

NARRATIVE
OF A
JOURNEY THROUGH THE
UPPER PROVINCES OF INDIA,

FROM
CALCUTTA TO BOMBAY, 1824—1825,
(WITH NOTES UPON CEYLON,)

AN ACCOUNT OF A JOURNEY TO
MADRAS AND THE SOUTHERN PROVINCES, 1826,
AND LETTERS WRITTEN IN INDIA,

BY THE LATE
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IN TWO VOLUMES,
VOL. II.

LONDON:
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.
MDCCCXXVIII.

CHAPTER XXV.

BARODA TO BOMBAY.

Entrance into Baroda—Namdar Khán—Cantonment—Church—Character of the Guicwar—Consecration of the Church—Visit to the Guicwar—Visits from Natives—Guicwar returns the Visit—Departure from Baroda—Crossing the Mhye—Kholees—Swaamee Narain—Hot winds—Interview with Swaamee Narain—Arrival at Kairah—Insalubrity of Cimate—Jain Temple—Departure from Kairah—Difficulty in crossing the Mhye—Broach—Banian-tree in an Island on the Nerbudda—Surat—Embarkation—Arrival at Bombay.

MARCH 19.—From Jerrdda to Baroda is thirteen miles over a bare and open country, the roads much cut up. Expecting to meet "great men" we made our march in regular order, the nagari beating and Maharatta standard flying before us, followed by my chobdars and a chobdar of the Resident's, who gave the word for marching in a sort of shrill cry, "Chülō Maharatta!" Forward Maharattas! The vakeels and the dewan followed with the chief part of my escort. After marching about eight miles, we were met by a body of horse in Persian dresses, under a young officer splendidly mounted on a dapple-gréy Arab horse, with the most showy accoutrements which I had seen in India, and a shield of rhinoceros-hide as transparent as horn, and ornamented with four silver bosses. He announced himself as sent by the Resident to enquire after my health, and advanced in a very graceful manner to embrace me. Foreseeing that I should probably have these sort of ceremonies, I had chosen for the day my little Barreah horse, to whom my servants had given the name of Rawul, who having received his breeding at a native court, under-

stood these ceremonies better, and endured them more patiently than either Cabul or Nedjeed would have done. After this ceremony, and a little more conversation with the dewan, the young officer, who was evidently a dandy of the first brilliancy in his own way, began to ride before me, shewing off his horse and horsemanship in all the usual manège of the East, curvetting, wheeling, galloping forwards, and stopping short. He did all this extremely well, but some of his followers in imitating him were not so skilful or so fortunate, and one of them got a pretty rude fall in crossing some of the deep ruts with which the road was intersected. This gave me a good excuse for desiring them to ride gently, a measure desirable on more accounts than one, since the dust was almost intolerable. About a mile further Mr. Williams met us, with several other gentlemen, and an escort of regular troopers, one of whom carried an union-jack before him, a custom which is common, he told me, in Guzerât and the Deckan, though not practised, as far as I have seen, in other parts of India. He told me that "his highness" had just left his palace as he passed the gate of the town, and that we should find him without the gates under some trees. We therefore quickened our pace as much as was compatible with the comfort of our attendants on foot, and with the movements of the suwarree elephant, who was, I found, considered as an essential part of the show, and was directed to follow me closely, though with an empty howdah. On the spot designated we found a numerous body of cavalry, camels, whose riders had each a large bundle of rockets, and infantry armed with matchlocks and swords, of whom a large proportion were Arabs. These troops made a long lane, at the end of which were seen several elephants, on one of which, equipped with more than usual splendour, I was told was the Maharaja. The whole shew greatly exceeded my expectations, and surpassed any thing of the kind which I had seen, particularly as being all Asiatic, without any of the European mixture visible in the ceremonies of the court of Lucknow. We here dismounted and advanced up the lane on foot, when different

