

CLIMATE AND INHABITANTS OF ASSAM.

(From a Sketch of Assam.)

The population of Burpetah is estimated at about three thousand souls; their huts are built without any regularity on high artificial mounds of earth, in the centre of gardens of betel-nut and plantain trees, clumps of bamboos, cane and grass jungle, mango and other large trees, under the shade of which, impervious to the sun, roads or channels intersect the town in every direction. In the rainy season these channels, owing to the inundation of the country, are filled with water many feet in depth. Every house, consequently, is provided with one or more canoes, in which the inhabitants visit each other's isolated positions; and the cattle are brought upon the little eminences at night, and housed oftentimes under the same roof with the family, if not in the same room. Daily may the cattle be seen swimming across these street-streams in search of a dry spot of land on which to graze. In this manner, for four months of each year—June, July, August, and September—are the people surrounded by floods; but, as if endowed with amphibious natures, they seem equally happy in or out of the water, and pass their time on board their boats in trading with other villages throughout Assam. When at home, they amuse themselves during the rainy season in collecting the wood which floats down the rivers, from the destruction of their banks alluded to in the foregoing chapter; and in the sport of catching wild buffaloes, deer, and pigs, which are now seen in great numbers swimming across the rivers from the low inundated grounds to reach more elevated spots on which to subsist: the animals, in their passage, being overtaken by canoes, are captured with the aid of ropes and spears, with little difficulty.

In perambulating the district, I was particularly struck with the immense extent of high grass jungle between the Barrampooter river and the foot of the Roostan mountains. I frequently traversed a distance of eight and ten miles through a dense grass jungle twenty feet high, without meeting with a solitary hut or any cultivation; but suddenly a village and an open and cultivated space of a few hundred acres would burst upon the view, and vary the monotony of the scene. This would be followed by a dreary waste extending to the next village, often five or six miles distant; while a solitary footpath, forming the only communication between the small communities thus isolated, clearly showed that for many months in the year little intercourse, except by water, is kept up between them. The country is infested with wild animals, and the footpaths are dangerous at all times. Some slight idea may be formed of the danger to human life from the denizens of the jungle, when I state that in the western quarter of the district of Kamroop alone, in the short period of six months, the police reports included twenty men killed by wild elephants and buffaloes. The damage done to the rice crops yearly by wild elephants and buffaloes is very considerable; and although Government bestows a reward of two rupees eight annas, or five shillings, for every buffalo destroyed, and five rupees, or ten shillings, for every tiger's head, such is the apathy and indifference of the natives to their own interests and preservation, that they seldom exert themselves to earn the gratuity, until repeated aggressions become unbearable. When wild elephants pull down their huts, or a tiger, from previous success, becomes emboldened to enter their little dwellings and carry off their cattle, then the village community will turn out in a body; surrounding with nets the tiger's lair—a small patch of jungle in the vicinity of the village—and shouting and yelling, they drive the intruder into the nets, where he falls an easy victim to the spears and bludgeons of the estranged and injured populace.

The enormous extent of forest, and high, dense grass jungle in Assam, exceeds perhaps that of any other country of the same area; and, as a consequence, the herds of wild elephants, buffaloes, deer, rhinoceroses, and tigers, are innumerable. Almost every military officer in civil employ in Assam, having constantly to roam about the country, becomes, if not from choice, at least in self-defence, a keen and skilled sportsman. Herds of one hundred buffaloes each are frequently met with; and though I have known twenty buffaloes shot in one day's diversion, they are so prolific, and the season of four months for sport is so short, that no actual progress appears to be made in the diminution of their numbers. On some occasions, when a buffalo is wounded and unable to escape into high jungle, he furiously charges the elephant on which the sport-man is mounted in a howdah, and often gorges the elephant, or injures the feet or legs of the driver seated on the animal's neck, before he can be stopped in his career, for it frequently takes ten or twelve balls to destroy a buffalo, unless an early shot inflicts a vital wound. The elephant, if well trained, on being charged by a buffalo, merely turns round and presents his stern to the repeated blows of the infuriated monster: screaming out, however, in the utmost fright, until the buffalo is shot or scared off by the firing; but a timid or badly trained elephant, on being charged, instantly seeks safety in flight, to the imminent peril of the sportsman, should any trees happen to come in contact with the howdah. Buffaloes, however, that have been long undisturbed, generally stand still, and with fierce looks and raised horns receive the first few shots in utter astonishment, and then seek shelter in the high jungles with the utmost speed. Rhinoceroses are very numerous in many parts of Assam, and are to be found in very high grass jungle, near inaccessible miry swamps, which preclude pursuit; and having thick skins they are not easily shot. Elephants dread the charge of a rhinoceros as much as that of a tiger; and the grunting noise of the former animal not infrequently scares even a well-trained elephant from the field. If the rhinoceros succeeds in overtaking the elephant, he bites large pieces of flesh from the elephant's sides or legs, and with the horn on the nose not infrequently inflicts fearful wounds. Rhinoceroses are tamed in a few months, and may be seen at Gowahatty grazing on the plains as harmless as cows, attended by a single man. When tamed in Assam they may be bought of the natives for 100 or 150 rupees (£10 or £15); many have been sent to Calcutta, and sold for 500 rupees, or £50; but the expense of boat hire to the metropolis, provender, and servants' wages, with the risk attendant on the journey to so distant a market, renders the speculation any thing but profitable. Deer-shooting is a fine, healthy, exhilarating exercise for those who are not partial to the dangerous and exciting scenes common to tiger, rhinoceros, and buffalo shooting. It is a mistake, however, to suppose it tame, easy sport. Deer-shooting requires much practice; a steady foot and arm in a howdah, and a quick sight, are indispensable, if you would shoot either pigs or deer while bounding rapidly over the plain. A most deadly poison is extracted from a kind of root denominated Mishmee bil (or poison) brought from the Mishmee country, on the north-east quarter of Assam. With this the natives in Upper Assam generally cover the tips of their arrows, and destroy elephants for the sake of the ivory tusks. So powerful, so deadly is the effect of the poison, that the slightest scratch or puncture of an arrow smeared with it proves fatal: if not instantaneously, at all events in a few hours after an elephant has been stricken. Deer and buffaloes are also killed in the same manner. Immediately the animal falls, the wounded part is cut out, and the flesh is the reason by the natives, without apprehension of any ill effects arising from the inoculation of the body by the poison: at least I have never heard of a single instance of a person losing his life from having eaten of the flesh of animals killed by poisoned arrows, common as is the practice of partaking of such food. Safety appears to be secured by excising the wounded part. Of all field sports in Assam, that of catching wild elephants with the noose is the most exciting and dangerous.

