

Empire. Our line of march, including cattle, baggage-waggons, and followers, extended more than a mile.

On quitting *Secundra* we crossed the river *Jumna*, opposite to an ancient hunting seat of the Emperor *Acbar*, at a village named *Madower*. In the rainy season the *Jumna* is here both wide and rapid, although during the hot winds it is nearly dry: its waters in the hot season are supposed to possess properties like those of the Nile, that is, in producing cutaneous disorders, which, although extremely troublesome, do not affect the general health. The irritation caused by these watery pustules is sometimes excessive, only to be relieved by cooling medicine and a spare diet; yet I am inclined to believe, that by boiling the water before it is made use of, the ill effects of it might be in a great measure if not wholly prevented: precipitating small pieces of charcoal will also much assist the purification of it.

From *Madower* we drove through a cultivated country supplied with water by numerous wells, and thickly planted with trees. Among these the *baubool** tree rose conspicuous. On either side the road were fields of the cotton plant, which at a distance appeared like low shrubs

* From the *baubool* wood is made the best kind of charcoal, (a fuel much used in Indian kitchens instead of coals,) and also the best and strongest tent pegs.



December

bearing innumerable large white blossoms: the cotton was, at this season, just starting from the pod. From hence we made *Huttrass* in two marches. *Huttrass* is two-and-thirty miles from *Secundra*. After passing through two or three small villages we came to a level country richly cultivated, and saw the fort of *Sarseney*. This fort was resolutely defended by its Rajah, *Bhagwaut Sing*, in the year 1802, but laid siege to and taken by the troops under command of General, afterwards Lord Lake, by whom it was dismantled, and is now in a ruinous state. The town of *Sarseney* appears to have recovered itself from the ravages of war; but the natives of these provinces are so prone to pillage, that merchants are afraid to expose their goods for sale. We were told of a waggon-load of merchandise, consisting chiefly of bale goods, that was plundered near this place only a few days before; and four matchlock men, who travelled with it for protection, were murdered on the spot.

Near *Sarseney* we saw the remains of some beautiful gardens, containing several light pavilions of white marble. They consisted of one large apartment, surmounted by a cupola, and surrounded by a verandah. These pavilions were raised six or seven feet from the ground. The approach to them was by wide paved terraces, crossing each other at right angles, shaded



by lofty trees, under which were fountains and beds of flowers. The town is completely commanded by the fort, which stands upon an eminence, and is now occupied by a native collector of revenue, called a *teseeldar*.

The city of *Coel*, which we entered towards evening, is a large populous place, surrounded by a high brick wall, and secured at each entrance by ponderous gates, with a number of armed men.

The general face of the country, from *Sarseney* to *Coel*, is one extensive plain, with here and there a few small bushes, or a cluster of miserable huts. It is not here, as in England, that the eye is regaled at intervals by the smiling appearance of a neat thatched cottage, through the luxuriant foliage of a spreading oak. Small forts built of mud supply their place; and these are to be seen in all directions. Just before we reached *Coel*, I observed a number of *toddy* trees, the sap of which is made use of instead of yeast to lighten bread; and, when fresh, is eagerly drunk by the Hindoo natives, who are many of them fond of intoxicating liquors, an effect which this syrup speedily produces. There is another sort, called *bang*, extracted from a herb of that name which is cultivated in most of their gardens. The cultivated parts of this district are almost overrun with a plant they call *palma christi*, from which an oil with medicinal pro-



perties is extracted, known in England I believe by the title of castor oil.

From hence we proceeded the following morning, on elephants, through an avenue of lime trees a mile in length, to the fort of *Alli Ghur*, which was taken by assault in 1804 by General Lake. It is situated on an extensive plain, has been put into thorough repair by the British Government, and was, at the time I am speaking of, garrisoned by British troops.

About ten miles from *Coel*, on an artificial eminence, stands the picturesque village of *Purwah*. The soil in general appears sandy, and except near villages, completely uncultivated. The next place we passed was *Chour-poor*, or, in plain English, Thieves' Village; we were however fortunate enough to go unmolested, and shortly after came to a fortified place called *Meah-poor*. *Kourjah*, where we arrived to breakfast, is a large well-built town, of red brick dwellings, embosomed in trees; the soil richer than any we had seen before. It was a beautiful sight to observe in one field the young barley springing up, and in the next, either grain in sheaves, or ripe for cutting. Thus they contrive to have the harvest come in succession, so that neither time nor ground shall be lost.

The fort of *Kourjah* is completely dismantled, and the appearance of the inhabitants we saw



extremely wretched. I rode through the principal street on an elephant, accompanied by one of the commissioners; and we were followed by hundreds of children, sent by their parents to beg, *coda ka wasti*, "for the love of God," a few pice * to buy otta †. The remains of some fine orchards are observable, but the ravages of war still more so. On leaving *Kourjah* we crossed a down, bounded only by the horizon, leaving on the left hand a large village well wooded, and at a short distance from it two mud forts. The level country continued; but soon we found ourselves encompassed by a grass jungle five-and-twenty feet high; the stems of it were like small reeds, that rebounded as we passed by with considerable force. The immense height of this grass (although the chief of our party were mounted on elephants) prevented our distinguishing any thing beyond the road we travelled. This led us into another thick jungle of brushwood, which continued many miles. Wells, containing in general excellent water, are found by the road-side, for the accommodation of travellers, every five or six miles throughout these provinces, in place of running streams, which are very rare. The natives have frequently two or more wells in a field, from which, by means

* Pice is the smallest copper coin, answering to the French liard, but of even smaller value.

† Otta-meal of the coarsest kind.



of a bamboo lever, they draw water very expeditiously; and swinging round the buckets attached to each pole, throw it over the land with great facility. We felt the cold at this place (Secundrabad) very severe. Our tents were pitched on a plain of fine soft grass, beautifully embellished by trees forming with their united foliage an extensive shade. In the evening I rode on horseback with some of the gentlemen, while others took their guns, and were well repaid for their walk by meeting with excellent sport. They brought home several brace of partridge, some pheasants, a peacock, and two or three hares. In the course of the night our people saw two leopards.

Our journey the following morning lay through a thick jungle of briars; the road was tolerably beaten, but intolerably dusty. The air continued extremely bleak. At the entrance of a wood we came to a good looking village, which, the guide told us, was inhabited by banditti; this was not very agreeable intelligence, considering that our encampment could not be many miles distant. On arriving at the tents, we found the head man of this village waiting to present the commissioners with Persian and other fruits; amongst which was a quantity of grapes, so large and highly flavoured, that I wished it were in my power to transport some.



of them to my friends in England. The pears and apples were equally fine, and the oranges much sweeter than in England, but they wanted that grateful flavour; which may, I think, be attributed to their being left on the tree *here* until they are ripe enough to fall off, whereas those imported into England from Lisbon are gathered when only *half ripe*, and always retain some little acidity.

Our next march was to a place called *Soorage-pore*, fifteen miles farther. The weather continuing very cold, I mounted my horse, and, accompanied by some of the gentlemen, rode about ten miles, when we unexpectedly encountered a deep stream, which we were obliged to cross in boats. Whether my horse was alarmed, or from what cause I know not, but he would not allow me to mount him again; so, after many fruitless attempts, I gave it up, and his groom led him the rest of the way. The practice in this country of a groom running with each horse is frequently found a convenience, and it certainly proved so, in this instance, to me. There was fortunately an elephant, with a *howdah* * on its

* A *howdah* is like the body of a gig, fixed on the back of the elephant by ropes and an iron chain: under it is a thick pad, to prevent its chafing his back. This pad is entirely covered with housings of broad cloth, generally scarlet, with a deep fringe all round, reaching half way down his legs. On one side, un-



back, at no great distance behind, who proved more tractable, and on him I prosecuted my journey. A few miles farther brought us to a *serai*, or receptacle for travellers, of which I have before spoken. Near this *serai* stands the tomb of some Mussulman of rank: it is composed of three large domes, cased with marble; and at each corner of the platform are four minarets of the same material. We encamped on this day near the field of battle on the memorable 11th of September, 1803, when the British forces under Lord Lake conquered the Mahratta army, (full treble their number,) and made them fly in all directions. The presence of mind and bravery of this distinguished general was never more conspicuous than on this occasion: the conquest of *Delhi*, and possession of the royal family, were the immediate consequences. This place is about five miles from *Delhi*, and is called *Putpore Gunge*. It is divided from *Delhi* by the river *Jumna*, which having crossed in boats that awaited our arrival, we met a messenger from the resident, to conduct us to his house, and soon after, himself and suite came out to meet us. Accordingly, re-

der the housing, is hung the ladder, by which you ascend and descend; for which purpose the elephant sinks on all fours. His rising again is rather alarming, as he does so by a sudden jerk; the fore feet first, the hinder ones rather more leisurely. They sometimes roar most terribly when they kneel down.



mounting our elephants, (who had forded the stream,) we followed our conductors, and were soon after seated at an elegant breakfast, at the resident's palace, where a numerous party were expecting our arrival. Amongst these was the *Begum Sumroo*, widow to the general of that name before spoken of*. Since his death, which happened many years ago, she married Monsieur L'Oiseaux, a French officer in the Mahratta service, under General Perron. Being at that time in possession of a large territory that had been purchased with the riches amassed by Sumroo, and having regular organized troops in her service, she gave him the appointment of commander-in-chief. But either owing to the natural fickleness of her disposition, or that she found him difficult to manage, she soon took an inveterate dislike, and formed a project to get rid of him. Having won over the troops to her views, she caused a pretended revolt among them; when, agreeable to the arrangement she had made, they seized and carried her to a place of confinement. Her emissaries immediately conveyed the tidings of it to L'Oiseaux; (who was enjoying himself at one of his hunting seats;)

* On quitting *Meer Kossim*, at Patna, General Sumroo entered the Mahratta service, and was stationed at Agra, where he first saw the Begum, then a young and beautiful girl, whom he contrived to steal from her friends, married her, and educated her in the Romish faith.

and this account was quickly followed up by another, purporting that the Begum had destroyed herself by swallowing a large diamond ring that she usually wore on her finger. She foresaw the effect this intelligence would produce on the timid mind of the Frenchman, who immediately became so alarmed, that with a pistol he put an end to his existence. No sooner was the Begum informed of the event, than she quitted her prison, resumed the reins of government, and every thing again wore the face of peace. This woman has an uncommon share of natural abilities, with a strength of mind rarely met with, particularly in a female. The natives say that she was *born* a politician, has *allies* every where, and *friends* no where. Her own dominions and principal residence is at *Sirdanah*, about twenty miles from *Meerat*, and a day's journey from *Delhi*. She adheres to the Mussulman mode of living, as far as respects food, but no farther. She has not the slightest fancy for the seclusion they impose; on the contrary, frequently entertaining large parties in a sumptuous manner, both at her palace in *Delhi* and at *Sirdanah*. During Lord Lake's sojourn at *Delhi*, he was her frequent guest. They used frequently to sit down between twenty and thirty persons to dinner; and when the ladies of the party retired, she would remain smoking her hookah, for she made it a point never to leave her "pipe half smoked."



This Princess has been frequently known to command her army in person on the field of battle; and on one occasion, during the reign of the Emperor *Shaw Allum*, she is said to have saved the Mogul Empire by rallying and encouraging her troops, when those of the Emperor were flying before the enemy. In consequence of which, *Shaw Allum* immediately created her a Princess, or Begum, in her own right, to take rank next after the royal family. He also conferred on her the title of *Zaboolnissa*, which signifies "ornament of her sex." Her features are still handsome, although she is now advanced in years. She is a small woman, delicately formed, with beautiful hazel eyes; a nose somewhat inclined to the aquiline, a complexion very little darker than an Italian, with the finest turned hand and arm I ever beheld. Zophany, the painter, when he saw her, pronounced it a perfect model. She is universally attentive and polite. A graceful dignity accompanies her most trivial actions; she *can* be even fascinating, when she has any point to carry. She condescendingly offered to introduce me to the royal family, which without hesitation I accepted, as my curiosity had been much excited, and, being a lady, I knew that I should be admitted into the private apartments. The following morning she gave a splendid breakfast to our party, and I afterwards accompanied her to the royal residence. We were received at the palace



gates by several of the household, who escorted us across three or four courts paved with flat stone, until we came to one of white marble. Here we quitted our palankeens, and, with some of the Begum's suite, approached the hall of audience. In the centre of this apartment stood the *musnud*, or throne: it was a square block of crystal, of immense value. Before this the Begum made a profound *salaam*, and motioned to me to do the same; indeed I had determined to follow her example on all points of etiquette during the visit. We then ascended a few marble steps that led into one of the passages to the zenanah, where we were informed His Majesty expected us. Before this door, which was about twelve feet high, hung a curtain of scarlet broad cloth. The Begum now led the way, through crowds of eunuchs, into a square enclosure paved with white marble, enclosed by colonnades of the same, under which were doors leading to the different apartments. Here we were met by the Queen Dowager, mother to the reigning Emperor, an ugly, shrivelled old woman, whom the Begum embraced; which ceremony over, the attendants left us in her care. We followed this good lady across another court, similar to the one we had just quitted, except that it was covered by a carpet, at the edge of which the Begum left her shoes. I was preparing to do the same, when I heard some one say, in Persian,



“It is not expected of the English lady;” or, which is a more literal translation, “The English lady is excused.” On looking up I perceived the Emperor of Delhi, seated at the opposite side of this court under a colonnade, surrounded by his family, to the number, as I afterwards learned, of two hundred: all, except the Queen, were standing.

The throne on which the Emperor sat was raised about two feet from the ground: the ascent to it was by two small steps. The whole was covered with a Persian carpet, spreading a considerable distance on either side. The cushion on which he sat (cross-legged) was covered with crimson kinkob, brocaded with gold, a large tassel suspended from either corner. Three large round bolsters, covered with the same kind of silk, supported his back and arms. On a small square cushion before him stood a silver casket, about the size of a large tea-chest, which contained otta of roses and betel nut. His dress was purple and gold kinkob, confined at the waist by a long white shawl. His turban was also of shawl, across the front of which he wore a broad band studded with precious stones. On the King's right hand, below the steps of the musnud, (throne,) sat the Queen. She was distinguished by a tassel of pearls, fastened on the top of her head, and falling over the left temple. Her hair, as is customary with women in India,



was parted over the forehead, smoothed back with rose oil, braided behind, and hanging down her back. A gold ring, of eight inches in circumference, with a large ruby between two pearls on it, hung from her nostrils, which were pierced for that purpose. This ring denoted that she was the head of the family, a custom that applies to the meanest of her subjects in a similar situation. Round her neck were two rows of very large pearls, and a number of other necklaces, some set with precious stones, others of pure gold, with which her arms, wrists, and ancles, were also decorated. These gold rings are so pure as to be quite malleable: they are made from the coin called gold mohar, merely melted down without any adulteration, and are generally put on the wrists of infants soon after they are born, being occasionally re-melted, added to, and the size increased, as the child grows larger, unless meantime the parents should require their value to purchase food; in which case they substitute silver: all slaves wear iron ones*. Her Majesty's fingers and toes were

* Their distrust of each other, and perhaps being frequently surprised and plundered by hostile powers, first led to the idea of carrying all their valuables about them; yet is the practice of loading their children with such articles not unfrequently productive of much misery, for, lured by the prospect of gain, these unhappy infants become the prey of some unprincipled

covered with rings of ruby, emerald, and sapphire, and an onyx by way of talisman: cornelian and lapis lazuli are exclusively worn by the men. Her dress was of scarlet shawl, with a deep border of gold all round, in shape not unlike a pelisse, with an enormous long waist. Her ornee, or veil, covering half the head, and falling in graceful folds below her feet, was of clear white muslin, with a gold border. She, like the Emperor, sat with her legs bent under her, and, like him, chewed betel nut all the time she was speaking. This lady is a Pitaan*, and of a remarkably dark complexion, almost black, which contrasted with the whiteness of the pearls produced an extraordinary effect.

The Emperor, who is of Mogul extraction, of the house of Timoor, and a lineal descendant of the great Tamerlane, is remarkably fair for an

being, who having stripped them, throw their bodies down a well, and they are no more heard of. Such occurrences are, I regret to say, too common in this country.

* The Pitaans are a race of people who inhabit the tract of country to the north-west of Hindostan. The Afghans, who inhabit a country north-west of Delhi, are also called Pitaans, and, as tradition states, are descended from Saul, King of Israel. They were at one time in possession of *Kabul*, but it was wrested from them by Timoor Shaw, and made a royal residence for the Great Moguls. He removed his throne from Candahar to Cabul, and the seat of government was afterwards transferred to *Delhi*.



Indian. His eyes are large, dark hazel; a well-shaped nose, fresh colour in his cheeks; and he might certainly pass for a handsome man, if he were not disguised by a black bushy beard. His age *appeared* to be about fifty; the Empress not half that age. I afterwards heard that she had been in the suite of the former Queen, and was not of royal parentage.

The Dowager Begum, mother to the King, took her station rather in front of the throne, on his left-hand side: he immediately ordered her a seat.

When a Mussulman Emperor dies, all his wives and concubines, except the mother of the reigning monarch, are confined in a separate palace, maintained, and guarded at his expense, as long as they live; nor do they consider such confinement any hardship, being accustomed from their infancy to attach the idea of respectability to that of seclusion. It is perhaps the only state in which these women could be happy. The dress of the Queen mother was ruby-coloured satin, with a gold and silver border. Her ornee was of green shawl, bordered with gold. On her neck, ears, and wrists, she wore a profusion of pearls, besides a superb armlet composed of different precious stones *. Her fingers, which

* Every Indian wears a talisman on the left arm, in addition to their other ornaments.



were seen just emerging from the sleeves of her dress, were covered with jewels. The sons, and near relatives of the family, stood behind the Dowager Begum, forming a half circle: his own and his sons' wives were on the opposite side, while the Emperor, being seated in the centre, the party formed a complete crescent. I was particularly struck with the wife of one of the princes, named *Jehanghier*: she was a tall thin young woman, of light complexion, (a Mogulanee princess,) of rather pensive appearance, dressed entirely in white muslin, without an ornament of any kind. Her husband, it appeared, was a wild extravagant youth, in disgrace with the Emperor his father, and under temporary banishment from court, but petted and supplied with money by the Empress, (his mother,) whom His Majesty frequently addressed, in my hearing, by the title of "Mother of *Jehanghier*."

When we were admitted into the Royal Presence, the Begum Sumroo made three *salaams*, and I followed her example. This is called the *tusleem*, and only performed to crowned heads. In compliance with eastern custom, I then advanced towards the throne, and presented, on a clean white napkin, the usual offering of four gold mohurs, (eight pounds sterling,) which the Emperor accepted, and with a condescending smile handed over to the Empress. I then,



agreeable to the lesson I had been taught, retreated backwards to the edge of the carpet, again making the tusleem. The same ceremony, with two gold mohurs, was repeated to Her Majesty; which she having graciously accepted, the same sum was presented to the Dowager; so that I paid rather dear for my curiosity. Having gone through the pantomime of again retreating backwards, (it not being the etiquette to turn our backs on royalty,) I regained my post, by sidling into the circle next to the Begum Sumroo. The Emperor immediately ordered a seat to be placed for me at the foot of the throne, which politeness, rather than inclination, induced me to accept; for I foresaw that a conversation with him would be the consequence; and so it proved. The first question he asked me was, "What relation are you, Lady, to the Royal Family of England?" I hesitated to reply. Thinking that I had not understood him, he asked the Begum if I did not understand Persian. She replied, she believed I did, a little. He then repeated his former question to her. She said, she did not know. I still remained silent, affecting not to understand him, although wondering what could induce him to ask the question. Not wishing to lessen my own consequence, and still more averse to telling an untruth, (for I saw that he had an idea of my being so related,) I turned to

the Begum, and addressed some observation to her in the Hindostanee language, which seemed to convince him that I could speak no other; and as that is not the language of the court, His Majesty's conference with me was but of short duration. As a particular mark of favour, he then took a betel nut from his casket, and cutting it into two pieces, sent half of it to me by his youngest son, *Murza Selim*, a boy of about twelve years of age. I did not at all relish the idea of putting it into my mouth; but it would have been an affront if I had not; so I contrived, unperceived, to get it out again as quick as possible. His *hookah* was then brought, from which he took two or three whiffs, and sent it away. The Queen's was also placed before her; but as it is not etiquette to smoke in His Majesty's presence, unless he signifies his approbation, (which he omitted to do on the present occasion,) hers was also, after a few minutes, removed.

