is of a pleasant stone-colour, and as the cornices, &c. are done with white, gives a house a remarkably neat and handsome appearance. The Dutch, at their settlements at *Chinsurah*, and elsewhere, colour their houses blue or brick-colour, with



yellow or other reliefs. We cannot say much in favour of their taste, or of the apparent lightness of such colouring; but we must confess, that, if the eye were not pleased, it was not injured in beholding them.

Time will work wonders in India: some improvements are occasionally taking place, but many of the good old customs are fast falling into oblivion. The great increase of population, and consequently of business, necessarily induces caution, and that distance and reserve which, even within the period of my own knowledge, were utterly unknown there, except under the circumstances of an individual whose nature could not swerve from the austerity of ceremonious punctilio. Few, however, of such characters were seen; in general, a disposition to formality was ridiculed into compliance with the pleasant and liberal habits of the community; but if such could not be effected, the supposed proud misanthropist was neglected by those to whose social welcome he would not resort.

The recollection of old times forms a most unpleasant contrast with the present cast of manners. Formerly half a dozen spare plates were laid by such as kept house, in the *hope* that such bachelors, as were disengaged, would drop in at the well known dinner hour. But now a friend may find himself bowed most formally out of the house at all times, especially when dinner is ready.

About twenty-five years ago I was in the habit of seeing familiar notes written on any scrap of paper, running thus:



“ Dear Jack, lend me thirty thousand rupees; the bearer may be trusted,” &c. But of late these hasty scratches, which were all the acknowledgments that were deemed necessary, have given place to formal applications from lawyers, for even very trifling sums, in behalf of *affectionate* friends; and even where the most satisfactory securities have been given. As Mr. Zachary Fungus says in Foote’s admirable farce, called *the Commissary*, “ I tremble to think of the great powers of commerce!!! ”



## PLATE XXXVIII.

SYCES, OR GROOMS, LEADING  
OUT HORSES.

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THE breeds of horses indigenous of Bengal are not to be boasted of, whether for temper or other good qualities. There are properly but two kinds, viz. the *tazze* and the *tattoo*. The former grow to a large size, often sixteen hands, but their average may be from fourteen to fifteen in height. They have generally Roman noses, and sharp narrow foreheads, much white in their eyes, ill shaped ears, square heads, thin necks, narrow chests, shallow girths, lank bellies, cat hams, goose rumps, and switch tails! Some occasionally may be found in every respect well shaped. They are hardy and fleet, but incapable of carrying great weights. Their vice is proverbial; yet until they arrive at four or five years, they are often very docile and gentle: after that period they for the most part are given to rearing, kicking, biting, and a thousand equally disagreeable habits.

Few geldings are to be seen in India: the operation is extremely dangerous, and is supposed to weaken the animal's



stamina considerably. I have possessed geldings, however, which were found on all occasions to be very strong and persevering; and I have no doubt but their vigour was by no means diminished by the operation, even though, in one case, performed on an aged horse. In most cases castration has banished many of a horse's vices, rearing especially; for which, with very trivial exceptions, I have seen it a perfect specific. On the whole, I think it would prove extremely proper to castrate horses in general throughout India. In that climate relaxation is a dreadful disease, often occasioning one or both of the testes to become enlarged, and to remain indurated, so as to preclude the possibility of speed and exertion. Added to this, not one in a hundred of the *syces*, or grooms, possesses resolution enough to keep his charge in a due state of subordination; having on all occasions recourse to enticement, rather than gaining a proper dominion by means of that resolution, without which no permanent ascendancy can be hoped for.

When they are led out to walk, as should be done daily, morning and evening, a battle may usually be seen; if a gentleman imprudently ride a mare, or eventually a gelding, near to a string of led horses, one or more will probably break from their *syces*, and, to say the least, oblige the incautious rider to dismount; leaving his steed to its fate! As to riding boot to boot, as is done in England, it is impossible. Few horses tolerate the presence of others, and most commonly a challenge passes at the distance of thirty or forty



yards, when both parties shew equal eagerness to avail themselves of the first opportunity, in order to decide the quarrel. It is highly imprudent to approach within the reach of a jerk, or of a side kick: those who have trusted to the seemingly good dispositions of two horses, have always felt, or witnessed, some very unpleasant consequences to result from their ill placed confidence, such as a fall, a broken leg, or a horse severely lamed.

*Tattoos* are not in the least more trust-worthy than *tazzees*. They are of a very small stature, generally from ten to thirteen hands high, and extremely hardy. They are in fact *tazzees* in miniature; though stronger in proportion. Many will carry a woman with her young children, seated on a large pair of sacks containing all the utensils, &c. belonging to the family; perhaps too a small tent, of which the poles drag on the ground at each side, not forgetting a pet dog, a parrot, or some other favourite. After proceeding a day's journey, their fore legs are tied together, and they are suffered to straggle in quest of their own meals from the scanty verdure or foliage; for they are rarely allowed much, if any corn. It is to be admired, that these little animals perform this routine for months together, and after being rid of their burthens, evince, by their readiness to kick and fight, that, in spite of the severity of their drudgery, they retain the power to display their innate ferocity.