ENGLAND.

The Queen and Prince Albert, the Duchess of Kent, the Prince of Leiningen, the ladies and gentlemen of the

Military Intelligence.—of the 8th (King's Own) garrison from Canterbury and the 63d, recently for was detached from the 1 its separation from the fr in command of Major G from India.—Times.

Counting Out.—The to have been the cause of House of Commons.—L

Fatal Accident on the a young man named An Street, Waterloo Road, i wale of the Prince of Thames, off Strand L drowned before the bo could reach him. The were used for some time —Sun.

The late Cases of P The funeral of the five Hickman, took place o hour, a considerable nu of the cottage to witne bodies, which had been deposited in a one-horse ground of Chelsea N mother, her two sisters line Bonamy, and one o to the grave. They w horses and carts, lent b Mrs. Hickman not hav shock, did not follow. very impressive manner of the coffins were plac continues to progress n

Suicide of a Steam-b Mr. Thomas Green, th steam-boat, was miss he usually slept. Sear ters were found on th One was addressed to M Lambeth, the owner of mother. The contes turbed in his mind, an ting suicide. The dra made for the body of th yet been recovered. steamer only a fortnigh to have caused some jec on the river, in conspu previously.—Sun.

Storm.—One of the dental to the East, is c It commenced moderat and increased in violen Malabar, till the 22d, w of the Indies, and it is wrecks.—Literary Gaz

Imports of Sugar.— Commons show that into the United Kingd and British Guiana am against 2,857,703 cwt., 2,509,701 cwt. in 1843; 2,509,701 cwt. in 1841; and 2,21 in 1840 were thus d cwt.; Barbadoes, 302, 76,931; Jamaica, 372, 26,714; St. Kitts, 91, cent, 129,870; Tobago, 353,293; the Bahama Barbice, 73,307. The into the United Kingd the globe, amounted to in 1845; the quantity against 3,959,076 gallo to 5,237,784lb., again quantity of cocoa to 1 1845.

Foreign Honours to son's services to geolo the geology of Swedo the Sovereign of that a Commander of the s Gazette.

Algeria.—Paris A Algeria, which is situa the limit which separa mates. The year, the little from that of the said to have only two s ate, is comprised betw of June. In this inter vegetation. The othe and reminds one of th the nights are cool, ar The towns, already n the country occupy th double chain of moun which, extending fro figure of the French the foot of which is b for a certain distan north wind. This p more populated than th occo. These moun which are of great dep plains, many of whi miasma, which caus of the year. Genera Algeria is described as certain precautions, E health—or at least gre vity of the attacks of t tent fevers with whic The medical officers of new colonists to wear heat and cold, to avoid serve great cleanliness and spirituous liquors, t day during the great

ACCIDENT ON THE

or The particulars of th the sheet notice we gav The following officia sified to the reporter by the line, after the invest day (Sunday):—

It appears that the 8 5th of June, left London within sight of the Wales near from the entrance t commences into which t The train arrived precis off before reaching the br The policeman at the bri of the mail, and the signa the station. At this tim in proper order for the co

From some cause, ye ears to have gone to the and to have turned the tr off the main line and going engine-man reversed his r The break of the tender r plied, and the guards w composed of nineteen o a considerable distance i which with four or five o men and women were u engine was damaged. The col van, the 2d the Man next was a second class