On our preparing to take leave, the Queen took from a small tray (in the hands of one of her attendants) a pair of green shawls, which she gracefully placed upon my shoulders, saying, "Jeta ro!" which means, "Live for ever!" I then tusleemed to the King, who returned it by a slight inclination of the head; and, retreating backwards, we were soon out of the Presence. I took this opportunity to inquire of the Begum Sumroo what His Majesty meant



by asking me if I was related to the Royal Family of England? and what reason he had for supposing me related to them? From her reply, I discovered that this mistake had arisen from my having on a gold bandeau under my white lace veil, which owing to its weight had slipped over the left temple. This circumstance, added to the rich appearance of the bandeau, (it being of the Etruscan pattern of dead and shining gold, tastefully intermixed,) impressed His Majesty with the idea that I must be a branch of that illustrious family; a bandeau on the head being with them the insignia of royalty*.

At the palace gates the Begum and I separated, to dress for dinner; to which we afterwards sat down, at the resident's table, in number upwards of fifty persons. Contrary to the practice of women in this country, the Begum Sumroo always wears a turban, generally damson colour, which becomes her very much, and is put on with great taste. I had almost forgotten to mention a ceremony that struck me as being extremely ludicrous, which is, that of a man, with a long white beard, marching into the room while the party were at breakfast, and, without any preface, beginning to read as fast and loud as he was able, all the news of the day, from a paper in manuscript called the *Acbar*;

* Of this circumstance I was at that time ignorant.

in which was related every, the most minute circumstance respecting the Royal Family, somewhat resembling a bulletin, which I understood was the practice at this hour in the house of every great personage. The Emperor is, in like manner, entertained with anecdotes of the resident's family, the city news, &c. I could scarcely avoid smiling at the profound attention paid by the Begum to this man's nonsense. These readers are much respected by the natives, who sit for hours while they relate Persian tales, the ladies of the family listening at the same time behind a *purdah* *. Both men and women are the greatest gossips in the world; but so averse are they to exertion, that they prefer paying a person for talking or reading to them, to doing either themselves.

* A *purdah* is a curtain, generally quilted, which hangs before a door, to denote that it is a private apartment; and so sacred a barrier is it considered, that no person, except the principals of a family, presume to approach it.



CHAPTER XII.

A PARTY was proposed for the next day to view the curiosities with which this neighbourhood abounds. I accordingly accompanied General O— on an elephant, the rest of the party following, some on elephants, some on horseback. We first proceeded to the *Kootub Minar*, a kind of obelisk so named, about twelve miles from *Delhi*. The resident being of the party, we had, in addition to our own attendants, his body-guard, forming altogether a grand cavalcade. General O— and myself attracted particular attention, from being mounted upon one of the royal elephants that the Emperor had been so polite as to order for my use during our sojourn in his capital. The animal was of course richly caparisoned, and with a silver howdah on his back looked very superb; but another still more potent reason was, the handfuls of silver which the General threw among the populace as we passed. They soon recognized him as their former Governor, and gave the strongest proof of his popularity by the shouts with which they followed us much beyond the city gates. The first object that attracted my attention after



passing through the adjmere gate, was the remains of a college founded by *Meer Dahn Alli Khan*, in the reign of *Shaw Jehan*, which must have been magnificent. A little farther, on the left hand side, stood the Royal Observatory amid piles of ruinous palaces, too numerous to describe, but affording the most striking proofs of the opulence of their former possessors. In little more than an hour we reached the superb mausoleum of *Sufter Jung*, grandfather of the late *Sadut Alli*, Grand Vizier, and Nawaab of Lucknow. This building, which in magnificence and elegance of structure exceeds any I have seen except the *Tadge* at *Agra*, stands on an elevated terrace of marble, erected upon another of stone, in the centre of a large garden, surrounded by four high brick walls, and is in the most perfect state of preservation. The garden is filled with odoriferous shrubs of every description. The entrance to it lies through an immense arched gateway, beautifully proportioned, forming a hollow square open to the dome, round whose tastefully carved fret-work roof, were several small apartments railed in towards the square. The approach to these was by a handsome stone staircase. After passing through two or three of these small rooms, we came to a spacious apartment which extended the whole length of the building; on the sides and ceilings of which were flowers de-



licately painted, and of brilliant colours, on a silver ground. The building itself is of stone.

From hence we proceeded to the *Kootub Minar*, and were not sorry to find tables spread in a fine large tent, with an elegant cold collation. After doing justice to this repast, we sallied forth on foot to examine this greatest of all curiosities. It is considered to have been erected upwards of two hundred years, but whether of Mussulman or Hindoo workmanship does not appear so clear, although generally supposed to be the latter. It is in form an obelisk, two hundred and thirty feet in height, with a base in proportion, lessening very considerably towards the top. The building is divided into four equal parts, with a railing of stone round the outside of each. Its walls are composed of red granite and white marble, in alternate triangular and semi-circular pieces. A circular staircase leads to the summit—a flat roof, surrounded by a parapet. Having ascended half its height, I was glad to retrace my steps, being completely fatigued; but some of the gentlemen who reached the top, were amply compensated for their trouble by the beautiful and extensive prospect that presented itself. Although the day was remarkably mild, and near the surface of the earth scarcely a breath of air was stirring, yet on the top of the *Kootub Minar* the wind was so high that the gentlemen with difficulty kept their feet.



Our march from hence, to the tomb of *Kootub ud Deen*, was frequently intercepted by fragments of ruins. The remains of this holy man are enclosed within a court about fourteen feet square, paved and surrounded with white marble: the enclosure is of net-work, ten feet high. The marble slab over the body, when the weather permits, is covered with scarlet cloth, measuring ten feet square, fringed with gold, and richly embroidered. This place is guarded day and night. Two *moolahs* receive an annual stipend for reading a certain number of daily prayers over the cenotaph. This extraordinary man exacted a promise when dying, and made it binding to all his posterity, under forfeiture of a considerable sum of money, that no woman should be allowed to approach his remains; which being politely signified to us, we contented ourselves with looking through the skreen, for as *I* was the only lady of the party, the gentlemen did not choose to make any distinction. This worthy Mussulman, we concluded, must have been crossed in love. The priests, (who were no small gainers by the visit,) now produced some white muslin turbans, one of which they bound round each of our heads. Thus adorned, we marched through sundry passages and marble courts, until we came to the tombs of *Bahadar Shaw* and *Shaw Allum*, late Emperors of *Delhi*. The latter was father, the former grandfather, to the present monarch.



Their tombs are within one enclosure, in the centre of a square space, similar to that of *Kootub ud Deen*, only larger, defended also like his by marble net-work. These tombs were covered by one large canopy of scarlet and gold *kinkob*, fringed with gold. This was supported by six long silver poles, most richly embossed. The grave of *Shaw Allum*, last deceased, was covered with a pall of the same materials as the canopy: two fans, of peacocks' feathers, with silver handles, lay at his feet; while two priests read alternately passages from the Koran, which we were told is customary for twelve months after the decease of any potentate, a certain number of moolahs being paid by the family for this purpose. A kind of mass is performed; and during these twelve months the lamps round the tomb are not suffered to expire. We then passed under a gateway of considerable depth, the ceiling of which (a square of twenty feet) was sandal wood, beautifully and curiously carved. This led to a bridge of rude stone by the side of a cascade, twenty-five feet in height by five-and-forty broad, rushing from an artificial rock, and over rugged paths, until the stream meandered slowly through an enchanting valley. This spot seemed formed for meditation; and I truly regretted the short time I could devote to its beauties. Our guides now conducted us to the "wonderful brazen pillar." This pillar is of

solid brass, twenty feet high, and four feet in circumference. Tradition reports it to have been placed there by a Rajah named *Patowly*, the founder of *Delhi*; to which he was induced by his superstitious reliance on a Brahmin, who told him, when he was about to lay the foundation of that city, that provided he placed his seat of government on the head of the serpent that supports the world, his throne and kingdom would last for ever. This pillar was accordingly struck, to ascertain the precise spot, under the superintendence of the Brahmin, who announced to the Rajah that he had been fortunate enough to find it. One of the courtiers, jealous of the increasing influence of this Brahmin, pretended to have dreamed that the place on which the pillar stood was not the head of the serpent, which *he alone*, in consequence of his nightly vision, had the power to point out. The Rajah immediately gave directions for the pillar to be taken up. The Brahmin appeared equally anxious that it should be; “for,” said he, “if *I* am right, you will find it stained with brains and blood; but if it prove otherwise, sacrifice me, and pin your faith upon the courtier.” The experiment ended, as might be supposed, to the confusion of the courtier and eternal honour of the Brahmin, who literally contrived that it should appear as he had predicted, covered with brains and blood. The Rajah in consequence

loaded him with riches, and the people ever after looked up to him as a superior being. Such is the power of priestcraft!

We now remounted our elephants, and returned, by a circuitous route, towards *Delhi*, in order to view the mausoleum of *Humayoon*, eldest son of *Timoor Shaw*, and Governor of *Candahar*; also father of the renowned *Acbar*. This building is enclosed by a wall of immense height and thickness, forming a square of considerable extent. Two ponderous gates, studded and barred with iron, command the entrance. On an extensive terrace of white marble, raised on many steps, stands this superb sepulchre; the component parts of which are granite and marble, tastefully disposed, and delicately inlaid with silver. The first terrace is of stone, to which you ascend by seven steps; from thence to the marble one are about fourteen more. Under this terrace are thirty-two cells for mendicant *fakeers*, and round it is a net-work railing of granite. It has one large dome of white marble, and four smaller ones, supported on pillars of granite, which are covered with a roof of grey marble. The ornament on the top of the principal dome is plated with gold. The sarcophagus is of the purest white marble, with verses from the *Koran* inscribed on it in Persian characters. This stands in the centre of a spacious apartment open to the dome, lined throughout with white



marble, and paved with the same material. Four large windows in the dome diffuse a solemn gleam of light, calculated to impress the mind with ideas equally awful and magnificent. This room measures seventy feet square. Attached to each corner of the building is a circular one, with a winding staircase, leading to small apartments which are open to the dome, except by a low railing. The *fakcer* in waiting directed our attention to a large round plate of silver in the centre of the dome, from which, he said, had been suspended a chandelier of the same precious metal, but which was stolen by the *Jauts* when they overrun this province. There was notwithstanding still so much left to admire, that we should probably have devoted more time to it, had we not been engaged to dine with the Begum Sumroo.

Humayoon being the eldest son of *Timoor Shaw*, ought, according to English ideas, to have succeeded him on the throne; but primogeniture was not considered at that period in Hindostan—the reigning prince usually named his successor. The sons of *Timoor Shaw* were not all by one mother: his favourite wife, an intriguing clever woman, and the mother of *Shaw Zemaan*, caused *him* to be seated on the throne. He formed an alliance with *Tippoo Sultaan* to attack the British possessions in India. *Humayoon* rebelled against this brother, who accordingly



caused him to be seized, and his eyes put out. The rest of his days he passed in confinement; and, when dead, was buried here by his son *Aubar*, at whose expense this splendid monument was raised.

At the *Begum Sumroo's* palace we found thirty persons of rank assembled, and a splendid banquet in the European style. This ended, she arose and threw over the shoulders of each of the ladies a wreath of flowers formed of a tuberose plant, united by narrow gold ribbon. No sooner was she re-seated, than strains of soft music were heard, and two folding doors of the saloon flew open as if by enchantment, discovering a number of young girls in the attitude of dancing a ballet, or, as it is here termed, a *notch*. It appeared to me, however, little more than a display of attitudes; indeed their feet and ankles were so shackled by a large gold ring, of more than an inch in thickness, and bells strung round another, that springing off the ground must have been impracticable; in fact, their dancing consisted in jingling these bells in unison with the notes of the musical instruments, which were played by men educated for that purpose. To this music they give effect by appropriate motions of the hands, arms, and person, not forgetting that more expressive vehicle of the sentiments, *the eyes*. Their movements were by no means devoid of grace, particularly when accom-



panied by the voice, although the tones were, in my idea, extremely harsh, and frequently discordant. Seldom more than three girls perform at a time, and with the characters they change the figure. They performed a tale admirably; for by attending to the different gestures, it was as easily comprehended as if it had been recited. One, more superbly dressed than the others, came forward alone, to go through the motions of flying a kite, which she performed to admiration, and with peculiar grace. They pique themselves, I am told, on this art.

After breakfast, next morning, we accompanied the resident to view the royal baths and gardens. The baths are small apartments, *en suite*, having cupolas on the top of each, with one or more small sky-lights of painted glass. They are paved and lined with white marble, inlaid with cornelian, lapis lazuli, agate, &c. in elegant Mosaic patterns. The cold baths are supplied by fountains from the centre, fixed in a marble bason nearly the size of the room, with a bench all round the inside of it. The tepid and hot baths are rendered so by flues supplied from without. From hence we passed to the aviary, a long narrow apartment formed of the same materials, in which at this time were only a few singing birds for show. There was a larger, we were told, in the *Zenanah* garden, much better supplied. A paved terrace led from



this place to the *menagerie*. Here we saw tigers, lynxes, leopards, hyænas, and monkeys of various description and sizes; but, to my surprise, no lions. These beasts were reposing under colonnades of marble, secured to a staple by long iron chains. I do not think they liked our intruding on their retirement, for with one accord, but by different modes, they loudly testified disapprobation. The keeper said they were frightened at seeing so many white faces. The royal gardens came next in rotation, but were scarcely deserving of the name: they had never recovered the depredation made by the general enemy, the *Jauts*. The only things worth notice in them were a few large trees, planted by the Emperor Aurungzebe *himself*, who was fond of gardening, and kept his gardens in great order. A number of wide paved walks crossed each other at right angles, and in the centre of them was a bason containing gold and silver fish; besides which were fountains playing upon beds of flowers, laid out in the Dutch style of tiresome uniformity. Small circular buildings, supported by pillars and faced with marble, terminated the principal walks.

The description of the royal apartments in the fort at *Agra*, will answer also for those at *Delhi*. Fluted pillars of white marble, with gilt cornices; pavement of the same, nearly covered



with a Persian carpet; are the leading features of the latter, with a chandelier suspended from the centre of each room. The chandelier in the banqueting room at *Agra*, was, in the time of the Emperor *Achar*, suspended by ingots of gold. I did not hear of any thing so splendid at *Delhi*, where, for want of chairs and tables, the palace appeared to me scarcely habitable. There is however in every room a cushion, (or place for one,) raised a little from the floor, for His Majesty; indeed, when we consider that no one would presume to sit in his presence, or even in an apartment usually occupied by him, all other articles of furniture would be superfluous. The Emperor's general residence is in the *Zenanah*: he seldom occupies the outer palace, but on state occasions.

In the evening I was introduced to the son of *Abdoulah Khan*, of cherished memory, among the learned men of his country as one of the most liberal patrons of the fine arts, besides being an excellent, just, and good man. He was a native of *Cashmere*, and chief of a province. He died in 1805.

We had now only to view the *Jumna Musjeed*, or principal place of Mahometan worship in this city; for which purpose some of the party set forward immediately after breakfast. This stands in the middle of the city. The ascent to it is by a number of large, handsome, stone steps, on

three sides of an immense square area, out of three principal streets. To this area you pass, on either side, through a double gateway, having apartments over it crowned by a parapet of cupolas. The area is arcaded on three sides—the fourth is the *musjeed*, or chapel, at one corner of which a saint is interred within an enclosure or skreen of marble net-work, covered by a superb canopy: near this no person is permitted to approach with shoes on. The large area is paved all over with white marble, having a square reservoir of water in the centre. This *musjeed* is surmounted by three marble domes, with gilt ornaments of a spiral form on the tops of each, and is supported at either end by a handsome minaret of granite three stories high, each story having a balcony round it with marble net-work railing, and on the top of each a dome, open all round, supported upon pillars of granite. A spiral staircase leads to the top. The ascent to the *musjeed* from the area was by seven steps of granite, to a terrace of marble twenty feet broad, on which it stood, extending the whole length of the front.

As it was not a Sabbath-day, or at the usual hour of prayer, we were permitted to make a minute inspection. There were neither seats, divisions, nor pews, within the building; nothing but a plain marble pavement, with a pulpit similar in shape to those in England, formed

from a solid block of marble; the whole being enclosed by arches, and the roof also arched, with curious carved work in all directions.

Some Mussulmen were at their devotions within the saint's enclosure, and we of course did not disturb them. I knew a gentleman who was imprudent enough once to touch one of his servants with a walking-stick as he passed along, while the man was in the act of prayer, which was no sooner ended, than deliberately taking his sword, he made a cut at his master that had nearly proved fatal: it separated his cheek from the mouth to the ear.

These people are wonderfully tenacious where their religion is concerned; and it is no joke to trifle with them. Several were bawling out at the *musjeed*, as loud as they were able, the first verse of the Koran, which runs thus:

- " Praise be to God, the Lord of all creatures!
- " The most merciful!
- " King of the day of judgment!
- " Thee do we worship.
- " Of thee do we beg assistance.
- " Direct us in the right way:
- " In the way of those to whom thou hast been gracious;
- " Not of those against whom thou art incensed,
- " Nor of those who go astray."

This verse is repeated by all good Mussulmen when about to undertake any thing of conse-



quence, particularly by the *Siads*, or immediate descendants of Mahomet.

In the course of the day I received a message from the Empress, through the *Begum Sumroo*, inviting me to accompany her to a grand entertainment, proposed to be given in the palace on the marriage of one of the royal family. It was to commence on the following evening, and to last for three days. Not doubting my acceptance of it, the Begum said that a Hindostanee dress was preparing for me to appear in, which would be presented by the Empress herself. Unfortunately, it was not in my power to make use of it; for the commissioners having finished their business, had made arrangements for quitting *Delhi* that very day. On taking leave of the *Begum Sumroo*, she presented me with a handsome shawl.

We accordingly set forward as usual, and marched about fifteen miles before breakfast. On leaving the capital of the Mogul empire, we re-crossed the river *Jumna*, and passing over a sandy plain, arrived at the pretty neat town of *Shaw Derah*. This place is exceedingly populous, being the depôt of grain for the city of *Delhi*, and also a place of security for the cattle belonging to the royal family.

The village of *Furr uk Nugger*, where we pitched our tents, is on the banks of the *Bind Nullah*, which, although a deep river, did not



appear to fertilize the soil around it, as the next morning's march presented only an uncultivated waste: no symptom of fertility was perceptible until quite the latter part of it, near a small indifferent village named *Moraad Gunge*, and here was little more than a few shrubs and stunted trees. This country has so frequently been the theatre of war, that it is now nearly laid waste.