Some of the hilly countries bordering on Bengal and Bahar, towards the north-east, and situated in that long valley which



separates the Morung and Kammow hills from those of *Bootan* and *Thibet*, have a very strong and hardy breed of small horses, called *Tanians*, which are found wild in their jungles; or at least are only caught when wanted for sale. They are of various colours, but for the most part are pye-balls: they have large heads, thick short necks, and bushy manes, which must be hogged; their tails are short and thick, and their whole form is very compact and substantial. The merchants of that country load them with their manufactures, and sell them for about seven or eight pounds sterling each. *Tanians* rarely exceed thirteen hands; perhaps twelve may be a fair medium. They are incredibly strong, and carry great weights with less fatigue than any other kind of horses. They are easily taught to amble; which is a very favourite pace among the natives. It is singular that these horses, of whatever colour they may be, scarcely ever have a bad hoof; they are very sure-footed, and thrive with little corn. They are, however, very stubborn and given to fighting; but when once broken in, are very valuable, though not sightly cattle. *Tanian* mares are scarcely ever seen in Bengal, there being a law in the country where they are bred against exporting them.

The most extraordinary circumstance that attends these animals is, that they are often found to have leeches in their nostrils, which keep them poor in spite of the best feed. They are never seen but when the *Tanians* are drinking, when they occasionally stretch themselves down to lip in the water. This very curious fact has been ascertained in several



instances ; and the existence of the leeches may generally be suspected when there is a running or defluxion, nearly pure and limpid, issuing from the nostrils.

The province of Bengal Proper is unfavourable to breeding of horses ; though the horned cattle produced in some parts are not to be surpassed in the East. The soil is too moist, and in the rains produces a violent eruption about the feet, extremely difficult to heal, and often running into deep foul ulcers, which, if not treated with great attention, prove destructive. This disease is called the *bursautty*, literally signifying " the rains." It often disappears with that season, but in such case is apt to return the following year with additional force. The blotches become more extensive, and the discharge more fœtid ; proud flesh springs up, and lumps are formed, which becoming schirrous, never subside. A large portion of the horses kept by gentlemen have more or less of the *bursautty*, owing to insufficiency of exercise, damp stables, and the want of cooling medicines or of bleeding at certain seasons. I know not how better to describe it than as an eruptive species of the grease. A horse that has once had this complaint cannot strictly be considered as sound. Some treat it as a local farcy ; and many assert that it is hereditary. The natives who are in the habit of giving their horses a great quantity of medicine, and especially the *khalah-nimok*, or bit-noben, lately introduced into England, scarcely ever have one affected with this terrible disease.

Though Bengal is so unfit for breeding horses, Bahar is



quite the reverse. The water there is purer and lighter: the soil is drier; the air more elastic, and the pastures rich. A breed called *serissas*, of the *tazzee* kind, is common all over North Bahar; but not being deemed fit for our cavalry service, the Honourable Company have established a stud for the purpose of improving the breed, by means of very fine stallions kept for the purpose. The reader may conjecture how fit the place is for such a project, when he is informed that upwards of twenty thousand horses of the *serissah* breed are sold at the annual fairs in that quarter: most of them are of no great value, but I have known persons, who speculated there, make a handsome profit by purchasing good looking colts for perhaps an hundred rupees, which after being broke to the saddle, or to a carriage, have sold for five or six hundred. The Company's stud being supported with great liberality, promises to answer the end proposed; and we may fairly hope, that time will supplant the obloquy attached to the name of *serissah*, and cause it to be respected as implying superiority. This establishment became indispensably necessary; for the Company, on an average, expended from £50. to £70,000. sterling annually in purchasing horses from the Mahratta and other countries. They allowed four hundred rupees, or fifty pounds for a common troop horse: and many gentlemen give from one to two thousand rupees for horses of a quiet disposition, though generally possessing little figure, and at all events not less than eight or ten years old!

Towards the cold season the merchants come from the



north-west countries with strings of horses, from which gentlemen suit themselves at a most enormous price. Some are brought from the *Mahratta* country, and being generally large, well made, and bold, make excellent chargers or hunters. They have not such blood, however, as the *Arab*, the *Persian*, the *Toorky*, the *jungle tazzee* and the *majennis*. The first are too well known to require any description: they are all brought by sea, and commonly sell for high prices.

The *Persian* is certainly a fine breed; but is rather too bony and heavy; as is also the *Toorky*, which is of a broad, short make, remarkably phlegmatic, and in common with the *Persian*, lob-eared, and coarse about the shoulder. They possess great strength, and are far the most quiet horses in India. The *jungle tazzee* appears to be a mixed breed. They are generally of an excellent stature, have a very bold, commanding appearance, and prove excellent racers. As they possess great spirit, none but good riders should mount them. The *majennis* appears to be a mixed breed, and is in greatest perfection when got by a *jungle tazzee* horse, or a *Persian* or *Toorky* mare. They are in general very handsome and shewy; though, like the *jungle tazzee*, their spirit is apt to be rather too powerful for the ordinary run of horsemen. On the whole, they may be considered as the best cast; being qualified for almost every purpose, and yielding to none for such qualifications as prove recommendations in the several capacities incident either to the carriage or the saddle. They may be taken at an average at fifteen hands.



