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# WAR AND SPORT IN INDIA

1802-1806.

By

John Pester

AN

OFFICER'S DIARY.



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# WAR AND SPORT IN INDIA

1802—1806.

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## AN OFFICER'S DIARY.

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### INTRODUCTION.

The writer of this Diary, Lieutenant John Pester, was one of my Mother's Uncles, and the original manuscript is with my cousin, Captain P. P. Phelps, of Littleton, Winchester, who kindly allowed me to have it copied. I have claimed the privilege of editing it not only as a relative, but also because of my close acquaintance with that part of India in which the scene is laid, for it happened that I was for many years employed as the Engineer of the Bhurtpore State, in the vicinity of which most of the action related took place.

The gallant officer who wrote the Diary was born in 1778, and sailed from England in 1801 to join the forces of the Honourable East India Company.

A brief review of the political aspect of India at that period may serve to bring the events narrated into historical perspective.

The Mahrattas were then the most formidable of all the native powers with whom the Company had been in contact. During the two previous centuries they had gradually extended their inroads into the territories of the decaying Mogul Empire until they had possessed themselves of several large provinces, while their armies, though often defeated, returned as often to ravage the land and to extort tribute throughout the greater part of India.

The English, whose main object had been to guard their own trade and domains in Bengal, Madras, and Bombay, had sometimes combined with other native states to repel them, but more frequently had been associated with them or with sections of their tribe in order to maintain a balance of power between the





various conflicting parties in the turbulent arena of the interior.

The Directors of the Company were, however, unwilling to be drawn into responsibilities that seemed to be beyond their resources, and although as the result of Clive's success in arms the Emperor at Delhi in 1765 became subject to their control, yet when the Court and person of his successor had fallen into the hands of the Mahrattas the English had not been prepared to interfere, and the poor Emperor, whose eyes had been blinded when he had been taken captive by a Rohilla chief, was now dependent on the protection of Scindia, the great Mahratta prince of Gwalior, who, after rescuing him from the Rohilla, seated him again on the Imperial throne. The Mogul Viceroys still owned the suzerainty of the Emperor, but were virtually independent of the Delhi Court. One of the most important of these was the Vizier of Oudh, who since Clive's time had been subject to the political control of the Company, and whose province adjoining Bengal was protected by their troops at his expense.

At the beginning of the 18th century Lord Mornington had then finally crushed the aggressive power of Mysore in the Deccan (or South of India), and was able to turn his attention to the protection of Oudh, the security of which was threatened not only by an Afghan invasion but also by Mahratta intrigue, negotiations for an alliance with Scindia having failed.

It was resolved, therefore, to re-organize the corrupt administration of the Viceroyalty, and for that purpose the Governor-General insisted on the disbandment of the Vizier's useless troops, and on the cession of the provinces of Corah, Allahabad, and Rohilkund, in order to provide from their revenues for the maintenance of an efficient force.

These were the "Ceded Provinces" referred to in the opening chapters of the Diary. They were annexed in lieu of the annual contribution hitherto levied, and the Governor-General's brother, Lord Henry Wellesley, was appointed to govern them at Bareilly. Two of the provinces, Corah and Allahabad, had been an appanage of the Emperor, secured to him by Clive's treaty, but this assignment was revoked when the Emperor became dependent upon Scindia, who, moreover, had sequestered them, but had been prevented by





## INTRODUCTION.

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our troops from occupying them. Rohilkund had been conquered by the English in Warren Hastings' time, and had been conveyed by treaty to the charge of the Vizier. When the provinces were ceded the land was held in places by local chiefs, whose strong forts defied both the revenue collector and the plundering Mahratta hordes. The forts of Sarssney and Cachoura and others which, as described in the Diary, made a desperate resistance to our occupation, were probably held by Jâts, a martial tribe that had sometimes repulsed the Mahrattas, but were usually either allied to them or forced to pay them tribute.

The Jâts of Bhurtpore, united by feudal bonds under enterprising chiefs, had carved out a dominion from the Agra province, and had become a formidable military state, whose aid we accepted in the campaign against Scindia, which followed the occupation of the ceded provinces.

The Mahratta princes were often at war amongst themselves, as was the case in 1801 between Scindia of Gwalior and Holkar of Indore, and it was owing to their dissensions and to the instability of their policy that all the Mahratta leaders were in turn ultimately brought to terms.

The tactics by which the Mahrattas had best succeeded in war were those adapted to the use of immense numbers of mobile light horse, which, obtaining their supplies by plunder, attacked the communications of the enemy and retreated in face of a more compact force in order to draw it into an exposed position. But the superiority of well-equipped and disciplined troops in the decisive battles fought both by the English and by the French during the previous century had so impressed Scindia that he now maintained a large army highly trained by French instructors, together with most formidable artillery, while Holkar, jealous of Scindia's power, was not slow to follow his example. When, therefore, the Governor-General found it necessary in 1803 to protect our territories and those of our allies against the growing Mahratta menace, the English were obliged to mobilize the largest armies that had ever been employed by them in India, the Company's seasoned native and European troops being supplemented by British Infantry and Cavalry, led by officers of the King.





Scindia having declined a peaceful settlement, General Wellesley conducted a campaign against him and his allies in the Deccan, and by a series of famous victories completely crushed their strength in that region, so that our feudatory, the Nizam of Hyderabad, was secured in his dominion, and the Mahratta sovereign, the Peshwah, whom we were supporting against the nominee of Scindia, was seated under our control on the throne of Poona. The great power of Scindia in Hindustan (or Upper India), however, remained until General Lake's brilliant campaign, which is described in the Diary, had resulted in the expulsion of the Mahrattas from the Mogul capitals of Delhi and Agra, and in the reduction of Gwalior, Scindia's almost impregnable stronghold.

Holkar meanwhile took no part against us, rejoicing in the discomfiture of his rival, but when peace with Scindia had been concluded Holkar at once took the offensive, and was greatly encouraged by the failure of a detachment despatched into his country under the command of the Honourable Colonel Monson. His disastrous retreat, occasioned by want of supplies and of anticipated support, made a profound impression throughout India, and was followed by the war of 1804, the events of which are fully described in the Diary.

The failure in this campaign to achieve decisive results after a heavy sacrifice of life and of dividends led to the recall of Lord Wellesley, and Lord Cornwallis was sent out for a second term as Governor-General, with instructions to restore to the Mahratta princes the provinces that had been set free from their yoke. Lord Cornwallis, however, died before this intention could be fully effected, and owing to the protests of Lord Lake the Union flag was not lowered from the walls of Delhi and Agra.

The motives which caused the Bhurtpore Rajah to break his treaty with us when Holkar claimed his support are not difficult to understand, nor were they entirely unjustified from his point of view by the sequel, particularly as our politicians at home withdrew our support from those who had been on our side, and as in the case of the Bûndi state, abandoned them to Holkar's vengeance.

The earthen ramparts of Bhurtpore, which stand almost perfect at the present day, are four and a quarter





## INTRODUCTION.

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miles around, about fifty feet high, and nearly two hundred feet thick at the base, furnished with bastions and cunningly guarded gateways, the whole encircled by a deep outer ditch. The Jâts are expert irrigators, and were able to inundate the land surrounding the fortress and to fill the ditch with water. It was this method of defence that foiled the desperate assaults of Lord Lake's brave army. The reservoirs and sluices used for the purpose were in my charge when I was at Bhurtpore. The beautiful garden-palaces of Deeg were not much injured by the siege, and remain, perhaps, the finest examples of workmanship in stone to be found in India.

I have visited the battlefield of Laswari. The village, which is now called Naswâri, is in the Utwar State. The mounds where the slain were buried are still to be seen, and a shot hole made by one of Lord Lake's guns in the wall of a mosque had just been repaired at the time of my visit. The fame of Lord Lake ("Leek Sahib") survives in story, song, and picture throughout the land of his campaigns.

In editing the Diary I have been obliged, in order to reduce the bulk, to omit more than a third part of the original, and if it still appears too copious I may be excused because of the special local interest the detailed record will have to present and future residents in the places described. I have not altered the spelling of Indian words, which no doubt represents fairly the pronunciation of the time. This is often more correct than that obtained by transliteration from the vernacular, which method, moreover, leads to terrible distortion by those who do not know it.

A few words should be said about the water-color picture, a reduced photograph of which forms the frontispiece to this volume. This was very kindly presented to me by Miss Parsons, of Misterton, Crewkerne, to whom it had been bequeathed by a relative of mine. It is in perfect condition, and it affords an unique record, having been painted on the scene in 1803. The artillery in action are wearing blue coats with yellow facings, white cross-belts and breeches, and tall black hats with white plumes, and queues. Infantry in red coats, white breeches with dark overalls, hats with black badges in front. All officers in red sashes and with queues.





The Diarist retired as a Lieutenant-Colonel in 1826, and in the record of his services it is stated that except for sick leave he was never absent from duty.

He married a Miss Phelps, of Montacute House, Somerset, who accompanied him to India in 1811. He died in 1856 at Millbrook, near Southampton. Amongst his friends in retirement were Sir Philip Blair, formerly the Colonel of his regiment, who lived to be 83, and Sir Henry White, who left my great-uncle £500 in remembrance of his assistance in the siege of Gwalior. I have met an officer who well remembers that Lieutenant Pester saved the life of his father, who was left wounded on the field, and I hope that the publication of this Diary may interest many whose family names are represented amongst those mentioned, although the severity of the service was such that not many of those engaged could have left direct descendants. In the 1st Battalion of the 2nd Native Infantry out of eighteen officers only three were left fit for duty at the close of the 1804 campaign.

The sentiments confided to the Diary, some of which are omitted, reveal a heart fervent with patriotism but not proof against the more tender susceptibilities. It was an age when patriotism was a prevailing spirit, Great Britain being then an island kingdom prepared to stand at bay against invasion, while the foundations of an Empire were being laid by the enterprise and fortitude of her sons. Not only the military and naval commanders, but also the statesmen and civil governors were held in deep regard by all ranks, and the nobility of the veteran Lord Cornwallis in accepting office a second time on a mission of peace evoked the admiration of the war-hardened subaltern no less than the glorious death of Nelson.

It is no longer an age of sentiment, but it is still the tradition of our race to press to the front in sport and in war, and respect will not be wanting for this glimpse at the life of the gallant Britons who shot and hunted in India in the early days of the last century, and who trained their brave native soldiers to follow them to death or victory.

J. A. DEVENISH,  
Formerly Executive Engineer,  
Public Works Department of India.





## CHAPTER I.

August 28th, 1802, to September 1st, 1802.  
Attack and Capture of Camney (Khamni).

In consequence of the refractory conduct of some <sup>1802.</sup>  
Zemindars who had been committing sad depreda- <sup>Aug. 28,</sup>  
tions and setting the laws of government at defiance, <sup>Shikohabad.</sup>  
I was ordered to march with my Grenadiers this <sup>Attack of</sup>  
evening. My friend Marsden expressed a wish to <sup>the Village</sup>  
accompany me, and waited on Colonel Blair, who <sup>of Camney.</sup>  
readily consented.

At four in the afternoon I paraded my men, and having examined their arms, flints, ammunition, bayonets, etc., and received my instructions from the Commanding Officer, we marched off before five o'clock. Owing to the very heavy fall of rain the country was completely inundated, and at many places the water was nearly up to the soldiers' waists. This rendered our moving very tedious, and it was pitch dark before we reached the village of Jellalabad. Most providentially no rain fell, so that our arms and ammunition were dry. It was so exceedingly dark that I was very apprehensive the Guides would mistake the route. I was the more anxious on this account, being very desirous of attacking them if possible at daybreak. We had thirty-two long miles to march, and not a moment's time was there to spare. The men were in the highest spirits, and waded through dirt, mire and water with the greatest cheerfulness. No track was visible, and our march was over an open plain without any other direction than now and then a solitary tree or a few bushes. But my Guides were men of the country, and excellent fellows.

At four in the morning we arrived at Assnayder after incessant marching of twelve hours nearly; at this place I received information that Camney (where the Rebels after whom I was marching





1802.

Aug. 28.

*Attack of  
the Village  
of Camney.*

were posted) was not more than two short miles distant from me. I was told that they were in force of at least five hundred men, and that they had received intimation of my approach. I halted there for about half-an-hour till day showed some symptoms of breaking, and during that time I was favoured with a most insulting message from the Chief of the Rebels, who had heard of my arrival. The purport of this communication was that "they had heard of my approach, and knew well the strength of my party; that if I would face about and march quietly back, they would not molest me, but that if I advanced a single step towards their post they would not allow a single man of us to live to tell the story!" By way of completing the insult they told me that "we were fine looking fellows in our *red clothes*, but that our coats before sunset should be converted into shoes for them." Nothing could tend among the Natives to convey more contempt than this last compliment. I addressed my men, told them the purport of the message from the enemy, and added that it remained with them to prove how far they merited such a reception. As I expected, they were all in great wrath, and promised to convince the enemy of his mistake. About five we came in sight of the village, and saw the flashes of musketry along the walls. I galloped on with one of my guides, and ascertained the situation of the two gates which led into the village; to do this, I went so near that they saw me, and fired on me.

Aug. 29.

A gun was what I wanted to assist in opening the gates, but I determined at once to commence the attack, and at least to make a vigorous effort before I asked any kind of reinforcements, for by doing so I should avoid comments which I knew many were always ready to pass on those occasions on any who were employed on them, and it also was the first command I had ever been placed in, and the oppor-





tunity was not to be lost. As soon as Marsden and the Company came up, I pointed out the north gate to him, and, advancing the left division of the Grenadiers, I ordered him to move on and attack the gateway, but not to fire a shot till he arrived at it. At the same moment I placed myself at the head of the right grand division, and advanced to storm the principal gate. Ensign Marsden had a short detour to make, and I regulated the advance of my party, so as for us to arrive at our respective points of attack as nearly as possible at the same period. The moment we got within reach of their shot they commenced a very heavy and destructive fire of musketry, and Ensign Marsden, I observed, was received in a like manner. Many of my men dropped, and the shot flew very thick. My orders were strictly attended to, and the enemy's fire was not returned till we reached the sorties, when I ordered the rear division of my party to fire on the enemy, whilst with the other division I forced the gates, which with the greatest difficulty we happily effected. The instant we entered the village my men were like so many tigers let loose, and every man that opposed us was either shot or bayonnetted. The enemy now appeared absolutely panic struck; they gave way and began to fly in all quarters, some making their escape over the walls into the country, but I had not long been in the villages before I discovered a round tower pierced with loopholes, which commanded almost every street in the place; here a party of the most resolute had retired, and began to annoy us much by their fire. This was no season for delay, and I soon saw that unless we could possess ourselves of this tower the place could not be held without great loss to us. I collected about thirty men, and, with my Subadar (black captain), I rushed on at their head to assault the post. In passing up the street we were completely exposed to their fire, and four of my Grenadiers were shot at my heels. We succeeded in getting so

1802.

Aug. 29,

*Attack of  
the Village  
of Camney.*





1802.

AUG. 29,

*Attack of  
the Village  
of Camney.*

close under them that they could not fire upon us, but the tower gate was so strong that we were unable to force it. Marsden also succeeded in getting in to the village, and joined me here. I fixed on two good men, and told them if they could procure pickaxes and spades from the neighbouring village I would promote them—the enemy heard that we proposed digging them out, and instantly threw their muskets and swords from the loopholes, and, begging for mercy, declared they had surrendered. Their conduct had been such, and so many of my men had fallen by them, that at first I was not inclined to listen to them, and had determined on making an example of them upon the spot, but as at the moment they were defenceless, I promised not then to take their lives, and we were instantly let in, and bound them all hand and foot. We now fired the village in every quarter, and many of the enemy who had secreted themselves were destroyed. By our best calculation nearly two hundred of them fell in this affair, and we had reason to conjecture that in future they would treat us with more *respect*. They knew us not, as this was the first time that a shot had been fired in the Ceded Provinces, and we taught them to know that they had a different description of troops to deal with from those which had often been employed against them by the Vizier who ceded the country to us.

As soon as the place was completely in ashes, and we had collected our own wounded men, and secured the prisoners, we drew off again towards the village of Assnayder. We had not proceeded far when a countryman came running up and assured me that all the villages in the neighbourhood had armed and were coming down with those who had escaped out of the place during the attack and after we got in, with a determination to rescue my prisoners or perish themselves in the attempt. I instantly ordered the Sergeant of the Guard who had charge of the prisoners to put them immediately to death if we should be attacked,





and then formed my men on an advantageous spot of <sup>1802.</sup> ground to wait their arrival. Our fire had been very <sup>Aug. 29.</sup> heavy in the morning, and on examining the pouches *Attack of* I found that the greater part of my ammunition was *the Village* expended. Some of the men had not more than two *of Camney.* and three rounds each remaining. I, therefore, resolved to charge them as soon as they should approach. In this situation we remained under arms for a full hour, but no enemy made his appearance! My men were much exhausted; it was now nearly eleven in the morning, and we had been positively marching and engaged full sixteen hours, and no troops under the heavens ever bore fatigue more patiently or executed their duty with more cheerful alacrity and gallantry than did the Grenadiers of the 2nd on this occasion. As soon as we reached Assnayder I ordered a proportion of them to cook their dinner, and the inhabitants of this place supplied them with rice and everything else that their village afforded, more, I fancy, from dread of us than any good wishes towards us. To Marsden and myself they brought eggs, milk, and a very fine kid which we had for breakfast, and about three we took a kid chop and a bottle of claret each (which Major Collins had very kindly sent after us). This we enjoyed much, though Marsden fell asleep the moment we had swallowed our wine.

My servants had brought a camel and the upper fly of my tent, but we dined under a tree, and did not require it. I procured litters from the village, and sent off my wounded men for Shikoabad with a small guard. As many of our killed as we could collect we buried here, and at five in the evening we paraded again, and marched for Jellalabad, where we arrived about eleven at night, in such weather as I scarcely ever experienced. About mid-way between Assnayder and Jellalabad it came on to rain in torrents, accompanied with the most awful claps of thunder and flashes of lightning. I took post in the ruins of an





1802.

*Attack of  
the Village  
of Camney.*

old fort, and made the best disposition I could to defend myself in case they should still entertain any idea of trying to release my prisoners, or of attacking us by means of a forced march in the night. We pitched the fly of my tent under the lee of an old bastion; in it Marsden, with a guard and the prisoners, took post. I was too anxious to sleep, notwithstanding I had been so many hours without it.

Aug. 30

*Return to  
Shikoabad.*

I went the rounds myself every hour, and sent patrols the intermediate half-hours, and in this way we passed the night, which continued throughout extremely boisterous and raining. At five we marched again for Shikoabad, and soon after daybreak met several of the officers riding out to meet us; they had heard of my letter to Colonel Blair of our affair and the result.

At seven we arrived in cantonments, beating the Grenadiers' march. All the men in wonderful spirits considering the extreme fatigue they had borne—not a man of us had taken our clothes off since the 28th in the morning, nor had I closed my eyes since that time, and had I not experienced it I could not have supposed that it was in the power of men to bear up against such laborious exertions for such a length of time. I dismissed my men on their own parade, and waited immediately on Colonel Blair, who received me in a most flattering manner, and told me that we had done our duty in a manner very much to our credit, and that he should have great pleasure in forwarding my details to the Commander-in-Chief.

Marsden and myself breakfasted with the Colonel, and afterwards retired to our own bungalows to get a little rest, of which we stood in much need. (Poor Marsden never recovered this fatigue, and died soon afterwards. He was shot through the jacket on this occasion).

In the evening I dined at Plumer's, when there was a large party, and as soon as the cloth was removed I





fell asleep in my chair and slept undisturbed till 1802. nearly eleven o'clock, after which I took my bottle of claret and returned in my palanquin.

Slept till ten this morning, Weston and MacGregor tified with me. Two of my wounded men died this evening in the hospital, one had received a ball which carried away his under jaw completely, the other was wounded in the leg; it mortified and killed him. Aug. 31.  
Shikoaabad.

A subscription was circulated this morning for the benefit of the widows and orphans of the men who fell in the attack at Camney with me, and it was very liberally filled. Every officer of the corps subscribed to it, and it was the means of affording them something handsome. I prevailed on Colonel Blair to put the son of one man upon the strength of the corps, which he most readily did, and soldier's full pay was drawn for him. The father of this poor boy was shot within a sword's length of me. I was firing a musket into a thatch that communicated with the tower in the village. To do this I was obliged to step out from under the loopholes, and expose myself to their fire within. Whilst in the act of firing the piece, one of the enemy within was seen by my Subadar to be levelling at me, and the Subadar most gallantly stepped in and gave me a violent thrust against the wall (he had not time to speak to me) which saved me, and the soldier, whose son I petitioned to have put upon the strength of the corps, received the shot through his head which was intended for me. The poor fellow fell stone dead, and as his piece fell the bayonet tore my boot without cutting me at all.

We all dined with Colonel Blair this evening, and passed a very gay day; cards and singing, and the party did not break up till a very late hour. It was nearly one before I reached my bungalow.





## CHAPTER II.

March from Shikoabad to Attack Sarssney (Sasni).  
November 24th, 1802—December 10th, 1802.

1802.

Nov. 24.

*Shikoabad.*

THIS forenoon orders were issued for us to march to-morrow morning, and in the course of the day Captain Drummond, with five companies of the 11th Regiment from Etawah, marched in to occupy the cantonments in our absence. Left my Mahratter mare in care of Lieutenant Heysham, to whom also I gave the use of my bungalow whilst I should remain in the field.

Prepared everything this evening for marching, and as we were in expectation of a tedious campaign, I carried with me a good stock of wines. Our 2nd Battalion, with battering cannon from Futtu Ghur, joined us to-day, and we learnt that a further reinforcement would meet us at Khauss Gunge.

Nov. 25.

*Col. Blair's  
Detachment  
Camp at  
Kooraker.*

The Battalion paraded this morning at daybreak, and we formed a junction with the 2nd Battalion and the train of Artillery about one mile to the westward of our cantonments, and at seven moved off from the right, my Grenadiers leading the column. Our line of march from Shikoabad was south-west, leaving the village of Mocanpore to our right. The country to-day which we marched over I was thoroughly acquainted with, having very often beat every inch of it for game. We encamped about ten o'clock about eleven miles from the cantonments of Shikoabad, and in the course of the evening some messengers of Colonel Blair's came in with intelligence that the fort of Phurrah, against which we were immediately marching with our present forces, was preparing to defend it, and our orders were to attack it immediately if they showed the smallest disposition to be hostile. A large party of us





dined with Colonel Blair this evening; among others 1802.  
we had the Commanding Officer of Artillery, Captain  
Shipton, and Wood (of the Engineers).