At sun-rise the next morning I mounted my horse, and, in company with two of the gentlemen, rode the next sixteen miles into *Meratt* to breakfast; soon after which we received the visits of the Judge, two Rajahs, and several officers of His Majesty's 17th regiment who were there encamped. It was now the 18th of January, the weather most delightful. On the 19th I received visits from the ladies, and the commissioners gave a dinner party.

On the 21st we had a large party to breakfast, and I afterwards returned visits; in doing which I had an opportunity of witnessing a most curious ceremony, peculiar, as I was informed, to these provinces. A young girl appeared veiled from head to foot, with a cord tied round her waist, the end of which was held by a man apparently much older than herself, who walked three or four yards before her, to whom we were informed she was just married. My curiosity induced me to make farther inquiries, when I learned that it was customary in the sect to



which she belonged, for the father, or nearest male relative of a bride, to bind a rope round her waist, tying the end of it round the wrist of the bridegroom, when he leads her home as his property, followed by a procession of relatives, friends, and acquaintance, as we then saw. This ceremony, it appears, is intended to be emblematic of their being tied together for life, and that her family resign all right and title to her. In the evening some of us went out on elephants with the dogs, who put up three hyænas, whom we chased for a considerable time, but never could get within gun-shot of them. Our people brought in a tiger that had just been killed: his skin was so beautiful that I had it cured, in order to cover footstools with it.

On the 24th I rode out coursing with some of the gentlemen of our party, and found so many hares that we were puzzled which to follow.



CHAPTER XIII.

ON the following day the commissioners quitted *Meratt*, and halted a few hours at *Sirdanah*, a palace belonging to the Begum Sumroo, where she generally resides. We were escorted over the estate by her colonel commandant, a respectable old gentleman of the name of Peton, a Frenchman by birth, but resident at her court for many years. She has a regular cantonment here for her troops, and a strong fort containing some good houses, which are inhabited by the officers and their families. Her soldiers are tall, stout men, with light complexions, hooked noses, and strongly marked features, being principally Rajpoots, who are the best soldiers, but much addicted to chewing opium, generally proud, and often insolent. Their uniform is a dress of dark blue broad cloth, reaching to the feet, with scarlet turbans and waistbands. Her park of artillery seemed also in excellent order: most of the large guns stood in a line in front of the palace gates. She paid us the compliment of ordering a salute to be fired, and apologized for not being there to meet us, on account of the entertainment at the palace, which had detained her at *Delhi*. We saw a number of fine horses in her stables, and an English coach that had been lately built for her in Calcutta, which was



to be drawn by four of them, with two postilions. I had afterwards the pleasure of accompanying her in it. The carriage was painted a bright yellow, with silver mouldings, lined with violet-coloured satin, embroidered all over with silver stars. The window frames of solid silver; the lace and hangings silver ribbon, wove in a pattern, and very substantial, with silver bullion tassels. The wheels were dark blue, to match the lining. The postilions wore scarlet jackets and caps, almost covered with silver lace. She has several fine gardens full of fruit trees. The branches of the orange, lemon, and citron trees, at *that* time, fairly bent under their luxurious load.

The surrounding country is highly cultivated, presenting a most cheerful prospect. This is part of what is called the *Dooab*, in consequence of its being fertilized by two principal rivers, viz. the *Ganges* and *Jumna*. *Doo* is Persian for *two*, and *aab* for *water**. It is particularly pleasing to the eye, being well wooded and thickly planted with villages, wearing symptoms of great prosperity. In the course of thirteen miles, we passed through five of them.

From hence to *Katowly* nothing occurred worth mentioning. Like most other large towns, it is enclosed by a high brick wall, with four

* Applicable to all the districts west of Allahabad.



entrances, East, West, North, and South, secured by as many ponderous gates, studded and barred with iron, having a number of armed men at each of them.

On the 28th we proceeded on our journey, and felt the cold uncommonly severe. The morning was fine, clear, and frosty, which produced wonderful effects on the breakfast table. Our road was over a sandy plain, with frequent inequalities, which, if they had not been heaps of loose sand, I should have called *hills*. This continued for six miles, and distressed our carriage cattle exceedingly. After that, we came upon an extensive down which commanded a good prospect. As I before mentioned, part of the tent equipage, crockery, &c. are sent forward at night to be ready on the next encamping ground in the morning. In consequence of the intense cold of the preceding night, two of the bearers were found dead upon the road. Nor was this the only fatal accident that happened: a bullock in one of the waggons was shot, by the carelessness of a man of the Seapoy guard, and died upon the spot.

A short distance from *Muzzuffer Nuggur*, (the place of our destination,) we passed a handsome town called *Owlah*, built *entirely* of brick, which is rather unusual, as in general by far the greater proportion of houses in this country are of cob *. All brick houses in Hindostan have flat roofs



with a low railing all round, where the inhabitants sit smoking their hookahs of an evening, listening to a relater of Persian tales, or a reciter of poetry, such as the *Shah Naumeh*, &c.

About midway on our march the following morning, we were intercepted by a branch of the river *Hindon*, which having forded on elephants, we returned to our carriages, and drove through groves of mango trees the rest of the way. After breakfast I accompanied some of the gentlemen on a shooting excursion, when we discovered a beautiful shrubbery surrounding the hut of a *Brahmin fakeer*, close by the side of a fine large lake, on which were innumerable wild fowl, of whom he was the protector. We found means, however, with a few rupees, to satisfy his conscience with respect to their being killed. This place is fifteen miles from *Muzzuffer Nugger*, which town is above a mile in length.

From this place the country was for the most part level, and cultivated down to the road side. We remarked several flights of wild pigeons on our journey, started a tiger cat and a brace of quail, and saw some romantic views.

I mounted my horse next morning with the intention of riding to *Saharunpore*; but three miles beyond our encampment, we came to a

* Cob is a mixture of mud, sand, and straw, with a portion of cow dung.



river which we were obliged to ford on elephants, but re-mounted our horses on the other side, and reached *Saharunpore* to breakfast. Shortly after our arrival, the judge paid us a visit, and invited the party to dine with him. I forgot to mention, that the judge and collector of every district always accompanied the commissioners to the boundary of it. The climate is considered colder here, than in any part of India. From the judge's house (which stood on an eminence within the fort) we could easily distinguish three distinct ranges of hills, covered with snow, which never entirely melts. *Saharunpore* lies low, and in the rainy season is considered extremely unhealthy, owing to the number of streams by which it is surrounded, bringing down putrid matter from the hills; consequently, fevers and agues are at this time very prevalent. The town is large, and built chiefly of brick. Near it we were shown a garden, the property of Government, well stocked with fruit and vegetables, but that was all—it had certainly no beauty to boast, in the year 1809. This was a frontier station to the *Sieke* country; and it was now thought advisable to assemble an army at a place called *Cheelconnah*, (about seven miles from hence,) in order to check the encroaching spirit of *Runjeet Sing*, their leader. Accustomed from their infancy to carry arms, both the *Sieks* and *Mahrattas* are



expert in the use of them, particularly the matchlock, which they fire at a mark on full gallop, and seldom miss their aim. The higher classes of these men wear their beards long, and bushy up to the eyes, and are extremely fanciful in the colour of them, sometimes tinging them with lilac, pink, light blue, yellow, and even scarlet. I saw one man whose beard was white, edged with purple. Mahometans in general only wear mustachios. The dresses of the Sieks we saw, were made of silk, wadded with cotton, reaching to their feet; the sleeves entirely obscuring the hands, and edged with a broad gold or silver lace all round the skirts. These dresses are made to fit the shape; the skirt to wrap across the front, and fasten by strings on one side; their throat being always exposed *. Over this, they wear a long shawl, bound tight round the waist; a turban on their heads; and in cold weather, when they go out of doors, two square shawls, one plain, the other sprigged, envelope turban, face, and shoulders, leaving the smallest possible aperture, just that they may see their way: shawl socks, and shoes trimmed up at the points, either embroidered on scarlet or yellow cloth, or made of scarlet or yellow leather. Mussulmen are

* Seapoys wear three rows of very large white stone beads, tight round theirs, which at a distance has the appearance of a stock.



fond of gay colours, and have not the same objection to wearing any thing made of leather as the Hindoos have. The principal traffic among the natives here seems to be in slaves. Children are brought down annually from the hills for sale. I saw two, apparently about four and five years old, that had been purchased by a native lady for twenty-five rupees—(one pound eleven shillings and three-pence each.) I was horror-struck at the idea, and very far from thinking, at that time, that any circumstances could induce *me* to purchase a human being like a horse or any other animal; therefore let no one say what he will not do, for we are all, more or less, the creatures of circumstance.

Some of our party made a digression from *Saharunpore* towards *Fizabad*, in order to examine the source of the *Jumna*. They experienced much difficulty on account of the roughness of the road, over which the cattle could not travel; so they were obliged to dismount, and pursue their researches on foot. At length they discovered what they sought; it was a pure stream, flowing rapidly through a narrow pass over a bed of large stones.

From this place, which our party quitted on the 3rd of January, we proceeded to *Munglore*, a fortified palace belonging to *Ramdial Sing*, Rajah of *Hurdoar*. In so doing, we passed a large well-built town named *Jubarah*, the re-



sidence of his eldest son, who came out to receive us at his castle gate. A more ruffian-like figure I never beheld: he measured, I was told, seven feet in height; and I can answer for it, that he was stout even beyond proportion. We did not quit our carriages upon this occasion; but he paid us the compliment of mounting his horse, and with his numerous retinue attending, or rather escorting us to his father's palace. Here we found the gates thrown open, and the old Rajah waiting to receive us with a silver salver in his hand, about the size of a common plate, piled up with gold mohars, which he first presented to the commissioners, and on their declining it to me, when, agreeable to etiquette, I made my salaam and declined it also. The same ceremony having been gone through to one or two others, he affected to appear much chagrined, and gave it to one of his servants, who carried it away. We now followed him into his castle. He was a fac simile of *Blue Beard*, scimitar and all, that one reads of having murdered so many wives. Equally gigantic as his son, he possessed a stentorian voice that made one tremble. I verily thought that we had entered the country of the Brobdignags. The Rajah's dress was no less singular than the rest of his appearance; and, to crown all, he had on a pair of bright yellow jack-boots.

Munglore is a place of some consequence in

Persian
goods! here are
they now?

the manufacturing line, besides being on the high road from Cashmere to our provinces. Persian goods of every description *must* pass this place. The town is large, and built entirely of brick, which the Rajah causes to be refreshed once a year, to make them look like new. The inhabitants weave cloth, print chintz, &c. They all forsook their houses on our approach, and followed us with loud shouting. I was told it was occasioned by seeing *me*, the only English lady they had ever seen; and my being on horseback astonished them still more. Their women, when travelling, have thick curtains drawn round the carriage, so as to elude the most vigilant inspection.

Munglore is surrounded by fine large timber trees; and the enclosures to the fields are all of prickly pear, a plant frequently met with in hot-houses in England, and which forms an impenetrable fence. The inhabitants are all Hindoos. They esteem the peacock a sacred bird: we observed numbers of them walking quite tame about the streets.

While taking the air on an elephant in the evening, I fell in with a caravan of merchants from *Cabul*, who at first stared at me as if they had seen an ourang-outang; but I desired one of my attendants to explain to them that we had a large encampment not far off, and if they would go there, they would be able to dispose



of a great many things. They made no objection, and accordingly we all proceeded together. Their cargo consisted of beautiful Persian cats, birds, dried fruits, sheep with ponderous tails like those at the Cape of Good Hope, and goats, from whose wool the Cashmere shawls are made. These animals were considerably larger and higher than those of Europe; their coats thick, black, and apparently coarse, until examined, when close to the skin is discovered that fine soft wool, the manufacture of which is held in such estimation for shawls. A couple of these goats were purchased in our camp for thirty rupees*.

* Most shawls are exported unwashed, and fresh from the loom. They are better washed and packed at Umrutseer than at Cashmere, where they are manufactured. Sixteen thousand looms are supposed to be in constant motion there, each of them giving employment to three men, whose wages are about three pice a day. It is calculated that eighty thousand shawls are disposed of annually. The wool from Tibett and Tartary is the best, because the goat which produces it thrives better there: twenty-four pounds weight of it sells at Cashmere, if of the best sort, for twenty rupees; an inferior and harsher kind may be procured for half the money. The wool is spun by women, and afterwards coloured. When the shawl is made, it is carried to the custom-house and stamped, and a duty paid agreeable to its texture—one fifth of the value. The persons employed sit on a bench at the frame, sometimes four people at each frame; but if the shawl is a plain one, only two. A fine shawl, with a pattern all over it, takes nearly a year in making. The borders are worked with wooden needles, hav-

Tibet wool 24lbs for 20 Rs



From hence we continued our journey to *Jualapore*, a village immediately at the foot of the Tibett mountains. Previous to reaching it, we came to a place named *Landowra*, another palace belonging to the Rajah of *Hurdwaar*, who had gone forward to receive us. We soon descried him towering above his satellites, with an offering of gold mohars on a napkin; when, (agreeably to custom on such occasions,) descending from our elephants, we touched the gold mohars with the tips of three fingers of the right hand, and made a *salaam*; upon which, one of his servants took them away as before. It is merely a form in the person offering, to denote that he acknowledges himself an inferior. He then conducted us through a large paved court, and up several stone steps, into the palace, where we were surprised to find chairs placed round a large brazier filled with charcoal. As soon as we were seated, several servants entered with wooden trays of about two feet long and a foot and a half broad; on some of which were shawls, pieces of kinkob, muslin, &c.; on others, Persian fruits, fresh and preserved,—sweet cakes, biscuits, and otta of roses. About five-and-twenty of these trays were placed at our feet; while in the court being a separate needle for each colour. There is a head man who superintends and describes the pattern. The rough side of the shawl is uppermost while manufacturing.



fore the palace were paraded several Persian and Arab horses, richly caparisoned, with silver chains about their necks, and pendant ornaments of value. From this superabundance of good things it was necessary, in order to avoid giving offence, to take something. I took a small square handkerchief, and one or two of the gentlemen a Persian sword of no great value. The horses had their walk only to be admired; after which they were quietly replaced in the stable; and mounting our elephants, we bade this good gentleman adieu.

Native chiefs are magnificent, and even profuse in their presents to Europeans. We might have given all we saw in charge of our servants, to take away, if we had wished it, and he would have been highly gratified, as he would have considered himself entitled to expect from us double its value in return, and would not have suffered much time to elapse without asking some favour. I once accepted a Persian cat, and in a few days after received a request from the *Bibbee Saheb* to send her a pair of white shawls.

Travelling over a vile road to *Paharpore*, we gradually approached the mountains, and reached *Juallapore* to a late breakfast. This being the entrance of the *Moradabad* district, we were met by its judge and collector with their separate suite. *Juallapore* is eighteen miles from *Mung-*



lore: the last nine miles was through an inhospitable-looking jungle, where tigers are said to abound. We saw plenty of florican, the black-spotted feathered partridge, hog deer, &c. Where the latter are found, there are always tigers.

The following morning some of our party, myself among the number, made an excursion to the celebrated bathing-place of *Hurdoar*, where we fell in with a party of *Sieks* of high rank: they consisted of the *Ranee Mutaab Kour*, wife of Rajah Rungeet Sing; Rajah *Sahib Sing*, of *Patialah*, and his wife; Rajahs *Bodge Sing* and *Burgwaan Sing*. These people paid us every mark of respect and politeness: they were attended by a numerous retinue.

The town of *Hurdoar* is on a bank of the Ganges, about eight miles from *Juallapore*: it is built chiefly of stone, and stands at the foot of an immense range of mountains covered with luxuriant verdure. The Ganges here divides into several limpid streams, which, after running for several miles over a bed of large smooth stones, unite in *one*, which measures twelve hundred yards across. Its source is near *Punniallee*, on the south-east side of *Hemallah*.

The name *Hurdoar* is composed from *Hur*, the name of a Hindoo saint, (who made this his place of ablution, and eventually his residence,) and *doar*, which in the Shanscrit language means



a door; by which the natives understood that the way or door to this saint's favour, was by frequenting the place that he had named and patronized. As he had a high character for sanctity, and was withal a shrewd, clever man, it soon became a place of great celebrity, and continues so to the present time. There is an annual fair held here to commemorate the anniversary of this man's birth, at which it is computed there assemble no fewer than a million of souls*. The extent of ground occupied by these, in one continued throng, is generally from three to four *koss*†. The grand bathing-day takes place on or about the 11th of April, dependant however on the state of the moon‡.

* The surest way of founding a village in this country is by setting down a *fakeer* on the spot, who immediately builds a mud hut, hoists a small red flag upon a pole, and the following year appears a populous village.

† A *koss* is about one mile and a half English.

‡ A pilgrimage to Mecca is also considered necessary to constitute the character of a *good Mussulman*, and is considered highly meritorious. These pilgrims support themselves chiefly by alms on the journey; and you not unfrequently see the most emaciated objects lying dead by the road side, particularly in a thinly inhabited country, as in the new road from Calcutta to the upper provinces of Hindostan. I counted five myself on that road, who appeared lying flat on their faces, with scarcely any clothing on them, and the bones almost starting through the skin. There is an institution at Mecca for pilgrims, provided for by the will of *Ahmed Shah*; so that while they *remain there*, they are very well off.

Tunkal is a town about three miles from *Hurdoar*, where five elegant houses have been built in the oriental style, with a profusion of Hindoo emblems and decorations, said to have cost thirty thousand rupees each. Two of them belong to rich bankers at *Naugreedabad*; one to *Rajah Nyn Sing*, who lives in the neighbourhood of *Muratt*; one to *Goorah Khan*; and one to *Ramdial Sing*, *Rajah* of *Hurdoar*. They were all built within the last seven years. Hindoos always plaster the inside of their houses with cow-dung, which old women and children are constantly employed picking up. They make it into flat cakes with their hands, and stick them on the outer walls of cottages to dry: they then pile them up, under shelter, for use. The walls and terraces, when perfectly finished, have the appearance of stucco, without any unpleasant smell at all. A general officer in the Company's service brought to England, some years ago, a Hindoo lady as his wife, and left her in handsome lodgings, in London, while he went to visit his friends in Scotland. The first thing she did, after he was gone, was to purchase a cow, and have her brought into the drawing-room. The hostess expostulated; but the general's lady assured her that if any damage was done, it should all be paid for, and she was pacified; but when, a few days afterwards, the housemaid told her mistress that all the cleaning in

the world would never get the cow-dung off the gilt mouldings, she was petrified! concluding of course that the lady must be mad, she wrote off to the general by that evening's post.

Another common practice among Hindoos, is, that of exposing different kinds of grain on sheets, before their houses, to dry in the sun; so that the whole village looks like a bazaar.

The Brahmins who reside at *Hurdoar* persuade their followers, that by performing their ablutions, and making offerings to the *Ganges* at that place, they instantly become purified of their former sins. I hope I am not uncharitable; but could not help suspecting, that some of my party would not have been sorry to be so easily rid of theirs.

We saw here some pilgrims who had travelled all the way from *Juggernaut*, in the bay of Bengal, (some thousand miles,) to perform a penance. They were at this time just setting out on their return, laden with baskets full of small bottles filled with sanctified water, for the purification of those who were unable to come so far.

The road between *Juallapore* and *Tunkal* may be justly compared to those of the New Forest in Hampshire, but still more beautiful from its vicinity to the mountains. After rambling about; (until we were tired,) viewing a number of de-



scents by stone steps, with their appropriate decorations, that conducted votaries to the sacred stream, (each guarded by one or more fakeers,) we returned to our encampment infinitely gratified by the trip.

