

Doncaster. He was shooting in the North on the Tuesday, and was in Paris on the Thursday, but he stopped *en-route* at Doncaster to see the Leger run for, and naturally tubbed and dressed himself before breakfast. He could only get somebody else's room which happened to be vacant at the moment. For that "tub" they charged him *one guinea*, and he paid it! But what is coming beats this. A man the other day took his terrier-bitch some hundreds of miles by rail, duly booked and paid for. When he reached his destination he was charged, and paid for seven dogs in excess, she having dropped a litter of that number during the journey. That *was* an astute "collector," and might be worthy of the notice of Government for employment in the matter of Famine advances. Mark you, infants of tender age are generally supposed to be free, but this loyal servant of the Company not only charged for 'those just born,' but, as he charged full fares for the whole journey, he charged for, to use the legal terms, 'those still in the womb', and he would only have gone one step further if he had charged for 'those not yet begotten!' *It is* a true story, but if you do not think that it is a happily discovered one, burk it!

Yours P (ro) S—ily,

JUDEX.

JOURNAL OF A TIGER-SHOOTING EXPEDITION IN OUDE IN 18—.

By M. D.

(Continued from page 117 of the Magazine for
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THE jungle and pea-fowl are very numerous near the edges and even in some parts of the depth of the forest. The black partridge is also found wherever the long grass grows. The spotted deer pass you in herds, but they are not nearly so numerous as I had been led to expect, and the hogdeer bound out from the long grass in all the glades and plains in the opening of the forests. The larger deer, the gow and burrah singahs are also found, but we have not seen one as yet. Tigers, leopards, and the black bear are also denizens of this part of Oude, but the two latter one very rare, and we have not as yet seen one. The civet cat, porcupine, the common hare, and the short-eared hare or *Lepus Hispidus*, the latter especially, is found near the foot of the hills.

The pretty little kakur, *cervus munt jack*, is also found near the hills, and everywhere the common wild hog. In the swamps the boa is not uncommon: B. mortally wounded one the other day in the swamp, but it got away. The rivers and swamps are full of alligators and ghurrials. I shot a large one the other day with B.'s 4 oz. rifle, the ball went clean through it as it lay basking on the banks of the river; it managed to slip into the water, and as it sunk and went down the stream it left a long track of blood upon the water; it would be found after some days floating dead on the banks of the river. In the meantime the streams contain many varieties of good fish. The mahaseer, of course, the finest, he is a noble looking fish and takes out the line as well as any salmon; he gives as much sport in catching, but how inferior on the table. They are caught with flies in the rapids, and in the slower streams with ground baits. It appears that a yellowish coloured fly is the favourite. Of birds, one finds the florican (we got very few) the tick, occasionally a bustard, the nurkool partridge, the grey, the wood partridge, the four-spurred, called the chawkhara, of the natives; the black partridge, the quail of three or four varieties; the coolung in the plains, the bittern; the common, the solitary, painted and jack-snipe and nurkool partridge, in the swamps.

Blyth tells me that there is, probably, also a very tiny hog, called Hodgson's piping hog, about the size of an English hare, to be found; but though I have made enquiry, I cannot find anyone who has heard or seen it.

The elephants and rhinoceros are both to be found in this very ground, but of late years very few of either have been seen. Some years ago H. shot two rhinoceros not very far from where we now are.