successive parties of the principal persons of the city advanced to meet us, beginning with a young man whom Mr. Williams introduced to me as secretary to the Raja and son of the brahmin Vakeel Shastree, whom the Peishwa, Bajee Rao, murdered by the advice of Trimbukjee, and thence proceeding through the different gradations of bankers and financial men, military officers, (of whom many were Patans,) according to their ranks, Vakeels of foreign states, ministers, ending with the prime minister, (all of whom were brahmins) the Raja's brother-in-law, his nephew, a little boy of six years old, the Raja's brother, the heir-apparent, a child also of about six, and the Maharaja himself, a short stout-built young man, of twenty-seven years old. The usual forms of introduction and enquiries after health followed, and his Highness, after asking when I would come to see him, for which I fixed Monday evening, remounted his elephant, and we proceeded different ways into the city, which is large and populous, with tolerably wide streets and very high houses, at least for India, chiefly built of wood, which I had not seen for a long time, with tiled sloping roofs, and *rows* along the streets something like those of Chester. The palace, which is a large shabby building, close to the street, four stories high, with wooden galleries projecting over each other, is quite a specimen of this kind. There are some tolerable pagodas, but no other building which can be admired. The streets are dirty, with many swine running up and down, and no signs of wealth, though, as I was told, there was a good deal of its reality, both among the bankers and principal tradesmen. The Residency is a large ugly house without verandahs, and painted blue, as stuccoed houses sometimes are in England. It was at this time under repair, and Mr. Williams, with his sister, were encamped in a grove of mangoes about a mile from the city; our tents were pitched near his. In passing through the city I saw two very fine hunting tygers in silver chains, and a rhinoceros (the present of Lord Amherst to the Guicwar) which is so tame as to be ridden by a mohout, quite as patiently as an elephant. There were also some very

striking groupes of the native horsemen, who thronged the street like a fair; one of them, a very tall and large man on a powerful horse, was cased completely in chain armour, like the figure representing a crusader at the exhibition of ancient armour in Pall-Mall. He had also a long spear shod with silver, a very large shield of transparent rhinoceros-hide, also with silver studs, and was altogether a most shewy and picturesque cavalier. Many of the others had helmets, vant-braces, gauntlets, &c. but none were so perfectly armed as he was.

During our ride Mr. Williams introduced to me more particularly the officer with the splendid equipment who came to meet me, by the name of Namdar Khân, a native of Persia, and Commander of the Residency escort. He had been aide-du-camp to Sir John Malcolm during the Pindarree war, and was a man of very distinguished and desperate bravery, though, certainly, the greatest coxcomb, as he was also one of the handsomest young men I ever saw. Nothing could exceed the smartness of his embroidery, the spotless purity of his broad belts, the art with which his eyelids were blackened with antimony, his short curling beard, whiskers, and single love-lock, polished with rose-oil, or the more military and becoming polish of his sword, pistols, and dagger; he held his bridle with his right hand, having lost the other by the bursting of a gun. He had, however, an artificial hand made in Baroda, which, so far as show was concerned, and when covered like the other with a white military glove, did very well, but which enhanced the merit of its wearer's excellent horsemanship, since it must have made the management of his charger more difficult. In his instance, and in that of many other natives of rank who had been introduced to me this morning, I already perceived what I had afterwards abundant opportunity of observing, that they associated with Europeans and were treated by them on much more equality and familiarity than is usual in Hindostan. Some of this may arise from the frank and friendly manner which distinguishes Mr. Williams individually, as well as the unusual

fluency with which he speaks Hindoostanee. But I apprehend that more may be attributed to the lively temper and neglect of forms which are general among the Maharattas themselves, and which are remarkably opposed to the solemn gravity of a Mussulman court, as well as to the long and recent wars in which the Guicwar and the English have been allies, and in which the principal officers of both nations were forced into constant and friendly intercourse.

In the evening I drove out with Mr. and Miss Williams to see the cantonment and the Church. The former reminded me of one of the villages near London, having a number of small brick houses with trellis, wooden verandahs, sloping tiled roofs, and upper stories, each surrounded by a garden with a high green hedge of the milkbush. The effect is gay and pretty, but I doubt whether the style of architecture is so well suited to the climate as the common "up-country" bungalow, with a thatched roof and a deep verandah all over. The Church is a small but convenient and elegant Gothic building, accommodating about 400 persons extremely well, and raised at an expense of not more than 12,000 Bombay or 10,000 sicca rupees. House rent and building seem cheap on this side of India, but every thing else excessively dear. The best houses in Bombay may be got for 350 rupees a month, and the best house in Baroda cantonment for 50; on the other hand provisions are twice, and wages almost three times the rate usual in the upper provinces, and though fewer servants are kept, the diminution in this respect is not enough to make up the difference. Most of the household servants are Parsees, the greater part of whom speak English. They are of lighter complexion than the majority of their eastern neighbours, and in dress, features, and countenance, nearly resemble the Armenians. They are good waiters but less respectful, and I think less cleanly than their brethren in the east. Instead of "Koe hue," who's there? the way of calling a servant is "boy," a corruption, I believe, of "bhaee," brother.