We paraded this morning at half-past six, and just Nov. 26,  
as the detachment was marching off a post came in, *With Col.*  
and by it I received a letter from my friend Welstead, *Blair's*  
full of England, dear England. I was on another kind *Detachment,*  
of an excursion, and within a short distance of an *Camp before*  
enemy. About eight o'clock we arrived within sight of *Phurrah.*  
Phurrah, which appeared a strong and lofty place—  
with our glasses we plainly saw them on the works,  
cutting embrasures, and mounting fresh cannon—the  
walls were crowded with soldiers, and everything  
wore the appearance of determined resistance. We  
pitched our camp about gun shot distance from the  
eastern face, and a summons was immediately sent in  
requiring the surrender of the place at discretion, and  
giving them at the same time to understand the con-  
sequences of the slightest opposition. Two Howitzers  
were at the same period run down to a garden in our  
front, ready to commence throwing shells into the  
tower if they made any opposition.

After some messengers from both parties, they at  
last agreed to surrender the garrison to the British;  
the troops were allowed to march out with their arms  
and private property, and at three in the evening Sin-  
clair, Livesey, Parr and myself marched in with the  
four Grenadier Companies of our regiment, and took  
possession. Posted guards at the different gates, and  
reported to Colonel Blair our being in complete pos-  
session of all the gates and works. In the tower we  
found some few armed men, but these we soon dis-  
persed, and ordered them into the country. Remained  
all night under arms in the garrison and town.

This morning a small party was ordered in to Nov. 27,  
relieve the Grenadiers, and we marched out and  
rejoined the detachment in camp. In the afternoon *Camp near*  
Cumberlege and myself took a ride into the country, *Phurrah.*





1802.

*Camp near  
Phurrah.*

which we found extremely rich and well cultivated, too much so for game, and there seemed to be very little in the neighbourhood of Phurrah.

I was on picquet this evening, Weston, Grant and MacGregor dined with me at the picquet, and did not leave my tent till nearly twelve.

Nov. 28.

*With Col.  
Blair's  
Detachment  
Camp near  
Cumsaine.*

At sunrise this morning the General beat, and the Assembly soon after, when we moved off by the right. With my picquet and one six-pounder I formed the advance guard. In the course of our march we passed through some villages belonging to the Mahrattas, the inhabitants of which did not receive us with quite so much cordiality as those of villages immediately in our own Provinces. At ten o'clock we encamped about two miles to the southward of the village of Cumsaine, on the edge of a very fine jungle, which abounded with game. After breakfasting Cumberlege and myself took out horses, spears and guns, and went into the cover. The grass was too strong to see a hog, though their traces were very visible in many places, and in every open spot we discovered where they had recently been rooting. We shot a great quantity of peacocks, black and grey partridges, quails and two brace of hares on the skirts of the cover. Returned late to dinner at Sinclair's, where we had a very jolly party, all in high spirits and good humour.

Nov. 29.

*Camp near  
Kondroo.*

This morning we marched at the same hour, and in the same order as yesterday. The inhabitants showed us every respectful attention.

Encamped about ten o'clock in a very highly cultivated country on the borders of the ceded Province.

After taking our breakfast Cumberlege and myself rode to a cover in the vicinity of our camp, and killed a great quantity of game of various kinds. Colonel Blair and all the officers of our Battalion and some of the 2nd dined with me this evening, and we did not break up till a late hour.





We marched off this morning at sunrise; the morning was quite sharp, and we began pretty seriously to find the cold weather setting in. Our march to-day was through some very strong forests, in which the track was barely wide enough to admit of our guns and tumbrils passing on them. We had quite a romantic march, and the drums and fifes were playing quick marches or lively dances nearly the whole way. At nine we came in sight of the town of Etah, under the walls of which we encamped.

1802.

Nov. 30.

*With Col.  
Blair's  
Detachment  
Camp at  
Etah.*

The Rajah of this place immediately came to our camp on a visit to Colonel Blair.

The town of Etah to the eastward is surrounded by a fine lake, and on it I was very happy to observe a great quantity of ducks, teal, and various kinds of wild fowls; after a hasty breakfast at my tent Cumberlande and self took our guns, and had a famous morning's sport. Snipe we found in great abundance upon the borders of the lake, and for them we left the ducks.

By four in the evening we had killed between us twenty-three brace of snipe, and this was one of the prettiest day's sport I had seen in India or in any other part of the world. On our return we killed four brace of teal and three ducks; of the latter we might have killed any quantity we chose.

This being the anniversary of Saint Andrew, a day always kept by Scotchmen, we dined at MacKaulay's, to whom we had sent all the game killed in the morning. We mustered very strong this evening, as nearly all the Scotch in our camp were invited, and also many of us.

We paid them the compliment of pushing the bottle handsomely, and the whole party was pretty high when we separated at one in the morning.

We took our departure from the town of Etah and the fine lake there at daybreak this morning; as we approached the banks of the Collah Nhuddy (Black River) we found the covers and jungles through which

Dec. 1.

*With Col.  
Blair's  
Detachment  
Camp near  
Zodaicnow.*





1802.

*With Col.  
Blair's  
Detachment  
Camp at  
Zodaicnow.*

we moved swarming with game, and on the line of march the deer and hogs were perpetually crossing us. The peacocks were also extremely numerous. It was ten o'clock when we commenced pitching our camp on a delightful spot of ground, nearly surrounded by low jungles.

Cumberlege and myself swallowed our breakfast, and set off instantly to shoot. We had not far to go for game; close in the vicinity of the camp, and not three hundred yards from the picquets, we found a herd of hogs, but owing to the height of the grass we found it in vain to ride them. We penetrated the cover, and killed deer, florikin, niel ghy (blue wild cows), partridges, hares and quails in great abundance, with which we well loaded our servants before we returned to camp. Remained out till nearly sunset, and galloped furiously back, leaving our people with the guns and dogs, to find their way after us as well as they could.

DEC. 2.

*With Col.  
Blair's  
Detachment  
at Khauss  
Gunge.*

The detachment marched at six this morning, and soon after sunrise we reached the banks of the Collah Nhuddy and crossed over the bridge near the cantonment of Khauss Gunge, which we reached at nine o'clock. I had the rear guard to-day, and consequently did not arrive till nearly an hour after the line was up.

At Khauss Gunge we found Major Ball encamped with a Battalion of the 8th National Infantry, a Battalion of the 12th and four Companies of the 2nd Battalion of ours.

The 3rd Regiment of Cavalry from Bareilly was also attached to us, and it was conjectured that with our whole force consisting of four Battalions and a Regiment of Cavalry, we should march immediately against the strong fort of Sarssney; the Rajah (or Prince) of which had refused to accede to the established rules of our Government, and had determined on disputing the point with us, and neither to sur-





render his forts or disband his troops. Colonel Blair, 1802.  
on our arrival here, received the command over from DEC. 7.  
Major Ball, and assumed the direction of the whole.

*With Col.  
Blair's  
Detachment  
Camp near  
Secundra.*

Halted at Khauss Gunge since the 2nd, most of which time I passed in shooting with Cumberlege and Richardson of our 2nd Battalion. Near the cantonment of Khauss Gunge, a little to the westward, we found hares, peafowl, quail, black and grey partridges in great abundance, and never returned without filling our bags! We left Khauss Gunge at sunrise this morning.

We were in full expectation of falling in with some of the Sarssney Rajah's Cavalry during the march, but in this we were disappointed; there was a report that they had marched from Sarssney purposely to annoy us on the march. About ten o'clock we encamped at Secundra. I was on the rear guard this morning, and we got a pretty good grilling before we came up with the pack and magazine in the rear. The officers of our Battalion dined with me this evening.

The detachment halted a day, supposed to wait the result of a summons said to have been sent to the Rajah. DEC. 9.

Some of the enemy's spies were detected this forenoon in our camp, and instantly confined, Wemyss and Cunynghame joined us to-day; the latter as Collector of the District, and possessing full powers from the Governor General in Council, to treat and settle letters with all the Rajahs in this part of the Ceded Provinces.

At three this afternoon Wemyss and self went out with our greyhounds, and found hares innumerable; our dogs were soon knocked up, and then sent into camp for our guns and shot a great number. Wemyss rode my grey horse this evening, and I an Arab of his.



We dined with Cunynghame (who married my friend and shipmate, Miss Grier) and did justice to his claret.

Dec. 10.

We marched off by the left at daylight this morning, and encamped without the smallest molestation on the march at ten o'clock, within sight of the Bidgie Ghur, one of the Sarssney Rajah's forts.





## CHAPTER III.

The Siege, Assault and Capture of Sarssney (Sasni).  
December 11th, 1802, to February 6th, 1803.

THIS morning the General beat at five and the 1802.  
Assembly at six o'clock. Soon after Reveillé beating, DEC. 11.  
we saw the Fort of Sarssney and encamped before it, Camp before  
on the eastern face, about ten. The walls we could Sarssney.  
perceive were covered with fighting men, and with our  
glasses we could count a great number of heavy guns  
mounted on the ramparts.

A large body of Cavalry and Infantry were also  
encamped on the glacis of the Fort, which appeared  
to be strong and very lofty. A messenger of the  
Rajah's came into our camp this morning; the result  
we knew not. I dined with Cunynghame this evening,  
who told me that we should certainly have to fight this  
Rajah.

Ever since the day of our arrival the negotiation DEC. 23.  
had been firmly carried on, in the meantime our  
Pioneers and Troops had been daily employed in  
collecting materials for our Batteries.

It was now discovered that the delay had been  
caused by frivolous excuses on the part of the Rajah,  
whose grand point was to collect supplies and troops  
from his other forts. At sunset this evening fourteen  
Companies of Infantry paraded in order to dislodge  
the enemy from two villages in front, and there to  
establish ourselves as at a convenient distance to com-  
mence our approaches. I dined at Cunynghame's on  
cold beef at four o'clock, and then, as Cunynghame  
observed, "went down to be shot at." We gained  
the posts with a trifling loss. My Company and  
Captain W—— of our corps were pushed on to a  
grove in front, and a party of pioneers under Lieut.  
Bales with us to assist in covering us in. We instantly



formed working parties of them and the soldiers, and at daybreak our trenches were completed after as hard a night's fagging as I ever knew.

DEC. 24.

*Trenches  
before  
Sarssney.*

We remained snug in our works till about the middle of the day, when very suddenly a smart fire of musketry commenced from a field of corn within musket shot distance of my post. In case of an attack we were ordered to defend the post to the last extremity, and a party was ordered out from the village in our rear, which dislodged the enemy. It was evident by the numerous efforts they had made to reconnoitre us in the grove that they entertained a design to dislodge us, concluding from the confined space of our trench that our party must be small, and in this they were not mistaken, nor were we so in our expectations that they would attack us. About two o'clock a tremendous fire of cannon suddenly opened upon our trench, and at the same moment about five hundred of the enemy rushed out sword in hand from a very high field of corn upon our flank. I saw that their intention was to attempt to carry the trench by assault, and instantly ordered my own Company not to fire a shot without orders from me, at the same time I stepped out of the trench, and went to the officer commanding the other Company, and entreated him to reserve his fire till the enemy should be close upon us, when every shot would tell. I am sorry to observe that I did not find this officer in a situation much to his credit. The cannon shot, which came in showers about the trench, and the crashing of the trees over his head, torn by the shot, seemed to have scared him not a little, and he exclaimed that if "I did not come into the trench I should be killed," taking special care himself at the same time to keep very close to the bottom of it. I am convinced that from the time the guns opened on us he had not once looked over the parapet, nor did he at that moment seem to know that the enemy were within four hundred yards of us. I





then gave *his men* the orders I had my own, and 1802.  
returned to my post. Our soldiers received them with  
the greatest coolness and gallantry, and we repulsed  
them with great slaughter. The fire from the garrison,  
which had ceased when they saw their troops closing  
with us, to avoid destroying their own people, seemed,  
if possible, to redouble on seeing their failure. Numer-  
ous cannon shot came through the embankment and  
killed our men, and I had many very narrow escapes  
this day myself. Their fire from the fort was well  
directed, which, considering the small distance we  
were from them was not at all extraordinary.

*Trenches  
before  
Saissney.*

I was much pleased to hear how coolly some of the  
old soldiers addressed and encouraged the less  
experienced.

My Company of Grenadiers on this, as on every  
other occasion in which I had been employed with  
them, behaved as well as men could do, and it was  
not without much difficulty that I could restrain them  
from quitting their trenches to follow the enemy,  
which it would have been highly improper to have  
allowed; for had they succeeded in drawing us upon  
the plain under the fire of the fort the slaughter must  
have been great, and without the possibility of  
effecting anything to our advantage.

The fire from the garrison commenced on the left  
post at the same period it did on us, but the nature  
of the ground would not admit of their making a sally  
then, and their whole efforts were, therefore, directed  
against our two Companies!

To do the enemy justice, they behaved very gal-  
lantly, and came shouting on, sword in hand, in a  
most determined manner, but our well directed fire of  
musketry gave them a check which they could not  
recover, and their retreat was equally as precipitate as  
their advance. Their fire of cannon did not cease till  
five in the evening, and Major Ball, the field officer of  
the day, came to visit our post and to ascertain our  
loss, at the same time he gave us great credit and





1802.

*Trenches  
before  
Sarssney.*

assured us that he should report the "meritorious conduct" of the two Companies in the grove to the Commanding Officer.

Everything was now become perfectly silent, and about half-an-hour after the evening had set in we were relieved after twenty-four hours' sharp service; trenching all the night, and engaged on skirmishing the greater part of the day.

I reached the lines, and got to my tent about eight o'clock; several random shots passed over us during the time of the relief, but we sustained no loss on our march back to camp.

The remaining Companies of our Battalion on duty at the different posts were relieved at the same time that I was, and we all met to dine at MacGregor's tent, where was passed a very jolly evening, and *fought the day over again.*

1803.

JAN. 1.

Nothing particular occurred in camp since we broke ground on the 24th December. The trenches to-day were widened down to the first parallel, sufficiently to admit the battering guns. The approaches quite up to the spot intended for the battery were lined out, and strong working parties of soldiers employed during the nights. We had, daily, men killed and wounded.

The approaches having been completed and the battery erected, the eighteen-pounders were brought down from camp this evening.

The twelve-pounders and Howitzers were also placed in the enfilading battery, and the guns sent into the six-pounder battery on the left of the Grand Battery. I was on duty in the trenches this evening, and we anxiously waited the break of day to witness the effect of our shot on the ramparts.

JAN. 4.

Morning came, and our eighteens immediately opened on a curtain between two bastions directly in our front. The twelve-pounder battery at the Grove,





which raked the enemy's works on the eastern face, 1803.  
opened its fire at the same time, and a smart fire from  
the three six-pounders was directed against some guns *Trenches before Sarssney.*  
of the enemy on the upper ramparts. We continued  
battering with little cessation the whole of this day,  
and pretty clearly ascertained that the ramparts of the  
upper and lower forts were exceedingly well cemented  
and came down very sparingly. To me it appeared  
that our Grand Battery was at too great a distance from  
the object against which our fire was directed, and  
older and more experienced soldiers than myself were  
of the same opinion. The enemy returned a very  
brisk fire from every gun they could bring to bear  
upon us, and we lost some men in the batteries and  
trenches. We were relieved this evening an hour  
after sunset. All the officers of our Battalion dined  
with me.

Since the opening of our Batteries on the 4th JAN. 7.  
nothing material occurred. Our fire had been constant,  
and very heavy both on the upper and lower forts,  
and at the twelve and six pounder batteries our  
artillery had not been less active in endeavouring to  
dismount the enemy's guns and enfilading their  
works.

I was on duty this day at the right post in the  
Grove; the branches of the trees there were now completely  
cut to pieces by the enemy's shot, and some of the trees  
destroyed entirely.

An unpleasant accident happened while Weston  
and myself were in the enfilading battery this day at  
noon. Lieutenant Bayles, commanding the guns, was  
endeavouring to dismount a fresh gun which the  
enemy had brought to annoy our post, and which had  
killed and wounded several of our men. Bayles was  
standing upon the parapet to see the effect of a gun  
which he had taken great pains to lay for that of the  
enemy; at this moment the soldier on the look-out  
called "Shot," poor Bayles leaped from the parapet





1803.

Trenches  
before  
Sarssney.

into the Battery, and by endeavouring to avoid the shot he unfortunately lost his life; one of the embrasures of the Battery was masked with fascines immediately in front of which he jumped, and the shot at the *same instant* came directly through the embrasure and took away both his thighs. It was a shocking sight, a fine young officer, possessing an uncommon degree of spirit and enterprize, so dreadfully wounded. We lost no time in putting him on a litter and sending him to camp, where he soon expired. Bayles had the direction of the Pioneers employed with the working party the first night we broke ground at the Grove, and although we had seldom met before, we got intimately acquainted on that occasion. Sergeant-Major Lane, of the Artillery, a man exceedingly lamented, and one of the finest fellows I ever saw, was killed by a cannon shot in the Grand Battery this morning. He was unfortunately sitting on the trails of a gun, and a shot came in at the embrasure and cut him asunder. We had daily many killed and wounded.

A Battalion of the 12th Regiment relieved our post at eight this evening.

JAN. 9.

This evening our Battalion went down for a four and twenty hours' spell in the trenches at the left post, and we had been regularly on that duty every other night, since the commencement of the siege.

The lower breach appeared much shattered, but there seemed a great deal yet to be done to render the upper breach practicable. Our fire was now principally directed against the upper rampart, which was uncommonly strong; something like a complete mound of earth, in which the shot seemed to bury themselves with little effect, and it came down very slowly.

JAN. 10.

During the night we had a heavy fall of rain, which made the water nearly knee deep in the trenches. Owing to the flat situation of the ground about us,





it was impossible to hit upon any plan to draw it off, 1803.  
so that we stood up to our knees in mud and water all this day, with a scorching sun beating upon our heads, which made it not very pleasant, especially as we could get no rest, and we had been all night on our legs. It was impossible to sit down even, in the trenches, and a man could not step out of them, but with a certainty of being shot from the ramparts of the fort.

*Trenches  
before  
Sarsaney.*

A redoubt was this day thrown up about one hundred and fifty yards from the first parallel, and two six-pounders put into it; it was named "Parker's Redoubt," as an officer of that name constructed it. The 2nd Battalion of our regiment relieved us at the usual hour of the relief this evening, and we got to camp at eight.

Being off duty this morning, Wemyss and myself in-  
judiciously rode a couple of miles in the rear of our camp, with the greyhounds—this frolic was attended with the imminent risk of our lives, as the enemy had constantly strong parties of horse patrolling in the neighbourhood of our camp, with a view of cutting off supplies. We found plenty of hares among the young wheat, and were not long in killing two brace and a half, and a brace of jackalls; the latter afforded us excellent sport before a brace of Persian greyhounds, which were very fierce and powerful, and exactly calculated for that game. Our horses were completely knocked up, but we returned unmolested to camp—had an early dinner at Cunynghame's, and I marched down at seven o'clock with my Battalion to the trench to relieve a Battalion of the 12th at the left post. Several cannon shot passed very close over our column as we marched down, but providentially without doing mischief.

JAN. 11,

*Camp before  
Sarssney.*

We longed for the dawn of day to see what effect our shot had on the breach since we were down on the

JAN. 12,





1803.

*Trenches  
before  
Sarssney.*

10th. The ramparts of the upper and lower forts appeared levelled a great deal with the two last days' firing, and the artillery officers began to talk of a practicable breach! Our fire from the Batteries all this day was directed principally against the defences on each flank of the breach. The enemy kept up a sharp fire the whole day, and we had several men killed by their shot. At sunset I took post in the shoulder of the six-pounders Battery with two companies. Murray commanded one of them under me.

From an artillery officer on duty in this Battery I learnt that last evening some of the enemy were seen upon the flank of the post, and came so near as to fire into the trench—this induced me to post a double sentry about eighty yards in front; I carried the men to the post myself, and gave them orders to fire on anyone who may approach them from their front. I had scarcely reached the trenches with my escort when both the soldiers fired, but did not fall back. I returned with a Jemadar's party to their support; the enemy commenced a straggling fire, but did not advance; the moment we commenced our musketry they perceived our direction by the flash of our pieces and opened three guns with grape upon us from the garrison. I judged it improper to allow a party of the enemy to remain so near our post, and therefore determined to dislodge them, which we speedily effected, for they knew not the strength of my party and retired. I had two men killed and several wounded in this affair, and a grape shot grazed my side; it merely drew the blood, but gave me great pain all the following day. The same shot broke the barrel of a soldier's musket, at my heels, after striking me; it cut the piece completely asunder, although the metal appeared to be remarkably well tempered. The Field Officer of the day expressed himself much pleased at our having driven the enemy from the neighbourhood of our trenches, as on several occasions they had concealed themselves in the dark,





and suddenly leaped among our men in the trenches 1803.  
with their swords and spears and killed several of  
them, and this appeared to have been the intention *Trenches before Sarssney.*  
of the party I attacked. They were the most desperate  
of the enemy who were employed on those excursions,  
and few of them ever returned from the trench who  
tried the experiment; they were generally bayonnetted.

The report was that the Rajah gave them large  
sums of money, and promised them promotion, if they  
would bring a European officer's head!

The breach this morning appeared as practicable JAN 14,  
as shot could make it. The upper breach the least so.  
We had no doubt in our minds but that the place  
would be stormed in the morning, nor were we disap-  
pointed. About four in the afternoon we saw the  
enemy bringing four heavy guns to flank the breach;  
nor could the artillery officers in either of our Batteries  
bring a gun to bear on them, such was the situation  
in which the enemy had placed theirs. Major Ball  
was the field officer on duty in the trenches this day,  
and at sunset an orderly trooper came down to the  
Battery with orders for him.

An officer of our corps met the Dragoon in the  
trenches and imprudently looked at the orders which  
he carried, by which we ascertained that the assault  
would certainly take place at daybreak in the morn-  
ing. The right Grenadiers of the 2nd (the Senior  
Corps) to lead, so that I was quite sure of being  
employed, and hoped to be the first in the breach. At  
seven this evening we were relieved, returned to camp,  
and I made some few arrangements in case an acci-  
dent should happen to me; McGregor was not to be  
in the storm. I therefore gave him the keys of my  
trunks, and a note mentioning how I wished the  
contents to be disposed of.

Dined at MacGregor's, and at ten the orders for  
the storming party to parade at two in the morning  
were published.





1803.

The stormers to consist of all the Grenadier companies of the detachment; my company (the right of the 2nd) to lead. The Grenadiers to be supported by a proportion of battalion companies of the different corps.

Wemyss came down the moment the orders were issued to take a glass of wine with us and shake me by the hand. Loaded my pistols and put them under my pillow, and at eleven p.m. laid down with our clothes on.

JAN. 15.