The commissioners being occupied by business, we did not quit *Juallapore* until the 12th, which afforded me an opportunity of viewing some waterfalls at *Angenny*, a place exactly opposite *Tunkal*, on the other side of the river. Six persons started on four elephants: three spare elephants having been pushed forward to sound the bed of the river, (as we proposed fording it,) and to clear the jungle on the other side. The stream where we crossed was about seven feet deep, rapid, and perfectly clear, so that we could distinguish a bottom of large round stones, which were so slippery that it was a service of danger to pass over them. The elephants trembled at every step, and supported each other by heeling to it, as ships do with a wind on their quarter. It must have been a curious spectacle from the opposite shore to see four elephants wedged like a wall together, with people on their backs, all stepping cautiously as if aware of danger. We crossed a little above the Falls, which are stated to extend for half a mile, and reach fairly across the river. Their descent in many places does not exceed eight or nine feet. We had a complete view of them



from *Angenny*, and were delighted by the sound of dashing waters, and view of stupendous mountains clothed with the stately fir* and spreading bamboo, while the sweet warblers of the wood strained their harmonious throats to bid us welcome. Our advanced guard having shot some jungle cocks†, we had them broiled; and they proved a welcome addition (being young and finely flavoured) to the cold provisions we had brought. After regaling ourselves and resting the elephants, we re-mounted, in order to explore the country, and entered a bamboo jungle, the branches of which were so entwined that the spare elephants were absolutely necessary to force a passage for us. It was really wonderful to see with what dexterity these animals twisted off large branches with their trunks; or, at the instigation of their driver, tore up whole trees by the roots. After buffeting through in this way for about an hour, we came to a charming valley between two ridges of hills, whose summits seemed to touch the clouds. Trees and shrubs of various foliage adorned their almost perpendicular sides, while the meandering Ganges, in distant murmurs, died on the listening ear. Having made a circuit of some miles through this delightful

* This is the only place in Hindostan where the fir tree is found in perfection.

† Like English cocks and hens, only wild.

country, we re-crossed the Ganges in boats, and reached our encampment before it grew dark.

The next morning was fixed on for pursuing our journey. I accompanied the judge of *Moradabad* (whose district we were just entering) on his elephant through thick grass jungles, higher than the animal on which we rode, although he measured fourteen feet. Our advanced party fell in with a wild elephant, from whom they defended themselves by collecting round a tree and firing at him, then setting up a hideous yell, which at length frightened him away.

For eighteen miles not the slightest trace of a road was perceptible; but the guides persisted that they were going right, and brought us to a village named *Kurranpore*. Here the inhabitants were so alarmed at seeing us, that they fled and hid themselves in a grass jungle. A little beyond this village is a *morass*, only rendered passable by loads of reed and bamboo that our people had spread the day before to form something like a road. The elephants did not seem at all inclined to cross it, nor do I think it was altogether safe, but fortunately no accident occurred.

Soon after this we reached a part of the Ganges where there is a ferry, and found excellent boats with platforms for the conveyance of our carriages and horses, waggons, bullocks,

&c. &c. This place is named *Bhynee Ghattah*. Here we quitted what is termed the country of the *Doo-ab*, and entered that of the *Pungaab*, or junction of five rivers, inhabited by a people called the *Rohillas*. The banks of the Ganges, on the *Rohilcund* side, are immensely steep; and the soil, a deep loose sand, which so considerably delayed the baggage, that many of the gentlemen's tents were not pitched until quite late at night. Our encampment extended two miles, over a plain that separated the villages of *Allum Serai* and *Nagul*. From hence we passed over a vile road through a jungle of brush-wood and low stumps, (called the *dak* shrub,) besides two or three streams knee-deep for the horses, to a place called *Nugeebabad*, which is, being interpreted, "City of great Men." Our tents were pitched near the garden-house of *Sultan Khan*, son of the *Nawaab Nugeeb ul Dowlah*, whose tomb we visited in the course of the morning. It stands surrounded by trees that completely shade the building, and is encompassed by a brick wall. The tombs of him, and his favourite wife are united under a slab of stone, covered with a smooth white paste called *chunam*, which bears a high polish, and at a distance looks like alabaster. They are raised considerably off the ground by a terrace of flag-stones. On three sides of this terrace are colonnades neatly painted with emblematical devices; the fourth

is divided into three small apartments for devotion, terminating in as many cupolas. This is the first place, after leaving the Persian territory, where bales of shawl and other Persian merchandise are examined, and a duty levied on them by the East India Company. It is the abode of many merchants, who enrich themselves by purchasing wholesale, and retailing them into the provinces. Large plantations of sugar-cane were observable throughout this part of India, and mills for extracting the juice in order to make it into sugar, to be seen in every village. Those little neat baskets of split bamboo, in which pilgrims carry the Ganges water, are manufactured here, and find a brisk sale. I purchased some shawls and (under such circumstances that I could not avoid it) a slave boy! The circumstances were these :—A poor debilitated woman, with an infant in her arms, and this child, (about four years of age,) seated themselves at the door of our tent, and would not be removed. Thinking she was a beggar, I sent her a few *pice*; upon which she said that she came to sell her child, and not to solicit *pice*, for they would do her no good. I then went out and remonstrated with her upon the cruelty of such an act; told her that if she did, there was not the smallest chance of her ever seeing him again—in short, said all I could to work upon her feelings as a mother, and endea-



vour to turn her from her purpose; but still she persevered, and implored me with tears to take him. She had a numerous family, she said, who must all starve unless she could get money by this means to pay the *bunyah*. The price she asked for the boy was thirty-six rupees, the half of which she owed for food. Her husband, she said, was a cripple, and could not work. I sent a person with her to ascertain the truth of this statement, and finding that the woman had not deceived me, I paid the money and received the boy. Some victuals that was placed before them they eagerly devoured. The child remained without a murmur, in hopes of another meal when hungry; and the mother departed happy, in the belief that her boy was provided for.

This traffic, so repugnant to English ideas, exists only near the hills, where the population is so great, and the means of providing for it so small, that unless purchasers could be found for the children, half of them must starve. This boy had quite the countenance of a Chinese Tartar, with immense large eyes. The first thing I did was to have him bathed and clothed, for he was perfectly naked. He did not like being dressed at all, and for a long time took every opportunity of slipping himself out of it.

In the evening we mounted our elephant, and rode about a mile to inspect a large fort, built



of hewn stone, within which *Nugeeb ul Dowlah* had stood a siege by *Shaw Allum*, Emperor of *Delhi*, at that time denominated "The Great Mogul." This fort is at present untenanted, but is capable of being made a very strong intrenchment, large enough to contain a garrison of three thousand men, although for the actual defence of it perhaps five hundred might suffice. It is situated on an extensive plain, surrounded by a strong wall and two deep ditches, supplied from a reservoir within the fort.



CHAPTER XIV.

ON the following day we halted at *Nugeenah*, about fifteen miles from our last encampment. On the road we forded several small streams, one of which (the *Gongon*) is frequently impassable in the rainy season for many hours, being at that time both deep and rapid. We were told of a tiger that had been seen of late near this river, but he did not favour us with his appearance. A gentleman known to some of our party, had, in passing about two months before, the good fortune to kill one on this very spot. The small town of *Nugeena* contains eighteen thousand inhabitants: it is celebrated for the manufacture of blankets, and coloured glass. The *Nawaab's* residence is at *Arampore*, which we passed close by. In the square space in front of the palace, we observed a number of his attendants—fair, handsome men, sitting or lounging upon *charpiahs*, with a degree of independence that surprised us. These *Rohillah* chiefs are not very partial to the English.

From *Nugeenah* to *Dawmpore* (where we found our tents) is about fourteen miles. Our road lay over a level country, well wooded and watered, the cultivation in many parts reaching to



the road side. *Dawmpore* is famous for the manufacture of pistols, swords, gun-barrels, and matchlocks.

From *Dawmpore*, by way of *Soharra* to *Saispore*, is, without any exception, the wildest fifteen miles of country I ever travelled: it is covered with bushes, the haunt of ferocious animals; through it runs a deep sandy road. The gentleman who was driving me in his curricule, told me that he had killed five tigers on the spot we then were, not more than a month before, and a most singular circumstance occurred. He had gone on to the village afterwards, where he had left his gig, in order to return home in it, when passing a bush where one of the tigers were found that he had shot, a tigress darted out and (what is very unusual) pursued him so swiftly, that notwithstanding he put his horse at speed, he had the greatest difficulty to escape her. The only reason he could imagine for her being so furious was, that it might have been one of her cubs which he had destroyed.

At a place called *Soondree*, about fourteen miles farther, the country appeared well cultivated, which is rather astonishing in such a neighbourhood, and the road tolerably good. We passed through two or three groves of the sweet-scented *bauble* tree, whose odour resembles that of *mignonette*.

On the 21st we quitted *Soondree*, and reached



the judge's house at *Moradabad* to breakfast. The city of *Moradabad* stands in the centre of the most park-like country imaginable. Among the hills, not far from it, the apple, cherry, walnut, arbutus, and beech trees, flourish; and plenty of wild strawberries are found in the woods. The neighbouring gardens produce peaches, apples, strawberries, pine apples, and all sorts of vegetable in the highest perfection. The culture of potatoes is particularly encouraged in this district, and succeeds remarkably well. In seasons when there is a scarcity of grain, (which frequently happens,) this vegetable may prove a most valuable substitute, and probably the introduction of it into India, be the means of saving many thousand lives. Although first cultivated by its European inhabitants, the natives are all fond of it, and eat it without scruple.

The houses at this place are in general large, and chiefly built of brick. The one in which the judge resides is a perfect palace; indeed it was formerly the palace of a Rohillah chief. It is surrounded by an out-work of embrasures, bastions, &c.; is situated outside the city, on a space sufficiently large to encamp an army; and was once attacked by the force under *Ameer Khan*, (when united with *Holkar*, he threatened to exterminate the Europeans,) but gallantly and successfully defended by Mr. Leicester, at



that time judge of the district, until troops arrived to his relief.

There are six principal squares, in which all the houses are of brick, and one square in the centre of the city, not only spacious, but magnificent. It has within it seventy gates, the whole being surrounded by a high brick wall. The streets, contrary to the plan usually pursued in this country, are wide. No manufacture is carried on here; but the inhabitants are celebrated as being excellent mechanics, particularly in the upholstering line. It is a station for one battalion of Seapoys, and a healthy situation at all seasons of the year. The river *Ram Gonga* runs parallel with the north-east side of the city, and supplies the inhabitants with good water and plenty of excellent fish.

We remained here until the 28th, when the commissioners took their departure for *Futteh Ghur*. We forded the *Gongon* in carriages, near the village of *Syfree*. Our road lay the whole way through fields of green barley or wheat, bounded on the right by groves of mango trees; while the left presented a pleasing and extensive prospect. A large estate, belonging to the principal *zemeendar*, wore the semblance of great security and comfort. Passing along a fine hard road and level country, richly cultivated, we saw a place named *Ryepore*, near the large town of *Secrowly*, embosomed in gardens. Our tents



were pitched on an extensive level of turf, surrounded by trees of various kinds. Villages in the *Rohillah* country are in no instance surrounded by a wall, as in the districts of *Coel*, *Delhi*, *Meratt*, and *Agra*; (in fact, throughout the *Douab*;) neither have the Rohillas any fences to their fields. Sugar-cane, wheat, and barley, appear to be the chief productions of their country.

Neither the strength of our party, nor the sentries which at all times paraded before the doors of our tents, could at all times secure us from thieves; but we found a complete guard, at this place, in the person of a small terrier that had been fastened to one of the bed-posts. About the middle of the night, when all was quiet in the camp, (and the sentries, I suspect, asleep,) this little animal became very restless, then barked violently, and at length broke from his fastening, and made a dart towards the opposite wall of the tent. The glimmering light of the lamp discovered to me at the moment two large staring eyes, glaring frightfully round in search of plunder. The dog could not get at the man; but the alarm was given, and the intended thief secured: he had nothing on but a cummerbund*; yet in *that* were secreted two knives, sharpened at either edge. This place is named *Shoepore*.

* Cummerbund is a breadth of cloth wound round the loins.



From hence we continued our route over a fertile country, with occasional inequalities scarcely deserving the name of hills, to *Alli Gunge*. The cultivation reached the road on either side, interrupted only by occasional groves of the mango tree, through which we drove. On the other side *Alli Gunge*, the soil becomes sandy, and the face of the country assumes a totally different appearance. After crossing a small river, we entered what is called a *jow jungle*, much resembling the birch wood in England, of which brooms are made. This continued for about three miles, and conducted us to the banks of the *Ram Gonga*, where ferry-boats had been prepared, but, as it was then practicable, I preferred crossing it on my elephant. An elephant is the only animal, except a camel, that can ford this river, even when it is at the lowest. In the rainy season it would be impracticable to ford it at all, as it is then both deep and rapid.

From hence we drove in a curricie to *Barreille*, a city inhabited entirely by Mussulmen; it has been celebrated in history, and is still of considerable consequence. It stands on an extensive plain, bounded on every side by lofty trees. The soil is deep and sandy; the city itself irregularly built; and its inhabitants, chiefly *Rohillas*, are so very uncivil, (to give the mildest term to their demeanour,) that no European can enter it without the risk of being insulted. These



people possess the pride of ancestry, in a pre-eminent degree. The city swarms with the insolent, proud descendants of *Haffiz Ramut*, chief of the *Rohillas*: he was killed in battle at this place by *Sujah Dowlah*, Nawaab of Lucknow, at the head of the forces belonging to the Emperor of Delhi, who, it is reported, owed his success on this occasion to the firmness of his English allies under the command of Colonel Champion*. This circumstance is still fresh in the remembrance of the natives, whose veneration for their chief is very great; and their detestation of the English, from the part they took against him, proportionably so.

The city of *Bareilly* was founded by *Haffiz Ramut*; and his remains are interred there, beneath a splendid monument erected to his memory. The inhabitants of this city are always ripe for rebellion, but are incapable of much resistance, having neither wall, nor ditch, to protect them. Among these are a few merchants who trade in drugs and timber, from the neighbouring hills, to whom the support of the English Government is of consequence. It is what is called a *Sudder Station*, having a court of circuit, a court of appeal, a judge of the district, collector, chaplain, surgeon, &c. with one battalion of Seapoys. In a court of circuit there

* See Hamilton's Account of the Rohillah War.



are two judges, in a court of appeal three. The Seapoy cantonment is about a mile from the city. The houses of the civilians occupy an open space between the city and the cantonment: near them stands a fortified jail.

We passed nearly a month at *Bareilly*. It is almost the only place in India where the nights throughout the year are never oppressively hot. This place is famous for carpenters' work of all descriptions. They imitate the painting on China trunks, boxes, tables, &c. so well, that it is scarcely possible to distinguish them from the original articles. Their chairs are beautifully varnished, and tastefully shaped. The *Bareilly* furniture is indeed justly estimated throughout the provinces, and produces a fund of wealth to the manufacturers. The facility with which they get timber from the hills, greatly assists their views. From hence to *Pilibete*, which lies at the foot of those hills from whence the timber is brought, is only two days' journey. Being so near these hills, we were desirous of visiting the source of the *Gogra*, which river takes its rise from thence; and accordingly, on the 1st of March, sent forward our camp equipage. The two first marches were unmarked by any particular occurrence: the country over which we travelled was flat and uninteresting; but on the third day we entered a beautiful and extensive forest of *sissoo* trees,



infested by every wild animal that the country produces, notwithstanding, the natives appeared to live in it without any visible means of defence. Curious to know the reason of such apparent apathy, I learned that they were all Predestinarians, and often saw their cattle and children carried off without an attempt to rescue them. "Their time is come," they say, "and if you should succeed in saving them from the threatened danger, another, still more terrible, is sure to be at hand."

The second day, in passing through this immense forest, we met travellers whose countenances bespoke them of a different race. They proved indeed to be inhabitants of the second, and third range of mountains, bringing their merchandize, chiefly drugs, to an annual fair, held about this time, at a village named Bellary, on the outskirts of the forest. *Assafoetida* is a principal article of traffic, as it is a favourite ingredient in the cookery, both of Hindoo and Mussulman. It is a low bush, with long leaves, that are cut off near the stem, when a milky juice exudes, which hardens gradually, like opium, but loses its virtue, if left long exposed to the sun. The people I am speaking of, are of a bright copper colour; their stature is short and thick; they have broad faces, flat noses, small eyes, scarcely any beard, and no mustachios. They do not wear turbans like the



natives of Hindostan, but fasten their hair in a bunch on the top of the head, with a long black bodkin. In appearance they strongly resemble those figures often seen on old china jars; and, living on the borders of Tartary, we may justly conclude them of Chinese extraction. Nothing could exceed the beautiful wild scenery of this day's march. We continued to ride through a thick forest, intersected by innumerable running streams, clear as the purest crystal, over which was occasionally thrown a tree in full foliage, to answer the purpose of a bridge. The approach to one of these streams was invariably marked by the feet of wild animals. On one part of our route, which lay along the edge of a steep precipice, we distinguished the footsteps of wild elephants, as if a drove had lately passed, and this appearance continued for more than a mile. Our guide informed us that a large male elephant had been occasionally seen, and was recognised, on this path, for many years; frequently attacking, and, of course, destroying, the unprotected traveller. As *we* were armed, and strongly guarded, I felt no apprehension, but could not avoid being anxious for the arrival of the servants that were to follow. Nature must surely have regarded with peculiar complacency this most enchanting spot. A rich valley, reposing beneath a majestic acclivity, covered with herds of cattle, grazing on its velvet



pasture, under the shade of spreading branches, with here and there a cluster of peasants' huts, were its peculiar characteristics. All appeared tranquil as in the midst of the most civilized country, nor seemed to fear their lordly neighbours. Our breakfast tent was pitched a short distance beyond this, on the banks of the *Gogra*. The mountains, although in fact, at a great distance from us, appeared but just on the opposite shore, forming one of the finest landscapes I ever beheld. When the heat of the day had a little subsided, we sallied forth to enjoy the prospect, occasionally seating ourselves on a projecting rock. The moon was near the full, and arose from behind the mountains superlatively bright. To what sublimity of idea did their vast summits, illumined by her rays, give rise, while their more humble bases were veiled in obscurity!

Next morning, we pursued our way, and safely arrived at *Behrmundeo*. Our tents were pitched on a plain of the liveliest verdure. In front ran the *Gogra*, slowly meandering over its pebbly bed, bounded on the opposite shore by almost perpendicular mountains. The sides of these mountains clothed with trees of various foliage, many of them in full blossom, impregnating the air with the most exhilarating odours; while not more than a hundred yards from us, lay the forest, filled with game of every



kind. The few native inhabitants of this country, are solely occupied in tending their herds and cutting wood.