The high conical mounds produced by white-ants are very numerous where we now are, in the forest and in the plains also. The land crab is also not uncommon, and in some places the little mounds of earth it throws up are so numerous, and make the ground so rough and irregular that the elephants have much difficulty in walking over it—they were very common near Daruch. Yesterday our servants saw the Bungarrah, whose brother, he told us, had been wounded by the tiger we killed at the Hilewna jheel; they say that the wounds on the shoulder have been very severe, but that he is recovering from them. A day or two ago, a cooly from the same neighbourhood presented himself with a scarred eye-lid

and face, the result of a personal encounter with a tiger: he said that he came suddenly on the animal in the long grass of a swamp where he had gone to cut nurkool reeds; the tiger sprang upon him and knocked him down, inflicting the wound on his face, the scar of which we now see, with his paw, but doing him no other injury. This, I think, shows great forbearance or great cowardice on the part of the tiger: we can hardly attribute it to the latter, for let the human form have what influence it may over the wild animals of the forest, a naked nigger in a swamp one cannot conceive to be a terrible object to a tiger; but whatever indifference the animal shows the man, it is exceeded by that of the man for the tiger. I have seen them fishing in a swamp above where they knew a tiger was lurking waiting his opportunity to seize one of the cattle grazing near the swamp, and the cow-herds over and over again have been known to beat them off the dead body of the cow just struck down; singly, of course, they dare not do this, but three or four of them together, will. The tiger growls and charges them, but if they stand firm and threaten with their iron-headed *latties*, he gives it up and sneaks off into the jungle again until he can find an opportunity of returning to his meal or of providing himself with another: when the buffaloe also find themselves in the presence of a tiger, they get together into a circle with their heads outwards and in this position they defy and he dare not attack. The cow-herd gets into the centre, or rather they put him there, for they all form round him,—and he is as safe as if he were in the middle of a city: no tiger can touch him. It is only the stragglers of the herd that are taken, they separate and wander near the lair. The tiger rushes out and as he strikes them down with his irresistible fore-arm, the teeth at the same time enter the throat and there he lies upon the palpitating and struggling victim, whilst there is a drop of the warm blood left; he then leaves the body for the time, but soon returns to take his first meal off it. I believe myself that the tiger will continue to eat the same animal after decomposition, but I take it for granted that it is a **sine quâ non* that he should have killed it himself in the first instance.

Our friend the wounded cooly profited by experience, and says he never did nor ever will go into a swamp again for nurkool reeds, at all events until he has first ascertained who is inside of it.

* See the late communications of Young Nimrod on this subject.—ED.

1st April.—Left our camp as usual soon after breakfast, taking a S. S. W. direction through the forest : after passing through several miles of dense tree jungle we emerged on an extensive plain and swamp named the Mujila Tal.

There was too much water and nurkool in the centre or the elephants to go into it, so we beat along the edges to the eastward where it has close to the edge of the forest. Here we found a very fine tiger ; he got up out of a patch of high grass in front of us, just as my loader in the *howdah* behind me called my attention to fresh footprints in the mud. He tried to get into the forest, but the moment he rose he was hit, and as he crossed in front of my elephant over the little interval of open between the grass and the forest, he got the contents of four or five of my barrels in the shoulder and ribs ; we followed him as he staggered up the rising ground, and at about 100 yards abreast we came up with him sick and dying at the foot of a tree, and stretched out on some logs which he was biting in his dying agony ; he was too badly hit to shew any fight ; he was hit in many places. We padded him and pushed on through the remainder of that part of the swamp that could be beaten, but found nothing ; we then struck off across the plain and through a belt of forest to another large swamp and plain.

The swamp is known by the name of Badi Tal. Here, some years ago, H. shot two rhinoceros, and B. also says that they have never been here before without finding gow or other large deer. They say also that the swamps are much altered and contain less water, that the grass is much less in quantity and not nearly so high or such good cover as formerly, the plains, too, now in many places are under cultivation to a great extent, and in many directions there are herds of cattle feeding in the long grass. I saw one or two very respectable looking wheat or barley fields, quite an innovation in this part of the world. The grain was nearly ripe and ready for cutting.

The tiger we had just shot had evidently recently come down from the forest to kill, for his stomach was quite empty, he looked long and lank, and the footprints of his tracks from the forest were quite fresh and wet ; but he had a beautiful skin and was a fine full-grown animal with the dark dusky skin and black stripes peculiar to the forest tiger, 9 feet 10 inches as he lay unskinned. We crossed the plain on the other side of the swamp and reached our tents, which, were pitched on the outskirts of a spot of the forest which

bounds the plain on that side and on the banks of a little running stream.