*Assault on  
Sarssney.*

At one o'clock Weston, who belonged to the left Grenadiers of our regiment, came to my tent and awoke me by telling me it was drawing on to the time for parade. We stuck our pistols in our sashes, and went to the lines; it was a beautiful moonlight morning, and the storming party had begun to assemble. In order that the soldiers may be enabled to ascend the breach with the more facility, their cumberbunds (an ornamental but very incommodious part of their dress) were taken off, and left at the quarter guards of their respective corps, which, with the picquets, were ordered to stand fast, and be under arms during the assault. A little before the Battalion bells rung three we moved off the parade, and marched down to the trenches, where the storming party was drawn up between the third and the last parallel, and about eighty yards on the right of the Grand Battery. We primed and loaded, but it was at first intended that the flints should be taken from the men's pieces to prevent firing, and to teach them to confide in the bayonet, but this was not done, at the recommendation of the Commanding Officer. Captain Morrison, who commanded the rear division of the party, came to me at the head of the line, and from what passed between us I certainly thought he did not evince that steadiness which I had observed in him on some former occasions. He spoke as if he entertained a presentiment that he should fall, and repeatedly assured me that



he believed from the strength of the garrison, and 1803.  
 the determination with which they had hitherto fought, that we should have a very bloody morning's work. *Assault on Sarssney.*

I knew him intimately, and could not help expressing my surprise, and jokingly told him that I never before suspected him of croaking; we shook hands and parted, *never to meet again!* The instant that the day breaking was perceptible, Duncan of our corps was despatched on horseback across to the grove at the right post, to order the firing of the six-pounder, which was the signal for the attack! Major Hammond with three companies instantly began the false attack on the north gate, and his fire was uncommonly brisk; this succeeded completely in drawing the enemy to that quarter while we moved down to the breach under cover of the fire of our Batteries and the dusk of the morning. We had nearly reached the glacis before the enemy discovered us, and their own mistake. A galling fire now commenced upon us. Forty soldiers with the scaling ladders without their arms preceded my section, which led the column; the shot flew very thick, and they became a little staggered. Sinclair, who commanded the front division of the column, desired me to remain by him at the head, and to lead the men on if he should fall. Everything depended on our placing the scaling ladders with precision, and as I observed some little confusion among the men who carried them, I ran on and laid hold of the headmost ladder, desiring them if they were soldiers to follow me. They immediately cheered, and we were in a moment at the ditch outside the breach. The first ladder I placed myself—our men were now dropping on every side of us. Sinclair and myself descended the two first ladders which we placed in the ditch, and instantly turned them and mounted on the fort side to scale the Fausse Braye, but how shall I describe my feelings when I found that our ladders would not reach the top by





1803.

*Assault on  
Sarssney.*

nearly *ten feet*! The whole of the ladders were placed and ascended with all possible gallantry by the soldiers, but, cruel to relate, they were all as much too short as that which I mounted. A little to my right I observed the wall was somewhat shattered by some chance shot of ours which had lobbed over the glacis that defended it. I got across from the top of one ladder to another, and with every exertion, unencumbered as I was, I reached the top of the wall alone. The men were ineffectually struggling to follow me, but a soldier with his musket in his hand and forty rounds of ammunition is not capable of that exertion which an officer is. My sword was slung by the sword-knot round my wrist, and I had both hands to scramble for it. My favourite havildar, who had thrown away his pike and drawn his sword, was endeavouring to ascend with me when he was shot, and his blood flew completely over me. My escape was certainly a miraculous one. I pistoled the man who was nearest me, and who was in the act of cutting at me with his sabre on the wall; several muskets were fired at me by men actually not fifteen paces from me! but I had scarcely got my footing on the wall when a musket shot grazed my arm just above the wrist, a spear at the same instant wounded me in the shoulder, and a grenade (which they were showering upon us) struck me a severe blow on the breast, and hurled me almost breathless backwards from the wall. The men in the ladders caught me, but on seeing me fall exclaimed that I was shot. I soon recovered my breath. The fire upon us was extremely heavy, and it was a most fortunate circumstance our killing the few men who ascended the wall immediately over us from the inside, as it was the means of deterring others from taking possession of the top of the wall, which had they done, from our helpless situation in the ladders (*under them entirely*) not a man of us could have escaped. A tremendous fire from the bastions which flanked the breach was kept up on us





in it, and our men dropped fast out of the ladders; 1803. in this mortifying predicament did we remain, struggling to ascend, for nearly a quarter of an hour, when Major Ball, who commanded, seeing that every endeavour was made to carry our point, and that it was impossible to effect it, ordered a retreat. Sinclair and myself, being on the top of the ladders on the fort side, were the last to quit the ditch, and now our fate seemed inevitable, as the moment the enemy saw the column retreat, they got possession of the top of the wall immediately over our heads and we had to descend thirty feet on one side and to ascend the same height to reach the glacis, all which time they were firing and spearing at us at a distance not exceeding fifteen yards! Many of the soldiers mounting the ladders to clear the ditch over our heads were shot, and came falling down upon us, and numberless shot and spears came on every side as we ascended. The ditch presented a sight which at other moments would have shocked the most flinty heart. In crossing it we had to walk over the killed and wounded soldiers, with which the bottom was strewed, and many of them were brave, unfortunate Grenadiers of my own company. I had lost a considerable deal of blood, and felt weak, but Providence aided us, and we reached the sand side of the ditch (the glacis). We had now to cross the plain, back to our trenches, under a most destructive fire from upwards of two thousand men on the walls and ramparts, and four heavy guns raking us with grape. As I returned from the fort towards our trenches, there appeared from the whistling of the shot and the dust they struck up in all directions literally a shower of ball, and the men retreating in my front were falling very thick. Providence, however, ordained that I should reach the trenches, and there I met Sinclair, who had expressed his doubts of my having fallen on my way back; from weakness and loss of blood I returned but very slowly. Major Ball came instantly to us, and shaking

*Assault on  
Sarssney.*





1803.

Assault on  
Sarssney.

us heartily by the hand, congratulated us upon our very extraordinary escape, and it was decreed by all that we were "never to be shot in action!" It is impossible to describe thoroughly the precarious situation we were in for a great length of time, and the chances against our ever returning were *ten thousand to one*! Sinclair had no less than ten shot holes in his hat! The wound in my shoulder was by no means deep, as the weapon ran up under the skin, and came out upon the top of the shoulder; a musket shot passed through the cuff of my jacket, and took a little of the skin of my arm with it.

As soon as I was able to collect the men, I paraded my Company, and it made my heart ache to find that of eighty gallant fellows who marched down to the attack with me forty-three had fallen! With this remnant of my Company I was carried back to the lines, and experienced many a hearty shake by the hand from my friends on my return. The report in the lines being that I was among the killed, and for which Forrest, of our corps, afterwards accounted. A very handsome, active Grenadier of my Company, who had often distinguished himself by my side in action, and was in every other respect, as far as I could judge, a good soldier; was consequently a great favourite of mine, and before we marched down to the assault, I directed him and the unfortunate havildar (corporal) who was shot near me in the breach to remain by my side, and to stay with me if I should be badly wounded, and I promised them both that if we survived the attack, and they behaved well, I would promote them immediately.

This man was one of the first back in the trenches when the check took place. Forrest, who was stationed as a battery guard during the attack, knew well that he belonged to my Company, and also that he was a favourite of mine, and therefore eagerly enquired of him what was become of me, and he replied, without hesitation, that he saw me shot on





the top of the wall, which account was instantly circulated, and I shall ever esteem Forrest to the longest day of my life for the feeling he evinced on seeing me returned alive to the trenches. *Assault on Sarssney.* 1803.

Wemyss, Peyron, and all my most intimate friends in camp had understood that I had fallen, and our surprise and pleasure at meeting again cannot be very easily described. It would naturally be asked, Why were our ladders not longer, or why throw the lives of men away, without a chance or possibility of success? And such actually was our case in the storming of Sarssney. The ditch had been sounded, at least such was the report of the engineer officers, but the mud into which the ladders instantly sunk had never been calculated on, nor any allowance made for the wall of the Fausse Braye, which stood at least six feet above the level of the glacis! Not one of these circumstances had ever been taken into consideration, to which alone could be attributed our failure. This afternoon both Sinclair and myself, in a manner most gratifying to our feelings, received the thanks of the Commanding Officer, in consequence of the report made to him of our endeavour to carry the place, "in spite of the insurmountable and unforeseen obstacles which presented themselves at the breach." Major Ball, who commanded the party, and who stood the whole of the time of the assault upon the glacis, mentioned us most handsomely to the Commanding Officer as well as to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in his report of the affair to Headquarters.

This evening we buried our dead, and my poor friend Morrison was among the slain; he was killed by a musket shot near the ditch. By the officers in camp the attack was represented to have been one of the most grand and awful sights imaginable. It was not quite daybreak when it commenced, and the ramparts and bastions of the garrison opened a fire upon us as soon as we were discovered, which completely illuminated the fort and continued until our





Assault on  
Sarssney.

retreat to the trenches in one entire blaze of cannon and musketry.

All our Batteries at the same time directed their fires where it appeared it would have the best effect in checking that of the enemy, and in covering our retreat.

JAN. 20.

Trenches  
before  
Sarssney.

Nothing material occurred since the storm of the 15th till this day. The enemy continued a very brisk fire on our posts. Our relief was conducted exactly in the same manner it had been previous to the assault. Our Battalion was in the trenches at the left post to-day.

I was stationed with the field officer of the day, with three companies at the village of Mindy, close in the rear of the trenches, from which we commenced our approaches. About three this afternoon a straggling fire of musketry opened from a grain field upon our post, and great numbers of the enemy at the same time were seen coming out at the eastern gate and moving round as if with an intention to attack our trenches.

A captain's party was immediately detached from the village with orders to dislodge the enemy from the jungle, the edge of which he reached, and a smart fire commenced. The guns of the fort also opened upon him. At this time I was ordered out to his support with a Jemadar and sixty men, and the troop of Cavalry at the post was mounted and directed to proceed to aid us. About half-way between the jungle and our post I observed the captain, whom I was going to enforce, coming with his party towards me; he had found his post too hot for him, and was retreating *very precipitately*. This was the identical officer with whom I was on duty the day we were attacked in the grove. On meeting him, he assured me very earnestly that it was impossible to remain out, the fire from the guns in the fort was so heavy. I made him no reply, but pushed on to the jungle and





took post at the spot he had quitted, where we entered **1803.**  
the grain and fortunately succeeded in driving the *Trenches before Sarssney.*  
enemy out of it under a very heavy fire from twelve  
pieces of cannon from the garrison. I then formed  
my men again upon the skirt of the jungle, when the  
enemy began to press on me in great numbers, and  
the cannon shot flew very thick from the garrison, but  
nothing could exceed the steadiness of my party.  
Those who remained stood firm, although many of  
their comrades were every minute dropping about  
them. All this had been observed in the lines, and  
Major Ball came down with all possible expedition  
with a gun and three hundred men to support me.  
On observing this detachment coming to our aid, we  
instantly charged to the front, and the enemy ran  
through the grain in all directions before us, and  
when the reinforcements came up I fell in with my  
party on their right as I was directed to do by Major  
Ball. We instantly formed line and opened the six-  
pounder on a body of the enemy which still menaced  
the post. At this time the cannonade on us was very  
heavy, and their shot constantly passing through our  
ranks killed and wounded many of our men, whose  
firmness on this occasion was never surpassed. They  
remained at *shouldered arms* for nearly half-an-hour  
under as destructive a cannonade as was ever known  
on so small a party! Not a man flinched or offered to  
take his musket from his shoulder.

The oldest officers in camp, who saw plainly our  
situation and the perpetual obscurity we were in by  
the dust which the cannon shot threw up about us,  
declared they had never witnessed any occasion in  
which troops evinced more gallantry than our men  
did on this. I left the ranks, and pointed out to Major  
Ball a thin jungle in our front, in which I thought I  
could perceive several of the enemy, and he imme-  
diately requested me to lay the gun for them, which I  
did, and, fortunately, with effect.





1803.

*Trenches  
before  
Sarssney.*

The artillery sergeant who pointed the gun was killed, and this was an instance of the utility of all officers practising at the great guns, and to know how to point a gun in cases of emergency. I had often laid the breaching cannon, and made it a point to do it when any artillery officer commanded in the Battery with whom I was at all acquainted.

The moment ours opened, the fire of three of the enemy's guns nearest to us seemed principally directed against it, with a view, no doubt, to dismount it. I had a very narrow escape of my life in this affair; while pointing the gun a shot from the garrison passed so close to my head that it actually stupified me for a moment, and I felt a giddiness which soon passed off. A Grenadier of the 12th, a man much lamented by Major Ochterlony, was about thirty paces in my rear; the shot after passing me carried away this poor fellow's arm close to the shoulder joint, and he died a few minutes after he reached the post. Major Ball, seeing that the enemy were completely checked, and finding that we were losing men fast from the fire of the fort, and being aware at the same time that our remaining longer could answer nothing, he faced to the right and with our gun marched deliberately into the post, under cover of the village. We withdrew our gun by stationing some soldiers at the drag ropes, as most of the cattle which brought down the gun were killed or maimed by shot.

JAN. 21.

*Honourable* mention must be made of the troop of Cavalry which was ordered out to support our Infantry at the commencement of the affair. They were commanded by a cornet, and soon after I had moved out to support the first party detached, and long before I had reached the jungle these *heroes* went past my flank with uncommon rapidity to the front and towards the enemy; and apparently a little scared by the shot which were flying very plentifully about.





They had not gone two hundred yards in front of 1803.  
me before they wheeled about in the greatest confusion, and returned, pell-mell, at speed to the post, with their officer at their head, carrying a cocked pistol in his hand, looking cursedly frightened I must say. The field officer of the day, Major Hamilton, an easy quiet man, positively remarked to me the conduct of the Cavalry on this occasion, and told me that the reason given by their officer to him for not advancing was that he saw the *noble* captain's party of Infantry falling back.

*Trenches  
before  
Sarsney.*

The Jemadar, a young lad of eighteen, who went out with my party, behaved most gallantly, and was wounded by my side. I immediately recommended him to the Commanding Officer, and he was promoted to a Subadar (captain). A Jemadar of Shairpe's Company of Grenadiers, belonging to the 12th, also distinguished himself, and I stated his conduct to Major Ochterloney, who promised me he would promote him the first vacancy. After the affair was over Major Ball came up to me, shook me by the hand, and spoke to me in a manner which could not be otherwise than very gratifying, and I had also the satisfaction to receive some flattering proofs of approbation from the Commanding Officer, as well as from many officers whose eyes were upon my small party from the moment I went out till Major Ball joined me. The guns in Parker's redoubt were of great service during the affair in keeping a body of the enemy's cavalry in check; which threatened every moment to come down upon us.

We were relieved this evening by the 2nd Battalion of our regiment. I had a late dinner at Cunyinghame's, where we spent a very jolly evening, and did real justice to his claret.

About eleven o'clock His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, with H.M.'s 27th Dragoons, arrived in our camp. Two regiments of Native

JAN. 28.





1803.

*Trenches  
before  
Sarssney.*

Cavalry also accompanied General Lake, and General St. John, with the 76th Foot, expected to be also with us to-morrow. I met the Commander-in-Chief this evening at dinner, and his Excellency asked me a great number of questions respecting the place, and told me that my conduct in the storm on the fifteenth had been "reported to him in a manner much to my credit." His Excellency did me the honour to speak to me in a manner which must be truly grateful to the feelings of every soldier, and assured me that he was anxious to reward me, and which he would do whenever an opportunity offered. I had been exceedingly fortunate in obtaining the Commander-in-Chief's notice and approbation in the storm of the village of Camney, and our affair here on the fifteenth in the assault and the repulse of the enemy in their attempt on our post on the twentieth were circumstances which promised to terminate fortunately for me; detailed reports of which had been transmitted to his Excellency, and everything had been minutely stated. The Commander-in-Chief was in high spirits, and we passed a very pleasant evening, during which there was kept up a smart fire from the fort, and from our Howitzer Battery in return.

I was much flattered by the attention which the General, as well as Captain Lake, showed me. His Excellency during dinner remarked to me that he hoped I should soon have an opportunity of trying the enemy again under more favourable circumstances, adding: "I will take care that the ladders shall be long enough the next time you are in the breach."

JAN. 29.

*Sarssney.*

General Lake having determined on reconnoitring the fort himself, at daylight this morning I was ordered to parade the remaining men of my Grenadiers, and with six Grenadier Companies from other corps and two regiments of Cavalry we paraded





on the left of the line, and the Commander-in-Chief 1803.  
soon joined us.

Sarssney.

On approaching the Pettah (an outwork) the enemy commenced a smart fire of musketry on us, and Captain Lake's horse was shot under him. The General halted the column and filed us (the Artillery) through the Dragoons which were before, between us and the Pettah; we naturally concluded this manœuvre was intended to put us in a situation to attack it, and at first it, no doubt, was the Commander-in-Chief's intention. Here the column remained halted some minutes. We at length moved on, and from the uncommon brisk fire kept up on us from the Pettah, we concluded that General Lake was apprehensive that it required a larger force of Infantry to take it than that with us. The fire was not returned on our part, and as the morning was unusually foggy they could not discern us from the garrison for a considerable time, although they continued firing random shot at us, or rather in the direction where they supposed us to be. The fog clearing up we were instantly exposed to a heavy cannonade. As mine were the Grenadiers of the senior corps (2nd) they were, of course, leading, and I was mounted at the head of the Infantry column. We were several hundred yards within the Cavalry, and consequently as far nearer the fort. His Excellency in order to have as near a view of the works as possible was at the head of our column and not twenty paces in my front, when a cannon shot grazed close at his horse's fore feet; the animal was dreadfully alarmed, reared, and fell back with the General, but most providentially he received no other accident than a sprained foot and being otherwise a good deal bruised.

Within three minutes afterwards another shot came, and took my horse just behind the ribs, and close to the centre of the saddle, cutting him *completely in two*. This was a happy escape for me!

We at last drew off from the garrison, but lost





1803.

*Camp  
before  
Sarssney.*

many men before we got without reach of the guns. This was the first specimen we had of General Lake's intrepidity.

I could hardly keep my eyes from his Excellency the whole of the time, and in my life my anxiety was never greater than it was for the General's safety on this occasion. He continued making his remarks to his staff, and asking me several questions respecting the lower works, with as much composure as he would have done on a field day.

What must the man have been made of who would not have felt inspired in witnessing such undaunted conduct in his Commander-in-Chief! And who but the rankest of cowards could have felt nervous, when they saw so great a character exposed to the same danger as themselves? We went entirely round the fort, and they cannonaded us as long as a shot would reach us. We arrived in camp about ten o'clock, and the Commander-in-Chief had a pretty good specimen of the enemy, who, I believe, he found somewhat more active and formidable too than he expected; both himself and Captain Lake had very narrow escapes of their lives.

The Cavalry were now ordered to take up different positions round the place, so as to prevent any intercourse between the garrison and the neighbouring Rajahs.

Rajah Diaram of Hatrass was strongly suspected of aiding the Sarssney Rajah.

FIG. 4.

During the last six days nothing particular occurred. The relief of the posts and trenches were carried on as usual, and Colonel Gordon, who now commanded the artillery, was employed in breaching the upper wall and destroying the defences of the enemy's lower ramparts. I was on duty in the trenches this morning, and at break of day we discovered the flash of guns near the Pettah (an outwork) and could also discern a faint fire like that of distant





musketry, and we rightly concluded that our troops <sup>1803.</sup> were attacking the Pettah, as it was talked of last evening on the parade before we marched off for the trenches. The Pettah was not much more than half-a-mile from our post, but so hazy and thick was the atmosphere that we could only see a continual flash of cannon and musketry, hardly once hearing any report. At broad daylight the fire had completely ceased, and at sunrise we had the pleasure to recognise our soldiers on the ramparts of the Pettah, and saw them throwing up works to strengthen the face next the fort, which continued a heavy cannonade on them till nearly eight o'clock, when all was quiet. We supposed that this silence portended something desperate on the part of the enemy, and accordingly about half-past eight two columns, consisting of at least fifteen hundred men, appeared moving out from the eastern gate, from which they had not more than five hundred yards to the Pettah. *Camp before Sarssney.*

This was an anxious period to us who were calmly looking on from our trenches, as we instantly discerned the intention of the enemy to make an assault on the Pettah to endeavour to re-take it from our troops, who had not been idle the short time they had been in possession; they had thrown up temporary batteries for their field pieces on the side next the garrison, and had completely anticipated the designs of the enemy. We saw their columns from the fort advancing sword in hand in a most gallant and determined manner; when they had approached within two hundred yards of the Pettah our troops opened a most destructive fire of grape on them, which was followed by a tremendous peal of musketry all along the Pettah walls. This greatly disordered the enemy, who we saw dropping in immense numbers; still the most resolute continued pressing on, and were shot, many of them, at the very gates, in the act of trying to force them.

There was nothing between the fort and the Pettah





1803.

*Camp before  
Saissney.*

to shelter them from our shot, and the fire kept up on them by our troops during the time of their advance and while they were retiring to the garrison was really awful (so it appeared to us, who were spectators only.) The plain was nearly covered with their killed and wounded, and we saw many fall in the act of bearing off their wounded companions. (The Indians are renowned for clearing the field of their wounded comrades whenever it is practicable.)

A heavy cannonade was all this time kept up from the fort, and it appeared by our return of killed and wounded that we sustained a considerable loss. They also kept their guns constantly playing upon our post, as if they suspected we should move out to the assistance of the party in the Pettah, but they were soon convinced that those already there were too many for them.

A spy of ours was in the garrison during the whole of this affair, and in the evening he came to our post on his way to camp, and gave us the particulars; he assured us all the Sirdars (commandants) employed in this bold enterprise swore with their turbans on the ground by the water of the Ganges never to return if they were not successful. Seven of these commandants were killed, and the havoc among their men was great in proportion. I never saw a body of troops so completely slaughtered. A large reward was offered on this occasion by the Rajah for every European's head they may return with, and this affair would not have been less sanguinary had the enemy but succeeded. Major Ochterloney commanded the assault on the Pettah, and the arrangements were extremely well made for the reception of the enemy when they returned to re-take it. They deferred it too long; had such a vigorous sally been made before our troops had placed their cannon and posted their men the chances of success would have been much greater; as it was it was best for us. We had every reason to conjecture that the severe loss sustained by





the enemy on this occasion would have a serious 1803.  
effect on their nervous system !

Reports in camp this morning were that the enemy FEB. 5.  
were so much disheartened at their loss yesterday, *Camp before*  
when some of their principal leaders fell, that it was *Sarssney.*  
imagined the Rajah would not be able to prevail  
upon them to wait the result of another storm.

