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RECORDS
OF
SPORT AND MILITARY LIFE
IN WESTERN INDIA.

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IN
WESTERN INDIA.

BY THE LATE
LIEUT.-COLONEL T. G. FRASER,
FORMERLY OF THE 1ST BOMBAY FUSILIERS, AND MORE RECENTLY ATTACHED TO
THE STAFF OF H. M. S. INDIAN ARMY

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
COLONEL G. B. MALLESON, C.S.I.

"He is one of the few on whose slightest word you may rely more than
on the oath of those who profess more strongly —SIR WALTER SCOTT

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INTRODUCTION.

THE writer of this autobiography, the late Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Gamble Fraser, was born on the 8th of September 1807. He came from a good stock, being descended from Thomas Fraser of Beaufort, Inverness-shire. This Thomas Fraser, born in 1636, was cousin german to Hugh Fraser, Lord Lovat, and inherited the estates of that nobleman on his death without issue. Thomas Fraser, Lord Lovat, had fourteen children, eight of whom survived him; one of these was the notorious Simon, Lord Lovat, executed for high treason in 1747. The third surviving son, David, the progenitor of Thomas Gamble Fraser, emigrated to Ireland in 1697, settled in King's County, and became possessor of considerable estates on the

banks of the Shannon. The ruins of his mansion called Parke, near Banagher, are still standing, as are those of Cuba House, another family seat near Parke.

On this property, a son, George, was born to him in 1810. George Fraser was a man of considerable attainments and character. He was High Sheriff of the county, and raised a regiment of Black Horse, now one of the regiments of Dragoon Guards, and became Colonel of it. He possessed great determination, and could brook no opposition to his will.

By his marriage with the daughter of Colonel Anguinis, a French emigrant, George Fraser had two sons, David and Robert. Of Robert I have been unable to find a trace, but David incurred his father's displeasure, and was expelled his house with a small allowance, in consequence of his marriage with a lady of great beauty, respectable family, and irreproachable character, but with no fortune. David did not survive the expulsion more than a few years; he left two sons, George and Arthur.

George Fraser, born in 1777, was only six years old when his grandfather died, and he succeeded to the family property. The estates,

however, had been so deeply encumbered by his grandfather's extravagance that not even a minority of fifteen years was able to clear them. Under advice, then, he disposed of the property, receiving in exchange a deed which secured to him a life income of £2,800 a year. He then entered the British Army. Tired soon of inaction at home, he exchanged into a regiment, the 65th, serving in India. When there, he, for some unexplained reason, passed into the service of the Nizám, who appointed him to the command of a brigade of his troops at Aurangábád. After holding this office for a few years he resigned it, returning to Europe with the rank of Major, and died in France in 1835. Before proceeding to India he had married a daughter of the Reverend T. Gamble, of Dublin.

Of this marriage Thomas Gamble Fraser was the fourth issue. Born in 1807, he was educated at Harrow. At the age of sixteen he was launched to combat alone with the world as a cadet in the service of the East India Company.

Although this was an ordeal which in those days every aspirant for honours in the Indian military service had to undergo, it is scarcely possible to exaggerate its trying character. At the age of

sixteen a boy, in point of fact, should begin his real education. Up to that age he has had opportunities of laying the foundation of a coming superstructure, but of laying the foundation only. To send, then, a boy of that tender age, his education unfinished, his mind unformed, his real qualities undeveloped, to a strange land, six thousand miles from his country, to consort there with men who are absolutely strangers to him, but whose characters have been developed in the same hap-hazard style, is to expose him to the chances of a lottery. Unless the boy possess naturally an extraordinarily strong character, everything must depend upon the ways and habits of the regiment to which he may be posted. A hard drinking regiment would, almost always, make him a sot; a pious regiment, a Puritan; a hunting and shooting regiment, a sportsman; a gaming regiment, a gambler; a society regiment, a Lothario. Sometimes two or three of these characteristics were found in one and the same regiment. In that case the neophyte would cast in his lot with the section with which he might have, naturally, the greatest affinity.

At the time when Colonel Fraser entered the Indian Army, the temptations, especially to

drinking, were infinitely greater than they are in the present day. I recollect well, when I entered the army thirty-nine years ago, how enormous were the instances of young officers, in other respects of the highest promise, who succumbed to the degrading vice of over-compliance with a taste which, amongst young men, was then the taste of the day. The vice took the form of what is termed perpetual soaking. By a young man of nineteen, fresh from school, and thrown amongst companions hardened in that iniquity, there is no vice so easy as this to acquire. Certainly there is not one so difficult to get rid of when once acquired. Colonel Fraser's autobiography will show that he did not succumb to the tempter. He started in life with this one enormous advantage, that he had been educated at a public school. I have observed during my career that boys who have passed through the training of our great public schools—I allude especially to the public schools of my younger days, Winchester, Eton, and Harrow,—were far better able to encounter, on their start in life, the various vicissitudes of fortune, than those who had not enjoyed that pre-eminent advantage. I have observed, moreover, that the after career

of boys so educated has been of a nature to do justice to their early training. Almost all of them—I say “almost all,” but, in fact, I do not recollect a single exception—have risen to a high position. The little world of a public school, with its early recognition of discipline enforced by the more prominent boys, its examples of the consequence of the practice of good and the practice of evil, has prepared them for that life in the army which is, in so many ways, the logical continuance of college training, and has endowed them with a strength to resist evil far greater than the strength possessed by boys reared in a private seminary or amid the Lares and Penates of their home. Another, and a scarcely smaller advantage was possessed by the author of this autobiography. He was posted to one of the finest regiments in the service of the East India Company, the 1st Bombay Fusiliers. This regiment ranks now in the British Army as the 103rd Royal Bombay Fusiliers, and possesses a reputation second to that of no regiment in the service. It is only fair to add that this reputation is mainly due to the achievements it accomplished, and to the character it bore when it carried the Company’s colours. It had

fought at Plassy, it had aided in conquering Bengal; it had subdued Gúzrat; had struck down Tippú Sultán at Seringapatam; had driven the Peshwah from his throne; and had assisted in subduing the Panjáb. Few regiments can boast of nobler antecedents, and it is with regiments as it is with men:—the great deeds of ancestors form the highest incentive to their descendants to emulate their virtues.

Colonel Fraser joined his regiment as a sub-lieutenant, and soon became, in the highest sense of the term, a Bombay Fusilier—a good officer, and an honourable, straightforward soldier. What he was in other respects, how he developed into a thorough sportsman, keen, active, daring, and self-reliant; how he early discerned the great merits of his friend, and for years his constant companion, the illustrious Outram; how his naturally good intellect quickened by experience, until it ripened into a judgment of character difficult to surpass, these pages will show. They abound, those especially which record the later experience of the author, with a calm and, generally, a singularly accurate judgment of men and things. The honest character of the man is shown in the scorn which he hurls at unrighteous dealing,

whether perpetrated by a brother officer, by a high official, or by the Government which he served so zealously. Unable to descend to cast a gloss over a fault, he applies the right name to every transaction. With him, truth is truth, and a lie is a lie. The virtues and the faults, the good deeds and the backslidings, of all with whom he comes in contact pass through the same severe crucible.

Perhaps the pages of this volume which will be the most eagerly welcomed by the public are those which relate the sporting achievements and the early military deeds of Sir James Outram. The detailed description of the manner in which that eminent man conducted his campaign against the fierce denizens of the jungle, showing how carefully he studied the ground, how accurately he divined the exact spot in which his enemy would take refuge, and the particular line of retreat he would pursue ; with what precision he indicated the points to be guarded, how he resented breaches of discipline on the part of his companions, set before us the Bayard of the Indian Army, the man *sans peur et sans reproche*, as he really was to the contemporaries to whom his own actions made him a hero. Outram,

in the jungle fighting against tigers, was the type and forerunner of the Outram of Lakhnau. In fact, the same qualities which were necessary to gain supremacy in the one field were equally required to win success in the other. Calmness in danger, a presence of mind never to be disconcerted, a good eye for the features of a country, readiness to take prompt advantage of any mistake of the enemy, judgment to seize an advantageous position—these are the qualities required alike in the successful hunter of tigers and the successful leader of armies. That Outram possessed and applied them with an equally happy result in both cases the records of his life fully show. Even in this volume occurs a remarkable instance of the manner in which, when sent to the southern Marátha country, fresh from the pursuit of tigers, to command a force one-sixth smaller than another force which, owing to the stupidity of its leaders, had been baffled by the enemy, Outram applied to that enemy the sound rules of jungle warfare, and completely and easily defeated him. This story, related with great force and spirit by Colonel Fraser, himself an eye-witness, and rather more than an eye-witness, of the blunders of the one leader and the light and skilful touch of the

other, is told in the thirteenth chapter. As a feat of arms, in which common sense and experience were applied to solve a military problem which had baffled trained soldiers, this achievement rivals in its principle the actions which gained his early fame for Clive and shed lustre on the far-famed Italian campaign of 1796.

Second only in importance to the record of the deeds of Outram, are the author's own comments upon the manner in which, in the old days of the Company, annexations were planned and carried out. He describes every such annexation as having been preceded by the expression of an earnest desire on the part, sometimes of the political agent only, sometimes of the Government the agent served, to cultivate "amicable relations" with the rulers of the coveted districts. The "amicable relations" once established, it was always easy to pick a quarrel, and in some way or other, a quarrel did always ensue. Of the mode in which "amicable relations" led, on an occasion within his own experience, to the annexation of the country with which they had been established, the author gives a striking instance in the thirteenth chapter. He exposes there, in a scathing but perfectly fair manner, the causes

which led to the permanent occupation of Aden by the British. At a moment when France is being largely blamed for picking a quarrel with another African power, on pretexts at least as weighty as those which led to the annexation of Aden, perhaps the purusal of Colonel Fraser's story may tend to repress the virtuous desire to pluck the mote from the eye of our neighbours.

Colonel Fraser is responsible for all the opinions expressed in this book. It is published as he wrote it. He was indeed one of the "straightest" men with whom it was ever my good fortune to come in contact. Although everyone may not agree with his conclusions, although it may even be true that the course of events would have led him to modify some of those conclusions, no one who knew him will question that they truly and fully express his exact convictions at the time. I may here mention that I have reason to know, from my conversations with him during the last year of his life, that Colonel Fraser modified very considerably the opinions he had recorded in the last chapter of his book, regarding the progress of Russia in the East. Those opinions had been formed whilst the Crimean war was progressing, before Russia had broken

down the barrier of the Caucasus, and had begun to force her way across those barren and sandy steppes which lay between her and India. In 1877 Colonel Fraser distinctly recognized the necessity of protecting India against even the possibility of an invasion from the North, and he repeatedly expressed to me a hope that the Government of the day would not delay to occupy such a position as would cover the passes leading from western Afghanistan into the valley of the Indus. He did not, however, add to or alter his journal. He left it intact to record the opinions at which he had arrived when circumstances were very different.

As a conversationist Colonel Fraser was the most charming of companions. There was no subject connected with his long and varied experience in the East on which he could not talk well. He was not, indeed, one of those men who desire to monopolize talk, to hear only the sound of their own voice. He was always glad to listen when he felt that his companion was able to speak with authority, and on such occasions he used to show that interest in the conversation which, when displayed by an old man to one much younger, never fails to charm, and often even to

inspire. When his turn to speak came he always showed how capable was his mind not only to receive but to discuss the matters presented to him.

What Colonel Fraser was in his profession may be gleaned from this volume. He never lost an opportunity of showing the good stuff that was in him. All the actions of his later life proved that he had taken thoroughly to heart the lessons which his training under Outram had taught him. The last important service entrusted to him was the transport of English cavalry regiments from Suez to Alexandria during the Crimean war. Of this service an account will be found in these pages. The manner in which it was performed stamps Colonel Fraser as a man possessing an administrative power which could have been employed for the great benefit of his country in higher offices.

As a record of sport this little book may not be without its value. It is, perhaps, to be regretted that in some instances the initial letter alone indicates the names of places in which the author obtained excellent tiger-shooting. But it would not be difficult for those who might desire to follow his footsteps in those places to trace the exact locality.

Colonel Fraser retired from the service on the 1st January, 1856. The last page of his journal was written in September, 1866. "It professes," he wrote, "to be nothing but a strictly veracious detail of occurrences in the life of a soldier by profession in a non-purchase service prior to the Rebellion, at a time when electric wires and railroads had not been adopted, and our Empire in the East still retained its oriental character, and its rulers felt an interest in the country and its people." He died in April 1878, at the ripe age of threescore and ten. He had been blessed with a large family, but his widow, two sons and two daughters alone survived him. It is in accordance with own wish that his journal is now given to the world.

G. B. MALLESON.

27, West Cromwell Road,
1st May, 1881.

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MILITARY LIFE

AND

HUNTING ADVENTURES IN INDIA.

CHAPTER I.

Release from Harrow School, and Deportation to India.—
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directed to join the European Regiment at Fort George,
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W——.—A Faqír's Prediction verified.

AT the mature age of sixteen, whilst pondering at Harrow School what possible advantage might accrue in after life from the farrago of Greek and Latin that was daily dinned into me, without one useful auxiliary, I received the joyful notice to proceed to London, there to learn my future; and

boy though I was, I began to reflect upon what I had acquired during my three years sojourn at the far-famed seminary. The result was certainly not satisfactory. Struggling to give vent to classic lore in wretched verses, or still worse themes, was not exactly a good preparation for a military career. For in those dark days little else was taught in the great public schools, and instruction in all useful English literature and acquirements was ignored, or their study granted as an indulgence for extra hours; and grown lads of the fifth and sixth form with whom the defunct languages were as a mother-tongue, exhibited unblushingly their deplorable ignorance in the mere rudiments of their vernacular. I had, fortunately for me in after life, preserved some remains of modern history, geography, and arithmetic, to fall back upon; and with these, a strong frame, well developed by Angelo, and a letter of credit, I found myself in 182— landed at Bombay with all the privileges of a cadet of Infantry.

The world does not contain a finer harbour than Bombay; and at the period I arrived (June)—the commencement of the south-west monsoon, or periodical rains, when its numerous and picturesque islands were tinted with green—the distant ghats

capped with lowering clouds, and the long serpentine islands of Bombay and Colabah, that form the bay to the westward, clothed in verdure with the countless vessels and boats on its vast expanse of water, left nothing wanting to complete the picture.

The hospitable house of F——s received me, and being soon comfortably installed in it, leisure was afforded to examine the localities, and regard the mosaic of Asiatics that composed the population at the period I speak of, but which has since been greatly modified by the increase of Europeans and Parsís. This latter, an intelligent and enterprising race, who run hand in hand with ourselves in introducing and enjoying in their houses and equipages all the luxuries of London and Paris, are descendants of refugees who fled to and settled in the western coast of the Indian peninsula, from a sort of Edict of Nantes denounced against them by their Mahommedan conquerors in Persia. They formed, and indeed form, if not the most numerous, the most intelligent and the wealthiest portion of the island of Bombay, and much of the progress made by the island in later years is due to their zeal and enterprise.

Very soon after my arrival the intimation that

I was "posted," was received, and I found myself an officer of the Regiment of Bombay European Infantry, now Her Majesty's 103rd Royal Fusiliers, then as now one of the most distinguished regiments in the service. At the time I speak of, however, the regiment was only marked by the shameful treatment of the officers and men by the authorities of the day—they being defrauded of their pay, slighted by the Government, and doomed, except when required in the field to assert our supremacy, to almost perpetual incarceration in the dismal and unhealthy barracks of Fort George, with a mephitic ditch of unmentionable filth close under the window. I was informed that the officers were "a fast set," and it was pressed upon me to exchange. It is true that some few were fast and bad, driven to despair by their gloomy prospects; but from this ill-requited regiment, and its brother corps in the other Presidencies, have stood forth the most distinguished names the army of India can boast of.

Checking all prudential motives, I determined to take my chance, and bidding adieu to my kind host at F——'s comfortable residence, I proceeded at once to, and reported myself at the barracks. Hardly had I alighted when I witnessed

an angry altercation between two officers. I remembered then the suggestion of an Irish friend that pistols were an indispensable regimental equipment. By good luck an officer present withdrew me from the scene of fracas to show me the quarters in the lower range in which I was about to be installed. Advancing to a room, the light of which was supplied from the door, which was cautiously opened, we were assailed at the same time by the most diabolical noises and pestiferous stench. Paroquets, dogs, a litter of pups, two monkeys, and a baboon, occupied different vantage points on the floor, and their exhalations poisoned the air. I asked feebly, if "this was the place I was to sleep in?" "Yes," said he cheerfully; "but of course they will move out these pets first, and sweep the floor." "Oh! thank you," said I, "that will do nicely"; and I thought bitterly of F——'s clean matted rooms I had just left, and the cool sea-breeze that swept through them; but the social Spartan maxims of a public school checked any exhibition of feeling I felt disposed to show.

I will not bore the reader by initiating him even by description into the mysteries of this pandemonium. It is surprising that even the best of

us outlived the ordeal. Duels, as a consequence of such a state of things, were of constant occurrence. A small island in the bay, close to the barracks, ominously decorated with three malefactors hung in chains, was generally the battleground, and had the advantage of affording to all interested the different phases of the combat, and such denunciations from their comrades as, "Confound it; I see the whole four returning in the boat," pronounced at once the speaker's disgust, and his despair of a step in promotion from the belligerents.

It is unpleasant to dwell on the folly and wickedness of these proceedings. One of them was clouded in mystery. B—— of my Regiment and S—— of a native corps met in the Bombay woods to decide a quarrel, the ground chosen being close to the residence of the latter's uncle, a high functionary of Government. Nothing more was heard of the affair till long afterwards, S—— having at the time, it was said, died unexpectedly in his relative's house. At the same time B—— and his second W—— suddenly disappeared, and nothing was known of them for years afterwards. It appears they hastily embarked in a native boat for Jedda, and from

thence the former at last passed into Abyssinia. B—— was a great swordsman, and given to display in that line.

I was delighted to receive at this time a delicate rose-coloured billet, begging me to hasten over to the residence at Colabah of Mrs. General W——, who had been the kindest of friends to me during my Harrow school-days, and that I should then see a young lady acquaintance of mine, just arrived with her from England. Need I say I passed a long remembered happy evening. After the first congratulations were over, I inquired of Mrs. W—— “How gets on the faqír’s prediction, for is not this the very house in which it occurred, when you related the story before a family circle in England *three years ago*”? “Yes!” observed the lively old lady, “there,” pointing to an arching banian tree outside the compound gateway, “there! at the well under that tree I was standing one evening three years ago when the event occurred; but I have too much to think of to dwell on such things, and, indeed, I had forgotten the circumstance until reminded by you.”

I will now give the Faqír’s Prediction, pledging myself that this is Mrs. W——’s narrative as

exactly as I can remember, marking distinctly what that lady *told* us had been verified, and what I myself was witness to; and I will only add that she was of unimpeachable veracity, strong-minded, and as little under the influence of morbid or superstitious credence as anyone I ever knew.

Mrs. W——'s Narrative.

“ On a sultry evening in April I was standing at the gateway of the compound, when a Biragi or Hindu mendicant devotee of middle age with his person and long hair covered with ashes, passed me along the public road; he looked at me earnestly for an instant without stopping, however, or marking me by any recognition. On proceeding a few steps he stopped, and turning round said, ‘ In the name of God; it is given to me to say what will be your fate.’ I called to an orderly in the compound and told him to give the man a rupee. ‘ No!’ said the man, ‘ I ask for nothing, but your fate is on your forehead, and I will, if you like, disclose it to you.’ ‘ I suppose,’ said I, laughing, ‘ you get your living by doing so.’ ‘ I can do so only,’ observed he, ‘ to a few persons, and you are one.’ ‘ Well,’ said I, ‘ begin.

Tell me who I am, and if you make a mistake I will have you punished.' 'You are,' said he, 'the wife of the G——l Sahib, you have a son and a daughter.' 'I had,' I remarked, 'but I have lately lost the former.' 'No,' said the man, 'it is as I say.' 'Well, go on.' 'You are about to leave this country and go to your own.' (Now I must here remark my husband had repeatedly declared his intention never again to leave India.) 'And when is that to be?' 'Very soon.' 'Shall we arrive safe?' 'You will; but fourteen days after you leave this he will be in the hands of God!' Up to this point of the dialogue I had listened listlessly to what had passed, but now thoroughly roused and alarmed, I exclaimed, 'You wretch, what have you said?' 'It is not I,' said the man, 'but your fate that speaks. I tell you in eighteen days you will be on board, and will leave everything here to be sold, but one horse.' 'Here,' I exclaimed, 'is the stable with several horses, show me the one he won't sell.' Running his eye rapidly down the line, 'That one,' pointing to a grey. It was a birthday present from the G——l given me two years before. 'Well,' said I, affecting to laugh, 'as you know so much, tell me, shall I get home and see my

child?' 'Yes,' said he, 'you will see your son as you are leaving this, but shall not speak to him; he will waive a cloth at a distance. You will arrive in Europe, remain there for a time, but your trouble for money will compel your return here, but you will again go back, and after a time your money will come and you will be happy.'

"Everything up to this period has occurred exactly as the man predicted. That evening as we were having tea the G——l who had so often expressed his dislike to living in England and determination to live and die in India, suddenly exclaimed, 'What say you to a trip home? I have spoken to F., and he has promised me a passage by the —— if we can manage it by the ——, so I have made up my mind to it.'

"I was so paralysed that the cup fell from my hand. I gazed at my husband, but it was too true. Within a month all arrangements were made, everything was sold, except the grey Arab horse, which, being a birthday gift, was given to ——. We embarked on the —— of March in perfect health, and as we cleared the lighthouse, a boat was seen vainly endeavouring to overtake us. With the glass we could distinguish a European

waiving a handkerchief; it proved afterwards to have been my son, whose death in the Upper Provinces had two months previously been reported to us, and whom, could I then have recognized, I should in a manner have been prepared for what followed. In ten days more the General suddenly fell upon the deck, was taken to his berth, and on the fourteenth day was, as the mysterious mendicant had predicted, in the hands of God. I arrived at home safely, and it remains to be seen whether the rest will prove true. At all events you see here I am back again in India to try and arrange my money affairs, and the dispute about the G——'s will, for F—— would not advance me any more money."

Such was the story. It speaks for itself. I shortly afterwards heard that my kind friend, Mrs. W——, had left for England.

And here let me advert to a painful episode in barrack life. In the next rooms to mine, T—— had a female baboon. This officer was, if not sole, principal owner of the barrack menagerie before adverted to. One unlucky day the fiery little sub left the barracks for a two days tour of duty, and his darling Bessy, the baboon, who lived but in his sight, and greeted her master's

return to quarters with the tenderest embraces and murmurs of delight,—one unlucky day, I say, the beast so left, and which was as large as a pointer dog, was quietly taken down for an airing by three of us, and one of the party suggested a swim for her in the fort-ditch, to cool her somewhat solacious temperament. No sooner said than done; with unavailing struggles she was inducted into her bath, the chain slipped from our grasp, and poor Bessy sunk to rise no more. Then for the first time occurred the horrible idea of which of us should intimate the dreadful catastrophe to her fond but fiery owner, who had just returned, and was at this moment calling aloud for his darling. One of us at last bolder than the rest, bearded the lion in his den, and announced the horrid fact. It was received with a yell of anguish. T——, however, after the first burst, allowed the bold ambassador to escape with life.

CHAPTER II.

Proceed on leave to N——.—Marching Experiences, and Impression of the Interior Forty Years ago.—Syce killed by Tiger.—Mofussilte Station and Manners in an independent Rajah's Territory.—Return to Regiment, and ordered on Service to the Doáb.—Capture of Kitúr, and what led to it.—Deaths of Thackeray, Black Sewell, and Highton.—Release of the prisoners E—— and M——.—Detachment in the Palace.

AT this time I received permission to visit a relative at N——, several hundred miles in the interior, and in company with two officers *en route* for the same place, started in November to proceed with tents by regular marches, for at the period I speak of nothing that would now be termed a road existed, even between the great towns and stations in Western India. Rest-houses were unknown. The ascent of the gháts was made along a pathway innocent of Macadam, interestingly dotted here and there with gigantic

boulders, round which the traveller made his way. My companions, however, were old stagers, and nothing could exceed the regularity with which our sleeping-tents were struck at rising for the march, and the punctuality with which we found, at its completion, a tent with breakfast ready for us, so that nothing could exceed the pleasure and comfort with which we travelled. Small game abounded, and as a matter of course, the well intended protest of my companions against snipe shooting and sun exposure had the usual effect on a lad of my age, namely to increase rather than to allay my desire for slaughter. The black buck antelope of the Dekhan gazing at us as we rode along at early dawn, within easy rifle range, added in no small degree to my excitement, and I may add to my disgust, as I saw them bound off after each successive discharge of my rifle, apparently unharmed—a want of success which is general with beginners, however steady their hand and correct their eye, and which, curious to say, at least in my case, appears to be succeeded suddenly by an almost unerring certainty of striking your quarry, though bringing it to bag might not always prove equally so. The wounds these, and indeed all others of the deer tribe, carry off (a fact

well known to Indian sportsmen), are miraculous. A fore and hind leg, both fore or both hind legs broken, these animals will still test your horse severely, ere you can capture them; and I have seen a deer pass over more than two hundred yards of rocky ground before he succumbed to a ball through the centre of his heart! But with European readers I dare not add a tithe of such stories, at all events *en masse*; but they are true nevertheless.

Our destination was the Nágpor territory, and some portion of the country at the time I write of, especially that part of our route entering from the Nizam's, which is hilly and abounds in ravines, beyond the neighbourhood of U'mraoti, was infested with tigers. We had one morning at early dawn started on horseback for the day's march, having dispatched our spare horses as usual a little in advance, and had arrived at a nullah close to our last encampment, when we were dismayed at the cries of "Bágh! Bágh!" from our horse-keepers who had preceded us, and who stood in confusion on the banks. Almost at the same moment we were horror-stricken at the stifled cries of one of them as he was carried through the bushes with which the nullah-bed was covered, the

horse he had led at the same moment galloping past us.

At this hour it was just light enough to distinguish objects close at hand, and we hurriedly asked the men what had happened, and one of them, less paralyzed with fear than his companions, told us that R——'s horsekeeper, who had preceded the others a few yards, had been carried off by a tiger, and we could indeed distinctly discern at times the folds of the poor follow's white turban as it caught in the bushes in the direction of the cries, and in the nullah bed along which the beast was dragging him. After some delay we got our guns and fired in the direction in which we thought the brute had gone, for it was still too dark to do anything more effective.

We resolved to wait for light sufficient to judge our ground, and meanwhile sent off a man to the village in the neighbourhood of which we had encamped, and not half a mile from us, to procure beaters and secure the services if possible of a shikaree or native hunter, determined to at least recover the poor lad's remains, if not revenge ourselves on his destroyer. We had not to wait long either for the villagers or for daylight, and

having placed them in line across the rivulet bed we commenced our beat, and had not proceeded fifty yards ere we came on the man's turban, and a little further on the victim's still palpitating body, uneaten however, but with the marks of the upper and lower incisors which had crushed through the chest and right shoulder blade. We beat about for some time afterwards, but without success, and one of the men assuring us the tiger had gone off to his lair in the adjacent hills,—his practice it appears on two previous similar occasions,—we gave it up, and after arranging for the poor fellow's interment proceeded on to our next ground in no very cheerful mood. I must say this little tragedy had very beneficial effect in cooling my somewhat aggressive tendency towards wild animals in general and tigers in particular, and I may here observe that after experience with these animals convinced me that what are termed "man eaters" are not as is supposed gourmands in human flesh, but simply tigers that take to this line of business, from the much less killing the biped requires and the little resistance he offers to being carried off; for I have seen a strong bullock with a powerful tiger fastened on his neck and shoulder drag his assailant fifty yards

along a nullah bed ere he succumbed. But of such subjects hereafter.

On our arrival at N—— I bid adieu temporarily to my kind companions of the march, and was soon engaged in the continued round of cold weather gaities of an up-country station. A large contingent force of several thousand men served to retain the dominions of an independent native prince, for whom shall we say? Certainly not on his own behalf, for he had nothing to do whatever with either the direction of affairs or the troops. The Maharájá was doubtless but too happy to be saved the trouble and embarrassment of such matters, and the sign manual of his own ministers to all disbursements incurred for the services thus placed at his disposal by his considerate allies must have reassured him, if he had any doubts, that the revenues of his kingdom were legitimately expended on its own proper administration and defence, and that he was thus saved all trouble in the affairs. A worthy but reckless friend of mine from the Emerald Isle, a sort of Cornelius O'Dowd in his way, observed that of all the Governor General's appointments the most to be desired was the "charge of a Rájá," and doubtless no bad thing it was.

All pleasant things must have an end, and at the expiration of my leave I prepared for my return to barrack life at Bombay, no pleasing prospect in April with the thermometer at 100° in a small tent with a traverse of 600 miles in my own good company; but what is this in one's teens with a good gun and horse and sporting propensities? So at the end of May I found myself, though rather scorched, amongst my brother officers at the Presidency, just then preparing for the transfer of the regiment to Colábah, preparatory to its division into First and Second Regiments. It was my good fortune, as I at the time considered it, to have passed into the former, and many were the congratulations amongst us so drafted at our good luck; for, strange to say, with the exception of one officer, all the wild ones, to use a mild phrase of the old Regiment, were named for the Second; and, to add to this happy state of things, the First, to which I now belonged, were directed to prepare for immediate field service to Belgáum, the head-quarters of the force then preparing against the fortress of Kitúr, some thirty miles distant therefrom.

I may here briefly observe the Bombay European Regiment consisted of some thirteen hundred

men, four field officers, ten captains, twenty-five lieutenants and ten ensigns, and when the twelve Bombay Native Regiments of two battalions each were organized by orders from England from twenty-four battalions into twenty-four regiments, the order was considered to extend to the Regiment of Europeans,—a misapprehension as it afterwards proved,—and thus a well officered and effective regiment was subdivided, with the result, of course, of being under-officered. Thus on embarking for the field we mustered, deducting those on staff employ and sick furlough to Europe,—field officers, none ; captains, four ; subalterns, five, with three doing-duty subalterns from other corps, a number quite inadequate for the control of six hundred and fifty men, which were augmented shortly afterwards by a hundred recruits, whereas the officers of all grades decreased proportionately, and we had for several years *in the field* two captains and three subalterns for the control of seven hundred and fifty Europeans. But, strange to say, never were there better conducted men, never was there less prevalence of serious crime ; but then for three successive years they took the field under canvas from November to April, and it may be presumed that

the excitement and change incidental to camp life had its effect on this happy state of things.

It was with joyous hearts we embarked in a native craft for Vingorlah early in December, that port being the nearest point of debarkation for our destination. In those steamless and roadless days, we held ourselves in luck, therefore, to be landed on the third day. With a sort of Crimean perversity, we made our first march in the evening, lost our road, or rather track, and bivouacked in the jungle; and here I was inducted for the first time into the pleasures of a rear-guard. I managed, however, as I thought, to get all up to our new ground by 2 P.M., no easy affair, considering I was in convoy of ten heavy battering guns and mortars, with sixty bullocks each, dead beat and tired, having been in movement for eleven hours, the greater portion of the time under a burning sun. I proceeded to the Adjutant's tent and reported "all arrived," and was hastening to my tent for a bath, when an orderly intimated that Private —— was reported absent, and that the commanding officer directed F—— to return immediately and find him! To hear is to obey, and with a blessing on the missing culprit's head, I started back on my tired

horse, and after a pleasant ride of seven miles, discovered him asleep under a bush, and finally brought him back to camp.

In ten days more we arrived at Kitúr, our destination, and there combined with the force of four thousand men that had invested the place. It was a considerable native town, with well built houses, and the Rání's palace, the whole surrounded by a high wall and dry ditch, with a hill fort at one extremity of considerable strength that commanded the Pettah, or lower town. This last was entered through three strong gateways, flanked by the usual round towers; and it was in forcing these, at the command of Mr. Thackery, the Collector of the district, that three of the most gallant officers of the Madras Horse Artillery—Captain Black, and Lieuts. Sewell and Dighton, were killed. The old story, refusal to pay by the native authorities, employment of force by the collecting officer, who, notwithstanding the representation of Captain B—— of the inadequacy of his force for the purpose, peremptorily ordered the attack, hoping, it was supposed, that a show of force would prove sufficient. These gallant men succeeded with the field-guns of the troop in blowing open the three gateways, one officer and

several men falling at each gateway. On their retreat, followed by the insurgents, the latter encountered Mr. Thackery, hastening up in his palanquin, surprised at the continued firing. Of him they made of course short work, and proceeding at once to the Collector's camp, there captured his two assistants E—— and S——, and imprisoned them in the fort. It was to punish this contumacy that the present force had assembled.

The day after our arrival in camp, I was somewhat unexpectedly ordered on picket duty, and on my relief the next morning had just finished breakfast when I was directed to fall in with my company, and being then joined by another under Lieut. P—— of my own Regiment, was marched under command of Col. M—— of the Cavalry, in the direction of a fortified hill that commanded the upper fort of Kitúr. We had of course no idea of what we were to do, or where we were going, and supposed we were accompanying the Colonel as a reconnoitering escort. On arrival, however, at the foot of the hill, which was covered with brushwood, we halted, and were ordered to load, and at the same moment were joined by two companies of sepoys. Colonel M—— then dismounting, asked if we could carry

the hill in front. Dividing this small force then into two, he led one round the hill, and directed me to do so on the other side. In five minutes we arrived at a run at the crest, jumped the ditch, and were pell-mell amongst the defenders, who fled in all directions. All I remember was a European in a green jacket, rushing up to me in the midst of the *melée*, and excitedly calling on the men to follow him. A moment after he came up supported by a soldier, a ball having entered his breast. He proved to be a Mr. M—— of the Civil Service, who thus paid with his life for amateur combativeness. This little affair, viz. the possession of the fortified hill, cost us three killed, and eight wounded.

