

HUNTING BOERS AND BIG GAME.

Mr. G. H. Pennington, who has just returned from the Boer War, went out to Africa in July, 1899, for the purpose of collecting natural history specimens, and especially to endeavor to bring home to England the wild skins of elephants, rhinoceros, and hippopotamuses, a task which had never before been attempted, and had been accomplished.

The Loangwa Valley, in the Chartered Company's possessions, was the chosen hunting ground. In order to reach that country it was necessary to disembark at Chisno, in Portuguese East Africa, and ascend the Cuanze river, one of the sources of the Zambezi, for twenty-five miles in a steep descent until the great river itself is reached. The traverse of the Zambezi is followed for three days until the Shire

laka, until he at length reached Keta Keta, a most depressing saline laka, given over to mosquitoes and locusts.

This laborious journey of some seven hundred miles from the coast took him four weeks to accomplish.

At Keta Keta he found porters extremely difficult to obtain, and it was only through the kindness of the Collector there that he was at length enabled to set out for the interior. He started west and took a southerly course of some three hundred miles in the Loangwa river, passing on the way the famous of the once powerful chief Kwenzo.

Kwenzo made himself most agreeable, and, after depositing some of his loads with the chief, Mr. Pennington

proceeded in search of natural history objects. On reaching the Loangwa river, which, in the dry season, is merely a string of pools associated sometimes by narrow streams, game was found to be very abundant, but the variety was not great. Pheasants, quails, water-buff, wart-hog, hippopotamus, and Bandi's oxen were very plentiful. There was a great variety of duck and other birds, and insect life was abundant.

Mr. Pennington collected several fine birds and whole skins of the porcupine, a very good antelope, and one rarely seen elsewhere. (Wild) mammals on the Loangwa and when following a herd of eland, a rare animal in those parts, he lost his way, and went very near dying of thirst.

He said: "I was thirsty and tired; but I followed on, and again saw them (the eland) and had another run, but they saw me when I was three hundred yards from them. My boy was anxious for me to go after them, but I had had my fill. I had then walked and run about twenty-two miles without a morsel of food. I knew we were miles from camp. Just then I saw a vulture flit to the bank which I knew could catch me easily. I set off racing all I knew after it, and after a long chase came up with it, and deposited it with my revolver. I loaded the bird, giving my rifle to the boy. I saw him fearfully thirsty, and went the



A WOUNDED HIPPOPOTAMUS, PHOTOGRAPHED AT TWELVE YARDS DISTANCE BY MR. PENNINGTON.



MR. G. H. PENNINGTON.



A WHOLE HIPPOPOTAMUS SKIN, WHICH WAS CARRIED THERE BY PORTERS.

river flows into it. The steamer then ascends the Shire river until Chisno is reached, at which place the traveler is obliged to leave the steamer in order to embark in another floating log water. This second boat carries one to the Merckison Rapids, a series of cascades where the traveler is again obliged to get out and "log" it for some sixty miles, his goods being carried by porters to a place where the road joins the river again. There he embarks on a third boat; obliged to leave the river, and pass a fourth, and again a fifth boat, which latter runs on Lake Nyasa.

For two hundred miles Mr. Pennington stampered up the

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