This evening, however, a large quantity of fascines, made up very short and small enough for a Grenadier to carry under his arm, together with new scaling ladders of a proper length and some sandbags were sent down to the trenches. The fascines and sandbags intended as a foundation for the ladders, and to prevent their sinking in the mud. Just before we marched down to the relief of the trenches, the flank companies of the 76th, which were intended to lead the assault, were paraded, and each Grenadier and Light Infantryman was provided from one of the Dragoon regiments with a pistol to stick in his belt, and we marched down to the trenches with a full persuasion that we should storm the fort in the morning. In the course of the night it was said that the Commander-in-Chief received certain information that the enemy were preparing to evacuate the place, in consequence of their severe loss of officers and men in their desperate attempt to re-take the Pettah. The General well knew that those who remained, if attacked, would make a serious resistance, and that much blood on our part, as well as on that of the enemy, would be spilt; the object was to gain possession of the place—we were not seeking their blood ! The Rajah had fought gallantly, and his troops had proved themselves good soldiers, and these considerations, no doubt, were the cause of the storm being deferred.

The morning, therefore, instead of being ushered FEB. 6.  
in with a scene of bloodshed and slaughter, which we were prepared to engage in and fully expected, came





1803.

*Trenches  
before  
Sarssney.*

without any unusual occurrence. Colonel Gordon, who was in the Grand Battery the greater part of this day, seemed particularly desirous to dismount some guns of the enemy which bore directly into the breach, and which cut us up so much with grape shot in the storm on the morning of the fifteenth. From the garrison the fire was much slacker than usual. We were relieved at eight o'clock by a Battalion of the 12th Regiment in the trenches, and the moment we reached camp, after swallowing a few mouthfuls for dinner, I was ordered to march with two companies to reinforce Major Nairne's post. It had been reported that the enemy in the course of the night intended to make a sally on it, with a view to draw off our attention to that quarter, whilst their Rajahs with the main body of the garrisons purposed making off in the direction of Moorsau. At Nairne's post I arrived before ten o'clock, and found there six companies of Infantry and Major Nairne's own regiment of Cavalry. We drew up immediately with the Infantry in front of the village, with a battery of four six-pounders in our centre, all ready to give them a warm reception should they attack the post. The regiment of Cavalry was posted in the rear of the village to shelter them from the enemy's shot, for during the day the fire had been heavy on the post.

About eleven o'clock we were suddenly alarmed by a great noise in front. We were all loaded, the men at their posts, the guns primed, and the artillerymen only waited the word to apply their matches. We were surprised at the instant when at the point of opening our battery we plainly distinguished the rattling of sword in steel scabbard (or rather the steel scabbards themselves.) We knew the enemy had no troops armed with European arms, and instantly concluded it must be a regiment of our own Dragoons or Native Cavalry. The circumstances of the scabbards alone prevented our firing. In the meantime the sound evidently left us, and seemed to go off in the





direction of the fort; a straggling fire of musketry 1803. also commenced. All this time we were under arms, *Trenches* anxiously waiting information of what was going on. *before* Presently one of our double sentries in front fired at a *Sarsney.* man passing him; the fellow was frightened and instantly surrendered himself. The soldier brought him into the post, and he informed us that they had evacuated the fort; he was himself one of the garrison, and stumbled upon our post in making off. We discerned flashes of musketry or pistols in all directions, and the Cavalry, which we were on the point of opening our guns upon, was Nairne's regiment from our own post! The Major had placed his videtts close upon the glacis of the fort, in order to gain immediate information of the enemy moving, and he was consequently the first that knew they were leaving the place, and, of course, ought instantly to have made us acquainted with it, and his neglecting to do so had nearly cost him dear. Nothing but the singular noise of his scabbards prevented a sad carnage, which must have taken place in his regiment from the fire of grape and musketry we should have favoured him with, for they passed down in front within half musket shot distance of us! Major Nairne pushed on, and with his regiment of Cavalry took possession of an empty garrison, but his services would have been of much greater use in supporting some of our posts near which the enemy passed.

Nairne was renowned for his personal bravery, and had evinced it on numerous occasions, which gained him a friend in General Lake, who wished in some measure to suppress a most severe reprimand which Colonel Macan, commandant of all the Cavalry, issued, censuring Nairne exceedingly for his conduct, the next morning. A party of the 76th Foot on duty in the Pettah and some companies of Sepoys under Major Macrae of the 76th, went down as soon as the alarm was given, but Nairne was already in the fort, the gates shut, and he would admit no one.





## CHAPTER IV.

In the Fort at Sarssney. February 7th to February 16th, 1803.

1803.

FEB. 7.

Sarssney.

It appeared this morning that great numbers of the enemy were killed and wounded in their attempt to escape last night. Many of these fanatics refused to surrender, and even fired upon our troops who offered them quarter, for which they were shot or cut to pieces.

Our guns were withdrawn from the different Batteries, which, with the trenches, were immediately destroyed, and the platforms carried with the eighteens to camp. From our post we were ordered to proceed to camp, and to dismiss the men in our respective lines. Breakfasted with Colonel Blair, who informed me that our Battalion was ordered in to garrison the place. We were fixed on for that duty on account of the serious losses we had experienced during the siege, great numbers of our men having been killed and wounded. A Battalion and some Cavalry marched this morning to block up Bidgie Ghur, a fort of the Sarssney Rajah's, distant about five short miles from Sarssney. At eleven o'clock we marched into the fort, and I instantly went to inspect the breach and to view the place from which our escape had been so truly miraculous. In a shed near the arsenal we found all the scaling ladders which we used on the morning of the fifteenth, and which the enemy had carefully drawn in after our retreat.

Sinclair and myself with Major Hammond and about a dozen other officers proceeded with the ladders instantly to the breach, to prove to those who were not employed how much too short they were to enable our men to reach the top of the Fausse Braye wall. The ladders were accordingly placed in the breach, and without making allowances for what they sunk in the mud, when filled with men, the longest of them





would not reach the top by eight feet! The place at 1803. which I ascended we soon discovered, and even there it appeared extraordinary to everyone how it was effected. Had not the unfortunate circumstances of the ladders being so much too short occurred we should undoubtedly have succeeded in carrying the place, as we found the breaches in the upper and lower ramparts practicable, and that was all we should have required. I resolved on reporting the particulars relating to the ladders to Major Ball, who commanded the storming party, and immediately sat down to address him on that subject. *Fort of Sarssney.*

We found in the fort but very little property. Sinclair, Hammond, Livesey, Parr of our 2nd Battalion, and myself, after the guards were posted, proceeded round the ramparts, mounted on which and on the different bastions and works we found nearly forty pieces of cannon in good and serviceable condition, with ammunition sufficient for a seven years' siege! The calibre of the guns was from that of 6's to 80-pounders! A heavy gun on the eastern rampart, named by our artillerymen Bidgili (Moors for lightning) on account of its quickness in sending the shot, which was always with us the moment the flash was discernible, carried a shot of upwards of eighty pounds. I saw three men and several horses killed in Nairne's Regiment, the day General Lake reconnoitred the fort, by a single shot from this gun. We all dined to-day in the Rajah's palace, passed a very jolly evening, sung a great number of songs, and went quite happy to our quarters about one in the morning.

The Commander-in-Chief with the Army excepting <sup>FEB. 8.</sup> only our Battalion and the 3rd Cavalry, marched this morning and took a position before Bidgie Ghur, which place, very inferior in point of strength and size to Sarssney, it was expected would immediately surrender on being surrounded.





1803.

*Fort of  
Sarssney.*

From the ramparts of the upper fort we plainly saw the General's encampment at Bidgie Ghur. I received an answer this day to my letter to Major Ball respecting the scaling ladders; he thanked me very cordially for having ascertained so material a point and so accurately, and told me that he had carried my letter on that subject to the Commander-in-Chief, by whom it was "very well received."

We now proceeded to remove the powder from the different mines; the two nearest the breach were primed and in complete readiness to spring. They contained upwards of fifteen thousand pounds weight of powder, and were of uncommon extent.

The natives in this part of India are justly considered the finest miners in the world. Several mines of a much smaller construction we found charged at the different gateways, and their contents were immediately removed.

FEB. 12.

The whole of this day the fire from our breaching battery was very heavy at Bidgie Ghur; that from the fort was by no means spirited. The eastern gateway was the point of attack, and by accounts which I received from headquarters from Wemyss this evening, they expected speedily to effect a practicable breach. I relieved Livesey at the southern gate this evening at sunset, and ordered the rounds at nine, at twelve, and at three o'clock, with patrols the intermediate hours. I found one of my sentries (a man of the 14th Regiment) sitting down at his post, his musket lying by him. I immediately relieved him, put him in the guardroom, brought him to a court martial, and he received seven hundred lashes. At eight a.m. one of my sentries challenged a man near the sortie, who said he had information of great consequence to communicate to the Commanding Officer. I was made acquainted with the arrival of the stranger, and admitted him, and sent him with a small guard to Colonel Blair's quarters. This man





came from Moorsaun, and assured us that a near 1803. relation of the Rajah's was coming with a strong force, prepared with ladders and every other requisite, to attempt to re-take the fort by a coup de main. The small force left in the garrison (only our Battalion and two companies of the 14th) induced us to think it very probable, and the messenger assured Colonel Blair that when he left Moorsaun they were actually preparing to march. No time was lost in reinforcing us at the different gates, and manning the most accessible parts of the lower fort and Fausse Braye. We stood to our arms all night, the artillerymen were at their guns, and everything in readiness for the reception of the enemy. The Cavalry were encamped on the outside.

The morning came, but no signs of an enemy; about ten o'clock, however, we received positive information of a large body of troops having actually marched about one o'clock this morning from Moorsau<sup>Feb. 13,</sup>n (eight miles only distant from us.) They continued their route about three miles on the Sarssney road, but were recalled, most probably on hearing that we were quite prepared for them. The fire was extremely heavy all this day at Bidgie Ghur, and by a letter from Shipton of the artillery to Hammond we were given to understand that the place would be stormed in the morning.

We had a tremendous hurricane this afternoon. It came on while we were relieving guard at the southern gate. Poor Pattle of the Cavalry, with his groom, took shelter under a wall, which unfortunately was blown down upon them, and they were both killed with their horses on the spot.

At daybreak this morning a trooper arrived with accounts of the enemy having evacuated Bidgie Ghur in the night. They were just in time, as the fort would certainly have been stormed at daylight in the<sup>Feb 14,</sup>





1803.

Fort of  
Sarssney.

morning. At twelve Colonel Blair received orders for us to prepare to march immediately and rejoin the army, at which we were all much rejoiced, especially as the report was that we were going to attack some other forts in the ceded district. It was with some regret that we left Sarssney and our princely quarters in the garrison. Livesey and myself had taken possession of the highest storey of the Rajah's Marble Palace the moment we got possession of the place, and Colonel Blair himself inhabited the lower apartments, which were uncommonly superb and spacious. Ours was the Zenanah part, and that allotted for the ladies, but, to our regret, they had all been carried off at the commencement of the siege! In the Zenanah, however, we had a glorious party this evening. Colonel Blair, Major Hammond, Wilson, Arden, MacGregor, Grant, Weston, Murray, Macaulay, Major Middleton, Peyron, Ryder, Boileau and Stewart of the 3rd Regiment of Cavalry, dined with Livesey and myself. We each of us did our best to do justice to the guests. It was the last night we were to pass in Sarssney, and I believe the first that ever fourteen *honest gentlemen* drank within its walls. Three dozen and a half of claret, and proportionable quantity of Madeira—everyone sang his song, and this was as gay an evening and terminated as pleasantly as any I ever passed in my life. We concluded by breaking our candle-shades and glasses, pranks which too frequently finish drinking parties in this quarter of the globe. Every officer off duty dined with us (it was necessary to keep them at their posts to take care of the garrison!)

FIG. 15.

Camp near  
Bidgie Ghur,  
five miles  
from  
Sarssney.

This morning at daybreak we packed our baggage, and sent it with our camp equipage out of the garrison, to remain on the glacis till we should move out. Livesey and myself took our breakfast in our own quarters for the last time; they were really princely apartments, and had it been for any other station,





instead of joining the army, it would have vexed us much, being ordered away. 1803.

At seven Major Ball's Battalion was in sight from the ramparts, and our corps paraded. I was ordered down to make over the guard of the south gate to the officer who may come from Ball's Battalion to relieve it.

*Camp near  
Bidgie Ghur,  
five miles  
from  
Sarssney.*

Lieutenant Young arrived soon after, and I delivered over to him a detail of the sentries we usually furnished from the guard, and pointed out to him where they were posted by us.

Took leave of Young, and bade adieu to Sarssney, which really was one of the prettiest places and most fertile spots I ever saw in India. Sarssney had from time immemorial been the residence and pride of the Rajah's family, and his dependents proved how firmly they were attached to him and his fortunes by the gallant defence they made, and during the siege many of his nearest relations lost their lives in his service. About eleven o'clock we pitched our camp about two miles to the eastward of Bidgie Ghur. Livesey and I rode round the fort and examined the works very minutely. The place was strong, but not one-tenth part the size of Sarssney. The people were employed in the fort, digging out the remains of a great number of poor soldiers who were destroyed and buried by the explosion of a mine shortly after our troops got possession of the place. Colonel Gordon of the Artillery was among the unfortunate men who lost their lives on this occasion. It was conjectured that on evacuating the garrison the enemy had left a slow match at the mine, which plan too well succeeded. We had not been a quarter of an hour in possession when the mine exploded.

On our return to camp we had as fine a course as I ever saw. The greyhounds met us at the gate of the garrison. We found a hare close to our picquets, and killed her in front of the line, after an uncommon severe run. In the evening Peyron of the 3rd Cavalry





1803.

*Camp near  
Bidgie Ghur,  
five miles  
from  
Sarssney.*

(a grandson of Sir George Colebrooke's) and myself took our guns, and walked about two miles on the left flank of our encampment. We shot a very large buck antelope, several brace of quail and partridge, and three hares. General Lake and the army had marched from this place in the morning; we had orders to follow.

We had a very pleasant party this evening at Major Middleton's, with whom we dined; did not break up till a late hour, with lots of Kilbey.





## CHAPTER V.

Storm and Capture of Cachoura (Kachoura) and Occupation of  
Teteeah.

February 17th to March 19th, 1803.

OUR Battalion and the 3rd Cavalry marched at day-<sup>1803.</sup>  
break this morning. At ten a.m. we saw the Com-<sup>FEB. 17,</sup>  
mander-in-Chief's flag flying at Secundra, and soon *Grand Army*  
after took up our old station in the line. *Camp at*  
*Secundra.*

The fort of Cachoura, about six miles only in our front, reported to be the next place we are to attack, and we expected to march against it and take up our position in the morning. At noon, however, it was reported in our lines that the place had agreed to capitulate, and at sunset Muller with two companies of our 2nd Battalion marched to take possession; the Cavalry also moved at ten at night towards Cachoura. This evening orders were issued for the different corps composing the army in the field to proceed to their respective destinations. Dined with General Lake this evening.

In conformity to yesterday's orders we took our <sup>FEB. 18,</sup>  
respective routes this morning, and the camp com-  
pletely broke up. The 76th Foot and our Battalion  
marched off from Secundra together on the Cawnpore  
road. Shortly after we commenced our march and  
about daybreak we were surprised to hear a very  
sudden and smart cannonade, and we began to  
suspect that all was not right at Cachoura, in which  
direction the guns seemed to be firing. We slackened  
our pace, but continued to move on, and about eight  
commenced pitching our camp.

The cannonade still continued smart at times. *Grand Army*  
Whilst we were preparing breakfast an aide-de-camp *Camp before*  
came up and brought orders from General Lake for *Cachoura.*  
us to face about and return immediately to Cachoura,





1803.

*Grand Army  
Camp before  
Cachoura.*

where it appeared they had admitted Muller and his two companies within the lower fort last night, promising him possession of all the works in the morning; the reason alleged by them for wishing to defer giving up the inner fort till the morning was that the women and families of the different commandants had not yet been removed, but would all leave the garrison in the course of the night. Muller suspected not their treachery, and remained under arms primed and loaded till morning.

When the day broke he was astonished to see the garrison all under arms, the gate of the upper fort fast, and several pieces of cannon pointing on his small party from the ramparts above him, and instead of admission he was desired in a most peremptory manner to leave the garrison instantly. They ordered him to march out by a wicket close to the spot on which he was then drawn up; to this Muller in a very spirited manner objected. He told them that it was true his life and those of his soldiers were in their hands, but that he would forfeit both sooner than disgrace the service to which he belonged by acting in a manner they pointed out, and by retreating through the wicket. He allowed that he had no alternative against the numbers opposed to him, in the situation he was placed, and would, if they insisted on his moving out, return by the same gate he entered the lower works. To this they at length assented, and no sooner had he got clear of the garrison than they opened their guns upon him and the Cavalry, and this was the cannonade we heard early in the morning. We immediately struck our camp, and marched for Cachoura, which place was not more than five miles from the ground we halted at. On passing up a road to the eastward of the fort we got within range of their shot, of which they soon convinced us, and several heavy shots passed over, and some grazed between our section, providentially without destroying any of us.





General Ware's aide-de-camp, Captain MacGregor, 1893. came to us and pointed out the ground allotted for the encampment of our Battalion. We soon found that General Lake's intention was to surround the place, and we hoped with a determination to make an example of the garrison for their rascally conduct in turning our troops out, after they had actually signed an agreement to surrender. The Commander-in-Chief sent for Muller and learnt the particulars of the treatment he had experienced from them, at which his Excellency expressed himself highly incensed. The General gave Muller much praise for the masterly manner in which he conducted his party under circumstances so hazardous as those in which he was placed. Muller was a captain in our regiment (2nd). He was a son of a Prussian general of that name. A Battalion went down and took possession of the Pettah without any serious opposition. At dusk Livesey and myself, with two companies from our Battalion, were ordered down to take possession of a village close upon the glacis of the fort; this we effected under a galling fire, which killed and wounded several of our men and two native officers. During the night, as it was conjectured the post would not be tenable by day, we received orders to fire the village, and fall back upon one about three hundred yards in our rear. We soon had the place in a blaze and were at our new post. The garrison commenced peals of musketry and cannon on seeing the village in flames, but we had withdrawn without the line of fire. Livesey's Company and mine alternately remained all night under arms, prepared to receive the enemy if they should attempt a sally on us.

*Grand Army  
Camp before  
Cachoura.*

In the course of the night the enemy brought several heavy guns to bear upon our post, and at day-break the walls and houses began to fly about our ears. We succeeded in keeping our men pretty well

FEB. 19.





1803. under cover, and thereby saved the lives of many of them.

*Camp, Grand  
Army, before  
Cachoura.*

Livesey and myself had both many narrow escapes of cannon shot this day. At seven in the evening we were relieved by a party from the 76th Foot and three companies from the 2nd Battalion of our regiment. In camp we found they had commenced on cutting materials for fascines and gabions to erect our Batteries, which we hoped would be ready, at furthest, in two days. A party of troops came into camp this day from Khauss Gunge, and with them came a double-barrel *Nock* gun, which Colonel Glass purchased for me in Calcutta, and which I liked exceedingly.

FEB. 20.

The troops on duty yesterday remained all day in the lines to-day. I walked with Livesey to the Cavalry camp, to see our friends of the 3rd. We dined early and at sunset paraded for the outposts; our Battalion being for that duty this evening. On our arrival at the left post we were divided into different parties, as most convenient to watch the motions of the enemy during the night, and to act together in case we should be attacked.

Lieutenant Young, with fifty men of the 76th and myself with a company of our Battalion, were advanced to within one hundred and fifty yards of one of the gateways. We took post in the road, the high banks on the fort side of which afforded us good shelter from the enemy's musketry. Young and myself proceeded to post our sentries, in doing which, as we were quite close upon the glacis, they discovered us from the works, and began firing on us. We were standing close together, looking about to ascertain the most advantageous post for our sentries, when a shot came and cut an oil stick completely asunder, without doing either of us the smallest injury; it was standing immediately between us, and not one foot from either of us.





We had a few men wounded in the night, and 1803. several of our own shot which were fired from the Pettah on the opposite side of the fort, passed completely over, and grazed by us. A twelve-pounder of ours was picked up by a corporal of the 76th and brought into our post. These shot must have touched the glacis on the Pettah side, which must have thrown them up so considerably as to send them over the garrison. A quarter of an hour before daybreak we were withdrawn to the village in our rear where Christie commanded; we had a six-pounder at the post, which Christie desired me to take charge of, and to fire it whenever I thought it could be done with effect. I commenced on two of the enemy's guns which bore immediately into our post, and in the course of an hour silenced them both, and not a man showed his face at the embrasures the whole day afterwards. Our gun was a galloper from the 2nd Regiment of Cavalry, and actually carried a shot like a rifle, and I took great delight in pointing it. I completely emptied the tumbril of all the round shot before night, and the sergeant belonging to the gun gave me the credit of being a good artilleryman. Our battery of five 18-pounders opened this morning at daybreak and continued one incessant roar till sunset. The effect of it was astounding. The walls of both the inner and lower forts came down in immense flakes; they were completely torn and shattered to pieces by our shot, and in the evening the breach appeared to us to be in a fair way, and looked as if another day's battering would complete it.

*Grand Army  
Camp before  
Cachoura.*

The fire from our Battery was unremitting this day; they had regular reliefs of men at the guns, and the fire was almost incessant.

Christie again advanced me with the party furnished as usual from the 76th, and, as I was senior to Campbell, desired me to take the command of the whole, and I received orders to be particularly

FEB. 21.





1803.

*Grand Army  
Camp before  
Cachoura.*

vigilant during the night, as information had been received at headquarters that the enemy intended to evacuate the place in the night. I drew up in the road on the spot Young and myself had been posted before, and we had just finished posting our sentries and returned to our party when a straggling fire commenced on our left. At the same instant our sentinels fired, and we saw by the lighted matches of the enemy that they were leaving the garrison and making off in all directions. After our sentries had given them their fire they came running in and assured us that a very large body of the enemy were advancing directly upon our post. We were all ready for their reception, and in a moment they were near enough for us to fire our fire with effect. I gave them a volley, and we instantly rushed on and took possession of the breach. It came out the following morning that my friend Livesey was the cause of saving, perhaps, the greater part of my party, as the moment the alarm was given that the enemy were evacuating the place, the artillery subaltern at that time on duty in the Battery wished to have opened his guns (which at night were always kept loaded with grape) upon the breach. Livesey was on duty in the trenches, and prevented him. We were in the breach at the time! Many of the enemy were making their escape by it, and were consequently bayoneted by us. At the foot of the breach I received a graze in my leg, but managed to ascend to the top of it, when I sent in Campbell and the Europeans to take possession of the gates, with orders to put all to death who opposed them. By this time the retreat of the enemy was generally discovered, and the whole neighbourhood of the fort was in a blaze, and the fire of grape and musketry from our posts in the rear, which formed a complete circle round the place, was exceedingly heavy. The enemy fought desperately to cut their way through us, and most of them perished in the attempt. Their conduct





had been such that the Commander-in-Chief resolved 1803. to make a most severe example of them.