The Bombay sepoy were long remarkable for their very low stature; at present they have had so many recruits from Hindostan that the difference is greatly removed, and their grenadier companies have a full proportion of tall men among them. Their battalion companies are, indeed, still under-sized. Nor have they, like the regiments in Hindostan, drawn recruits from the purer castes alone. Many of their number are Kholees, some are Boras, and no inconsiderable number Jews, of whom a great number is found on the coast of Cattywar, Cambay, &c. Their pay and allowances are considerably better than those of the Bengal Presidency, and, altogether, the taller men among them have more the appearance of English troops than even the fine strapping soldiers of Hindostan. They are said, indeed, to fall far short of these in sobriety and peaceable temper and obedience to their officers. In bravery they are surpassed by no troops in the world, and this is fortunate, since no army can have a more troublesome country to manage.

The Guicwar is said to be a man of talent, who governs his states himself, his minister having very little weight with him, and governs them well and vigorously. His error is too great a fondness for money, but as he found the state involved in debt, even this seems excuseable. His territory is altogether considerable, both in Cutch, Cattywar, and Guzerât, though strangely intersected and cut up by the territories of Britain, Sindia, and several independant Rajas. Those of Lunewarra and Doongurpoor, which used to hold of Sindia, now pay him tribute also, as do the Rajas of Palhanpoor and Cattywar. Still his income, amounting to no less than eighty lacks, or, nearly, £800,000, exceeds greatly any thing which might have been expected from the surface under his rule, and the wild and jungly nature of some parts of it, and can only be accounted for by the remarkable population and fertility of those districts which are really productive. Out of these revenues he has only 3000 irregular horse to pay, his subsidiary force being provided for out of the ceded territory, and he is therefore, pro-

tably, in more flourishing circumstances, and possesses more real power than any sovereign of India except Runjeet Singh. Sindia, and, perhaps, the Raja of Mysore, might have been excepted, but the former, though with three times his extent of territory, has a very imperfect controul over the greater part of it, and, indeed, cannot govern his own house: and the latter is, apparently, intent on nothing but amusing himself, and wasting his income on costly follies of state coaches and gimcracks, to which the Guicwar wisely prefers the manner of living usual with his ancestors.

On *Sunday, March 20*, I consecrated the church, preached, and administered the sacrament. The chaplain is Mr. Keays, a young man who is well spoken of, and seems to like his situation; he and his family have as yet enjoyed good health, though Guzerât is reckoned one of the worst climates in India, being intensely hot the greater part of the year, with a heavy thickness of atmosphere which few people can endure. It is in the same latitude with Calcutta, and seems to be what Bengal would be without the glorious Ganges.

March 21.—The morning of this day I was busily employed in preparing for the discharge of all my Hindoostanee people, who were impatient to return, together with their elephants and camels. Mr. Williams kindly assured me that all necessary aids of the sort would be forthcoming from the commissariat.

In the evening we went in all the state which we could muster, to pay our visit to the Guicwar, who received us, with the usual Eastern forms, in a long narrow room, approached by a very mean and steep stair-case. The hall itself was hung with red cloth, adorned with a great number of paltry English prints, lamps, and wall-shades, and with a small fountain in the centre. At the upper end were cushions piled on the ground as his Highness's musnud, with chairs placed in a row on his left hand for the Resident and his party. The evening went off in the usual form, with Nâch girls, Persian musicians, &c. and the only things particularly worthy of notice were, that his Highness went through the form of giving

the Resident and myself a private audience in his own study, a little hot room up sundry pair of stairs, with a raised sofa, a punkah, and other articles of European comfort, as well as two large mirrors, a print of Buonaparte, and another of the duke of Wellington. He there shewed me a musical snuff-box with a little bird, in which he seemed to take much pride, and an imperfect but handsome copy of the Shah Nameh, of which he desired me to accept. The rest of our conversation consisted of enquiries after the Governor General, the war, the distance from Calcutta, and other such princely topics, till, a reasonable time for our consultation having elapsed, we returned down stairs again. The next thing that struck me was the manner in which the heir apparent, the little boy before mentioned, made his appearance in the durbar, announced by nearly the same acclamations as his father, and salaming, as he advanced, to the persons of rank, with almost equal grace, and more than equal gravity. After bending very low, and touching the ground before his father's seat, he went up to Mr. Williams with the appearance of great pleasure, climbed upon his knee, and asked him for a pencil and paper with which he began to scribble much like my own dear little girl. The third circumstance I remarked was the general unconstrained, and even lively conversation which was carried on between the Raja, his courtiers, and Mr. Williams, who talked about their respective hunting feats, the merits of their elephants, &c., much as, *mutatis mutandis*, a party in England might have done. The Raja was anxious to know whether I had observed his rhinoceros, and his hunting tygers, and offered to shew me a day's sport with the last, or to bait an elephant for me, a cruel amusement which is here not uncommon. He had a long rallying dispute with one of the Thakoors as to an elephant which, the Raja said, the Thakoor had promised to give him for this sport; and I do not think he understood my motives for declining to be present at it. A Mussulman, however, who sat near him, seemed pleased by my refusal, said it was "very good," and asked me if any of the English clergy attended such sports. I