Once in occupation of this, batteries were quickly erected, and in three days more, the fort and Pettah surrendered. On a party advancing towards the latter, under the guidance of a subtle Madras major, he found the gates closed. These, however, an old man from the parapet offered to open. But the gallant field-officer, with the consideration due to the feeling of a defeated enemy, declined the offer, and calling for a scaling ladder, entered boldly sword in hand. He found the town and its belongings deserted, the garrison and

inhabitants having fled during the night. How this was effected, remains a mystery ; but strange to say, the moment the fall of the place was announced to the Commissioner, Mr. C——, then in camp, that worthy at once claimed the place and its contents as forfeited Government property—and a nice little property it proved, amounting in coin and jewels alone to two hundred and thirty thousand pounds, and at least as much more carried off by the troops that first entered. I myself witnessed numbers of puckal bullocks with their puckals crammed with plunder, coolly driven past the guard at the gate.

The claim of the Commissioner was pronounced by us all, of course, simply, as iniquitous ; but how to escape it ? And here stood us in good stead the proceeding of the gallant major and his scaling ladder. He calmly announced to the General Commanding in an official report his capture of the town by "*escalade*," a piece of foresight by which myself and brother subs three years after were the happy recipients of three hundred and thirty pounds each, the higher grades in proportion—no bad beginning for a young warrior. There is little to add than the captive assistants released, and prize agents ap-

pointed, the force returned to their respective destinations—a captain's command with myself and another subaltern being, however, left on detachment in the palace, till things should quiet down. This building, the residence of the late Rání, was, when we first entered it a few days previously, a scene to be remembered. It was a handsome structure in the best style of Moorish architecture, enclosing a square paved court of a hundred feet, with elaborately carved galleries running round the upper storey, so finely cut as to form an impervious screen. The whole floor of the apartments, and even the courtyard, were at our first entry just as the occupants had left them on their flight the previous night. Shawls and kinkobs of the most splendid patterns, jewels, valuable inlaid arms of every description, strewed the ground. All now was changed, and quiet reigned throughout the building; and after the novelty of our residence wore off, I was not sorry to receive the order for our return to headquarters.

CHAPTER III.

Return to Belgáum.—Take the field against Sivaji's Capital Kolapúr.—Experiences of Camp Life and Amusements.—Mr. B——, the Commissioner, and his Escort.—Pleasures and Penalties of the same.—Falls of Gokak, a Dog survives the descent.—Rock Snake and Mangús.—The Investment of Sivaji's Capital.—Ravages of Cholera.—My introduction in the Commissioner's Train to His Highness at Midnight Darbar.—Arrangement of Political Difficulties, and return to Head-quarters.—Flogging and its results.—Proceed to Bombay and return with Female responsibilities.—Their little Peculiarities on the March.

WITH a regiment having its full proportion of officers the fair distribution of work renders the duty so light, that leave for shooting, or other amusements, can be readily had; but with only three or four subalterns for general and regimental roster, it was with difficulty we could manage to secure even a day's absence. To mount my horse

at daylight, ride out ten or fifteen miles, and return at 7 to mess, was, with few exceptions, an every-day employment when off duty; occasionally I selected a corporal and half-a-dozen of the best behaved men of my company, and having a good supply of guns, took them out within easy distance of cantonments for a day's shooting; and I am doubtful whether these expeditions did not prove as pleasant and amusing to me as they did to the poor fellows themselves. The corporal was held responsible that the men kept out of the villages and toddy topes; indeed, I seldom lost sight of them, and always brought them home after a frugal repast of cold meat and bread, and a glass of "cold without."

It was delightful to witness their crafty advance on a flock of ducks in a tank, when the leather-stockings of the party, one Pockles, was generally put forward by the rest; and woe betide him if unsuccessful, for then sarcastic cries of butcher, thumbs, etc., greeted him on his return. A hare was, of course, a god-send; it seldom escaped the stones, sticks, and shot, that were poured upon it. I generally took the men out after the 12 o'clock dinner, seldom before 3, and returned by 6; the result was little exposure to the sun, and sufficient

amusement and fatigue to ensure an early retreat to their cots, and sound sleep.

It is the fashion to decry any intercourse between the English soldier and his officer, except that of command. I know I never had reason to regret any occasion in which I thus aided in affording them healthy exercise and amusement. I seldom interfered with them, keeping generally a hundred yards or so (out of reach of shot), in the rear of the party formed in line as beaters; and when they returned, mischief was pretty well taken out of them by fatigue. The fact is, in India at least, men are driven to drink from a thirsty climate and want of amusement; the strong active young soldier cannot as a rule be satisfied with the sedentary pleasures of chess, draughts, and a reading-room. At the time I allude to even these pastimes were unknown; there were, it is true, a few books supplied from the regimental fund, but in other respects, provided the men were sober enough for roll-call, those off duty were allowed to go to the devil their own way. Their removal, however, from that pandemonium, Bombay, to the Belgáum barracks, bad as these were, was an incalculable change for the better to officers and men, the former being thus

sav^{er}ed from pecuniary ruin, the latter from both p^hysical and mental destruction.

The conditions of the soldier, in India especially, is now altogether changed for the better. In fact for a man in the position in the social scale he is born in, he is better fed, better housed, and better cared for than any others of his class; and a good field is always open in India for the sober and intelligent soldier. This last inducement, however, proves often injurious to the efficiency of a regiment, by the removal of the best men to staff situations. These efforts to escape from regimental duty are natural enough, when the miserable remuneration given to the regimental non-commissioned grades is considered. Can anything be more unjust and monstrous than that the best man of eight hundred, the Sergeant-Major, in fact the Colonel of his grade, should receive for his services a sum that a journeyman carpenter would reject with scorn? It is supposed by many that the soldier and the non-commissioned class although their pay or maintenance money is small, are fed and clothed at the expense of Government. Nothing of the kind. The soldier pays both for one and other; the State simply bestowing upon him his uniform

and boots. I am aware that the pay of the private soldier has been lately increased, and that he is fairly well paid ; but it is to the non-commissioned class I especially refer. Considering the responsibility and harassing duties entailed upon these men, the remuneration they receive compared to the private is totally inadequate. Until this is remedied, neither good-conduct pay, nor the other advantages lately conferred upon the ranks, will have the effect of introducing a better class of men; or, if they enter, of retaining them with their regiments as non-commissioned officers.

Again we rejoiced in the receipt of an order to prepare for field-service, the direction this time being Kolápúr, the chief of which, a lineal descendant of the great Maráthá leader Sivají, was held to have been the instigator of the Kitúr disturbances, and was otherwise supposed to exhibit a contumacious spirit. Mr. B——, the new Commissioner, was the director of our political movements ; and I was unexpectedly and agreeably surprised to receive an order to proceed in command of my company and join his camp, where a considerable escort of native Cavalry and Infantry had already been placed at his disposal. Nothing could be more agreeable.

We preceded the force in its marches, but encamped in their neighbourhood, messed at the Commissioner's table, and on our occasional visits to our less fortunate comrades in the force, joined with heartily in their denunciations of the harassing duties of rear-guards, pickets, and parades, from which we escort gentlemen were exempt. On our route we halted in the neighbourhood of the famous Falls of Gokak for a day, and during a shooting excursion on that romantic locality where the Timbúdar river precipitates itself in an unbroken fall of one hundred and eighty feet into the ravine below, I was witness of a remarkable occurrence. K——, P——, and myself accompanied by a retriever bitch, after some hesitation crossed the stream, then running strong, some quarter of a mile above the fall, and immediately after missed the dog. We, of course, rightly conjectured she had, unable to breast the current, been carried down and over the fall; we hurried, therefore, to the edge of the descent and peered down into the depths below, in the faint hope of seeing something of our four-footed friend. After a lapse of some minutes a speck was seen crawling on a sandbank some fifty yards beyond the vortex of waters below. At first we rejected

the idea of the moving object being the dog in question, as nothing living we thought could have survived the descent and the hell of waters below; but our glass soon confirmed the joyful intelligence that it was poor Fanny, who, after a little nursing, was enabled to join us. On one of these excursions one of our party killed an enormous snake in the vicinity of the falls, measuring eighteen feet in length and sixteen and a half inches in circumference. As, from the extended state of the stomach, he had evidently dined lately, we opened him, and, to our surprise, took out of him a large ichneumon or mungoos: this animal, of the ferret kind, being the hereditary enemy of the serpent class, and generally exhibited by snake charmers in company with cobras and other snakes.

I may here observe that it is remarkable how seldom even sportsmen in India encounter snakes. During the early part of my service, when I never lost an opportunity of traversing the jungle in pursuit of game—with the precaution, however, of thick sambre-skin gaiters on my lower extremities—I cannot remember half-a-dozen occasions of falling in with them, at least with the poisonous kinds; and once only in high grass

did I ever tread upon a cobra. On that occasion I felt I had for a moment something alive under my foot, and instantly afterwards felt a slight blow on the thick leather gaiter which the reptile failed to pierce, and for which he paid the usual penalty. I was thus enabled to identify the poison-bearing class to which he belonged. That there are enormous brutes of the python species in the western Ghats there can be no doubt, although I have never seen them; but I have frequently on an early morning, in the dust on the roads ascending these mountains, distinctly traced across them the serpentine movement of gigantic snakes, six and eight inches in diameter.

In due time the force arrived within view of Kolapúr, a town of considerable extent, situated on a plain with the two important hill-forts of Pángarh and Panallagarh some six miles distant. The encampment was made in the vicinity of the town, on a slight rise of the ground having a hard gravelly soil covered with scanty grass, and to all appearance as healthy a spot as could be desired; the escort of the Commissioner on its flank, and only divided from the main body by a small rocky nulla. We, the escort, had, however, a large tank in our front. I am thus particular

in describing the ground, inasmuch that it renders unaccountable our exemption from the dreadful epidemic that followed. That very evening two cases of the worst type of cholera were reported, and the third day the troops shifted ground, having, during that period, in a force of five thousand men, and probably double that number of followers, lost by this scourge at the rate of one hundred and fifty men a day; nor did the pestilence finally disappear till the force left the place. But the most singular thing is that both the escort, two hundred and fifty strong, and the town in their close vicinity, were completely exempt from a single case of the disease.

The Commissioner one evening summoned myself and another officer, and desired us to accompany him into the town for an interview with our beleagured enemy the Rájá. We thought this a rather cool proceeding, and certainly augured no good result when he informed us that his visit was an impromptu one and quite unsolicited by His Highness; he, moreover, peremptorily forbade his son, an officer on a visit to his father, from accompanying him. At 9 o'clock that evening we mounted our horses

and followed Mr. B—— towards the town, and when within musket-shot a chobdár, or announcer of the approach of great personages, was despatched to the fort-gate with a flambeaux-bearer to desire the gates might be opened, as the Commissioner demanded an audience of His Highness. After some delay and confusion, we—that is, four of us—were admitted, and passed along a motley crowd armed to the teeth, and up a narrow staircase. I certainly felt anything but comfortable, for besides the side-arms and a small double pistol inside my jacket, none of our party had any weapons—if, indeed, they could have availed us anything. We were conducted at length into a room ten feet square, where sat His Highness in gloomy state. He rose for a moment, however, at Mr. B——'s entrance; and we were at once seated, and I had time to look around me. The Rájá, on sitting down again, drew his sword and kunjar within easy reach of his hand; and then, through his minister, entered on the business in hand. It struck me that Mr. B—— was exceedingly bold and impassive in his manner, taking into account all the circumstances,—his rather ticklish position as an uninvited guest in his adversary's stronghold,

surrounded by his armed retainers, one hint to whom would have made mincemeat of us, or at least have imprisoned us,—and I inwardly resolved in this case to secure at least one victim in the stout, swarthy young man that eyed us so suspiciously. However, all passed off tranquilly : natives are ever impressed with awe by a calm and audacious adversary. We then rose and coolly swaggered out of the royal presence and down to our horses, which mounting, we rode into camp, Mr. B—— evidently well pleased with the results of his interview. It is singular, just twenty years afterwards I entered this very palace at midnight, at the head of three hundred horsemen, to arrest the Ráni and convey her and her attendants into the camp of our force assembled for similar purposes of coercion as this one I have related.

There was, as I observed before, little to detain us longer ; and accordingly we were not sorry to hear of the order for our return to Belgám, with the hope of shaking off the epidemic that was still calling for fresh victims in the camp in such alarming vicinity to our own. Within a week we had arrived at head-quarters, and I to the dull routine of regimental duty. We had little

crime in the Regiment, and that of a mild type. Occasionally, however, acts of violence arising from that curse of the English soldier, drunkenness, called the lash into play, and a regimental court-martial of a captain and two subalterns, whose united ages did not often amount to sixty years, considered a sentence inflicting four or five hundred lashes a bagatelle,—for seven and eight hundred in the Bombay barracks was no unusual punishment by a regimental court. Thank heaven, this heavy drinking amongst the men and other attendant enormities have disappeared. To rise from your bed at 5 o'clock, from a restless night, clammy with perspiration and the foetid air of a barrack,—to stand motionless on a punishment square for two hours to witness the writhing of a fellow creature and a *comrade* whose body from neck to waist was a blue and bleeding mass,—was not conducive to any feelings but those of the most degrading and brutal type.

There was at this time a poor half-crazed recruit of the name of Lilley, whom no efforts of the drill sergeant could induct into even the rudiments of his drill. When tired of it, he used summarily to dismiss himself by running away from the ranks. Extra drill, solitary confine-

ment, and such minor punishments, were tried without effect; and at last we had a regimental court-martial of which I was as usual a member, on a charge of evading his duty by shamming idiotcy. The surgeon deposed that he had in hospital marked his flannel trowsers down the seams with charcoal and called it gold lace; but he was convinced he was nothing but a malingerer. The assistant-surgeon declared to similar absurdities, but that from his low and receding forehead it was likely that he was of weak intellect. The surgeon's evidence carried the day, and he was sentenced to the infallible soldier's remedy—three hundred lashes. A more pitiable sight than this I never witnessed: the wretched creature screamed from the first lash to the last, exclaiming in his agony, "I'll die in the mountains! I'll die in the mountains!" He was taken down after a modicum of his sentence by our kind Colonel, and conveyed to hospital, from which he was discharged as an invalid, and sent amongst others, under escort, to the coast *en route* for the Presidency. In the heavy jungle of the Ghats he disappeared, and three days afterwards was discovered under a tree—dead! But enough of this painful subject.

For lack of better amusement I proceeded on leave to visit a relative at the Presidency, and on the expiration of it, when I was anticipating some good shooting on my route back, I was cruelly placed in charge to convoy to my regiment not one but many "daughters of the Regiment!" A *Figlia del Reggimento* may be an interesting object, but I cannot say that the forty-six women and fifty-three children were a pleasing charge. I made the best of it, however, and embarked my living freight in two large country craft termed Pathmars. We had seven convalescent men as an escort. In those days there were few European women as soldiers' wives, and these were generally coarse and troublesome specimens of their countrywomen; the greater portion, however, were from Goa, a clean, sober, and well-conducted class, amongst whom were some very pretty girls. My troubles on embarkation commenced by one of these latter being so ill that I was obliged to place her in the cabin for shelter; and with her groans, her sister's crying, screams of laughter, and wailing of children, I had certainly had, as the Yankees term it, "a poor time of it;" and rejoiced was I on the fourth day to disembark them at Vinguláh and house them in the Dutch fort at that

place. To get this unruly command *en route* was, I found, no easy matter; to order an hour for the march, to regulate its distance, or keep this cavalcade of dooly occupants and pony equestrians, was out of the question. Some on nearing the Goa territory made off to visit their relatives, others went on ahead; and on nearing the halting-ground on the second stage, where ran a large mountain stream, I saw some natives stupidly gazing in the direction of the river. I asked one of my three escort where the women were, as I could see few or none in the tents. "Why, there, Sir! they are cooling themselves, the craiturs, after the march." And on going down the bank I was received with a volley of screams and laughter from thirty or forty nude figures of women and children. What the garrison of the native foot, who had manned the walls for the occasion, thought of such fast proceedings I cannot say; it certainly was not one to inspire them with much respect for the Feringhi. They probably deemed it like the Eleusinian mysteries, some mystic proceeding of a religious character.

As the party approached the goal of their wishes, Head-quarters, all control over them was

lost, and they went in with a rush. In my younger days I was ever open to the seductive influence of the *beau sexe*; but I must admit I was not grieved when the last of my charge was safely housed. Man and woman of the European kind of the soldier class are, on a line of march, the most helpless and troublesome of mankind: they are, the former especially, taught not to think for themselves, but are, however, amenable to orders; the latter are simply helpless and uncontrollable.

CHAPTER IV.

Visit Goa ; description of Old and New.—Paucity of Officers.—Representation of a Grievance, and its reply.—Second Expedition to Kolapúr.—Mahadeo's Declaration that every tenth Man of our Force would die.—Shooting Anecdotes. — Bustard.—Hail Storm. — Stampede of Cavalry Horses.—Return to Barracks.—Cobra di Capella Snakes.—Maharram Festival.—Detached to the Fort of Belgám. — Poor Jocko's Death. — Arrival of young Officers.

A DESCRIPTION of Goa by a brother officer had so inflamed our curiosity, that I procured a short leave to visit it, and with a companion arrived at Pangám or New Goa on the fourth day, the last stage by boat on the Goa river. Pangám, the principal settlement and residence of the Portuguese Governor, is a comparatively small place on the mouth of Goa river, on the Malabar coast, as it flows into the magnificent harbour of Goa. It is of course an insignificant town when compared to

the former capital, or rather what the extensive remains pronounce it to have been, the numerous churches alone remaining to testify to its former splendour.

As we paddled up the river at early morning we passed a large canoe, some three feet in the beam,—in the stern of which, in bed, lay closely packed side by side a Portuguese officer and his wife, the former wearing a gold-laced forage cap—a rickety affair one would suppose for a hymenal couch. It is wonderful how well got up these Militaires were, considering their scanty pay of thirty or forty rupees a month; their regiment of Europeans had, too, an excellent band and made a creditable appearance on parade. But how shrunk is the place from its palmy days! Old Goa was founded by Vasco de Gama as early as the fourteenth, and was at the zenith of its splendour during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries in the days of its Viceroys.

I have seen an old work called, I think, "Fryer's Travels," dating back to Elizabeth's time, with wonderfully correct engravings of the mango, the mangosteen, and other fruits and vegetable productions of Goa, as also of the costumes of the people. From all accounts their moral

standard, especially of their women, must have been very low, and it would appear that at one period they were nearly exterminated by diseases incidental to the lives they led. At the entrance gate of Old Goa was an effigy of Albuquerque, with an inscription. I could not discover the remains of the famous Inquisition that flourished at this place, though they are said to exist. The old churches that were at one time rich with jewels and gold are now mere shells. Of course we visited the Paphian haunt of Seroda, the statistics of which it is not, perhaps, desirable to publish. Those whom chance or curiosity may take thither must be prepared to find that the fair inhabitants admit neither moral nor religious wrong in their calling.

As it was now the third year of our new organization, and we had had no augmentation to the three subalterns of the regiment, and were thereby ever on duty, we began examining our condition, and discovered that there had been foul play at the Adjutant-General's office in posting us to the original European Regiment as ensigns. I, for instance, was (in common with those of the same date of rank) posted as eighth

ensign to the European Regiment, as the others were as eighth ensigns to the Native Corps, with this difference, that we had twenty-five lieutenants and they twenty-two; we were consequently three steps further removed from our company than our comrades of the Native Corps. We at the time hinted at this little mistake, but were asked indignantly if with twenty-five lieutenants we had not a better chance of vacancies to lieutenancies than those with only twenty-two? This of course to "griffins" of sixteen was unanswerable, the distance from our majorities, the real point, being kept out of view.

When the regiment, however, was divided a year afterwards into First and Second, and the three extra lieutenants were made supernumeraries, one in the second and two in the first, it struck us for the first time how disgracefully we had been tricked, as these two lieutenants had of course to be absorbed ere we could attain our lieutenancies. At the termination of a long service such as mine, of thirty-two years, seventeen as a Captain, the loss of these two steps had the effect of rendering me the most unlucky in promotion (except three) of any officer in the Bombay Army; and this slow promotion

on a gradation service, and subsequently the most unjust withholding of my brevet lieutenant-colonelcy by a chairman of the India House, although that grade was unsolicitedly offered to me by Her Majesty as “an especial mark of favour for especial service with her troops during the Crimean war,” impelled me in despair to retire from a service in which the misfortune of slow promotion and injustice had combined to rob me of my just position.

The further contemplation of our little grievances was at this time suspended by an order to again prepare for canvas against our old friend the Kolapúr State, the details of which movement I will spare the reader, beyond observing that the usual denunciation awaited us from Mahádéo, their protecting deity, *viz.* that cholera would, on our approach to the sacred city, decimate the force; and I grieve to say it was carried out to the letter, my regiment losing an officer and sixty men by the pestilence, and other regiments suffering a still greater loss. When once well clear of the now dreaded neighbourhood of Kolapúr, we recovered our spirits and indulged extensively in the usual amusements of camp life—pig-sticking, shooting, &c.

I had seen numbers of the larger bustard in my rambles, the white head and neck of the male bird of which can be clearly seen above the tall grain stalks. He is a bird weighing twenty pounds, and standing five feet in height—an exciting quarry for a sportsman. Well! after numerous attempts to circumvent these wary gentlemen, with indifferent success, their bodies being so concealed amongst the grain stalks as to preclude a rifle shot, and their alertness preventing a sufficiently near approach for that, I was fortunate one day. I had learnt my lesson from a noted bustard-killer, Captain M—— of the Irregular Cavalry, with which corps I subsequently served for many years. On seeing a bird he immediately commenced what is termed ringing him, contracting the circle each time, the bird slowly revolving on his own pivot the while, till he had approached within forty or fifty yards, when he threw himself off his trained steed, a pony generally, ran in with his gun, and ere the bird could get his huge body on the wing, secured a fatal shot, with B.B. shot, just as the bird was with opened wings rising for his flight. I have killed them occasionally, when unexpectedly flushed

from thick cover in the heat of the day, and once killed thus two with right and left barrel shot. But from the fact of their being generally found in open plains, sometimes in grain, they are difficult of approach within small-shot distance, and even then the strong wing plumage will throw off the shot. Captain M——'s plan, it will be seen, overcame both these difficulties, and I lost no time in availing myself of his lesson with considerable success.

I had one day a visit from a Captain F——, a recently-appointed officer of the rocket troop, who introduced himself with a request that I would accompany him in a day's shooting, as he had been informed I was a devoted *chasseur*. I mention this as an occasion of the most extraordinary day's success in the small-game line but one I have ever witnessed, though I have heard from others of far greater. Well, the Captain and I started in the morning, and by 4 in the afternoon we had succeeded in bagging three quail! This was not cheering under the temperature that rendered touching your gun-barrels extremely unpleasant; so we were just giving it up, and looking out for water to allay our thirst, when I saw what appeared a chain of ponds at some

distance. To ride there was a moment's work, and on our approach to their marshy green margins—Diana of the Ephesians, what a sight!—ducks, teal, and snipe rose in clouds. The first impulse was of course uncontrollable, and our four barrels were discharged in an instant. The sun was at this moment approaching the horizon, and I was for going on, but my older companion fortunately dissuaded me, and urged me to wait till the morning for fresh vigour and daylight. Most unwillingly did I consent.

We accordingly rode back to camp, under solemn promise of secrecy as to the whereabouts of our Elysian fields. The next morning saw us on our ground with a magazine of Curtis and Harvey's best, and a bag of No. 9. We shot from 9 till 12, and then from 2 o'clock till 6 or dark, at first at duck and teal, and when they absented themselves, to the main object of snipe. Results of seven hours : one hundred and twenty six couple of snipe, and ten brace of duck and teal. Of these Captain F—— bagged sixty brace. I did not count mine, but know that at one shot I shot three birds twice, and two birds repeatedly. We once washed out our guns, and twice filled our flasks. Like angels' visits, such a

day, even in India, seldom occurs ; and but once, with *four* guns, and at quail, have I seen this number exceeded. It appears the crafty Captain, on discovering this find the evening before, went to his mess, and there took bets he would kill the following day fifty brace of birds, which, considering the three quail of the day previous, he of course had no difficulty in doing at handsome odds, and pouched no less than eighty pounds by the transaction, of which success my share was a dinner and champagne.

The day preceding our final march into barracks, at the end of March, we had one of the storms which occur at this season in this portion of the coast-range, and which serve to cool the atmosphere during the hot months preceding the regular periodical downfall in June. On this occasion we had the most terrific hailstorm I ever witnessed. Glass windows in camp were scarce, but the front glass windows in many palanquins were broken, and their roofs indented; the horses broke away from their pickets, and dashed madly careering through the lines of tents, falling over the ropes, and bringing these and their occupants to grief. A hailstone, or rather a flat disk of ice, placed in a claret wine-glass filled three-fourths.

of it when melted! I was dining in the —— cavalry mess tent, capable of containing a hundred persons. There was at the time nearly that number at table, when the immense structure came to the ground, smashing the crockery, and enclosing us (the General included) as in a net. As may be supposed, the exit, in utter darkness, though the fearful *débris* of broken glass, hams, turkeys, and brigadiers, into the pelting storm without, was a caution. I really never witnessed a more terrible scene of confusion, by no means exempt from danger, for besides small casualties, the lightning killed two troopers and three horses.

It took a whole day to recover from this unpleasant visitation. The next saw us in our cantonments and at the usual routine of barrack life. Shortly afterwards I rode into the fort of Belgám, as orderly officer, to visit our hospital, that was close to the gate. As I entered the building I observed a number of the convalescent patients looking over the low hedge of the garden into the vacant field adjoining, in which lay a small pool of water formed by the recent rain. Two cobra snakes were at the moment in conjunction, just as large worms are seen on a garden path. The

next instant a dog ran through the hedge, and barked furiously at them. The snakes, immediately untwining, disengaged themselves and pursued the dog, which ran into the water. The snakes followed him instantly, and swimming up to him, bit him so viciously that he died in half an hour. The following the dog into the water was, I thought, a curious feature in the case, as I had never heard that the cobra was given to natation.

The Muharram Festival was celebrated with great pomp and ceremony at the station. This festival has been so often described that little remains to be added. It is, of course, purely Muhammedan, one in commemoration of the martyrs Húsén and Hásán; but the Hindús, especially their women, avail themselves of the occasion to exhibit their dresses. The principal supporters who figured in the procession of the models of the sacred tomb towards their final resting-place, some adjacent river or tank, were the Músalman troopers of the two Madras regiments of cavalry at the station, nearly all of whom are Maisúr Muhammedans, a fanatical class who have not unfrequently obtained the glories of martyrdom by killing an obnoxious officer. Their

regimental organization is wonderful, and in their native undress they exhibited the finest figures of men I ever saw. I fancy such fêtes have much fallen off in the present day, but at the period I speak of, their Tázayas, or models of the sacred tomb of the martyred saints, supported on men's shoulders, were many of them beautiful, and although constructed only of silvered or gilt paper, exhibited great taste and elegance of design. The actors in the procession, moreover, moved along with mournful air and melancholy chant in character with the occasion, and with all absence of the masking and buffoonery conspicuous on our side of India.

Like other youngsters addicted to field sports, I had, when on detachment in the fort of Belgám, a number of dogs and monkeys. From want of better accommodation, I resided in a guard-house between the fort gates. A small tree overhung the road passing into the fort, close in front of the house I occupied. Amongst the pets of mine, and nuisances to others, was a largish male ape of the common kind termed by the natives the "European monkey," from, I suppose, its fair complexion. This beast often managed to free himself from his chain, and

when loose remained generally in the tree over the road. I had never seen him interfere with any of the passers-by, and was therefore surprised to receive a note from Assistant Adjutant-General, stating that complaints had been made that my monkey was in the habit, when the sepoy's wives were passing to their husbands on guard at the gate, with their dinners on their heads, of jumping down on them from his eyrie and plundering them of their curry. In consequence of this I lost no time in endeavouring to coax the animal out of the tree; but whether he was aware of his guilt, or loved his position too much, my efforts were fruitless. Recourse was then had to compulsory measures. A pistol loaded with a very light charge, was fired at the end of his tail, that invitingly hung down, but he refused to budge, contenting himself with hauling up his caudal extremity. Annoyed at my failure, I loaded again, and fired with a somewhat heavier charge, on which he descended in an instant, and ran into the house. I followed, but nowhere was he to be found; I searched every spot in the two rooms, when, on passing my bed, thought I saw something under the clothes, and on turning them down, there was this caricature of humanity lying on his side

at full length, his head on the edge of the pillow. He glanced at me, but did not move, and then in a few minutes he died: one fatal pellet had entered his ribs. In after life, I fear I have lamented less the death of some of my own type.

To our great relief, two young officers lately appointed joined us, and as they had passed their drill, we had, for the first time during two years, an opportunity of getting a few consecutive days shooting leave. B. M——, one of these, became my dearest friend, but left the service shortly after in disgust at the unworthy treatment he received at the hands of a coarse-minded Scotch Colonel. He was two years subsequently killed in Spain, a knight of St. Ferdinand and of other orders.

CHAPTER V.

Our Colonel leaves us.—His Successor.—March to Bombay.
 —Brigade movements en route.—Hog-hunting.—Arrival
 at Presidency. — Lamentable disappointment. — Our
 Colonel's Idea of Truth. — First acquaintance with
 Captain J. O——.—Appointed his Adjutant, and pro-
 ceed to Khándésh.—Life in that Province.—Mode of
 Travelling.—Entered at Tigers.—J. G——, his Cook, and
 the Commissioners.—Labour of Tiger-killing.—Cha-
 racter and Habits of my Commandant.

It was with great regret, both to officers and men,
 that our kind old Colonel informed us that he was
 about to leave us on promotion to a brigade. We
 had had him in command for about a year, and
 although his capacity for drill or movements was
 certainly of a somewhat confined character, he
 was in every other sense a soldier and a gentleman;
 and we all loved him, and one and all of us when
 reviewed were determined to be a credit to him,
 his apocryphal orders notwithstanding. We

succeeded, I rejoice to say, and the good old fellow and his regiment were lauded up to the skies. Poor old Colonel C——! he left us, if not with tears in his eyes, at least “a wee drop in his ee,” and, I believe, for the first time in his life.

I will weary the reader as little as possible by adverting to these centurions of a past age. Our late commandant's successor was a character, however, too remarkable to be passed over in silence. It was said that in his younger days he had been a good officer. Be that as it may, a more ignorant bully, when he appeared to rule over us, no service could have produced, and his audacious mendacity would have been the envy of Mendez Pinto. “Lying Jack” was his cognomen. This cadaverous specimen of a happily extinct species was a mofussilite* production who had passed his service with native corps, and had probably never seen, much less commanded, a regiment of European soldiers in his life.

It was the practice at the time I speak of to send an obnoxious Colonel to command the European infantry, in the view that the hopeless struggle to master a subject he neither understood nor regarded would drive him out of the

* Mofussilite, a denizen of the country rather than the town.

service. In this case, at least, there could have been no other motive. He commenced by always keeping us waiting for him under arms for half an hour, and then bullying all the officers, the Adjutant especially; and when after the parade was over that functionary respectfully asked him if a certain false movement was for the future to be executed as he had just directed, “Ha! ha! Mr. Adjutant, do you take me for a fule! Jist find out for yourself!” Some of the most cautious amongst the officers, at this extraordinary reply, walked away with averted faces; and others of the younger ones exploded, of course, on the spot, at so startling an address by the Colonel to his confidential adviser.

We now prepared, with great regret, to leave our pleasant station for the dreaded Presidency, by the overland route *viâ* Púnah. We were soon to be surprised at the mode of marching adopted by our new Colonel. No sooner was he his own master, clear of cantonments, than, ignoring the Quartermaster-General’s route regulating our stages, he made a long or short march as he pleased, and halted when he liked; and astonished us by marching one morning into the camp of the — Regiment, also *en route* for Púnah. No

sooner had this been done, than, to the surprise and disgust of the officer commanding this corps, who previously had had no idea of our vicinity, he took upon himself the authority of Brigadier, and directed him to report himself at once. To waylay this regiment had, it appears, been the object of his previous erratic marches. He then appointed a Brigade-Major, handed over the regiment to the senior Captain—for our Major was home on leave—and thus with his self-constituted command he entered Púnah, the headquarters of the division. But then came retribution. He was not only deprived of his Brigadiership and severely reprimanded, but his brigade appointments were rescinded. I had been directed by Government to act as commissariat officer to the force during the march, and our worthy Colonel ordered me to supply him with twenty camels for his private baggage, and on arrival at Púnah he sent these on to Bombay. On muster day, I begged him to inform me how I should mark these camels off, "That," observed the Colonel, "is your affair, not mine."

On arrival at the Presidency, we were reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief, Sir T. B——, and I never witnessed anything so lamentable as our

Colonel's ignorance and incapacity ; but he never hesitated in his mendacious replies. I was asked by the Chief if I knew the names of every man in my company. I replied, as I had only lately assumed command, that I did not. The mair shame for him,” replied the veracious Colonel, “for it was only yesterday I gared him to ken them all.” “Told me !” I exclaimed. “Not a word from you, young gentleman, not a word.” This worthy disciple of Mendez Pinto died shortly afterwards, exclaiming with his last breath that the command of the regiment had killed him.

We were unfortunate in having a senior Captain whom, for reasons best known to themselves, the military authorities were determined to exclude from command, his antecedents being notorious ; and our Major being absent on leave, the unusual step was taken of appointing another native corps officer to command us. This man, a Major, was what is termed, “a smart officer,” but of course had never been with European soldiers, and knew nothing of them, and ended, two years afterwards, in driving the men into mutiny and himself from the command.