The Cutch horse is extremely curious in the form of its back. The withers fall off suddenly, and in a perpendicular direction, nearly for perhaps three or four inches; seeming as though a large piece had been by accident taken out of that part of the back bone; which, though so much depressed there, rises to the ordinary level as it comes to the loins. These horses are much valued, but I cannot think they are so strong as others: it is evident that the saddle must be made for the horse. The people of Cutch, up the Gulph of Persia, however, preserve the breed, and find their account in doing so, I conceive much on the principle of the crooked barrel hereafter noticed!

The farriers in India commonly confine themselves to the mere shoeing and trimming of horses; leaving the medical branch to a set of quacks, called *salootras*, or horse-doctors, who will be found to be most formidable competitors with our English practitioners in all the cant and imposition usually attendant on the profession. As to jockeyship, the Asiatic horse dealer scorns to yield the palm to any of our most experienced black legs! Not one of them will venture a horse, he is about to sell, in the stables of the intended purchaser, unless attended by one of his own *syces*, or grooms, who both knows and is known by the animal. If the horse be very old, or naturally dull, the syce takes care to ply him with spices and other stimulants; and if vicious, opium and other anodynes are given; so that the horse is absolutely in a state of disguise.



I saw a horse purchased, which, after having been examined with every precaution by several of our most knowing sportsmen and jockies, was considered as being in every respect sound; but on being hunted a few days afterwards, lost one of his hoofs. On a closer inspection it was found to be artificial, having been made of leather! Another was just in time discovered to have been staked in one of his fore feet; the merchant had staked the other foot in a similar manner, so as to make the horse go even, though his gait appeared rather stiff. The dealer called Heaven to witness that it was his natural mode of going, and that the mare from which he was foaled had the same peculiarity! On cleaning out some stable dung from the hoof it was found that *dammah*, or rosin, had been poured into the cavities. This attempt to impose puts me in mind of a Captain in the Bengal army, who, having bought a gun of a Calcutta merchant, took it home; when, on shewing it to a number of brother officers, it was discovered that the barrel was very crooked, and he instantly went to return it to the knowing dealer, who very deliberately told him he knew it, and had put a higher price on it than on any others in his possession, for that it was an unique, and had been sent as the first of the kind by the maker, who had obtained a patent for constructing guns with crooked barrels, for the purpose of "shooting round corners!!!"

Many of the *syces*, or grooms, are professed thieves, and enter a service merely to take the first opportunity that may offer of stealing whatever horse they may find most valuable.



Being so easy to remove, and the borders of the Company's dominions being in many places so near, there is little danger of their not getting clear off. The common thieves, abounding in the upper provinces, are beyond belief expert in stealing horses; of which the following well known fact may serve as a sufficient corroboration.

A field officer, proceeding with a large detachment from Cawnpore to Bombay, had a very valuable horse, which was always picketted with great care, under charge of the sentries near his tent. One morning, however, the favourite was missing. A handsome reward was proclaimed for its restoration, when the thief, having full confidence in English good faith, appeared, and received the premium of his ingenious villainy. The Colonel, however, was at a loss to know how the horse could possibly be taken away from such a secure position, and desired the thief to shew him. Accordingly the circle was cleared, and the thief went through all his manœuvres, crouching and sliding along in various positions, till he reached the horse; he explained how he found the bridle, putting it at the same time into the horse's mouth, and acting as he proceeded with his detail, loosened the head and heel ropes with which horses are always fastened, when all being loose, he sprang across, and, urging the horse forward with his heels, galloped through the crowd. The Colonel, in high admiration of the fellow's skill, followed his course in the expectation of seeing the horse turned and brought back to his pickets. That event, however, did



not take place; the thief continued his way, leaving his numerous spectators divided between admiration at the neatness of the trick, and vexation at his success. Being in an enemy's country at the time, pursuit was impracticable.

With regard to the *gurdannies*, or horse cloths, as also the *chowries* or whisks, and the practice of dying the tails of light-coloured horses red, by means of the *mindy*, they have all been noticed in the former Numbers. It remains now to state that both stables, and camel or elephant-houses, are generally constructed with mud walls, and covered with thatch. Tiles do not answer the purpose, as they reflect a great heat: else they would be preferable on account of the many fires that happen in all parts of India. Formerly the town of Calcutta was much incommoded in this respect; most of the natives' huts being formed of combustible materials. Regulations were adopted, however, for tiling throughout the town, and fires are therefore far less frequent.