The river supplies them with fish and wild fowl in abundance, both which they eat without scruple. Soon after breakfast, our Hindoo servants asked permission to pay their obeisance to the deity who is said to preside there. I confess my curiosity was raised to see a spot so celebrated: at sun-set, therefore, on the following evening, we repaired thither, when instead of a temple, as I expected, decorated with all the emblems of Hindoo superstition, I beheld only a pedestal of granite, about five feet high, with three rusty iron spikes of a foot long stuck into the top of it. These were ornamented with a few faded flowers and boughs, the pious offerings of our people, while at its base were seated three squalid unfortunate children of a mendicant *fakcer*, who, with mouths and eyes wide open, appeared like horrible fixtures to the place. Some *gentlemen*, we were told, had been at this place before, but never *any lady*. Finding so little attraction here, we walked along the sands, which as the river subsides, are left dry, and soon become hard, for a considerable distance. Large fragments of rock occasionally interrupted our progress. Near these were a cluster of deserted huts, that our guide informed us, were occupied at a par-



ticular season of the year, by the hill people, whose mountain dwellings, he pointed out to us, at an immense distance on the summits, and between the fissures of the opposite range. They came down, he said, to sift the sand for gold dust, lumps of which were frequently found there, as large as a common sized hazel-nut. This forms another part of their traffic with *Bellary*, the village before-mentioned, and on the approach of summer, these people return to their snowy dwellings. We now seemed to have reached the uttermost parts of the earth. Huge snow-capped mountains, frowning in awful majesty, formed an amphitheatre around us, from one of which (about the centre of this vast space) the river takes its rise. Not a human being to be seen or heard. It was stillness all. Oh, had I but the pen of *Young* or *Milton* to describe it! The delightful reverie into which I had fallen, was at length interrupted by my companion, who having strayed some little distance, returned to point out to me amongst the varied foliage, that of the fir, oak, and ash. On returning to the tents, I mentioned having seen them, which induced some of the gentlemen of our party to ascend these mountains, and explore. I wished much to have accompanied them, but was persuaded to relinquish the attempt, as it could only be accomplished on foot, and, of course, with very great



fatigue. Two only of the gentlemen reached the summit, and *they* passed the night in a hut that appeared not to have been long untenanted. After traversing a beautiful green sward, for about a quarter of a mile, along the bank of the river, they gradually ascended to the height of forty feet, and found themselves on a flat cultivated space. From hence they proceeded along a winding path, occasionally impeded by mountain rills, near which they observed innumerable plants of extraordinary beauty*; also the fern, ivy, and common dock-plant of England, and they had no doubt, from the nature of the soil, but that violets and primroses might have been found, had there been time to search for them. Sometimes they came to a beautiful valley interspersed with trees and huts, where the wild strawberry, raspberry, barberry, and hawthorn, flourished in abundance; at others, they were obliged to be assisted by their guides up perpendicular heights of six or seven feet. Near one of these, they were led to expect a mountain torrent of some magnitude, but were disappointed, from having missed the turn which would have led them to it; it proved to be four hours' walk beyond the village at which they halted for the night. Two beautifully picturesque

* Some of them they brought to me, and I succeeded in propagating them, but they degenerated as well in colour as in size.



valleys conducted them to an acclivity covered with the pine, fir, and mountain ash, intermixed with those trees which are peculiar to the more southern provinces. After toiling for four hours, over a path scarcely wide enough for one person, sometimes bordering on a precipice of tremendous depth; they reached the summit, on which they found a deserted village. The inhabitants, it was concluded, were gone to the fair at *Bellary*. A friend of ours, thinking it might prove a good speculation, ordered two or three hundred small caps of scarlet cloth to be sent there the following year, and exposed for sale. No sooner were these produced, than the hill people crowded round and evinced the strongest anxiety to possess them. So rapid was the exchange for drugs effected, and so clamorous did they become when all were nearly disposed of, that the vender was actually obliged, by stratagem, to make good his retreat.

But to return to my narrative. These unsuspecting people, having left their habitations open, our gentlemen entered one of the huts, in order to take some refreshment and repose; but on calling for the provisions, what was their dismay to find that none were brought, although at least a dozen people had started with them. A bottle of brandy had been given to one of the guides, but by some accident he had broken it. In fact, neither cold meat nor

brandy had arrived. They had then no other resource left, than to kindle a few sticks, in order to warm themselves, and determine to be as comfortable as circumstances would permit. So, dismissing the guides, and barricading the door with logs of wood, they sought shelter from hunger in the arms of Morpheus; thus they might probably have remained some hours insensible to its attack, had not an alarm of a different nature occurred, which filled their minds at the moment, with a sentiment not very *unlike fear*. About midnight, the door of the hut was forcibly assailed, accompanied by voices who loudly demanded entrance. The wind had risen almost to a hurricane, and whistling through the interstices of their miserable dwelling, rendered quite unintelligible the language of the intruders. Having neglected to provide themselves either with fire-arms, or side-arms, they debated whether it would be more prudent rather to make the door more secure than to open it. One of the gentlemen, however, suggested that they might still be unable to defend themselves for any time; nor could they entertain the slightest hopes of succour from their guides, of whom it was most probable they should see no more; for, upon the least appearance of hostility, these men generally decamp. It was at length determined, that they should each take a log of wood in his hand, and boldly open

the door; when, ridiculous to tell, instead of the abuse and blows they were prepared to parry, a party greeted them who had been sent by us with some good cheer. For we had learned after they were gone, that the provisions they intended to have taken with them, had been inadvertently left behind. No longer grumbling at the interruption to their slumbers, they seated themselves upon the ground, and never (as they afterwards assured me) made a more comfortable meal. These huts are composed of pieces from the rock, cemented together by clay, and thickly thatched. At dawn of day, our gentlemen began to descend, which they found as tedious, and more terrific than their labours on the preceding day. One of them had the curiosity to measure the height of the mountain, and found it from its base to the summit, exactly four thousand feet*.

The following day was passed in exploring the country in a contrary direction. Game of every description rose almost beneath our elephants' feet; amongst which were a great number of the black feathered partridge, equally as fine in flavour as beautiful in plumage; they are shaped like those of England, but rather

* The cattle bred in these hills are remarkably small, and nice eating; the meat being very fat, and the grain extremely fine. The bullocks in general are about the size of an English calf.



larger: these and quails seemed to abound in the vallies where we were.

One night, while we remained here, a circumstance of rather an alarming nature occurred, but, providentially, was not succeeded by any serious consequence. The roar of a wild elephant near our camp, threw every thing into confusion, and we had reason to fear his nearer approach, as one of the female elephants that conveyed the tents was answering to his call, and all efforts to silence her were vain. It was supposed that she might, some time or other, have been used as a decoy elephant, for our people were obliged to chain her round a large tree to prevent her running off, and also to kindle fires round the camp to keep him at a distance. But our perils were not destined to end here; as, before the fires were fairly lighted, a hungry tiger sprung on one of the bullocks and dragged him off. It was too dark to distinguish the tiger, but his growl could not be mistaken, which added to the screech of the elephants, made a most terrific concert. In vain did the gentlemen assure me, that the constant firing of musketry kept up by our attendants, would secure *us* from harm; I trembled at every joint, and most heartily wished myself any where else; nor were my fears dissipated until the return of day-light.

We next morning bid adieu to this haunt of



our formidable enemies, and encamped about fourteen miles distant ; where, free from shade, the sun was intensely hot, and the nights extremely cold. While taking our usual ramble one evening, we got intelligence of some neighbours that might have proved still more dangerous than those we had quitted. A party of five hundred *Mowattys* had pitched their tents about a mile and a half from ours, and were reported to have plundered several villages in their route. These are a description of robbers, something like gypsies, and very desperate. As we were not ambitious of becoming acquainted with them, no time was lost in collecting our small forces, and striking the tents ; or in taking speedy measures, as silently as possible, to decamp. We halted not again until we were entirely clear of the forest. The change of climate experienced now, was very great ; not only the days, but nights, became oppressively hot under canvas ; and although highly gratified by the trip, I was by no means sorry to find myself in a *bungalow* at *Bareilly*. March and April are the only months in which Europeans can visit *Behrmundeo* with safety. Before that time the weather is too cold, and afterwards, the water is so impregnated with melted snow, mixed with putrid leaves that are washed down from the hills, as to render it certain death to the traveller who attempts it. We just returned to



Bareilly in time to eat ortolans in perfection; they come in season with the hot winds, and are found in immense flights wherever there is a sandy space. These birds are about the size of larks, and when fried with crumbs of bread, are really delicious. At first, they are like little lumps of butter, and may be eaten bones and all; but towards the latter end of the season, they fall off amazingly, and are at all times so delicate that if you attempt to keep them alive, they are good for nothing; they are not killed with shot, but with a grain called *gram*. Ortolans and mangoes are great delicacies during the hot season, and fortunately both are to be procured in abundance.

After remaining a short time at *Bareilly*, we proceeded towards *Futty Ghur*. In two marches we reached *Kutterah*, the scene of battle between *Sujah Dowlah* and *Haffiz Ramut*, of whom I have before spoken. This town of *Kutterah* is large, populous, and in good repair. It was built by *Sujah Dowlah* to commemorate his victory over the *Rohillahs*; it is protected by a high brick wall, and secured by ponderous gates thickly barred with iron*. The wind having blown hard all night, and still continuing to do so, I travelled in my palankeen. This country is more than usually diversified with hill and

* Distant from *Bareilly* about thirty miles.



dale, which, with a variety of cultivation, afforded a most agreeable prospect; but we had the misfortune to find our tents pitched in an open space, without the shelter of a single tree, and the wind continuing to blow, raised the light sandy particles in such quantities as to render our situation, that day, by no means enviable. Added to this, none of the insignificant villages near us, afforded even fodder for our cattle. The country, from this place, continued level, and extremely fertile. We passed through the village of *Acbar*, and about four miles further, that of *Sianna*. Near the latter were some luxuriant *banyan* trees, which formed an extensive shade, while clumps of bamboos in every direction, added much to the beauty of the scene. The wind had now considerably fallen, but the threatening aspect of the weather portended an approaching storm, it did not however deter me from mounting an elephant at this place, and we were fortunate enough to arrive at our encampment before the rain commenced, which soon afterwards fell in torrents, accompanied by heavy thunder, and some vivid flashes of lightning. The town of *Jellalabad*, where we halted, is built upon an eminence, and contains a pretty strong fort. We found plenty of game in the neighbourhood, particularly hares, and the common brown feathered partridge. I saw also several foxes; these are



the prettiest creatures imaginable, beautifully formed, and not much higher than a rabbit; the colour is the same as those in England.

The road from *Jellalabad* to *Umrutpore* is very bad; I travelled it in an open carriage, at the imminent risk of my life. The prospect, however, is extremely beautiful, the country being checkered by groves of the *kudgua*, mango, and sweet-scented *banbool* trees. About two miles after leaving *Jellalabad*, we re-crossed the river *Ram Gonga*. As it was too deep to ford, we had recourse to boats. So thick a fog prevailed, that although the river is not broad, we could not distinguish the opposite side, and the cold dampness of the atmosphere was exceedingly unpleasant. About six miles farther, we crossed another stream of about three feet deep, beyond which, by a gradual ascent, we reached our tents at *Umrutpore*. This village stands upon a plain of considerable extent, as smooth as any bowling-green.

In the course of the journey to-day, a gentleman of the party being on horseback, was attacked by a wild buffalo, who, inflicting a wound with his horns on the flank of the horse, so frightened him, that he set off at speed, and by that means probably saved the life of his rider. I was fortunately on an elephant, of whom these animals are afraid. From *Umrutpore* to *Futty Ghur*, the distance is only eighteen



miles; but the road is as bad as it can be, and passable; particularly the last two miles, which led through a thick *jow jungle* to the river Ganges. Here we crossed in boats so rudely constructed, that as the wind blew strong, and the stream was exceedingly rapid, I did not feel very comfortable.

Futty Ghur being the station appointed for the Commissioners to reside at, we left them there, and returned to the place from whence we had started, viz. *Secundra* near *Agra*.



CHAPTER XIX.

AT *Secundra* we remained until the middle of September, 1809. At that time a committee was ordered to proceed to *Poosa*, (below *Patna*,) where the East India Company had a *stud*, in order to select horses for the cavalry. Once more, then, I was to become a traveller, and destined to proceed in a contrary direction. We were to *march* as far as *Futty Ghur*, which stands on the banks of the Ganges, and thence go by water down the country.

Having in a former part of this narrative given a description of the road between *Futty Ghur* and *Secundra*, I shall pass over the present march, and commence my journal from the period of our embarkation at *Futty Ghur* on the 27th of September, 1809. Our boats having been prepared for the voyage, consisting of a *budgerow* to sleep in, a *pinnace* to eat in, a boat fitted up as a kitchen; another for poultry, sheep, and stores; another for servants and baggage; and a sixth for the washing-boat and Hindoo servants; and being joined by the fleets of two other gentlemen, we set sail with a fair wind towards *Khawnpore*, and arrived there on



the 29th to dinner. The next day we sailed rapidly down the stream for twenty miles, and then came to for the night; on which occasion the boats were made fast to long wooden pegs, driven into the bank for that purpose. This gives the servants an opportunity of dressing their food on shore; besides which, shoals and quick-sands are so numerous in the Ganges, that it would be dangerous to move by night.

At day-break the next morning we again set sail, but had not proceeded far before our *budgerow* got aground, and it was six hours before she was under weigh again. This was by no means an agreeable situation on a river full of quick-sands. The weather was fortunately mild; and towards evening we reached a village named *Tickerry*, which being inhabited by Hindoos, furnished no supplies for our other servants. Having undergone much fatigue during the day, (for all hands are obliged to put a shoulder to the wheel in cases of emergency,) they preferred rest, and deprivation of a meal, to walking any distance in search of one. This circumstance, fortunately, does not often occur, as a man's strength in this country is estimated by the quantity of food that he eats. I have frequently known a palankeen bearer devour two seers of boiled rice at a meal; and so proud are they of an enormous appetite, that they challenge each other to *eat*, as English clowns do to



fight. Kumjaur wallah, (a man of little strength,) is one of the most opprobrious epithets that can be used towards them; indeed, of so much importance do they consider a hearty meal, that while thus engaged you may summon a man in vain—he will not stir until he has finished it. Happily, the ceremony is a short one. They dress their victuals in earthen vessels, which are broken in pieces the moment that the contents are removed into brass ones; (out of which it is eaten;) and these are scowered with sand after every meal. Not a servant in the family, except the sweeper, would touch any thing from their master's table if they were starving; (in fact, Hindoos do not eat animal food at all; and meat for Mussulmen must be prepared after the Jewish custom, or they are forbidden by their law to eat of it;) so they betook themselves to their usual resource in such cases, composing themselves to sleep; some on the top of their boat, and others under an old sail on the bank. Our pinnace being the largest in the fleet, it was agreed that the party should assemble in it at breakfast and dinner. Of an evening, when the boats were made fast for the night, (which was generally the case about sun-set,) some of us walked or rode out until dinner was ready. The dinner hour here is eight in the evening.

The mornings began now to grow cool; and the party proceeded in high spirits, with a cer-

tainty that the weather would become pleasanter every day.

Finding ourselves near the town of *Jehanabad*, which contains an excellent market, we came to there for the night considerably before our usual hour; but this frequently answers, as there may not be another good place to stop at when you wish to do so, the banks being often craggy and irregular, and no village within hail.

About noon the next day we came opposite to the ancient city of *Allahabad*, but the river had fallen so low that we could not approach it, we were consequently obliged to make for the opposite side of the river *Jumna*, where the water is always deep.

After procuring some necessary supplies by means of a small wherry from *Allahabad*, we proceeded next day as usual; but no village being in sight at the hour for *legowing*, our boats were made fast to a sand-bank in the middle of the river. Our voyage to-day was by no means agreeable; for the river was bounded on either side by high, and almost perpendicular banks. The wind blew strong from the eastward during the night, which being against the stream, caused a heavy swell, and annoyed us not a little; in fact, we were obliged to quit the position we had taken, and not without great difficulty gained the opposite shore. The river shortly after assumed the appearance of a sea, for which



our boats were by no means calculated. Unfortunately for us, it soon increased to a gale of wind; during which, one of our baggage boats was upset, and the *budgerow* broke from her moorings, drifting with considerable rapidity towards a place in the Nawaab's country inhabited by thieves, whose chief support is from the plunder of boats, which they have a most ingenious mode of attacking without being seen. Accustomed to swimming and diving from their infancy, the water may almost be termed their natural element. When they perceive boats *legowed* for the night, and that the crews are retired to rest, they cover their heads with earthen pots, having two holes bored through them for eyes, and slipping into the river, float silently round until an opportunity offers of climbing upon deck, when making themselves masters of all property that is moveable, without disturbing any one, they swim off with it securely. So expert are they at this occupation, that a gentleman has frequently missed his writing desk in the morning, without the smallest appearance of any one having been there.

The next morning was cloudy, with a drizzling rain; but the wind proved fair, and we let go our anchorage. The river however winds so considerably here, that a fair wind one half hour is contrary the next, so that we made but little progress. The banks were still high,



almost inaccessible: on their summits we observed several large villages. The weather had now become cool and pleasant. In the course of the day we saw a great many fishing boats, that amply supplied our table with delicious fish: one sort, called the *roe*, resembles the cod-fish we have in England. Mullet of all descriptions are very plentiful in this river. In a few hours the face of the country wore quite a different appearance: sloping banks clothed with verdure, villages disposed amid groves of trees, and whole families bathing and playing in the stream, succeeded to the barren craggy banks we had just left, and proved a most agreeable change.

About noon we arrived at *Mirzapore*, a celebrated place for the manufacture of carpets, little, if at all inferior, to those of Turkey or Persia. *Mirzapore* is a station for civilians, that is to say, a judge, collector, registrar, assistants, &c. with one or two regiments of Seapoys. It is also a principal seat of customs.

The following morning, at an early hour, we passed the fort of *Chunar*, which is considered one of the hottest places in India, and reached *Benares* about seven o'clock in the evening. Villages became daily more numerous, and ferry-boats plied in abundance.

We passed this day two indigo factories, and the military station of *Ghazipore*, as like wise



the fort and town of *Buxar*. From *Buxar* to *Chuperah* the river winds considerably, and there are many quick-sands which, in the rainy season, render the navigation extremely dangerous. A gentleman, whose *budgerow* stuck on one of these, was obliged to walk backwards and forwards on it the whole night, knee-deep in water; for had he stopped but for one minute, he would have been swallowed up for ever. A boat from the shore, as soon as they could see him, put off to his assistance; but his own, with all the property it contained, was irretrievably lost. This part of the country is well cultivated, and rendered picturesque from the numerous villages and groves with which its banks abound.

The traffic on the *Ganges* is really wonderful: we passed in one day upwards of two hundred merchant vessels, laden with grain quite to the water's edge. About two o'clock a storm came on from the south-west, which nearly sunk our cooking boat, and obliged us to make fast to the nearest bank: it lasted without intermission for at least four hours. These storms are very common in the rainy season, which is called the south-west monsoon. It begins at *Khanpore* about the 20th of June, and continues until the end of October: in Bengal a month earlier. Heavy rolling clouds, from the south-west to the north-east point of the compass, announce



its approach. The sky assumes a terrific aspect, and after some days of extreme heat, the rain comes down in torrents. The first shower or two, causes the earth to smoke and (such you can almost fancy to be the case) to hiss like water falling upon a hot plate of iron, but after that, the air becomes cool, and the whole atmosphere breathes perfume, carrying delightful fragrance on every breeze. This heavy rain does not continue, as in *Bengal*, to inundate the country for many weeks, giving to it the appearance of one large sheet of water, but is succeeded at intervals by fine reviving weather. The ravines which intersect the upper provinces carry off the superabundant water.