said it was a maxim with most of us to do no harm to any creature needlessly ; which was, he said, the doctrine of their learned men also. Mr. Williams told me that this sort of conversation, which was very little disturbed by the most strenuous efforts which the poor singers and dancing-girls could make to attract attention, was characteristic of a Maharatta durbar, and that he had known the most serious business carried on by fits and starts in the midst of all this seeming levity. At last, about eight o'clock, the Raja told us that he would keep us from our dinner no longer ; and the usual presents were brought in, which were, however, much more valuable than any which I had seen, and evidently of a kind, very few of which were within the compass of my redeeming from the Company. About nine we got back to dinner, hungry enough, and a little tired, but for my own part both amused and interested.

The Raja offered to return my visit next day ; but, knowing that Tuesday is, in the estimation of all Hindoos, unlucky, I named Wednesday in preference, telling him my reason. He answered very politely, that he should account every day lucky in which he had the opportunity of cultivating my acquaintance, but was evidently well pleased. He had already, out of civility, and in consequence of being informed that I received no visits on Sunday, waved one prejudice in my favour ; since the day on which I arrived, being the last day of their month, was one on which he usually never stirred from home.

I forgot to mention that before breakfast this morning I rode to see a tomb in the neighbourhood, of tolerable Mussulman architecture, but much dilapidated, and really not worth dismounting for. Its apparent estimation in the eyes of the inhabitants of Baroda, gave me but an humble idea of the ruins of Ahmedabad.

March 22.—I was busy all day writing, and have nothing particular to record, except that the hot wind had now set in very decidedly, and was oppressive, though in my own tent, and by the help of tatties, I escaped better than most people. A tent, overshadowed as mine fortunately is by thick trees, is an excellent

house for such weather, and better than any rooms in the small house which, during the day time, Mr. and Miss Williams occupy. But the English of this Presidency do not seem to manage the hot weather so well as those of Bengal and Hindostan.

March 23.—Several of the principal Thakoors of the court, as well as some Patan military chiefs, and some wealthy shroffs of the city, sent messages to Mr. Williams to express a desire to call on me, and become better acquainted than was possible at a public Durbar. This was a sort of interest, Mr. Williams said, which he had never known them shew before; and he therefore proposed that I should give up the morning to see native company, good-naturedly promising to stay with me, both to introduce my visitors, and to help my imperfect knowledge of the language. About twenty persons called, comprising the greater part of those to whom I had been introduced the day of my arrival. Three of them were very young men, or rather boys, the sons of the late minister, Shastree, who, as I have already stated, was assassinated at Poonah by the suggestion of Trimbukjee. The youngest, a very fine and interesting lad, was learning English, which he spoke very well and with but little foreign accent. I asked him what English work he studied, and he answered, "I am reading the book of *Elegant Extracts*." His tutor is a Parsee. Some little time since he had picked up, Mr. Williams said, a New Testament, and read it with delight; till his Brahmin Gooroo, finding the nature of the book, took it from him. This is the first instance of such jealousy which has fallen in my way, and for this, I suspect that the insinuations of the Parsee tutor (all of whose nation are very suspicious about Christianity,) were rather to blame than the prejudices of the simple Hindoo. I hope to send him another book from Bombay, which may offend prejudice less, and yet may eventually, by God's blessing, be of some use to him.

There were two or three Patans who asked many questions about the present state of Rohilcund, and listened with great interest to the account which I gave them of the improvements

