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EDMUND LODER

NATURALIST, HORTICULTURIST,
TRAVELLER AND SPORTSMAN

A MEMOIR

BY SIR ALFRED E. PEASE, BT.

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WITH CONTRIBUTIONS BY

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WITH A PORTRAIT

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easily do. . . . Very little is known of Summatra except perhaps to the Dutch officials."¹

Loder had gone to Sumatra in the hope of getting elephants and rhinoceros. The Sumatran rhinoceros (*R. [ceratorhinus] sumatrensis*) is the only Asiatic rhinoceros with two horns, and, though differing from the African, is probably one of the intermediate forms between African and Asian species. With local variations it is found in the Malay Peninsula, Borneo, Burma, and into Assam. A distinct one-horned variety is found in Java (*R. sondaicus*) and also I believe in Eastern Bengal, Assam, and the Malay Peninsula. I possess a description with plates of the Sumatran rhinoceros by a Mr. William Bell (read before the Royal Society?), January 10th, 1793, "which was shot with a leaden ball from a musket about 10 miles from Fort Marlborough." There is also a Sumatran tapir found in Wellington Province. In this letter from Labuan Loder gives a description of his *Penang* experiences when he stayed with Mr. Mackay.

The view from Penang Hill

"is certainly one of the most varied and beautiful I have ever seen. The foliage in the foreground is splendid; then below the town and shipping, steamers, barks, Malay and

¹ I am under the impression that the British and subsequent Dutch campaigns in Sumatra lasted continuously for some fifty years, and that up to the end of the last century the interior was largely unconquered and unknown. I travelled in the late nineties with General Sir Power Palmer, then Commander-in-Chief in India; and telling him that one or two of my Dutch friends had been killed in these wars and that I could not understand why the Dutch did not finish it off, he gave me a most extraordinary account of the fighting there hitherto and of the insuperable difficulties of jungle and climate. As a young soldier he had fought in Sumatra; the British forces then were a most curious and mixed crowd, armed with all sorts of weapons and muzzle-loaders. The fighting took place in dense jungle and forest, and was always hand-to-hand or close-range fighting of the most appallingly sanguinary description. I think he said in all the many fights he took part in 100 yards was the outside distance separating the combatants. This went on continually from year to year during the months when campaigning was possible, and between each campaign the paths cleared and jungle broken through the year before were re choked with jungle and the foe only reached by doing the work over again.

Chinese junks, a finely coloured sea (at night more brilliantly phosphorescent than any other), and only a mile or so across is the land of the Malay Peninsula, on which not far away is a sharp peaked hill, 5,500 feet high, and then again beyond one or two high ranges of mountains (unmeasured, but from 9,000 to 11,000 ft.)—then scattered about in the straits are several lovely coloured, small, irregular-shaped islands, so that, though there is nothing *grand* about it, it is as charming a bit of scenery as one can imagine."

He gives also an account of an extraordinary rainbow and sunset he saw from the garden of Government House when with the Colonel and Mrs. Anson. "We saw on this evening some of the most vivid *greens* I ever remember to have seen in a sky."

He got to *Labuan* in a very dirty tug-boat crowded with coolies and natives. He is not at all welcomed by the Chief Resident Official at that time, the Comptroller, and does not know where on earth to put up, but gets into a Chinese shop with a fellow-passenger.

"I had my own bedding and mosquito curtains with me, so could manage almost anywhere; my boy (Chinese) cooked us a dinner and at night we slept over the shop in a storeroom amid all sorts of curious smells, still I slept very well. . . . I have slept in many curious places, but none more so than this. On a bunk close to my side slept one Chinaman, in another were two Chinamen smoking opium, further away slept two more dittos, and my boy and one or two more slept on the floor mixed up with all kinds of curious stores. I don't much care about this sort of thing, and want to get out of the place for many reasons. I want to see the country and get some shooting . . . the water here is very bad and cholera has been common enough."

He makes a sound remark about cholera: "The Sultan has forbidden fruit to be sold, but I think he would have done better to have enforced the use of filters," for when water is well boiled and filtered and *all* food thoroughly cooked cholera disappears at once. For days he makes efforts. He gets no further forward with the Dutch Comptroller:

"I tried him all ways, but he beat me. He does not look as if he ever had been or could be in a hurry or understand how anybody else can—he sees people on business from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. and then I think sleeps the rest of the day."