At this time I formed the acquaintance of one

whose deeds of gallantry and daring wherever honour was to be won raised him subsequently to the highest grade of military rank and distinction. Captain J. Outram, though at this time some years my senior, was quite a young man, and had already rendered himself conspicuous by his aptitude for any service that required decision and rapidity of action. He had been selected for the command of a regiment that he had succeeded in raising from the feudatory Bhíl tribes of Khándésh and the Sátpúr range of hills in these provinces. He was kind enough to appoint me to act as his Adjutant, and to my delight, in a few days, I accompanied him *en route* to his headquarters at Darangaun, as officiating Adjutant to the Khándésh Bhíl corps. From this period I date a total change in my subsequent career. Not only did I gain knowledge of jungle life and wood craft that was no little service to me afterwards, but I gained it under the best of masters and the kindest of friends.

The province of Khándésh had for years previous to Captain Outram's command been ravaged and disturbed by constant inroads of the Bhíl tribes, inhabiting the Sátpúr range of hills that divide the Khándésh valley, through which runs the

Táptí, from the Máu and Malwa provinces, watered by the Narbadá, the former extending from the Mángarod district in the east to the Western Gháts, a distance of some hundred and twenty miles. At the time I allude to there was not a made road in the province, and as it was necessary for its good order, and to check the predatory habits of the hill tribes, to be in movement over the country, we dispensed with the usual impedimenta of tents, and kept a stud of rough horses, with which we traversed rapidly from one point to another, sixty, eighty, and a hundred miles being covered in a day's journey. During the periodical rains we were especially subjected to great exposure and no little danger in crossing the *nullahs* and rivers on our horses. However, I soon got used to it; and when these long rides were over a hospitable reception ever awaited us from any European resident we fell in with.

As I had previously seen but one tiger and a bear killed, neither of which fell to my gun, and that from elephants, I was of course eager to be at once entered at these animals, nor had I to wait long. To the corps of Bhíls raised by Capt. Outram were attached a body of some

twenty trackers or puggies, who, with a sort of intuitive instinct, were capable of tracking by their footmarks either man or beast, and to these, with a man named Kandú at their head, was assigned the somewhat dangerous task of tracing tigers to their lairs, and reporting to us. The hot weather, when water is confined to some few localities, is of course the period generally selected, as the larger animals of prey who suffer much from thirst keep to the vicinity of pools. Tigers are occasionally, however, tracked and killed during the colder months, but from their being always when cool on the alert, it is more difficult to manage. On one occasion, Capt. Outram and I rode, in January, thirty miles after a tigress, at Ídalábád, and thirty miles back to our camp, for three days in succession, and finally failed to kill her; that is one hundred and eighty miles, besides some eight or ten hours work daily on the ground. She was a cunning brute, in the midst of a populous district, with little jungle, moreover; we did manage to view her once for an instant, but she never gave us a chance.

Towards the commencement of the first hot weather I passed in Khándésh, we proceeded in the direction of A'jantá, the famed caves of

which lie in the Satmahalí range of hills that bound the province to the south, and are the demarking line of the Nizam's territory. Mr. D——, the Commissioner, who desired to witness a tiger's death, was to meet us below the hills, accompanied by the famous John G——, who had escorted him from the Nizam's side; a Mr. H—— of the Nizam's service was also expected. This last was an old, bald-headed man. John G—— was notorious for practical jokes, some wit, and no end of effrontery. Having preceded Mr. H—— a few minutes, he entered our tent, and announced that he had brought a French cook with him; and on Mr. H—— dismounting, the servants, instead of bringing him into our tent, led him into a small sowtie or servants' tent, and there gave him his breakfast, John G—— meanwhile informing us that the bald-headed singular figure we had seen dismount was a first-rate *artiste*, and that our servants were to go to him immediately and ask his orders regarding the dinner we were about to give the Commissioner. Immediately afterwards we heard a fearful row where the unsuspecting Mr. H—— was at breakfast, and out came that individual purple with rage, driving the servants in

front. "This treatment of your guest," exclaimed he to J. G——, "is what I suppose you call a joke; but you'll find it none when you return to cantonments." "Well!" said the imperturbable John, "what the devil is the use of you if you don't contribute to the morning's amusement. After all, I only said you were my cook, and you know you're like one."

There were two elephants attached to the Bhil Corps expressly for the destruction of tigers, and with others of the party we mustered four; and next morning, a tiger being marked down, we commenced beating for him in the deep ravine in which the caves of Ajantá are situated. We soon viewed a fine tiger leisurely crossing our line; the Commissioner was, of course, given the first shot, on which the brute charged down, and was soon disposed of. Outram, who was the director of all movements, now declared the one killed was not the one marked, and I was told to move up the side of the ravine and prevent his escape upwards. The doing this under an April sun, on the side of the deep gorge where not a breath of air could penetrate, was truly melting work, especially as I had reason to believe there was no second tiger, and the sides of the ravine,

where my elephant was hanging, as it were, in mid air, rendered it impossible, clinging as I was to the howdah, to fire had there been one. At this moment I heard John G—— observe, from below me, to Outram, “What a nice spot you have entered your new Adjutant at!” Raped to death with thorns, and stung with cow-itch, I could stand it no longer, and let myself down on *terra firma* in the midst of the jungle, and tried to pass beneath the elephant, who, feeling something touch him underneath, kicked or shuffled his fore and hind legs in the manner adopted in kicking a tiger to death. One blow sent me fortunately clear of him into the jungle, with the loss of my hat and gun, which, though recovered afterwards, I certainly never thought of stopping to pick up, being too thankful to escape with unbroken limbs.

Whilst in pursuit of the nobler game, no firing is, of course, permitted at any other, and it was tantalising to see a splendid sambur, with his branching antlers, and standing fourteen hands, rushing through the jungle within pistol shot, and herds of beautiful spotted deer gazing astonished at the huge black elephantine masses that bore us resistlessly though the underwood. The next

day a tiger was reported on the plateau above the caves, and as we moved on to our ground, we were puzzled to guess where the brute could be lying, as the country was a bare plain, and nearly denuded of cover. However, we soon came upon our quarry, a short, powerful, dark-skinned mountain tiger, with a head as large and round as a pumpkin—or rather he came soon upon us, rushing down with a roar the instant we approached the dry nullah he was couched in. One, two, and even three balls, though they rolled him over, failed to stop the career of this plucky beast, who rushed from elephant to elephant until he fastened on the head of J. G——'s animal; carried thus in triumph from the field by his discomfited assailant, the tiger fell dead at last from his numerous wounds. It is only occasionally that you encounter a beast of this description, which from the rapidity and alertness of his movements renders a deadly aim difficult; for as a rule, from the vantage ground you hold on the back of so large an animal as an elephant, and from the comparative security from danger, two shots, and indeed even none, may often extinguish both tiger and sport at the same moment. The danger of tiger shooting is on foot, for unless the

elephant throws himself upon his knees on the tiger to crush or gore him, or, what is worse, runs away, crashing with his rider on his back through forest jungle, the large boughs of which may possibly prove inconvenient, there is really little peril from the animal itself. Of the *chasse au pied*, I will write anon. In this neither coolness, nor courage, nor skill with your rifle, essential though they be, will at all exempt the sportsman from danger. A ball, however well planted, will often leave life sufficient to enable so powerful an animal to inflict in the few seconds mortal injuries.

A book of this kind is not the place to descant upon the character of a distinguished soldier, but I cannot pass in silence the name of Outram, with whom I was associated in my youth, without a passing tribute to his memory. There is little difficulty, when a man has risen above the crowd, to point out afterwards the salient points of character that denoted genius or marked distinction from his fellow men. Some I have known who have risen to rank and position with little other aid than that instinct which caused them to seize greatness when it lay in their way.

Not so, however, with Sir James Outram, G.C.B. If ever there was a man who to himself owed everything, and to friends and fortune nothing, it was he. With an education immatured, and no marked superiority of intellect, he possessed, nevertheless, and exercised, nearly all the attributes of a great soldier—inflexibility of purpose, untiring physical energy, and reckless indifference to danger. A temper warm and impulsive, with a sense of honour that scorned all selfish consideration, were the characteristics of his younger days. These a powerful mind enabled him to carry with him to maturer age. The position of high command afforded him then a greater field for the exercise of his qualities, and finally enabled him to rise triumphant over the petty cabals of the satellites of place and power, who had vainly endeavoured to tarnish the reputation of the “Indian officer” and to cast his great services into the shade.

There was a Cerberus in those days who jealously guarded the entrance to military distinction from the Indian soldier of fortune, whose family might lack the political influence required to soothe his vigilance, and many were the

attempts to "put him down." But James Outram with cork-like buoyancy rose but the higher from each well-meant but futile effort to submerge him.

CHAPTER VI.

Ambah Pergannah.—Tiger killing Cattle.—Wild Dogs and Sambur.—Visit to Assirgarh.—Buffalo-hunting.—Bear-shooting.—One too many in a Kitchen.—Búránípúr Corps de Ballet.—Return to Head-quarters.—Sandy and the Bustard.—Pig-hunting; a vicious Sow.

A SHORT distance from our head-quarters lay a district called the Ambah Pergannah, which opens from the Satpúri range of hills into the valley of Khándésh, now and for the last two centuries relapsed into jungle, but which at one period was thickly populated. Large stone wells and well-constructed indigo vats still bearing evidence of former prosperity. The Satpúri range—a succession of lofty hills extending to the Narbadá valley, well watered by streams and exempted by its dense jungle from the parching influence of the sun in the hottest weather, when alone, from its deadly malaria, it can be entered with impunity

—had been so lauded as a preserve for the denizens of the forest, that I took an early opportunity of judging of its merits.

As my commandant was at the time in another part of the province, and I had been some weeks in solitude—that is, had not had occasion to converse in my mother tongue for perhaps a long month—I determined to take a few days spell in the Ambah, and with a small tent, and a limited sawári or following, found myself, by the help of a Bhíl guide, on the banks of a small stream, some ten or twelve miles in the hills. Although often in the midst of grander and bolder scenery, I never saw, I think, a wilder spot, or one which, from its utter solitude, conjured up such visions of *feræ naturæ*.

In front of my little tent was a delicious pool for bathing, formed by the stream aforesaid. A large Buri tree, with its multiplying boughs, sheltered my domicile from the sun ; a few rafters of an extinct Bhíl hut stood near ; in every other direction was jungle, sufficiently open at this warm period of the year to admit of being traversed on foot. The only people that ever passed through this district were the Brinjáris and their bullocks, a nomad gipsy tribe, the great

carriers of grain, to whom has been entrusted from time immemorial the transit of salt and grain from one province in India to another, and who take to these jungle tracts to evade the duties levied on the Government high roads and ghâts.

The hunting Bhîls of the corps were at this time engaged in another direction with Capt. Outram, so that, with the exception of one or two Bhîl orderlies, I was left dependent on my own resources in the hunting line. On the day after my arrival, one of my men reported a Brinjâri bullock to have been killed by a tiger close to my tent; I proceeded at once to the nullah where the carcase was lying, and took up my position towards evening on the bank, concealed by a bush within twenty yards of it. Occasionally I looked from the book I had with me to the bullock, and was just thinking of giving the watch up, when the breaking of a dry twig drew my attention to the opposite bank, and I saw a tiger silently descending it. Either in handling my rifle or getting myself into firing position he must have heard me, for he retreated under cover. I waited for ten minutes, which appeared an age, in the hope of another chance, and a

certain one—for in such cases wild firing is dangerous—when I was startled by the shouting of human voices and the roar of a tiger, with the noise of rattling stones and gravel.

Seizing my rifle, and motioning my attendant to follow with my spare gun, I ran in the direction of the sounds, and from the bank I saw in the dry nullah below me a tiger on the neck of a powerful bullock, one fore-arm on his head, and the other on his shoulder, in which position the bullock was dragging his assailant, whose hind legs were on the ground, along the nullah bed. Once or twice I levelled, but from the rapid movements of each it was impossible to fire with certainty. Two or three Brinjáris were shouting and yelling at some distance lower down. At length the bullock, after having dragged the tiger forty or fifty yards, fell on his knees and then on his side, and I was close enough to hear the tiger gulping down the blood in the intervals of his growls. I then fired one barrel at the back of the brute's head, and he fell stretched upon his victim.

The Brinjáris informed me this tiger had accompanied them five miles from their last encampment, and that this was the third bullock he

had killed since the preceding day, and that he had waylaid their cattle in this vicinity for the last three years. These men declared it was the same animal I had seen previously, and that suspecting foul play, or having seen me, he had quitted his first victim and selected another from the passing bullocks.

Such an opportunity of witnessing a tiger pulling down his prey, as may be supposed, seldom occurs, and I was fortunate in seeing it. I remained some days longer, but hearing of nothing to detain me, I determined to leave the following day. Indeed, a man may be in the midst of game, but if the jungle be dense, and he have no shikaris with him who understand the haunts of large animals, he may not get a shot from one week's end to another. Spotted deer and sambur, of course, he will occasionally fall in with; and having killed two of the former, I resolved to move.

I had retired to rest, and was enjoying a sleep earned by the day's exercise, when about 2 o'clock I was awoke by a yelping and by splashing of water in the pool adjacent. I jumped up and looked out; the moon was as bright as day; and one of my Bhíls was calling out, "Look here!"

I seized my rifle and tried to fumble down a charge, running at the same time to the pool. In the midst of the water stood a splendid male sambur, and on the bank were ten or fifteen animals that in the moonlight looked like jackals, but with tails, I thought, less bushy—they did not, however, remain a moment after seeing us approach. Meanwhile, one of the Bhíls, ere I could select a spot to fire at, ran down with one of the roof poles of the deserted hut close by, and struck the sambur a heavy blow between his antlers, that brought him on his knees, and with another tumbled him into the water, in which he had been brought to bay by the dogs, and was thus secured. I was sorry I could not kill one of these dogs. On a subsequent occasion, when with Capt. Outram in the howdah of an elephant, I had an opportunity of seeing three of them playing in a sandy nullah when we were after a tiger. They appeared to be somewhat smaller, but stouter built than a jackal, a reddish brown, inclined to black about the knees and feet. But they were off in a moment. The Bhíl shikaris assured me they ran down sambur and spotted deer in packs, passing over miles of country in their course at night or early morning; and I

have reason to believe their statement, judging at least from the exhausted state of the sambur on this occasion.

An invitation from a brother officer now induced me to visit Asirgarh, an important fortress that rises abruptly in the gorge of the hills leading from Bhuránpúr, the capital town of Khándesh, to the Indúr district. This friend, an ardent sportsman, afforded me a good opportunity of hunting the country around the fort, abounding in the larger game of buffalo, bears, and tigers. A party was soon got up of six of us, especially for large game, not, of course, omitting any other that might offer. Our campaign opened one fine morning in the hilly country some dozen miles from Asirgarh fort, to the westward of it, and brought us on a herd of eight buffaloes grazing in an open, well-wooded country, intersected with ravines fringed with brushwood.

They allowed us to approach within seventy or eighty yards, and received our fire ere they went off tail on end. I, who had not seen these animals before, was somewhat disappointed, I confess, at seeing no results from the eight or ten shots discharged, but later experience of the amount of killing they require assured me that

the failure did not arise from bad firing, but from want of system. Loading and mounting, we followed our game briskly, and were just dismounting for another volley, when one and all of them disappeared into a deep ravine ahead, crashing with ease through the brushwood. Another moment brought us to a descent that we could only scramble down with difficulty, and thus on we went, nearing our game with ease on the level ground, but thrown out of distance by the dismount for firing and reloading, and by the cruel ravines we had to cross. One cow only rewarded our labours.

We all agreed this would never do; so next day, receiving intelligence of six more buffaloes with two bulls, we divided our party into squads of three—the first three only to fire, and that at the nearest bull, and the remaining three whilst these were loading to give chase and fire at the wounded animal; thus to keep up a succession of fire, and to hold the animals in view. Nothing could have succeeded better. On sighting our game, my friend J——, and two others, severely wounded a fine bull, and in an instant we of the reserve passed them whilst loading, and though retarded by a ravine, came up and

finished him. He had hardly had his quietus, when our friends passed us killing a cow and severely wounding the remaining bull. I and another from the rear now came up, and saw a splendid brute, fourteen two at the shoulder, puffing slowly along, bleeding at the mouth. As I dismounted he made a feeble attempt at a rush, and on receiving a harmless ball in the head, was rushing down a ravine, when a ball in the spine sent him crashing headlong down the descent, where we found him.

J——, our manager, received, most deservedly, immense credit for his able arrangements for the satisfactory conclusion of the day's sport on the new system; and on our return to the tents, we were rewarded by hearing of two bears that were only awaiting (as the shikari assured us) our lordships' presence to be killed. We had, as may be assured, a jolly evening, slightly disturbed, however, by a trifling incident. One of the party, F——, a wild reckless fellow, ever in debt and difficulty, was the owner of an Irish heirloom in the shape of an antiquated stone gun, that had the remarkably unpleasant faculty of going off when not required, and persistently withholding its fire at the most perilous moments.

This much-abused implement, the owner, in spite of its being loaded, was wildly snapping in the tent, under the influence of beer, offering to "bet a noggin it wouldn't go off in half an hour," when the gun suddenly exploded, blowing my hat off, and passing through the tent fly! This shooting peculiarity exempted its master subsequently from a charge of funking when in pursuit of a tiger which others better armed were afraid to charge.

At early dawn we followed our guides to the edge of the plateau on which we were encamped, some two miles distant, in quest of the bruins that were "awaiting our lordships' presence to be killed," and came upon a deep and likely-looking ravine running into the country below. Dis-mounting, we descended, guns in hand, some twenty feet, and then came upon a fall of rock, at the foot of which, amongst the *débris*, was a cave, with a damp sanded floor, containing in the centre a raised circlet of limestone filled with cool pellucid water; no bad retreat after a warm day's march for our friend bruin, whose recent footmarks in the sand showed how lately he had been in occupation. Two of us were posted accordingly near his hall door, and the others lower down. Nor had we to wait long.

The plan of marking, with these animals, is for the shikaris, who had noted their tikána or dwelling place the evening before, to perch themselves at earliest dawn on the trees adjacent, and watch the approach of the bear at sunrise through the grassy plain below, when his black form is easily distinguished.

A low whistle put us on the alert, and in another minute a shot, then a second, and then a third from below pronounced the game afoot. T—— and I arrived at the cave, and eagerly awaited our chance, though that appeared a poor one, as a shrill scream from one of the bears showed clearly he had little chance of gaining his domicile, where we were posted. A scattering fire now marked his or their way upwards, and an instant afterwards a shout of "Look out, two bears!" and one in rushing past us was dropt dead at the cave's mouth, whilst the other succeeded in getting in. We now got together and found that three bears had been seen, one disposed of at the foot of the ravine, one by us at the cave, and the third had made good his entrance.

For two hours damp leaves and hay were thrust into the cave and fired, in the hope of smoking the bear out; then fire-pots thrown

in, but in vain ; and we were just on the point of giving in, when the smoke came rolling back and out rushed a nondescript animal, with a bear's head it is true, but the body as innocent of hair as an Italian greyhound's. I, who had been peering into the cave too closely, in an instant found myself on my back ; but the Fates were against the intruder, and he fell to rise no more. Moral of this adventure, that bears will stand a joke, at least a roasting, longer than most animals. As the day was still early we scattered about in different directions in search of adventure, and at evening reassembled at our tents, all but T——, who was still absent. He, however, shortly returned, having bagged, as he said, "a wild cat and gazelle," and in the morning, on mounting for our return to the fort, there lay, besides our bears, a sambur and a splendid panther, added to the spoils by T——, as his evening's work. Glad indeed were we that night of "tired Nature's sweet restorer."

As my friend's leave was up, we returned to the Fort of Asír. The amusement in such a place is necessarily of a limited kind, but we always found something to kill the time. One evening John T——'s factotum, a Goa Portuguese,

ran into our sitting room to announce that there was a big serpent in the kitchen, and, as was not unusual, he was not quite sober, his day's work having been concluded. In a moment we ran out, and, preceded by Mr. John, entered the kitchen, and true enough, under the table, close by a hole, through which the refuse water ran out, lay an enormous rock snake, harmless as to fangs but formidable in appearance. T——'s first measure was to check Mr. John's excitement, whose pot-valour urged him to at once attack the animal. "No," said his master, "we must take it alive." It was twelve feet long, and as thick as the calf of a man's leg. There had assembled by this time some six or eight of us in the kitchen, which rather impeded operations. Mr. John, however, in a moment had the snake by the tail, but the reptile finding himself assailed, got a hitch round the kitchen table, from which four of us tugging at the tail could not move him. T——, meanwhile, jammed up the port of egress, the sink-hole, with a faggot. "Now!" shouted his master to John; "let go! I've the hole safe." "No, sir," said John, "I not let him go!" "Let him go!" again cried T——. "No, master, I never let him go." "Once more,

you drunken scoundrel," exclaimed his now incensed master, "let him go!" and, at the words, crash went the kitchen table, and back fell Mr. T—— and the tail holders, out went the light, and left us scrambling on the floor with the horrid reptile twisting amongst us.

I had picked myself out of the fire-place, that was fortunately at low ebb, and with the aid of a light, we finally managed to secure the snake in a large earthen water jar, with a tub and stone over it, and at last retired to rest after our exciting hunt, resolving to inspect our prisoner in the morning. Accordingly, at an early hour appears Mr. John, and announces, "The big serpent, sir, broken pot and gone!" and sure enough there was the tub capsized, the jar broken and the captive gone. "This is your fault, you rascal!" said 'T—— to his domestic. "My fault, sir? Last night master abused me to make me let him go, now he says why I let him go?"

On the following day we rode into Burhánpúr, the Khándésh capital, still a large town, and at one time of much greater size as its extensive ruins, of which the present city is but the nucleus, testify. The Tápti river runs underneath the walls, so that with bathing, fishing, and the *corps de ballet*,

for which this place was famous, we hoped to pass the time and enjoy a little relaxation after the late and prior to the coming fatigues of the chase.

To my ears the singing of Indian dancing women is atrocious, but many connoisseurs amongst us affected to be charmed, and sat up half the night entranced by these syrens. This city is, or was, celebrated for the beauty and song of its dancing girls or *corps de ballet*, and certainly some few of the girls were of delicate and beautiful face and figure; but they fade early, and by five and twenty are old women.

The necessity of hastening to muster at headquarters now obliged me once more to return to solitude, until a small party we expected should join us for a raid upon the tigers in the vicinity of Bhuránpúr, to which we were to return in a few days. The next day, S——y, T——, the doctor and others arrived, the former, one of the kindest, best of good fellows, strongly inoculated with shooting propensities. The day previous I had killed and had stuffed a splendid cock bustard, with which I hoped to soon amuse myself and our visitors. Accordingly, in the evening, when they were all assembled on the ramparts that commanded a fine view of the surrounding plain,

a horseman, riding up, reports to me "A fine bustard close to the town walls of Danungam." This, of course, I conveyed in a whisper to friend Sandy. "But now," said T——, "fair play, my boy;" and with the glass I showed him the bird, a splendid creature some two or three hundred yards out in the plain. "You take that side and I this, but don't you run ahead and take any unfair advantage," said T——. "Oh dear no, man, what do ye take me for?" All right, and we started, guns in hand. No sooner parted, than I saw friend Sandy slip into a nullah, up which he ran towards the bird, the head of which alone was visible above a bush in front of him; once only did Sandy glance backwards for me, who was eyeing his crafty approach from behind a bush. He now emerged from his nullah, fired one barrel at the bird, and in another moment rushed in and fired the other. Strange to say, still the imperturbable bustard took it calmly; another run and a kick, with a heavy imprecation at the innocent stuffed specimen (I trust the recording angel took no note of that oath) concluded the scene, and as he rode back under the gateway derisive cries of "Oh! Sandy, what do you take me for?" saluted him.

Next day some hogs were reported close to the town, and three of us started in pursuit. A boar, a sow and litter were soon driven out of a dhâl field, two of us after the former, which was quickly disposed of after a short run, and I after the sow, that thus disturbed whilst out on a family airing, gave some unmistakable symptoms of annoyance by viciously charging (though badly speared) my horse, a restive chestnut, and biting him on the knees. In pinning her again my spear blade broke short off. A peon with a fresh spear now ran up, but before I could seize it the beast charged the man, and getting his hand into her mouth bit off two of his fingers that hung now only by the skin. With the fresh spear, however, I made an end of her, and dismounting, took the peon's hand, who, though yelling previously, at once calmed down, implicitly believing, as natives often do, that the sahib's art would at once restore his hand. With the touch of a penknife the two fingers, of course, dropt off ; a look of horror and a howl of disappointment followed, that nothing but the silver styptic succeeded in subduing.

CHAPTER VII.

Back to Burhánpúr and Mhall Gorásí.—Tiger Adventure:
 “Don’t be afraid; I am with you!”—Ursa Major’s
 Mode of deciding a Shot.—Cheetas hunting Sambur.—
 Wounded Deer.—A True Story.—Alligators.—Snake
 Charmer and Cobra di Capellos.

OUR visitors having taken their departure I again left for Burhánpúr, where a party were *en route* for Mhall Gorásí, some six miles distant from the city—a beautiful spot where a bund across one of the Tápti river tributaries formed a large sheet of water that, flowing over, threw a broad sheet of silver across the dam in front of the two Moorish-looking kiosks on either flank.

Water and shade are of course indispensable to beautiful scenery in a tropical climate, and here we had both to perfection, both banks being covered with luxuriant tree foliage, whilst the country around had no dearth of tigers and

sambur for the constant parties of sporting characters from the garrison or from Asírgarh. I had ridden over the sixty miles from my headquarters and arrived, unfortunately, before my guns, for a tiger had been marked down and was awaiting us. We had no elephant, but having borrowed a large double gun, into which, for lack of proper ammunition, I rammed two smaller balls covered with rag to tighten them, I started with my friend T—— to the Sindbund, or date grove, where our striped friend was said to be. It was a narrow belt of trees, and it was arranged that I with my guide, a diminutive Bhíl, armed with a bow and arrow which might possibly have killed a cat, were to enter the bund, whilst my friend should remain in close proximity outside in case the tiger were to break cover.

After traversing some fifty yards of the jungle where the shadowing branches threw a green and fitful shade, the skinny specimen of humanity by my side whispered, "don't be afraid, I am with you," and pointing to a recess under a young date tree some twenty feet from us, added, "there she is;" and I saw a fine tigress couched head towards the intruders, placidly eyeing them. With my own rifle I should have made short work of

her, but with the gun I had, and loaded as it was with balls enlarged with cloth, I felt I could not kill her. I fired, however, steadily at her eye; with a roar she rushed towards me, but blinded or confused by the ball that struck her too high to penetrate, passed me within a few inches and rushed outside the trees, when a shot and a roar, followed by a second and a death stillness, assured me of my friend's vicinity and my own safety. Emerging from the jungle, I found her lying dead in a shallow nullah, from the bank of which T—— had given her a quietus.

This tigress, myself and my pigmy Bhíl protector with his two foot bow, reassuring my fainting powers "not to be afraid, for he was with me," formed the subject subsequently of a clever sketch by an amateur artist of our party.

The commandant of the fort of Asírgarh, who patronised these excursions, was one of those shrewd and clever men who frequently rise to place and emolument in such a field as India, from their intimate knowledge of the language and habits of the natives, acquired by constant association with them, but often at the sacrifice of the amenities of civilized life. Shortly after the incident I alluded to, we were in pursuit of a

tiger, and the elephants having arrived, the gallant Major mounted one of the howdahs. After a protracted hunt, the animal, a lean, miserable brute, was killed, and was at once placed under examination of the Major and two others to decide the giver of the fatal shot. "That," said one, pointing to a ball behind the shoulder, "was mine; I gave it to him just before he fell." "That?" muttered the Major, as he bent over the body; "why it's an old wound," passing his finger into it, "and if you doubt it, perhaps this," running his mephitic digit across the claimant's nose, "may reassure you." From these and the like little elegances of life he had acquired, deservedly, his cognomen of "Ursa Major."

I will now relate an occurrence in the hunting-field which, in my momentary absence, though I formed one of the party, befel my friend T——. We were scattered about in the jungle at Mhall Gorásí, one evening, when T—— rode up, and on asking him, "What luck?" he said, "Get off, and sit down under this tree and I'll tell you. On leaving you I met with nothing but a small deer, which I killed, and was making back towards the Mhall, when my gun-bearer called

out, 'Look! look, sir!' and along the summit of a grassy edge in front of me I saw a sambur at speed, and an instant after a hunting cheetah, whose body at times rose above the grass as he bounded after him. Taking my rifle, I rode to keep them in view, which I could easily do as the country was gentle grassy hills, with only an occasional bush. After running thus for two hundred yards I saw a second cheetah run from the grass, and take up the pursuit and continue it, the first apparently having given it up, and after another two or three hundred yards both sambur and cheetah suddenly disappeared. Marking the spot I rode up and threw myself off at a place where the waving of the grass denoted a struggle, and then," says T——, "I killed the cheetah on the sambur, and by Jove! here they both come," as a body of Bhíls bore the two animals along, the latter untouched by shot, but with ample marks of teeth and claws on his jugular."

Lieutenant J—— and I were returning to Gorási after an unsuccessful day's fag, and when within a few hundred yards of it, saw a gazelle, or goat antelope, at some sixty or seventy yards. "There," said T—— to my companion, "is a

shot for you." We dismounted, guns in hand, and he fired and missed. The animal, however, instead of running off, only jumped round and stood facing us, presenting his chest, neck and head. I then fired, and he fell to the shot and lay struggling on the ground, the ball passing through his neck without striking the spine. As neither of the horse-keepers was a Musalman, and as neither therefore was qualified to sever its throat with the necessary invocation, I ordered one of the men to take up the deer, a small one, and run to our quarters, close by, that the operation might be performed by one of our servants. He took it up, and we moved quickly along, but, tiring of the weight or movements, he threw it off his shoulders to the ground, and in an instant the brute was on his legs and off into the jungle, nor did we see him again. Only those who have seen the vitality of the deer kind will credit this, but it is true; and T—— and others could, if they chose, relate still more singular cases.

Years after this, at early morning, I fired with a double rifle at a fine black buck (the Dekhan antelope), and he fell motionless, shot through the neck. I ran up, when he began to move, but

having no knife, and unwilling to spoil the skin by another shot, I held him down by the horns for a few minutes, thinking he was in his last throes, and then let him go. He now gained his legs, staggering about, and his head moving from side to side. Still desirous to preserve his skin I aimed the remaining barrel at his head, and no sooner did he hear the shot, which from his oscillating motion missed him, than he bounded off at full speed, never to meet me again. I blessed the horse-keeper on coming up, and enjoined silence on pain of dismissal.

Shortly after my adventure with the deer at Gorásí, I was strolling along in the evening by the Tápti river, when I saw a large alligator under the bank. I had a heavy single rifle of twelve to the pound in my hand, and creeping up to within fifteen yards, fired *downwards* at the back of the monster's head, certain to make sure of him by killing him on the spot, and so preventing him struggling into deep water. The ball, with a heavy charge, went right through his skull and out of his jaw, fracturing that and his teeth, nevertheless he floundered and wriggled himself into deep water, and sank. When all was quiet I looked down and saw him distinctly, belly up-

wards, at the bottom, and had him dragged out. This shot, one would have supposed, should have instantly deprived him of all, even instinctive, faculty to move towards the water. I have often killed other alligators, but this is the only one I ever recovered.

Near my friend T——'s house, in the fort of Asírgarh, to which we returned for a few days, were several small out-houses in which his dogs and poultry were kept. He had some very handsome and valuable English dogs; one of these was found dead one morning and brought out for inspection, and as he had been in good health and spirits the evening previous, his sudden death, as well as that of some game fowls in the room adjoining, was unaccountable. We closely examined their dormitories, but could discover nothing suspicious, but some rat-holes in the chunam of the floor; one of the fowls, however, on being denuded of his feathers, exhibited such unmistakable marks of having succumbed to snake bite, that a snake charmer from the city of Burhánpúr was sent for, and soon made his appearance.

The man had with him the usual equipment of a basket and flageolet made, apparently, from a

long thin gourd ; for clothes he had the common waist-cloth round his loins, and a scanty rag across his shoulders. My friend commenced by having him searched, and when assured he had nothing about him but what nature gave, he was told what had occurred, and taken to the rooms that had proved so fatal. Before commencing work, however, the charmer stipulated that any snake or cobra that he might capture should not be killed. As all of us were aware that the snake represents an incarnation of the Hindú deity, this was agreed to, and accordingly, before us all and under close surveillance, the man entered one of the rooms with nothing but his pipe and a waist-cloth. He examined the rat-holes, and selecting one he commenced piping a reedy monotonous treble for some five or six minutes, when a cobra's head slowly emerged from the hole. With a forked stick he at once pinned the snake to the ground, and seizing it with the other hand behind the head, drew him gently out of the hole.

This we saw him do as distinctly as sharp eyes within six feet of the operation could assure us. He then went to two other of the small rooms, repeating his first performance. On one he was unsuccessful, or it had no occupant ; from the

other he drew another but a smaller cobra, which he slipped, as before, into his basket outside. We all now proceeded to the front of the house, and two chickens being brought, the man commenced again playing before the closed basket containing the snakes, and then, slowly lifting off the lid partially, he presented one of the birds at the opening, which was immediately struck by one of the snakes, and released immediately. In three minutes the fowl, after running about freely, began to stagger, then run round, and fell and died within five minutes, for it was timed, watch in hand. If anything that one actually sees is convincing of a fact, this surely ought to have assured us that the man had actually enticed unsophisticated snakes from their retreat; and none of those who witnessed the feat entertained, I believe, a doubt on the subject. The doctor, moreover, "to make assurance doubly sure," had one of the snake's jaws opened, and we saw distinctly the two fangs, one on each side of the upper jaw.

CHAPTER VIII.

Ride to N——r and C——h.—Tiger-shooting extraordinary.
 —Bear disturbed by an unwelcome Visitor.—A heavy
 Bag.—Return.—Gorásí and Manjerod.—Wild Buf-
 faloes.—Death of a swimming Tiger.

BEING desirous of seeing a relative at C——h, an outpost from N——r, some two hundred and fifty miles distant, I managed to place a relay of horses to Ellichpúr, in the Nizam's territory, about half way to my destination, for the first stage, and trusted to fortune and kind friends to complete my route; being obliged to return to muster I had no time to lose on the road.