*Grand Army  
Camp before  
Cachoura.*

The Cavalry were drawn up in the rear ready to cut to pieces such as escaped the fire and bayonets of our Infantry. With my small party we kept possession of the breach and gateways. After everything was over, and the firing had completely ceased in all directions, I gave Campbell his orders, and in a dooley returned to camp, as I found my wound very painful, though, as I was able to stand, I was quite sure the bone of the leg could not be injured.

The surgeon assured me that with care and proper diet in one month I should be quite recovered. In this affair Major Nairne and Lieutenants Pollock and Cornish were killed, myself and several officers wounded. The daylight, I was told, discovered a very bloody scene. The enemy, who were extremely numerous, were almost to a man put to death. The ground in every direction near the fort was strewn with their dead, and they very dearly paid for their unaccountable conduct in turning out our troops.

Among their killed was the Rajah's son, the man who, it was said, was the occasion of his father's resolve to fight us. Both himself and his horse were shot, and found lying close to each other. He was very richly dressed, and his horse was said to have been a beautiful animal. Hardly any of the garrison escaped the carnage, which by their own dishonourable conduct they entirely brought on themselves, and which they most richly merited. A party was ordered into garrison, and by the orders of the day we were to march in the morning. Major Lake and Wemyss came from headquarters this forenoon to see me. I felt as well as possible, considering all things, and thought myself fortunate in coming off without the loss of my leg.

The order for the army to march to-day was countermanded, and we halted. I made the necessary

FEB. 22,





1803.

*Grand Army  
Camp near  
Cachoura.*

arrangements for travelling in my palanquin until I should be able again to mount my horse. Poor Nairne and Pollock were buried last evening.

Nairne lost his life entirely owing to his rashness, in carrying down his Regiment in front of our posts between them and the fort, when the firing began; he received a shot in his side, and not improbable but it came from one of our own muskets or six-pounders, which were keeping up a most destructive fire at the time on the enemy leaving the fort.

The night was very dark, and afforded no other light than that of the flashes of our pieces and those of the enemy. None dreamt of a Regiment of Cavalry being in front, and particularly as orders were given for no part of the troops to advance except a small party to take possession, and the Cavalry were directed to remain fast at their respective posts till the enemy should pass on to them. Instead of which poor Nairne pushed on with his corps, and paid for it with his life. He was an uncommonly gallant fellow, and much lamented in the Army. Nairne was a great favourite of General Lake's, who once saw him spear a tiger on horseback, the only man most probably that ever was known to attempt so rash and desperate a thing. General Lake shot the tiger, which was a very large one, after Nairne had put his spear in him. The tiger tore it out, and instantly smashed it to shivers in his teeth. The tiger's skin and the broken spear were sent home by the Commander-in-Chief to the Prince of Wales, with an account of its having been speared by an officer of the Bengal Army, of which his Excellency mentioned his having been an eye-witness.

FEB. 23.

*Grand Army  
Camp, Banks  
of the Colla  
Nuddy.*

This morning the General beat at four and the Assembly at five o'clock, when we marched off by the left, the 76th Foot leading the line.

About nine we encamped near a village on the banks of Colla Nuddy (Black River.) I travelled in





my palanquin this march; my leg was a little 1803.  
inflamed, and of considerable pain, though the  
surgeons assured me that nothing could look better *Grand Army*  
than the appearance of the wound, and told me that *Camp,*  
in a very short time I should be again on my legs. *Banks of*  
*the Colla*  
*Nuddy.*  
There was a great deal of game killed in the vicinity  
of our camp to-day. The jungle was swarming with  
hogs, deer, hares, partridges, peacocks and quails,  
and the river abounded with ducks and teal.

This morning we marched at the same hour and in FEB. 24.  
the same order as yesterday. Arrived about nine at  
our new ground of encampment. I found myself con- *Grand Army*  
siderably easier to-day, and came on very snugly in *Camp at*  
my palanquin. On the banks of the Esah, a small *Teteeah.*  
river, close to which we pitched our camp, there is  
fine shooting, and an amazing quantity of game was  
killed this day by different parties from our camp.  
An officer of our corps shot a hyena—the largest I  
ever saw; a great many were seen this morning.  
Teteeah, the place against which we were now march-  
ing, was reported to be but a short distance from us;  
and we expected to arrive near it to-morrow or at  
farthest the next day.

The army marched this morning, the General beat FEB. 25.  
at four and the Assembly at five o'clock. The Com-  
mander-in-Chief mentioned on the march that he  
believed everything to be finally settled for the present  
campaign, as the Teteeah Rajah had "taken fright"  
at the manner in which his neighbours at Cachoura  
had been handled, and had in consequence come into  
our terms, and agreed to give his fort up to us without  
fighting. The General said, therefore, he hoped the  
army would be cantoned during the approaching hot  
months, a period so destructive to Europeans in this  
climate. We pitched our camp before Teteeah about  
ten, and Worseley with the Grenadiers of the 15th  
marched in to take possession—the ditch of the





1803.

*Grand Army  
Camp at  
Telceah.*

fortress to be filled up, the covered way destroyed, the guns all to be dismounted and the fort dismantled, in which state it was again to be restored immediately to the Rajah. The pioneers and public establishments all employed accordingly in demolishing the works.

MAR. 19,

We halted ever since the 25th of the last month, and I was astonishingly recovered, and was able to ride a little without any serious inconvenience.





## CHAPTER VI.

From Teteeah to Bareilly with the 3rd Native Cavalry.  
March 20th to April 2nd, 1803.

THIS day at noon orders were issued for the break-  
ing up of the Army, and the Commander-in-Chief  
gave me two months' leave of absence. I had  
promised Major Middleton and Peyron of the 3rd that  
when the campaign should be at an end, and the army  
break up, I would accompany them to Barielly, the  
station to which they belong, and one famous for  
shooting and hunting. Middleton and Peyron were  
both among the many friends I had made at Sarssney,  
the former in command of the Regiment, and Peyron  
his staff. The whole of the Cavalry instead of  
marching with the Infantry quite to Teteeah remained  
about ten miles encamped in our rear on account of  
forage, and at five this evening I got into my palan-  
quin, took my pistols and one of my double-barrels  
with me, mounted two of my grooms, armed them,  
and gave them orders to keep close to my palanquin.  
This part of the country abounds with banditti, and  
at the most peaceable times the roads are constantly  
infested with robbers and murderers, and the pre-  
cautions I took were very necessary ones; indeed it  
was much against the advice of my friends that I left  
the camp this evening, but I knew that the Cavalry  
were to move also in the morning, and therefore it  
would only have made it worse to have delayed.

We therefore set forward, determined to make the  
best defence in our power should we be attacked. We  
passed several horsemen in the dark, some of them  
armed with spears and some with matchlocks, and  
swords; however, they did not molest us, and about  
nine we arrived safe in Middleton's camp; he had a  
large party at dinner, and I got there in good time  
for my bed.

1803.

MAR. 20.

Grand Army  
Camp at  
Teteeah.





1863.

Grand Army  
Camp at  
Teteeah.

I found some little pain from my wound, even the easy motion of the palanquin, at the rate I came, had a little inflamed it.

My friends of the 3rd gave me the kindest reception, and their being great sportsmen made my prospect a very pleasant one.

MAR. 21,

Camp at  
Merankas-  
serie.

Marched this morning at four, with the 3rd Regiment of Cavalry towards Bareilly. About eight o'clock we encamped in a fine mango grove, near which we found two excellent puckah wells.

The Grenadiers of the 8th, proceeding also to Bareilly to join their Regiment, joined us this morning, and the Futti Ghur troops also encamped near us. Soon after breakfast we heard some firing and were apprehensive that they had been giving us a second edition of Cachoura; from this suspense we were soon relieved by the Chaplain of the 76th Foot, MacKinnon, who came into our camp, and informed us that the firing we heard was Worseley's party scaling some guns in the covered way, previous to dismounting them. We found that our road to Bareilly lay very near Teteeah, and we had passed within a few miles of it in the morning. Teteeah was strong, and well furnished with very good Artillery, and would inevitably have cost us some officers and men had they not surrendered. The example made of his neighbour at Cachoura was the only thing that induced him to give the place up.

In the evening Peyron went on to secure boats at the Ganges, in readiness for the Regiment to commence crossing to-morrow.

My leg was quite easy to-day, and a little before sunset Middleton, Stewart and Ryder on foot, and I in my palanquin went to the serai of the town close by us, to look at a string of horses which had just arrived from the North. They were Toorkies, and in general very good of their kind. The Toorkies are a very hardy, sure-footed cast of horse, but slow, and by no





means active; their bottom, next to the Arabs, is supposed to be equal to any breed of horses in the East. Middleton offered 800 rupees (£100) for one of them, but it was refused. We all dined with Ryder this afternoon, and passed a very jolly evening, not forgetting to take a comfortable quantity of claret.

*Camp at Merankas-serie.*

This morning the Regiment marched at daybreak. I got completely tired of travelling in my palanquin, and therefore mounted a very easy going horse of Peyron's, and rode with Middleton at the head of the corps.

*MAR. 22,*

*Camp at Merankas-serie, left this morning.*

About seven we arrived at the banks of the Ganges; Peyron had provided boats in great abundance, and the right squadron crossed this forenoon, without any kind of accident.

We bathed in the Ganges this evening, and amused ourselves firing ball at large birds on the banks of the river. Dined with Peyron, and passed a very cheerful pleasant evening.

Close to our camp in the evening we discovered a very fine lake of water upon which Peyron, Martin and myself killed a great many ducks and teal; and the two former, who were better able to walk than I was, killed also several braces of snipe. It was now upwards of a month since I received my wound, and in which period I very seldom quitted my couch; at times I suffered great pain, but by rigidly attending to the advice of the surgeons, and living very moderately, I now found myself nearly well, and except a trifling lameness, I suffered but little inconvenience.

*MAR. 23,*

*Camp, Mindy Ghaut, Banks of the Ganges.*

Halted to-day to cross our baggage. At daybreak we went again to the lake, on which we shot yesterday. Killed a great deal of wild fowl and several brace of snipe. After tiffin we carried our nets and dragged an arm of the lake, out of which we took upwards of two hundredweight of excellent fish.

*MAR. 24,*





1803.

*Camp at  
Mindy  
Ghaut,  
Banks of the  
Ganges.*

In the evening we bathed in the Ganges, and dined to-day again with Stewart, who gave us an excellent dinner and lots of claret. The mornings and evenings we found very pleasant at this season, but the sun in the middle of the day was excessively hot.

MAR. 25.

*Camp at  
Belgram.*

On our march this morning we crossed Catyney river; very little water in it at this season. The country through which we marched was an entire view of cultivation; thousands of acres of wheat, barley and grain just coming fit to cut. The crops appeared remarkably abundant, and a richer scene I never saw than this country in its present state afforded. After breakfast we commenced making plugs and double-headed shot for the tigers. In the evening Peyron, Middleton and myself went on the flank of our encampment with the greyhounds; found hares very plentiful, and had some very capital courses; knocked up all the dogs.

The hares at this place were running in all directions, and after we had done up our dogs, we sent for our guns, and shot several. It was long after sunset before we returned to our camp, and dinner was on Middleton's table before we got there.

At this place the Nabob of Lucknow has about thirty pieces of cannon, mostly very indifferent, and lying in the sheds in a very neglected, slovenly state.

MAR. 26.

*Camp at  
Sulaianpore.*

The trumpet sounded to boot and saddle at three this morning, and Peyron and myself, with his Quarter-Master-Sergeant and an escort proceeded on in front to look out for ground for the encampment.

We pitched to-day on very pleasant spot, and close to a fine lake of water. After marking out the ground Peyron returned to meet the Regiment, and I proceeded to reconnoitre the lake for a day's shooting; to my great joy I found it almost covered with duck and teal, and in walking my horse along the edge of it I sprung a great number of snipe. After breakfast





Peyron and I went out for two hours only (I could not walk longer), and we killed sixteen brace and a half of snipe, and twenty-three ducks and teal; had we remained the whole day we might have killed more. Our servants carried the fishing nets to the same lake, and caught more fish than they knew how to dispose of; this was perhaps the first time that the birds and fish of the lake were ever disturbed by Europeans. The natives hardly ever shoot, nor have they in general nets sufficiently large to fish such a piece of water as this was. I rode a pony of Peyron's to the lake this morning; he ran off with me, and, getting entangled among the tent ropes, we came down together, but without doing any mischief. Doveton shot an immense quantity of ortolans this forenoon, on which and some snipe and puffers (a delicious dish) we had a sumptuous tiffin. In the evening we dressed, and walked in front of our camp. Most of the tents belonging to the men (and the horses also) were screened from the sun by the grove in which we pitched. The officers' tents were all on the Mydawn (plain).

Dined with Middleton at home this evening; the dinner table abounded with game we had killed in the morning, and on one dish were twelve brace of the largest snipe I ever saw. In claret we did justice to this excellent fare, and parted at a late hour.

The parts of the country through which we passed to-day that were at all cultivated, afforded excellent crops, principally wheat and barley. We encamped to-day on most delightful ground. Our tents stood in the centre of a mango grove, which was large enough to contain two regiments, men and horses. A brook ran round three sides of it, and contained fish in greater abundance than I ever witnessed. There were rather too many weeds for our nets, but we had excellent angling in the clear parts up the stream. Peyron sent a soldier to the guard this morning for

1803.

*Camp at  
Sataianpore.*

MAR. 28.

*Camp at  
Siron-  
managur.*





1803.

*Camp at  
Siroo-  
managur.*

declaring that he would cut his wife's throat. They had been quarrelling, and the woman came to our tent to prefer her complaint. She was a very fine looking girl, and we were without much difficulty prevailed upon to take her part; she assured us that her husband frequently beat her unmercifully.

We heard a fire of cannon and musketry in the neighbourhood of our camp to-day, and at first supposed it was a day of rejoicing among the natives, but in the afternoon of hircarah of Middleton's informed us that some troops of his Highness the Nawab of Lucknow were laying close siege to a small fort, garrisoned by Rajpoots.

After tiffin, Peyron, Middleton and self went to a lake near our camp. We killed a remarkable coloured water snake, the skin of which exceeded in richness and variety of hues anything of the kind I ever saw, and strongly resembled the various colours of the dolphin, which we met with at sea in our voyage out from dear Old England. Near the lake were a great number of wells, into one of which my pony slipped with me. I saved myself at the side, and with great labour we drew her out without having received the smallest injury. At sunset we had some good angling. Dined to-day with Doveton, and the maxim of the 3rd, of pushing the bottle, was very strictly adhered to.

MAR. 29,

*Camp half a  
mile west of  
Changeiny.*

The Regiment marched this morning at three o'clock. The daylight discovered to us a country abounding in the finest crops of grain of various kinds. About six we passed the ruins of two spacious gateways, and which once, apparently, had been very superb buildings.

Passed close to the cantonment of Shahabad, commanded by Colonel Clarke. Five Companies of his corps only were present, the other wing being detached on command. About eight we encamped in a grove, which rarely afforded shelter for the Regi-





ment. The river Gurrah ran close to our encampment, and this was altogether a delightful spot. After breakfast we amused ourselves with killing turtle with our rifles as they rose in the water. The Gurrah swarms with them, and many were caught by a party of officers, angling, though in general they made sad destruction with their fishing tackle, destroying many lines for them. After tiffin Middleton, Peyron and myself crossed the river to try a fine looking cover on the banks of it; it was too dry, and afforded but very little game.

*Camp half a mile west of Changoiny.*

A court martial was held this morning on one of the camp followers of the 3rd for insulting a trooper whilst doing his duty in protecting a sugar cane belonging to a village through which we marched, and which otherwise would have been destroyed by those vagabonds, hundreds of whom generally follow an Indian camp in pursuit of pillage. About sunset we went with our rods and lines to angle, caught in a little more than half-an-hour seven dozen of batchwers.

We marched this morning soon after three o'clock. The country but thinly cultivated compared to that we had passed since we left the banks of the Ganges. At daybreak we entered the city of Shajahanpore; crossed the Gurrah again, and encamped in a mango grove on its southern banks. The grove held the whole of the Regiment, and afforded excellent shelter to officers, men and horses.

*MAR. 30,*

*Camp at Aureze Gunge, opposite to Shajahanpore.*

Fish in great abundance, but the wind blew so strong in the early part of the day that it was impossible to angle, and the river at this place was too deep for our nets. Peyron and I had a long ride with our guns, and killed some partridges and three brace of hares. Fresh covered my shooting hat to-day with a pelican's skin, which repels the force of the sun more than anything. Took our mutton and claret with



Ryder this evening, and as usual passed a very cheerful, pleasant day.

MAR. 31,

*Camp near  
Talhar.*

Marched this morning at half-past two. The morning remarkably starlight.

Peyron and myself rode in front, and commenced marking out our ground at five o'clock. The Regiment came up about an hour after; we rode back a mile to meet it, and to point out the nearest route to the ground of encampment. On our way back I rode Peyron's horse, Rajah, over an uncommonly strong leap, which he cleared admirably. Our camp to-day was in a delightful grove of mango trees, in the neighbourhood of which grew some of the finest tamarin trees in the world. In the part of the grove nearest the town of Talhar was a Musselman burial ground, and the remains of many ancient tombs gave us reason to suppose that natives of rank and consequence had formerly been interred there. Talhar (the town) appeared to us, as we passed on, to be in a ruinous state, but the remains of grandeur was still visible at many places. The gunge attached to it formed two rows of neat huts. Peyron got a letter this morning from Bareilly, assuring us that the tigers were committing the most horrid depredations in that neighbourhood, destroying daily men and cattle, and obliging whole villages to decamp, and to carry off their stock with them. We felt rather keen to be at them, and made up an additional quantity of double-headed shot for our tiger guns. Walked in the evening with Peyron to a very fine byer garden, close to the right flank of our line, and from which we helped ourselves plentifully without any molestation from the owners. The only inconvenience I now felt from my wound was a stiffness at times in the leg. Dined with Ryder this evening; we had a dessert of the finest byers and mulberries I ever saw.





We marched at three this morning, and shortly after daylight we passed the town of Cuttorah; encamped near it at sunrise, on the spot of ground on which the memorable action was fought in 1774 between the English and Rohilla. The Rohilla chieftain fell in the battle, and his army was routed with considerable slaughter. Breakfasted and went with Middleton and Peyron to a jungle in sight from our camp; we had good shooting; killed a great many black partridges, hares and quail, and several teal. Our encampment to-day was very near the Boghool Nullah (a small river), over which there is a bridge, sadly in want of repair. We had good angling in the Boghool in the evening, and after crossing we amused ourselves shooting pigeons from the bridge, about which they swarmed. Dined with Mr. Turner, the surgeon of the 3rd, this evening, all in high spirits, and we drank a pretty good quantity of the doctor's claret. This worthy son of Esculapeus was a sad stingy fellow, and we did not spare his claret in the least on that account.

1803.  
APRIL 1,

Camp at  
Futty Gunge,  
near  
Cuttorah.

In consequence of the victory gained here, the ground was named Futty Gunge, which in Moors signifies the spot of victory.

The Regiment marched this morning at three o'clock. The roads were remarkably fine, and the country tolerably cultivated. We came to our ground soon after six, and during breakfast an invitation from Colonel Powell's camp at Bareilly came to ask Middleton and all of us to breakfast and dine with him to-morrow. Our encampment to-day was not more than nine miles from the cantonments at Bareilly. Peyron, Doveton and myself were out shooting this morning; killed a great many quail and two brace of hares. Tiffed at two, during which we agreed to mount our ponies, and gallop into Bareilly; in forty minutes we reached the cantonments, remained an hour with Lieutenant Anderdon, a

APRIL 2,

Camp at  
Fereedpore.





1803.

*Camp at  
Fareedpore.*

friend and schoolfellow of Peyron's; drank two bottles of claret, in water, with him (for it was a dreadfully hot afternoon), got again on our cattle, and galloped every inch back to camp. We dined again with Doctor Turner this evening, and nearly finished his stock of claret before we left his tent.

Marched this morning at four, and the cantonments of Bareilly were in sight at sunrise.





## CHAPTER VII.

On Leave at Bareilly.  
April 3rd to April 30th, 1803.

THE two Grenadier Companies of the 8th, which had not marched with us since the first day we fell in with them, joined us, and followed us into cantonments. Breakfasted with Lieutenant Anderdon, and afterwards went to call on Colonel Powell. Settled ourselves very snugly in Middleton's and Peyron's bungalow this morning, sent off my tent and camp equipage to the magazine of the 3rd. Placed my trunks and baggage in a verandah room next my bedroom, and we thoroughly enjoyed the bungalow, after having been so constantly and long exposed to the climate in tents. Put the locks on our tiger guns, and made the necessary preparations for attacking them, though we must be under the painful necessity of waiting a few days to rest our servants and elephants; many of the latter especially were quite tender-footed, with long and fatiguing marches. We had information of two tigers this very day, lying in a cover which we could plainly see from our bungalow.

1803.  
APRIL 3.  
Bareilly.

We all dined with Colonel Powell this evening. The Colonel gave us a sumptuous entertainment, plenty of excellent claret, and a very hearty reception. We drank a great deal of wine.

Colonel Powell did me the honour to speak of some occurrences which took place at Sarssney and Cachoura, in a manner that was very flattering to me.

Peyron and self got on our horses at daybreak this morning and rode to Mr. Thornhill's, a civilian who lived at a charming place called Asiff Bhang, built as a country residence by Mr. Wellesley when he was residing at Bareilly as Lieutenant-Governor of the ceded country, distant from the cantonment of

APRIL 4.





1803.

*Bareilly.*

Bareilly about five miles. Mr. Thornhill showed us his stud, and among them his beautiful English horse "Pepper Jacket," just sent him by his father. Breakfasted with Thornhill, after which we went to a strong jungle in the neighbourhood, and killed two tigers; they were small, but exceedingly fierce, and showed good sport; we were not absent more than two hours. Peyron and self returned after tiffin to cantonments in Thornhill's buggy. On our way back I was introduced by Peyron to Mr. Seton, a gentleman almost at the head of the Civil Service, and as pleasant a man as I ever met with. We made arrangements this afternoon for a shooting excursion on the banks of the Rham Gungah.

Dined with Mr. Seton, who gave us a most splendid dinner, and the best of champagne, claret, etc. It was eight o'clock before we sat down, and very late before we parted.