The days pass and the delay "is against the grain altogether," yet he finds plenty to admire in foliage and scenery and mountains in his daily walks along the only road—he remarks on sky-blue and scarlet mud crabs.

"I have always thought that there were two species of rhinoceros here, one with a single horn and the other with two." He questions the natives—"they do not seem to know anything about a double-horned one, but speak of black and white ones, both single horned. The white they call the 'tiger rhinoceros' because he is so savage, and they say he will charge as soon as he smells a man. There are also said to be lots of bears, also quantities of 'wild pigs' and deer. It is astonishing how much game there is said to be in a country just before one gets there."

After a week's fretting the Asst. Resident, Mr. Halewijn, and the Sultan of Deli turn up, and the former invites him to stay with him, and his immediate troubles are at an end; and hope rises, for the Sultan has ordered a Chief Deli Toewa with ten of his men to take him and his baggage into an elephant country. The Chief is half Malay and half Batack. The Hill Batacks are still cannibal and he fears he will not be allowed into their country. But the Chief sends a message back that "he wants four days and that his mother has died of cholera," so Mr. Halewijn gives him a pony and seven convicts to get him to Godong Djohore, where he sees the Chief, who says he never received or sent any message and made out that he had *only two men!* Loder armed with authority told him to send his men into the jungle to look for signs of elephant. He thinks nothing was done, but two or three days after the Chief sends a message that they had been a *long way* and had found no traces of elephants. Loder at last

horses, milch goats and sheep. About half-way across at a place the name of which amused Loder very much, and which he has transcribed into his diary—Beluljoogieban-i-waabaa-adoh-dahadodi—he makes a characteristic note :

“ To save the three buckets of water which forty men have to boil their rice in we gave them six sheep last night and gave the water to the five ponies. The sheep are worth about Rs. 5 each, so that the water comes out at about 1s. 8d. a gallon.”

The sixth day we had been told we should reach Darror, and the seventh day was a day of great anxiety. However, on arriving at Darror on the seventh day we found there was still a depth of some three inches of green, slimy water round which the warlike tribe of the Rer Ali Ogaden had pitched their karias. Some 400 of their camels were standing in the pool, their women washing their tobés ; and our delight at seeing the water was somewhat tempered when we realised that for many days to come we should have to drink it and cook with it. By repeated boilings and skimmings after precipitating with alum and filtering we obtained a fairly clear tasteless liquid. It is a curious fact, which Loder and I assured ourselves of, that the natives can drink the most stagnant, putrid and contaminated water without any risk of bad results. They appear to be immune from all forms of enteric, typhoid and dysentery arising from dirty water, though they may drink the filthiest for months. Whether this is acquired and hereditary immunity, or resistance developed from the healthiness of their lives and the simplicity of their diet (which in the interior is *entirely* animal) of camels' milk and occasional mutton or camel, it is difficult to say.

We worked westward through Ogaden, getting lions and rhinoceros, and reached Milmil. There were few natives about, but we were told by them that there was an Englishman in the Tug Sulul, about three days distant in the direction we were bound for, but that he had been attacked by Habasha (Abyssinians) and some of his men made prisoners.

We sent forward scouts, who returned in a few days with the information that the Englishman had gone back to the coast. We knew that it must be Greenfield, as he was the only man out in these parts. Later we had the true version, but at the time we were uneasy. Greenfield had really made our course easier, for after rescuing his men he had made peace with the Abyssinians and extracted a promise that they would show kindness to "any people of his tribe" they might meet. Included in our instructions from Colonel Ferris was one that we were carefully to avoid contact with Abyssinian posts (the Italians were at war in 1896 with Abyssinia), so we went forward. Meanwhile when camped at Gagab we saw the most wonderful meteor any of us had ever observed. I have noted that I could trace its broad track of fire, "which did not entirely fade out for something like a quarter of an hour." Loder, however, says :

"Saw a splendid meteor after dinner this evening (January 19th). It started near the Pleiades, nearly overhead, and came down within a short distance of the horizon (east). It left a bright trail which could be seen for some minutes, perhaps five or six."