making and intended to be made at Bareilly, the repair of Hafez Behmut's tomb, and the appropriation of the town duties to these and other local purposes. One of these men, who holds a high military command, but whose name has escaped me, was a relation to the tusseeldar of Futtehgunge, and a very well-bred and sensible man. He came earliest and sate longest, and, from his pure Hindoostanee, I understood him the best of the whole party. He, and another of his countrymen, gave me very affectionate embraces at parting, saying, "Do not forget Rohilcund and Guzerât." Fond as they seemed of the former country, they did not appear to have any intention of returning thither. A Cuttywar Raja asked much about Meru and Badrinâth, and meandered on, at some length, about Indra's Heaven which lay beyond them. I did not understand much of his story, which was at length cut short by some contemptuous ejaculations of his Mussulman neighbour from Rohilcund, who said that he remembered the hills very well, but that all this was nonsense. Mr. Williams observed that the Lord Sahib had also seen "Kâf." "Aye," said the Mussulman, "those *are* famous hills! There is the Mount Al Judi (Ararat) and the Ark of Huzrut Noah (St. Noah) may be seen there to this day. There are also Hajiuge and Majiuge (Gog and Magog)." I told him that I had seen Kâf, but had not been so far as Mount Ararat; though I believed that the "burra Sahib" (Mr. Williams) had seen it, which he confirmed, having been in Persia with Sir John Malcolm; but that I had seen Kâf from Russia, which lay on the other side. Another Mussulman here expressed a surprise, which was both natural and shewed his intelligence. "Did you see it in this journey? I thought that both Kâf and Russia were a very great distance from any part of Hindostan." I explained to him, of course, where my former travels had been, and found that he was well acquainted with the names both of Russia and Ustumboul, which last he explained, of his own accord, to be "Cunstuntinoopla," though he did not seem to know much about their relative situations. This was a young

man, whom the other called "Nawâb," but whose name I could not catch. He asked after "Duke Wellington," and said that his father had been well-known to him during the war in the Deckan. Mr. Williams asked the Cuttywar Raja some questions respecting a new sect of Hindoos which had arisen in his neighbourhood, and which he told me at the same time, in English, that this Raja had attempted to put down by force of arms, but had not been allowed to do so. He answered in rather a fretful tone, that "there were too many of them," and in reply to a question, what their religion was?—that "they had no religion at all, but a hatred of their superiors, and of all lawful authority." I asked this orthodox old gentleman if he could give me any information about the vagabond pilgrims whom I met near Gurmukteser, and who described themselves as coming from the neighbourhood of Ahmedabad. He said that by my account of them they were not true Hindoos; but that there were many wild people in the district who professed a sort of Hindooism. Those whom I encountered were probably pilgrims; and if I had drawn a line in the sand across their path, they would have been obliged to go round one of its extremities, not daring to step over it. I asked if the character which they bore of being "Thugs," was deserved? He seemed never to have heard of the name, which was, however, perfectly understood by the Patans. I conclude, therefore, that the practice is not so common in these provinces as it is said to be further North.

About sun-set the Raja came in state, and was received accordingly by Mr. Williams in a very large dinner tent, where nearly the same forms took place (*mutatis mutandis*) as occurred during my visit to him. The little boy was put on my knee to-day, partly, I believe, as a compliment, and partly to give the Guicwar an opportunity of talking over some private business with Mr. Williams, (as I afterwards learned) whom he informed in a low voice, that he had a daughter a year older than this little boy, whom, consequently, it was high time he should bestow in marriage;

that he had an excellent match for her in the son of a Raja in the Deckan, but that he had no money to pay the necessary expences ; and hoped, therefore, that the Government would join him in a security for five lacs of rupees, in order that he might obtain them at more reasonable interest than he could otherwise hope to do. Mr. Williams, in the same voice, told him that the Government, he much feared, would never consent to such a measure ; on which the Raja came down in his request to four and even three lacs, his wish to obtain which last sum Mr. Williams promised to transmit to Government. This, Mr. Williams afterwards told me, is a specimen of the way in which important business was often introduced and discussed in the midst of crowds and ceremonial parties. On my observing that the wish to obtain money did not tally with all which I had heard of the Raja's wealth and covetousness, he answered that the Raja always distinguished his personal savings from the national property ; that he expected his daughter to be portioned out by the state ; but that if he could get sufficient security, he was able and likely, under a borrowed name, himself to lend the money. While this conversation was going on, I was doing my best to entertain my little friend, to whom, in addition to the present destined for him on account of the Company, I gave a huge native coloured drawing on vellum, of the Howa Mahil at Jyepoor, with which he seemed greatly pleased, and which, by the explanation of the different objects which it contained, afforded more conversation than it would have been otherwise easy for me to keep up with him, though he was really a lively and forward boy. He was fond of riding both horses and elephants, but the " Sircar," Sovereign, (meaning his father) had not yet taken him out hunting. He had begun to read and write in Maharatta, but in no other language, and was fonder of drawing pictures than letters, the same word, " likna," being used both for drawing and writing. His father, who engaged as he was on the other side, contrived very dexterously to bestow all necessary attention on me, bid him ask me about my journey, but I do not think he knew

any of the names of places which I mentioned, except, perhaps, Calcutta and Delhi. All the rest of the world was, in his vocabulary, "Belattee."