APRIL 5.

Got up at dawn of day this morning, and went to reconnoitre a very strong jungle about six miles from the cantonments, and upon the banks of the Rham Gungah. The inhabitants of one of the villages near the cover's edge informed us that a few evenings since two of their bullocks were killed and carried off by the tigers; many of the poor unfortunate villagers themselves, it appeared, had also very lately been destroyed by those destructive savages of the woods.

APRIL 6.

*Asiff Bhang,  
near  
Bareilly.*

Thornhill and self coursed this morning. We left his principality at daybreak, and had some capital sport; as usual, knocking up our dogs and horses. Hares close to Asiff Bhang were exceedingly numerous, and the country very favourable for greyhounds. One of the best courses I ever witnessed in my life was run this morning by Thornhill's Europe Bitch Trinket, and Smoaker, a powerful black half-Persian dog of mine. The dog had the foot, and frequently passed the bitch in the early part of the course, but





the Europe Bitch had the best of it latterly, and the 1803. English bottom was very conspicuous. She killed the hare, which ran far stronger than any hare I had seen since my arrival in India. Owing to the pure air of the clear country near Bareilly, they are generally supposed to feed dryer and to be stouter than in almost any part of the country.

Peyron, Anderdon of the 8th, and myself left the bungalow this morning at three o'clock. Our elephants and servants went off at midnight, and after crossing the Rham Gungah River we found everything in complete readiness at a strong jungle on its banks. As soon as the day broke we entered a fine jow cover, and by nine o'clock we killed four fine deer, an antelope and two wild boars, and nearly twenty brace of partridges. The sun became exceedingly hot, and we mounted our ponies, and were back to the cantonments to breakfast soon after ten, having by that hour completed what I considered a glorious day's sport. APRIL 7.

Rested our elephants and servants to-day, and in the course of the morning visited almost all Peyron's and Middleton's friends at Bareilly, a form which we had deferred till the last moment, and which, in part, we could have with pleasure dispensed with. At Middleton's this evening we had a large party at dinner, and our generous host pushed the bottle very handsomely; everyone had taken his full allowance of claret before we parted. APRIL 9,  
Bareilly.

We had a glorious morning's shooting this morning across the Rham Gungah. Killed an enormous quantity of game—deer, hogs, black partridges and hares. We were much disappointed to find that the tigers had changed their quarters, which they constantly do. Every likely spot of jungle we beat over and over again, but in vain. We could APRIL 10.





1803.

*Bareilly.*

trace them, and in the deepest part of the cover we found skeletons, both of men and of the numerous cattle they had destroyed. Many also of deer and hogs, but it was evident that they had deserted their quarters, and gone most likely across the river, where we resolved shortly to try for them. We all felt somewhat inconvenienced by the heat of the sun, which was exceedingly powerful, and it took great part of the skin from our faces, and our noses were completely peeled. Our lips so much scored as to annoy us sadly, so acute was the pain.

APRIL 11.

Spent the day quietly in cantonments; made a great quantity of balls for our guns, and other arrangements for a fortnight's shooting in the jungles. In the evening we drove to Asiff Bhang and dined with Thornhill; our party was small and very pleasant. Ridge of the 4th Cavalry, a son of Mr. Ridge, who lately kept a pack of foxhounds in Hampshire, joined us to-day, on a visit from his Regiment to Thornhill.

APRIL 11.

*Bareilly.  
Banks of the  
Rham  
Gungah.*

Got up at three this morning. Our elephants went off at twelve to a cover in which the villagers assured us a tiger had been seen yesterday, and which had the last night killed and carried away a bullock from their herd. At break of day we entered the jungle, which, to our mortification, we found exceedingly strong. We took the advantage of some open spaces in it, and shot *niel ghy* (wild black cow), two boars, several deer and a great quantity of black partridges. In trying the last corner on our way back we were suddenly saluted with a tremendous roar and charge of one of the largest royal tigers I ever beheld. So sharp was his attack that we could not without the utmost difficulty keep our elephants steady to sustain his charge and wait his coming sufficiently near for us to fire with good effect. From the desperate manner in which he came on we saw he was not to be trifled with; he came down roaring hideously, lashing with





his tail, and looking savage and fierce beyond description. 1803.

*Banks of  
the Rham  
Gungah.*

The sight was truly noble. He commenced his charge at the distance of about two hundred yards from us. Peyron, Martin, Boileau and myself fired at about fifty yards; he reeled very much, and was evidently severely wounded, though not mortally. Unfortunately, the elephant immediately opposite him, as he came down upon our line, was one merely for beating the cover, and was brought out as a spare elephant for that purpose only, consequently there was no gun on it. The tiger closed with this elephant, and dreadfully wounded the two keepers who rode on it, nor could we during the contest get a shot for fear of injuring the people on the elephant. The shock of the tiger was so great that it fairly staggered the elephant, and very nearly brought it to the ground; the latter was sadly wounded by the tiger, and the instant it could extricate itself it ran off with every symptom of being dreadfully scared, and torn almost to pieces about the trunk and face. Boileau's and Martin's elephants instantly followed at a good round pace. I was the next in the line, on an elephant that was never known to flinch. He came now with redoubled fury on me, but my elephant stood like a rock, expressing his anger only by beating the trunk on the ground. I gave the monster a shot from my rifle at about twenty paces; it entered just above the forehead, and rolled him completely over. He gave such a roar as I never heard, and was striving to recover himself when Peyron and Anderdon both fired. He then received both the barrels of my two-ounced gun, and we soon despatched him. The runaway elephants, much to the annoyance of their riders, did not stop till they reached the banks of the river, and then it was with difficulty they were prevented from dashing instantly into the stream, so much were they alarmed. Fortunately they met with no groves or wells in their retreat, for when an





1803.

*Banks of  
the Rham  
Gungah.*

elephant runs under trees, and into wells (they never alter their course when completely frightened) the consequences are very often fatal. Our breakfast was prepared for us at a small bungalow built on the banks of the river, to which we returned in great glee, all as happy as princes, excepting only the fugitives, who were not a little hoaxed on the occasion; the fact was that the elephants they rode were not regularly trained for the howdah, but were carriage elephants, and not used to shooting or meeting tigers. (N.B.—I had seen the best elephants run on some occasions). After a hearty breakfast we commenced taking the skin off the "royal game," and from the number of balls we cut out it was evident that very few missed him; he was nearly as large as a heifer, and, consequently, a pretty good mark to us. There is something to a person not in the habit of killing tigers so awful and really tremendous in their charge, the roar, and their actions in attacking, that it is apt to shake the hand a little. I cannot otherwise account for a tiger being ever missed at a near distance. His terrific head we packed in a basket, and sent it, as a trophy and mark of our success, to the gentlemen in cantonments. The day was so exceedingly hot that we resolved to pass the hottest hours in our little bungalow, and to return in the cool of the evening into Bareilly.

We amused ourselves in the afternoon firing ball at a mark, and at five mounted our shooting ponies, and cantered home.

Dressed and dined with Anderdon. Upon the strength of our morning's sport a pretty decent quantum of claret was drunk.

APRIL 13.

At four this morning Ridge, Guthrie, Peyron, Boileau, Lesley, Blackney and myself met on the edge of a low cover by appointment, the distance not more than five miles from the cantonments. Hogs we found in great abundance, and had most glorious





sport. In the course of the morning there were many 1803.  
very severe falls, but fortunately no bones were *Bareilly.*  
broken. My grey horse, Major, carried me the two  
first runs in very high style, and I had the first spear  
in each boar. They charged most furiously, but with  
an expert horse, in general, they may be avoided, and  
you may deliver your spear with little danger. With  
a hard-mouthed, ungovernable horse, hog hunting is  
by far the most dangerous sport of any I ever engaged  
in, and there are few instances of a large boar and a  
horse coming in contact, without either the former or  
his rider being much cut, and frequently the horse is  
killed on the spot. Our ground to-day was very  
dangerous, full of holes and old wells, and many of  
them quite covered by the grass which grew over  
them. In those cases it is usual to follow the exact  
trail of the hog; he is almost invariably well  
acquainted with the country where you find them. An  
experienced hunter always sticks as close after them  
as possible, and by doing so very often saves his  
bones. Hog hunting, beyond a doubt, requires the  
most desperate riding of all field sports. The danger  
of the ground is, in my opinion, much greater and  
more difficult to avoid than that of the fiercest boar—  
for, with skill, they are easily struck, but a blind hole,  
or a well, is the devil. We all knocked up our horses,  
and returned about eleven to breakfast, with an  
elephant laden with some of the largest boars I ever  
saw.

Guthrie ruined an elegant North Country horse this  
morning, towards the conclusion of the sport, and I  
considered myself very fortunate to find that neither  
of my horses appeared at all injured. Peyron, Ridge  
and myself ordered our servants and clothes to  
Guthrie's, where we breakfasted on every luxury this  
part of the country afforded. Guthrie had as good  
interest as any civilian in the country, and we found  
him also an excellent good fellow.





1803.

APRIL 14.

*Bareilly.*

The elephants and servants went off this morning before three o'clock. We followed (Peyron, Anderdon and myself), and crossed the Rham Gungah before sunrise. We killed a great deal of game, viz., partridges, hares, two fine deer and a boar, and returned home by ten to breakfast. The weather was so intensely hot that our elephants were completely knocked up for want of water; the servants also were nearly exhausted. We carried with us a supply of cold tea in bottles (the very best of all drink on a hot day in India). A large party dined with us.

APRIL 15.

Peyron, Middleton and self went this morning at daybreak to shoot on the banks of a small river which runs close to the cantonments. We killed three hares and seventeen brace and a half of quail, and were back to our bungalow and dressed for breakfast by eight o'clock. On my return I was very happy to find a note from my old friend and shipmate Maling, who was passing through with three Companies under his command in charge of treasure for our troops at Lucknow. He was immediately invited to pass the day with us, and we talked over ship affairs, and not forgetting our respective friends in old England. Maling is a brother of Lady Mulgrave's, and, like all that family, a very handsome person.

APRIL 16.

Some accounts of a tiger reaching us yesterday, we despatched our elephants at two this morning, to a jungle about six miles from Bareilly. We followed at four o'clock on our shooting ponies. Our party was Middleton, Peyron, Anderdon, Ridge, Boileau, Guthrie and myself. We tried in vain till nearly ten. Although we could not succeed in finding the tiger, we had otherwise good shooting, and killed on our return (we never shoot at any other game when in pursuit of tigers) many boars, deer, hares and black partridges.

Breakfast was provided for us, and our couches





brought down to our *Villa* on the banks of the Rham <sup>1803.</sup>  
Gungah River, so that we got under cover the <sup>Bareilly.</sup>  
moment we left off shooting. At breakfast we had,  
as usual, a variety of fish, eggs, cold meat, sweet-  
meats and jellies of all sorts, and some of the finest  
bread and butter ever made in India. We afterwards  
shot with our rifles and ball guns at a mark, and in  
the cool of the evening mounted our Tatoos (ponies)  
and galloped to cantonments. Dressed and dined at  
Macan's, where we passed a very jovial evening; he  
gave us some excellent champagne and claret.

At daybreak Peyron, Anderdon and I rode to some <sup>APRIL 17.</sup>  
dry grass near the cantonments; found our servants,  
dogs and guns ready. We killed about twenty brace  
of quail, three brace of hares and six brace of black  
partridge, and were again at our bungalow at eight  
o'clock. This was a very pretty morning's sport, and  
our dogs all behaved admirably. Although we  
returned so early, the sun was very hot before we got  
back. I wrote Europe letters to-day. A large party  
of us partook of an excellent dinner to-day at Ander-  
don's, where the good claret was done special justice  
to. Walked with Middleton through the different  
stables of troops before dinner, and the horses  
appeared very much recovered since our return from  
the campaign. There is not finer grass in the world  
for horses than what grows in the vicinity of the  
cantonments at Bareilly.

Left the bungalow this morning before daybreak,  
and met Thornhill and Macan at a spot fixed on to <sup>APRIL 19.</sup>  
course. The greyhounds and servants were ready at  
the ground. We found hares numerous, and uncom-  
monly strong; they showed us capital sport. Macan's  
"Norah" and "Gip" ran the two first courses, and  
killed their hares. The next two courses were remark-  
ably severe between Thornhill's dog "Major" and  
my "Smoaker"—the first hare went to earth close





1803.

*Bareilly.*

before them, and the second they killed. The Europe bitch "Trinket" and Macan's "Fly" lost their first hare, and killed the second. The country over which we coursed this morning was very sound, and afforded excellent riding compared to the ground we in general met with in the country. Thornhill and Guthrie passed the day with us, and in the afternoon we amused ourselves by firing at a target with our rifles and pistols. All dined with Macan, and met there a very large party; among the ladies was a very nice woman, married to a musty old Major (Mitchell). She was sister to Lady Leigh, and appeared a very gay, charming woman. Her sister, a Miss Vaughan, and another stranger, Miss Ashe, were also of the party. The latter was passing through Bareilly with her father, Colonel Ashe, on their route to join his corps at Amrooah. The ladies did not leave us till nearly eleven, and we drank their health in champagne on their quitting us.

APRIL 20.

Got up an hour before daylight. Rode the grey horse to Asiff Bhang, found Ridge and Thornhill ready to start. Went to the usual coursing ground, and had excellent sport. Ridge rode the English horse "Pepper Jacket," which went in the true racing style, and mounted, as well as in his stables, showed an uncommon deal of blood. Thornhill kindly offered to give me an opportunity of breeding from him and my Mahratta mare, in consequence of which I despatched a groom this evening to bring her from Shikoabad.

In the evening Anderdon and myself went to shoot otters, which swarmed in the river that ran at the bottom of Thornhill's grounds. We killed several with ball from our rifles, and some good shots were made by both. Anderdon rode my shooting pony, which was one of the best leapers I ever saw. He carried her up to a brook in so careless a style that the mare imagined she was to take a drink, and accord-





ingly put her head quickly down, when the rider, 1803.  
whose thoughts were on the opposite side, went *Bareilly.*  
immediately over her ears, and was up to his neck in  
mud and water; the pony, to my great amusement,  
stood enjoying her draught, till my friend crept out,  
and after shaking his ears, remounted. On our  
return we found a very snug party assembled for  
dinner. We dressed in one of the alcoves in the  
garden; passed a comfortable jolly evening, the claret  
was circulated very freely, and at twelve Peyron and  
self got into the buggy and returned to our bungalow  
in cantonments.

My friend and shipmate, Becher, arrived this *APRIL 21.*  
morning in cantonments; he was stationed at Bareilly  
in a civil capacity. I found him the same gentle-  
manly excellent fellow as ever; passed the greater  
part of the morning with Becher, the lady (a fine  
European girl) we did not see; she was too much  
fatigued by the long march they had made in the  
morning.

Tified with Anderdon, and went in the evening  
with him to the parade of the 8th, of which corps  
Anderdon was the staff. Their band was really  
excellent, owing to the great pains and attention  
bestowed on them by Anderdon.

The whole party broke up at twelve, after a great  
deal of singing, and one of the pleasantest evenings I  
ever passed, all made comfortably happy by a fair  
quantity of good claret.

Shot this morning in some barley stubble within a  
mile of the bungalow. Anderdon to his own share *APRIL 22.*  
shot eighteen quail without missing a shot. We  
returned to breakfast with nearly thirty brace, and  
after one of the prettiest morning's sport I ever saw in  
my life. The quail fly exactly like a partridge, and  
indeed are partridge in miniature, in general very fat,  
and delicious eating. In my opinion the quail





1803.

*Bareilly.*

shooting is as pretty shooting as any in the world. Breakfasted with Guthrie, who resided in the princely house built by Government, as a residence for the Lieutenant-Governor of the Ceded Provinces, the Honourable Mr. Henry Wellesley, brother to the Governor-General. Guthrie displayed one of the most elegants sets of china at breakfast that I ever saw, and though not much in the habit of admiring or noticing the ornaments of a table, we were much delighted with these.

We had a large party again at Anderdon's this evening at dinner; the bottle was very freely circulated, and after the party broke up Anderdon and myself on our elephants, and Peyron in his palanquin, set off to go to our tents, which we had sent across the Rham Gungah, into the jungle about sixteen miles from Bareilly. After crossing the river we mounted our horses, and with several torches carried by men on horseback in order to keep off the tigers, we pushed on through some narrow tracks and passes in the jungle, which made it somewhat hazardous, as it is well known that lights and fires are no security against a hungry tiger.

After a rather gloomy ride of nearly four hours we arrived at our tents, and got about two hours' sleep (till day broke).

APRIL 23.

*In the  
jungle  
near  
Rampoor  
Ghauts.*

Mounted our elephants soon after the dawn of day, and commenced shooting in a strong jungle close to our tents, in which the villagers had reported there were tigers.

We found deer, hogs and partridges in great numbers, but did not fire at them all the earlier part of the morning, for fear our firing should disturb the nobler game, for tigers are sometimes known to slink off when annoyed by noises of any kind. After trying for nearly three hours in vain, some villagers, who had taken their station on the most lofty branches of the trees, gave the alarm, and we got sight of a





tremendous tiger galloping over a clear space to 1803.  
another and a much stronger jungle; we instantly  
chased him, and every endeavour that could be made  
was used in hopes of coming sufficiently near to  
induce him to turn and charge us; in crossing the  
plain we had a complete race with our elephants,  
firing all the time at him. Many of the shot from our  
rifles and heavy guns struck near him, and he posi-  
tively turned about and looked well inclined to attack  
us, but on our pressing nearer to him he continued  
his route, and to our great grief got into a jow  
jungle, which we found higher even than our own  
heads when in the howdah, and so very strong that  
we could not see our elephant's length in our front.  
On entering this jungle the elephants immediately  
commenced beating their trunks on the ground, and  
expressing every symptom of rage, which convinced  
us that the tiger was at hand, and that they winded  
him; but alas, we were unsuccessful, and after trying  
till nearly three in the evening in as scorching a sun  
as ever shone from the heavens we most reluctantly  
gave him up. Elephants and the servants mounted  
with us for the purpose of handing the ammunition  
as well as the Mahouts (elephant drivers) were so  
much distressed by the uncommon heat of the sun  
and wind that some of the men fainted, and we had  
all enough of it when we reached our tents. Our  
breakfast was ready for us, and after a sound sleep of  
a few hours we felt much recovered. Dined in the  
jungle, and drank "Tiger hunting" in a bumper of  
claret, nor did we forget our friends in old England,  
and fox-hunting.

*In the  
jungle  
near  
Rampoore  
Ghauts.*

Our party was small (Peyron, Anderdon and myself), but we contrived to pass a very jolly day in the wilds, I fancy it had not often happened—three Somersetshire men meeting in so remote a place, and so far removed from their native country, and those they love. We resolved to make another trial for our friend, the terror of the woods, at daylight; but late





1803.

*In the  
Jungle  
near  
Rampoor  
Ghaults.*

in the evening some villagers came in, and gave us information that he had made off, and was seen to cross the river several miles above us; this caused us to vary our plans of operation, and to determine on returning in the morning to cantonments.

APRIL 25.

*Asiff  
Bhang.*

I got on my pony at daylight this morning, and met Thornhill and Ridge with the greyhounds by appointment at the clump of mango trees near the coursing ground. I rode the pony to the spot on which we met, and then mounted a grey horse of Thornhill's, called Kooley Khan.

We soon found a hare, and a strong ditch coming in our way, I rode flying at it, but my steed's heart failed him, and he endeavoured to avoid the leap by trying to turn short on the brink; the spurs were in his sides, and he *could* not effect his retreat, nor *would* he make any exertion to cover it, so that we rolled comfortably in together. I soon recovered my footing on the side of the ditch, and with some little trouble we got the horse out without any other inconvenience than the loss of the sport, and a little hoaxing.

After four very capital courses we returned, slept half-an-hour, bathed, and dressed for breakfast. In the course of conversation I found that I perfectly well remembered the mare on which Lord Craven got his death, and which was afterwards my father's, and died, I believe, on Ashill Forest. We played billiards and backgammon all the forenoon.

APRIL 26.

*Bareilly.*

We shot to-day a great deal on foot, as the jungle was mostly low, though the risk of meeting with a tiger made it rather an unwise plan, but we had excellent sport, and did not reflect much on the danger. We chose the low cover to give our dogs an opportunity of hunting.

Killed a florikin, sixteen brace of black partridge, five brace of hares, and were again at our bungalow





before two o'clock. This was as pretty a morning's sport as I ever saw, though somewhat interrupted just before we left off by a savage brute of a bull which had turned out vicious, left the herd to which he belonged, and reigned the dread of the neighbouring villagers in the jungles. The instant he saw us he made towards us, and was actually within twenty paces of us, when Peyron and myself fired, and he instantly dropped. We were not long in despatching him. The first round, either Peyron's ball or my own, entered directly in his forehead, the other shot went through the upper part of his skull. The instant he fell our servants ran in with their sabres and cut his throat. Anderdon came and tiffed with us, and an hour before sunsetting we sent our guns, and cantered down to some stubbles, not half a mile from the bungalow. Killed nine brace of quail, and several ducks on a small lake near the quail ground. Middleton had a very large party to-day at dinner, and I was introduced by B—— to his fair companion, and a very nice girl she was; exceedingly genteel, and apparently must have had an excellent education. Of the latter I had some opportunity of judging, as far as my discernment would enable me to decide, by a seat next her at dinner. As an old friend of B——'s, I was very cordially received. Miss W——t was one of the prettiest figures I ever saw, and two finer eyes never illumined a lovely woman's features. Her manners were those of a perfect gentlewoman, and we all agreed that she had advantages which unfortunate girls in her station are not frequently possessed of, and must have been elegantly brought up. She was a perfect mistress of music, and played the most difficult pieces at sight, in a manner really superior. All those qualifications were not thrown away upon B——, who treated her with the utmost kindness and attention. She was much admired by the men, and that to the annoyance of several of the married families at Bareilly, who affected





1803.

*Bazilly.*

to decline visiting those that at any time invited her; and the consequence was the almost total break up between the bachelors and married folks, for the former declared that they preferred the manners and society of the young lady to the company of the old ones, and as far as I could judge it would have appeared strange if they had not, for a more stiff set I never fell in with; plain, proud and ignorant, attempting the airs of gentlewomen, though it was more than probable that previous to their arrival at our markets most of them could not boast a change of dickies twice a month.

APRIL 28.

Arose this morning an hour before daylight, and rode with Anderdon to shoot at Sirdar Nagur. Peyron was on duty in cantonments, and could not accompany us. We killed three deer, a boar, several brace of partridges and hares, and on account of the heat, which was dreadful, we left off shooting at nine and returned home to breakfast. Peyron gave a great Connor (dinner) this evening, and a good deal of claret was drank. We parted as usual in high great good humour at twelve.