At most of the military stations the sepoy is obliged to plaster their thatches over with mud; and the officers never omit placing pots filled with water along the ridges of their out-offices, so as to have them at hand in case of necessity; in the event of the thatches on which they are placed taking fire, the pots being broken by poles, or clods thrown at them, their contents are discharged, and help to extinguish the flames. These precautions are of essential service where there are so few barracks; the officers and men receiving an allowance in lieu of being furnished with quarters. They are by



no means gainers on the long run by this commutation, but manage to live very comfortably in their bungalows, or thatched houses; which have no upper story, but contain three or four good rooms, partly surrounded by a balcony enclosed with *jaumps*, or frames of bamboo and mats as described in the preceding Plate. These balconies are from ten to twenty feet in breadth, and afford ample shelter for the servants, besides accommodating a palankeen, gig, and other machines.



## PLATE XXXIX.

### RUNNING A HOG-DEER.

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THE number of hares, foxes, and jackals, to be found, in general occasions a preference to be given, among a certain class of sportsmen, to greyhounds. A brace of good long dogs, with one or two questing spaniels, form a sufficient stock for him, who, whether from choice or necessity, remains on horseback during his morning or evening excursion. Considering the nature of the climate, this easy recreation may certainly be upheld as the most salubrious; but it requires a certain portion of apathy, for a person who can fetch down one bird in twenty, to resist taking a gun when surrounded by game, flying in all directions.

Among the great numbers of greyhounds kept in India, it would be strange if there were not some of the first rate: but such are very scarce; the breed degenerates, as in the case of the hound, unless frequent crossings from good blood be obtained. It is wonderful, that, in the space of perhaps not more than four or five generations, the climate should so change the animal's form. The ears become gradually larger,



and pendant; the bones heavy; the tail thickens and shortens: the back flattens or sinks; and the whole form indicates what may justly be deemed a change of nature! Speed and spirit often fall off together, as it were keeping parallel in their decline: this appears to be perfectly conformable to reason, as well as to experience in other matters. Inability to keep up with game, in time creates indifference, and if it does not occasion a loose bite, never fails to cause a dog to give up a chase, which, if duly persevered in, might probably have proved successful. Many hundreds of dogs are ruined by this; which may generally be attributed to improper treatment when first entered. Some are allowed to try their speed and powers unaided by others; from which it frequently occurs, that a habit of despondency is created, from which no recovery can be expected; the first repulse from a jackal is generally sufficient to intimidate a pup so as never to pluck up courage to attack even less vigorous game. I have always found it best to let an old dog of known intrepidity shew the example, and on such occasions would recommend that only one horseman attend, whose sole object should be to watch and encourage the young couples. I have remarked, that such dogs as have been broke without any horseman attending, have proved most staunch. The dog should see his master in the field; but being once engaged in the chase, should disregard every thing but the object of pursuit.

The hog-deer is found in most of the heavy grass jungles throughout the lower provinces, and to the northward may



be seen in the immense *jow* jungles that border the banks of rivers, and cover those large islands which are sufficiently elevated to escape inundation, but in the dry season communicate with the banks. Such are their favourite resorts. The soft silky kind of grass used for making twine, called *moonge*, is their choice when to be found. It is not scarce, but grows chiefly on spots inundated for a very short time, and having descent enough to drain the water rapidly from its roots: it rarely exceeds three feet in height, and being generally very level, and on a firm soil, where buffaloes do not take their wallowing fits, the chase may be enjoyed with pleasure and safety.

But were an extensive country covered with *moonge*, and every provision at hand, the hog-deer would not remain there, unless some very heavy cover, such as the *surput*, or the *jow*, were within an easy distance. In such they breed; seldom leading their fawns to the plains until they are strong enough to keep up with the dams. This, however, they are able to do very well in twelve or fifteen days. Antelope fawns are far more easy to obtain, as the does will kid in any low grass contiguous to the plains where the herds usually graze; these, being closely watched, they may be seen to frequent the grass; and if due exertion be used, the fawn may be taken soon after its birth, when being brought up under a goat, it will become extremely tame and affectionate. At a week old an antelope fawn will bound away before tolerably good greyhounds. The doe of the hog-deer species is rarely



seen in any advanced state of pregnancy: at that time she retires to the heavy covers, where she brings forth in safety: the bucks being particularly vigilant and fierce in their defence.

In general hog-deer do not frequent jungles of underwood, and it is very remarkable that they are seldom seen where pea-fowls abound; although the spotted deer are extremely attached to such situations. They are partial to the banks of great rivers, and appear to delight in places affording them a moderate concealment. They are extremely indolent, and seem to pass most of their time in sleep. Nevertheless for a short distance they are fleet. Sometimes they are met with in such numbers as absolutely bewilder the hunter, who at every moment either starts, or is crossed by fresh game. They do not shun the vicinity of villages, provided the cover be to their fancy: at the time when the crops are growing fast into blade, they commit cruel depredations; nibbling it away below the crowns of the plants, and annihilating the husbandman's hopes in a few hours! They graze at nights, being very rarely seen stirring until the sun be set.