About ten o'clock the next morning we reached *Chuperah*, and finding it a cheap place for natives to purchase provisions, they were all permitted to go on shore. This delayed us so long, that we did not reach *Danapore* until the morning after. Here we crossed a small branch of the Ganges, (which by an accumulation of sand had been separated from the main river,) and continuing our course for ten miles farther, entered the river *Gunduk*, and soon reached *Soanepore*. This village is situated on a promontory, between the two rivers *Gunduk* and *Ganges*. An annual fair is held here for those of the East India Company's stud-horses that turn out undersized, (or too low for the cavalry.) Here



the cocoa-nut, bamboo, and tamarind trees, so beautifully intermix their foliage, that it may be justly termed a most luxuriant spot. We quitted the boats, and having despatched our camp equipage, mounted horses, and rode the first fourteen miles towards *Poosa*. We now came to a stream, which not being fordable, we were obliged to dismount, and cross it on a raft made of bamboos, fixed upon three canoes abreast of each other: an extensive lake now presented itself, covered with wild fowl. The surrounding country appeared populous, and consisted chiefly of pasture lands. Soon after crossing the narrow deep stream of which I have been speaking, we encamped under the spreading branches of a tree that afforded ample shelter for ourselves and cattle. The ground, as far as the eye could reach, was covered with the most lively verdure, interspersed with stately trees: here and there stood a hamlet, or cottage, neatly thatched, round which the stream meandered slowly, and the cattle browsed contentedly on its banks. After travelling the next morning in an open carriage for eighteen miles, on an execrable road, we arrived at *Poosa*. The superintendant at this time was a Mr. Moorcroft, who afterwards penetrated the third range of the Snowy Mountains, and published an ingenious work on the subject of his researches. The pasture at *Poosa* is remarkably fine. The bam-



boo plant flourishes here in perfection, forming alike an admirable fence to their lands, and considerably adding to their beauty. A river called the *Choota Gunduk* fertilizes the soil. There appears however a strong objection to this place—I mean the climate—as is the case throughout the province of *Tirhoot*, in which district, *Poosa* is situated: a cold, damp atmosphere, and constant fog in the winter; a hot, damp, close one, in the rains; (when very few escape the ravages of fever and ague;) and in the hot season a burning sun, without sufficient wind to cool, even by means of tatties, and yet too hot a one to live without them. The seasons in India are only divided into these three, of four months in each; but they are very different in the upper and lower provinces. The province of *Tirhoot* is favourable only for the growth of indigo and production of horses.

The superintendant's mansion stands alone; his nearest neighbour, with the exception of those attached to the establishment, lives twelve miles off. On the 4th of November we quitted *Poosa*, and crossed the Ganges by three separate ferry boats to *Patna*, being obliged to traverse beds of sand between each. From *Patna* we proceeded in carriages to *Danapore*, where we did not arrive until one o'clock, much fatigued, and almost starved. On the morning of the 12th, accompanied by a party from *Danapore*,



we re-crossed the Ganges, in order to be present at the *Hadjepore* fair, so called from a village inland, of that name, although the booths are erected and merchandize exposed at *Soanepore*, the village before mentioned as standing on a promontory at the junction of the rivers *Ganges*, and *Gunduk*, forming at this time the gayest scene imaginable. The surrounding scenery is very beautiful, being a continuation of woods along the bank of either river. Those who preferred living in their boats, sheltered by the spreading branches of luxuriant trees, made them fast to the shelving bank. On the present occasion, many were gaily decked with flags, and formed a line of above a mile in length. The noise of firing matchlocks, and the sounds of native music, proved to *our* ears exceedingly annoying. There is a fine race-course at this place, which was well attended, and the gentlemen had good sport. Instead of a ball as they have in England, this was a dinner for separate parties, provided by the same *traiteur*, under the trees. The business of the Committee, and individual amusement, kept us here until the 28th, when we all returned to *Danapore*.

On the 3rd of December we turned our faces westward. Having before described the country between *Patna* and *Khanpore*, I shall only add, that we travelled it either on horseback or in an open carriage, and arrived there without



accident on the 4th of January. Having passed a few days with our friends, we commenced our march towards *Meerat* by the way of *Chobipore*, leaving *Futty Ghur* upon our right, and passed a fort belonging to the Rajah of *Tut-teah*, before which Colonel Guthrie, of the Company's service, lost his life in 1804. A little farther, on the same road, brought us to a place called *Canoge*, where many curious coins have been dug up of as ancient date as Alexander's conquest, and with his name upon them: how they came there has never been satisfactorily accounted for. The ruins are very extensive; and the natives make a great profit from these coins. They manufacture and dye red muslin for turbans in a superior manner at Canoge; also coarse cloths, checked muslins, rose water, otto of roses, &c. I observed also a number of gardens filled with poppies for producing opium, which they obtain by making an incision into the round part of the poppy, just below the flower. This is generally done in the evening, and before morning a sufficient quantity of opium exudes to take off. It appears like a clear dark gum, which hardens by exposure to the air.

Our route from hence lay through ravines for nearly fourteen miles. Scarcely could a space be found large enough to pitch our tents upon. We were much disturbed at night by wolves,



which the sentries affirmed were the largest they had ever seen.

Next morning's march brought us near to a fortified place, reported to be the haunt of banditti. Our guide, by way of encouragement, informed us that a few days before a gentleman was robbed here, and two of his servants put to death. We had, however, the good fortune to pass the night unmolested, and proceeded as usual on the following day. A dreary road, over a bleak and sandy plain, much cut up by heavy loads, appeared before us. The wind blew exceedingly cold; and, to add to my discomfort, when about the centre of this dreary wild, one of the springs of our carriage snapped. Behold me, then, standing the picture of misery, shivering with cold, and sharply pressed by hunger, (for we had not yet breakfasted,) while they bound up, as well as circumstances would permit, the untimely fracture. Blacksmiths and carpenters are found in every village, so that the damage was easily repaired when we arrived there. Next morning the weather was so cold, that I preferred riding the first five or six miles on horseback; the carriage was consequently sent forward by one of the grooms, who having by some chance let go the reins, a spirited Arab mare, being in the shafts, set off at speed, overturned the gig, and almost killed the man. We received a present to-day



from the Rajah of a wild hog that he had just killed; dressed some of it for dinner, and found it excellent, resembling both in appearance and flavour the most delicate veal. From hence we reached *Sarseney* to breakfast, which place having described in my journey from *Secundra* to *Hurdoar*, I shall here pass over; suffice it to say, that the town appeared more flourishing than at that period, and the fort exhibited more evident marks of decay. Its former Rajah, *Bagoïn Sing*, was so attached to the place from its having descended to him through a long line of ancestry, that he offered Government a large sum of money for the re-possession of it; but prudence forbids their acquiescence. He is one of those who are not to be trusted.

After marching the three successive days with little variation to the scene, and no remarkable incidents, we arrived near the fort of *Mala Ghur*, the residence of *Bahadar Khan*, (a quiet, civil ally of the English Government,) and encamped close to his garden. *Bahadar Khan* himself was absent; but his brother, who lives with him, paid us a complimentary visit with a present of fruit and vegetables, and in the evening we walked with him over the gardens.

The next morning we drove through a beautiful country, over a fine hard road for about twelve miles, to *Galowty*, a village surrounded by clumps of trees and green fields. During



this ride over a fine open plain, we started a herd of antelopes, which the dogs we had with us pursued for about half an hour full in our view, and afforded excellent sport. The antelopes at length eluded them by darting into a thicket. They are the most elegant animals in shape, as well as action, that I ever beheld.

The first four miles from *Galowty* led through fields of grain, chiefly barley; after which we entered a *dock jungle* that was extremely difficult to drive through on account of the stumps. This continued all the way to *Hauper*.

Hauper is a large town, situated on an eminence, with a brick wall all round it. It is a station for invalided Seapoys of the Mussulman persuasion, and a very refractory set they are. Their chief employment is drinking *bang*, (a spirituous liquor extracted from an herb somewhat resembling mint,) and smoking. An officer resides on the spot, but he cannot keep them out of mischief: they are always inclined to be insolent to strangers, and sometimes have been known to plunder them. Many fine large groves of the mango tree appeared about this place.

From *Hauper* we proceeded still through a *dock jungle* to *Ker Koondah*, a village as inhospitable as could be well imagined, and one in which little was to be got, and much apprehended. We did not however retire to rest until a very late hour, and kept the sentries upon



the alert for the rest of the night, so that we escaped the usual fate of travellers at that place, (the loss of their property,) and arrived safely to dinner at *Meerat* next day.

Thus ended our trip from *Agra* to *Poosa*, and from *Poosa* to *Meerat*, a journey of sixteen hundred miles, performed chiefly in an open carriage. As it may perhaps amuse those who have not been in India, I annex a list of our establishment for the march.

Two palankeens.

Twenty-four bearers.

One sirdah, or head bearer, and his assistant.

Two elephants with their drivers, and two attendants. One of these carried a tent.

One gig.

Eight horses.

Eight grooms.

Eight grass cutters for the horses. Here it may not be amiss to mention, that the horses do not eat hay as in England, but the fibrous roots of grass well beaten, which requires a man for each horse to cut and prepare. These roots, and grain, (a kind of vetch,) constitute the food of a horse in India.

One coachman.

Six clashies, or men to pitch tents.

Three tents, with two poles in each, and double walls: the space between the walls a passage of about five feet all round. These tents



are twenty feet between the poles, about sixteen feet wide, and five-and-twenty feet high. Some of them have boarded floors and glass doors; but this is only in a standing encampment. They are lined throughout with chintz, carpeted, and have branch lights for candles fixed against the poles.

Twenty coolies—(people from the bazaar, at so much per diem, to carry furniture for the tents, which is all transported upon their heads.)

One washerman and his family.

One baker and his assistant.

One khansomer, or house steward.

Two footmen, or waiters.

Two tailors.

One masalgie, to clean knives and carry the lanthorn, go of errands, &c.

Two women servants.

One cook and assistant.

One sweeper to each tent.

Seventy sheep.

Thirty-five goats.

Two shepherds.

Nine camels.

Three camel drivers.

Fourteen bullocks.

Five waggons.

Seven drivers.

Twenty-four fowls, forty ducks, twelve geese, twelve rabbits, twelve turkeys.



Two men to take care of the poultry.

Besides the families of all these servants, with their horses, bullocks, and attendants, which may be computed upon an average of three to one.

As it is customary for every individual to draw water for himself from the wells, each of them are supplied with a brass pot, called a *lota*: it contains about a quart, and is shaped like two-thirds of a globe, with a rim round the top. Round this they tie a strong whip-cord, about the common depth of a well; and when travelling, each man fastens his *lota* round his waist; for they are much too cleanly to drink after one another.

Link-boys and guides are procured at every village; so indeed are coolies, should more be required on the journey. These are relieved at the next village by others, and so on. It is also customary to apply to the head man of that village to furnish a guard for the night, which guard is paid and discharged in the morning, except a robbery is perpetrated during the night, and then (unless by *dakoity*, as they are called) the man who furnished the guard is answerable. He also presents a kid, or a couple of fowls to you, on your arrival.

We had not been long at *Meerat* before a party was proposed to go tiger hunting. As I had never witnessed the sport, I was prevailed



upon to join them. Having procured five or six elephants that had been properly trained, some rifle and double-barrelled guns, &c. &c. the next morning at day-break we sallied forth. A native chief, with his hundred horsemen, and a numerous suite of attendants with spears and matchlocks, joined us. One of the boldest elephants was selected for me, as being the safest. A timid elephant, on these occasions, is considered dangerous, because when alarmed he starts off, regardless of any impediment that may lie in the way, frequently running under trees, and always making violent efforts to get quit of his load. It however not unfrequently happens that the means *we* think most likely to secure our safety, prove the cause of our destruction; so it had nearly happened to me. The elephant on which *I* was mounted, having by some chance got before the others in the jungle, smelt the tiger first, and instantly twisting his trunk round a bush that was before him, began tearing it up with all his might, roaring horribly all the time, when, to my utter dismay, up rose an enormous tiger. The party were there almost at the same instant. The tiger, alarmed (as they supposed) by the clatter of so many horses, probably aroused from sleep, made no resistance, but slunk off into a thicker covert. Nothing, however, could induce *my* elephant to move, as long as a single stem re-



mained of the bush he had been crouched under, so that the party all pursued him, leaving me behind. I cannot say that I was much disturbed at the circumstance, for having seen a tiger alive, and in a wild state, I was satisfied; and after seeing him swim a small nullah, with his pursuers closely following, I returned quietly home. In a few hours the gentlemen came back. The tiger had shown wonderful sport, and had crossed another stream. At length, finding himself still closely pursued, he turned, made a spring upon one of the elephants, and for some moments hung by his fore-paws on the lower frame of the howdah. The gentleman who was on it immediately pointed his gun to the throat of the animal, which took effect: he let go his hold, when a volley from the party despatched him. He was a beautiful beast, stood nearly five feet high, with paws and legs beyond proportion large. It was supposed that, being gorged with food, he was asleep when *my* elephant roused him, and too lazy until enraged to offer battle. The claws of these animals are said to be poisonous; but I rather think the fatality lies in the jagged wound they inflict, which tearing away not only flesh, but sinews, is seldom known to heal, and generally proves fatal.

The next day I witnessed a sport of a different kind, being perfectly harmless, and I believe perfectly innocent. A number of young Hin-



doo girls, apparently about the age of six or seven years, most gaily dressed with scarlet muslin veils, &c. assembled round a pond. They were accompanied by a crowd of middle-aged women, whom I concluded to be their mothers, followed by a number of boys. On a signal from the women, these girls threw (each of them) something into the water; when the boys instantly plunged in, with sticks in their hands, and began battering most furiously what I now discovered to be dolls grotesquely dressed for the occasion. The girls it appeared, upon inquiry, being now of an age to be betrothed, the present ceremony denoted that they voluntarily threw away childish things, exemplifying that saying of St. Paul's, "When I was a man, I put away childish things," &c. As it was considered an ill omen if the doll did not immediately sink, the greatest anxiety was manifest in the countenance of each interested spectator; the boys meantime continuing to splash and halloo as long as any remained above water; after which, making their salaams to the pond, they all quietly retired.



CHAPTER XV.

IN the month of April in the following year, the commissioners were directed to make a further settlement of the *Bareilly* district. For this purpose they proceeded towards *Jehanabad*, near *Pilibete*; and we joined them there, crossing the Ganges at *Ghurmoktasir Ghaut*, about forty miles from *Meerat*. On landing at the village of *Tigree*, our dismay may be imagined, to find that there was no road for a carriage. Unfortunately, we had not brought any other conveyance: it was necessary therefore to make the attempt. After many hair-breadth escapes, (passing through a deep sand, covered with thorny brambles, without the slightest trace of human footsteps,) this was at length effected, and we reached the village of *Shawpore*. Here it was discovered that the water was so bad as not to be drinkable; and our people had neglected to bring any, prepared, as it generally is, either by a preparation of charcoal, or through a filtering stone; so that we were obliged to send six miles back to the Ganges in order to fetch some, and then wait two or three hours until it was purified. As I said before, patience is a great virtue, particularly in India!



mohef

We commenced our march the next morning as usual, about day-break, and soon crossed a stone bridge of considerable length, built across a morass. The vestiges of magnificence were perceptible in this structure; but time had proved a serious enemy—the pavement was much broken, and the parapet with its costly ornaments fallen away in large fragments. From this place to Amrooah, which is about twenty miles, we traversed an open country much resembling Bagshot-heath, and saw several herd of antelopes. Near this town are some very ancient Hindoo buildings, well worth the attention of an antiquary. This place is celebrated for a delicate kind of ware, like that invented, or rather brought to perfection, by Mr. Wedgewood: the inhabitants make beautiful ornamental vases of it, pyramids, hookah stands, &c. chiefly white raised figures in groupes, from Grecian and ancient history,—and flowers, on a light grey or exquisite lilac ground.

From Amrooah we crossed a sandy plain of four miles long, without a hut, or even a shrub of any description to be seen. In general, these sandy plains are almost covered with wild melons; so kindly does Providence watch over the traveller, and those who seek their livelihood from afar! In this climate melons are particularly grateful, and conducive to health; not only the yellow solid melon, but the large green



water melons, flourish abundantly in this arid and uncultivated soil.

This sandy plain conducted us into a vile road, with ruts so deep that the carriage was continually in danger of being overturned; and we were several times under the necessity of quitting it, in order to have it extricated. This unpleasant kind of travelling fortunately did not continue long—we had soon the pleasure of finding ourselves upon a fine hard down, with occasional clumps of trees. Our tents were pitched near a village called *Palkburrah*. The scene in front of us presented the cheering prospect of “valleys filled with wavy corn.” In the cool of the evening, while sitting at the door of the tent, a man, apparently in the situation of a farmer, came up to me, and respectfully making his salaam, entreated me to give him some medicine for his wife, who he informed me was extremely ill. I replied, that I was afraid of administering without seeing the patient; and asked if he could conduct me to her. With concern I learned that she lived seven miles off, and in a contrary direction to the road we were travelling. I then inquired if there were no Brahmin in his village who understood the properties of medicine? Yes, he said, there was, and she had consulted him; but had latterly got considerably worse, and had now no faith in his pre-



scriptions. She had heard, he said, of our arrival there in the morning, and believing that the English knew every thing, she had requested him to come for our advice. I again repeated that it was impossible to prescribe with any prospect of success, unless I could see the patient. He said, if she thought herself equal to the journey, he would bring her into *Moradabad* next day, whither *we* also intended to go. I told him if he could accomplish *that*, I would consult one of our English physicians, who knew a great deal more about the matter than I did, and I was convinced would do every thing in his power for her. With this arrangement he appeared perfectly satisfied, and took his leave. I confess that I thought it very improbable we should hear any thing more of them; but, to my surprise, this poor woman was at *Moradabad* before us. She was sitting on the cart that had conveyed her thither. A faint smile illumined her pallid countenance as I approached her: she thanked me a thousand times for my condescension; (as she termed it;) expressed the greatest reliance on the English, who she seemed to think could do any thing they wished; and said she was sure she should soon get better now. It went to my heart to hear her talk so; for her complaint was a confirmed dropsy, occasioned by poorness of blood. She was reduced, poor



creature, almost to a skeleton. We immediately sent for the surgeon of the battalion, who was kind enough to receive her under his care, and promised to pay her case particular attention. Alas! assistance came too late—she survived only a month longer; but during that period I had the satisfaction of knowing that she had every possible attention paid her, and every thing done that could be to relieve her. I confess I felt deeply interested for this stranger; and my only consolation arose from the reflection, that I had done all in my power to save her. She was not more than two or three-and-twenty years of age. *Our* remedies often act with wonderful success upon these Hindoos, whose mode of living is so temperate, and their blood so pure, that you have only the complaint itself to combat. The constitution is naturally good; and if they *have* fever, it is soon conquered; besides which, they will take wine, or any thing, if given in the shape of medicine. A Mussulman, on the contrary, is so afraid of disobeying “the Prophet,” that he would rather die than take any thing that is proscribed by the *Koraan*: an instance of the kind occurred in our own family. We were once travelling, when both Hindoo and Mussulmen servants were attacked by bilious fevers: the Hindoos were all restored to health by a few grains of calomel, with a dose or two of Epsom salts, and



drinking plentifully of conjy * ; whereas several of the Mussulmen died, because they did not know the preparation of calomel, and therefore would not take it.

Immediately on quitting *Moradabad* we forded a narrow stream, with a steep bank on either side, and crossed the river *Ram Gonga*. The bed of sand between these two streams is the deepest I ever passed : we were obliged to quit the carriage ; and even *then*, the horse could scarcely drag it through. This sand extended nearly two miles ; after which we came into a road so completely cut up by carriages of burthen, that a foot pace was all we could aspire to. I think I never was more tired of an expedition than of ours this morning. A little farther on we descried a stone bridge of one arch, over a rapid stream, so terrific in appearance from its immense height, that had it been practicable, I should have preferred wading through the water to passing over it. The road was paved with flat stones, and rose nearly perpendicular to the centre of the bridge, from whence the descent was equally abrupt ; neither had it the smallest parapet or railing on either side. It really required great firmness of nerve to venture over in a carriage. After considerable fa-

* Conjy is rice boiled in water until dissolved, and taken in a liquid state.



tigue we reached a village called *Moorah*, where our tents were pitched in a beautiful grove of mango trees, laden with green fruit. It was now the latter end of April. The fruit was then about the size of young apricots: they are delicious in tarts, and emit a most grateful odour.

