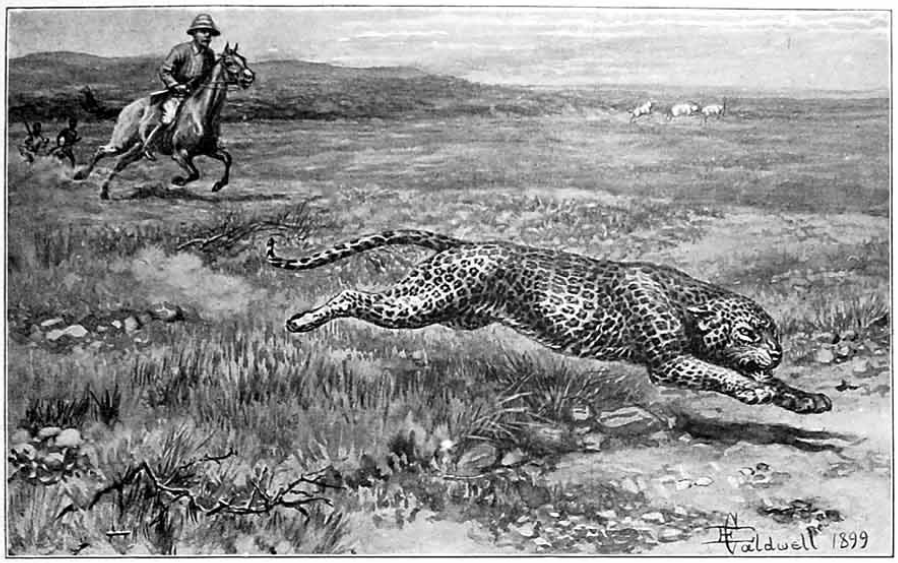
THE SPORTSMAN'S LIBRARY.

SOMALILAND, which a dozen or fifteen years ago was almost unknown to the average big game shooter, has since that time been exploited pretty thoroughly. When the late Mr. F. L. James, his brother, and Mr. Lort Phillips entered the country in the eighties, this country was truly the "Unknown Horn of Africa," a wilderness scarcely touched by the foot of the white man, and teeming with legions of great game, from the elephant to the wild ass. Major Swayne's various journeys narrated in his "Seventeen trips through Somaliland," show also very clearly what a hunter's paradise this country was when first discovered. Somaliland has for some years been the fashion. Soldiers from Aden and India found they could quickly run across from the Asiatic coast, and for a good many seasons guns and gunners have been hard at it. The consequence is that the country has been a good deal shot out. Elephants are scare, rhinoceroses are becoming so, and the sportsman of the present day has now to go farther and farther afield to find game in anything like abundance. Still, if the gunner is not afraid of downright hard work, some privation, and a fair share of risk, he may still expect, provided he is a reasonably good shot, and penetrates far enough inland, to obtain plenty of fun and excitement in the sun-scorched and waterless piece of Africa, known to moderns as Somaliland.

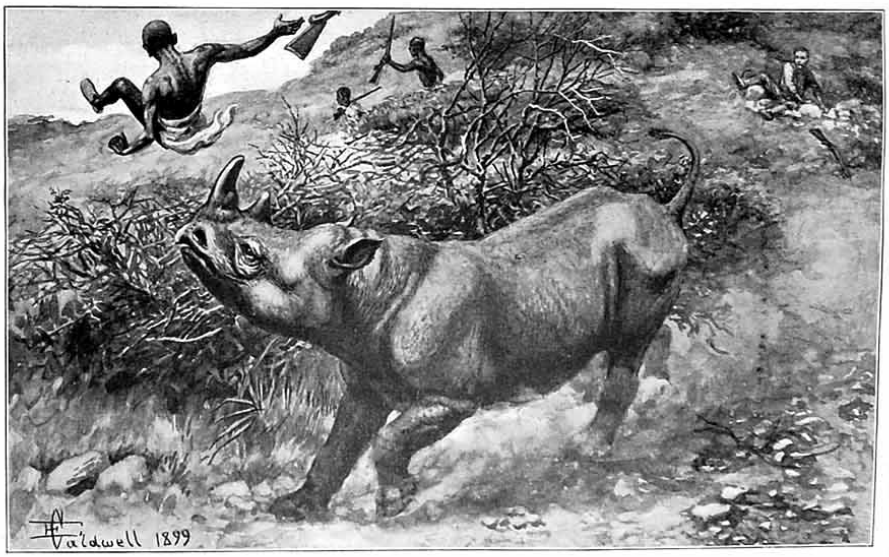


"HE LUMBERED ALONG IN FRONT OF ME AT A GOODLY PACE." (FROM "SOMALILAND.")

Mr. Peel[1] has made recently—exactly when is not stated—two expeditions into this land of wild life, starting on both occasions from Berbera. On the first trip he penetrated south-westward to the Webbi (river) Shebeyli; on the second into the Marehan country, nearly as far as the East Coast. Upon both expeditions, he seems to have enjoyed, upon the whole, excellent sport and secured many trophies. He is a pains-taking naturalist, which all so-called sports-men are not, and he has added considerably to the value of his book by giving a complete catalogue of the various beasts and birds at present known to inhabit Somaliland, as well as a list of reptiles collected by himself. This catalogue alone—full as it is of useful notes—should be well worth the perusal of any sportsman who may be thinking of trying his luck in this part of Africa.

Among the animals bagged by Mr. Peel were lion, leopard, black rhinoceros, koodoo, lesser koodoo, Swayne's hartebeest, oryx beisa, Grévy's zebra, Somali wild ass, gerenook (Waller's gazelle), various other gazelles and many minor varieties of game. Elephants the author never set eyes on; and indeed, these animals are now growing extremely rare in these as in other regions of Africa.