Mounting early I got through the first fifty miles pleasantly enough, but on entering the hills that divide His Highness's country from ours I found them, as it was now well into the hot season, on fire in one spot on both sides of the

nullah bed, along which for a considerable distance the road or rather track ran. The heat and smoke were stifling, and the gigantic bamboos on the road kept up a continued discharge from the bursting of their compartments as the fire caught them. I managed, however, notwithstanding these agreeables and one or two heavy falls, to reach Ellichpúr. After two days' rest, to allow time for another relay, I left, in a pálkí for the first ten miles, and then, what with ponies and horses, succeeded in getting over a hundred and ten miles of my journey, and arrived, at sunset, with pony dead beat, at a village within seventeen miles of my destination. I summoned the native official to procure me something in the way of conveyance, determined at all hazards to make N——r that night. This functionary offered a bullock, all he had, but urged me strongly not to proceed till daylight, as a nullah intersecting the road two miles distant was frequented by a tigress that had killed a dák runner, or postman, a day or two previously. All chance of progression, except on my own legs, being hopeless, I left with a flambeau bearer in company, and succeeded by eleven o'clock in housing myself in N——r, having completed one hundred and twenty-seven miles since

daylight, the last seventeen on foot—and three days after found myself in comfortable quarters at C——h.

At a distance of two miles from this small cantonment ran a river, or what generally remains of one in the dry season, the bed of which was dotted with boulders of rock and small trees; in a word, the very place for tigers to assemble in undisturbed conclave. Accordingly, a few days after my arrival, the owner of a pony reported that a tiger had just killed it in the river bed. I and two other officers, one of whom had preceded me in arrival, the only young man at the station, got together a couple of elephants, and organised an immediate hunt. So at eleven we proceeded to the river and commenced beating steadily up the bed of it. I must ask the reader to remember there had been no marking or tracking down of the animal, and that it was altogether an impromptu affair got up on hearing of the pony having been killed.

We had not beaten fifty yards when two shots announced a tiger, and its death at the same moment. Some of us, on this early conclusion, as we supposed it, to the day's sport, proposed a return, but an attendant in the kawass behind

the howdah of my elephant, pointed to a recent footprint in the sand going the reverse way to those of the tiger killed. We therefore continued our beat, and were rewarded, for very soon the mahout pointed a hundred yards ahead, and there I viewed a fine tiger cantering along between the rocks. Fearful of losing him, I threw up the gun, a common shot one, loaded with ball, to my shoulder, and fired a snap shot at him, then nearly two hundred yards distant, and of course lost sight of him. I rushed on, however, in the direction the brute had gone, when I came upon him lying stone dead, the ball having struck him behind the ear, and killed him on the spot.

“Well,” thought I, “this is great luck;” for we had not been an hour at work. I asked the mahout if he knew anything of the country. “Sir,” replied he, “two years ago some gentlemen came here and killed six tigers in this river, and since then no one has been shooting, and there are plenty more.” With the chance, therefore, of, at all events, seeing something, we continued beating up the river, and in a short time heard a shot, followed by a roar, and I saw a fine tiger dashing down the bank. F.—, from the

other elephant, exclaimed, "He can't live, I have fired two plugs into him,"—pieces of lead cast to fit the barrel and about a inch and a half long which at a short distance inflict a fearful wound. Nevertheless the tiger made for the rocks in the river bed and disappeared close to us; whilst examining the place a moment after we heard, as it were beneath us, roars, growls and screams, and from under a large flat rock out bolted, not the tiger, but a bear, which from our surprise all but escaped, but one of the party with his rifle broke his back whilst climbing the opposite bank some hundred yards distant.

Getting warm to the work, we turned a deaf ear to a seductive hint that we had made a splendid bag, and it was time to return for tiffin. I got down to examine the mysterious locality into which our striped friend had intruded and turned out master Bruin. We had no fireworks to drive out the present occupant from his rocky home, so the only alternative was to dismount and reconnoitre. Cautiously approaching a cleft between two rocks that supported a large flat one, I peered in, but could, for some time blinded by the outside glare, see nothing, nor hear a sound. "Oh," suggested one from the howdah that had

fired at him, "the tiger's dead, of course." "Well," said I, "if you think so why don't you get down and satisfy yourself." As he, I suppose, thought this unnecessary, I was left, undisturbed, to my examination, and shading my eyes for some time, I looked in again, and saw his two green lights, like a distant steamer's, distinctly. In another moment, with my rifle, I extinguished them.

To make certain, however, a long pole was thrust in, and as no sound followed, and it was withdrawn with blood upon it, we put in a small native, and with one of the howdah lashings fastened to him, dragged the beast out, and, loaded now with three tigers and a bear, in less than four hours we entered cantonments triumphantly. This was the best bag I had ever assisted at, for, mind you, these were full-grown tigers, every one. "*No marking down, but kills,*" as Mr. Weller observes, "quite promiscuous like." The following day I was, of course, at the river again, it being, as I observed before, less than two miles distant. I found footprints in abundance, but having none of my infallible Bhils with me, mistook them for fresh marks, whereas they must have been those of our

deceased friends—and thus lost a day, and returned empty-handed. The day following, however, with the aid of a little satirical banter, I got my Bengal acquaintances into the howdahs again, for one and all preferred, strange to say, a good tiffin in a refrigerated room to a hot sun in a close ravine.

I suppose we must have pretty well cleared, in our previous sport, the river in the vicinity of the small station, for this is the part of a nullah or river generally most frequented by such animals of prey, as affording a readier opportunity of carrying off dogs, goats and cattle coming down to drink or cross at the ford. At all events we found nothing till we had passed up the river some three miles, and got into a most tigrish ground—rocks, bushes and water, overhung with creeping plants, formed a paradise for the *feræ naturæ*. My first hint was observing a number of vultures, or turkey buzzards in a tree, denoting a carcase, and we steadily beat the ground in every direction, when just as I pushed the elephant through some dense creepers into the river bed, out bounded a splendid panther, and crossed the river. In an instant five or six shots were fired, apparently without effect, at all events

without stopping him, and he disappeared over the bank.

We pushed on rapidly, in pursuit, and by crossing a bend into the river again, tried to head him back. F——'s, the other, elephant, had hardly entered, when, with a hissing noise, the panther tried to make off, but was brought up by F——, breaking his back and fairly killing him. He was a fine dark-skinned animal, seven or eight feet in length. Whilst we were examining him, and lubricating our inward man with a cooling drink, a herdsman came up and told us that it was his pony which had been killed, and over which the vultures were holding inquest, and that a tiger was the delinquent, and the panther before us had only been feeding upon it.

On this information we turned and beat steadily back to the cover where the vultures had been, and which was extensive enough to shelter a dozen of the striped tribe. After beating some time I made for the bank, passing under some large trees, when I heard a deep growl, and the mahout, pointing to the underwood just below us, whispered, "There he is ; there he is." But though my eyes were then sharp enough, see the brute I could not. The elephant by this time hearing no

offensive operations from us, and instinctively feeling himself in a dangerous neighbourhood, curled up his trunk and began dancing a minuet, that stopped all attempt at firing, could I even have seen the animal. An instant later the tiger charged out, and though the driver did his best to keep the elephant to his proper front, he turned tail, crashing through the trees and tearing guns, balls, bags, &c., out of the howdah, at the bottom of which I had crouched, on seeing what was coming, nor did the huge beast stop till he was clear of the river, with his ear half torn off by the driver's iron weapon.

This was not a pleasant position, for nothing we could do would induce the elephant to go on again, more especially as he had received a strong hint in the shape of a bad bite on his fore leg. What was to be done? Two of my guns and their belongings were lying in the jungle. So dismounting I called out to the others to move up their animal to the rescue. With my little double Mortimer rifle in my hand, on a high bank, I had a good view of the proceedings. By this time the other elephant came up to the scene of the late rencontre, and no sooner had he done so than out charged the tiger,

although as yet untouched, and made straight at the elephant, a male, which, more plucky than mine, was with difficulty restrained from throwing himself down on the brute to gore him. From my position I had commanded a complete view of the combatants, and succeeded during this last charge in giving the tiger the contents of both barrels. These so sickened him that another shot or two from the howdah finished one of the most exciting hunts I ever saw for the time it lasted. Picking up my guns, one with the stock broken, we soon got home, and fought our battle over again with the aid of a good dinner and cool claret; for whatever might have been the backslidings of my Bengal friends in the sporting line, this last was a department in which they were immeasurably our superiors.

We made one more party to the river, but meeting with little success, I made arrangements for my return to Khándésh, and arrived at Gorásí, after a hot ride, in time to join a party to the Manjerod jungles, some twenty miles distant, an almost uninhabited district, well watered, and abounding in large tree jungle that admitted of free riding. It contained large herds of wild buffalo, or bison, as some are pleased to

term them, though totally distinct in form and habits from the American animal of that name, being of much heavier build, and devoid of the mane and heavy fall of hair that mark the former. Spotted deer were abundant, and tigers were in numbers, but from the expanse of cover the latter were almost impossible to kill.

The malaria of this place is so deadly that no European can venture into it with safety till the closing months of the hot season in May or June. Our party consisted of only three, and we went with a view of killing deer and buffalo. About 5 P.M. we had our small tent pitched under a magnificent burr tree, with open forest of large teak and other trees. Taking our guns, we commenced by opening fire on the herds of spotted deer that studded this grassy park in every direction. As may be supposed, the firing was incessant, and, as day closed in an hour, we returned to our tent in that time. I dreaded the disclosure of results as far as my gun was concerned, and the half-a-dozen shots fired—one deer, and that secured with difficulty! But, strange to say, it was the only deer brought in, though it is probable that others succumbed but were lost in the high grass.

We determined to devote the next day to buffalo, and each of the three to take his own line. Accordingly, at an early hour, having no elephant, which after such game would have been useless, we rode off in different directions. For the first hour or two I withstood the tempting shots at spotted deer that offered, in hope of seeing the larger game. I had a large single rifle, a double gun, and my Mortimer in hand. After a longish stalk I came at last on three large objects grazing. Dismounting, I got without difficulty within fifty yards of a bull, but to my disgust all I could see above the thick grass was his head and the upper part of his body. Giving him both barrels, as near as I could judge, behind the shoulder, I seized the heavy rifle and fired at his quarter as he galloped off, but to my surprise in no way impeded his pace. Getting my horse and double gun, I soon came up with him and gave him both barrels, though rather unsteadily from one hand. His pace now clearly slackened, and just at this moment, hearing shots in front, I followed without loading till he thundered down a nullah.

Here I came upon B——, who begged me to stop, as he had wounded another giant, that also

had disappeared in the nullah. Running along, guided by the crashing of the underwood, we came at last on an enormous bull trying to force his way. From the high bank within thirty yards we gave him four barrels more, but these he acknowledged only by erecting his tail, as he staggered forward. It was his last effort, however, and suddenly down he came with a crash. I could not have believed that any animal could have retained life with the wounds this animal had received. At least ten balls had struck him, one in the spine, ere he fell; and glad we were to get back to the tents, both of us agreeing that we had had enough of it. Whatever sport the bison might have afforded in the plain by charging, here we had comparatively none, beyond firing into the great black mass that passed below us in the nullah.

That evening, after another but more successful turn at the spotted deer, bagging four, we arranged to leave next morning. I had, however, the satisfaction, ere we did so, of seeing the tongue and tail of my quarry brought in from the nullah where I parted with him on the morning to assist B——.

On our return to Gorásí, a favourite residence

for the Asírgarh people during the warm months, from its shade and abundance of water, and the shooting it afforded, we set our Bhíls who had arrived to work, and my commandant and some friends coming in, with the two elephants, we organized a *battue* for the following day. A tiger was accordingly ready for us not a mile from the Mhall, where we were housed, and I, resigning my seat in the howdah, took up a position on the opposite bank of the river and awaited events.

After some two hours of patient watching, I heard the elephants advancing on the opposite side to the sheet of water in front of me, and a couple of shots announced the game afoot, and immediately after I observed the bullocks of a cart of hay in the distance suddenly run off and capsize it, evidence of something unpleasant in their neighbourhood. A moment after, a splash in the water just opposite drew my attention to a tiger that quietly entered it and swam towards me. When some sixty yards off I fired at his head, the only part visible, and saw the ball go over him ; he turned immediately and made back for the bank, when I gave him number two at the back of his head, and down he went like a stone. The

elephants now came up, and a voice from the howdah asked me where the game was, and I directed them into the river, where in six feet of water they found him, and drew him out, one envious character observing, "Darn that fellow Jeff, wherever he is he is sure to get the shot."

The following day, *en route* for the western districts, we passed at Burhánpúr, to give a turn to the *Corps de Ballet*, an arrangement quite *de rigueur*, for to pass through without doing so and conferring the usual money tribute would to "cherishers of the poor" be considered derogatory.

CHAPTER IX.

Sultánpúr District: Its former Flourishing Condition.—
 Unexpected Visitor at Well.—Life Tenacity of Deer.—
 Targetcide don't qualify for Feræcide.—A gallant Tiger
 and his Contrast.—Outram's obstinacy.—Noble Points
 of his Character.

As the learned in the law term it, we must now change the *venue*, and I must take my readers westward to the Sultánpúr district, where a party was to assemble in a few days from Ahúbah, the head-quarters of the civil authorities of the province. Directing the Bhíls and elephants to follow, I rode to the former place, from whence we were to hunt the surrounding country.

It will not be out of place to observe that the whole of this country was at one time, some two hundred and fifty years ago, thickly populated with well-built towns, and roads of com-

munication leading from Aurangábád to the northward. That portion of it from the Tápti river to Sultánpúr, extending several miles, still marked by a line of magnificent trees, stone serais, and capacious wells of solid masonry, is now the haunt of the wild denizens of the forest. In Tavernier's time, however, by whom it is well described, a flourishing city was approached by a broad road and a lofty avenue of trees.

Along this very avenue I was one morning cantering when I was met by my horse-keeper with a relay horse. Pointing to a large stone well at a little distance on the road, "I took the horse there," said he, "to wait for you, but there is a tiger lying at the bottom of the steps and I can't get at the water." Though with nothing in the shape of arms, except a short sword or hunting knife, I went at once in the direction indicated, and came to a splendid well of masonry and looked down, and on the last step of the broad flight of stairs lay extended a gaunt-looking tiger, lapping the water. Quietly withdrawing, I passed on to our halting place, some three miles further, there to await the arrival of the elephants and

our party. Breakfast over, we mounted and made for the well, in the vicinity of which was a dense bed of reedy grass, that at once indicated a residence for our striped friend. After a short beat in this cover he was found, and after a shot or two, easily disposed of, proving a wretched brute in skeleton condition, and in the last stage of liver complaint from an old wound.

The next morning, receiving no tiger intelligence, I went out a short distance from our tents on the chance of shooting anything I might find. After some shots at spotted deer, two of which I bagged, I was returning homewards when I saw a fine buck with good horns, some eighty or ninety yards in front, and fired at his shoulder. The dust from the ball being distinctly visible beyond him, I was surprised at missing so easy a shot, but told the Bhíl with me to run on and mark the line that the buck and three does with him had taken over a gentle rise in front, as my deer passed out of sight as fast as, or indeed faster than the others. The man, on attaining the top of the ascent, stopped and beckoned to me, and on my coming up I saw my quarry some distance in advance, the ground being clear of grass, lying dead.

I found I had struck him, as intended, behind the shoulder ; and he was taken to camp, and being suspended from a tree, on the cook cutting him up, I had the curiosity to see the course of the ball. It had passed through the *centre of his heart* and out at the opposite ribs; yet this animal, without any symptoms of a wound, or his pace impeded in the least, had run at speed more than two hundred yards ere he fell. The fact is, numbers of the deer kind receive similar mortal wounds, and where there is grass or heavy cover, run off and, lost to view, die there. This well accounts for the numerous shots we fired at these animals in the Manjerod and other jungles, without bringing them to bag. No man when in practice, with the least pretension to be a shot, could, under ordinary circumstances, that is, undisturbed by previous running, fail to strike his game, at a distance of a hundred and fifty yards, within three inches of the place aimed at.

It is a fact well known to many Indian sportsmen that a man handling his rifle, after the lapse of even a few months, loses the confidence to strike animals with certainty. This result is generally the consequence of misjudging distance, and some weeks' practice is necessary to enable one to

recover his skill. Our shooting, for instance, after a long period of idleness during the rainy months, was notoriously inferior to that at the close of the season in June; and as to mark firing or target practice it is for all purposes, except for sighting a rifle and giving the range, absolutely useless.

There were two men from Asirgarh, enthusiastic shooters, that were instances of this; one of these, amongst some ten or twelve of us, was infinitely the best target shot; not that we were such fools as to fire at targets for practice, but occasionally for want of something better to do, or to discharge our rifles, we tried them at a leaf, a bear's skull, or a bottle, at unmeasured distances, and not one of us could, to use an elegant phrase, hold a candle to P—— M——. Yet this man when addressed, as usual, on his return from shooting, with, "Well, Paddy, what have you killed?" "Oh, nothing, but I had three or six or ten shots within a hundred or hundred and fifty yards." And he was, moreover, a calm, cold-blooded man, never excited. He bought and exchanged rifles in the hope of success, but it was of no use. T——, on the other hand, who could do nothing at inanimate things, the moment a living object was presented, never failed.

I once was near this man when we fell in with a sambur standing at some hundred yards' distance ; he raised his rifle, and taking it down again, whispered, " I can't fire, that sapling is in a direct line before his shoulder." " Oh, fire," said I, " he'll be off." T—— fired, and the beast ran off. . " I told you so ! " exclaimed T——, going up to the spot ; the ball had cut through the sapling. On this we followed, and found the animal dead ; the ball, after passing through the green stem, had entered behind the shoulder and killed it. In fact, his aim at animals was almost unerring certainty.

Two Bengal officers from Mhow here joined us. Elephants being abundantly employed on their side of India, and procurable by hire from their commissariat, each of them had his own female, whereas in our Presidency the few that are used are males. Their elephants, in docility, certainly far exceeded those we had, and the Bengális expressed some alarm at our employing males, which they declared were dangerous in the extreme for shooting purposes. When a hare or other small game was killed these animals would take it up and deliver it into the howdah ; and on one occasion a dead bear was thus taken up, and

on another S——'s elephant freely handled a dead tiger, a degree of confidence that nothing could induce our elephants to display.

A tiger was at this time marked down on some rather hilly country, and in company with the strangers we went in pursuit. This beast, a short, dark, sturdy animal, of the mountain breed, was no sooner approached by the line of four elephants than he charged out at mine, and, although wounded, endeavoured to seize his trunk. Like an old traveller, the elephant packed this up in an instant between his tusks, and met the attempt by a shuffling kick from his fore legs that sent his assailant flying back into a thick bush. On this, one of our Bengal friends boldly took his lady elephant up to the cover, and in an instant the beast rushed out again, making straight at her. Giving a shrill trumpet she turned and bolted, when the tiger springing up fastened on her hind quarters, at the root of her tail and in dangerous proximity to the rider, and in this position was carried several yards, spread-eagle fashion. No one fired on account of the elephant:

On dropping off, this gallant brute again charged desperately, right and left, till he fell dead,

as the French phrase it, "killed by a hundred balls." Meanwhile the Bengal lady elephant and her rider disappeared in the distance, nor could any effort of the mahout bring her back to the combat or induce her on subsequent occasions to enter the lists—running off the instant she heard a tiger.

Leaving this place we went in the direction of Chaprah, on the Tápti river, and hearing of a tiger near some scattered huts, took up fresh marks that indicated something unusually large, the villagers declaring obstinately there was no tiger. On moving, however, towards the village, we saw, to our astonishment, an enormous brute rise quietly from behind a cow-dung heap, within ten yards of a hut. On coming up to him he stopped and regarded the approach of the elephants with such a stupid, donkey-like air, as to create some misgivings at first at firing at him; however, a loose tiger is a tiger, and two or three shots sent him to his fathers. The Bhíls told us the villagers to the last denied his existence, and said afterwards that he had been there for some time, passing them repeatedly without injury to any of them, beyond killing a goat or two; they could not, consequently, divest him of a sacred character, and concealed his whereabouts.

This was the largest tiger I saw killed, taking the usual expansive mode of measurement, from the nose to the tail, being twelve feet two inches, a skin with very light tawny ground that threw out the dark stripes in fine relief.

We now struck camp and made for a village at the foot of the Sátyúrah hills, which we had been skirting for some days, on intelligence of two tigers. On arrival at our ground we were met by Kandú Naik, the chief of the tracking department, who reported to Outram that one of the tigers, disturbed by some Brinjári dogs, had broken out of the circle formed by the Bhíls around the locality in which they had been marked down, and had gone off into the hills, but that the other was still there, though on the alert.

This ground was most unfavourable, intersected by ravines and covered with thick brushwood. With only two elephants, therefore, we had but a poor chance of killing. We at once, however, put in the elephants, and commenced beating, and continued at this somewhat apochryphal amusement for several hours under a burning sun, without a breath of air, or even once viewing our game. At the outskirts of the jungle, or, rather,

where it was less dense, one of our men told us to push on, as the tiger had just before passed under the tree he was in. Once more we beat on, and, hearing a cough signal in advance, my attention was drawn to the tiger's making off through a small open patch a hundred yards ahead. I and my companion in the howdah had just time to fire each a snap shot, apparently without effect.

Outram's elephant now came up, and he sharply reproved us for advancing beyond the Bhíls, and firing at nothing. We of course denied this, and said we had seen the brute making for the hills. He rejoined that "it was impossible," and we suggested that the "heat had made him bilious;" so once more we pushed on, beating, as I considered, for nothing, for the animal was a roving one, and had clearly, as we thought, beaten us and escaped. Outram, with what in our tired and fagged condition was certainly allowable to term his d——d obstinacy, and which in after life, in its action on greater events, was deemed, deservedly, decision and tenacity of purpose, still persisted in moving on. Thus another hour was passed, but then our human nature would stand it no longer, and after ten hours' fag we returned to camp, leaving

Outram alone in the field. When quite dark, two hours afterwards, he returned. "Well," said B—— his oldest friend to him, on dismounting, "you have got what Paddy shot at." Outram made no reply, but he had killed the tiger!

It was not my intention to relate anything in connection with this distinguished soldier in these details of a mere journal of incidents in my military career and of hunting operations, except such as I witnessed or participated in; but some, at least, will perhaps be interested to hear of one or two that were related to me immediately after they occurred, which mark the man, and are not generally known in this country.

Outram proceeded with the Bombay column, commanded by Sir John Keane, to aid in the conquest of Afghanistan, on the personal staff of that officer. On the fall of Ghazni, the spirit of resistance to British rule was sustained by Dost Mahomed, who, though a fugitive, had it in his power, by a desultory warfare, to keep alive the hopes of his countrymen. When hard pressed by our force he threw himself into the fastnesses of the Hindú Khúsh. On this occasion Outram had the boldness to urge on Sir John

the necessity of his capture by a vigorous and persistent pursuit.

As he offered to lead a selected body for this purpose, Sir John rejoicing at an opportunity of ridding himself of a counsellor of such distasteful measures, consented to the arrangement, and Outram, passed personally from tent to tent for volunteer officers on this hazardous expedition. Some ten or twelve, animated by a gallant spirit of adventure, placed themselves under his command, and for days were engaged in pursuit of the fugitive in the wildest defiles of the Hindú Khúsh, and would possibly have effected the Dost's capture had Outram not been misled and betrayed by Animúla Khan, who had accompanied the party with offers of assistance.

The hazard of this attempt may be judged by the fact that Outram's small party consisted of the above officers and a few horsemen, and the Dost had, it was known, some two hundred devoted retainers.

Years subsequent, when political agent at the court of the Sind Amírs at Haidarábád, after unavailing attempts to preserve these unfortunate men from the doom which awaited them, Outram, who from his indifference to monetary considera-

tions and profuse hospitality was a needy man, bestowed anonymously on the families of those maligned and ill-treated chiefs the share awarded him of the Haidarábád booty. For noble disregard to all selfish consideration, and for chivalrous daring, none better deserved to bear the noble motto of the gallant knight of France, "sans peur et sans reproche," than the gallant, daring, and unselfish James Outram.

CHAPTER X.

Molfr District.—Humanity rewarded ; or T—— and the Bear.
 —Kandú Naik's Death by a Tiger.—Falcon and
 Wild Duck.—Numerous Flocks of Bustards.—Folly of
 young Sportsmen.—Narrow Escape of M——.—Snipe-
 shooting and its Results.—Leave on Sick Furlough for
 England.

As the season was fast approaching its termination, we arranged to close it by hunting the Molfr district, about forty miles from Dhúliah, which, from its heavy vegetation, caused by the incessant rains on the western ghât range and the consequent fever malaria, is dangerous to enter at an earlier period.

Tigers of course were the main object, as the Government reward of fifty rupees (five pounds) a head enabled us in a great measure to defray our hunting expenses ; but as the number already disposed of amounted to that usually killed, it was

voted, with Outram's sanction, that our sport was to extend to other large game, when such should not directly interfere with tiger killing.

At our first camp two bears were therefore allowed to be marked down, and after breakfast we proceeded to the ground, five on the howdahs and two of us on horseback. One of the bears was found reposing under a tree, standing on some grassy land on the slope of a hill, and after five or six shots was disposed of; an adjacent tree, with a large honeycomb at the extremity of a branch, bearing evident marks of the deceased's claws on its bark, in the futile efforts to attain the treasure. From this we made for a small ravine where the other bear was supposed to lie. Having cubs, she gallantly charged out on the approach of the elephants, and made across the ravine, where, from the nature of the ground and cover, the former could not approach her; one or two shots, however, struck her, and she rolled to the bottom. Up to this period we had seen nothing of the young ones. T—— and two others now dismounted and followed her down.

By this time she had got herself together, and began ascending the opposite side, but was knocked down again by another shot, and as she

came to the bottom of the nullah, to our surprise we saw two small, black, shapeless objects detach themselves from her and run confusedly about, the poor dam lying motionless and apparently dead. The sight of these young bears was, I suppose, too much for the zoological proclivities of my friend T——, poor dear Bessy's owner in by-gone days, and he rushed down, earnestly imploring us not to kill the cubs, and attempted to lay hands on one of them that had charged viciously towards him.

Thus far the scene was amusing, but in an instant the mother, the instinct of maternity triumphant in death, rushed at T——, and getting him down, lay across him, impartially bestowing her unpleasant attentions alternately on his lower limbs that, fortunately for him, were cased in thick sambur-skin gaiters. A hazardous shot or two were now fired into the bear from those nearest, but she still tenaciously held to her victim, who at intervals implored us not to fire, as at each shot she renewed her bite.

Matters were now getting serious, and Outram, ever foremost in such cases, seizing from an attendant a long hunting knife, threw himself

upon the bear, and plunging the weapon into her throat, succeeded at length in releasing poor T——'s mangled limbs, held fast in death, by opening her jaws. Conveyed to quarters, patience and six weeks' good nursing put this indomitable spirit on his legs once more, to again encounter in the battle and hunting field far severer injuries, to which this might be considered only an introductory episode.

It was now well on in June, and some rain had already fallen, and Outram's patience was nearly exhausted, when Kandú was one morning seen advancing, and with his usual mild and imperturbable air announced he had at last marked down a tiger that had been levying heavy contributions on the Brinjari bullocks conveying salt from the Kánkan, and had killed two of their men. 'To slay this marauder became of course a point of honour with Outram, especially as B—— and G—— from the Nizam's territories having now joined us with their sowári, we mustered four elephants. We therefore mounted, and proceeded at once to work.

The tiger was in a deep ravine at the bottom of which trickled a rivulet, and the main point was to prevent his getting to the further end of

this, as it opened out into a dense cover requiring a dozen elephants to beat with any chance of success. All would have probably gone well, but for B——, the new arrival, who though young was already high in office at the Haidar-ábád court, and was one of those fiery spirits who can ill brook control. There being two, therefore, of similar temperament, the consequence, as might have been expected, was angry words and a collision, a forerunner, as it proved, to the unfortunate termination of the day's sport.

Outram's elephant and another took the head of the ravine, whilst B——, with his and the fourth from his own selection, was posted at the other end of it, close upon the heavy jungle, with the object of preventing the tiger escaping into it. With this last party was I. When all had taken their posts, Outram and the second elephant commenced steadily beating down the ravine towards B——m and his second. Kandú and his fellow Naiks had warned us to make good arrangement, as the tiger from his homicidal proclivities was a cunning one, and would otherwise give trouble. After some half hour's delay at our station, we heard a single shot, but no growl or indication of the tiger; after some minutes

a second, which reverberated from the cliffs above, but left all silent as before. This was certainly passing strange for a beast to be thus fired at, and probably wounded, without any acknowledgment in the shape of a deep bass muttered growl, which to his assailant, *on foot and in close proximity*, causes a creeping chill, requiring habit and a stout heart to resist.

Outram now called out to us, "don't let him pass; he must have gone your way, for we can see him nowhere." B——m, getting tired, I suppose, of his stationary post, declared somewhat strenuously that the tiger must have doubled back; and suiting the action to the words, he at once left his station, which he had been enjoined not to do, and proceeded towards the head of the ravine. Scarcely had he left when a commotion among the Bhíls was heard below us; a tiger's roar was succeeded by human voices and tones of excitement, and the glitter of a sword blade was seen, denoting something of no little moment. All pressed to the bottom of the ravine, and were met by Ghót Naik, a gaunt, one-eyed Bhíl, with his sword drawn, exclaiming, "this way;" and at once the scene was before us. At one point sat a Bhíl endeavouring to staunch the blood of his wounded

arm, and near him lay poor Kandú Naik bitten through chest and lungs, and the blood welling in streams from claw-gashes on neck and head.

Outram, threw himself off the elephant, and others of us following his example, we managed, with pieces torn from our clothing, to bind him up. "Oh," said the poor fellow, "it 's my fate to die in my lord's service." On a litter of boughs we had him conveyed to camp. Kandú and Ghót Naik had, it appears, with two others, on the tiger making for the thick cover, to guard which B——m had been posted, proceeded in that direction, and finding no one there, were searching for foot-marks to see if he had passed, when the tiger, who had been wounded, rushed out from a bush, and first knocking down one of the Bhíls who opposed his passage downward, threw himself upon Kandú, and though he stayed but for an instant, inflicted the fearful wounds we had seen. Of these the devoted follower died that evening, as gently as a child, commending his wife and infant to his master's protection, but not before his master had returned to assure him of the tiger's death.

Up to the moment of Kandú's removal, Outram, as pale as death from suppressed emotion, had not uttered a word; but now, mounting his elephant, as we mechanically did ours, he roared out to B——m, "Let me see if you can atone for the irreparable injury you have inflicted by leaving your post." B——m, on this, stopped his elephant, and in no measured tones denied the charge, and as the howdahs of these fiery Percies were filled with firearms, it seemed not improbable that the altercation might terminate in an elephant duel *d'outrance*, had we not succeeded in pushing on in search of the tiger, Outram, in his excitement and distress for the loss of his faithful follower, having vowed he would never return without killing him.

Once more we commenced our now dreary task of seeking poor Kandú's assailant, but carefully keeping the tracking Bhíls under cover of the elephants. The animal had effected his escape from the ravine, and had got into, it was feared, the heavy cover. We therefore made at a deep pool well fringed with jungle, hoping that, being wounded, he would naturally make for water; and after some two hours of heavy work, his tracks became apparent at the water's

a/ edge, and to our joy we came upon him in some
v reedy grass, and after an ineffectual attempt on
t his part to charge, had the pleasure of revenging
a poor Kandú's mortal injuries by killing him.
t Though last, not least, we returned to our beds,
a prospect at one time we had little hope of
effecting, at least for that night, with such a
slouth hound in pursuit as was Outram. Of
course a liberal subscription was contributed,
which secured for life a comfortable maintenance
for poor Kandú's family. The rains having now
set in, I for one was not sorry to return once
more to house shelter.

During the next three or four months there was, of course, little to record, as ladies' society being almost unknown, and occasional visits to bachelor friends in the province constituting our only amusement. I did, however, once see a young lady, and dined in her company, and at the time thought I had never seen so angelic a being, for she actually spoke to me twice during the evening! P——m, a friend of her father, did, I was informed, but I know not with what truth, go so far as to proffer three greyhound pups for her, a reckless offer as some considered, but the excitement consequent on seeing one of

the *beau sexe* of his own colour, after such a lapse of time, might however excuse it.

Towards the termination of the rains, I went out one morning to a marshy tank in the neighbourhood of Ahúliah, which abounded with aquatic fowl and typhus *ad libitum*. The dawn was just breaking as I rode along the bank, when I saw a dark, bird-like object sweep by me like lightning close to the ground for a hundred yards, and spring then like a rocket directly into the air some three or four hundred feet. Glancing upwards I saw a mallard and two ducks. The bird, a large black falcon, now rose behind and above them, and swooping downwards struck the leading mallard, and brought him dead to the ground, a few paces from me. On riding up, with a shrill scream of disappointment, he gave up his breakfast, which I converted into mine. Though frequently out with hawks, I never witnessed so splendid a flight as this.

As, not having seen or known the young lady of Khándesh, argued one's self unknown, I was one fine morning invited to accompany the Collector B——d to M——m, dividing the distance by the half-way shed which at that period did duty for a rest-house, and driving thence on to

^t the show in the evening. As we rode along some distance from Dhuliah on open ground I saw two wolves, and being close to my morning's destination, I crammed in the spurs, and with a strong double-thonged whip in my hand, rode at them. They commenced their usual tactics, running ahead and resting till I came up, and then off again. Recollecting a former run after a brute of this kind, when only two out of eight of us, all well mounted, were in at the death, I had small hopes, as B——m did not ride, of coming up with them. To my surprise, however, after a sharp burst of a couple of miles (instead of fourteen as on the former occasion) I ran one of them into a bush, and there discovered he was gorged and mangy. Had I had a spear, I would, of course, have speared him; as it was, I struck him with the whip once or twice, which he resented by showing his teeth. In India, at least, wolves are cowardly brutes, whatever cold and hunger may force them to be in more northern latitudes.

