

MY

CHILD-LIFE IN BURMAH;

OR,

*Recollections and Incidents.*

OLIVE JENNIE BIXBY.

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## CHAPTER IV.

## THE ANIMALS OF BURMAH.

As Burmah lies partly in the torrid and partly in the temperate zone, it comprises among its animals many that are peculiar to both zones; so that the missionary is constantly surprised, now with delight in beholding the familiar creatures of his native land, and now with wonder as he gazes upon some denizen of the heated earth.

It is ten o'clock in the morning. A missionary's child is sitting on the veranda, gazing, half dreamily, into the heated atmosphere, and listening to the quiet sounds that fill it with life. She hears a gentle cooing, and rises to feed her beautiful tame pigeons, not with oats or corn, but with the delicate white rice. Her speckled pet fowl hastens, with motherly cluck, to call her downy brood of white chicks to share the feast; and a train of ducks, with their "Quack, quack," and outstretched glossy necks, waddle up the narrow path to get at

in a country where there were no railroads, coaches, or horse-cars, in fact, where there were no roads at all, with the exception of boats and elephants, ponies are the European's only means of travel. The buffalo hates the pony as he does the white man, thus making the pony more the white man's friend.

I should make this chapter quite too long, were I to describe the monkeys, bears, wild dogs, jackals, leopards, wildcats, squirrels, rats, mice, wild hogs, deer, and rhinoceros, or even mention, more than I have done, the great variety of birds of brilliant plumage and sweet song, the multitude of reptiles that crawl at your feet, the swarms of insects that fly in the air, or the finny tribe that swim in the waters. No one here need search in vain for any thing that

“O'er bog or steep, through strait, rough, dense, or  
rare,  
With head, hands, wings, or feet pursues his way,  
And swims or sinks, or wades or creeps or flies.”

No part of the globe is more abundant in vegetable productions, or diffuse and prolific in its animal kingdom. Here too, as in all other parts of the world, man holds universal sway over every living thing. There are none so