We have seen no small game to-day, and not a deer of any kind ; except at the tiger and at a wild cat shot by B. we have not fired off our guns.

The day has been hot and sultry, cloudy in the morning, but towards noon as usual a fresh breeze from the S. W. sprang up. I was much struck to-day with the size of the saul trees and with the enormous creepers which cling to and hang in festoons from them. The elephant-creeper, called by the natives the morain, extends over immense tracts of the forest, stretching and deepening in loops and all sorts of fantastic folds and twists from the branches, in some places as thick as a man's body, in others not larger than a walking-stick, climbing and descending, in some places smothering the tree it holds in its embrace, and running riot everywhere ; in many places it appears to have taken complete possession of the forest. The leaves are large, oval and cleft at the apex. The flower is papillonaceous, and the seed vessels enormous pods as long as an ordinary sabre.

The ebony tree is also found here, but it does not grow to any great size ; it is a dark sombre looking tree with a corrugated bark and a deep green foliage.

The natives pointed out to me a tree called by them the kuubi ; from the bark of it they make the matches for their fire-locks ; it is separated from the wood by beating and is tough and fibrous ; it burns excellently as tinder, and might, I have no doubt, be made useful for many other purposes. D. caught some small fish like carp in the stream, which we had for dinner. The forest near the two swamps that I have just described is full of old pits for catching elephants ; they are called obies, and all seemed to be old and out of use, for many of them were filled with long grass or decaying vegetable matter. The elephant do not come here in such numbers now as to make it worth while trying to catch them here, but formerly numbers used to be taken. They do come down in the rains, and I believe the early part of the cold season, and we saw the traces of those that had been here about that time last year. We are now almost on the verge of the forest again, as we have been travelling nearly due south since we left Daruch, which must be about ten *coos* from where we now are. The *coos* here is less than that in the plains, the ten

cross represent about 16 miles: I am told the hills are gradually becoming more and more indistinct; in a day or two more we shall have lost sight of them. To-morrow we take a westerly course towards Chundun Chowkee, called also by the Jaros and Aheers of the neighbourhood (?) Sahib Ooth, it being the spot where some years ago Colonel Hodgson of the Bengal Service was pulled out of his *howdah* and badly hurt by a wounded tigress. H. was present when it happened and gave me a full account of the accident. At most of our encamping grounds we meet with old *shikaree* friends of B. and H., who have been here before on several occasions. I am most fortunate in being with two such experienced sportsmen, so persevering and indefatigable that had it not been for them and their excellent local and general knowledge of the places the people and the habits of the animal we are looking for, I fear our bag would have been but a bad one. They always seem glad to see them again and volunteer to accompany us on the pads to shew us game, and in the evenings hang about the camp or come into the mess tents after dinner to talk of old times and ask numberless questions in which they seem to be much interested. They generally accompany us for a march or two and turn us over to some other old friend who takes us and our shooting interests in hand for the time.

To-day the headman of a Jaroo village, whom H. addresses as the "Mokuddum," has taken us under his guidance and intends to accompany us.

Our camp to-day is near a Gowrie, and small village near the edge of the swamp known as the Badi Tal.

Received letters again to-day from Lucknow and Seetapore: we have now become aware that some of our *dâks* are missing, and this must have been caused by the neglect of the shuter sowars stationed at different villages. They have left these stations and trust to the village authorities to send in our *dâks* by *paasees*; this we know to be the case from the fact of our having already received some *dâks* in this way. With our letters to-day I received some more supplies of money for the elephants.