From hence we travelled over an open country, with innumerable small hamlets, to *Kamora de Morah*, a village belonging to the Nawaab of *Rampoor*. Our supplies at this place were scanty; but they were cheerfully furnished, which is not often the case in villages that belong to native chiefs. This country is much intersected by streams, some of which we forded, and over others found a rude kind of stone bridge, in many cases quite dangerous to pass. The climate is many degrees cooler in the *Moradabad* district than at *Meerat*. I found the nights at this season really cold.

We now travelled with cultivation on either side for seventeen miles, and encamped in a large grove composed of different sorts of trees—a thing very unusual in India, as they generally plant each sort separate. This variety of foliage may perhaps account for the different sorts of birds assembled in it, all straining their melodious throats at once. Of a grove composed of the mango only, the dove, and a small delicate creature called the mango bird, seem to claim exclusive possession, while tamarind trees



are covered by paroquets. The country here is very beautiful, being every where diversified by fields of corn, villages peeping through luxuriant groves, and rich pasture lands; but the roads so miserably bad that we expected the carriage every minute to overturn.

Halting at a village named *Ourourie*, near which runs a fine clear stream, we caught fish in abundance, particularly that named the *roc*, and found it by no means inferior to the cod-fish we eat in England.

From *Ourourie* we travelled over a plain, and were often delayed by being obliged to cross *nullahs*, whose banks were steep and rugged; we consequently performed this stage on an elephant, leaving the gig to be led slowly after us. The sagacity of the elephant is so great, that he always feels with one paw whether the ground will bear his weight before he trusts himself upon it; indeed I have heard it asserted, that they have even the power to smell the nature of the soil, and judge from thence whether it is firm or not. I have seen many instances myself of sagacity in these animals, but never any that struck me more forcibly than what daily occurred on this march. It is customary to feed elephants on cakes made of the coarser particles of wheat, after the flour has been separated from it. This is called *otta*, eaten also by the natives as bread, and sold in every bazaar.



When our elephant arrived at her ground, after having (as usual) fastened her fore legs to a wooden peg fixed in the earth for that purpose, the *mahowat*, her driver, usually went away to purchase *otta**; upon which occasions he placed a child of his own, about two years of age, on a little straw between the elephant's legs, charging her to take care of the child until his return. Strange as it may appear, it is no less true, that so careful was the animal of her young charge, that during the father's absence, no one dared to approach her, not even a dog. On the man's return from the bazaar he loosed her feet, and mounted upon the neck, in order to take her to the river to drink and bathe, (which latter they delight in,) desiring her at the same time to give him the child. This she immediately did, by cautiously winding her trunk round the child's waist, and lifting him up within the father's reach. I have seen the same elephant take a piece of the cake that lay before her, and place it gently in the child's lap.

After travelling over as vile a road as could be met with, we reached the *Jehanabad*. This is a large town in the vicinity of *Pilibete*, where the commissioners having business, we remained for more than two months. In order to protect

* *Otta*, and the leaves of the peepal tree, are the usual food of elephants, who tear off large branches with their trunks, and load themselves.



ourselves from the heat of the sun, (at this time excessive,) thatched roofs, supported on pillars of wood, were erected over our tents, which answered the purpose admirably. The party consisted of nine, myself and Mrs. —, the only ladies. We found a kind of shed, sufficiently large to accommodate us all as a dining-room, and it was fitted up accordingly. We assembled about six in the evening, took a short ride before dinner, and passed our time delightfully. Being situated upon an eminence, *our saloon* commanded an extensive prospect. Immediately round us was a fine pasture land, ornamented by a number of small coppices, which gave it quite an English appearance; and beyond that, a diversity of hill and dale, extremely grateful to the eye. Going out one evening earlier than usual, we espied a man seated on a square of ground, measuring about six feet across, (a little raised,) surrounded by a fire made of a kind of peat, and himself besmeared, head and all, with ashes. A more deplorable object I never beheld. Upon inquiry, we found that he sat thus, with his legs doubled under him, and his head bare, from sun-rise to sun-set, in pursuance of a vow; that he was a Brahmin, and this a voluntary penance—and a dreadful penance it must have been, for the fire was within his reach all the way round, and he kept constantly replenishing it. No one but a Hindoo, or one of *Don*



Juan's friends, could have supported it. I do really think that he must have washed himself with something, and so become fire-proof; otherwise, with the heat of the sun and fire together, he must surely have been melted; or perhaps his safety lay in having nothing to melt, for he was literally only skin and bone.

During our residence at this place we were visited by two gentlemen, who told us that they had been on a shooting party for about a month, and in that time had killed four-and-twenty tigers, one wild elephant, two wild buffaloes, and two bears. The skins of the latter were so fine, that I prevailed on them to spare one to me for trimmings.

This place, so inviting to walk in, was extremely dangerous on account of snakes, *centipedes*, and scorpions, with all which it abounds. Our servants complained also of the water, which they said was bad tasted, and unwholesome. It certainly had somewhat of an earthy flavour; but it was of little consequence to us—first, because we took the precaution to qualify it; and, secondly, that we had brought a good supply with us, and never drank any that had not been filtered or purified by a proportion of charcoal and alum. A much more serious objection to *us*, was, that the place was subject to blasts of mephitic vapour. One of these, rising from the valley, passed through the room in



which we were sitting after dinner. There were at that time only six persons round the table—two on each side, and one at each end. The current of air of which I am speaking, was so partial as to affect only the gentleman and myself who sat on that side of the table. We were seized at the same moment by violent pain across the eyes, a sensation of extreme tension, and throbbing of the temples; giddiness, and sickness at the stomach. Nor were we free from acute pain in the head, for some hours after. The natives of *Jehanabad* seemed to feel a great dread of these visitations, by which, they told us, many had lost their lives; and we were given to understand, that they thought Mr. — and myself must either be angels or *diabls* not to have suffered more. A few nights after this catastrophe, a band of desperate fellows attacked a village near, in which part of our retinue had taken up their abode: falling on its sleeping inhabitants, sword in hand, they plundered and cut down all who had the courage to oppose them. Our gentlemen, on hearing the tumult, ran with pistols to the spot, but too late to save the lives of many. Three servants of the party, besides a number of women and children, had already fallen a sacrifice to these barbarians. One poor little infant was cut to pieces in its mother's arms. Unfortunately, no prisoners were made; for hearing European voices, they



immediately decamped, while the darkness of the night favoured their escape.

Being so near it, I took the opportunity to visit *Pilibete*, which appears to have been a place of some consequence. It is surrounded by a high brick wall, defended by ponderous gates. At the entrance of the town stands a handsome mosque, erected in memory of *Haffiz Ramut*.

The scite of this mosque is a square of considerable extent, at each corner of which is a solid minaret. Ascending a flight of steps sufficiently broad to give a just idea of the magnificent interior, we passed under an arched gateway into a spacious court paved with grey marble, having arcades of the same on either side. The central building was a solid square, entered by three arches from the front, surmounted by domes, with a small minaret at either corner. The inside of these domes are elegantly and tastefully painted to represent various flowers in their richest and most brilliant tints. A *mullick*, whom we met in the town, gave us much intelligence respecting the place; and in the course of conversation I learned how the village apothecaries are remunerated for attendance on the poor. The head man of each village contracts with any Brahmin skilled in the use of drugs, to pay him eight annas (which is the half of a rupee) a year, for as many villages as are under his controul; and this *mullick* assured me



that a native physician, (*hakime*, as they are called,) then residing at *Pilibete*, by this mode alone realized a regular income of a hundred and fifty rupees per annum.

The town of *Pilibete* is celebrated for the manufacture of a strong coarse kind of cloth, made from hemp, which grows on the adjacent hills; and a very pure kind of lime called *chunam*, with which, buildings are faced to represent marble; and so complete is the deception, that even the touch scarcely convinces the inquirer that it is not marble. This district is full of wild elephants; numbers of them are caught annually in pits dug for that purpose. We saw a large male elephant brought in between two decoy ones, which are always females. They preserve their ascendancy by pushing him with great violence from one to the other, until the poor animal is so bewildered that he does not know which way to turn, and so becomes an easy conquest.

Pilibete is also a great mart for timber, which finds a ready sale at *Bareilly*. This accounts for the roads from hence to that city being so dreadfully cut up. They appear to cultivate rice and *paddy* at the foot of these hills, where the ground is occasionally overflowed. The etymology of the word *paddy* is so extraordinary, that I cannot avoid mentioning it. The grain so named somewhat resembles rice, but



more so tapioca. By the natives it is called *dahn*; but having originally been given to our troops in Bengal instead of money,—which *pay*, in the language of the country, is termed *poddy*,—it has, in the course of time, been converted into the word *paddy*, by which these fields are now almost as generally known as by their original name of *dahn*. Many subversions of the same kind have crept into the oriental languages, which often occasion ludicrous mistakes.

I observed here a few patches of the bamboo plant, which proved the springy nature of the soil. There is a noble dock-yard at this place, in which they were at this time building some trading vessels of large dimensions; while an immense number of people also found employment in the repair of a magnificent bridge of ancient structure, across the river *Ram Gonga*, which runs through the heart of the town.

About the middle of June we returned to *Barreilly*, and remained in a good bungalow until the 17th of July. This was the hottest season that had been known for years. The rain, which usually begins to fall about the 20th of June, did not commence until the 7th of July, and then it came down in torrents. Our party now separated—the commissioners for their residence at *Futty Ghur*, and we, to return to *Meerat*. The heavy rain that had fallen rendered the road so



slippery, that at one place the poor horse which drew the gig was fairly tripped up, and lay for some seconds on his side, so much alarmed, that although a fine high-spirited Arab, he had not courage to move from this perilous situation; and was only relieved by being completely unharnessed. We had fortunately several attendants near, who dragged the carriage for about fifty yards into a more even road, which gave the horse time to recover himself, for he trembled like a human being. This incident delayed us so much, that it was near two o'clock in the day before we reached our tents at *Sickerry*. After being so long exposed to a scorching sun, I was delighted to see that they had pitched these tents under the shade of lofty trees by the side of a large pond. So cool and refreshing was it, that I thought with regret on the prospect of quitting it so soon. How many circumstances, trivial in themselves, serve to convince us that we know not what is best for us. About four o'clock the clouds foreboded an approaching storm; loud thunder rolled; the vivid lightning flashed; the angry waters would not be restrained—they burst their bounds, and in an instant our tent was overflowed. No remedy appeared but patience. I felt thankful that it happened before it grew dark, for the night multiplies all horrors; indeed I have observed, that in every misfortune some consolation may



be derived, if persons would take the trouble to seek it; and I consoled myself also by thinking that it was too violent to last long—so, seating myself on a sofa *a la Turke*, I quietly awaited the event. The storm abated in about an hour; but the atmosphere still retained so much humidity, that I awoke in the night with most excruciating pain in one of my ancles; and on attempting to rise next morning, I had the mortification to find that I could not stand—indeed, that I had nearly lost the use of my limbs. With some difficulty I was placed in my palan-keen, and (as much by water as by land, for the whole country was overflowed) conveyed to our next encampment. My palankeen was borne the greatest part of the way upon the bearers' heads, instead of their shoulders; and the horse on which my husband rode by the side of it, swam with him in many places. I consoled myself with the conviction of the bearers being an amphibious kind of animal, who, if the water did not actually run into their mouths, would paddle their way through.

In the rainy season, unless the weather is cloudy, it is intensely hot; and there is sometimes a complete stagnation of air. The myriads of insects that swarmed around, were sufficient to tire the patience of Job himself; when, to add to the miseries of this inauspicious journey, the bed and bedding came in completely



drenched—it had been deposited in a pool of water. Nor had I in my travelling baskets one suit of dry linen. Exposure to the sun, however, soon extracted all moist particles, and rendered every thing as it was before. This is an advantage in an eastern clime, which in Europe you have not; but no remedy was at hand for my swollen foot, which, without any appearance of inflammation, had become exceedingly painful; I was consequently obliged to pursue the journey in my palankeen. This was not accomplished without sundry inconveniences: either the torches were extinguished on a barren heath by a powerful gust of wind, or one of the torch bearers was disabled by a thorn which had penetrated his foot; or, finally, the palankeen bearers fell down on the brink of a lake, &c. Once the two foremost men actually fell in, and the palankeen came down upon the ground; but they soon shook themselves, and resumed their position.

Thus, after perils by land and by water, we at length reached *Meerat*; and I made up my mind, that the rainy season was not the pleasantest for travellers. A short time after our arrival there, the inhabitants were alarmed by three separate shocks of an earthquake, which continued a few seconds each. It commenced by a noise, as of heavy waggons travelling rapidly on a paved road immediately under the



house; birds that were in cages, flapping their wings, as if anxious to be free; doors opening, others shutting, without any person near them. I happened to be passing from one room to another, and was seized with such a sensation of giddiness in the head, and sickness at the stomach, that I was obliged to hold by a door-frame, still more unsteady than myself. In many places the earth opened, and several small huts were swallowed up; but, fortunately, the inhabitants had time to make their escape, and no lives were lost that I heard of. All this time the atmosphere was perfectly clear, and not a breath of air was stirring.



26 CSL

A
GUIDE
UP THE RIVER GANGES,
FROM
CALCUTTA TO CAWNPORE, FUTTEH GHUR,
MEERAT, &c. ;
WITH
THE CORRECT DISTANCES OF EVERY STATION,
AND WHAT THEIR PRODUCE.



2 SL

A
GUIDE,&c.

HAVING experienced both difficulty and delay, from ignorance of this navigation, and the different species of accommodation that each station offers to the voyager, the Author is led to believe that a correct statement of these particulars will not be unacceptable, particularly to those who, newly arrived in Bengal, may be under the necessity to make the voyage.

On his arrival in Calcutta, a young man is generally received into the house of some friend, or person to whom he brings an introduction; (a circumstance of great importance on his thus setting out in life;) but should he come unprovided with such recommendation, he is reduced to the necessity of resorting to a tavern; of which, although there are several in Calcutta, they are not considered a respectable residence, being for the most part dirty, unpleasantly situated, extravagant in their charges, and frequented chiefly by Europeans of the lowest class.

If in the King's service, a young man's first



step is to wait upon the brigade-major to the King's troops, (who resides in Fort William,) and report the date of his arrival; from which day his pay and allowances commence. The brigade-major furnishing him with a certificate to this effect, *his* recommendation will enable a gentleman so applying to procure quarters in the fort—a subaltern officer two rooms, a captain four; but as these apartments are not furnished, such accommodation is only of use to those who are destined to remain there for some time.

If he happen to be an officer in the service of the East India Company, he should apply in a similar manner to the town-major, who will furnish him with the necessary certificates and instructions. He will perhaps learn from him that he is posted to a regiment in the upper provinces of Hindostan, to which he is directed to proceed by water, and that he will by proper application get his boat expenses paid. The mode of making this application, with the consequent preparations for the voyage, it is my intention, in as clear a manner as possible, to point out. He must, in the first place, after having procured his certificate, repair to the auditor-general's office, and produce it, stating the orders he may have received, and requesting his boat allowance to the place of his destination; the half of which will be immediately given him,

and authority to draw for the remainder at a stated period.

There are but two kind of boats at the same time safe and commodious, and these are called, the one a pinnace, (or small cutter,) the other a budgerow. They are each drawn up the river by men called *dandies*, with another to guide the helm, named a *maunje*. They each contain a bed-room at the stern, a sitting-room in the centre, and an anti-room in front towards the deck, the whole being surrounded by Venetian blinds. They are hired at so many rupees a month, according to the number of oars: pinnaces, from one hundred and fifty to four hundred and twenty rupees a month; budgerows, from ninety-seven to one hundred and seventy-six. Baggage-boats to accompany the above, from twenty-two to ninety-seven rupees a month. To a budgerow carrying sixteen oars, at one hundred and fifty-seven rupees a month, a baggage-boat would be required at thirty-five, and a cooking-boat at twenty-two, which are of sufficient size to encounter any weather, and at the same time afford ample accommodation for servants, provisions, &c. The best mode of procuring these boats is by application to Messrs. Barber and Co. at the Old Fort Ghaut, who will also furnish hands to navigate them, and become security for their not deserting, a circumstance by no means unusual on this voyage,



which may perhaps be attributed to the custom of advancing the half of their wages to them before they start, in order, as they allege, to enable their families to procure subsistence during their absence. Besides the security given by Barber and Co., I should recommend that a clashee be engaged as a servant to keep guard over, and expedite their movements on the voyage. This man will also be found useful in procuring supplies from the several bazaars *en passant*. Some other preparations are also necessary, such as poultry, a few fat sheep, a couple of milch goats, (whose milk in this country is free from any particular flavour, and in tea is infinitely preferable to cow's milk,) tea, sugar, a quantity of hard biscuits, bread, cheese, &c. This latter article is not manufactured in India, but may be procured in the China Bazaar at Calcutta, fresh from England, at a moderate price, sometimes even under prime cost. The pine-apple shape is the best for keeping; and it should be kept in a common earthen jar, with a wet cloth tied over the mouth of it.

The voyage from Calcutta to Cawnpore is generally considered to occupy a space of three months; to Futteh Ghur a week longer; and to Ghur Moktasir Ghaut, near Meerat, twenty days more.

Embarking from Calcutta during the months of March, April, or May, it will be necessary



to surround the budgerow with tatties, or blinds, made on a bamboo frame to fit the windows, covered with the fibrous roots of a sweet-scented grass called *cus cus*, which will last the voyage, and by being watered from the top of the budgerow, render the apartments cool and comfortable. Although these roots are firmly wove together, they by no means exclude the light. Of an evening, after the sun is set, they are removed entirely, and replaced in the morning. The hot wind seldom blows so violently as to require them, except from about nine o'clock in the morning until sun-set: the hottest time is from twelve o'clock until five in the afternoon. The *clashée* will procure these tatties, and is the proper person to superintend the watering them, &c. If you have palankeen bearers on board, they ought to assist.

A small book, called Hadley's Grammar, (which can be purchased at any bookseller's in Calcutta,) is also a necessary appendage to prevent being imposed upon by the representation of any servant who may speak a little English, and thereby gain an ascendancy over his master to the prejudice of the rest. These men are frequently met with in Calcutta, and are always ready to serve a new comer; but they are generally people of low caste, and not to be depended upon.

Leaving Calcutta with the tide, you generally



reach a place called *Bally Nuggur* before it turns, unless indeed the wind blows strong against you. This place is inhabited entirely by natives. Here you cast anchor, and remain until the tide serves again; and having passed the Danish settlement of *Serampore*, the French one of *Chandanagore*, arrive at that of the Dutch called *Chinsurah*, where you encounter the second tide. You may indeed, if you are fortunate, reach a place called *Banse Bareah*, which is two hours farther; but here nothing is procurable except provision for natives. The boats are moored at sun-set, and unmoored at sunrise, it being dangerous on account of shoals to travel after dark. When you come too, for the night, (which it is adviseable on many accounts to do before sun-set,) the boatmen cook their victuals; which operation is performed on the shore by means of small stoves, formed from a loomy kind of earth of which these banks are composed. Their cooking utensils are not cumbersome: *one* large brass, or iron pot, serves to boil rice for all of the same caste, while each man carries his brass platter, and *lota*, of the same material, to drink out of.