There was a good deal of Persian singing and instrumental music, the character of which does not seem a want of harmony, but dullness and languor. The airs were sung sotto voce; the instruments, chiefly guitars, were low-toned and struck in a monotonous manner; and the effect intended to be produced seemed rather repose and luxurious languor, than any more ardent or animated feeling. One man, a native of Lucknow, had a good natural voice, and two of the women sang prettily. The tunes had first parts only. The Nâch women were, as usual, ugly, huddled up in huge bundles of red petticoats; and their exhibition as dull and insipid to an European taste as could well be conceived. In fact nobody in the room seemed to pay them any attention, all being engaged in conversation, though in an under voice, and only with their near neighbours. About eight the Raja went away; and we sate down to dinner, but not till I had discovered that the greater part of the camels which the Raja had promised to lend me for my journey had not yet arrived, and that it would be impossible for me to send off, as I had intended, my baggage and servants that night. I now regretted that I had dismissed the Hindoostanee elephants and camels, but there was no use in repining.

March 25.—This morning Dr. Smith and I were up at four o'clock, and, with a good deal of exertion, succeeded in assembling the camels and bearers and fairly setting our servants on their way. We ourselves remained till the evening, and then set off to join the camp. Archdeacon Barnes accompanied me, and Mr. Williams and several other gentlemen rode out with me three or four miles to a boolee, at which I found, to my surprise that, in addition to the four Bombay troopers whom he had sent me before, we were joined by Bappoojee Maharatta (his Dewan) with six silver sticks and spear-men, and above fifty Guicwar horse, with their standard

and nagari. I pleaded that these were really unnecessary, considering the numerous guard of sepoy, fifty men, whom I had sent on with the baggage. He answered, however, that though less might in Hindostan, here these outward forms were both desirable and necessary! To this I could say nothing, and proceeded on my march; though I could not help thinking that since the days of Thomas a Becket or Cardinal Wolsey, an English Bishop had seldom been so formidably attended. From Mr. Williams I had received in every respect very gratifying attention and kindness; and it was a great satisfaction to me to know that he intended to visit Bombay at the same time with myself, and that my dear wife also would know and like him.

Our road for about eight miles lay over a highly cultivated country, with many round-topped trees and high green hedges; the villages, which were numerous, were all more in the European than the Indian style; and, to complete the likeness, had large stacks of hay in their neighbourhood piled up and thatched like those in England. The custom of keeping hay as fodder does not exist in any other part of India which I have seen, but is here universal. As day closed we left the open country, and entered some extremely deep and narrow ravines, with sides of crumbling earth, the convexity of which was evidently the work of the waters of the monsoon in their annual course to the Mhye. The summits of these steep banks were overgrown with brushwood; nor could a more favourable place be desired to favour the spring of a tyger, or the arrows of an ambushed band of robbers. Our numbers, our noise, and the torches which some of the servants carried during this part of our journey, were enough, I should conceive, to keep either description of ferocious animals at a distance. Both kinds, however, are very abundant along the banks of the Mhye and in its neighbourhood; passengers had been very recently stopped and plundered here by Bheels; and two months ago a tyger had carried off a man, from a numerous convoy of artillery on its march to Kairah. On the whole, as one of the party observed, "on a road

like this, and in such a country, too many guards were better than too few." After about four miles and a half of this kind of road, we arrived on the banks of the Mhye, high, precipitous, and woody, with a broad bright stream, in spite of all the recent drought, wandering in a still wider bed of gravel and sand. Here too I found that the watchful kindness of Mr. Williams had provided for us, in giving notice of my coming to the Collector of the Kairah district, who had sent some fishermen acquainted with the ford, and a body of Bheels in the pay of the police, to assist us in crossing, and guide us to the encampment, which was about three miles further at a village named Wasnud.