On his first expedition, the author had among other adventures a sufficiently exciting time with a rhino, which having been wounded, charged straight for the hunters. "Seeing him coming at a terrific pace, and so close upon us, I yelled," says Mr. Peel, "'Fire!' and at the same instant fired the left hand barrel of the big rifle I held in my hand. The next thing I remember was a huge dark head coming through the smoke. Whether I fell, jumped, or was thrown out of the way, I don't know, but I saw the huge beast dash past me and felt the wind from his nostrils in my face. . . . . For a second after I was conscious of nothing but a huge cloud of dust and smoke, and a loud rumbling of stones. The next second. . . . . I was horrified to behold my head shikari racing downhill, closely followed by the infuriated rhinoceros. I yelled out to the man to dodge. But straight on down the hill he kept, until he reached a bush, round which he appeared to stumble to the right, the rhinoceros gaining upon him at every stride. As the man stumbled, the rhinoceros, which marvellous to relate, had turned the corner with as much dexterity as the man, caught the poor fellow with his horn, behind, and tossed him at least five feet up in the air." The



"THE RHINOCEROS TOSSED HIM AT LEAST FIVE FEET UP INTO THE AIR." (FROM "SOMALILAND.")

race to shake me by the hand. The ponies galloped up, followed by a huge crowd of men, women and children, who shrieked and yelled and careered about as if they were all stark, staring mad. Bullets whizzed through the air, till I marvelled nobody was shot."

Readers will find this a capital book of sport and travel, in which the life of the hunter in Africa is depicted in graphic and straightforward fashion. Mr. Caldwell's illustrations are excellent. The reproductions from the author's photographs, on the contrary, leave a good deal to be desired.

[1] "Somaliland." By C. V. A. Peel. London: F. E. Robinson and Co., 1900.

"ALL ABOUT DOGS."

MR. CHARLES LANE, of Bristol, the writer of this book, recently published by his namesake of the Bodley Head, is one of the oldest of present-day judges. His book is handsomely got up and well printed, but the illustrations are occasionally misleading. Had a little revision been made prior to going to press, it would not have appeared that the pointer Devonshire Dan still belonged to Miss Reston, or that Mr. Geo. Raper still claimed possession of that grand terrier Claude Duval. Both these famous show dogs have been in America for over twelve months, whilst numerous others also mentioned in the book have changed hands during the same period. With the material at his disposal and the all-round knowledge he certainly possesses, Mr. Lane could have given the dog-loving public a most interesting book, especially under such a title as the one he has claimed. The lay man or woman taking up "All about dogs" will certainly find much of interest, for all varieties are dealt with, but their classification is sometimes improvable, especially in the chapters devoted to "Dogs used in sport" and the "Dogs used in work;" in fact to the expert mind the parts of the book really valuable, are those in which are given a few words on general management of the kennel and the treatment of simple maladies to which all dogs are liable. "Humours of the show ring" might also have been extended, but Mr. Lane's selection is by no means a happy one, and the chairman of the show at Warwick, who is said to have expressed a hope on the occasion of dogs from Sandringham being benched, "that the inmates of the royal kennel should stand well in the prize list," is not likely to thank the writer of "All About Dogs" for putting such a construction on a very natural remark. The point of the story is that Mr. Lane indignantly refused to make special choice of the Sandringham exhibits, remarking that every dog entered would be judged strictly on its merits. Were this not done by every gentleman honoured by being engaged to make the awards even at the smallest show as well as at those patronised by Royalty, canine societies and dog shows would soon be things of the past. The secret of the success of shows lies in the fact that exhibitors have confidence in the judges. Reading Mr. Lane's story one might be inclined to think he was the only conscientious judge in the country. All round, indeed, "All About Dogs" cannot be put down as one of the successes of the year, for it is a long way short of the ideal, and existing works still hold their own.

THE Garrick Theatre will shortly be reopened by Mr. Arthur Bourchier. It is at present in the hands of workmen, and when the public is again admitted will have been entirely re-decorated and upholstered, and the electrical system re-arranged. The new play at the Garrick Theatre will be from the pen of Mr. J. M. Barrie, and is entitled *The Wedding Guest*. Although the action takes place in Scotland, the play is by no means purely Scotch in its treatment or dialogue. Mr. Bourchier will not play in the new production, as his arrangements take him back to the successful *Lady Huntworth's Experiment* at the Criterion Theatre. The cast will include Mr. Harry Irving, Mr. Henry Vibart, Mr. James Erskine (Lord Rosslyn), and Mr. Brandon Thomas; Miss Dorothea Baird and Miss Violet Vanbrugh (Mrs. Arthur Bourchier). Miss Vanbrugh will make her reappearance after her long and dangerous illness, from which she has now happily recovered. Mr. Pinero is busily engaged with a new play which he hopes to have ready early in the New Year, and Mr. Arthur Bourchier is the fortunate manager who has secured it. Thus Mr. Bourchier starts his management of this important theatre under the happiest of auspices. Mr. Bourchier intends to include Shakespeare among his productions, and should he produce *Twelfth Night*, he hopes to give Miss Irene Vanbrugh, in the part of Viola, her first Shakespearian opportunity in London.

MISS FANNY BROUGH was under an engagement to Mr. Charles Frohman, but has been released, and will shortly appear at the Lyceum Theatre in the play by Messrs. Hicks and Latham.

MISS ROEKE has secured a new comedy of an important kind, and will after Christmas produce it at the Coronet Theatre, Notting Hill, herself playing the heroine.