Towards evening, getting into a two-wheeled vehicle arranged for bullocks or horses, we jogged along pleasantly, amused at the stories of my pleasant companion, whose features, cast in the finest mould of manly beauty, were but

an index to his kind and generous soul. On our arrival at the little ghat, across from M——m, and descending to the plain, I drew B——d's attention to a fine bustard near the roadside, and two or three more further on. Getting our shot guns, we made towards them, but these wary gentlemen were not to be done so easily, and the manoeuvre of ringing could not be effected. As we approached they rose, and though too distant for effect, we both fired, and the moment we did so, in an instant from every direction around us rose flocks of bustard, till some eighty or a hundred were on wing at once. We were saved the humiliation and disgrace of seeing them fly unharmed away by a couple of them passing over us, one of which we brought down. Whether a flight of locusts or grasshoppers had alighted to attract this extraordinary flight of birds, or whether they assembled for migratory purposes, I cannot say, but never before or since have I witnessed such a sight.

During our stay at M——m, a party of young officers, hearing of a tiger some miles distant, went out to kill it. They had no elephants, and on their arrival at the place of action, some Bhils whom they employed to mark the animal's where-

bouts took them to a dry nullah, the sides of which were fringed with bushes. They warned them at the same time that the tiger was on the alert, and that they could not denote the exact spot it was lying, as the beast had charged out whenever they approached it. The officers agreed therefore that two of them should take opposite banks of the nullah, and M——t volunteered to walk up to the bed. Unfortunately for this young aspirant for tiger honours, he had been out twice before on a similar errand, and the game had been killed without difficulty at the first fire of the party. G——m, a brother officer, remonstrated on the folly of the course he proposed to follow, as the tiger might be upon him ere he could fire; but M——t's self-will and conceit overruled all precaution, and taking a Bhíl with him (why these latter are such fools I cannot imagine) at once descended and moved up the nullah bed, observing he would "see the tiger time enough to polish him off."

After they had beaten some time in silence the Bhíl by M——t's side, and who was totally unarmed, pointing to the animal's footprints, advised him to walk slowly, as they might pass him in the thick cover on the sides, and he might

come on their rear. M——t, it appears, poohpooched this salutary caution, and a moment after G——m and his friend on the opposite bank heard the brute's roar, and saw him rush out just as they passed. Springing on M——t, who was nearest, the tiger knocked him down, his gun exploding in the fall. He then seized the Bhíl, though but for an instant, and bit the upper half of his skull clean off; he then escaped unharmed. Young M——t now staggered up the bank, covered with blood, exclaiming he had "done for him;" and so he had, but not for the tiger. His companion's attention was too much engaged in binding up his fearful injuries to pay attention to the escape of his assailant. The wounded men were both brought into camp whilst I was there, M——t with wounds which, though he recovered from them, did not improve his countenance. The upper portion of the poor Bhíl's skull was as cleanly taken off as with a hatchet.

On my return, the cold weather now setting in, though strongly dissuaded from doing so, I went with two others to a tank in the neighbourhood noted for its malaria, to shoot snipe. We killed some, and I managed in addition to

pick up a fever of so malignant a type as to render me delirious the night of my return. The second and third day I was worse. Outram, with his usual decision, and against the solemn protest of our new surgeon, put me into a palanquin and started me for M——m, to the care of our kind and clever friend of the bustard adventure. Under his able treatment and an absence of all mercurial remedies—for in those days the lancet and calomel soon ran one to earth—I quickly recovered my strength; but unable after some months to shake off the intermittent form of the disease, I finally, though with great regret, left the province and my kind friends for the Presidency, and embarked thence for England by long sea.

CHAPTER XI.

Return to India, and join my Regiment at Púnah.—Panther shooting.—Our bachelor Colonel and his Adjutant.—Their Opinion of the Married State.—Fatal Duel.—Killing a Tigress in a Cave.—A narrow Escape.

AFTER two years' home residence and re-establishment of my health, I again found myself on board, bound for the land of the cyprus and myrtle, or as others of less poetic fire have ventured to call it, the land of mosquitoes, of buffaloes, and of cobras. I certainly, except for one or two, felt little grief at leaving. The ways of the people were not my ways, and, barring a little episode in my private life, which concerns not the public, and a noble effort to expose a pea and thimble man at Ascot, which cost me ten pounds, I cannot well remember what I did during those two years.

Certain it is, never did mortal hail with more

delight than did I, the announcement of "Kolabah light on the starboard bow," after a weary voyage of four months in the foul ship R——, of London. My belongings being already prepared, I lost little time in quitting our late but certainly not "sweet home," for the comforts of shore, albeit that shore was India. It is, I hold, an unpardonable *bêtise* to intrude one's domestic relations on the public, though these have, in a long and not unmixed career, proved, perhaps, my best support. But however natural it may appear to one's wife to be alluded to as "the dear partner of one's joys and sorrows for a decade of years," her feelings of gratitude may for certain reasons be considered somewhat apochryphal when the allusion extends to a period of thirty. I will now, therefore, however strongly impelled by gratitude, say as little as possible on so delicate a subject.

On landing, therefore, I made the best arrangement I could for the few days of my stay, and shortly after found myself, with a kind friend and my old regiment cantoned in the city of the Peshwah.* During my absence of five years what a change had occurred ! The original regiment

* Púnah.

which had been divided into first and second, after a period of five years, during which the last-named had far outstripped the former in promotion, was united in rank and file, but distinct in officers, thus violating the main principle of the army of India—exemption from regimental supersession. Never was arrangement better calculated to cause discord and dissension amongst us. We memorialised, petitioned, and complained of so great a grievance; but instead of admitting their blunder, and telling us to submit to it for the good of the service, the authorities had the effrontery to inform us that it was no grievance, and that we had no grounds for complaint! No doubt the notorious S——, who just about this time had commenced that blundering career in the India House which in subsequent years ruined my prospects by withholding the Brevet-Colonelcy, gratuitously offered by Her Majesty for services during the Crimean War, on the plea, “Brevets should have no place in a gradation service”!—had already tried his prentice hand by this muddle. But why go on, when all but two or three of that ill-used band are now in their graves?

Though appointed to the Regimental Staff,

and my life being now, in other respects, of a certain value to others, yet, no sooner had I comfortably settled down with my Penates about me, than "the ruling passion strong in death," once more assailed me; and I found myself one fine morning in company with two others, wending my way to a village some ten miles distant, where a panther had been taking a census of the live stock. On arriving at the ground, a more unlucky place for the habitat of such an animal could not present itself, as there was nothing but gardens in every direction. The people, however, of the place, assured us that the invader was then in a patch of pán, an aromatic plant cultivated like a hop plantation, but whilst giving us this information they most unkindly, though perhaps not unwisely, refused to enter the cover, or otherwise assist us in our search.

There was therefore nothing for it but to take that task upon ourselves; and we commenced steadily at one end, in line. On nearing the other end, one of the party, whom we were for the first time introducing to this line of business, quaintly observed, "I see something spotted with its tail sticking out!" "Then fire, darn you!"

we both exclaimed ; but ere he could do so the “thing with its tail sticking out,” sprung at him, and though in some measure kept off with the gun muzzle, succeeded in giving him a severe bite through his thick leather gaiters, as he rushed by and made for an open field in front, around which the cautious villagers had assembled. Two or three shots were fired as he broke cover, one of which fractured his shoulder. Nevertheless, he managed to get hold and severely claw one of the men, nor did he fall till two more balls rolled him over. A claim was subsequently made upon us for compensation for personal injuries ; but as these worthies had withheld all aid in this little affair, a righteous judge of shooting proclivities rejected their demand.

Our Colonel, a quiet, cat-like, sarcastic North Briton, but one of our own stock—who when in pious mood was given to leaving religious tracts at my house, thereby, as I once ventured to remark to him, implying I required such spiritual aid—had for his Adjutant a clever, intelligent compatriot who, as is somewhat inelegantly termed, “led him by the nose,” and, to the disgust of many of us, virtually commanded the regiment. At the orderly-room one morning, when but we

three were present, seated in conclave, the following little dialogue occurred, to which I was naturally not an uninterested listener.

Colonel placidly tapping his white teeth : “Have you heard of R——e ?” (one of ours).

Adjutant, calmly : “No.”

Colonel : “He’s going to marry that girl.”

Adjutant : “H’m, I always thought he’d take some desperate step.”

“Well,” I ventured to observe in extenuation, “it’s preferable to dying in a coffee-house.”

Now there are or were no coffee-houses in India, but at a later period the Colonel was found dead in his palanquin, in ascending the Útakamand Ghat, and the adjutant in his bed, suddenly from quinsy, alone and unattended. Thus it goes with us.

After parade in the morning, it was our practice to assemble in the verandah of C——, the senior captain’s house. We had just seated ourselves when an officer of the name of M—— galloped into the compound with his right arm bound in a sling. He beckoned to C—— and myself, and dismounting, exclaimed, “Do you know I have just killed E—— ? what would you advise me to do ?” “A duel, I suppose ?” we observed.

“Yes,” he said; “the old thing. I told him to keep from my house, and found him there on coming from your mess last night; a collision took place, and we met this morning. After blows had passed, there was, of course, nothing else for it. Look here,” unclosing the sling, “he broke two of my fingers and the stock of the pistol, or the ball would have passed through me; I saw what he was at, and fired to save my life.”

E—— was one that laid himself out for conquest, and this was not his first offence; and his grim opponent was, unfortunately for E——, a man that brooked no trifling with his woman-kind, and was considered quite justified, under the circumstances, in inflicting so well-merited a retribution. The resort to the duel has, it is true, been much abused, but its abolition is a blunder; it should be ever reserved for the seducer's special benefit, instead of, as is now done, adding insult to injury by awarding a base money compensation for a wife's or sister's honour. In this case the parties submitted to their trial by the supreme court, and were acquitted.

By this time the reader will probably have had enough of tigercide, I will therefore wind up that subject by relating my last effort in that line.

Some fifteen miles from Púnah lies the hill fort of Púrandhar, then the resort of a few families of Europeans during the hot months of April and May.

As all drill was over, our Colonel, who still retained some sneaking partiality for field sports, and was generous of his money when occasion warranted, gave his officers a pic-nic for the day at the above mountain home, now wisely converted into a sanitarium. Leaving a tabooed Captain in charge, a strong party of ten or twelve officers, headed by our Colonel, started on their horses at early dawn for the fort in question, and there found an ample breakfast prepared for us, to which we did, of course, full justice. The hill, an isolated one, rises two thousand feet above the Dekhan plain, and consequently four thousand above the sea, an altitude which, though warm at mid-day, ensures a pleasantly cool atmosphere at night, and is in every respect, in the warm months, a great relief from the burning plains below. It affords, moreover, an easy access to officers from its proximity to our largest station. The fort, of the usual Indian character, presents little defensive capabilities beyond its altitude. It is divided into two portions, the upper and lower, the latter

formed by a projecting ledge, the former three hundred feet higher on the summit. We, for convenience of ascent and chance of shot, were assembled on the lower portion.

The morning meal over, the question of employment arose. Cards, quoits, and chess soon engaged the more sedentary. I, however, had, *en route* upwards, collected some hundred beaters, as I knew the ground, and had posted them in readiness at the mouth of the largest and deepest of the many ravines channeling the mountain sides, with instructions to beat upwards when signalled to. Of course we went, the shooting portion of us, on the mere chance of what might turn up. Moving, therefore, along the ledge, we arrived at our post, the head of the ravine before indicated, and then put the beaters below in motion.

The Khad,* as I knew from former practice in such localities, looked most promising for something large; and although we were in the midst of a populous and cultivated district, I could hardly believe the splendid shelter of giant boulders, shady bushes, and dwarf date entwined by creeping plants, which lined its sides, could be

* Steep mountain side.

designed by Nature's cunning hand to disappoint us. After some hours' shouting and yelling from below, which somewhat tested our patience, a sudden crescendo in the noise betokened game of some kind. Descending myself a short distance to get a better view, the cries of "Bagh bagh" left no doubt that fortune had favoured us, and an instant after, with unalloyed delight, I saw, about two hundred yards below me, the old familiar stripes trotting along. Pointing in the direction, I called out to those above, "A tiger—there he goes;" and kneeling, and steadying my double rifle with the sling, I fired and struck under him. The other barrel he acknowledged by a roar, and bounding up the ravine was lost to sight.

The beaters now shouted that it was a tigress, and that she had gone up the ravine followed by two cubs. Telling them to follow her cautiously, I called for volunteers from our party, and P—— and W——, both young hands, joined me. Getting into the ravine, we followed it up to the head, an abrupt mass of rock, with a large-mouthed cave terminated by a smaller opening at the further extremity. The ante-chamber could easily contain a dozen people, and the sandy floor at once testified, by

the footprints, the animal's recent entry into the further aperture, but the cubs' marks were nowhere to be seen. Calling to the beaters to give us light by standing from the entrance, the three of us consulted what was to be done. Here certainly she was, but how to get her out was the question, and the entry was too small to admit of ingress, even on hands and knees, had we been insane enough to try it.

Collecting a quantity of leaves and grass, we fired them at the entrance of her retreat, and the air wafting the smoke in, we waited anxiously for some minutes, in Hythe position, some ten feet from her door, for her coming, having agreed to fire at her chest. The last blaze of the fuel was just expiring when I saw her stand for an instant at the cave's mouth, confused, apparently, by the recent fire and smoke; and as she rushed forward we fired five barrels into her breast, and she fell dead literally at the muzzle of our guns. P—— is, I believe, still alive in England, and should he peruse this, will acknowledge its verity. To complete the day's sport the beaters shortly after captured both cubs by throwing a cumby or blanket over them.

With such a spoil we received an ovation on

our return to our companions, and our Colonel, showing his white teeth, grinned a welcome, only remarking : “ It ’ s lucky your people don’t know of this.” Some weeks afterwards, J——, the horse-jockey, amateur vet., and dog fancier,—of which genus every regiment possesses at least one sample, and to whose care of course the young tiger had been consigned (his fellow being killed)—was passing a house with this young vampyre following him, then the size of a pointer dog. A Muhammadan nurse, with an officer’s child in her arms, and a peon, were standing near my door, when young stripes, scenting the child, I suppose, sprang at the woman, who in her terror fell backwards. Had it not been for the native—for I had passed on—the incipient man-eater would assuredly have, in another instant, saved even burial fees by devouring the youngster !

CHAPTER XII.

March for the Presidency Kolabah Quarters.—Poison Snakes.
 French Hospitality, and British Return.—Expedition to
 Aden.—Its Capture, and what led to it.—Stream of
 Rats.—Close Shave from Arabs.—How Queen's and
 Company's Officers' Service Claims are treated.—Arab
 Night Attack.—Presidency Appointment.

THE routine of regimental life presents little to amuse or interest the reader, and little occurred to break the monotony till we received an order to march to the Presidency, in anticipation of embarking for foreign service. In a few days we left the pleasant station of Púnah for the ever-dreaded Presidency, supported, however, by the hope of seeing something stormy, as the first Afghan war had just opened upon us. A few days saw us in quarters at Kolabah, there to be painfully reminded, by daily embarkations of other regiments, of the vanity of human wishes. At

last we realised the fact that we were left behind ; but like wise men, we still lived on in hope.

I was fortunate in the occupation of field officer's quarters, by the kind concession of the senior Captain, and those quarters commanded a view of the finest harbour in the world. "L'Artemise," Capitaine La Place, considered one of the finest frigates afloat, just at this time entered it and saluted. The Frenchmen were kindly received by the authorities, and as the "Artemise" was quite a show vessel, officered by many of the sons and relations of the French nobility, the invitation to the Governor and suite, and to the other naval officers in the harbour to inspect her was of course appreciated. Myself and a brother officer with a smattering of French had made acquaintance with the First Lieutenant and some others of the officers, and were fortunate in being included in the invitation.

In the evening we went on board, and shortly after the Governor and suite arrived, and were received with all that politeness and manner for which the French are so conspicuous. Everything of and about this splendid vessel was exhibited, and the show terminated by a capital luncheon. In the harbour lay a scrubby looking gun-brig of

the Royal Navy, the "Raleigh," the commander of which, amongst others, had been invited to meet the civil authorities.

When our reception was over we were escorted to the gangway, marines under arms, officers hat in hand, the sons of Ney, Davoust, and other famous generals, amongst these latter. Captain La Place, addressing the Governor, wished that the *entente cordiale* commenced by his royal master would ever continue between the two countries. To this wish the British functionary made a suitable response.

Turning then to one or two English officers, he hoped they were pleased. "And you," said Captain La Place in French, finally addressing Commander Q—— of the "Raleigh," "whose opinion as one of my own *métier* has of course the greatest weight, I trust, Sir, are satisfied and approve of the state of my ship." The following was the *gentlemanly* reply of the latter, to the correctness of which statement I pledge myself: "Aye, aye!" said Commander Q——, as he stepped over the gangway, "It's all very fine, but," touching his breast, "you want it here!" Whatever the faults of the French, they are a brave and chivalrous people,

and poor La Place, seeing Q——'s movement to his heart, acknowledged *the compliment* by his lowest bow! On rowing off in our boat there was a hearty laugh at the gallant Frenchman's mistake, in which I am proud to say I was too much of a gentleman to join. I even ventured to observe, loud enough for Captain Q—— to hear, "It is fortunate that Captain La Place mistook the reply, and the action which accompanied it." For my part, I thought it a cowardly insult, and perhaps some at least of my readers will agree with me.

The rainy season, which is very severe in Bombay, had now commenced, and I was greatly surprised to find a number of game fowls, which I kept below the bungalow in a low sort of cellar, losing one or two of their number daily, with no preparatory symptoms of disease of any kind to account for death. On inspecting some rat-holes, as they seemed to be, however, I drew out of them the cast-off skins of a couple of unmistakable cobras, the spectacle marks being distinctly clear on the head portion.

Here then, was at once an explanation of the mystery, and I at once, of course, removed the remaining poultry. Some days after, a native

inspector appeared from the Engineer's department to report on the necessary repairs, and I mentioned the snake affair to him, and that I had actually found three young cobra snakes, eight or nine inches long, in my verandah. Pointing to a stone wall near the entrance, recently built, "Sir," said he, "two years ago I pulled down a loose stone wall, such as you have round the rest of the compound, to build that new one, and from every foot of it emerged a snake." It is wonderful how these creatures conceal themselves, for that there were numbers of them about the house I have no doubt; yet, except the young ones, I never saw one during the many months I was there. I imagine they move only at night; for the snake-bite accidents at Bombay—and there have been several fatal ones on the esplanade—have nearly all occurred at night, or in the evening. "But," observed the man in continuation, "there is an offering place for them near the lighthouse, and they never bite anyone." "Well," said I, "but they killed my fowls." "Possibly," rejoined the overseer, "because being game fowls they first attacked the snakes." It is wonderful how soon one gets accustomed to sleeping over a mine of suchlike trifles.

Imagine our joy when, on the approaching cold weather, we were told to hold ourselves in readiness for embarkation for Aden. Now all we knew was that a coaling depôt of that name for Red Sea steamers did exist on the Arabian coast, and although the prospect of service is at all times to be rejoiced at, yet still a residence in that direction did not look inviting. However, all was excitement, anything being better than vegetating in Bombay. Getting, therefore, a few days' leave, I ran up to Mahábaleshwar, which had now become a sanitarium, and selecting a spot in that delightful climate, built a temporary shelter of three or four rooms, and saw my belongings housed in these for a long absence. In December I embarked with the head-quarter wing of my regiment for Aden, which an old Gazetteer veraciously informed us "was a seaport of considerable trade and importance in Arabia Felix, at the entrance of the Red Sea, was attacked by Albuquerque in fifteen hundred and something; that it rejoiced in a delightful climate that produced all tropical and many European fruits and vegetables to perfection, that peaches, grapes, and apricots abounded, and nectarines by no means rare."

“Well,” thought we, “it can’t, at all events, be a bad place when we take it,” and that, of course, is easily arranged; for although we had only a coal depôt allowed us by the Sultan of the locality, we well knew that by “opening amicable relations” with that worthy we should, of course, with the aid of a political or two, be quickly in possession, and behold so we are! Curious, isn’t it? And whilst on our voyage I may as well relate how this little matter came about.

The Sultan of Aden was at this time some seventy years of age, and avaricious to a degree; his son, the heir apparent, was about forty. He was on friendly terms with us, had always allowed our ships to water there, had given us a place for a coal depôt, and assisted our vessels or officials when required. Captain H—— of the Indian Navy, in command of a vessel in these seas, no doubt thought, as our Red Sea communication was daily increasing, that instead of having only a coal depôt, we ought to be in possession, and establish ourselves as a force there to command the Red Sea, the avenue connecting India with Egypt.

Captain H—— at first tried, of course, the *suaviter in modo* to gain possession, and offered

a round sum to the old Sheikh, a proceeding at once objected to by the fanatical Arabs, the Sultan's son at their head. This latter, not perhaps unreasonably, objected that one on the brink of the grave should be allowed to dispose of his birth-right. Well, that would not do. Captain M——, however, was not to be baffled. He again, probably, reflected what a nice thing it would be if Aden could be secured somehow or other, and himself made Political Agent there. At all events, whatever his reflections, he applied for and got an officer of my regiment and fifty men on board his vessel, and with these and his own guns he commenced sailing round and about the peninsula, landing here and threatening there, till he got at last what was wanted, a collision with the Sheikh's people. In this collision, although none of his party had been killed, enough was done. The Arabs had fired on his ship and British troops! Of this matter he forwarded a report at once to his Government, announcing that neither peace nor quietness could be expected till such a piratical stronghold was in our possession, &c. This report had the desired effect, and here we were *en route* to take possession. Thus it came

about, and the last resource of a righteous Government—that of “opening amicable relations”—was dispensed with.

In due time the transports arrived off the roadstead at Síra, a rocky and fortified island commanding the town of Aden, escorted by H.M. frigate—and gun-brig—with a sloop of war and schooner of the Indian Navy, and at early dawn we thronged the decks, anxious to judge for ourselves of the “Gazetteer’s” paradise. Heavens! what a sight opened on our vision! The crater of an extinct volcano, its heights marked with crumbling turrets and broken walls, a few miserable huts and a mosque or two in the centre; not a tree or shrub to be seen. And this scene of desolation was to be our home, perhaps for years! One of our men observing with more prose than piety, “I’m blessed if this wasn’t made God’s dust-hole when the earth was finished.” I saw it twenty years afterwards, when barracks and buildings had changed its aspect for the better, though of green there was not an atom.

In a few hours we had some fifteen hundred men embarked in boats and prepared for the landing; we then slowly approached the shore. Not a shot, however, was fired by the enemy, until Captain

S——, the senior naval officer, tired, I presume, of the enemy's want of pugnacity, fired a gun as signal, and every ship then opened fire on the batteries and their miserable defenders, whom we now saw distinctly endeavouring to shelter themselves from the salvoes of round shot and grape poured upon them. I, with our commandant and other officers were, during this preparatory cannonade, on board the frigate, and out of curiosity I descended to the maindeck, and it then occurred to me the utter impossibility of laying a gun—I won't say with correctness, but at any object on shore; for although nearly calm, the vessel at each broadside rocked from side to side, and the smoke was so thick between decks you could not see your hand. This accounted, I suppose, for the extreme divergence of the shot which I had noticed whilst on the quarter-deck, when it appeared to go nowhere, its course being distinctly visible against the blue sky.

After some hour or two of this, the troops made for the landing, and jumping into the water, in ten minutes were in possession of the place, with the loss of twelve or fifteen killed and wounded. In fact, as far as the landing, except two or three discharges from an enormous gun

(now in the park), which passed over our boats, and a few shots from small arms, resistance there was none; and our men driving a cluster or two of Arabs over the hills, found themselves in Aden in Arabia *Felix*. The inhabitants consisted of rats innumerable and a few miserable Israelites huddled amongst some fetid huts:—but if the people were few, the smells were many.

Having landed our tents and pitched them, fatigue parties were set to work in all directions to clear our camp of the accumulated filth of centuries, and three hundred men were at once posted at the so-called Turkish wall, forming the neck of the peninsula, with a half-battery of artillery. In a week we had settled down and made ourselves as comfortable as existence in such a place would admit of. My second night on shore I passed, by way of company, with a nice lad of the name of S——, at the gate guard. He had obtained a full corporal's grade in a regiment of Austrian Hussars ere he joined us; he sketched admirably, and never did I see a youngster so full of resources for self-employment. It was a three days' guard, and at his earnest request I joined him on the second to save him, as he termed it, "from the rats." At nine that evening

we retired to our beds, and a few moments after, by the dim light, we saw on the roof-pole a black continuous stream of rats who soon covered the floor. I never beheld such a sight before or after. All attempts to drive them away, except for a few seconds, were vain, and at last we fairly took refuge in the open.

To kill the time I sauntered out one morning from the Turkish wall with my gun loaded with B.B. for the chance of a shot at some pelicans that were on the sea-shore a few hundred yards distant from our tents at the wall so called. Captain H——, I.N., now “Political Resident”—curious, isn’t it, how things come about?—had, it appears, opened “amicable relations with the Arabs,” and supplies of forage began to appear at the price of a dollar a small camel load. Grapes, peaches, &c. were promised, and the most friendly feelings were beginning to be entertained for us, Captain H—— assured us, by the expelled Arabs. Well, with the loaded gun but no other ammunition, I soon came near enough to wound a pelican, and followed him up to finish him with the other barrel. In the ardour of the chase—of a pelican!—it is painful to reflect what had I descended to!—I found myself on the shore some

miles from the tents; and glancing at the sand hills on my right, was it fancy, or was it three Arabs I saw running parallel to me under their cover, guns in hand? Looking towards the bird, I turned slowly round, and as if weary of the chase, and with the longest strides I ever took short of a run, made for home, sweet home. The men about two hundred yards from me turned too, but still trying for cover. "Well," thought I, "anywhere within sixty yards I am a match for the three with this charge of B.B., and if they begin potting at a distance I must stop at the first shot and as they run in give it to them, in line if possible, where they take their curry—" for, barring a waist-cloth, Adam was not more nude. To shorten my tale, keeping well away from the sand hills and close to the water, I got within range of our lines, and my friends, I rejoiced to see, left me, deterred from attack, doubtless, by the gun in my hand, and by the consideration that the report of fire-arms would cause alarm.

As I walked towards my friends' tent I resolved to say nothing of "our amicable relations," but was met, to my surprise, by our Major, who, putting a note into my hand, observed,

"Think what you've escaped." Its contents were: "Dear Major,—Privates —— and ——'s bodies have just been brought in, killed and scalped within three hundred yards of our sentries." This was signed by the captain commanding right flank picket, Turkish wall. "Well, Major," said I in extenuation, "it was wrong of me, but I only strolled out, and was led on by a wounded bird; but it shan't occur again." That evening Captain H——, the Political, dined at our mess, but, strange to say, never alluded to "amicable relations."

A common subject of discussion at this time was whether the Government would in any way acknowledge our little services in the capture of the place which would, Captain H—— assured us, some day rise into importance as a second Gibraltar. Without, however, going so far, no doubt, he was to some extent right; but it was irritating to many of us to be daily assured that the people of the interior, on whom in a great measure our supplies depended, entertained the most friendly feeling towards us, when it was obvious we dare not venture beyond our lines without being killed and mutilated. At length the mail arrived, and it was announced that the thanks of

Parliament had been accorded us for the *storming* and capture; but nothing of honours, or the more tangible merits of batta. Nor, to say the truth, did we deserve or expect them. There was, however, a reservation in this last particular, and I will briefly state what caused it.

On embarking from the royal frigate for the attack of the place, each boat of sufficient importance had an officer of the navy to steer it. I was with my commanding officer, and a passed midshipman or mate steered it. When the commotion of the attack was over, I was present when this young officer came up and asked our Major whether he would grant him a certificate, to the effect that he was satisfied with the able and judicious manner he had directed the head-quarter boat on the day of attack and capture, as he thought it might be of use to him. Our commander readily handed to him the acknowledgment. "This is to certify that passed midshipman S—— most ably and judiciously, &c. &c." One or two of us thought it savoured somewhat of a flunkey's character, but the results to H.M. Navy engaged were, that Captain S—— was made a C.B.; the Commander of the Brig was posted; the senior Lieutenant was promoted to Com-

mander; and our friend the mate received his lieutenancy. And possibly it may be asked what did our leaders receive? Nothing. Nevertheless, it is an acknowledged axiom in gastronomy that what is considered a palatable condiment for a female of the anserine species is equally applicable to the male, or in more homely phrase, "What is sauce for the goose," &c.

The dull routine of our lives at this miserable place, from which we dare not venture but at the risk of life, was just at this time enlivened by an Arab night attack. A large body of the natives waded at low water from their own shore round the left flank of our defence at the Turkish wall, and a portion of them succeeded in attaining a hill in the rear that commanded it, but were after some resistance driven out with great loss. The greater mass of them turned back on encountering the fire from a native craft, which had been judiciously anchored at some distance on that side, the armed party on board detecting their approach by their lighted matches.

After some months I received the offer of an appointment, as a temporary measure, in the Presidency Commissariat, at that time severely pressed by the Afghán war. I was most

reluctant to accept it; but escape from this centre of dullness finally prevailed, on the understanding, however, that it would lead to something more desirable. Parting then, with regret, from my regimental friends for the last time, I embarked for Bombay, and after some little delay was installed in office. Finally, after a servitude of many months, attained to the height of my ambition by being nominated second in command of the Púnah Horse, and by promotion to my company.

CHAPTER XIII.

Appointed Second in Command of Púnah Horse.—Recruiting and organization.—Unjust Treatment of the Regiment by Government.—Detachment for Aden.—Dangerous Excitement.—The Doctor and His Royal Highness.—My first and last reprimand.—Pursuit of Rágojí.—With Force to Mahrata Country.—Capture of Major Ovans.—Fall of Panella, &c.

REJOICED to leave the presidency at any time, I lost not a day, as may be supposed, in making the necessary preparation to join an appointment so much coveted by the class termed by Government the “men of action.” The salary was handsome, and gave me something to look forward to; and the regiment at the time I write was, both with regard to pay and the class of men that entered it, on a superior footing to what it has now become. The nucleus was Skinner’s horsemen, of far-famed celebrity, the

native officers being men of rank and family, and the troopers recruited with few exceptions from their sons and retainers. They were Muhammaddans from the northern provinces, a tall, fair race, with the bold features and *suave* manner of the Persian, from whom many of them were descended, their ancestors having accompanied Nadir Shah to the conquest of Dehli.

My service under Outram, although of a somewhat different nature, had in a measure prepared me for the duties of the appointment, this body of men at the time being under the orders of the Governor of Bombay, and their commandant and second in command magistrates and in commission of the peace.

The men had just returned from the Afghánistán invasion, to which they had been *invited* by the Government, as they were not, by the terms of their charter at their first embodiment, obliged to serve out of India. Ruined in purse and person from the heavy losses they had sustained by the death of horses and loss of camp equipage—for these men receive from the State nothing but their pay—they were now endeavouring to liquidate the heavy debts incurred in remounts, &c., during a two years' campaign. But what,

above all, was most unjust and iniquitous, the Supreme Government for many years persistently refused to grant any pension to those who had been made widows by the loss of their husbands during the war; these women and children had therefore to be supported by regimental contributions, or to starve! It will naturally occur to the reader, if this was the treatment received by one regiment, on the plea that they were irregular troops and there was no condition of pension "in the bond," what must have been the effect of a similar denial to those of a similar organization in the Bengal Presidency, where they amounted to thirty or forty thousand men! It was these and similar acts that no doubt first instigated some Eastern Hofer subsequently to insurrection. To hold in subjection by the sword a foreign race, and act thus, "is worse than a crime, it's a blunder."

These, however, were not the acts of any individual Governor or Indian official, but were the oppressive measures of a supreme and irresponsible office termed the "Military Board," an office of audit and reference for all such military disbursement, nominally controlled by a head, but really directed by a head clerk and his assist-

ants. Be that as it may, the Campaní Bahadúr, or Noble Government, as it was once termed, suffered the opprobrium of such iniquitous acts that finally resulted in open rebellion, and all but the loss of empire. To call it a mutiny, though perhaps expedient to do so, is simply absurd. The whole native population, or its leading men, were indignant at our reckless expenditure on ourselves and all that concerned us, and at our arbitrary and grasping policy on all connected with them. Doubtless public opinion and public justice will eventually operate a reform in these matters; but till this is done, let us refrain from terming the rising of a people against oppression a "mutiny," or the writhings of a subdued race rebellion.

The years passed in this branch of the service were perhaps the happiest of my life, and though a considerable period elapsed ere a chance offered for service in the field, I had sufficient to employ my leisure hours, and occasionally to receive a visit from the officers of my old regiment, now quartered at Púnah, from which Sirúr, our station, was but forty miles. At length the Government made a demand upon us for a party of fifty horsemen for employment at Aden. No class of

native troops are more ready or willing to undertake any duty or serve anywhere than these men; but after the scandalous treatment they had received during the Afghán expedition, it was not extraordinary that they should hesitate to embark for an unknown country beyond the limits of their bond—a subject I have already adverted to—without some stipulation as to the feeding of themselves and their horses. The commandant had, I presume, been already for a long period distressed and annoyed by his fruitless efforts to procure his men compensation for their recent losses, and he therefore perhaps insufficiently urged upon them the necessity of immediate compliance in the first instance with the right to represent afterwards. On his informing me of their positive refusal to proceed, except on the terms already mentioned, I advised him to insist on their compliance, but he hesitated to do so.

Sir Charles Napier was at this time in command of the division at Púnah. On receiving a communication of the state of affairs, he, with his usual impulsive and at times unconsidered decision, directed that the party of horse should be in Púnah in forty-eight hours, or their commanding officer should take the consequence.