In woody countries they may generally be found in the ridges of grass bordering jeels and bottoms, in which water collects during the rainy season. They may occasionally be put up from under bushes in mixed covers; and I have remarked that such as are discovered in those situations are, for the most part, larger and of a brighter colour, than those which are bred on the plains: possibly they are invigorated



by browsing among the leaves. Thus all the hog-deer that I saw in the Dacca district, which is full of forests and heavy covers, interspersed with extensive plains, and which may be justly styled the emporium of game, were more powerful than those on the Cossimbazar Island, or in the Jungleterry. I observed the same in regard to the hog-deer bred beyond Cawnpore and Futtý Ghur towards the Rohillah country, where they far surpassed in size and speed, those found in Bahar and other open countries. About Allahabad and Chumar, as also in the Juanpore district, they are very scarce. Again, all along the Eastern boundary they are numerous, and scarce a *jow* jungle can be searched without starting both hogs and hog-deer.

The hog-deer, which in the Moors' language is called *par-rah*, is about the size of our fallow deer; the horns of the bucks are similar to them; but the form of the body differs essentially. The hog-deer has a heavy head somewhat like a sheep, its fore quarters are remarkably low, and its hind parts very broad and fleshy. Down the back two rows of oval white spots, about the size of the first joint of a man's thumb, are seen commencing at the withers, and gradually becoming smaller as they approach the insertion of the tail, which is like that of the antelope. These two rows of spots are separated by a list of deep chocolate colour, about two or three inches broad, running down the middle of the back. The rest of the animal is of a mouse colour; but they vary a little according to age and other circumstances.



Formerly the large tract of country skirting the west bank of the Ganges, from *Sooty* up to *Bar*, was famous for hog-deer. It was then in a state of nature; being an immense wilderness, replete with game of every description. That worthy and zealous collector of Boglepore, the late Mr. Cleaveland, however, among other admirable reformatations, worked a wonderful change. He suggested to Government the utility of bestowing lands on invalided sepoys, to be rent free for a certain number of lives, which, together with their half pay, might prove a very excellent provision for persons of that class, and stimulate the native troops to exertion on all occasions. The plan was adopted in its fullest extent, and villages were founded in the midst of these wildernesses, consisting chiefly of grass jungles, where allotments were made in proportion to rank; and the seniors, in their military capacity, held the rest in subordination. The scene was soon changed: in the space of ten years such numbers had been settled, and such vast quantities of land had been brought into cultivation, that a brother sportsman, riding over the teeming fields with me, who well recollected what abundance of game used to harbour, where then only a few grey partridges could be found, very emphatically exclaimed, "they have ruined this district!" To him the luxuriant crops and flourishing villages appeared any thing but improvements; he had a due respect for wine, but not for corn and oil, when furnished at the expense of his favourite recreations.

Notwithstanding all the *ruin* that can be perpetrated by



diligent reformers and spirited cultivators, abundance of game is now, and will ever be found by the active sportsman. The Nabob Vizier's dominions, of which not above one third, at the utmost, is cultivated, will for centuries, at least, present a copious display; for under the existing, or any similar government, there appears to be no danger of that unhappy country being, according to my friend's very significant expression, "ruined."

Various kinds of deer are to be met with in India, of which the largest and scarcest is the elk. This grows to fifteen or sixteen hands: I once saw a herd trot by me out of a *praus* jungle, headed by a buck of a beautiful black colour with tanned points, that appeared as heavy as a stout Lincolnshire cart horse! He was followed by about a score of does, which were much smaller, and of a deep mouse colour. I considered myself happy in being out of sight of the buck, which led the way to another cover in a most superb style. The red deer, with very large branching horns, often grows to the size of a small cow. They are found chiefly in the *Jungleterry* district, and are both fierce and powerful. Antelopes are remarkable for their spiral horns, often near two feet in length. The outward coating of them, which may be a third of an inch in thickness, after being kept until perfectly dry, may be screwed off and on at pleasure. The limbs of the antelope are very slight; and stand more under the body than those of other deer. The bucks are of a deep brown, indeed nearly black, with tanned points, with white hair at the edges of



the tail. It is pleasing to see a herd of antelopes, consisting probably of fifty or sixty does, and led by a fine dark-coloured buck, bounding over a plain. The height and distance taken at each bound are wonderful. I speak within compass in stating that they often vault at least twelve feet high, and over twenty-five or thirty feet of ground; and this for their own amusement, and appearing to deride such dogs as follow them.

It is folly to slip greyhounds after antelopes, which are not, like hog-deer, easily blown and overtaken. It is true, that instances have been known of antelopes being run down, but few dogs have survived the exertion. This alludes to fair running: as to a surprise, it should not be taken as a standard: I have seen antelopes seized before they had run twenty yards; but in such cases the dogs had come on them unawares, when the deer being heavy with sleep, and alarmed at the sudden appearance of horsemen and dogs, could not act with energy. Except to gratify the curiosity of a stranger, no experienced sportsman would allow his dogs, at least such as he might value, to start at such odds, and where success would probably be purchased at the expense of their lives.