On reaching the Deghabur Tug we found natives, but in a pitiable condition, having just been looted by the Habasha. Thence we marched by Sabatti Waine, an isolated hill near which Delamere had been mauled by a lion a year or two previously. One of our men who spoke English pointed out the spot to us with a grin of satisfaction, exclaiming, "*I* there when he bite him."

On reaching the hills of Horo-abdulleh beyond the Tug Fafan and after crossing the Sibi desert we found Grevy's zebra very numerous indeed, and in spite of our scheming ran up against the Abyssinians. I was out hunting one day in what we thought was entirely uninhabited country when suddenly I saw coming down a Tug in a cloud of dust some hundreds of cattle and sheep. I asked my Midgan shikari, "What does this mean?" He looked at me and said "Habasha"—and added "with loot." Then he added

with glee, "See, the Habasha have seen us and are running away," and I saw two Abyssinians with their rifles legging it through the bush. My feelings were different to my men's, who only saw an immense windfall of loot, and vistas of beef and mutton for months ahead. Failing to overtake the fugitives, we drove the cattle to camp and held a council of war. We decided to track up the Abyssinians, who no doubt would make for the base military post (at Melka Degahamadou) and report we had looted them. Much to the disappointment of our men, after having watered the cattle we sent them with an escort and one of my shikaris who spoke Harari and Amharic to Melka Degahamadou. All's well that ends well, for on Loder and my coming into camp the next afternoon we found my wife on the most friendly terms with two Abyssinian officers whom she was regaling with the best our stores afforded. Exactly what we foresaw had happened: the fugitives had reported we had looted them, but their lie was proved, for in a few hours every head of cattle and sheep arrived. The Abyssinians were very proud of their rifles; they were all armed with the 1894 Italian magazine rifle, part of the loot after the awful disaster to the Italian Army at Adowa. One of the officers had been perforated by Italian bullets at the battles of Macalle and Adowa, and gave us an interesting account of his adventures.

In the Dahato Valley we reached well-watered plains with numerous karias and herds of camels, cattle and sheep in the green grass, but it was also a sportsman's paradise. There were many elephants, rhinoceros and herds of Grevy's zebra all round, and the fly country of Bourka was uninhabited and full of game. We had killed an elephant and several rhinoceros, when we received a message by "running camel" from the authorities ordering our immediately putting ourselves in touch with Berbera, and instructing us to avoid recrossing the Haud by ordinary routes. With this most exasperating news there was another thunderbolt, namely, that I had been elected M.P. for Cleveland.

So back we marched, and after some rather alarming

experiences with the not too friendly Rer Ali—now assembled at Milmil, and who informed us “*the Turks were at Hargaisa and at Berbera*”—we made preparations for the waterless march north, off any known track. We crossed the Haud in nine days and on the last day in February struck Awbahadleh and water. The rest of our time in Somaliland was spent in the Western Golis and in pretty camps about Argan.

Any number of extracts from Loder's diaries could be given, but there is a similarity in the experiences of travellers and sportsmen which makes me hesitate in giving any further account of our adventures. It is, however, worth while noting experiences which correct the generalisation of other writers. I have more than once seen it stated that wart-hogs never charge. I have several times been viciously charged by them in Somaliland and Abyssinia and I saw Mr. Harold Hill, with a very neat shot, bowl over a wart-hog which deliberately, and from a long distance in the open Kapiti Plains near Chumbi, had charged straight for my wife.

Here is one of Loder's entries :

“ At Hagal, February 17th, 1897, saw a big koodoo at 7 a.m. Soon afterwards at the foot of a steep hill, in thick bush, we heard grunting, and at first I thought it might be a rhino, but the noise changed to a kind of low roar and the men said ‘Lion.’ It was quite close, just behind the first bush, not ten yards off and above us. I did not much like the position. It sounded as if it were a lioness with her cubs or a lion disturbed at his meal. I changed (.577) hollow-point bullet for solid and moved forward : as soon as I moved there was a crash in the bush and the animal came in sight not five yards off—it was a wart-hog ! I gave him one in the ribs as he galloped by, and immediately another one came *at us* on the left. I put a bullet through him, making a huge wound, but it did not stop him, and he came right up to my legs ; both barrels were discharged, but I gave him a good poke in the eye with the muzzle of the .577 and turned him on to Jama, who kept him off with the muzzle of the Mannlicher. Abdullah

The above list excludes such animals as baboon, various mungoses, hyraxes and other small animals which we obtained.