On receiving this order Captain E—— at once proceeded to Púnah to represent matters, directing me to do what I could during his absence. This was not pleasant, as the men were in no placid state. However, on Captain E——'s departure, I paraded the men the next morning on foot, and calling out by name the first told off for the required duty, desired him to advance. A young hand on this stepped forward and declared "they would not have this sort of thing." My first impulse on moving up to this individual was to stop insubordination by running him through, but seeing his youth, and that he was clearly a tool of the others, I smiled and asked him how, as a beardless boy, he had dared to speak, and to go home to his mother. There was dead silence and then a laugh through the ranks, and in half an hour the whole compliment of men were on their horses, and with a promise that I would myself see justice done to them, they saluted respectfully and rode away. This was, at all events, an initiation into the handling of these somewhat delicate instruments of military manufacture.

Some months after this occurrence I received intimation from the commandant of the regiment

that his health required a change of climate, and he would proceed to the Nílگیرí Hills for that purpose, and he immediately after carried out his intention. I had been in command but for a short period when I received a communication from the native officer of the post at Nassik, complaining that the medical officer at the place was in the habit of directing him to post the sowars' (troopers') horses, their private property, be it remembered, for private individuals to employ for posting purposes, and that recently, notwithstanding his remonstrance, the officer in question had so employed some ten of his troop horses for a "Princegillam" and his retainers, a Shah's son from Europe! In India amongst the private individuals of the service, at least, there is not that display of alacrity in toadying the great exhibited in the dear mother country, nor is there a Court calendar to announce their arrival. As the report concluded by stating that the horses in question had been returned in a disabled state, and that the native officer had been censured for his objection to lend them for such a purpose, I at once inquired of the surgeon whether the statement was true. He admitted that it was so, but that

he considered it justifiable as it was for the service of a "Royal Prince of Prussia." Here was an explanation of the mysterious "Princgillam" of the jemadar's report. I at once replied that it was an unwarrantable proceeding to mount his friends on my men's horses without their consent, and requested him not to so commit himself again. The doctor, dissatisfied, handed the matter up to the Governor, a recent arrival from a penal settlement, and he expressed "his surprise that an officer of my antecedents and experience should have, for an instant, objected to the employment of the horses in question by H.R.H. Prince &c. &c. of Prussia, who was connected with the royal family." "Here again," thinks I, "is another branch of 'amicable relations'" and inwardly vowed never to molest them again. This was the first and the last reprimand I received in the service, and the reader can judge if I deserved it.

Of shooting, except in the small way, there was little, of course, on a route so frequented as that on which lay our small station, where the headquarters of our regiment of Irregular Cavalry were the only troops, but being the highroad to

N——r, had constant passers through. The Kardah plain, however, some few miles distant, held always a supply of antelope and bustard, and many scores of these I brought to bag during my five years of residence. At length I received orders to proceed to Nassik and the western ghat in its vicinity, and take measures for the immediate suppression of the system of murder and brigandage carried on in those districts by the notorious freebooter Rágoji Bángria. The warm weather had just commenced when I started on this expedition, and I had two months of perpetual movement amongst the jungles of the ghats. Though unsuccessful in capturing the freebooter, in consequence of his having, through his spies, timely notice of my whereabouts, I succeeded in checking his depredations and in driving him, for the time, from the districts. Surprise, with clattering and booted horsemen in a country intersected by deep ravines, was out of the question. Once, and once only, was I close upon this murderous villain's tracks, and saw the light of the lonely hut that sheltered him; but with a ravine intervening, the noise in descending it, through rocks and brushwood at midnight, gave him

timely alarm for flight. I captured his favourite wife, however, and a nearer approach to an Italian brigand's helpmate in face, figure, and even costume, could not be conceived. Right gallantly did she resist all efforts of bribes and threats to discover her liege lord's line of flight. She was a bold, handsome young creature, with a figure as lithe as a panther's. Her lord and master was some months subsequently surprised and captured while engaged in religious ablutions at the Bímu River, eighty miles from his usual haunts, by Captain G——. The captor was deservedly rewarded by an appointment from a Government which, at that time at least, never failed to notice such acts of gallantry and perseverance; and I too was pleased to be rewarded by becoming the recipient of a handsome acknowledgment of my endeavours.

During the following cold season I was again in the saddle, at the head of four hundred horsemen, to join the force assembled in the southern Marátha country, the nucleus of disaffection being as usual Kolhapúr. This made my fourth trip under canvas in this direction, and strange to say cholera in its most virulent form marked the stages of my route for the first hun-

dred miles, as indeed it ever had done when traversing that country from the Balgaon direction twenty years previously. I will not weary the reader by a detail of this campaign, nor the operations terminating in the capture of Sámangarh, Punella, and Hanmant ghât, beyond mentioning the salient points of each, or recording any interesting incidents connected with those wonderful strongholds. The last named, an isolated hill in the Kánkán or lower seaboard country a thousand feet in height, was terminated by a scarped rocky pinnacle of four hundred more, and which, with the ascent of the ghât leading to it, to our disgrace be it said, or rather to that of the leaders entrusted with the command, successfully resisted a force of six thousand men for four months, and yet fell on the very appearance of Outram, after a weak skirmish !

Cavalry, of course, in such campaigns take but small part beyond securing the siege operations from interruption in preventing interception of supplies, and in warding off assistance to the besieged. I will, however, relate a painful occurrence at the first named of the above forts. We were seated one morning at the mess tent of one of the regiments engaged, when a dooly

or litter came up, and a fine young fellow, S——, jumped out. He had been on picket duty, and called out "Well, my boys, I'll have my scars to show, for I have just got hit from the fort." The surgeon, on this, rising, took S—— between the tent walls, and examined an apparently slight gun-shot wound below his waist-belt, from which a drop or two of blood tinged his trousers. We heard the medico a moment later exclaim, "Go to your tent immediately, this is no joking matter." The surgeon now returning to us prepared to follow S——, and observed, "It's all over with him, poor fellow, he will be dead by the morning;" and so he was.

From Sámangarh the force proceeded to Punella fort in the vicinity of Kolhapúr, that fort being in possession of insurgents who had been previously the State garrison of the place, holding it, it would appear, under a feudatory right, as a sort of hereditary garrison, but who had been directed to relinquish that right and deliver the fort up to the Kolhapúr State. This they had refused to do, and in consequence we, as allies of the native Government, were now investing the place. It so happened that our Resident, Colonel Ovans, at

Satárah, on hearing of this contumacy, had at once proceeded towards Kolhapúr by palanquin dák to examine into the affair. Diverging somewhat from the regular route, he was passing at night by a shorter road which unfortunately led a short distance from the fort, when the lights of the flambeau bearers were seen by the garrison, a party of which at once intercepted and captured him, retaining him in the fort as a security for the terms they demanded. Not till a few days prior to its capture did they release him from a captivity of several weeks, during which he suffered from the expectation of instant death. Nor did we gain possession finally till a sharp assault had been delivered and some losses sustained, amongst others, that of Brigadier H——, who was killed while reconnoitring in company with my former friend and commandant Outram.

Our next point was the Kánkán fort at the Hanmant Ghât. To take this, a force of six thousand men, with two regiments of European infantry, encamped on the plateau of the western ghâts overlooking the lower country of the Kánkán, in which, immediately below us, lay the enemy's stronghold, as inaccessible in appearance as the summit of Teneriffe. The upper range

which held us formed an amphitheatre of some six miles in extent, at one extremity of which was the mass of our force and head-quarters, and at the other the brigade of Colonel W——. From this commanding position we had a clear view of the fort and country below, extending to the sea some thirty miles distant, or at least of the sheet of bush or forest jungle that led to it, my horsemen holding a position of communication between the two forces already mentioned.

The head-quarter force communicated with the country below by a broad, well-formed road which led close to the insurgent camp, and near the base of their mountain stronghold—their intended refuge when driven from the jungle. The first fortnight or three weeks were employed in a continued cannonade to clear the jungle below of its occupants, preparatory to forcing the descent of the ghât road into the lower plain. The brigade on the left extremity meanwhile remained inactive as they had no means of descent, for a precipitous scarp of three hundred feet formed their front. It is true that this part of their position overhung the rebel camp, but there was no access to it except through a narrow fissure to the right, clothed with brushwood. I

am thus particular in order the better to explain the extraordinary proceedings that followed, and, if possible, to describe the failures and blunders committed by those in command the moment they found themselves transferred from an open country, where all had been well and successfully organized and carried out, to a jungle, where their opponents at no time amounted to a third of our force, and were, besides, wretchedly armed. Those opponents, however, were confident in their knowledge of the ground and of their superiority in jungle warfare, and that too, although our force held in its ranks no less than two of the best regiments of light infantry and riflemen—one European and one native—that any army could boast of.*

An advance guard or storming party, supported by a column of a thousand infantry, now descended to force the pass, across which the enemy had thrown an *abatis* of trees and brushwood, but after a trifling loss our men abandoned the attempt and retired. I was not present and will say, therefore, nothing more on the subject. Some days after another party was told off for the same pur-

* The conditions would seem to resemble those of the late humiliating contest in the Transvaal.—ED.

pose, and P——t, of the artillery, proposed that we should accompany them as amateurs, neither of our commands being, of course, in requisition. The assault was led by H.M.'s —— regiment, be it here observed, noted for its steadiness and discipline, and which during the Afghánistán war had in open day carried by assault one of the strongest fortresses of the enemy, not by surprise, but by a hand to hand combat.

My companion and myself wisely kept on the flank and rear of the leading column as they steadily descended the broad road in sections, over which the arching trees threw a green uncertain shade, and on both sides of which arose a mass of forest through which the road had been formed. P—— and myself remarked the excited and anxious look of the men as they entered the green depths. Ere they had passed, however, half the descent, the advance and flanking files opened fire and retired on the support, announcing that the road was stockaded and defended. In a few moments all was ready, and a caution having been given not to fire hastily, the bugle sounded the advance, and all went steadily on till the barrier presented itself. A scattered volley at our column impelled a rush forward, and then

unfortunately at the critical moment, there ensued a confused halt to open fire, when from front and both flanks an irregular fusillade was directed on us from the jungle.

At this moment P—— and I were on a bank of the road-cutting, within a hundred yards of the affair, and could view it distinctly, and saw two men rush from our ranks, one of whom succeeded gallantly in mounting the *abatis*, but fell at the summit. The bugle now sounded “the retire,” and the column fell back in some confusion. From the first moment the men entered the ominous green shade of the jungle we both remarked they were out of their element, and instead of looking, as usual on occasion of attack, earnestly to their front, they were glancing uneasily to their right and left, as if to anticipate some hidden foe. Well, here was another failure, and back we marched to camp. On arrival there, will it be believed, two or three of the men were sent to the quarter-guard for firing at monkeys on the march back! I may add that, whenever a puff of smoke from a tree indicated an occupant, P—— and myself did the same thing during the *melée*, but at the bi- and not the quadrumane, with no small satisfaction.

It will be asked, of course, how so large an attacking force did not overwhelm the stockaded party by a simultaneous advance ; but the narrowness of the road and its precipitous bank, with the dense jungle cover, prevented the men from either deploying or advancing. But they had gone the wrong way to work, for they should have beaten the cover with extended files, and we soon had a stirring example how to do this, as I shall presently describe.

Now came the turn of the brigade on the left of the plateau. The enemy, emboldened no doubt at their success, had the audacity, to the amount of some hundreds, to ascend to their front either by the cleft before mentioned, or by paths known to themselves ; and one morning saw them in extended order, marked by their white clothing, boldly opposing the European light troops sent to repel them. As the plateau formed a vast horse-shoe of which our two forces were the extremities, every movement was distinctly visible in the clear mountain air with the aid of glasses, and indeed partially so without them, across the gulf that intervened. Of course the insurgents, when once in the open, were quickly driven back to their jungle below,

but they retired in good order, though not without inflicting some loss on their opponents; amongst them was an officer shot though the peak of his cap whilst kneeling behind a stone, for these jungle combatants were excellent marksmen.

After this a short lull ensued, only broken by occasional discharges of heavy guns into the plain below, varied by a shell at the pinnacled fort, the summit of which rose to nearly our own level. At last our friends of Colonel W——'s brigade, inspired with a new idea, originated doubtless by an ex-midshipman officer of their force, procured a cable and a couple of paniers, in which the patentee and another were lowered over the precipice on their front, some three hundred feet to the shelf below! As a bold acrobatic feat this operation met our approval by the amazement it afforded, but, as it may be supposed, it produced no other beneficial results.

I believe one and all of us, except perhaps our director, were becoming heartily ashamed of being bearded by such a set of ragamuffins; and by way of pastime I took my friend Major P——, of the Engineers, and three or four of my men, to the crest of the plateau immediately in my own front, assured that there must be some-

where in the neighbourhood a footpath descent to the enemy's stronghold below. On our way I met a villager whom I at once directed to lead us to the descent, notwithstanding his protest of ignorance of a footpath. The appearance of coercive measures to enliven his faculties, soon induced him to proceed to the crest of the gulf, and on receipt of another reminder, he at once commenced the descent by an easy footpath, that could clearly be traced to the foot of the fort, and then along a narrow mountain ridge to the enemy's lair in jungle below.

Telling my guide to lead, I, with rifle in hand, and clothed in russet hunting garb, followed him for some three hundred yards down the descent, when he stopped and began a weeping howl to the effect that there was a post of the enemy at the foot of the hill we were descending. Hardly had I enforced his advance by another kick than a shot was fired at me, and immediately a second, and on my looking down I saw a picket of men; but being alone, and having effected my purpose, I wisely turned again upwards and joined my party without further molestation, leaving my guide below, doubtless amongst his friends. Here clearly, from the fact of their

guarding it so jealously, was a road sufficiently good to afford easy access to the enemy's camp.

P—— now urged me to proceed with him at once to the head-quarter tent and state what had occurred, and at last I did so. As I was unknown to General D—— my friend introduced me on entering. General D—— observed, "I am told, Captain Fraser, you have been exploring." I at once admitted the offence, but said in extenuation it was not done with intention to interfere with the duty of others, but to amuse my friend and myself, and then related in a few words what had occurred. "Ah," replied the gallant commander, "a footpath, not a road. Could our tent equipage and supplies," eyeing a dish of peaches on the table, "proceed by it?" "Oh, certainly not, but armed men could!" Finding this observation was followed by no encouragement, not even by an invitation to be seated, I left with my friend P——, who remarked, "It's no use suggesting anything, as it is clearly an offence as not emanating from themselves." "Heavens!" said I, "did you ever hear of such a thing as 'tents and supplies' when an hour's march would have dropped us from the ridge right into the enemy's camp."

Two days after a report arrived that Outram, with a small force of a thousand natives and a company of the — foot, was advancing from the coast, and that evening we saw his steamer arrive, marked by the smoke of its funnel.

Our daily amusement now was marking Outram daily advance through the dense cover, each halt distinguished by the burning jungle. On the third morning he and his little force were right underneath us, advancing in extended files as if beating for game, and clearly visible at each occasional open patch in the cover, carrying no tents or other *impedimenta*—only a few bags of supplies. The whole thing lay before us as if in an arena, the dotted line of white with a spot or two marking Outram and his staff in the rear; in their front the enemy skirmishing, but steadily pushed back step by step by the advancing force's little puffs of smoke that marked the line of combat. I know it did my heart good to see it, though whether the sight of a thousand men driving like chaff before the wind in the heart of their own jungles an enemy who had for months set six times that number at defiance, was equally gratifying to our commander may be fairly considered apochryphal. At last came

the closing scene of the combat as the enemy, crossing the river, received volley after volley into their congregated masses, and either fled in disorder up the winding pathway of their mountain eyrie, or dispersed helter skelter through the jungle.

Their interval of repose, however, was short. The sleuth hound who never tired was after them, and on the third day a storming party, led by Lieutenant G—— of H.M. 17th, seconded by Captain J——, Lieutenant S——, and of course the ubiquitous Outram, ever foremost when danger was apprehended, began the ascent of the rocky height. They at last gained the precipitous ledge that led up the scarped and dizzy rock into the rebel stronghold. Of the six gallant soldiers with the powder bags two received their death wound, toppling over the ledge and falling on the rocky platform three hundred feet below. Captain J——, shot through the foot, was born out of fire on the back of Lieutenant S——. The garrison at length, terrified by the desperate gallantry of their assailants, hoisted the flag of surrender. C.B.-ships in those days were exotics seldom discovered by "Indian officers" when unassisted by their brethren in

the Royal Army, and the incentive of Victoria Crosses was not then, I suppose, required. At all events the actors received neither one nor the other. Lieutenant G——'s gallantry remained unacknowledged, I believe, for years. The others received all that the local Government could bestow in the shape of appointments of honour and emolument. Our force and its commander, need I say, deservedly got nothing for their miserable termination of the otherwise credible six months' field operation.

I had the curiosity subsequently, on descending to congratulate my friend Outram, to inspect the captured fort. The frightful natural difficulties presented might alone well have chilled the courage of braver men, unaided by the resistance of defenders. Deeds of greater political importance have thrown this affair into the shade, but not one of them marked more conspicuously than this little episode Outram's wonderful aptitude for jungle warfare.

Our senile responsables, now that all was over, appeared suddenly to awake to the lamentable exhibition we had made. I received a sudden order to proceed at once to Azra, a town of some importance in the vicinity, where a bad turbulent

spirit existed, no doubt fermented by our late timid dilatory proceedings. The morning before I started, however, I had the satisfaction, though a poor one, of seeing one of my videttes challenge an armed party of three hundred men of the —— foot, who were proceeding at early dawn, *six weeks* after my interview with the General—where would the reader suppose?—why, to the very bridle-path which I had explored and had in vain urged the General to march the force by. This route these responsables *now* adopted as the shortest and readiest infantry course into the late rebel encampment below, although the made road of previous notoriety was now open. I had the satisfaction of accompanying the party to the commencement of the descent, and of informing their commander of these particulars.

By a forced march of forty miles I found myself next day at Azra, where three hundred men of the —— Light Infantry had already assembled awaiting my arrival. Both from furnished information and the conduct of the Mámildár I had every reason to apprehend disaffection, if not revolt. No supplies but the scantiest could be procured, two or three hundred matchlock men armed to the teeth paraded

the town, which, I observed, though unwalled, was surrounded by an impervious and most formidable cactus hedge. Seeing at a glance how things were likely to go, I sent a messenger to direct the immediate attendance of the worthy Mámildár at my tent. One, two, and three hours elapsed, however, without his appearance. The three fine young officers of the light infantry now earnestly entreated me to begin the "fun" at once, but as it was clearly an ugly job to undertake an attack without orders, I sent a trusty native officer to the Mámildár with an intimation that if within an hour he was not at my tent I would storm the town. Meanwhile I made my arrangements to do so.

At the hour appointed, by no means to my dissatisfaction, for on my shoulders lay the responsibility of attack with an inadequate force, but to the immense disgust of the fiery young Percies with me, true to the second of time appeared my friend the Brahman Mámildár, with many excuses and protests of loyalty. Supplies came in, and all chance of "fun" to my young friends was over. On joining the political camp afterwards I found this high caste official in durance vile for treasonable correspondence with the Hanmant insurgents.

Two companies of light infantry and a squadron of cavalry now joined me, and we moved for some days from place to place to overawe any remains of disaffection. Christmas Day now came round, and of course we arranged to have a dinner together. A splendid turkey and a magnificent ham were provided by my Madras friends, and I contrived to secure a case of champagne; so we had a right merry evening, which was to be our last, as I had been directed to join the political head-quarters at Kolhapúr. Accordingly, at the small hours, I took my leave of my jolly friends, and all being pre-arranged beforehand, I got into the saddle, and by 11 o'clock next morning found myself and my men thirty miles distant from the late scene of revelry.

Hardly, however, had I cooled myself with a skin of water, and had some breakfast, than I was startled to see one of my quondam acquaintances making for my tent at full speed. After the usual greeting and offer of refreshment, I asked him the news, or in other words, what had brought him. "Oh, Captain Fraser," observed he, colouring and looking uneasy, "I hope you'll not think it odd, but—," "Come," said I, seeing him hesitate, "out with it." "Well,

you know, when we got up this morning to breakfast we missed our turkey and ham! and our servants told us the Bombay Mogli officer had—" "Had what?" said I, "run off with it?" "Yes," simpered he; "and so I came after you." I was certainly angry, but laughing, called my Muhammadan servant, and inquired if he had dared to abscond with the prized comestibles. "I did not," said the man; "but when the dinner was over I ordered the cooley to accompany me with our provision basket, it was put on the camels, and, as you know, we started at once; and the Madras servants, Sir, were all so drunk that they must have placed the things in our basket instead of their own. Moreover, my lord," said he, "do you think I would steal, of all things, the unclean animal." We had a good laugh, the Madras officer coolly swung the swinish and ornithological remains on either side, and galloped off, rejoicing, doubtless, at his success in rising too early for the "Mogli."

As evening approached, we were, as usual, in the saddle again till ten or eleven the next morning, thus avoiding the fatiguing effects of the sun on ourselves and horses, and on the third morning made our destination, over seventy-

five miles, with ease and comfort without a sore back or turning a hair, though, of course, at first starting, the deprivation of rest during the natural hours was not, perhaps, pleasant. We usually marched, when time was an object, at 10 P.M., and moved at walking pace till sunrise, then had half an hour's halt for prayers and on again till 10 A.M., thus covering thirty miles during the twelve hours. With my kind political friends I was soon at home; they told me, however, though all was apparently quiet, "they had a job for me." What that was I will relate in the next chapter.

CHAPTER XIV.

Midnight Expedition, and Abduction of the Rání of Kolhapúr.—Proceedings in a newly-subsidized State.—Military execution of a Suspected.—The Members of Council.—A Story of Khutput.—Vigil for a Tiger.—Painful Results.—Return to Head-quarters.—Transferred to Khándésh.—Another Change.

THE preceding events, and the disturbed condition of the hitherto independent state of Kolhapúr had, it was more than suspected, been caused by the Rání or queen-mother, in conjunction with her favourite, a banker in the city. They were regarded, in fact, as the movers of the late disturbances, and as the inciters of the insurrection in our own territory in the Southern Kánkán, the suppression of which had so recently given us trouble. Our Government, therefore, had resolved to establish a political agency, with a subsidiary force of irregular cavalry and

infantry, at Kolhapúr, and it was to assist in effecting this that I had been summoned, as well as to carry out, I presume, any little "job," that might occur.

After a few weeks of quiet paper work, whilst sitting one night with my friend G——m, the newly-appointed Political Agent, and the Commissioner, the latter quietly producing his watch, said: "'Tis now eleven, and at twelve I shall require you at the head of your men to accompany me to the Rání's palace in the city; so get ready and I'll give you your orders." All was bright and still in the clear moonlight as, at the head of three hundred horsemen, we wended our way to the city. Six palanquins accompanied us, and the Commissioner intimated to me that the instant the Rání and her attendants were in the vehicles I was at once to run them rapidly out of the town into camp, where, I had stipulated, I was to be relieved of my charge.

The city gates on our arrival were opened quietly, and our long line filed through the deserted streets, in which not a soul was visible, and passed up to the palace gate, that very gate I had entered just twenty years before with another Commissioner. Dismounting, we entered the

audience hall, and after a few moments' conversation between the Commissioner and the vizier or minister, a squeaking deprecatory treble of the Punch and Judy character was heard behind the carved screenwork, a hurrying to and fro, the cries of women, and in half an hour six shapeless swathed masses, from whom occasionally shot a spark of light as the flambeaux glare fell on their jewelled tissues, tottered forth and entered the palanquins. "From the right to the rear by double files, march;" and our captives were borne hurriedly along, a shrouded figure here and there on the terraced roofs staring stupidly at the midnight cavalcade, and, as suspicion dawned on him, realizing the fact that his queen-mother had been seized and was a prisoner in the hands of the hated "Feringhís." And thus occurred what might, amongst more civilized nations, be termed the second act of "amicable relations," the *drop* scene being in reserve, of course, for a conclusion to the dramatical tableaux. Thus it goes on from step to step, compulsory terms of treaty on our part, bad faith on theirs, till "annexation" absorbs the whole.

I lost no time, as may be supposed, in making

(by previous arrangement) for H.M. ——— Dragoon's lines, and at once delivered over my obnoxious burdens, with the necessary divisional letter to their commander. Glad I was to find myself once more in the quiet of my tent, with a disagreeable duty over, the mysterious character of which, whatever in it might have been tinged by romance, savoured more strongly of violence and midnight abduction. However, that was not my affair. I was under the orders of the Commissioner, and on him, of course, devolved the responsibility of the measure; but had the Brummagem policy of the present day been then in operation it might have gone hard with some of us, especially with the President of the Court-martial who sentenced to death—and with the authority who confirmed that sentence—the principal banker of the city of Kolhapúr, for “aiding and abetting the enemies of the allies of the British Government in insurrection at the time by a loan of money.” I cannot now remember the exact wording of the charge, but this was the purport, if not the exact wording. His defence was that the leaders of the hereditary garrisons of the forts, which our force had just reduced, had assembled at his house at night and compelled him to

give the money by threats of death. These men had hitherto garrisoned those forts by right of tenure for many generations, and they naturally resisted their dispossession and their disbandment at the suggestion of our Government. Be the right where it may, the unfortunate young banker was condemned to death and hanged, under the most painful circumstances, through the malconstruction of the drop.

Khutput, or court intrigue, rules more or less in every native state, to an extent incredible among the more civilized nations of Europe. The dread of exposure by the public journals does not prevent it, and the most ludicrous and peurile efforts at times are unblushingly made to influence the decision of a private suit, or even of a Government measure. About this time there was a story in circulation which found its way subsequently into the Indian public journals, and which, as it remained uncontradicted, doubtless had some foundation. If the scandal were untrue, the story was at least *ben trovato*.

It was said H.H. the Gaikwár, was, on account of the expense, desirous to reduce a portion of the military force subsidized by him under an agreement with the British Government, and as

he could not hope that the latter would for an instant entertain the measure, he resorted to khutput, or private native diplomacy. A vakíl, or Government native agent, was therefore despatched to Bombay, armed with full powers to effect a private arrangement. An intriguing Parsí clerk in one of the public offices was soon found, with whom negotiations were opened by the administration of a heavy bribe. As no results followed, a second dose was given; but the agent was desired to forward some positive ocular proof that the bribe had been received and acknowledged by the two great influential members of Council, the Honourable Messrs. R—— and W——. The affording of this proof might well perplex an honest man than the Parsí negotiator, but it appears he proved himself equal to the occasion.

He at once named place and time—the place, a country house in a retired part of the Bombay woods, the time, an evening entertainment given to the great officials in question—at which the now rather suspicious agent of His Highness would have his doubts removed by an introduction to them, but, of course, under a strict *incognito*, and by receiving from them certain

specified signs which would satisfy him that "all was right." At the appointed hour the royal vakíl took up his position in a side room till the happy moment of the customary exhilaration of his English friends should afford an opportunity for introducing him. After a time, when champagne bumper toasts had done their work among the assembled guests, and the mirth had grown furious, the able Parsí diplomatist, compared with whom Talleyrand would have sunk into a cypher, introduced his somewhat nervous neophyte formally to the two great unknown, who with difficulty maintaining a respectful perpendicular, seized each a hand of the trembling ambassador, glared at him for a moment, and hiccoughing the appropriate name of "Asswant Rao Bahadur," slowly but effectively closed each an optic! Assured by his friend's now triumphant smile, H.H.'s vakíl was led rejoicing from the room; nor till he returned to his master and to immediate incarceration could he be convinced of his own folly, and of the infinite diplomatic resources of his Parsí friend and entertainers. The great members of Council were, it is said, ably represented by two European worthies, a clerk and a dismissed officer, the latter of

whom I had known well before his fall as an excellent amateur actor.

Tired at length of the never-ending discussions on political matters, in which I took but little interest, and anxious for something more active, I received at length, by private application through my friend Outram, an order to join him in the Southern Kánkán. I gladly complied with this order, and rejoiced to find myself once more under his orders. Outram was then engaged in the pacification of that lately-disturbed district. The heat was intense, and excitement and amusement were rare. My old friends the tigers, not to molest whom I had, since the Púrandhar affair, rashly pledged myself, were by general report abundant; and as sitting up for these at night in a machán with a dead animal in front did not come under the infraction of my promise "not to hunt them again," ten at night saw me comfortably perched in a tree over a nullah, with a bleating goat, a case of cigars, and a bright moon, my first attempt, be it observed, by night at the *fera*, though I owned the soft impeachment of having twice before so tried the *fauna*, with, however, indifferent success.

There was a duffadar with me who rejoiced

in the name Khoda Baksh Khán, whose shooting proclivities were uncontrollable, and who begged hard to be permitted to share my midnight vigil.

Ensconced, then, on our rather shaky eyrie, some fifteen feet from the ground, hour after hour passed undisturbed except by the bleatings of the wretched goat; and both of us, rather tired, were—at least I can speak for one—inwardly resolving never to submit to so weary and asinine an experiment a second time, when my companion suddenly pointed to an approaching dark object and whispered “Bágh!” The moonlight was clear as day, and the animal’s somewhat erratic movements as he occasionally diverged to the right and left and stopped in his course, at once assured me it was at all events no tiger, as its size, moreover, clearly indicated. The object was at this time about fifty yards from our perch when I fired both barrels of my rifle into it. With a prolonged gurgling grunt it quietly subsided.

“That,” said I to my excited henchman, “is no tiger, as I told you, but a bear, or some other animal—and,” a suspicion crossing my mind as we were descending to examine our game—“and, should it prove something unclean, remember that

you, Khoda Baksh, have assisted in killing it.” We now advanced to the spot, and to my Muhammadan companion’s horror and disgust, and I must add to my own secret satisfaction, an enormous pig lay in the sleep of death. “This,” said I to my companion, who, although an orthodox follower of the Prophet, like all good sportsmen of whatever creed, relished a joke as well as a good dinner, “will be a nice story when it gets to the risálah (corps of cavalry) that you sat up all night with me to kill the ‘vile beast’ for our supper.” “Ah, my lord,” observed he with a laugh, “they wouldn’t believe it, and you know we need not say anything about it.” But long afterwards, when he entered my compound on his sturdy Afghan yabú, with an antelope swung under its belly from a shooting excursion, I would call out “Shábúsh, Khoda Baksh, have you got another Kánkanny antelope there?” At which, as in duty bound, he would shake his rotund corporation with laughter.

The rains were now approaching, and all appeared settled down, the late insurgents having taken refuge in the Portuguese territory of Goa, where they had received terms of amnesty from our Government. The force under Outram was

dissolved, and I made my way by forced marches to head-quarters. On arrival I received an order transferring me to the command of the new levy of the Púnah Horse in Khándésh which had lately been stationed in that province. In a few days my preparations were made, and notwithstanding the heavy downpour of the monsoon, I reached Malligám, and once more settled down with my belongings about me. A few days' rest and duty, and curiosity impelled me to ride over to Ahúliah, the head-quarters of the civil authorities, and take a look at the scene of my early career, where as Outram's adjutant twenty years before I had passed the many happy days of my youth. How changed was everything, except the surgeon ; not a European in the place, houses out of repair, gardens run into jungle, and of the ten or twelve that formed our society none but Outram and myself in the land of the living !

Just at this time I had commenced some alterations in my house, and whilst the masons were at work at the interior, I had entered to observe what was doing. I saw the master workman mounted on a ladder, and noticing three or four pea-sized pieces of linen adhering to his naked legs, I asked why he had applied the caustic.

“Oh,” said he calmly, “a week or ten days since a mad dog in the bazar bit two or three of us, and I have put these rags on as a cure.” “But,” I observed, “how do you know the dog was mad?” “Because the dog was quite mad, and they killed it, and one of those he bit has since died.” Cool, thought I. This man, however, worked many weeks afterwards without any symptoms of the disease.

I had now been seven years in the house, but it is not my intention to bore the reader with private matters or considerations, when I can possibly avoid uninteresting details which concern none but myself. It will suffice to say that I was surprised one morning to receive the offer of a lucrative appointment in Sindh. Repugnant as it was to my inclination to accept it, I had at first determined to decline the honour, but kind friends—by reminding me of the money consideration, of doubling my salary, and that “I had now others to think for”—finally persuaded me to accept it. As, moreover, the hitherto stringent rules of the service were to be passed over in my favour, I was bound to acknowledge the offer as a compliment.

My experience of the Sindh province, which

at this time had been "annexed" some four or five years, amounted to little or nothing. I had, shortly after joining the horse, left it temporarily to serve with my regiment, the 1st Fusiliers—at that time forming part of a large force of fifteen thousand men and fifty guns under Sir C. Napier—which was marching rapidly in the Panjáb direction to recover, if possible, our prestige shaken by the disasters of the action at Firózshahr, where a blunder nearly annihilated one gallant regiment, and the misconduct of another rendered it doubtful whether we or the Sikhs were to be the masters, not of the Panjáb, but of India. Whatever might be the opinion of many amongst us as to our leader's political relations with the late unfortunate Amírs of Sindh, with whom the "amicable" stage was the prelude of downfall, there is little doubt that on this occasion every man of the force confided implicitly in his capability to lead them to victory.

Putting aside the patriotic rejoicing we may have indulged in on our arrival at Sukkhar, on the Indus, after a harassing march of three hundred and fifty miles, at the announcement of the crowning defeat of the Sikhs at Sobraon, I can distinctly declare that a feeling of profound disap-

pointment pervaded us all on hearing that our further advance "for the recovery of India" was rendered unnecessary.

I cannot say my impression of the province of Sindh was altogether favourable. Whilst it bears a strong similarity in general geographical points to Egypt, yet, neither in extent, nor in productiveness, nor in climate can it hope to rival that wonderful land of the Pharaohs, over which the associations of so many centuries must ever continue to cast the mysterious halo of a never-dying interest. The favoured cognomen therefore of "Young Egypt," so fondly bestowed upon Sindh by its conqueror and his admirers, and the less flattering surname, "Refuge for the destitute," given to it by those who regarded it with less affection, may afford, between the extremes, a *juste milieu* to guide the stranger. The three divisions of the province, Upper, Middle, and Lower Sindh, are marked along the valley of the Indus, the first by great cereal productiveness and intense heat during the summer months; the second by average crops and an endurable climate; and the third or sea-board by a tolerable climate but nearly total absence of vegetation.

