

## TIGER-SHOOTING BAGS.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—With regard to the remark in the Month of last Magazine (March) in reference to the Prince of Wales bagging this year six tigers in one day in the Nepal *Terai*, and Colonel Warren and Sir John Cheape, five (in the Malda jungles I think) some 30 years ago, being thought wonderful at the time, I would beg to remark that I do not think the latter bag at all an uncommon one, for I can give you two instances, at least, of that number being shot in much later years, and I have no doubt the Bareilly and Bijnoor sportsmen could give more.

In 1866, Simson, Buckland, and David Lyall realized five tigers in the Mymensing district, and I myself helped to shoot that number when out with the Nawab Nazim and Colin Mackenzie, and others in Malda in 1864, an account of which I chronicled in "Reminiscences of Malda" in your periodical some time in 1868.

But I think the Prince of Wales' bag has been capped by the sportsmen (only two) who were out shooting in Mymensing this year, for they padded the same number (six) as the Prince in one day, and they got four in another, and this with only twenty-three to twenty-five elephants, so that theirs was fair hard work while the Princes' was a big battue. I believe there is a scribe amongst them who intends to give you an account of their doings, and I hope he will, for their bag should certainly be chronicled in your pages.

In the Mirzapore district this year (they drive tigers there) the wonderful number of six came out at once before one man; being alone he only succeeded in killing two: had there been any one with him the probability is that they would all have been realized. It must have been a surprising sight six tigers facing you at one time.

Have you seen Fayrer's book with its pretentious title. "The Royal Tiger of Bengal" and did you ever see such a "sprat" "to catch a whale."

April 1876.

Yours,  
THANE.

[We shall be glad to receive the Mymensing account. Fayrer's book certainly does not coincide with the experience of experienced *shikaris*, especially as regards the length of the tiger.—ED.]

## UNUSUAL VISIT BY A WILD RHINOCEROS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ORIENTAL SPORTING MAGAZINE.

GENTLEMEN.—As you are good enough to give a place to occasional notes on Natural History, the following may be deemed worthy of record:—

In February of this year a two-horned rhinoceros (*Rh. Sumatranus*) was killed at a place within twenty miles south of the

station of Comillah. He had made his way down from Hill Tipperah into a highly cultivated and thickly populated country, fully 16 miles from the jungle, and was mobbed by about a thousand men, who killed him with spears, &c. in the open paddy fields. I obtained the head in a very decomposed state and endeavored to preserve it, but the skin is almost entirely rotten, the skull only remaining. The front horn is  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches high; the second horn is merely a stud between the eyes.

The head, as brought to me, measured from tip to base of the lower horn, 10 inches—thence to the crown of the head, 1 foot  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches. There was a little hair about the ears, but not much. I learned from a man who saw it living and after it was dead, that the skin had very little hair on it, and that the animal (which was a male) stood about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet high; it appears to have been a full-grown and rather old specimen. No sooner was it killed, than all the people of the neighbourhood flocked together and chopped it into minute fragments, the skin being considered good as an amulet. I enquired for the skeleton, but even the bones had been sawn up for anklets, &c. Had any news been brought in this rhinoceros might have been easily captured, and it would have been valuable, but here the natives are all armed, and turn out on much less occasion than news of a strange beast like this, and they hardly think of informing even their own landlords of such an occurrence. The head was saved with difficulty by the man who had the principal share in killing it, and brought in here in hope of obtaining a reward.

The female of this species called "Begum" and now in the Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, was an animal which had strayed down from the jungle in a similar way. She was captured in November 1867 near the Sungoo river, about 100 miles further south (see *Oriental Sporting Magazine*, March 1869, p. 167, where there is an illustration.) In *The Field* for March 1872, p. 233, is a drawing of her by Wood; the account there given would give the idea that she was savage and untractable, but I believe this was by no means the fact. My brother, who was living with Captain Hood at one time, had charge of her in his absence, and I believe she was perfectly tame long before she was sent to London. It is also stated, there, on the authority of Jerdon's *Mammals of India*, p. 234, that this species "has been shot as high as  $23^{\circ}$  north near Sandoway." Sandoway is about  $18\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  north, but the place where the present beast was killed is about  $23^{\circ}12'$  north. *Shikaris* speak of a rhinoceros found in the Tipperah Hills, but it is very rarely seen—there can be little doubt it is this, the two-horned species.

The teeth are fewer than mentioned in Jerdon, the molars being  $5-5$   
 $6-6$  though there appears to be a rudimentary sixth molar in the upper jaw.

It is odd that last year a wild bull (Gaur) was killed almost in the same place as this rhinoceros, having also strayed down from Hill Tipperah. I have also heard of an instance where a *sambur* left the hills, in Orissa, and crossed over a dozen miles of cultivated country and was caught in the fishermen's nets in the sea, perhaps the jungle fires may account for shy beasts like these straying so far from cover.

Yours very truly,  
A. MANSON.

[We ourselves knew the rhinoceros "Begum" for a year; she was neither savage nor tame; quiet, but there was risk in going into her enclosure.—ED.]

### RIDING DOWN A WOLF.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ORIENTAL SPORTING MAGAZINE.

DEAR SIR,—After spending a most enjoyable week in the Chumparun camp during the Behar Mounted Rifle Volunteer meet at Mozufferpore, I accepted an invitation to go to Dhoolie to see what sport we might get. Yesterday morning we turned out a dog wolf about three miles from the factory in the grass lands at Chimnappore, while looking for a jackal to give the dogs a run, but the grass was high, the dogs out of condition, so we managed to lose the wolf without the semblance of a chase. This morning we determined to draw the cover again, and we were hardly in it when the dog wolf broke in the direction of Poosah, where none of us were handy. Rightly judging that the bitch was somewhere near, we drew the grass again, when out her ladyship bolted and ran a couple of rings in the twelve biggah grass, but the half-bred greyhound, Oscar, made it so hot for her that she boldly faced the open, having just before that cleverly unsighted the dogs by a turn in the high grass. Our host, Mr. W., and our Chupra friends the B——s, were first up, while my pony put his foot in a hole and gave me a heavy crumpler. The leaders, with Mr. B. of Luckry well up on the Shah, ran the wolf close to Dhoolie, when she turned and made for the small river near the factory: on reaching which they overran the game and had to hark back, when they found her squatting in the water. Refreshed by her bath she made for the grass near Tajpore, a point about ten miles off. But the riders rattled her along to such good effect that they ran into her, after a five mile burst, close to the village of Sirmustpore. Maina was first up, but not having a stick, he simply kept her at bay till Mr. W. came up. The bitch, being quite run out, lay down and was quickly polished off with *lathees*. She was full-grown and in excellent running condition. The ground over which the run took place was partly soft cultivation, and partly waste grass land.

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GLENBROOK.