At the end of 1907 Loder started on his last big-game trip in Africa. During his time there he was not actually on safari for much more than two months; for part of this time he was on safari with Mr. Gerard Gurney, north of the Athi, Donya Sabuk. Both Loder and Gurney made my place on the Kapiti Plains (Kilima Theki) their headquarters between their trips, shooting and collecting in the vicinity. Later I went on safari with Sir Edmund north of the railway at Simba and in the country lying between my home in the Machakos District and this lower and hotter country. Towards the end of his time he made a couple of short trips on his own; on the last he went north to Mohoroni to get Jackson's hartebeest, roan antelope, oribi and topi.

He and Gurney seem to have come across a great number of rhinoceros in the weeks they were together—I think more than seventy are mentioned in Loder's diary. He shot five or six, the number being a trifle outside the number allowed on his licence; but several were shot in self-defence, and having exceeded his number he worried a great deal about it. One day he and Gurney counted twenty rhinos. He performed the feat of photographing at thirty-five yards and then killing a rhino that charged him.

We went out on the *Adolph Woermann*. The German boats being subsidised had run off the British and Austrian Lloyd liners of the best class and the Germans did you better and cheaper every way than the other boats. We made a good many acquaintances. There were some forty English passengers for Mombasa alone—George Barker of Alexandria, Caves, Corys, Crossleys, Pellys, Cunliffe, Dalziel, Hall, Harrises, Hendersons, Kindersley, Lea, Morris, McCaw, McClure, Moore, Hon. R. A. Pelham, the Hon. Audley and Mrs. Blyth, are amongst the names he has noted. Audley Blyth and his wife were also going

C. W. Hobley, an official of B.E.A., and the Hon. Galbraith Cole, who is amongst the earlier settlers and who was a most pleasant addition to our table. The well-known Colonel Jim (J. J.) Harrison was also on board; Count Casimir Zichy, Herr I. Schilling and Count Nicolaus Keglevich were amongst the Austrian and German sportsmen and travellers. But our strangest companions were twelve hippos out of fourteen which had been shipped at Kilwa on a voyage to Hagenbeck's at Hamburg. They were fed chiefly on enormous buckets full of condensed milk; they were hosepiped with fresh water in their great mouths and exteriorly with salt water. We buried four at sea during the voyage and landed two at Port Said for the Cairo Zoo. In my own diary I write:

"The noise they make when I am in my bunk with my eyes shut makes me feel at home—as if I was camped again on the shores of Lake Zwai, on the banks of the Hawash, or once again on our Nugger among the Nuers of the Bahr el Ghazal."

We had, besides, monkeys, parrots and camels and 200 sheep.

Loder arrived at Leonardslee on April 30th.

LODER'S BAG IN BRITISH EAST AFRICA, 1908

Giraffe (<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>)	.	.	1
Impala (<i>Apyceros melampus</i>)	.	.	8
Bohor Reed Buck (<i>Cervicapra bohor</i>)	.	.	7
Waterbuck (<i>Cobus ellipsiprymnus</i>)	.	.	7
" (<i>Cobus defassa</i>)	.	.	1
Thomson's Gazelle (<i>Gazella thomsoni</i>)	.	.	6
Rhinoceros (<i>R. bicornis</i>)	.	.	5
Hartebeest (Kongoni) (<i>Bubalis cokei</i>)	.	.	5
" (<i>Bubalis jacksoni</i>)	.	.	4
Grant's Antelope (<i>Gazella grantii</i>)	.	.	3
Wart-hogs (<i>Phacochoerus æthiopicus</i>)	.	.	3
Chanler's Reed Buck (<i>Cervicapra chanleri</i>)	.	.	3
Zebra (<i>Equus burchelli grantii</i>)	.	.	2
Duikers (varieties not specified)	.	.	2

Oribi (<i>Ourebia kenyæ</i>)	1
Eland (<i>Taurotragus oryx</i>)	1
Wildebeest (<i>Connochætes taurinus albo-</i> <i>jubatus</i>)	1
Topi (<i>Damaliscus jumela</i>)	1
Spotted Hyæna (<i>H. crocuta</i>)	1
	—
	62 head

19 varieties.