APRIL 29.

Remained at home to-day and rested our people, shot with our rifles and plain ball guns at a target from the verandah of my room. Dined by ourselves, a very snug party at home this evening, talked as we very often did a great deal of Somersetshire and our absent friends, and I could not help thinking that no men in India could possibly remember their connections at home with more affection than we all did.

APRIL 30.

Got up at the time this morning that the regiment was sounding to boot and saddle, and rode with Thornhill, who slept at Peyron's, towards Asiff Bhang (his house), and met the greyhounds at the old coursing ground, where they had been ordered: we had some very severe coursing, killed two brace of





hares, and I went on with Peyron to breakfast and 1803.  
passed the day with him. We reached the house, and *Bareilly.*  
were dressed by eight. Remained all the day with  
Thornhill, and a little before sunset we got into the  
curricie and drove into cantonments to dine with  
Macan, where we all met (our usual party, viz.,  
Thornhill, Seton, Becher, Macan, Middleton,  
Peyron, Anderdon, Stewart, Doveton and myself).  
We met either at one house or the other almost every  
day, and time could not be passed more socially or  
pleasantly than we spent ours at Bareilly.





## CHAPTER VIII.

Tiger Shooting near Bareilly.  
May 1st to May 13th, 1803.

1803.

Bareilly.

ACCOUNTS having reached us of some tigers having committed horrid depredations at a village in the jungles about sixteen miles from Bareilly, at daylight this morning our elephants, guns and servants were despatched, and Peyron, Anderdon and myself left Macan's at twelve at night, and about two we crossed the Rham Gungah; a curious circumstance occurred in crossing the river! One of the party felt quite exhilarated by the wholesome quantity of champagne and claret we had partaken of, and in crossing our boat touched on a sandbank, and it was some minutes before we could get her off! My friend felt quite indignant at being detained, and, mounting his horse in the boat, he clapped spurs to him, and the horse immediately leaped the boat's side, and they plunged together into the river, from which they reached the banks with no other inconvenience than a sound ducking, and that to our great amusement! We soon after reached our tents, escorted by a strong party of armed villagers with torches, to conduct us in safety through the woods which at many parts were hardly penetrable! We were well assured that the intelligence of tigers being in the neighbourhood was *perfectly correct*, for about mid-way between the river's side and our tents we heard them roaring, and howling hideously, and that at no very great distance from us. Some of the villagers who were conducting us left us, and took to the tops of trees. The men carrying the torches remained with us! We drew our pistols, and at the head of a party of Matchlock men we advanced, and got safe to our tents, which were pitched at the village end. Went immediately to bed, and the villagers remained all night, and





promised to take us at daylight in the morning immediately to the spot where the tigers always harboured during the day. 1803. Bareilly.

At four this morning we mounted our elephants, and within the distance of half-cannon shot from our tents, the villagers pointed to a brake of briars, in which they assured us there was a tigress and four half-grown cubs! The brake was not three hundred yards round, and we instantly encircled it with our elephants! To penetrate it was impossible, and we commenced shouting and firing into the jungle, but all in vain, no tiger making its appearance! The villagers who for safety had, according to their usual plan, mounted to the tops of the trees near us, persisted in assuring us that the tigers were yet in the jungle, and one of the drivers attached to my elephant dismounted and looked under the cover, which we were unable to do from our elephants. The man instantly remounted, and in a terrible funk declared that he saw one of the young tigers stalking along under the briars. We commenced again every stratagem we could invent to draw the tigress out to charge us, but she would not come, and I suspected that fear had got hold of the man who dismounted to reconnoitre, and was therefore induced to go down to look myself! I had no sooner reached the ground than I discovered two of the young tigers, and plainly saw the immense feet and paws of the tigress. I instantly ran up the elephant's side by a rope, and communicated this glorious intelligence. *May 1. Camp in the jungles near Bareilly.*

We all loaded a double barrel each with small (buck) shot, and fired in the direction I pointed out. This had the desired effect. The young ones bellowed out a ghastly noise, and the crashing of the jungle soon convinced us what was coming. The tigress, on hearing the cubs roar, instantly sprang forward, bore down everything before her, made a most savage and desperate charge on us. The roar was really like





1803.

*Camp in  
the Jungles  
near  
Bareilly.*

a clap of thunder when she attacked us. Peyron and Anderdon both fired, and wounded her, but she sprang upon the elephant nearest to her, and shockingly wounded three of the people; one of them died almost immediately! She was fairly fast on the elephant's poll with her teeth sticking in her neck, and the hind claws fast deep in the poor elephant's trunk and face. This was a subject which the best artist would have been puzzled to have done justice to. The tigress was nearly the size of a Bengal bullock, and presented a fair mark to me although closed with the elephant, and I immediately fired my two-ounced double barrel at her; she instantly quitted her hold, dropped from the elephant (which I firmly believe she would have brought to the ground in an instant more), and slunk back, apparently stupified, into the jungle, all of us saluting her as she returned. She staggered into the briars, evidently mortally wounded.

We now prevailed upon the villagers to come with fire, and soon had the brake in a blaze. The young tigers now came out, and although not half-grown, attacked the elephants with all imaginable fury, and evinced that savage and desperate nature born with them. They afforded us excellent diversion, and we despatched the whole party. The tigress was stone dead in the jungle, and such a monster my eyes never beheld! The poor villagers threw themselves at our feet, calling us the saviours of them and their cattle.

We returned with our glorious spoils to our tents, as much gratified with the morning's sport as men ever were.

The inhabitants of the village, men, women and children, came to express their gratitude, and to put up their prayers for us. We had a delicious breakfast on mutton chops, cold fowls, tongue, eggs, and all sorts of good things, and slept till two in the afternoon; walked out upon the banks of the river, and shot two immense alligators. The Rham Gungah





swarms with them, and we wounded at least a dozen. 1803.

In the heat of the day every sand is covered with these monsters; they come up to bask in the sun. At four we mounted our horses and crossed the river about five miles above our tents, at a good ford. Reached cantonments soon after sunset, dressed and dined with Becher, passed a glorious evening, detailing to our friends the sport of the morning, and aiding our repetition with a comfortable quantum of most excellent claret.

*Camp in  
the Jungles  
near  
Bareilly.*

Anderdon, Peyron, Middleton and myself went this morning to breakfast with Becher; we found them exceedingly agreeable, and after breakfast the lady played and sung us a great number of songs and fine pieces of music. Hers was a grand piano, braced with brass to preserve it from the scorching winds, and was one of the most elegant instruments I ever beheld, and her superior skill and taste did it real justice. At noon we commenced shooting with Becher's air gun. Killed a "minor" with a ball from it on the top of the house, and broke several kedgeree pots at a great distance. We returned to tiff at home with Middleton, and I took with me Becher's double-barrel ball gun, by Nock, to carry with me on our next tiger party, with which, in addition to five double barrels and a rifle, all of my own, I considered myself well equipped in arms. Becher declined accompanying us, on account of the scorching sun and winds which prevail at this season of the year. Our guns, elephants, servants, with a good store of claret, Madiera, fowls, hams, etc., etc., left cantonments to-day, with orders to remain at the ground we last shot at (in the jungles) till we should come up.

*MAY 5.  
Bareilly.*

Met Becher, W—t, Colonel Powell, Nuthall, Guthrie, Anderdon, Thornhill, Vernor, Boileau and Montague at dinner this evening at Doveton's, who gave us a sumptuous entertainment. Doveton was Middleton's senior captain in the 3rd, and as friendly





1803.

*Bareilly.*

a fellow as ever lived. After passing a most sociable pleasant evening, and as the clock struck twelve, Major Middleton, Anderdon, Peyron and self mounted our horses, and rode off for our tents in the jungles, with proper guides, and a good escort of troopers.

About four in the morning we arrived safe at our tents, and went immediately to bed, agreeing to halt to-morrow to take rest, and shoot alligators.

MAY 6,

*Camp in  
the jungles  
near  
Bareilly.*

We slept till ten this morning, and after taking a hearty breakfast we left our tents to walk on the banks of the river for an hour with our rifles. The alligators were innumerable, and we made some fine shots, and left several of those monsters dead upon the sands, and wounded many more. If an alligator is not struck either in the head or behind the fore leg where the scale is more tender than at any other part it is a thousand chances to one against its penetrating, or giving a mortal wound. They sleep very sound on the edges of the water, and by making a circuit on the banks you may easily come directly upon them; the banks in general are so steep that there is little fear of their being able to come up the sides to annoy the sportsman.

In the afternoon some villagers came to our tents with news of tigers near a village called Sullamy; we immediately sent on one of our tents, took an early dinner and a bottle of claret each, went to bed, and at two in the morning mounted our horses, and rode on for Sullamy, leaving directions for our equipment to follow immediately. Our breakfast apparatus had been ordered on with the first tent.

MAY 7,

*Sullamyphore  
In the  
jungles  
Banks of  
the Rham  
Gungah.*

We reached our breakfast tent at daybreak, and got on the elephants instantly on our arrival. The Jemadar (chief) of the villages had assembled all his people (himself we put on a spare elephant) to attend us, and we set forward, all keen for the expected





sport. We agreed to fire at nothing but a tiger, and 1803.  
in consequence the deer and hogs, which we found in  
greater abundance than I could have believed, all *Sullampore*  
escaped. We beat in vain till nearly twelve o'clock, *In the*  
and although we saw their tracks and dens in the deep *Jungles*  
part of the cover we could not find. The jungle was *Banks of*  
so very extensive that if inclined to avoid us they *the Rham*  
could easily effect it, and the grass was sufficiently *Gungah.*  
high to conceal them from our sight, unless they  
came, like the deer and hogs, close under our  
elephants' trunks. At twelve we left the cover, and I  
shot a deer (the longest shot I ever made with a ball)  
on our way to the tents, Middleton and Peyron also  
killed a boar each in returning.

At breakfast other villagers came in with intelligence of tigers, and we determined to try for them in the morning, but the jungles in this part of the country were so exceedingly strong that it was next to an impossibility to see them. The ground we beat over this morning was a perfect forest, so lofty and thick was the jungle that we could see nothing ten yards in our front, and the elephants with great difficulty moved very slowly through it. Tigers there were beyond a doubt, in great numbers, and we traced them on the sands by the river's side, where their prints were in thousands, and it was evident that at night they frequently crossed the river in quest of prey, and returned to lie in the strong cover. Shot with rifles at a mark after breakfast, and the natives, who many of them had never seen a European before, were much amused at our firing, and showed us every civility, bringing us presents of goats, eggs, milk, etc., etc. Tipped at two, and a little before sunset I mounted "Major" and went to try for a hog in a short piece of jungle close to our tents. Many of the villagers, with their chief, accompanied me, and we had scarcely formed our lines and begun to beat when a large herd of hogs got up. I gave chase to the boar, and a noble fellow he was. He soon separated





1803.

*Sullamypore  
In the  
Jungles  
Banks of  
the Rham  
Gungah.*

from the others, and took across the country towards a strong jungle. The ground was very bad, and full of holes (which kept the rest of the party at the tents), and my horse was several times on his face with me. I could not choose my ground nor pull up for a moment, but with every prospect of losing him. We had a most complete race of it for full two miles, when I came near him, and the instant he heard me at his heels, and found that he could not reach the jungle (about one hundred and fifty yards in his front) he turned upon me, and made a most furious charge. I well knew that if I missed my first spear he would be in the high jungle before I could again recover it, and as I was single-handed at him, I could afford to risk nothing. At the distance of about twenty yards, when he was coming down, he increased his speed, and made a most desperate push at me, and was almost close to my boot top before I could give him the spear, and turn off to avoid him. The spear entered just behind the shoulder blade, he staggered a few paces, when the blood poured out of his mouth, and he dropped upon his haunches, and in the act of exertion to tear the spear from him he fell as dead as a stone. He was an immense boar, and had not mine been a tractable horse with an excellent mouth he would probably have destroyed us both. The horse would assuredly have been upset had he struck us, and as there was not a soul at hand we should both have been at his mercy, and in nature I do not imagine anything can be more desperately furious than a wild boar charging. (I have actually seen a young one, not half grown, come voluntarily down to charge a complete line of elephants!) I was as much gratified with my evening's sport as a man ever was on any occasion, and it proved more than a compensation to me for our disappointment in the morning after tigers. A camel was sent out to bring in my prize, and they all agreed that it was as noble an animal as was ever seen. Our tents we sent on at





sundown to the village of Russanpore, and dined 1803.  
under a mango tree. Drank our bottle of wine, and  
at ten o'clock mounted our horses to proceed to *Sullamypore*  
Russanpore for to-morrow's shooting. We came up *In the*  
with our elephants and baggage upon the banks of *Jungles,*  
the river, where they were detained for boats. The *Banks of*  
river here was very deep and wide, but as there was *the Rham*  
no prospect of the arrival of boats, and as we had *Gungah.*  
news of tigers, we had no inclination to lose our day's *MAY 7.*  
sport, and therefore determined to cross. We got on *Camp at*  
our elephants, with our guns and ammunition, and in *Mungarah.*  
the dark they swam the river with us. Our saddles *in the*  
we took with us in the howdahs, and each took his *Jungles,*  
horse in tow, and all got safe over, leaving the bag- *Banks of*  
gage to cross when the boats should arrive. Our *the Rham*  
breakfast tents had gone to the proper passage, and *Gungah.*  
found their way with our beds and breakfast things  
to Mungarah. Placed our cots in the open air, under  
some trees, as the night was very close, and slept  
soundly till nearly five in the morning.

Mounted our elephants this morning at half-past *MAY 8.*  
five, and commenced shooting at a cover within a mile *Camp at*  
of Mungarah, in which they assured us they had very *Mungarah,*  
lately seen tigers, and several people and many cattle *Banks*  
had recently been destroyed by them. We were not *of the*  
long in finding, and after several desperate charges, *Rham*  
and nearly twenty shots fired, we dropped an *Gungah.*  
immense tigress. Almost every shot struck her, and  
she fought with much desperation, bleeding most  
furiously. At last a ball from Middleton, just as she  
was in the act of springing on his elephant, gave her a  
brain blow, and rolled her completely over—several  
shots from the rest of us, aimed at her heart,  
despatched her before she could again recover herself.  
We loaded the tigress, and were proceeding towards  
our tent, when one of the elephant drivers discovered  
in the jungle three tiger cubs, apparently but a few  
days old, and lying close by them was an immense





1803.

buck, which appeared to be but just killed. We were back to our tents, had bathed, and dressed for breakfast before eleven o'clock, the morning vilely hot indeed. We had a good tiffin on some excellent fish, and at three o'clock again mounted the elephants.

Going out, and not one hundred yards from our tents, which were pitched upon the banks of the river, I being nearest the water, shot an immense alligator; the first shot was through the head with the rifle; he struggled off the sand upon which he lay sleeping, but could not remain under the water, which was quite discoloured with his blood. The second and third shots which I fired from Becher's gun completely finished him, and the villagers, who were always in great numbers attending us, brought him to shore, and one of the baggage elephants with a strong rope dragged it to our tents! He was a tremendous beast, and weighed as much as a couple of good horses. We proceeded into the jungles, and had excellent deer and hog shooting. My horses were out, and I dismounted from the elephant to ride after a hog, but the cover was so strong that I could not keep sight a moment. This evening I am convinced that besides hogs innumerable, we saw at least a hundred deer, seven of which we killed, and might easily have shot twice that number had we been inclined. The villagers told us that they never recollect to have seen the game disturbed before. They themselves were deterred from pursuing it, on account of the tigers, of which they are never free. Dressed and dined at seven o'clock, passed a very happy evening, drank to our friends in Old England, and wished only for the society of some of them to complete our happiness. A day never passed that we did not talk of them, and fox hunting was always drank in high glee.

*Camp in  
the Jungles  
at Mungarah  
Ranks of  
the Rham  
Gungah.*

MAY 9.

Went from our tents this morning at four o'clock, to a jungle which the villagers recommended as likely for tigers. After beating a considerable time and





rousing a great many deer and hogs, our elephants began to roar and to beat their trunks on the ground and spinning in such a manner as left little doubt of tigers being at hand, and the driver of Anderdon's elephant positively affirmed that he saw two large tigers dart past in the jungle.

1803.  
*Camp at  
Mungarah,  
in the  
Jungles,  
Banks of  
the Rham  
Gungah.*

We were exceedingly annoyed at not being able to get a sight at them; the jungle was absolutely higher than our tents, and we could scarcely move in it. In this situation were we, surrounded with tigers, and our elephants, by winding them so constantly, became quite furious, and apparently were as eager to get at them as ourselves.

We had not a glimpse of each other for some hours, and kept our direction in the forest entirely by hearing the rustling of our elephants and their roaring, which we could not prevent.

We went directly through the depth of the wood, as there the tigers lay, but did not get a *single shot*. On passing a low jungle attached to the stronger one we picked up two cubs, and saw the tigress slink in a most unusual cowardly way into the deep cover. I never before either saw or heard of a tigress quitting her young but with their lives. On the contrary, they generally advance the moment you get within their hearing. We saw her and fired at least twenty distant random shots at her, but it only seemed to accelerate her movements.

On our way to the tents we shot a hog and three deer, and arrived to breakfast about twelve, which, after taking a bath and a *dry shirt*, we relished much and stood greatly in need of, as the morning was very hot, and we were a good deal fatigued. Slept till nearly three o'clock. In the evening our people fishing caught a young alligator in their nets, and we spoilt half-a-dozen swords in trying them on the scales of its back, which the best metal and the strongest arm could not cut through.





1803.

May 10.

*Camp at  
Mungarah,  
In the  
Jungles,  
Banks of  
the Rham  
Gungah.*

At four this morning we went off to the jungle in which we yesterday saw the tigress, and took up the cubs. We made our disposition to interrupt as much as possible her retreat to the deep cover. On drawing near the spot we were gratified with a sight of her, not skulking away as yesterday, but the instant she heard us she came on most desperately and evidently determined to rout us, or die herself in the trial. She came down, roaring and lashing her tail in a truly glorious style, apparently frantic with rage. It is impossible to conceive anything more furious than she was, and the sight was really enough to strike terror into the system of any one not confident in his gun and the resolution of his elephant. On approaching us at the distance of about thirty paces in our front we gave her the contents of four double barrels, loaded with a couple of balls in each barrel. The tigress tumbled completely over, and in a moment recovered her legs again, and closed with the elephant nearest her, which she tore almost to pieces about the face, trunk, and the breasts. She was, however, enfeebled very considerably by the wounds we had given her, which was much in favour of the elephant, and after a most furious fight (which drove us almost *mad* with the pleasure it afforded us) the elephant shook the monster off, and struck it so violent a blow with the trunk that quite stupified it for a moment. The elephant instantly, and in a most sagacious manner, took the advantage of this, and immediately knelt upon the tigress's breast, and endeavoured by all means to crush it to death. It was impossible for us to take a shot, although we were completely round them, so close and entangled were they in each other.

The tigress at length extricated itself, and was advancing to renew the combat when we brought her down, and twenty balls were in or through her before she could get herself again on her legs, and we settled her, after a fight of at least a quarter of an hour from the time we first saw her. The elephant attacked, and





its driver (who firmly kept his seat), behaved most gallantly. The man with his sabre (which they always carry on tiger parties) made many good cuts at the tigress, whilst they were engaged. Our elephants were bellowing, and shewed every inclination to join in the combat; they seemed almost as furious as the parties engaged; in short, we were *all mad together*, and the roaring and shouting might have been heard for many miles in the woods. Loaded the royal game upon an elephant, and returned by eleven to our tents to breakfast, having first taken a good bathe and dressed. It was quite *the thing impossible* for a small party to be more happy and comfortable than we were. We had *noble sport*, and every luxury at command that the country afforded, besides which we were doing no small service to the poor wretches who, with their little property, so constantly fell victims to the merciless monsters we destroyed, and they, poor devils, were most grateful to us in return for the good we did them, calling themselves "our slaves," and bringing us in everything their country produced, which they thought would be acceptable to us. We slept till four in the evening, and then walked out with our rifles to shoot alligators on the Rham Gungah. P., our rifles to shoot alligators on the Rham Gungah. Peyron, Anderdon and myself fired at one tremendous brute within twenty yards of us. Each shot went through his head, and he died almost without a struggle. We sent out the elephants to drag him to our tents to shew to Middleton, who was a good deal fatigued with the morning's sport, and did not accompany us.

We dined at seven, and drank "Tiger Hunting," "Fox Hunting," and "Hog Hunting" with each three times three! At ten at night we left Mungarah to proceed on to another village in the jungles, called Nagarah. At this place we considered ourselves to be nearly forty miles from Bareilly, directly in the jungles, and where no European had ever made his

Camp at  
Mungarah,  
in the  
jungles,  
Banks of  
the Rham  
Gungah.





1803.

Camp at  
Mungarah,  
in the  
Jungles,  
Banks of  
the Rham  
Gungah.

appearance, and we all agreed that, give us but the society of the *more amiable sex* to keep us *civilised*, and we could be content to pass the days allotted us in India in our present mode of living. We travelled the first seven miles through very strong jungle, on our elephants, when we mounted our ponies and rode about the same distance to Nagarah, at which place we arrived about two in the morning, got our cots upon the plain, posted a sentry over each, and slept very soundly till seven o'clock.

MAY 12,

Camp at  
Lowhanpore,  
On our  
Return to  
Bareilly.

We killed parrots and paraketes with ball, and I shot a niel gphant and a king crow from my own rifle. In the evening we shot at a target, long shots with rifles, and at one hundred and one hundred and fifty yards we had some bull's-eyes. We bathed and dressed for dinner at seven, and after enjoying ourselves, drinking to our friends at home, and planning our time *when we get there*, at ten we left Lowhanpore, Peyron and Anderdon in their palanquins (I abhorred a palanquin, and mine always went empty) and myself on my pony. About midnight we reached Bareilly.





## CHAPTER IX.

Social and Sporting Life at Bareilly.  
May 13th to May 24th, 1803.

PEYRON, Anderdon and self went as a compliment <sup>1803.</sup>  
due to the Commanding Officer of the Station, <sup>MAY 13,</sup>  
Colonel Powell, to breakfast with him this morning,  
and afterwards to Becher's, where we passed the  
morning, tiffed, and returned to our bungalow about  
three in the afternoon. Walked, after having dressed,  
with Middleton through the different stable ranges of  
his regiment. All the officers were present (at  
feeding time). Nothing could exceed the style in  
which this corps was kept, and the horses plainly told  
by their condition the care taken of them.