Nothing could be more picturesque than this "passage of the Granicus." The moon was sufficiently bright to shew the wild and woodland character of the landscape, and the brightness and ripple of the water, without overpowering the effect of the torches as they issued from the wood, and the other torches which our guides carried, and which shone on groupes of men, horses, and camels, as wild and singular as were ever assembled in the fancy of a Salvator Rosa. I thought of Walter Scott's account of the salmon fishing; but this show exceeded that as much as the naked limbs, platted elf-locks, and loose mantles of the Bheels, with their bows, arrows, and swords, the polished helmets of our regular troopers, the broad, brocaded, swallow-tailed banner of the Guicwar, and the rude but gorgeous chivalry of his cavaliers on long-tailed horses and in long cotton caftans, their shields behind their backs, their battle-axes pendent from their saddle-bows, and long spears or harquebuzes with lighted matches over their shoulders, surpassed the most picturesque assortment of hodden grey, blue bonnets, and fish-spears. The water, though broad, was no where deep. It ran, however, with a brisker stream than from having seen its exhausted condition nearer to its source I had expected. But on this side of Cheeta Talao it receives many other mountain-streams; and some of these, it is reasonable to suppose, have escaped better in the general drought, and saved the

credit of their suzerain before his appearance in the court of Neptune.

We arrived at Wasnud heartily tired both man and beast; the heat of the day had been intense, and our evening march had led us through places where no breeze blew; my little Arab horse Nedjeed, as soon as he saw the comfortable bed of straw provided for him, sunk down on it like a dog, and was asleep before the saddle was well off his back. The Bheels were to be our watchmen as well as guides; and their shrill calls from one to the other were heard all night. We were told not to be surprised at this choice, since these poor thieves are, when trusted, the trustiest of men, and of all sentries the most wakeful and indefatigable. They and the Kholees, a race almost equally wild, are uniformly preferred in Guzerât for the service of the police, and as durwâns to gentlemen's houses and gardens. All such persons are here called sepoys, and with more accuracy than the regular troops, inasmuch as their weapons are still really the bow and arrow, "sip," whence the Asiatic soldier derives his appellation.

March 25.—We resumed our march at the usual hour, and went, through a well-cultivated, enclosed, and prettily wooded country, eleven miles to Emaad, a small village with a large tank not quite dry. In our way we were met by twenty of the Chuprassees, or, to use the language of the country, the sepoys, of the Collector Mr. Williamson, all of the Kholee caste, rather short but broad-set and muscular men, with a harshness, not to say ferocity, in the countenances of many of them which remarkably differed from the singularly mild and calm physiognomy usually met with in the other side of India. They were well and smartly dressed in green and scarlet kirtles, with black turbans, had every man his small round buckler and sheaf of arrows at his back, his sword and dagger by his side, and long bow in his hand, and excepting in their dusky complexions, were no bad representatives of Robin Hood and his sturdy yeomen. About half-way we were overtaken by Mr. Williamson himself,

who rode with us to our camp, as did also Captain Ovans, who was encamped near and employed in taking a survey of the country. This gentleman brought with him some specimens of his maps, which are extremely minute, extending to the smallest details usually expressed in the survey of a gentleman's property in England, with a copious field book, and a particular statement of the average number of farms, tanks, hills, orchards, &c. in each townland. The execution of the maps is very neat, and their drawing said to be wonderfully accurate; though the mapping, measurement, and angles are, as well as the drawing, by native assistants. All which Captain Ovans seems to do is generally to superintend their operations, to give them instructions in cases of difficulty, to notice any error which he may discover in their calculations, and to cover with ink and finish for the inspection of Government the maps which they delineate in pencil. Their neatness, delicacy, and patience in the use of the different instruments and the pencil, he spoke of as really extraordinary; and he was no less satisfied with their intelligence, acuteness, and readiness in the acquisition of the necessary degree of mathematical science. From these gentlemen I gleaned several interesting facts about the inhabitants of this country.

Its wilder parts are pretty generally occupied by the Bheels, concerning whom I am able to add little to what I said before. The other and more settled inhabitants are either Mussulmans, of whom the number is but small; Hindoo bunyans; Rajpoots of a degenerate description, and chiefly occupied in cultivating the soil; Maharattas, who are not by any means numerous except in and about the Guicwar's court; and Kholees, or, as they are pretty generally called, Coolies. These last form perhaps two-thirds of the population, and are considered by public men in Guzerât as the original inhabitants of the country, a character which, I know not why, they refuse to the Bheels, who here, as in Malwah, seem to have the best title to it. I suspect, indeed, myself, that the Coolies are only civilized Bheels, who have laid aside some of the

wild habits of their ancestors, and who have learned, more particularly, to conform in certain respects, such as abstinence from beef, &c. to their Hindoo neighbours. They themselves pretend to be descended from the Rajpoots, but this is a claim continually made by wild and warlike tribes all over India, and it is made, more particularly, by the Puharree villagers at the foot of Rajmahal who have embraced the Hindoo religion; and that the Coolies themselves do not believe their claim, is apparent from the fact that they neither wear the silver badge, nor the red turban. Be this as it may, they are acknowledged by the Hindoos as their kindred, which the Bheels never are; and though their claim of being children of the sun is not allowed by the Rajpoots who live among them, there have been instances in which intermarriages have taken place between Maharattas of high rank and the families of some of their most powerful chieftains.