It must be borne in mind that in a tropical climate such as India, cultivation, to any great extent, would be impossible by irrigation alone, whether by river or well. It is to the genial influence of the periodical rains extending over a period of three months, with a clouded sky teeming with moisture, and a hot sun, that is due the wonderful extent of fertility, comprising nearly every known cereal, which spreads its green mantle over countless acres of the Peninsula of India. It is due, on the other hand, to the absence of the periodical downfall in Sindh, that not alone cultivation but vegetation is strictly confined to the Indus valley and its neighbourhood, to which the irrigatory canals extend. But it is a curious fact, that the rainfall, which previous to our occupation had not for fifty years exceeded annually three or four inches, has for the last twelve or fourteen years trebled that quantity, especially in Lower Sindh, and thousands of acres around Karáchí, which I remember as a howling wilderness, are now, I am told, grassy savannahs.

For myself, I had soon an opportunity of renewing my impressions of the province at an early period, when bidding adieu to the kind

friends I had made, and to the men of the risálah with whom I had served so many years, I once more prepared myself for a change of quarters. I may here mention that about this period occurred the festival of the Jathrah, when I was for the first time a witness to the self-inflicted torture of the swinging hook.

On the centre of a common bullock cart, of course without springs, a strong elastic bamboo pole, some fifteen or sixteen feet in length, was made fast. To the upper extremity of this pole was attached a stout cord of six or eight feet in length, terminating in a pair of three-inch iron hooks back to back. The rod was then lowered sufficiently to allow the hooks to be inserted in the muscles of the vertebræ, one on either side, between the shoulder blades of the devotee, a slight Brahmin woman about thirty years of age. The incision for the hooks being first made, the hooks were passed under the muscles, their points appearing above the skin. The pole was then raised, and the woman, with her usual clothing on, swung in the air. Except an occasional invocation to one of the Hindu deities, she uttered not a word, nor gave any expression of pain.

The cart had now to travel a distance of

at least two miles to a small temple on the river bank. The track lay over a rocky hill, and at each jolt of the cart, the poor creature jumped and swayed about at the end of this giant fishing rod, face downward, the muscles starting out at each rebound three inches from her back. I should have thought it was agonizing, but she gave no cry of pain, and her face was quite calm. She must have been two or three hours so suspended. An American missionary, who was present, urged me, as a magistrate, to interfere. But as a matter in the jurisdiction of the civil authorities, I declined, of course, to do so ; and moreover, as a voluntary religious rite, in which no force was employed, prevention on my part would, I consider, have been quite unjustifiable.

A few days found me on the road to the Presidency. On a bright moonlight morning, about two o'clock, I had, towards the termination of my journey on the second day, dispatched a bullock cart in advance to the next rest bungalow, escorted by my orderly sowar, and was leisurely following on horseback, when I observed in the moonlight road in advance of me some dark object on the ground. On arriving at the

spot and dismounting, I found the man lying motionless and his horse gone. He said his horse had fallen and that he could not rise. In lifting him up to put him on his legs I observed the *heel* of one of his jack boots *in front*. Accustomed as I was to seeing things a little out of place, I confess I was rather taken back to find myself at midnight, in the midst of the jungle, far removed from assistance, with this poor fellow completely helpless with his thigh fractured. Placing the man on the roadside, I remounted and galloped off to look for a village. Luckily I soon found one, of some dozen huts. Rousing out a couple of men I had the sowar conveyed into a hut and placed on the floor. With his sword I cut down a large bamboo, a tree which grew here in abundance, and slicing it into splints, set the fracture, and binding the splints with the man's turban, I gave him in charge to one of the villagers, and with a promise of the usual galvanic agent that never fails, to let the patient want for nothing, I rode on. Strange to say, I had my mind relieved by finding, at the next rest-house a detachment with a doctor in charge, and to his care I consigned the sowar. The day following I was rejoiced to receive a note of assurance

from the surgeon that he found it unnecessary to remove the dressing, so ably had I doctored him. Finally, in a month, he was in the saddle again. Six months afterwards, when passing up with the expedition to Múltán, I had the satisfaction of seeing my patient, as well as ever, when he came to pay his respects to me at Karáchí.

I have mentioned these cases of torture and suffering as indicative of the patience and resignation with which the natives of India submit to painful operations, and the rapidity with which they recover from wounds or fractures without any assistance, except that of Nature, aided doubtless by the simple and unexciting nature of their diet.

CHAPTER XV.

Proceed to Sindh.—Napierian Paradise.—Expensive Revenue.
 —Irretrievable Drawbacks of Sindh.—Young Woman
 with Beard.—Muggur Peer, or Alligator Swamp.—Pri-
 mitive Method of Fishing for Pullah.—Shikargarhs.—
 Tragic Incident.—Wild-fowl Shooting.—Mountain Sheep.

HAVING completed my arrangements at Bombay, and received the necessary instructions as to my duties, which I found were to extend over the entire province of Sindh, though my permanent head-quarters were established at the port of Karáchí, I found myself, early in June, landed again in that, at one period during Sir C. Napier's reign, much dreaded shore, and from which, at that period, like Dante's "Inferno," there was held "to be no return."

The port of Karáchí, as it was then, bore an aspect quite unlike that which it bears now. You landed in mud, you nosed mephetic mud,

and all around you was caked mud. The *splendid pier* that ran into the harbour, the *beautiful avenue* of trees that lined the *magnificent road* extending for two miles to the cantonment—where were they? Echo answered, where? Such were the glowing terms in which my enthusiastic friend from Sindh, when in Bombay, fondly described Napierville, the city of magnificent distances, its public gardens radiant with flowers and teeming with vegetable produce, from the sale of which latter alone thousands of pounds had already been realized by Government. The manner of realization was this. The Governor and Commander-in-Chief in Sindh considered it necessary to keep up a force of five thousand men at Karáčí, the head-quarters, and no less than nine hundred bearers for the sick (a war equipment) were permanently entertained for this force at exorbitant wages; and as they had nothing to do, they were set to work to enclose an enormous space for a public garden, to dig wells, and to plant the garden, under a superintendent who with this expensive aid, and his knowledge of horticulture, for which he deserved every credit, soon formed an extensive oasis in the surrounding desert.

This completed, an order was issued by the Commander-in-Chief that a large proportion of vegetables was to be issued daily to the troops gratis; but the amount of the cost, fixed by the Governor himself, was to be charged against the Bombay Government, and a corresponding credit taken monthly by the issuing officer. It was this credit which, after the third year, was placed in an imaginary fund as seven thousand pounds in *cash*. There was, it is true, but one objection to thus showing that the gardens not alone paid its expenses but realized this fabulous sum, and that was—the Bombay Government refused to acknowledge such an unwarranted issue; therefore the debt, and consequently the saving of seven thousand pounds, was a myth. I am thus particular in the above detail, inasmuch as the same system was more or less applied, by the collectors in Sindh appointed by Sir C. Napier, to the grain produce of their districts, which was issued to the native troops at a fixed rate, to cavalry horses and thousands of Government cattle; the grain produce being all but unsaleable in the market. Exportation, of course, was out of the question, for India was running over with grain, and the countries to the westward of Sindh had

not a dollar for lead for their jazails, much less for such superfluities.

By the above ingenious process, and with no market, a handsome surplus revenue* was exhibited on paper, which satisfied the then Governor-General, who was the great sustaining power of Sindh and its belongings. Sir C. Napier, thus rendered independent of the Bombay Government, except in the rather important matter of pecuniary assistance, was under the protecting ægis of Lord Ellenborough, and was therefore enabled to plan and carry out many excellent schemes for the comfort and sanitary condition of the troops, and the general improvement of the province. He did this, however, with a reckless disregard to expense or to the proportion which the expenditure bore to the corresponding advantages.

There is no doubt that even as an economical measure, airy, well-constructed barracks are desirable, but there is a medium between such buildings and palatial residences costing each ten thousand pounds. The Bombay Government, from whose

* The larger the force the greater, naturally, was the revenue (on paper).

revenues these startling sums were defrayed, attempted a feeble remonstrance. This, however, was at once nipped in the bud by the modern Cæsar who now rode rampant over the province. The day of reckoning, however, came at last; the protecting power, Lord Ellenborough, was removed, and his Lieutenant found his seat too warm to be pleasant, and followed his patron's example and left for Europe. When Sindh was again rendered a dependency of the Bombay Government, a scrutinizing examination of the different departments of disbursement; a revision of the Code Napierian was at once entered upon; and I was one of those employed on the former not over-pleasant task. First Mr. Pringle, and then Mr. Bartle Frere,* a young civilian of great promise, was appointed Commissioner of the province, and under the latter's able and energetic administration it soon began to realize the promise of its past, that is, to become the great transit line for the North West Provinces and shipping port for Europe.

I observed here an extraordinary *lusus naturæ*. Captain V—— and I were seated in the

* Now the Right Honourable Sir Bartle Frere, Bart., G.C.B.

verandah of my house one morning after our walk, when a person, apparently a young Sindh native, entered the gate some fifty yards distant from where we were, and went in the direction of the servants' out-houses. At that distance the individual looked like a young man or woman, dressed in the usual blue robe up to the throat, hair parted on each side of the face, and, as I thought at the distance, a *black cloth* tied under the chin, a common practice with natives early in the morning. I remarked, "What could that woman want?" "Woman," replied my companion derisively, "a woman with a beard!" I rejoined, "It's a woman with a cloth round her face." We now called out "Come here;" and the individual came close to us and presented to our wondering eyes a young, good-looking person, hair parted on each side, a dark line of whisker beginning in front of the ears, and the *entire space from lips to chin* covered with a mass of short curly black beard, as thick as the bristles on a blacking-brush, in fact, such as you seldom see for denseness and luxuriance except in southern men of thirty or forty years of age.

We enquired, "Who are you?" "The wife of a goat-herd at Maggarpúr," a marsh abounding

with alligators. "What," we exclaimed, "a woman with a beard like that!" "Yes," she mildly answered, "Khoda ne diyá—God gave it me—and I have also two children." We now remarked the soft feminine expression of her face, her beard notwithstanding, and that, except her hirsute appendage, she was well formed, and with a good bust, so with a small present we sent her on her way rejoicing. She was known to several men at Karáchí, and Captain V——, who has since returned from India and is now residing near me, can testify that this was by no means an apochryphal apology for a beard, such as at times disfigures the features of ladies of a certain age in Europe, but one that would have done credit to a Persian "Sháh of Sháhs."

With the exception of a heavy shower of an hour's duration, once or twice in the year there was no rain; the saline particles inherent in the marly-looking soil cropped out over the surface, and nothing would grow unless the earth was thoroughly drenched with well-water. This was always done in the public gardens, where several wells, thought brakish, were worked night and day to irrigate and cleanse the soil. In the fourth year of my stay, however, a rainfall of

several inches took place, during the Indian periodical monsoon, and this has, I am informed, been well sustained ever since. There was a plain near the hills, some three or four miles distant, and bordering the sea-shore, over which I have ridden often in the vain hope of seeing something to shoot at; but there was not, on the surface of it, as much shelter from bush or grass as would have concealed a quail. But on the occasion I refer to the rain fell in torrents for two or three hours, and in six weeks, as far as the eye could reach, was one waving prairie of grass three feet in height, and literally swarming with quail and floriken! A party of four guns bagging two hundred and ten brace of the former in nine hours.

Of course I paid a visit to the alligator land, or rather marsh, at Maggarpúr. It is a small swamp, dotted with date trees, some four or five acres in extent, and supplied by several springs from the stone rock which is excavated into cisterns. In one of these resides an enormous father of alligators. The entire marsh is swarming with these reptiles, from the tender adolescent just chipped from the shell to the full grown juvenile of fifteen feet. The fakír of the place is at times presented

with a goat, or a piece of one, which he takes down to the edge of the swamp, and calling forth the saint's name, these hideous brutes wriggle their way towards him in hundreds, and lie around with expectant jaws till the coveted morsel is thrown to them, when a fearful *mélée* and snapping of jaws occur. When the "Wellesley" battleship was here, at the capture of Karáchí, a midshipman—it is presumed with his grog on board—ran across this marsh for a wager, using the backs of these brutes as stepping stones! However, it must have been a dangerous feat without even this last exaggeration. I endeavoured to capture a small one, of some two feet in length, but the little wretch bit so viciously I was glad to restore him to his native mud.

These animals are said to be imported; at all events the Indus reptile is a distinctly different species, with a long slender snout, and goes by the name of guriál, whereas these are the common broad-snouted alligator, or maggar, which frequents all the larger Indian rivers. There is certainly no water communication between this place and Karáchí, about eight miles distant, but on more than one occasion of rain flood at the latter place alligators were found promenading

in the public gardens bordering the nullah of the town. While steaming up the Indus I have repeatedly seen the guriál, or long-snouted alligator, with a fish transversely held in his jaws, doubtless fully appreciating the exquisite morsel he was about to swallow. This delicious fish, the pullah, has been compared to the salmon, but it is as unlike it as it possibly can be, both in flavour and form. It is somewhat oily and full of bones, of carp-like shape, and about four or five pounds in weight.

This fish is captured with very primitive implements. A man enters the river, his chest resting on the wide mouth of a large, flat, circular, earthen jar, of some two feet in diameter, holding an eight-foot pole, terminated by a small circular net closing by a string. He lies on the pot-head up stream with the net held below him, and on feeling a fish strike the net, he closes it, and raising it deposits his prey in the jar, and slowly drifts down till he feels another. I have never seen them capture any fish but the pullah in this way.

The harassing and increasing work entailed upon me by my appointment, seldom allowed me for the first year or two a moment's leisure to

indulge in my sporting proclivities. I did, nevertheless, occasionally, when up the river on duty, snatch a day for gunning purposes. There is, however, no large game in the woods of Lower Sindh, except the para, a rough-coated deer about the size of our fallow deer. These woods, however, or shikargahs, as they are termed, are formed of the large mimosa, and generally contain long ponds or sheets of water swarming with geese, ducks, and other aquatics. They were so jealously restricted to the use of the Amírs that in their days poaching was punished by death. One of these forests was the scene of a fearful tragedy during Sir J. Keane's march to Afghánistán, two officers of the 2nd, Lancers whilst on a shooting excursion in one of them, having been burned to death by the forest catching fire. Their charred remains and their gun-barrels were alone left to tell the tale.

The wild mountain sheep is found in the range of hills that divide the valley from Bilúchistán, but the knowledge of their whereabouts is strictly reserved by one or two of the police officials. The sport, however, unless indeed difficulty adds incentive, is not encouraging, the mountains in which it is found exhibiting the most barren and

rocky aspect, and the scarcity of water presenting an insuperable obstacle to a continued pursuit. I but once, and then unsuccessfully, went out after these animals, and twice saw a herd, but the ram, who always appeared to act as sentinel, never allowed us a chance. Except that the hair is woolly, this animal appears to resemble rather a goat than a sheep. With the exception of the low lands on the Arabian shore of the Red Sea, I never beheld such heaven-deserted scenery as is exhibited by some of these mountain defiles in the lower range of the Bilúchistán hills.

CHAPTER XVI.

Field of Miáni.—Remarks on the Action.—Critical Position of Sir C. Napier.—Our first Introduction of Criminal Jurisdiction.—Pleasant Disposal of Witnesses.—Diseases of Sindh.—Cholera Pestilence at Karáchí.—The Beauty of Jarrak.—Fish Shooting.—Native Lithotomist.—Public School Instruction in former Days.

As a matter of course I paid a visit to the field of Miáni, where the fate of Sindh was decided, for at the subsequent action of Dabbah the enemy made no stand. Sir C. Napier was wending his way in the direction of the Haidarábád capital, and was within six miles of it, when he encountered the Sindh force composed principally of Bilúchís. At this eventful time our force of about five thousand men was in line of march along the banks of the Fallálí nullah which covered the left flank of our column. In our front, and on our right, lay a thick wood or hunting pre-

serve, the mud wall enclosure of which crossed the line of march. When Sir C. Napier's column opened on the clear level plain on his left, and saw in the distance the towers of Haidar-ábád, the enemy massed under the bank of the Fallálí on the left front of his advance, and the wall of the preserve lined with the enemy's marksmen directly across his path, he halted his column of march and wheeled into line on his left to face the river bank, under which lay the mass of the foe. To do this of course the right flank of his new line was resting on the loopholed wall of the aforesaid preserve, lined with the enemy. The Grenadier company of H.M.'s 22nd Regiment, which led the column when wheeled into line, rested therefore, or rather—for it was an ugly resting-place—was flanked by this wall, and this wall was unfortunately covered by a narrow trench. Of course the Bilúchís from this vantage ground shot down the rear and right of our line, whilst that portion of the enemy who fronted the 22nd discharged their matchlocks over the bank under which they lay within fifty yards of our men. Sir C. Napier first stopped the wall gap on his right by wheeling up the Grenadier company, but in the operation

half of them, with their captain, were killed and wounded.

The other regiments as they came up were formed into an echelon of regiments in line, the 22nd being the right advanced regiment of this echelon, and the native Grenadiers the left; in the intermediate space were the 12th and 25th N.I. Finding that the enemy on his front and right were cutting down his men fearfully, Sir Charles moved the 12th and 25th up to the front, facing the fatal nullah, to relieve the 22nd. This was done with difficulty, for the fire was withering and the sepoys staggered under it; it was, moreover, effected with heavy loss of officers killed by the Bilúchí swordsmen, who, seeing the troops were natives, rushed out at them sword in hand. All behaved well in this severe fight, if we except the left regiment of the echelon, whose commander—from some blunder, or worse—failed to bring his men up to the front of fire.

Our feeble line was at this time getting thin and frail, when an inspired artillery officer, seeing a slight natural buttress of the river bank projecting some twenty feet, ran down a couple of field-guns upon it, turned their muzzles right and left, and swept the foe massed under the

bank with grape. Half a dozen rounds forced them to flee in disorder, and the battle of Miání was won.

It may be readily supposed that on, and long after, our possession of Sindh, the machinery of justice in the civil courts did not work very readily under soldier administration. In criminal cases it was next to impossible to procure witnesses, and when they were secured, they ran off, if not watched, to their homes. On one occasion an important witness, that his evidence might be made sure of, was placed in the stocks. Six months afterwards a gentleman landing from a steamer saw a man in the stocks, in a nice airy spot on the river bank, and inquired of the placid stranger for what offence he was suffering. "Oh, none," was the reply; "I am only a witness, and have been here six months, but my case has not come on yet!" Capital offences are rare amongst these people, and unless under the influence of jealousy, murder is seldom committed. The women are said to be of loose moral texture, and are, especially in Upper Sindh, a tall, fine-formed race. At Jarrak, one of the wooding stations for steamers, and a considerable town, I saw the most gigantic *termites* mounds, or white ant habi-

tations, and the handsomest men and women I had seen in India; the former, though with fine features, are, however, effeminate in appearance.

On the whole I greatly enjoyed my trip up the river, and during the cold months, as they are termed, from November to April, no climate can be more delightful and enjoyable than that of Upper Sindh. The English larks, or at least a good edition of them, rising in song from the clover fields, reminded me very much of our very dear native land. But then comes the dreaded hot season, when an underground residence is the only place in which a man can endure even his skin upon him.

The fevers of Upper Sindh are the most frequent and most dangerous form of disease known in the province. Cholera is not a frequent visitor, but when it appears, as in Karáchí in 1846, it assumes the most virulent form, and its ravages are fearful, far exceeding in intensity those I have so often witnessed in India proper. On a Sunday morning of the above year, on the approach of the hot season at that station, all were well and healthy. A small lurid cloud was observed over the Bilúch hills, the surgeon was called out from church, and by twelve that night a

hundred cholera patients were in hospital; it lasted a week, and entombed seven hundred Europeans, the last victim being John Napier, Sir C. Napier's nephew.

My shooting desire becoming uncontrollable, I determined to dedicate a day or two to Diana, and commenced operations by getting into a boat on the lake near Jarrak. Whilst we were waiting for the Sindhian who was to undertake the punting, the old fellow's wife came down to the water-side, and, I suppose, offered to take an oar, for which she clearly got well snubbed. She then walked off to a short distance and stood eyeing myself and servants wistfully, her white teeth gleaming in the sunlight. She was as fine and tall a specimen of girlhood as ever I saw, and her form was as lithe and undulating as a panther's. I could not resist, as the boat was launching in, sending this dirty darling a rupee by my gun-bearer; but old Charon, arriving inopportunately, intercepted him and attempted to appropriate the coin. I interfered, however, and restored it to her. As we paddled off, and her owner's back was to the shore, she made an expressive salaam to us. I entertained the idea for some time of sending this Sindhian Hebe, as a delicate present,

a stout huckaback and a flask of "Johann Maria Farina's" best, as a remedy for the hydrophobia she was suffering from, but feared old Charon's appropriation of the latter for his inner man.

There were some grey geese on a spit of sand at a long range; they had evidently been disturbed and were unapproachably wild. I commenced operations, however, by firing my rifle at them, and perforated two of them. With these and half a dozen ducks I relanded, and crossing the river in the evening wandered through a small preserve, in which was a piece of water. I came upon an immense fish, a marrl, or a close resemblance to it, fast asleep, or basking on the surface, and killed it with a ball, which had only, however, just grazed its side. This fish turned the scale at ten pounds, but was worthless as an edible. Fish-shooting was a favourite amusement with some of our officers at Púnah, where some deep pools at the Sangam, or junction of the Mútu and Múlu rivers at that place, afford good opportunities of trying one's skill at the large fish which bask during the day near the surface. They were usually killed or stunned without the ball penetrating, by the mere concussion of the water.

On this occasion, when I was up the river, I saw a shikárí stalking a deer. I had often before been surprised at the success of these men, considering the matchlock and ill-fitting balls they use; but the mystery was explained in this case by his stealthy approach, by which he managed to get within thirty yards of the animal, and even then made a palpable miss. There is no doubt that, in a few years more, access to the deepest jungles will be opened up by railways, and then, what with the superiority of fire-arms, the larger game in India, except, perhaps, in the deepest recesses of the Himalayas and other mountain ranges, will become pretty nearly extinct.

The story I am about to relate is not, it is true, a shooting anecdote, but as it occurred when Dr. J. S——r, another and myself were engaged in a shooting excursion a few miles from Sirúr, my former head-quarters with the Púnah Horse, I will venture to relate it for the benefit of future surgeons. We were towards evening preparing for shooting, when a poor-looking native passed along the road in front of my tent, and stopped to speak to one of the servants. He had a small bag over his shoulder, "that rattled as he went." I asked him who he was. He replied, "A

native doctor." Inquiring whither he was going, and what he cured, "Oh," said he, "I cut out stones from the bladder." In my younger days having occasionally read the "Lancet," I knew what this meant. "Cut out stones?" I observed; "why who would be such a father of asses as to let you do so?" "Oh," said he, "plenty in the villages let me cut them, and here,"—unslinging his wallet that clattered on the ground—"here are what I have taken out," exhibiting more than a dozen indurated specimens from the size of a nutmeg to that of a pigeon's egg. "Hillo, S——r," I called out, "come here; why here is a lithotomist that you can't hold a candle to." On S——r's approach he examined the stones and pronounced them genuine bladder stones. "I have heard of this man before," observed Dr. S——r, "and I quite believe his story." The man then described the mode of operation, and exhibited a common sixpenny one-bladed pen-knife. "This," said he, "I cut with; and this"—extending a dirty index finger—"is what I pull them out with!" "Well but," we inquired, "how many have you operated on, and what did they pay you?" "About twenty, and they gave me from eight annas to two rupees."

I make no comment, but give his exact words as nearly as I remember them. I forgot to add we asked also how many he had killed ; he said only two, and that they were old men.

In my younger days it was tantamount to treason to question, much less to attempt reform in, any old institution. There were always some grey-haired, solemn-visaged, old humbugs who were ever ready to put on armour at any deprecatory allusion to things English, especially of home manufacture, under patrician countenance and protection. To come home from a public school, and to acknowledge you had been taught nothing that was useful, was certain, in those days, to fix the eyes of some Major Pendennis upon you, who would calmly and unanswerably observe, "that might be; but, by Gad, they were always gentlemen!" I have somewhat diverged from my subject, or object, which was to remark how often and bitterly have I had to lament my want, in India, of even rudimentary instruction in chemistry, geology, and botany. Sindh offers many attractions to the geologist, and on one occasion, in the Bilúch hills, in some quartz that cropped out, I had reason to believe in the presence of gold. On another, when seated on

a firm sandy soil and listlessly digging in the sand, I extracted two or three tubes, from eight to twelve inches in length, about the thickness of a finger, which apparently sprung upwards from some substance below. They were most curious in appearance, and seemed to be formed of feldspar, or as if lightning had entered the sand and had fused it in its passage downwards. I sent some specimens to the Bombay Geographical Society, but they were unable to pronounce as to what they were, or how they were caused.

CHAPTER XVII.

A Mad Jackal in Bed-chamber.—Melancholy Case of Hydrophobia in an Officer.—Reprehensible Practice of Dogspearing.—British Assumption and Rudeness.—Burying alive.—Extraordinary and attested Fact.—Successful Theatricals.—Danger of Moustachios.—Long-hoped-for Rain.—Loss of Engineer Offices.—Sir C. Napier's Suggestions.—Mode of providing Barracks.

ON my return to Karáchí after this little excursion, the weather after some weeks becoming very warm and oppressive, I was one morning just preparing for my bath when a servant informed me that a jackal was in the child's room, under the drawers. My bungalow being in the staff lines, beyond which lay the open country, I had often heard these animals at night yelling forth their announcement—

Here is a dead Hindú-ú !
Where ? where ? where ?
Here ! here ! here !

but had never seen them in my rambles, and was certainly somewhat unprepared for a domiciliary visit in daylight. Taking a loaded air cane I entered the room, found the beast curled up under the drawers, and quickly dispatched him. These animals are, like all the canine kind, subject to rabies, and doubtless this one deprived, whilst labouring under the disease, of all guiding instinct, had made his way to where I killed him. For the jackal to become mad is nothing very uncommon; in this case, however, the animal might have inflicted fearful injury, as they transmit the disease by a bite as dogs do. Death from the bite of a poisonous snake, where the venom conveyed into the wound causes almost immediate lethargy and loss of life, we can all understand; but that the virus so conveyed into the human system from the tooth of a dog or its congenors whilst in a state of rabies, should possess the property of lying inert for many months ere it develops its deadly mission, is certainly mysterious and appalling.

A most melancholy case of this horrible malady occurred a few years previously. Three officers of the cavalry, a Doctor M—— amongst the number, whilst on a shooting excursion near a

village where their tents were pitched, had been indulging in that most cruel of amusements—spearing pariah dogs. After having killed several, they were smoking their cigars in front of their tents, when a dog that had unperceived escaped from the party into one of the tents some hours before, suddenly ran out from his concealment, and, ere the doctor could prevent him, bit him in the leg. Incision and caustic were applied, and it was hoped by all but the sufferer that nothing was to be feared. Two months afterwards, on the line of march with his regiment, on crossing a stream he complained of an unpleasant sensation in his throat, and at the next watering halt determined to put his symptoms to the test. He attempted to swallow some water, but the usual fearful muscular convulsions followed, and he rapidly sank into death—a just retribution, as some failed not to call it, but one which on this reasoning might have fatally influenced half the young griffins of India, myself amongst the number. Some years after, this pastime was, I grieve to say, the daily amusement, for several weeks, of the bearded officers of a regiment at Cairo which I was escorting, as a staff officer, to the Crimea. The recollection of it

after their departure, incited the mongrel population of that city—whose guests we were—to the most unqualified expressions of disgust and indignation. But it is of no use talking,

“Britons never, never will be slaves!”

I have been in every part of the world, America included, and I can calmly and conscientiously declare that nowhere people so misbehave themselves, are so insolent, overbearing, and intolerable as are my dear Saxon countrymen of a certain class, out of their own country. The following little anecdote I am assured is undoubtedly true. During the Crimean War, a French three-decker and two other of their ships of war were lying off Smyrna, when an English line-of-battle ship and a frigate sailed or steamed in, and as they passed under the stern of the Frenchman, the latter acknowledged her ally by the usual courteous recognition followed by her band playing “God save the Queen.” Well, what do you think Johnny did—returned the compliment with “*Partant pour la Syrie*,” probably? He did nothing of the kind, but very politely cemented the *entente cordiale* by giving “Rule Britannia,” accompanied by a crashing accompaniment in his

best style. One more and I have done for the present.

I was on board one of the P. and O. boats running between Alexandria and Marseilles, and made the acquaintance of an American gentleman who had served in an American line regiment, but who, in consequence of his slow promotion, had retired and engaged in the China trade. He was a Westpoint *élève*, and a clever intelligent gentleman, as those from that institution invariably are. At dinner in the saloon he sat on the Captain's left, and I opposite. The commander was observing that after all there was nothing like English dinners and English food. Captain E—— of the U.S.A., which, by the way, was marked on all his luggage, admitted that English living was good, but thought that the Americans could claim some good dishes. "Americans," exclaimed the commander, "are hogs! and know nothing of living." I stared and others laughed at this elegant and gentlemanly rejoinder. Captain E——, calmly looking the ship-captain in the face, said, "Sir, you knew I was an American; at all events, you shall know it now. What you said regarding my countrymen is untrue, and a scandalous falsehood." The commander got

rather red and warm, and turning to me, asked if that was language to be addressed to him at the head of his own table. "Pray don't appeal to me," I replied, "you deserve all you have got." "You are not, Sir, at your own table," observed the American, "but at a public table at which all nations sit; but if you are not satisfied you can have any redress you demand." I saw the Captain on the deck after this; he looked sulky and miserable, and though angered at his conduct, I rather felt for the burly monster. The American next day asked him to take wine, and he took it. But to return to Kará chí.

I met one evening a lean, miserable sample of humanity who said he came from Kashmír, which was at the time I speak of little known. He claimed to be a mason, and was on his way to Persia, where he said he had been invited to display his sanctity and supernatural powers; and an intelligent Parsí in the cantonments declared he had the power of remaining dead for weeks and returning to life. On inquiry, however, he modestly disclaimed this, but said he could "lie asleep," without food for fifteen days. I did not, however, test this at times very convenient faculty, as he shortly after left the place.

Probably he could achieve a trance for that length of time, for of this power there have been many instances. I cannot remember the exact volume of the "Asiatic Researches," but an extraordinary case was reported to the Indian Government by an Engineer officer, as occurring in the presence of himself and another officer that accompanied him in 182- to the court of Ranjit Singh, and is, I believe, a well-attested fact.

The lion of Panjáb was, as is known, always desirous, whilst taking the precaution "of keeping his powder dry," of cultivating amicable relations with the British. Some officers of that nation having heard of the extraordinary performances of a fakír or devotee in the trance line, and expressing a desire to witness them, Ranjit sent for the man. The man, on arrival, though apparently unwilling to undergo the ordeal of death and burial, had of course no option when commanded to exhibit by "one who would stand no nonsense." The individual in question, who is stated to have been of middle age and spare habit of body, prepared himself by ablution, was then enveloped in a light warm cloth, his tongue drawn back to the gullet, and laid on his back on a hard litter with a

mat under him. During the time he was thus preparing, finely cut slabs of stone were made ready, and flooring laid on which he was deposited; he was then hermetically built in with solid masonry, in fact entombed, for his earnest desire was complied with, that no opening, however minute, should exist, so as to exclude his only fear, "the ants getting at him." The instructions for recovery were simply administering a cupful of warm milk.

The tomb of masonry being thus completed, bands of tape were bound over it, and sealed with the Rajput's signet, which was handed to the officers. The man lay in this condition for six weeks, at the expiration of which the relaters were present at the breaking of the seals and opening of the tomb. The body was found in the same position as when deposited, but rather emaciated. The man's tongue was replaced in its normal position, warm milk was poured in small quantities down his throat, and in an hour he revived. The above is in the form of an official report to Government, and although a surprising fact, is not, I believe, an impossibility. Cases of trance are related as having occurred in France, where the period of apparent insensibility

was prolonged for as many months ; but the most extraordinary feature in the case now related is the entombment with its presumed total exclusion of air.

We had a good theatre at the station, and on the arrival of a most deservedly popular regiment, H.M's —th, some most creditable theatricals were got up. There were, amongst the officers and men, some excellent amateurs and really good fellows. My old regiment was, of course, on all occasions the medium of introduction to the hospitalities of a station in which, as Sir Thomas McMahon termed it, a "Ryal Rigmint" was quartered. In my earlier days I had been acquainted with many of those regiments, but never with one which combined so well all the desirable qualities as did Her Majesty's —th Regiment, in every grade, from the Colonel to the private soldier.

In my younger days I had occasionally taken a part in theatricals, when the more important duties of the chase permitted, but to toil all day from five in the morning till sunset, most of that time exposed to a burning sun, and then to attend a play or rehearsal was too great a tax on my physical powers. I never, however,

refused my aid, as I consider every officer who has any aptitude for such amusements is bound to help, as a point of duty to his men, inasmuch as this and other pastimes assist in keeping him from poisoning himself with drink, as he will do in a tropical climate if left to himself. I, as I have already stated, and as my inclinations led, preferred guns and open air amusements, and once a week took out some men of my company that way inclined, and I have no hesitation in saying that I benefited them more physically and mentally than either the parson or the priest.

On one occasion the standard farce of the "Mayor of Garrett" concluded our performances, and a tall good-looking Irishman filled the *rôle* of the gallant train band Major, with a pair of corked moustaches which he would wear, whilst there officiated as Mrs. Bruin, a respectable young widow of a warrant officer, who, besides, "performing well," was too good-looking to be safe. Paddy M—— on the eventful night came in, after some delay in the summer-house scene, having left on Mrs. Bruin's upper lip unmistakable proofs of close acting. Rounds of laughter greeted the lady, when Paddy gallantly stepped to her aid, and

coolly tendering his handkerchief to obliterate the tell-tale marks, observed with a rich brogue, "Well, no one, my dear Mrs. B——, can object to a good rehearsal of our parts before we come on. Sure some of my cork may have dropt on ye." And long after, "sure some of my cork may have dropt on ye," went the rounds of the cantonments.