Antelopes differ from all other deer, in the circumstance that they select open plains, where they can see around them sufficiently to discern danger, even from a musquet ball. When a herd is collected on some favourite spot, and lie down to rest, the young bucks, as well as some of the does, are detached, probably two or three hundred yards each way, to



keep watch, especially if there be any clumps of grass, or bushes, behind which a man might lurk or approach unseen, except for such a precaution. They are not good venison, being dry and lean. The hog-deer, during the rains, and when the corn is getting into ear, is very fine eating, and may often be killed as fat as the generality of mutton.

The roe-buck is not unknown in Bengal, but is found only on the borders, particularly along the western frontier, among the crags and ravines. It is fond of elevated situations; but in general is extremely shy, and frequents such covers as are divided into small patches; so as to be able to play at hide and seek in its flight. They do not grow near so large as I have seen them in Scotland.

In questing for partridges and florikens, hog-deer are often started: they sometimes rise at your feet, and may, as I have frequently experienced, be killed on such occasions by a round of No. 6. patent shot, levelled either at the head or the heart. This is the only chance existing of getting a shot at hog-deer; for they are not to be seen either in or out of covers, at any time, except after dark, when they sometimes may be shot by those who think it worth while to watch during the night at the edges of grass jungles bordering on cultivation.

With respect to shooting antelopes, I have ever found it easier to kill a stray buck, probably exiled from a herd, than to get near to the herd itself. The best method is to get a pair of very quiet bullocks; which, by the by, are not easily



procured; and to walk between them under the guidance of a native, who should hold a plough. The antelopes, to whom this sight is perfectly familiar, will by this device await with seeming confidence, and enable the sportsman to approach sufficiently near to get a good shot. A second is not to be expected. But to ensure success, the dress and appearance of a native should be imitated; else the white cloathing generally worn by Europeans would attract the antelope's eye, and occasion a suspicion, defeating every endeavour at approximation. Even the cattle used for the plough must be not only very quiet, but accustomed to the sight and access of Europeans. This necessity will appear the more obvious, after what has been said of the natural vice and restlessness of the oxen in India, and of the usual dress of our countrymen there; particularly as they are so few in number compared to the mass of the natives, and to the immense extent of soil over which we have controul. The reader will probably be surprised to learn that, including every description of persons, from the Governor-General to the soldiers in the several regiments living in all India, and embracing the three Presidencies of Bengal, Madras, and Bombay, we should perhaps be rather over the mark in estimating the number at twenty-five thousand.

I have before stated, that oxen are used in all the branches of agriculture and conveyance. As in many parts on the Continent, so in India, is the corn invariably trodden out by four or five oxen, moving round in a circle on a large area,



previously smoothed and prepared with clay and cow-dung. This is done in the open fields. Those who are not in want of money, either bury their corn in excavations made for that purpose, or lay it up in *golahs*, formed of mats and bamboo, and thatched like our hay stacks, to which they bear some resemblance. They are also raised on stone or wooden pillars, to prevent damage from vermin or damps. The immense granaries and corn markets to be seen wherever boats can find their way, would astonish an English farmer, whose barns would appear contemptible, when compared with the quantities of grain often collected by individuals trading in that commodity. Nor, indeed, would the English financier and banker be less surprised at the great regularity and extensive dealings of the several *shroffs*, or money agents, of whom bills of exchange, to any amount, may be obtained.

The *shroffs* are certainly in some respects a very useful class of people; but the influence they possess enables them to adjust the exchange, not only between two or more places, but of specific coins, even at Calcutta, in the most arbitrary manner. They depreciate gold or silver at pleasure, and have been known to cause the former (though bearing the authority of government, being coined at their mint) to pass for one eighth under its current value. The evil was, indeed, at one time carried to such a height as to occasion the army, which is principally paid in gold, to urge the interference of government in suppressing so infamous an attack on its finances. It is worthy of remark, that, at the period alluded to, all the



silver had been withdrawn from circulation by the *shroffs*, and the *gold mohurs*, which are equal to forty shillings each, could only be exchanged by them, at such rates as they might choose to settle at their nightly meetings.



PLATE XL.

THE HOG-DEER AT BAY.

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I HAVE often seen hog-deer taken by means of nets stretched across grass plains and *jow* jungles, but never, except in one instance, did I know that springes were in use among the natives, especially for this purpose. All who witnessed it seemed to consider the circumstance as perfectly unprecedented. The method was very simple, and where hog-deer abound, it may, I conceive, be frequently successful. A line of considerable strength, and about a hundred yards long, was stretched in the same manner as is usual in fixing nets, of which a description has been already furnished: along the line, at the distance of about a foot or fifteen inches, loops, or springes of horse hair, were hanging. The line was raised by means of several short sticks, which sustained it to such a level as occasioned the springes to be hid in the grass at about a foot from the ground. This being done, all the people who could be collected were formed into a line, which moved on towards the snares. Many hogs, hog-deer, &c. were roused, and passed under the rope. One doe, however, happened to be less fortunate



than the others, and was, to her great astonishment, brought up short by a noose, through which her head had passed.