Their ostensible and, indeed, their chief employment, is agriculture, and they are said to be often industrious farmers and labourers, and, while kindly treated, to pay their rent to Government as well, at least, as their Rajpoot neighbours. They live, however, under their own Thakoors, whose authority alone they willingly acknowledge, and pay little respect to the laws, unless when it suits their interest, or they are constrained by the presence of an armed force. In other respects they are one of the most turbulent and predatory tribes in India, and with the Bheels, make our tenure of Guzerât more disturbed, and the maintenance of our authority more expensive there, than in any other district of the Eastern empire. The cutcherries, and even the dwelling-houses of the civil servants of the Company, are uniformly placed within, instead of without, the cities and towns, a custom ruinous to health and comfort, but accounted a necessary precaution against the desperate attacks to which they might otherwise be liable. The magistrates and collectors have a larger force of armed men in their employ than any others of the same rank whom I have met with; and the regular troops, and even the European

cavalry are continually called out against them. Yet in no country are the roads so insecure,—in none are forays and plundering excursions of every kind more frequent; or a greater proportion of, what would be called in Europe, the gentry and landed proprietors addicted to acts of violence and bloodshed. In these plundering parties they often display a very desperate courage; and it is to their honour, that, rude and lawless as they are, they do not apparently delight in blood for its own sake, and neither mutilate, torture, nor burn the subjects of their cupidity or revenge, like the far worse “decoits” of Bengal and Ireland.

They are hardy, stout men, particularly those of the Catteywar and Cutch districts. Their usual dress is a petticoat round the waist, like that of the Bheels, and a cotton cloth wrapped round their heads and shoulders, which, when they wish to be smart, they gather up into a very large white turban. In cold weather, or when drest, they add a quilted cotton kirtle, or “lebada,” over which they wear a shirt of mail, with vaunt-braces and gauntlets, and never consider themselves as fit to go abroad without a sword, buckler, bow and arrows, to which their horsemen add a long spear and battle-axe. The cotton lebada is generally stained and iron-moulded by the mail shirt, and, as might be expected, these marks, being tokens of their martial occupation, are reckoned honourable, insomuch that their young warriors often counterfeit them with oil or soot, and do their best to get rid as soon as possible of the burgher-like whiteness of a new dress. This is said to be the real origin of the story told by Hamilton, that the Coolies despise and revile all cleanly and decent clothing as base and effeminate. In other respects they are fond of finery; their shields are often very handsome, with silver bosses, and composed of rhinoceros hide; their battle-axes richly inlaid, and their spears surrounded with many successive rings of silver. Their bows are like those of the Bheels, but stronger, and in better order; and their arrows are carried in a quiver of red and embroidered leather. In their marauding expeditions they often

use great secrecy, collecting in the night at the will of some popular chieftain, communicated generally by the circulation of a certain token; known only to those concerned, like the fiery cross of the Scottish Highlanders. They frequently leave their families in complete ignorance as to where or why they are going; and the only way in which, should one of their number fall in battle, the survivors communicate his loss to his widow or parents, is by throwing before his door some sprigs of the peepul, plucked and disposed in a particular form.

On other occasions, however, their opposition to law has been sufficiently open and daring. The districts of Cutch and Catteywar have ever been, more or less, in a state of rebellion; and neither the Regency of the former state, nor the Guicwar, as feudal sovereign of the latter, nor the English Government in the districts adjoining to both which are under their controul, have ever got through a year without one or more sieges of different forts or fastnesses.

Some good had been done, Mr. Williamson said, among many of these wild people, by the preaching and popularity of the Hindoo reformer, Swaamee Narain, who had been mentioned to me at Baroda. His morality was said to be far better than any which could be learned from the Shaster. He preached a great degree of purity, forbidding his disciples so much as to look on any woman whom they passed. He condemned theft and bloodshed; and those villages and districts, which had received him, from being among the worst, were now among the best and most orderly in the provinces. Nor was this all, insomuch as he was said to have destroyed the yoke of caste,—to have preached one God, and, in short, to have made so considerable approaches to the truth, that I could not but hope he might be an appointed instrument to prepare the way for the Gospel.

While I was listening with much interest to Mr. Williamson's account of this man, six persons came to the tent, four in the dress of peasants or bunyans, one, a young man, with a large white