When at Púnah some years before, there was a story in circulation as having occurred at Sir T. McMahon's table when the introduction of some quail immediately in front of the gallant Milesian elicited the following dialogue between him and his English butler :

"Harrison, them snipes stink, take 'em away."

"Sir Thomas, those are quail, and not snipe; they are not high, and will therefore remain."

On my first arrival at Karáchi the —th were in quarters, in temporary command of their Major; their officers were a little wild, as riflemen are inclined to be, but especially nice fellows. A captain of another regiment with a very pretty wife, and who from a long residence in India considered himself to be quite conversant with the manners and domestic habits of the natives, was seated next to a witty young officer of tirailleurs who had

but lately joined, and was gravely and rather pompously inducting his young acquaintance into the rigid ceremony observed by all nations of distinction on entering even their own harems, or women's apartment, a thing, said S——, which is never done without announcement, although the husband may see a man's slippers at the door !

“The deuce,” exclaimed young F——d, “you don't say so ? I say old fellow,” to S——, “by Jove, just fancy your face at getting home and finding my ‘Wellingtons’ at your door !”

This, although *un peu trop fort*, was, I grieve to say, greeted with shouts—but it arrested all further lectures on “domestic habits.”

I had now completed four years of drudgery, and had long hoped to witness one Sindh rainfall, and see the parched and arid soil around us, if not with a shade of green to relieve the eye, at least washed clean of the dust and nameless *débris* of years which sensibly announced their presence around cantonments. The clouds were lowering all round, but day succeeded day and not a drop from the apparently surcharged clouds fell to cheer us. At length, however, down it came, in the form at first of hail, accompanied by a gale of wind that lasted rather more than

an hour; it then gently subsided into steady rain.

During this gale, or rather thunder-storm, a coasting steamer with three Engineer officers on board was making its way from Bombay to Karáchí, and when in sight of the port was caught by the storm and in an instant overwhelmed. Not a soul escaped. A small native craft of ten tons passed her safely into port and stated that during the hour's gale the steamer was within gun-shot of her, and in an instant had disappeared. She was an iron boat, under an incompetent captain seldom sober, but no one dared to remove him, or even attempt to do so, from a wholesome dread of that glorious palladium of British liberty, which throws its protecting ægis alike over the good man and the scoundrel, and often perverts the former into the latter.

This wretched commander's antecedents were well known, but an impoverished company placed him in command of the ill-fated steamer in consideration of the small salary he was content with, and, it is presumed, an unlimited supply of alcohol as compensation; at all events, to incompetency were sacrificed the lives of the entire

crew and those of three promising young officers at the very outset of their career.

As a matter of course the province teemed at this time with their hero's sayings and doings, and I heard one which, if not true, was at least *ben trovato*, and so characteristic of the man that I will relate it. When the fate of the Panjáb, after Chillianwallah, was still oscillating in the balance, the great Duke's dictum of "Napier, either you or I must take command of the army of India," once more placed him in supreme command, when commenced those unhappy bickerings with Lord Dalhousie, which terminated in the old chief's removal. "I wrote to him," said Sir Charles, "and asked for proper barracks for my soldiers, and his Lordship's answer was the finances of the country could not afford it. I answered, You, my Lord, draw twenty-five thousand rupees a month, and I draw—F——," turning to his secretary who was sitting in the tent—"how much do I get?" "Seventeen thousand rupees, Sir Charles." "Well, I told his Lordship, you get twenty-five thousand rupees, and I get seventeen thousand, now as there is no money for barracks, I propose each of us give up half of his salary for a year, and

between us we'll soon have the barracks! But," with a grim smile, and glancing over his specs, "I suppose my Lord didn't approve of the suggestion, for I got no reply."

CHAPTER XVIII.

Six Months' Leave.—Run through the Northern States and Canada West.—The cool Cabman.—Rapid Washing.—Our mistaken Standard for other Nations.—Mammoth Tree Chunk.—Hotel Manslaughter.—The Banker Colonel dismissed by his Regiment.—Lake Steamer.—The dull Chamber.—Advice to Gentleman Emigrants.—Niagara and its Pollution.—Young Kentucky.—Fearful Railroad Travelling.—Atlantic Storm.—Return to India.—Ordered to Egypt.

HAVING, as I hoped, restored the matters entrusted to my charge to a proper condition, and my health having lately suffered from a prolonged residence in India, combined with considerable exposure, and latterly from anxious and harassing duties, I availed myself of the earnest advice of my medical adviser, that I should divest myself of the responsibilities of office, and go home for a short period. I therefore applied for and obtained leave for six months, and arrived in England, and after

a short stay there for domestic greeting, I placed myself on board one of the Cunard boats for New York, with a £100 note and a carpet bag, bent on making the best of a two months' tour amongst "the people of that nation, that whops all creation."

I will at once relieve the reader by assuring him that I have not the remotest idea of inflicting upon him either the statistics or political position of democrat or republican, or to hint at that abomination of abominations that then existed in the south as our "domestic institootion," and which those acute humbugs of the north would have been the first to avail themselves of, had an almost tropical sun rendered the cultivation of their soil impracticable in any other manner.

My first introduction to New York and a new world occurred just fifteen minutes after I landed, when, taking my small portmanteau from a Paddy who had seized it and would not give it up till we entered Broadway. I jumped into a cab, and hearing that the New York Hotel was a quiet one, with least chance of manslaughter, I drove to it, and thinking to be generous, offered the driver two shillings for the half mile he had

conveyed me. "No," said he, "I want a dollar!" Too old a soldier to appear astonished, or to enter into a dispute in a new country, I merely observed, "I'll not give it you." "Oh yes you will," calmly replied Jehu, flicking the flies that swarmed in the portico with his whip. Suppressing my indignation, I went at once to the factotum in the hall, and laid my case before him. "Sir," said he civilly, "I'll pay the dollar for you, as there are no fixed fares, and you made no arrangement." Accordingly he paid the man's demand, who took it without a word, and went off whistling. A good introduction, thinks I to myself as I took my number, 136, and entered my dormitory, after a perplexing journey through a maze of labyrinthine turnings. My visit was to be a short one; my intention, as I have remarked before, is not, therefore, to enter on more important subjects so often and so much better described by others, but, by the introduction of occasional incidents which occurred during my journey, I shall endeavour to convey an idea of some of the salient points of the American character in the northern states, through which my route lay to Niagara and Western Canada.

Though unable to describe what I saw with

either the graphic colouring or ability of a professional writer, I had, I consider, one advantage over many of my countrymen—I was not fresh from England, nor imbued with its prejudices, and did not, therefore, carry a moral standard in my pocket to regulate the manners and habits of another people. If I found those habits occasionally vary in some respects from those I had been accustomed to, I was ever ready, I hope, to allow for such trifling differences. They spring, I argued, from the thinking and acting of a new people in a new country, where quick conception and rapidity of action has necessarily superseded the self-assured, elaborate, and often deplorable tardiness in design and execution which mark all acts of social progress or national improvement in the old country. And I may ask, talking of social matters, what has become of that far-famed saliva-ejecting American “institootion,” which every true Briton was at one time bound, under the most severe national penalties, to at least remark, if not widely to descant on? Except of one expert of that class, with red boots turned up at the points, whom I met on one of the cars bound westward, I can conscientiously declare I not only never was annoyed by the

practice on the part of anyone, but I never once witnessed it in a room!

To prepare myself for a start I was obliged to wait, I feared, for a cleansing of my soiled linen, and as a preliminary step I inquired when I could have them, and nervously suggested I was in a hurry! "Well," observed my placid friend at the bar, who appeared to regulate everything in this enormous caravanserai, "not under a couple of hours, if you're particular, as they have heavy work just now down below with all the passengers lately landed; but perhaps"—on seeing an expression of astonishment—"you'd like to see the steam laundry." I was at once ushered below, and saw with satisfaction, under the head of an "F" tub, my linen mysteriously cleaned, then passed under cylinders, then whirling before a hot blast, starched and ironed, folded and delivered, ere the two hours had expired!

At five I sat down to a dinner which, in profusion and good cooking, far exceeded anything I had ever witnessed in the table d'hôte line. Three meals a day of this kind, including every charge but wine—two dollars and a half a day; this was, of course, ten years ago,* and previous to the war.

* Written in 1868.

The guests were just the sort of man you meet or did meet all over the continent on such occasions. The southern men, I observed, were less sociable than the others, and kept rather to themselves. I made acquaintance, however, with two or three of them during the short two days of my stay at New York. They were more reserved, but their manner indicated the easy, self-assured gentleman more distinctly than did that of the sharp-eyed bustling northerner. Of course I went, amongst other things, to Barnum's; and there, amongst many absurdities, saw a section, or chunk from one of the Mammoth Californian trees, the body of the tree being removed and the bark alone remaining. A man in a gig was drawn through it—I should say about twelve feet in diameter, which, of course, is hardly a moiety of one of the largest giants. Some green, cyprus-looking twigs lay in a corner of the room, and on inquiring what they were, the man in attendance observed that they were the sprouts of foliage that sprang from the bark and were thus removed. "What," I inquired, "from that hollow column of bark before us—and how long has it been cut down?" "Well," said he, "about two years." *Figurez-vous*, green sprouts a yard in length emanating from the bark of a chunk

cut two years before! "This," I thought, and remarked to the man, "is the most remarkable part of the wonder."

The next day, when preparing for a start northwards by steamer up the Hudson, I had reason to congratulate myself that I had resisted the eloquent encomiums lavished on Dolmenico's by a fellow passenger, and taken up my quarters at the less fast, but more respectable "New York." A *gentleman* returning late from the theatre to his bed-room at the former, rang a hand-bell for attendance so loudly and continuously at his room-door that an adjoining lodger rose and remonstrated with him on the impropriety of disturbing himself and his wife with such an untimely noise, and insisted on his discontinuing it. The ringer laid the bell down, produced a revolver, and coolly covering the objector, killed him on the spot. He was tried, and fined a thousand dollars!

Once more on board, this time of one of the gigantic river-boats, or rather floating hotels which traverse every part of the Union—boasting of an enormous saloon, enormous engines, and enormous paddles. The latter were then set in motion, and up we went against stream

eighteen miles an hour. Baskets, bales, and coal heaped between decks in alarming proximity to the roaring furnaces; but everything here is go-ahead, and never mind the pieces. I had passed, after a short survey of the saloon and its belongings, to the bow of the vessel to smoke a cigar, if possible, in quiet, when a rather loudly-decorated gentleman, whom I had observed some time before regarding me attentively, introduced himself with the offer of a cigar, and a question simultaneously as to whether I was a "British officer." On acknowledging that I was an officer from India, he claimed to be a *confrère* in the profession of arms, as Colonel of the New York regiment of volunteers, but that he had for some time discarded the title, as the privates had insisted in messing with their officers, which, as he naively remarked, as tending to endanger discipline, he had resisted, and was very properly displaced upon the spot for so gross an attempt on liberty.

On proceeding to the stern of the vessel, my friend the "Colonel" introduced himself as Mr. B——, the banker at New York. "This," observed he, producing a five dollar note from his pocket, "is one of my notes, and in the engraved head of

a lady in one corner, you will, perhaps, discover a likeness to one of these young ladies, my nieces, to whom allow me to introduce you, Colonel—what was the name?” “Major Fraser,” I replied, and I was presented accordingly to the young ladies. “Yes,” proceeded the gallant banker, “although it is not, as you observe, usual to place family heads at the disposal of the public, it is not unusual with us, and the head on this note is a likeness of the elder Miss B——.” I faintly replied it did not do her justice, and the young lady in return whispered loudly to her sister that the moment she saw me come on board she had pronounced me to be a prototype of Colonel Newcombe in “Vanity Fair.” This remark, as conveying a somewhat apocryphal compliment, I pretended not to hear. I accompanied these people for some distance, and was indeed taken in charge by the gallant Colonel, to whose kindness I was indebted for many friendly acts. As accompanying ladies, I had the privilege of *entrée* to the ladies’ drawing-room, with all its fascinations of music and conversation, whereas *en garçon* I should have been doomed to the drinking-bar and my own resources. Their line now made for Lake George, and so we parted with, I be-

lieve, mutual regret, and a pressing invitation, on my return, to the Colonel's house at New York.

Again on the rails, and northward we sped through Buffalo, and embarked on the Canadian steamer "Maple Leaf." She did not belie her name, for a more lovely lake craft it was never my fortune to behold. Everything on board her was beautiful and good, except the the captain, who was content with the latter and less attractive attribute. I slept in a bridal chamber state room, adorned with blue and gold hangings, and fascinating Cupids in every corner, and paid nothing extra for this luxurious treatment of my old Indian bones—think of that, generous Britons! I made the acquaintance of a gentleman who inquired if I entertained any idea of making Canada my home, as he could give me every information on the subject, being the Government Agent for emigrants. From this gentleman I ascertained that Woodstock, to which place I had been urged to pay a visit, was now quite deserted by many of the gentry who had bought land there some years before, as they had found the difficulty of procuring servants, or retaining them when got, so insuperable an obstacle to

settlement that nearly all had left for the towns or returned to England.

My informant said he had been employed some years before, by Lord Sydenham, in assisting in the location of a number of officers in one of the best grants, but unable to bear the solitude of the bush, they first formed a mess, but as this did not much improve their grants, they had one by one given it up in despair, and disappeared. This was not a very encouraging picture for gentlemen emigrants, and my friend finally assured me it was no place for any but the strong, steady working man. Any idea, therefore, I might have entertained of a home in this region, was certainly considerably damped by these revelations, but I determined, nevertheless, to ascertain for myself by ocular demonstration the truth of his remarks, especially as regarded the hardships that delicately-nurtured women were subject to in Western Canada, and I did satisfy myself that to them particularly it would be a more than hazardous and unfair step to take—it would be unjustifiable cruelty.

I went, however, to several partially settled townships. Amongst the better class I found everywhere complaints of the unfeminine drudgery

the women were subjected to. Woodstock, which had been painted in such glowing terms, was no exception. Again, land in the vicinity of towns, Hamilton, Toronto, &c., was actually dearer than in many parts of England. But as I had taken my tour rather with a view to information and amusement than settlement, I was, in a great measure, prepared for disappointment. The numbers of drunken loafers I met at some of the smaller stations in Western Canada did not act, moreover, favourably on my impressions.

On my return we had a storm, or what I suppose is called such in these fresh water seas, and as I did not, on this occasion, luxuriate in a bridal chamber, I found Lake Erie far more uncomfortable than the Atlantic. Of course I made my way to the cockney-haunted "father of waters," where all the beauty and grandeur of nature is being fast absorbed by the humiliating spectacle of cockney turrets on every point, whilst steamers belch forth their filthy smoke on the incense of the stupendous waters. I was told that one wretch contemplated building a tea-garden and skittle-alley over the falls! I hope he may succeed and go down with it. Though used to

noises, I courted sleep in vain at the hotel, from the trembling of the window frames. Next day I was on the rails, in the direction of Lake George, which well deserves the encomiums lavished on its beauty by the Americans. It is certainly the loveliest piece of water I have ever beheld, excepting one in the Green Isle, but to my mind was superior even to this last in its exemption from the pestilence of bagmen and tourists. Along its shores you can row or wander for leagues without meeting one of the genus homo. The poor red man, the owner once of these beautiful solitudes, is now never met with, and has passed with his race. I met a few of one of the formerly great tribes at a station we stopped at for five minutes, in the vicinity of one of their haunts. Accustomed as I had been to seeing Asiatics, I was agreeably surprised at the good looks and sturdy forms, especially of the women, arrayed in coloured blankets and all the finery of gaudy beads. Poor things, they bore a mild stoical look as they handed their little birch bark trifles for sale to the white man, who, now that he had taken their all, could afford to be generous and give them ten cents over their price! I thought of our friends on the Asian side of the globe, and

the "amicable relations" we are always opening with them.

On my way down by rail to New York, a decent-looking man in black, of the schoolmaster type, was seated opposite me. His attention seemed to be absorbed by a fat young giant of some twelve or fourteen years of age. This latter large-limbed, tight-breeched specimen of young America, who, in the intervals of apple crunching and nut cracking, regarded me with a watchful eye, apparently unable to control himself longer, blurted out, "You're a Britisher?" a query to which I deigned no reply. "I think we gave it you at New Orleans." "Yes," I rejoined, woke up at last by this young turkey buzzard, who had been gorging himself at each stoppage with every description of sour tarts and other nastiness, "yes, you did, but we paid you off at Bladensburgh and Washington." Here the adolescent's sire thought fit to interfere, and apologized by saying they came from a wild part of Kentucky, and the boy didn't know better. "Quiet, father," said young hopeful, "let me handle him! Can you shoot?" "Yes, I can," I replied, willing to humour the young saplin. "I mean," said he, "can you shoot with a five-foot

barrel? for I can!" "You!" I said, "why you wouldn't have the strength to hold out a hop-pole, much less five feet of iron." "Couldn't I," observed the young bloodsucker, "I only wish I had the chance at you!" Here the father once more interposed, and threatened to hide his progeny, who only laughed and began at the green apples again. "Oh, Sir, excuse him," exclaimed his father, "eating and shooting are his two infirmities!"

As we neared New York, a thunderstorm with rain and blinding flashes of lightning set in, and by the occasional gleam of the latter I could see we were moving at frightful speed over rails laid on piles, through which the black depths of the water were ready to engulf us! We were rushing either along the shore of the Hudson or of some overflow of the river.

Once again the huge leviathan of an ocean steamer received me—not one of the Cunard line as I had at first intended, but I was pressed for time and could delay no longer. She was a wretched boat, and on the eighth day was, I should say, as nearly consigned to Davey's locker as anything that floats could be. We had a terrific nor'-wester for thirty hours. Unable to

sleep with two feet of water in our cabins, and prompted by an earnest desire to escape from the terrified embrace of an American dame, who fondly hoped the "Major" could save her, I rushed on deck, and though accustomed to such scenes of danger, I never beheld a more appalling sight. Our vessel was lying to, her paddles just moving. Not a soul was to be seen, as she steered from the bow, where the lamps threw their fitful glare on the toppling masses that rushed to overwhelm us. All else on board was as black as Erebus, like a mass of ebony floating in a seething cauldron of milk! But, thanks to our Yankee captain, and none to the rotten old craft, we got over it, and landed safe and sound.

A month of peace and happiness, and I again bade adieu to all that is held dear. A month later I found myself again in the land of

"Hing* and nose-ring,"

and wending my way to the city of the Peshwah, I arrived just in time to retain my appointment, and to receive orders to prepare myself for immediate embarkation on "special duty," for Egypt.

* Hing—the Hindustaní for asafetida, much affected by the natives.

CHAPTER XIX.

Leave for Egypt.—Arrangements for the Passage of Cavalry across the Desert to the Crimea.—The Transit: A long March and late Commander.—Staff Officer from Malta.—His Ideas of Troop Transit.—Alexandria.—Inimical Feeling to us regarding the War of European Residents.—Miserable Oppression in Egypt.—Proposal for Supplies to the Crimea: Its fate.—Waterloo a Misfortune. Our Well-wishers at Zech's Hotel.—Successful Completion of Transit.—M. Lessep's Canal.—Archæological Wonders at Alexandria.—Return to England, and Termination.

THE announcement was not a very pleasing one, coming as it did just as I had completed the purchase of furniture, &c., and had not been a week landed. I only knew as yet that the special duty was connected with the transit of troops to the Crimea. The period of my return to India appearing as uncertain as the termination of the war. I left all my goods and chattels to be dis-

posed of, and proceeded at once to the Presidency. I there received intimation that the Supreme Government had directed that an officer selected for the purpose was to be sent to Egypt, to organize and prepare for the transit of European troops to cross the desert, *viâ* Suez and Alexandria, to the seat of war in the Crimea, to commence with two regiments of cavalry, and that a junior officer of the Quartermaster-General's department was to accompany him.

I saw, of course, in an instant, that with sufficient carriage the transit of the desert was nothing, except as regarded the one indispensable article of water for the horses between Suez and Cairo, where not a drop was to be had. I naturally, therefore, with a feeling of the heavy responsibility that had devolved upon me, in the transit across a route of which all that was known was that every mouthful of food and water had to be conveyed from the Nile, requested some outline of instructions to guide me in a country I knew nothing of, and which was more especially beyond the sphere of my legitimate duty. I was told in reply that the Government were equally uninformed, that I was to have a *carte blanche* for money, and my dis-

cretion to guide me. I consoled myself by reflecting that I had ten days of a passage for reflection, and, in fact, during that passage I and my companion made so good a use of our time that on our landing at Suez, we, after an examination of the facilities for landing (supplies of water of course there were none along the route) and other matters, started for Cairo, the port of supply, and there, with our pre-arranged detail for the transit, and with the aid of Mr. Bruce, our Consul-General, and the Egyptian authorities, we soon made the necessary arrangements for the first batch of cavalry. Knowing from experience the fund of foresight and ready resource ever available by the British soldier and his officers whilst on service, we were careful to prepare and have in readiness at each camping ground every article he was supplied with in barracks, even to the picketing pins and mallets for the horses along the route of one hundred and fifty miles from Suez to Alexandria. Except a warrant officer, we had no establishment whatever. We were, therefore, obliged to frame and write out ourselves every detail and communication, a labour which at times seriously interfered with more important duties. The camel carriage

required for water especially was enormous, as there were neither rail nor roads.

Early in December 1854, the first detail of three hundred cavalry arrived, and were landed without a casualty, for we were naturally a little anxious as to the success of our first attempt. Captain G——, my companion, on whom devolved the marching arrangements, after some days' rest at Suez for the quieting of the active horses, many of them maddened by over-feeding and confinement on board, had fixed a day and early hour of 2 A.M. for the first twenty mile march over heavy sand. The commander, however, ignoring all interference, which in India proper he would not have presumed to do, decided on moving at daylight. He did so, and on arriving at his ground after a long and exhausting march in the sun, had the assurance to remonstrate on the condition of his horses, suffering from the sun-march his own folly had exposed them to. However, they survived the fearful ordeal, and were at last safely housed in barracks, where the officers at Sheppard's hotel, and the men in quarters were, as guests of the Egyptian Government, supplied with everything procurable they chose to ask for.

No sooner was the transit effected than the same process was repeated till the first regiment was through, with orders to await at Cairo till all was ready for their further progress and embarkation at Alexandria for the Crimea. The *premier pas*, however, over, every detail was met by us at Suez till, at the expiration of four months and two and twenty crossings of the desert, the entire force of cavalry, consisting of some eighteen hundred men and horses, was safely transmitted to Alexandria without the loss of a single man and but one horse. In the midst of our labours a staff-officer of the Royal Army had been sent from Malta to receive charge from us at Cairo, and transmit the troops to Alexandria and direct the embarkation, and I was rejoiced at the prospect of a speedy return to India ere the monsoon should have set in, when the heat in the Red Sea is something unspeakable. The above-mentioned functionary, on having had described to him, that as the passage over the desert had been effected the rest of the route to Alexandria presented no difficulty, as water was abundant, at first hesitated to assume the charge, and after communication with the Consul-General, the latter officially

announced to us the inexpediency of Major — assuming charge, and the necessity of our conducting the operations to their close.

This was certainly rather hard upon us, or at all events upon me, who now had completed thirty years in the service, and who had not, certainly, contemplated a return to India through the frightful heat of the Red Sea in July. However, there was nothing for it but to comply, and the Maltese official, with many expressions of regret for the trouble he had caused, and with an air of heart-felt concern at parting with us, which we felt was sincere, returned to his little comforts at Malta with an aching heart, and we saw no more of him. It was perhaps just as well that he went, for, as he expressed it, "I could not be of much use, for I never before saw a camel in my life."

Taking advantage of a lull, I proceeded to Alexandria as a relief from the somewhat over-oriental character of Cairo, which, were it not from the occasional influx of European travellers, might dispute the palm in its thoroughly eastern aspect with Samarkand or Damascus. Alexandria, on the other hand, is nearly or altogether European, the Greeks, Levantines, and people who

come from the northern Mediterranean coast forming the mass of the population. There is a theatre, and during the cool months a respectable *rôle* of Italian professors. Zech's Hotel we found the most comfortable and less frequented by the nuisance of overland travellers. There were generally twenty or thirty guests daily at table, representing, I imagine, nearly every European state. A young Frenchman had his seat next mine, and like our gallant compatriots who were engaged in the Crimea, we stood by one another in the attacks made upon us by Greeks, Italians, Spaniards, and Germans. A Prussian was signally defiant and vicious, offering any odds we would not, could not, and should not enter Sebastopol. One and all of these men, it is remarkable, joined in the cry against our unwarrantable invasion of Russia, laughed at our charge of aggression, and asked what we were doing in Algeria and India. This reminds me of the remark made by a tall, flat-sided down-wester to a friend of mine who had merely observed he did not approve of the "institootion :"
"Ye allers comes a screechin with your almighty jaw. Why don't you give back to the poor Indians the country you've robbed them of!"

However indifferent we might affect to be, it was not pleasant to have such a feeling exhibited against us. The patriarch of the Greek Church at Cairo had been ordered out of Egypt just at this time, and may, perhaps, have contributed to the angry feeling towards us. On our evening walk one day, my French ally, who had two brothers at the time in the Crimean ranks, remarked, with reference to the French proceedings against Russia, that he and others of the table d'hôte party could understand it, but they were all at fault to find a motive for our combination against an ancient ally.

"Que diable allait-il faire dans cette galère," said they, and although it would not do to admit it before such vicious rabble, I often wondered why we had intermeddled in a matter which did not concern us; for having already so long been threatened with the advent of the bear in India, I was too old to be deceived by the cry. Turkey and Constantinople I had never seen or visited, but if the Pachalic of Egypt be a reflex of the sovereign power of Turkey, the sooner the one and other pass into the hands of a European power the better, if not for Europe, at least for the cause of

civilization and of justice to the wretched fellah population, robbed and domineered over by an abandoned Government and its parasitic hordes of Pachas.

The detention of our cavalry for so many weeks at Cairo, owing, it was said, to want of transport, and the paucity of grain and forage in the Crimea, had induced me at an early period after our arrival to address a communication to the Commissary-in-Chief at the seat of war, intimating that I could, on ten days' notice, supply him with any quantity of these articles, and that two thousand tons could be dispatched immediately. To this suggestion I received a reply just three months afterwards, accepting the proposal, but as no tonnage was supplied, nor authority given to engage it, nothing, of course, was done. Everything indeed appeared a bungle in that unhappy quarter. One of a party of officers from Sebastopol informed me that of his company of seventy men, eight remained, and that, except his own men, none saluted or in any manner recognized him or other officers in or out of uniform. To us in India the idea of an army and its sick starving, within six miles of shipping filled with every kind of supplies, for want of a road, seemed simply in-

comprehensible. The tenure of office of the Quartermaster-General of the force in such a case would most assuredly depend on the period required for the announcement of the fact, and for the arrival of a reply from the seat of Government! But this, of course, can only be done when all are not equally ignorant of their duty!

I may here relate an experience I had on the subject. Some few years after I had retired from the service I was appointed member of a commission for the re-organization of some of the civil branches of the H.M. Army, with Sir J. B—— as president. There were three Indian officers, one from each Presidency, and a number of decorated Tritons completed the conclave. Some of the revelations of Crimean staff organization certainly enlightened the Indian officials, but subsequently all was arranged as we suggested. This was, however, but a drop in the ocean. So long as regimental purchase, Aldershot for a campaigning field, and an idea that no military system can equal our own exist, it will require, I fear, yet another lesson to correct mistaken opinions. Paradoxical as it may appear, the victory of Waterloo was a great misfortune. Victors on

that occasion, nothing was too strong or too sweet for our self-laudation. After that, on went the overalls and gold coats ; we lay down in state for other nations to admire us, with an injunction to our porter that, should the shade of Frederick the Great call to congratulate us, he was to tell him to go to —. In fact we lived fifty years on it, and, like Rip Van Winkle, slept till another war awoke us to our deficiencies.

Though disgusted with the rabid feeling of the assembly at Zech's, I could not resist having an occasional turn up with our detractors. They gloated over our shortcomings, the Prussian especially; and when the quarries and Mamelon were taken, and I asked him how he liked it, "*Ah, ce n'est pas votre affaire. Les Anglais furent surpris à Inkerman et annihilés à Balaclava, &c.*" "But, *mon cher*, is it true that the general of your cavalry lives on board his yacht at Balaclava?" "That," I said, "is another of your *canards*;" but I knew to whom he alluded, and I observed, laughing, "When we have disposed of Sebastopol, for we never give up a thing, then"—turning to my French friend—"we will take St. Petersburg and a few of the capitals *en route!*" "Of all the wonderful gifts the

English claim for themselves," said the Prussian, "to one alone is owing all their former successes, and that is their tenacity of purpose;" and "*Oui oui*," resounded from all sides—and no bad thing that is, thinks I. Could they have foreseen the final results of the American War carried on by a kindred people, it would doubtless have confirmed them in the idea that, no matter what the Englishman's defeats and failures may be, when the undertaking is of moment his persistence is notorious.

My twenty-second and last trip across the desert was now over, the whole of the cavalry had passed through and safely embarked, and Mr. Bruce showed us a letter from Sebastopol, lauding the excellent state in which the men and horses had landed, and affirming such was their efficiency—and, it may be added, the over-worked condition of the others—that the day after their landing they were on outpost duty. This, at all events, was satisfactory.

In my last trip to Suez I made the acquaintance of one that has since risen to considerable distinction, Monsieur Lesseps. He had only commenced his great undertaking, and he was kind enough to show me his plans of line for the inter-

oceanal canal, his tents at the time being pitched at the point of its intended entry into the Red Sea. Like all men who suggest or undertake great things, he was enthusiastic. Fortunate it is that men of that stamp carry with them such a good supply of so necessary an article, or they and their projects would at once succumb to the opposition of the interested, and the ridicule of the fatuous. Of course our Government were opposed to the undertaking, and Stephenson was even engaged to pronounce on its impracticability. Indeed I once was told by a high official, when upholding the apparent feasibility of the canal, "that no Englishman should for an instant entertain the supposition of such a thing!" On inquiring of M. Lesseps how he would overcome the difficulty of sand drift filling up his canal, he replied, "Why should it fill up my canal when it does not cover your railway?" And I believe it is now admitted he was right; at all events it now is, I believe, *un fait accompli*. The Pelusium, or Mediterranean side was the difficulty, but engineering skill and gigantic appliances have, it appears, overcome the harbour obstacle. Whether it will repay the enormous cost remains to be seen, but if reducing

the time and expense of a ninety days' voyage to one of thirty, without breaking bulk, does not do so, it may be asked what will. Heaven knows the world is wide enough for us all, and we, above all, should refrain from even the suspicion of jealousy of great schemes designed for the benefit of the human race.

Alexandria, I need not observe, abounds with interesting objects to the archæologist, and now that I had leisure to avail myself of the opportunity, I lost no time in visiting them. It would, however, be absurd in me to go over the ground so often trodden and described by others. I had made the acquaintance of M. Leon, the American Consul-General, and with him inspected everything of interest. The ancient harbour of the city which has passed through so many vicissitudes was, as is well known, far removed from the present; the prostrate obelisk and the erect one stood about the centre of the bay; the Pharos on the left; and a small promontory still covered with fragments of gigantic prostrate columns formed the right extremity. On looking from the sea wall at the obelisk down into the green depths below, the remains of stairs and fragments of masonry are clearly visible, whilst

here in the centre of the bay stood the landing with the obelisks on either side.

Passing out of the great square of Alexandria on the road leading to Pompey's pillar, where some excavations had been commenced, I witnessed one of the most extraordinary and interesting sights to be seen, perhaps, in the world. If the different strata that define the course of centuries are soul-absorbing to the geologist, what can such be when compared to the strata which marked in this excavation, far more unerringly and distinctly, layer over layer, the course of extinct nations! In one of the public thoroughfares of the city, at the period I was there, and in the vicinity of the site of the great library, without apparently exciting the curiosity of anyone, my attention was drawn to masses of chiselled Egyptian granite, and other fragments of masonry, piled up on a side of the road, and on the opposite side yawned the pit, or rather quarry, to the depth of thirty or forty feet, from which they had been just taken.

The further side of the excavation, which was nearly perpendicular, presented the appearance of—what shall I say? the layer of a gigantic cake, such as is made in some parts of western

England, or the railway cuttings where the strata are marked distinctly. First came the Arab *débris* of pottery and tiles to the depth of four or five feet; then earth and Roman masonry to ten or twelve feet; then earth, intermixed with prostrate columns and sharply and beautifully chiselled capitals, with rich friezes of Greek temples; and below these again lay the gigantic masses of Egyptian granite architecture, marked by its peculiar massive character, and covered with hieroglyphics. I regret to say I am not much given to such studies, but it was a stupendous, and I may add an impressive sight, and one I think I shall never forget.

Especially unfortunate in promotion, I naturally hoped that the earnest appeal made to Her Majesty on our behalf by the Honourable Mr. Bruce, H.M. Consul-General, for some especial mark of her favour, would at length, by a grant of brevet, rectify former ill-luck in this respect. A letter, however, advised my immediate return home, for it appeared that although Her Majesty's Government and our Sovereign had readily granted the "especial mark of favour," and the Governor-General fully concurred, yet, to the surprise of all cognizant of the facts—the Deputy-Chairman of

the Court of Directors, a man unknown beyond his own fireside, thought fit to withhold the grant "as injurious to a gradation service!" I went home, accordingly, to represent my case, but having no political and very few other friends, in a country I had left for thirty years, to see me righted, I failed in my endeavours. My last chance thus departed, I retired from a service of which, although unworthily treated by a Leadenhall despot, I was proud to have been an humble member, for amongst the galaxy of names of men who have belonged to it appear many of the greatest in war, literature, and administrative talent the world has ever produced.

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