Got up this morning at sunrise, and walked my <sup>MAY 14.</sup>  
pony quietly down to Asiff Bhang to pass the day <sup>Bareilly.</sup>  
with Thornhill. Brown, Ridge, Guthrie, Thornhill,  
and myself were at billiards and backgammon the  
whole of the morning, and after tiffin we commenced  
a match of pigeon shooting. Browne and Guthrie  
shot against Thornhill and self. We brought down  
seventeen birds out of twenty, and I believe a single  
bird did not escape without being wounded. We were  
beaten by one bird only. Middleton, Peyron, Dove-  
ton, Anderdon, Stewart and Montague, also Macan,  
joined us at dinner, and we had really a jolly evening.

At one this morning our tents, servants and <sup>MAY 16,</sup>  
elephants were off to the Kiary Lake, and soon after <sup>At the</sup>  
four o'clock Middleton, Peyron, Brown, Bailie and <sup>Kiary Lake,</sup>  
myself crossed the Rham Gungah to shoot. Killed <sup>near</sup>  
seven brace of hares, nearly twenty brace of black <sup>Bareilly.</sup>  
partridge, several deer and hogs, and returned to the  
lake to breakfast, where Thornhill and Anderdon  
joined us. Our nets were ordered down, and shortly





1803.

*At the  
Kiary Lake,  
near  
Bareilly.*

after making a hearty meal we commenced fishing the lake. The quantity of fish we killed exceeds all belief. The nets reached completely across the lake, which swarmed with fish, and hundreds of immense ones leapt completely over the nets and made their escape; in order to remedy this we brought from a neighbouring village the choppers (covers of thatch, made of grass and bamboo for their huts), and floated them with men on them, armed with large clubs, so that when a fish cleared the nets he fell upon the choppers, and was immediately knocked on the head. All the villagers from the neighbouring hamlets came to assist in fishing the lake, and we loaded them all with as much fish as they could carry away with them.

Peyron and myself followed the drawings of the nets in a boat, and many large fish actually leapt into it, and were despatched with a boat hook.

The sun was exceedingly hot this morning, and we all got famously scorched.

It is a fact as cruel and unnatural as it is horrid to relate, that at a village not far from the Kiary Lake the inhabitants conceive themselves to be of a superior race of men to any other, and to prevent their being contaminated by their female children cohabitating with other natives the men actually murder them as soon as they come into the world. Facts almost as incredible, though not so unnatural, occur daily in India. It would be difficult for a European to believe, without having witnessed such a scene, that beautiful young women will, and in many parts of India almost constantly do, walk deliberately into a fire, and thus put a period to their existence, and sacrifice their lives voluntarily to a barbarous custom of destroying themselves on the death of a husband, who very frequently is a man old enough to be their grandfather, and to get rid of whom one may naturally suppose would as likely prove a source of happiness as to cause any other sensation, married to them, as they generally are, without their own consent, or perhaps without





having ever *seen them*, and after marriage cruelly shut up and deprived of every intercourse except the society of the old savage himself and some female slaves. We had our tiffin at two o'clock, and then commenced shooting with ball at small birds. From my own gun I killed a mango bird, a king crow and a sparrow, with a small green bird very common in India.

1803.  
*At the  
Kiary Lake,  
near  
Bareilly.*

We procured some instruments from a village, and, by way of experiment, bored holes in some very large trees on the banks of the lake, and filled them up with gunpowder, to which we set fire with a fuse, and in imitation of mining we blew them to shivers, and made plenty of firewood for our friends of the jungles.

In the evening we mounted our horses, elephants, and some in their palanquins, and returned to cantonments, dressed and dined at home, where Middleton had a very large party, and the evening was passed in great jollity and good humour.

It was late before we parted last night, and we did not go out before breakfast. Accompanied Browne to call on Boileau and Martin, after which got into our palanquins and went to tiff and pass the day at Becher's, where we had music in perfection, and very many of my favourite songs were sung with great taste and very much good humour. My time now grew short, and I felt uncomfortable at the thought of leaving my Bareilly friends, from whom I had received the kindest and most friendly attention that could be shown to an individual, and which, of course, attached me very much to them all, and I was thoroughly convinced that in no part of the world could hospitality exceed that of India. The society I met here consisted of true gentlemen, and men with whom I should rejoice to spend all that period of time allotted for my absence from my country and friends.

MAY 17.  
*Bareilly.*





1803.

MAY 18.

*Bareilly.*

My Mahratta mare came in this morning, and I received Colonel Blair's permission to be absent from my corps till the end of the month. Ordered fresh ramrods for all my guns this morning. At noon we were alarmed with the cry of fire, and with much concern we found that a fire had broken out in the bazaar (market) of Middleton's regiment, and our bungalow had a very narrow escape. Many of the huts in the bazaar were destroyed, and owing to the dry state in which everything is at this season, when the heat is most intense, the fire raged so furiously that several poor unfortunate children were burnt to death.

MAY 19.

Left the lines this morning at four, just as the 3rd were mounting for school exercises; arrived at Asiff Bhang shortly after daybreak. We had a capital run this morning after a fox, with all our terriers packed, and drove him to earth about five miles from Thornhill's house. Returned there at seven to dress and breakfast. My grey mare got a violent fall this morning, and was considerably strained and bruised in consequence. Passed the day at billiards, and as we were all engaged to dine with Becher we left Thornhill's by various modes of conveyance at sunset. Browne and myself on an elephant, and we went through the town of Bareilly, and from our exalted situation (on our elephant) we had the felicity of beholding many pretty damsels in their compounds who otherwise would not have been visible. We had a very large party at Becher's, and passed the evening very pleasantly indeed. I engaged that the next application I made for leave of absence should be to visit Thornhill, but when that may occur I thought extremely uncertain.

MAY 20.

Peyron and myself went off this morning at Reveillé beating to cross the river and shoot at Sirdar-nagar.





In about three hours we killed thirteen brace of 1803. black partridges, three deer and two and a half brace of hares, and, mounting our shooting ponies, we were again in the lines to a late breakfast. We all dined with Macan this evening, and a decent quantity of his champagne was disposed of, and most delicious beverage it was. Bareilly.

Peyron, Anderdon and self left the cantonments May 21. this morning half an hour before daybreak. The servants and guns went off at one o'clock, and we joined them at a village about three miles from the banks of the Rham Gungah on the opposite side from Bareilly.

We swam the river on our horses, and it was a very unwise, mad scheme, and the consequences to one of the party were near being very unpleasant. Our elephants, servants, guns and dogs we found all ready, and soon after we commenced beating. No less than six florikin got up from a small patch of jow hassie jungle. They were so very wild that we could not get a shot at them, and flew into an impenetrable jungle on our left. A florikin is by far a bird of the highest game and most exquisite flavour of any I ever met with. They are nearly the size of a turkey, but shaped more like a partridge.

A cock florikin, on the wing, looks almost milk white, but among its feathers there are some of the richest colours imaginable. The hen is about the size of a hen turkey, the plumage does not at all resemble the cock, but more the hen pheasant, only darker, and very much richer. It is very difficult to get within shot of a florikin, but when you are near them they are very easily shot; indeed, if a sportsman is steady he cannot well miss them. In trying a grass jungle shortly after we flushed the florikin, one of the servants pointed out a tremendous boar rooting very near us. My horses and spears were close to me. Peyron and Anderdon's servants were less cautious,





*Bareilly.*

and had left their spears at home. The moment the boar saw our elephants he made off, but at first not in the smallest hurry, and I was soon after him, and after one of the severest chases I ever witnessed, of at least three miles, every inch at speed, I came up with him. The instant he found me at his heels he turned, and made a most furious charge, and I most unfortunately speared about one inch too high, and it made a horrid wound just behind his shoulders, and passed through. I got out of his way after delivering my spear, without receiving any accident, either myself or my horse. He pursued me a considerable distance, and for want of a spear or other assistance I dared not attempt to dismount, nor could I without some weapon face him.

MAY 21.

*In the  
Jungles,  
near  
Bareilly.*

I drew him off a considerable way, and then made a push back to recover my spear; he took the advantage of this, and got into a jungle close by, in which the cover was as high as my horse's back, and I, of course, lost him. It was one of the stoutest boars I ever ran, and to my great anxiety to kill him single-handed I attribute my missing the first and only spear. He was one of the few hogs I ever brought to the charge that made his escape. If a person is at all collected the spear is generally fatal, unless a horse is untractable, and then the danger exceeds any in sporting. Major carried me divinely this chase; the holes and broken ground we went over made it a desperate thing, but he rather seemed to fly than gallop at them, and the agility and caution with which the good horse avoided the danger was astonishing. I left everything to him, and kept my eyes on the boar, which I was obliged to do as the grass at many parts was even higher than the hog's back, and his rustling it and waving it was my only guide. Returned and joined the shooting party. We killed seventeen brace of partridges, six brace of hares, five peacocks and a brace of fine deer. We arrived in





cantonments about twelve to breakfast. The weather was very hot, and we got very much scorched. Our faces and hands fresh peeled. We did not quit our bungalow until sunset, and then went to dine with Anderdon. Our party was very large, and we kept it up till about one o'clock.

1803.  
*In the  
Jungles,  
near  
Bareilly.*

Breakfasted and passed the morning at Becher's, where we had a great deal of music and singing. Returned to our bungalow about five in the evening, dressed and went to dine with Seton, where it was past eight o'clock before we sat down. The dinner and wines *when it came* was really sumptuous, and although Seton himself was no sportsman he very cordially joined us after the ladies had left the room in drinking "Tiger hunting," "Fox hunting," "Hog hunting" and "The Tiger" in champagne. We kept it up to a late hour, and to our shame be it confessed, many of the party saw no more of the ladies this evening; in truth they too much resembled the generality of Indian dames to afford much attraction. The bottle was not unusually preferred, and generally confessed to be the best company.

MAY 22,  
*Bareilly.*

At four this morning Peyron, Guthrie, Anderdon and self left the lines to go to the Sirdarnagar Ghaut. Anderdon and Peyron to shoot, Guthrie and I to see what hand we could make at the hogs, though the strong cover left us but little prospect of success. We had one good chase and killed our boar; saw many, but they easily evaded us by getting into the strong jungle. We were fortunate in falling in with no tigers, as they are very often seen, and we had killed them in the jungle we rode through this morning.

MAY 23.

Anderdon and Peyron killed eleven brace of partridges, four brace of hares and three deer.





1803.

MAY 24.

Becher, W——t, Macan and Anderdon came down this morning to pass the day at Asiff Bhang. At sunrise we commenced a match of pigeon shooting at twenty-five and thirty yards. The first match was shot by Macan and Becher against Thornhill and myself. We brought down eighteen birds out of twenty-two, and nearly all the rest were wounded.

For my own part I passed a very melancholy day, and did not at all relish the loss of a society I so much enjoyed, and had such cogent reasons to be happy in. The exceeding kindness with which I had been treated by all at Bareilly merited every return in my power to make. I told them so, and received for answer that the most effectual mode of repaying what I considered an obligation was to return again whenever I should have an opportunity of doing so.

At twelve at night I took my leave, and got with Macan into his buggy, and drove to his bungalow, which was the most immediately in my route to Futtý Ghur. My palanquin and bearers were all ready at Macan's, and about one I shook hands with him, and sat forward towards Futtý Ghur, from whence my friend Wemyss was to lay horses on bearers to convey me the last half way.





## CHAPTER X.

Bareilly to Futtý Ghur, Mynpoorie, and Shikoabad.  
May 24th to June 9th, 1803.

I TRAVELLED twenty-six miles in my palanquin from Bareilly, and at Futtý Gunge mounted my pony, which was laid there for me, rode her fifteen miles to a village called Burrah Matahney, at which place I mounted Major, and rode him to Jellalabad, and then I had the pleasure to find Wemyss's palanquin and my own tent pitched with breakfast ready for me on the table. A note from Wemyss announced the regular reliefs of bearers to be all in readiness on the road.

1803.

MAY 24.

*On my  
Route from  
Bareilly to  
Futtý Ghur.*

After breakfasting very comfortable, and dressing afresh, I took a sleep for a couple of hours, and then got into my palanquin, and pushed on towards Futtý Ghur. The wind blew after sunrise like flames, and the day was so intensely hot that I had difficulty in proceeding on, notwithstanding the quantity of bearers I had in each set; many of them frequently fainted, and were left at the villages through which we passed. Under every tree I was necessitated to halt to give them a little rest in the shade, and a drink of water, a pretty good quantity of which I drank myself. I was obliged to give the bearers their time; it would have been cruelty to have forced them on, and I gave up all hopes of reaching Futtý Ghur in time for dinner.

At every stage I found the bearers in perfect readiness, and about eight I reached the banks of the Ganges; kept along upon the sands, and got to the passage opposite the Futtý Ghur magazine, just as the gun fired at nine o'clock. There was not a single boat on my side the river, but by hoisting lights for signals they soon came across, and at ten I once more arrived on the western banks of the Ganges, and soon





1803.

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## WAR AND SPORT IN INDIA.

CSL

after at my good friend Wemyss's bungalow, where an excellent dinner was provided for me, and we sat chatting till a very late hour.

MAY 25.

*Futty Ghur.*

Did not leave the bungalow this morning before breakfast. About eleven Wemyss and self went to call on General Ware and others of my Futty Ghur friends. The day was exceedingly hot, and the winds particularly so.

In the evening I met at home a snug party of friends, who Wemyss had asked to dine with him. Among others was Campbell of our corps, a happy fellow, on his way down the country for the purpose of embarking for *dear, dear* England. I was bent on another kind of expedition, and marching to join my regiment, in the expectation of shortly taking the field with it against the Mahrattas, with which power we were supposed to be on the eve of a war. About ten we left Wemyss's to go to see a play performed by gentlemen, and arrived just in time for act the second of "She Stoops to Conquer." It seemed to afford the old ladies great amusement, and many of the ladies assembled on this occasion, although from England, I think very probably had never seen a play before. We returned about one to sup at Wemyss's, and it was late before we broke up.

MAY 28.

*Camp at  
Mutdanpore,  
On our  
Route to  
Mynpoorie.*

At three this morning Wemyss and myself left Futty Ghur on horseback for Mutdanpore, about twenty-five miles from the cantonment. We expected to have found the tandem at the village of Mahomedabad, half way, but on our arrival there at daybreak we were annoyed to find that the servants had mistaken their orders. Our palanquins were there, but the tandem had gone on. To the former we preferred our horses, and rode on to Mutdanpore, where the tent was pitched in an elegant mango grove, near the banks of the Colla Nuddy.





The weather was intensely hot, and the mango 1803.  
birds, crows and other birds were absolutely gasping  
on the trees, as if almost expiring with the heat, and  
which is a very common occurrence in India during  
the hot season. A little before sunset, although the  
wind was blowing blazes, we took our guns and  
walked upon the banks of the river. Saw two hyenas  
and several wolves, but could not get a good shot at  
any of them, and they retreated to their earths, which  
were close at hand, and we had it in contemplation to  
halt to-morrow, and smoke them out, but as I was  
under the necessity of being present at muster on the  
1st at Shikoabad, we were obliged to give the plan  
up. On the river we killed several ducks and teal,  
and it was dark before we reached our tents. Dinner  
was ready, and we ordered the table to be removed  
from the tent into the grove, and dined under the  
mango trees. Drank each our bottle of claret, and  
spent the evening very happily together, talking of  
sporting and our friends in Old England.

Wemyss and myself arrived here this morning  
about seven, came twelve miles on horseback, and the  
remaining fifteen miles in a tandem. Cunynghame  
and Mrs. Cunynghame expressed themselves very  
happy to see us.

We got our breakfast, and immediately went to pay  
the judge a visit (Mr. Ryley), to whom Wemyss was  
appointed register. Wemyss went in his own palan-  
quin, and I took Mrs. Cunynghame's, it having  
khuss purdals, and in consequence was much cooler  
than my own. We found Mr. Ryley a pleasant,  
gentlemanly man. Played a few games of billiards,  
and returned to tiff with the Cunynghames on mutton  
chops and hock and water. Slept till six, and dressed  
at the small bungalow, after which I drove Mrs.  
Cunynghame in the curricule round the estate. At  
dinner we had Mr. Ryley, Captain White, Browne,

May 29,  
Mynpoorie.





1803.

*Mynpoorie.*

and a Mr. Mansell, who was appointed Cunynghame's surgeon.

Cunynghame's gave us, as usual, an elegant dinner, with lots of champagne, hock, claret and Madeira. We went to the drawing room at ten, and Mrs. Cunynghame played and sang us a number of songs, that in "Life," sent me by Miss Goodford, was most admired, and Mrs. Cunynghame was quite delighted with it. We supped at twelve.

MAY 30.

Rode this morning with Wemyss on one of Cunynghame's Arabs; took out the greyhounds, and killed a brace of hares.

On our return we found MacGregor of our corps, who was also on his way to join. We were necessitated to be at Shikoabad by the 1st to muster, and therefore determined to go off together after dinner this evening. We were all engaged to dine at Ryley's.

Drove Mrs. Cunynghame there in the phaeton, Wemyss and Cunynghame went in a curricule. The Judge gave us a sumptuous entertainment, and we passed as pleasant an evening as we could considering we were about to part. Both Cunynghame and Mr. Ryley made me promise to pay them a visit as soon as I could contrive to get leave of absence. At eleven we handed Mrs. Cunynghame to the palanquin, and took my leave of the party. MacGregor and myself got on an elephant and went half-way to Shikoabad on it, and there, at the village of Garroul, we found our horses in readiness for us. At daylight we arrived at our bungalows at Shikoabad.

MAY 31.

*Shikoabad.*

Breakfasted with MacGregor and Weston, after which we put on our swords, and went to visit the Colonel. He was very happy to see us, and we passed all the morning with Mrs. Blair.





Received a letter from Wemyss this evening, 1803.  
telling me that Cunynghame intended to make me a present of an iron grey horse, for which he paid eleven hundred rupees (£140), out of a string of North Country horses. He is a beautiful horse, and altogether one of the finest figures I ever saw in my life; he had too much spirit for Cunynghame.

JUNE 5.

Shikohabad.

Breakfasted with Plumer, and passed the morning at Murray's, where I left a party at two o'clock, playing whist! Went home and slept till five. Purchased a very handsome buggy of Livesey, and this evening I put harness on Major to break him for it. The groom walked him with it for about an hour, and he behaved very well. Dressed and rode to Forrest's, where a large party of us dined, and the evening was passed in great good humour.

JUNE 8.





## CHAPTER XI.

Assault and Capture of Buddown (Budaon).

June 10th to 13th, 1803.

JUNE 10,

Shikohabad.

WE had a field day this morning, and the Battalion paraded at gun fire. Colonel Blair observed that I looked very unwell, and kindly recommended me to fall out, and take a gentle ride, instead of remaining in the ranks. I did not leave my bungalow all this day. Received a letter from Thornhill, Bareilly. At five this evening the following order appeared:—

“A detachment consisting of three Companies from the 1st Battalion, 2nd Regiment, to march to-night, with a six-pounder, under the command of Major Hammond.

“The Detachment to consist of the 1st Grenadiers, and 2nd and 4th Battalion Companies. Mr. Macaulay, surgeon, to march with the Detachment.”

In consequence of the resistance I had met with on a former occasion when detached with one Company only, and without either a gun or a surgeon to dress my wounded, Colonel Blair had now taken the necessary precautions.

The Colonel wrote me a most kindly note, strongly advising me, in my present state, not to think of marching with the Detachment. He said it was true that my Company of Grenadiers were ordered, but added that Sinclair was going with it, and that one officer would be quite sufficient.

I thanked him in the kindest terms I could, but told him that as my Company was under orders I should assuredly march with it. (Memo.—Never to remain behind on those occasions.) The Major wrote us a circular note, telling us it was his intention to parade and march off when the moon should get up. We met at Mr. Dyer's (our surgeon's) at dinner. He com-





forted me by telling me that I was in a high fever, and more fit to go to my bed than on a command. 1803.

*Shikohabad.*

At the rising of the moon at eleven o'clock we paraded, and examined the arms and ammunition of our respective Companies.

The Adjutant had wisely taken the precaution of sending three bullocks laden with musket balls, ammunition, besides the forty rounds in pouch, so that we were in no fear of falling into the same dilemma which threatened the destruction of my detachment when I was sent to attack the village of Camney.

At midnight we marched off for the fort of Buddown, the place we were going against.

The fever continued severely on me during the night, and I believe that I drank at least a gallon of water. The night was dreadfully hot, and we were obliged to halt at every well we passed to give the men water, many of them fainted during the march.

At daybreak we came in sight of the village of Buddown, and the guides informed us that enemy were in possession of it. Major Hammond halted the Detachment about half a mile from the village, and then ordered Sinclair and myself to advance with the Grenadiers alone, and commence the attack. The gun and two Companies the Major kept with him in the rear. We thought this a curious arrangement, and Sinclair could not help expressing his surprise to me that the gun and a second Company was not ordered to support us. But no further comments were made, and we advanced, and soon gained possession of the place. On getting in we ascertained that Rham Bux, who commanded the enemy, and the greater part of his followers, had got into the fort about a mile in our front. We were ordered to rejoin the Major with the Grenadiers, and advanced immediately towards the fort. The Grenadiers and the six-pounder were again ordered to take possession of the Pettah, about

JUNE 11,

*Attack on Buddown.*





1803.

*Attack on  
Buddown.*

two hundred yards from the gate of the fort. The enemy were strongly posted in it, and a brisk fire immediately commenced. I was ordered with the leading section of the Grenadiers to assist at the drag ropes of the gun, while Sinclair and the remaining three sections of the Company continued a very smart fire, and that of grape from the gun was not less effectual. Several of our men were killed and wounded, as we were completely exposed the whole of the time of our advance. I was much hurt at the conduct of one of the Artillery men (the man who pointed the piece.) He appeared so exceedingly confused because the shot flew thick about us that I could not prevail upon him to do his duty, and was provoked to strike him a severe blow with the flat of my sword. At this instant a shot killed a Bhisty at his elbow, and I was necessitated to order another man to his post to point the gun. We continued pressing down towards the gate of the Pettah, and suddenly the enemy's fire slackened, and the place was in flames at many different places. We ran up a Battery for the gun, and took post at a part where the flames had not communicated. The enemy all ran into the fort. After we had established ourselves in the Pettah, Major Hammond came down with the 2nd Battalion Company, and relieved us. We withdrew the Grenadiers, and carried our wounded with us to the ground in the rear, and where the 4th Company had piled its arms. A smart fire continued all the morning. I never suffered greater pain in my life than I did this afternoon; the exertion in the early part of the day had increased my headache and fever exceedingly.

At sunset the Company in the Pettah was relieved by the 4th Company with Livesey and Forrest. We prepared our scaling ladders in the evening, and it was determined to escalate the fort at break of day. About ten at night, however, we heard a smart fire, and on moving down to support the post we perceived