The operator was a stranger, and came from some very remote quarter. He was not wanting in encomiums on his own abilities, and laid great stress on the originality of the contrivance, claiming the entire merit of invention to himself. He was much displeased at my asserting that every poacher in England was acquainted with that very common trick of setting springes, and in a most contemptuous manner insinuated, that our country was held in detestation, as harbouring infidels and outcasts: and that were he to visit it, he might find my assertion to be unfounded. But a rupee or two put the adventurer into good humour, and we parted with the appearance of reconciliation; though no doubt he never forgot, nor forgave my unintentional derogation of his ingenuity. Certainly his device could not be held in comparison with a net, in regard to certainty; but for cheapness and ease of conveyance it was absolutely preferable.

In hunting hog-deer, greyhounds are very serviceable; they not only keep the game to its utmost speed, but prevent it from squatting, as hog-deer, especially the does, are very apt to do. The buck is extremely fierce when closely pursued, and rarely fails to make an obstinate defence. I have been several times in considerable danger from their sudden charges. They have an ugly trick of stopping short until the horse may have passed, when they rush at his hind quarters with amazing impetuosity. If there be two persons in com-



pany, this affords a favourable opportunity for delivering a spear; but this branch of sporting does not require such support from colleagues as hog-hunting, whence many follow hog-deer without adverting to the difficulties that may eventually present themselves to a single person; and of which the bucks rarely fail to take every advantage.

Sometimes a doe will make a little show of resistance; but they, for the most part, succumb with resignation to their fate; lying down when exhausted with fatigue, and allowing the hunter to dismount to tie their legs with his handkerchief, or whatever may present itself for that purpose. In this manner they are frequently taken home alive. Whether from the anxiety and heat occasioned by the chase, or that timidity and love of liberty which particularly characterizes this animal, I never knew one to survive on such occasions: nor do I recollect a single instance, among the immense numbers taken by PAUL, in nets, of a single hog-deer living more than four or five days. He tried every means to reconcile them, but always without success. The deer never grazed, even in a very nice paddock made for the purpose; but either pined away, or killed themselves by butting with the utmost violence against the palisades!

Some affect to hold deer-hunting in such inferior estimation as to disdain carrying a spear on the occasion. Sometimes, however, these fastidious refinements are treated as they deserve. I had once the pleasure, for it really was one, to stand by, while a superlative coxcomb was unhorsed by a



sturdy buck, which would have made the gentleman's ribs tell their story to the Doctor, had he not by good luck succeeded in catching hold of one of the animal's horns. Few can have partaken of this diversion for any length of time, without experiencing either in themselves, or the practice of others, some very rude encounters of this nature. A huntsman in the service of Mr. Day, at Dacca, who certainly wanted neither spirit nor skill, was to my knowledge twice in jeopardy; the first time he escaped with only an admonition as to the necessity of sticking closer to the saddle; but the second adventure was more serious. He threw his spear at a large buck, that, thinking himself competent to dispute the point with a single hunter, turned suddenly round, and charged with amazing impetuosity. The horse was alarmed at the rapidity of the deer's motions; and, in the endeavour to save his shoulder from the approaching danger, shrunk from the charge; but in so doing lost his balance, and fell on his side. The huntsman, who was intent on bearing his steed round, fell over his shoulder, and received such a butt from one of the deer's horns, as put him in mind of "that bourne from which no traveller returns." He was conveyed home, and bled; but many weeks passed before he was able to walk without assistance. Had not a brace of greyhounds, which in running through a heavy cover were left somewhat in the rear, made their appearance, there is no saying what farther testimony the huntsman might have received of the buck's courage and vigour.



As in hawking, one bird, wild by nature, is taught to pursue and destroy another, so in hunting recourse is had, by the native princes and others of rank, to the *seah-goash*, and to the *cheetah*, for the purpose of killing deer, and other game. The *seah-goash*, literally implying "black-ears," is a small species of the lynx; its form is beautiful, and from its body, which is of a fine dappled mouse-gray, it becomes gradually blacker towards the extremities, which terminate in a deep chocolate colour. The tips of the ears are of an exquisite finish, being brought to as fine a point as the best miniature pencil composed of sable hairs. Their shape has something peculiarly graceful, and the expression they give at every turn to a most keen and vigilant eye, adds much to their beauty. The *cheetah* is a small kind of leopard, or it may perhaps, with more propriety be considered as a leopard-cat, as many term the *seah-goash* the tiger-cat. The *cheetah* is rather an ugly animal, and in lieu of that quick apprehension and animation characteristic in the *seah-goash*, seems either to view objects with a vacant stare, or to regard them with the most malignant ferocity. One would conclude from its superior weight, and apparently greater power, that the *cheetah* were of the two far superior. Experience, however, justifies the opinion that the *seah-goash* is, in its wild state, infinitely more destructive. The Sultaun Tippoo had several *cheetahs*, but as far as I could learn, not one single *seah-goash* in his collection. If I am rightly informed, it is very difficult to rear them, and more so to fix them in a domestic state; being apt



to disappear after glutting with the blood of their prey; during which time it is extremely dangerous to attempt securing them.