APPENDIX

The measurements on the next page are from Loder's notes and were made not always from the best specimens, but as a guide to setting up his own trophies.

The British East African mammals have often been measured ; the Somaliland ones less frequently.

but by piercing the skin on either side of the base of the snout. The molars of the wart-hog, it is by no means generally known, disclose a very singular mode of reduction with advancing age. In the "milk" dentition there are seven pairs of "grinders." In the succeeding permanent set the first two pairs of pre-molars are wanting, and as age advances all the grinders save the last pair are gradually shed, and these survivors are of enormous size. The skull on the left-hand wall (347) should be examined in this light.

Though the rhinoceroses are in no way related to the swine, it will be convenient to discuss them here. Both the huge Indian and the African black and white rhinoceroses are represented by some fine skulls and horns; and the Museum also contains a very perfect example of the now almost extinct Sumatran rhinoceros.

That the largest of all the big-game animals, the elephant, finds a place here goes without saying. One of the most conspicuous objects in the large room is the mounted head of the African elephant, while in the inner room are two enormous tusks of this animal, weighing respectively 184 lb. and 150 lb. The longest tusk measured 9.5 ft. A bisected skull of the Indian elephant in one of the glass cases shows the enormous development of bony air-chambers above the brain-case. This bony mesh-work affords a light but excessively strong support for the greatly expanded outer surface, or roof, of the skull, which has been immensely enlarged, to provide attachment for the powerful muscles necessary to support the burden of the great masses of ivory forming the tusks.

The Wall-cases

Though mention has already been made of the glazed cases which run round the wall of this room, it would be well now to examine their contents a little more carefully, though without attempting a minute analysis.

On the top shelf of Case No. 1, on the right-hand side

	Horn. Length on front.	Locality.
	in.	
The Anoa (<i>B. depressicornis</i>)	10	Celebes.
European Bison (<i>B. bonasus</i>)	16 $\frac{3}{4}$	Lithuania.
American Bison (<i>B. bison</i>)	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	Colorado.
	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	Colorado.
Yak (<i>B. grunniens</i>)	32 $\frac{1}{2}$	Tibet.
Indian "Bison" (<i>B. gaurus</i>)	38	Locality unrecorded.
Bantin (<i>B. sondaicus</i>)	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	Java.
Hippo Tusks: Canine	31	} Locality unrecorded.
Incisor	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Algerian Wild Boar (<i>Sus scrofa</i>), tusk outside curve	8 $\frac{5}{8}$	Algeria.
Wart-hog (<i>Phacochoerus aethiopicus</i>), length exposed	15 $\frac{5}{8}$	S. Africa.
Rhino (<i>Rhinoceros bicornis</i>)	Front 37	Uganda.
	Rear 12 $\frac{1}{2}$	
White Rhino (<i>R. simus</i>)	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	S. Africa.
	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	S. Africa.

* Approaching record or an exceptionally fine specimen.

African Elephant: Length of tusk, 9 ft. 5 in.; greatest circumference, 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.; weight, 184 lb.

Siberian Elephant (extinct): 11 ft. outside curve; 20 $\frac{7}{8}$ in.; 173 lb.

Lion Skull: Length, 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.; width, 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ in.; cleaned weight dry, 4 lb.; South Africa.

Tiger Skull: Length, 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ in.; width, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.; cleaned weight dry, 4 lb. 12oz.; Duars.

Leopard Skull: weighing 1 lb. 12 oz.

* Walrus: (1) Tusk, 32 in. long and *record* circumference, 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.; * (2) 36 $\frac{3}{8}$ in. since 7th edition.

* Cave Bear of Europe: Basal length of skull from back to front, 18 $\frac{3}{8}$ in. (Alaska record 20 $\frac{1}{2}$).

Record Cave Bear: Width across zygomatic arches, 11 $\frac{3}{8}$ in. (record of all bear skulls).