2nd April.—Left our camp as usual at about 10 A. M. after breakfast: to-day our course has been north-westerly and across an extensive plain bounded on all sides by forest. On the northern side of the plain are the Badi and Mujila swamps, our beats of yesterday; after passing over, at least,

8 to 10 miles of this plain and through several villages of Jaroo, Aheers, &c., we came at last to a swamp called from its shape and course the Chowkerie. Here our *shikaree* (picked up in one of the villages) informed us that he had seen and repeatedly heard of a she-bear and cubs.

We beat out the nurkool thoroughly, and it was no light work, but found nothing; we then crossed the stream and tried several other small patches, but were unsuccessful. Re-crossed the river after a long and hard day's work to our camp, which is to-day situated in a very pretty and picturesque spot on a steep bank of the river just where it makes a bend with a beautiful view of the hills.

This is the very spot where some years ago H. was encamped with Colonel Hodgson and Captain W. when not far from the camp. Colonel H. was taken out of his *howdah* and seriously injured by a wounded tigress. It was to this place that he was carried in to have his wounds dressed, and from here he started in a *palki* accompanied by W. for Seetapore. H. described the accident. They had found the tigress in a patch of grass or grain, he said, and hearing a shot fired, he turned round and saw the tigress on Colonel H.'s elephant's head over the *mahout* with her fore-paws on the front of the *howdah* and H.'s hand in her mouth; as he struggled to get his hand free, and as the elephant in its terror shook and rolled the *howdah*, he suddenly saw H. dragged out and both fell to the ground together, the tigress underneath; she left him there and returned to a piece of grass cover, close to where she received her *coup de grace*: she had already been wounded by the shot H. fired at her as she sprang on to the elephant's head. I believe the Colonel has now recovered, but I am not certain whether he did not sustain some permanent injury from the tigress's teeth and claws. It must have been a dreadful time whilst he struggled with her, with his hand in her mouth, and what a fearful moment as he felt his strength failing as she dragged him out of the *howdah*. He is, I am told, one of the most powerful men in India, and one of the best sportsmen. H. tells me that he has seen another man taken out of the *howdah* by a tiger. A servant was seized in the *khowap* and dragged right out; he was killed on the spot. I believe it to be a very rare occurrence for a tiger to make such a spring, and only when they are very savage, badly wounded, and infuriated, that they can do it. They seldom get higher in the spring than the fore-paws on the elephant's

head, or fixed into the pad under the *howdah*; a second spring is impossible, for they have no purchase for their hind feet, and when in this position they are always either quickly shaken off and shot, or shot as they cling with a desperate grasp to their hold in the pad or the head of the elephant. A tiger is not nearly so active an animal as, I believe, he is generally supposed to be. They cannot run 500 yards without being completely winded, and if they once take to the plain they are certainly done for. For after running a quarter of a mile they are sure to lie down in the first patch of grass or jungle they meet, and there they will sell their lives as dearly as possible, but they won't move any further if they can help it. After feeding a large male tiger is an easy prey, he looks fierce and savage enough, but what can he do against elephants and a battery of guns. A tigress with cubs is quite another creature; she is active, cruel, and vindictive, fights to the last for her cubs, and seldom dies without doing mischief, or before she has been on the heads or tails of some of the elephants. She will take the initiative and attack before being wounded.

In crossing the plain and near the banks of the river we saw a few hog deer, and I knocked over one young buck, this, with the exception of a florican and a few partridges, is the only game we have seen to-day.

Received letter and a thermometer to-day from Lucknow.

A letter from Blyth anent *fauna* of the Terai.

The wind to-day has been W. and S.-W., blowing very fresh at times and preventing the sun from feeling, as he otherwise would have done, very hot. It is dry and parching, evidently the forerunner of the real hot winds which, I dare say, are now beginning to set in at Lucknow and Cawnpore. Even here the gusts come quite hot sometimes, like a blast from a furnace. There is great evaporation, too, and we can cool our wine and water beautifully by exposure to it.

The hills are less clearly visible than they were, partly owing to the natural haziness of the atmosphere, but more to the smoke from the burning grass in the forest.

(To be continued.)