As to hares and foxes, as also jackals, the *cheetah* and *seah-goash*, though the latter is scarcely larger than a full grown tom cat, soon overcome them. Deer are their principal object; but extreme caution is requisite in managing matters so as to avoid accidents. These savage animals are carried to the hunting ground in cages, conveyed by carts, and on the game being up, the door is opened, when the *cheetah*, or *seah-goash*, darts forth at speed after the animal in view. They are so extremely fleet, that if the ground be fair, they rarely fail to overtake within four or five hundred yards, when the *seah-goash*, in particular, springs upon the rump of the deer, occasioning it to look back, or to hold up its head; then with a second bound it seizes on the back of the head at the spot where the vertebræ of the neck are inserted, and there fixing its teeth, often strikes the prey senseless.

I never was present but at one chase of this kind. Curiosity led me, as it did many others, to see what I had never seen before: but I was not much diverted. A deer was turned loose on the occasion, and a *seah-goash* sent after it. Two minutes finished the hunt. I was not aware of the propensities of these animals to follow horsemen, or any other moving object, when the game might accidentally escape out of sight, or else I certainly should have been more diffident on the occasion, and taken my ideas on the subject from some eye witness;



for I am rather of the opinion of the clown who, being about to enter as a recruit, was favoured by the serjeant with a very fine description of an engagement ; no doubt intended as an incitement to the peasant, who, however, did not altogether relish the proposed line of life, and simply observed,

“ Good master Serjeant, I longed to see a battle ;

“ But you’ve so well described it, I’m content.”

Many of the Persian greyhounds are of a similar disposition, consoling themselves with hunting their own masters, or any one else, when the game either proves too fleet, or escapes into cover. A Captain commanding a native battalion, but who indeed scarcely knew a dog from a gun, purchased a brace of true Persians at the sale of a deceased gentleman’s effects. Anxious to exhibit his new acquisition, he went out to course jackals. A johnny was soon in view, and the dogs were slipped. Whether they were not in a humour to fatigue themselves, or that they really were unable to come up with the game, fame has not thought worth her while to record. The Captain with much regret saw his dogs give up, and rode up to lay them in afresh, and to encourage them by his presence. Judge what must have been his surprise at finding them attacking his horse ! The steed, feeling their teeth, applied to his heels, began to kick furiously, and went off at score with the gallant Captain, who was not able to keep his seat during the horse’s efforts to get rid of the curs, clinging to his neck !



This vicious disposition is not confined to the Persian greyhound only. The common Indian greyhound is sometimes known to behave in a similar manner. We may, however, find on examination, that all the greyhounds to be seen in India, of what is called the country breed, have descended from the Persian. It is singular that they are all of a reddish or mahogany colour, with very few, if any marks of white about them; unless occasionally on the chest or toes: in the latter case, a cross with the European greyhound, however remote, may always be suspected, and often be traced in the genealogy.

The Persian dog is of a fine brown, and, like the *seah-goash*, becomes blacker in proportion as the limbs are eloiigned from the body. The tail is thin and long, but appears thick and heavy, in consequence of being richly furnished at the sides with black hair about an inch and a half in length. The ears are a little inclined to flap down; some indeed resemble those of the spaniel, and are generally covered with a thin silky hair, of a fine glossy black. The nose is remarkably long and thin, and the form in general rather handsome; but few are arched in the back. The real Persian breed never have a speck of any other colour about them than what is here described.

The common country-bred greyhound is very difficult to attach when bred among the natives. I know few animals so shy and jealous! It is peculiar, that, even such gentlemen as have obtained them from the natives, who indeed keep very



few, scarcely ever could, by any means, get them in a state of confidence and familiarity. On the whole, I think them scarcely preferable to a good *pariah*. I have often seen one of that breed beat a brace of country greyhounds in a most wonderful manner, not only having far more speed, but more eagerness, and a better knack at picking up the game. European greyhounds are too valuable to be slipped after hogs, else there is no comparison with respect to their fleetness, bottom, and spirit. In fact, a good stout English dog, not apt to be bilious, as they too often are, at the end of a season, will be found to do more service than any common pair of country greyhounds. Exceptions, of course, may be found; but as a general rule we may rely on it with full persuasion of its correctness.



## CONCLUSION.

I HAVE now furnished the Reader with an ample insight into the various matters that relate to the grand subject before us; and I have indulged myself in the occasional notice of such collateral information and anecdotes, as might tend to relieve his attention from dwelling too much on the same theme. For however interesting the subject may prove, a certain pleasure is afforded by the cautious admixture of what may, with great propriety, be termed the light and shade of the picture upheld to view. I have not confined my endeavours to a mere exact detail of the Plates, but have sought both to please, and to inform those who may have deemed my labours worthy of complete investigation.

The liberal Reader will, I am confident, require no apology for a few errors that may appear in the Plates, and such, I hope not many, as may be found in the typographic branch.

I believe I may say that neither precision nor perspicuity is deficient; and I offer my Publication to the public under the fullest confidence, that the few instances which may subject it to criticism, will be treated with that liberality and candour which an enlightened nation ever evinces towards works, not of fancy, but intended to diffuse knowledge amongst its numerous and respectable individuals.



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