It is usual to start the boats at day-break, but they manage it so quietly as not to disturb your repose.

Sook Sangor is the next place, and is about seven hours from *Banse Bareah*; from hence you



may with ease reach *Ballypore* by sun-set. Milk may be procured at all these villages, and some kinds of vegetable; but no poultry or eggs, except where Mussulmen reside.

Start at day-break next morning, and in eight hours you reach *Culna*. From thence to *Mirzapore* is five hours farther, where you had better remain for the night, and may procure all sorts of provisions. This place contains many Europeans, and is celebrated for the manufacture of carpets, printed chintz, &c. Purchase *punkahs* here.

From *Mirzapore* to *Nuddeah* is seven hours; from *Nuddeah* to the entrance of the *Jaliny* river, an hour and a half; from the *Jaliny* to *Stuart Gunge*, three hours.

From *Stuart Gunge* to a small village called *Meahpoorah*, six hours; and from thence to *Chandpoorah*, six hours. This latter is a miserably poor place; it is therefore better to stop at the first good bank for legowing upon after quitting *Chandpoorah*; of this, the mangy or captain of the crew will inform you. It is always desirable to keep him in good humour, by attending a little to his advice, as on him depends in a great measure both your expedition and comfort on the voyage.

From *Chandpoorah* to *Augur Deep* is ten hours good pulling, oftener twelve. The river between these places winds so much, that it takes nearly



a day to arrive, where the distance in a straight line would not be above three miles.

From *Augur Deep* to *Dewarrah Gunge* is four hours; from *Dewarrah Gunge* to *Cutwah*, eight more.

From *Cutwah* to *Plassey* (the scene of Lord Clive's victory over the *Bengalees*, which first gave us footing in the country) is nine hours. This is a fine sporting country, but dangerous on account of tigers.

From *Plassey* to *Satan Gunge* is twelve hours; *Satan Gunge* to *Rangamutty*, four hours; *Rangamutty* to *Berhampore*, eight hours. This is the nearest station to Calcutta which contains European soldiers, except the artillery cantonment of *Dum Dum*; but that is ten miles on the other side Calcutta, and inland. *Berhampore* contains besides a King's regiment of infantry, one or more battalions of seapoys, and is famous for sundry manufactures, which they bring to the boats for sale; such as stockings, silk handkerchiefs, &c. There are, besides, two shops kept by Englishmen, which are well supplied with articles from England of all description, sold at the average of a rupee for a shilling. The officers' barracks are about two hundred yards inland: they are handsome, and regularly built, forming a square, one side of which fronts the river. The bank on which they stand is high, sloping, and turfed to the water's edge, with



here and there a flight of stone steps for the accommodation of passengers. The parade runs along the edge of it. This station is commanded by a general officer, to whom you are expected, through his brigade major, to report your arrival, and ask his orders; and in like manner report *progress*, as it is called, at every military station upon the river, and also to the adjutant of your regiment, wherever that may be.

From *Berhampore*, the city of *Moorshedabad* is about seven hours tracking, although by land the distance is only seven miles. The river at this place is low at all seasons, and the numerous boats *legowed* to its banks contribute to impede the voyager. The boat's crew provide themselves here, with rice for their voyage, it being very plentiful in this part; and the higher they proceed up the country, the more scarce, and consequently dearer it becomes. Sugar is also remarkably cheap at *Moorshedabad*.

A little beyond this city is the entrance of a small river called the *Kattaghan*, which it is advisable to pass, and to fasten your boat on the opposite side, the inhabitants of *Moorshedabad* not being famed for honesty.

From hence to *Kissenpoorah* (a small village) it is six hours; from *Kissenpoorah* to *Jungypoor*, six more. At the latter is a manufactory for silks, under the control of the commercial resident.



From *Jungypoor* to *Sooty* is six hours.
To *Kusseinpoor* six more.

From *Kusseinpoor* to *Mohun Gunge*, nine hours;
and from hence to the entrance of the Ganges,
three hours more.

Having now quitted the *Baugharetty* or *Cos-simbazar* river, you proceed by the left bank of the Ganges, without seeing more than a few scattered huts, until sun-set.

From hence to *Radge Mahl* is seven hours. Here the ruin of a magnificent palace, formerly belonging to the Rajah, may be seen; and here, every day about noon, the postmen from East to West meet, and exchange their despatches, which affords the traveller an opportunity of communication either way. Bread, vegetables, kid, (which is a great delicacy in this country,) fowls, eggs, fruit, and charcoal, are found here in great abundance. The inhabitants sell also marble slabs to press paper, carved into various shapes. This is almost the widest part of the river, and in the rainy season has the appearance of an ocean.

From *Radge Mahl* to *Sickerry Gulley* is fourteen hours. This is a station for invalid seapoys, with a small bungalow belonging to the superintending officer of these establishments. This part of the country abounds with beasts of prey. *Radge Mahl* is the nearest approach that the river makes to that ridge of mountains which runs



in a north-west direction from Calcutta, and are called the Radge Mahl hills.

From hence you quickly pass the small village of *Saabad*, and in two hours more that of *Gunga Pursaad*. Here it is adviseable to *legow* for the night, as you will not find so good a place for many miles. The finest honey in India is to be procured here, and very cheap. From *Gunga Pursaad* to *Sickerry Gully* is about five hours' tracking. This is a Hindoo village, and nothing to be got except milk.

The next village of any consequence is *Pier Ponty*, which you ought to reach in twelve hours.

From *Pier Ponty* to *Puttal Guttah* is a hard day's pull; but there is generally a breeze of wind near the hills, which carries the boat forward in opposition to the stream.

The next place is *Col Gong*, which you may reach about sun-set on the following day. It contains a good bazaar, and the houses of several European officers of the Company's service who reside here upon their pensions, besides one or two indigo planters.

Move forward at day-break the following morning, about ten o'clock you will pass a *nullah*; and at three reach the populous village of *Bogglipore*. This is a station for seapoys commanded by European officers; a judge, collector, &c. A peculiar description of cloth is manufactured here, which takes its name from



the place. It is adviseable to remain at *Boggli-pore* for the night. The best ghaut to legow at, is called *Bibbee Gunge*.

Cast off the boats at day-break, and towards evening you will reach the village of *Chea Cheraigne*.

About ten the next morning you will pass the *Jinghira* Rock, about half-past one the *Gurgut Nullah*, and at sun-set find nothing but a patch of sand to legow upon; it is therefore adviseable to stop at the first good ground you meet with, after passing the *Nullah*.

The next place is *Pier Pahar*, where the stream runs so strong, that unless you have a breeze to stem it, you will not reach *Monghir* until seven or eight at night. At *Monghir* are some curious hot springs, and many other things worth seeing. It is a large station for invalid seapoys, commanded by a general officer. Birds of beautiful plumage are offered for sale, but they will not live away from their native hills.

Pass the end of two *nullahs*, and come to a village inhabited by seapoy pensioners, near *Soorage Gurrah*.

From *Soorage Gurrah* to *Bareah*, which is a good legowing place, may be done in about seven hours.

From *Bareah* to *Deriapore* (twenty koss from *Monghir*) will take the whole day: it is better to legow before you arrive there, as a koss or two beyond it, you will find nothing but sand.



Pass a bungalow at *Semmaur*, and come too at the village of *Bar*, about four koss farther, where, as there are Mussulmen inhabitants, many articles of consumption are procurable. The water about *Bar* is shallow, and the current rather strong.

About six miles from *Bar* is an indigo factory.

Pass *Bidapore*.

From *Bar* to *Patna* is full twenty-four hours.

From *Patna* to *Dinapore* about eight hours.

At *Seerpoor*, a little beyond *Dinapore*, the boat's crew lay in a stock of rice for the remainder of the voyage.

Pass the *Soane River*, which is famous for beautiful pebbles and fine clear water, to *Che-raigne*, *Wilton Gunge*, and *Chuprah*.

From *Chuprah* to *Revel Gunge* is three koss and a half, a good legowing place.

Pass the mouth of the *Deewah River*, and reach *Berhampore Ghaut* by sun-set.

Pass the village of *Berreah*, and come too for the night at a small place on the right, about two koss beyond it.

About eleven o'clock the next morning pass *Bulleah*, and reach the fort of *Buxar* in the evening. At *Buxar* it is necessary to wait on the commanding officer.

Pass the *Caramnassa River* to the village of *Chowra*.

From *Chowra* you proceed to *Araipore*, and



from *Arampore* to *Ghazipore*, which is a large military station. Report your arrival to the commanding officer.

From *Ghazipore* you come to *Zemineah*, *Chursapore*, and to an indigo factory at *Danapoor*, in twelve hours.

From *Danapoor* you may reach *Sidepoor* in seven hours; to the end of the *Goomty*, (or winding river,) in two hours more; *Kytee*, in one hour; and *Kataroury*, in two hours. This place is a koss and a half (about three miles) from *Bulwar Ghaut*.

Move next morning at six o'clock, you will pass *Bulwar Ghaut* about nine; a small brick town named *Kylee*, about two; and reach *Radge Ghaut*, at *Benares*, in the evening, in good time to legow.

From *Benares* to opposite little *Mursapore* takes about three hours fair tracking; and to the cantonment at *Sultanpore*, (or chutah Calcutta,) nine hours more.

From *Sultanpore* to the fort at *Chunar*, six hours.

From *Chunar* to *Badsulah*, (on the other side the river,) ten hours.

From *Badsulah* to *Kutchwah Ghaut*, six hours.

From *Kutchwah Ghaut* to *Mirzapore*, seven hours.

From *Mirzapore* to *Jehangeerabad* is three hours.



From *Jehangeerabad* to *Bahaderpoorah*, five hours and a half.

From *Bahaderpoorah* to *Charracoar*, five hours.

From *Charracoar* to *Diggah*, (distant only ten koss in a straight line from Mirzapore,) five hours.

From *Diggah* to *Barrarie*, seven hours.

From *Barrarie* to *Tellah*, four hours.

From *Tellah* to *Sersah*, ten hours.

From *Sersah* to *Dumdumaye*, three hours.

From *Dumdumaye* to *Derah*, twelve hours.

From *Derah* to the fort at *Allahabad*, seven or eight hours, if the wind is not against you, and the water calm; but the stream in this part is very strong, and the river in many places very shallow; it is therefore adviseable to land on the *Jumna* side of the fort, and proceeding across the promontory in a palankeen, sending the boats round to a place called *Taylor Gunge*, which will take them nearly a day to accomplish. At *Allahabad* supplies of every description may be procured. Here it is necessary to wait upon the commanding officer in the fort, and report your name, rank, and destination.

From *Taylor Gunge* to *Ramohowdah*, (ten koss by land from *Allahabad*,) will take ten hours.

From *Ramohowdah* to *Jehanabad*, three hours.

From *Jehanabad* to *Acbarpore*, four hours.

From *Acbarpore* to *Konkerabad*, six hours and a half.



From *Konkerabad* to *Shaw Zadabad*, four hours.

From *Shaw Zadabad* to *Kurrah*, three hours.

Muslin and cloth of the coarser kinds are manufactured here.

From *Kurrah* to *Mannickpore*, three hours and a half.

From *Mannickpore* to *Kerah Nugger*, six hours.

From *Kerah Nugger* to *Bunderpoor*, one hour and a half.

From *Bunderpoor* to *Nobusta Ghaut*, five hours and a half.

From *Nobusta* to *Ochree*, six hours and a half.

From *Ochree* to *Dalmow* the river is particularly shallow, and abounds in quick-sands; it is therefore almost impossible to say how long a budgerow will take tracking it, as the dandies are obliged to walk the greatest part of the distance up to their waists in water, and are frequently detained to push the boat off a sand-bank. If no such impediment should occur, the usual time is about eight hours.

From *Dalmow* you pass the villages of *Kut-terah*, *Garassen*, and *Singapore*, on the left; while on the right stand those of *Kosroopore*, *Hajipore*, and *Adempore*. Reach *Rowaadpore* from *Dalmow* in twelve hours.

Rowaadpore to *Buxar* and *Doreah Kerah*, in seven hours.



Doreah Kerah to Sooragepore, three hours.

Sooragepore to *Nuseeb Ghur*, ten hours. At the latter is a large brick house built by General Martine, a Frenchman. He had another large house at Lucknow, and a fine estate near it called *Lac Peery*, which means a thousand trees. On this spot he erected a superb palace and tomb: the latter he soon after occupied. He was a man of low origin, great abilities, and made immense sums of money by various speculations. He came to India an adventurer, was formerly a general in the Mahratta service, but latterly a general merchant. His character was most eccentric: he caused two centinels of wood, the height and size of men, dressed in the uniform of a British artilleryman, to be placed on either side his tomb, where a lamp is kept constantly burning. He has directed by his will that the house at *Lac Peery* should be at the service of any European gentleman, or lady, to reside in for *one* month at a time, but no longer. It is in charge of the officer commanding at Lucknow. A large sum of money is also bequeathed to his native city of Lyons, in France. The origin of this man's fortune is said to have been collecting dead leaves, and selling them to the natives for fuel.

From *Nuseeb Ghur* to *Madarpore*, seven hours.

Madarpore to *Jaugemow*, three hours.



Jaugemow to the east end of *Cawnpore*, five hours.

Cawnpore is the largest military station, and depôt in the upper provinces, or indeed on this side of India. It is six miles in extent, and contains excellent accommodation for ten thousand troops.

From *Cawnpore* to *Betoor* takes twelve hours. This place is a station for civilians, who manage the revenue and judicial departments at *Cawnpore*, from which it is distant about twelve *koss*. It is celebrated by the Hindoos as one of their most ancient places of worship, and is therefore resorted to, at particular seasons of the year, by an immense concourse of people, who line the banks of the Ganges for many miles.

From *Betoor* to the village of *Dyepore* is about twelve hours. Here is a bungalow and an indigo factory.

Dyepore to the entrance of the *Ram Gonga* river, is twelve hours.

To *Singerampore*, twelve more.

Singerampore to *Futty Ghur*, twelve hours—that is, from sun-rise to sun-set.

From *Futty Ghur* it is about twenty days' tramping to *Ghur Moktasir Ghaut*, (the nearest point at which a boat can approach Meerat.) Pass many small villages, but no place worthy notice until you reach the large brick town of



Kurrah, about the second or third day from *Futty Ghur*.

Remember to lay in a stock of supplies for one month before you leave *Futty Ghur*, as nothing more can be got until you arrive at Meerat.

From *Kurrah*, two or three hours brings you to *Sooragepore*, a small Hindoo village.

Sooragepore to *Budrowlee*, eight hours. This is capital legowing ground, except that the banks are low, and a number of alligators are generally to be seen upon them; a great variety of water-fowl frequent also this part of the river, particularly wild geese, in such flights as often to darken the atmosphere.

From *Budrowlee* you pass an uninteresting country to *Oolye Ghaut*, and from thence to *Heronpore*.

From *Heronpore* to *Kirkawara*, near which place much wheat is cultivated.

Kirkawara to *Ram Ghaut*, where there is a superb palace built by the *Rajah* of *Jyepoor*. Hindoos flock here in great numbers at stated periods of the year to make offerings to the Ganges, and perform ablutions. *Ram Ghaut* was formerly the resort of *Scindia* and the *Mahratta* chiefs. The palace is built upon a rising ground, about a hundred yards from the shore: it fronts the river—is surrounded by lofty trees. At the bottom of the garden is a flight of stone steps, upon an extensive scale, leading into the



river. The town appears flourishing, and is built down to the water's edge.

A number of projecting banks impede the progress of the navigator until he reaches *Anop-sheer*, which is considered about half way between *Futty Ghur* and *Meerat*.

The shores now assume a more pleasing prospect: luxuriant pasture, with numerous herds of cattle feeding on it, relieves the eye; and the adjacent country appears well wooded.

The village of *Ahar* contains some good brick houses, and a handsome *Ghaut*; but the river near it is very shallow.

At *Bussy Gusserat*, the next place of any consequence, there is capital legowing ground; and farther on, a village called *Sukerah Telah*, a great mart for trade.

To *Sukerah Telah* succeeds the village of *Poote*, where some Hindoo places of worship render the scene peculiarly picturesque. The most striking feature is a spacious flight of stone steps, highly ornamented, and shaded by trees down a sloping bank to the water's edge.

From this place to *Ghur Moktasir Ghaut*, is not more than a day's tracking.

Meerat lies about forty miles inland from *Ghur Moktasir Ghaut*.



VOCABULARY

ADAPTED TO THE TOUR.

Arampoore—*Aram* means ease, and *poore* a village.

Bungalow—is a cottage or nee.

Bunyah—a man who sells grain in a bazaar.

Charpiah—a bedstead without posts or tester.

Conjy—rice boiled in water.

Cummerbund—a breadth of cloth round the loins.

Dak—travelling post with relays of bearers.

Dakoity—banditti.

Deen—religion, or light.

Dock—a shrub with large leaves and thick stem.

Fakeer—a mendicant priest, either Mahometan or Hindoo.

Gold mohars—a gold coin, value two pounds English.

Jow jungle—underwood, brushwood.



Khan—a nobleman that collects the royal revenue, and raises militia regiments.

Kinkob—any silk that is brocaded with silver or gold.

Koss—two thousand six hundred ordinary paces.

Legow—to make fast a boat.

Mirza—a prince.

Moolah—a Mahometan priest.

Mullick—an elder. So great respect have the natives towards these, that if they wish to pay you any particular compliment, they say, “Ap mullick hi,” which is, “You are an elder;” meaning to infer, that you speak, or act, like an elder.

Nullah—a stream of water.

Pahar—a hill.

Pice—a small copper coin, which differs in value under different governments. What they call the *pukkah pice*, is about three halfpence English: three *cutchah pice* go to one *pukkah*. They have also some shells called *cowries*, which pass for coin of a still inferior value. From these also a very beautiful paste is made, that is often put on the inner walls of apartments to imitate alabaster.

Punkah—a fan made of the leaf of the coconut tree, painted in gaudy colours; or any machine that causes a circulation of air.



Ranee—the wife of a Rajah.

Salaam—an obeisance made by looking on the ground, and touching the forehead with three fingers of the right hand.

Shaw—a king.

Shaw Naumeh—a celebrated heroic poem, written by Ferdausi, a Persian poet.

Sissoo—a timber which resembles mahogany, of which there are immense forests in India.

Tusleem—the salaam repeated three times following.

Zemeendar—a landholder, answering to our gentleman farmer.

Zenanah—women's apartments.

N.B. When a native of India writes to a superior, it is always upon paper spotted with gold.



VOCABULARY

ADAPTED TO THE VOYAGE.

Badul—thunder.

Bhallu—sand.

Bullow—call (any one.)

Chelli jow—Move quickly.

Daal—an oar.

Daal mokoof kur—Stop the oars.

Daal kench—Pull the oars.

Dandies—boatmen.

Douccra naar—another boat.

Geah—gone.

Goleah—the steersman.

Goon—rope fastened to the mast-head, by which
they tow the boat.

Gungah—the Ganges.

Howah—wind.

Jeldi—quick.

Jure ko paunee—strong stream.



Kinnary—the shore.

Koldo—to open.

Kutchaar—a steep overhanging bank.

Legow—fasten.

Luggee—long bamboo poles used to push off the boat.

Lungur—an anchor.

Mastule—a mast.

Mhangy—captain of the boat's crew.

Naar—a boat.

Naar koldo—Unmoor the boat.

Nullah—a stream.

Owtah—coming.

Pankah—a muddy beach.

Paul—a sail.

Pawnee, bursna, lugga—It's going to rain.

Ro—Stay.

Soono—Do you hear?

Tiphaan—a storm.

THE END.

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