

Long Branch race, and in running at Saratoga a few weeks later turned one of his plates, or broke down. It is very difficult to ascertain what happened, for if the horse only turned one of his plates and cut his fetlock, as is asserted, why has he not run again?

It would take up too much of your time to go through all my personal incidents during the day—how I bought a pool without knowing it—how I got upset from a buggy, and how I passed the night in a car with a dancing bear, and how other strange and curious things happened to Hafiz. The general impression as regards the Turf left on my mind was that the horses were very good and well trained, and that they ran well, and that nothing could equal the kindness and attention of Messrs. Chamberlin, Wilkes, McGrath, my friend Mr. Clipper, and indeed all the American racing gentlemen to whom I was introduced; they all seemed most anxious to show me anything that was to be seen, and in fact to do all possible honor to your distinguished correspondent.

It was with great regret I found myself compelled to leave before the meeting was over, but the great Buffalo meeting for the trotters was to come off on the 6th, and the next day was the 5th of the month; I was therefore obliged reluctantly to take leave of those who had been so kind to me and repair to the larger meeting.

HAFIZ.

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

BY M.D.

*(Continued from page 587.)*

ON the banks of the river we saw some gold-washers' huts, where we halted for a moment or two to ask them some questions and to look at their gold. They showed us the black looking sand from which the gold is separated by washing, and which is found in certain places under the first layer of pebbles in the bed of the river. We saw also a specimen of the gold dust itself separated, and some little nuggets of pure gold made by melting the dust. I bought some of these, the weight of an eight-anna piece of silver, for eight rupees, and intend to have them made into a ring when I get back to Lucknow, as a souvenir of Kulwapore and the Cowriallie.

The young Rajah and his younger brothers came to visit us this morning before starting. H. made enquiries after certain people whom he had seen or known when here some years ago. Some were

B



dead, and of the ladies several had committed suttee. On asking after the mother of a fine little boy of ten years (the youngest brother of the Rajah), named Jung Bahadoor, we were informed that she with two slave girls had burnt themselves with the body of the late Rajah ; the present Rajah is about twenty, he says, and his mother is still alive.

The district of Mulwarrah is valued at only 10,000 rupees per annum ; it is in the illaka of Khyrabad, and if properly managed one would think the forest alone ought to yield infinitely more than that.

On returning to the tents we skinned and measured our tigers. My tigress had been already done, and her skin was pegged out on the ground to-day. The tigers were as follows, before being skinned : 9 feet, 8 feet 11 inches, 8 feet 10 inches. I did not measure the tigress, but she was full grown and prettily marked. The skin when stretched is about a foot longer than when in the natural state before being removed from the body. In preparing the skins great care should be taken that they be properly stretched whilst warm and fresh ; they are stretched on the ground and pegged until dry, well rubbed with salt and alum or even only with wood ashes, the cushions of the feet removed with the claws, and all fat and muscle carefully separated from the skin ; in this state when quite dry they may be carried about for any time or distance by laying them hair to hair in layers in a hackery. In stretching them great care should be taken that it be done equally, and that the proportions be observed, for whatever shape they now assume they will retain for ever. It is well to remove the claws with the cushions or pads of the feet, because if you do not they will inevitably be stolen. We had ours kept under a strong guard, and yet I believe they managed to get some of them away. Any attempt to preserve the whiskers of the tiger may be given up as entirely futile, for they will steal them, whatever you do. The fat of the tiger too is in great request, and it is really astonishing to see the quantity taken out of a full grown tiger before melting down and after that process. The heads of our two first tigers were spoiled in the night by the canine teeth being broken or dug out of them ; after this we put all the game under the charge of the Havildar of B's guard. At about 7 P.M., we had another violent storm of wind, rain, and thunder, but a bright, clear, and cloudless sky after it. Received letters from 11th to 13th, overland letters, papers, all very acceptable.

*24th March.*—After breakfast this morning we again crossed the river at the same place as yesterday evening and went straight to our beat of yesterday where we got the three tigers, to try that part of



it that was left unbeaten yesterday ; we were again fortunate, for we found a magnificent tigress with two half grown cubs, only a little beyond the place where yesterday we left off beating. We started her in the Nurkool, she cantered on with the cubs into a broad open space of dry ground covered with long dry grass, and there came to bay. It was a beautiful sight to see her charging out at the line of elephants, whilst the cubs were running about in different directions, and each time received and turned with a volley from the howdahs. At last she ceased to charge, but we saw the grass moving and heard her growling ; we went up to the spot and another barrel or two made her ours.

In the meantime some of us went after the cubs, who were charging here and there in the grass evidently in great fear and anxiety about their mother ; they ran the gauntlet of some dozens of shots, and one got away into the forest badly wounded and bleeding at the mouth. As I was following him I came upon the other, who charged like a full grown tiger. I pointed my gun downwards and sent a bullet right through his chest as he was grasping the elephant round the leg. This gave him his quietus, and I set off after the other cub who had disappeared in the forest. I followed him for full a mile, but could not overtake him, and returned to the spot where the tigress was just being padded. She was a beautiful creature, light, lean, and active, very vicious and seemed determined to do mischief. The aheers (cow-herds) who took us to the place said they had often watched her feeding the cubs and teaching them to hunt and kill. The piece of ground where we killed her was covered with the remains of cows, deer, &c., as indeed all along and in the swamp we had observed the same ; in fact this seems to have been a most undisturbed stronghold for them.

We now having come a long way from our tents made for home. On the way D. knocked over a young spotted deer and I a hog deer which I did not get, for though badly wounded it managed to get away far enough to hide itself in the long grass, and I had not time to follow it. I know no animal more tenacious of life than a hog deer. Unless you hit them in some vital part it is impossible to bring them down ; I recollect counting seven bullet holes in one, the last of which only brought him down. We got to our camp rather earlier to-day, and as we got off our elephant we had the satisfaction of seeing all the eight skins stretched out in a row ; we put the tigress and her cub besides them.

The weather is delightful ; except in the direct rays of the sun the temperature is delicious, and the scenery alone would repay any one for the journey out here.



The nights are quite cold, and the morning before and just after sunrise lovely. The first range of the Nepaul hills must be about 15 miles distant, but they look much nearer. They are most grateful to the eye that has been long looking on the unbroken monotonous level of the plains. During the daytime too they are covered with massive cumuli clouds, which make them still more picturesque.

25th.—We moved our camp to-day about eight miles to the westward, to a place named Sona Patta on the banks of a stream called the Mohaan. On our way we beat out a long nullah with grass and tree jungle in it, and here and there very heavy swamp, in which one of the elephants stuck for about two hours, and was not extricated without great difficulty, nor until we cut down branches of trees and threw them to her, to say nothing of the beating she got and being pulled by ropes tied to other elephants' legs.

We found nothing in the nullah, but we were told that it was the haunt of a bear; we beat all over it for him, but saw nothing but a few hog deer, pea fowl, and black partridges; we shot none of them, as we were always in the hope of finding something better worth shooting.

In crossing an extensive plain not far from the river we shot a hog deer and a hare or two, but nothing else. We found Colonel P. encamped on the banks of the river, he has been here some time alone, trying all the small beats in the neighbourhood, and has shot three tigers and a cub. We crossed the river to our tents, which are pitched in a clump of very fine forest trees in the steep bank of the river, which is clear but not strong at this part of its course. Our camp is on the same side as P's, but a mile lower down the stream. There are several rapids in the neighbourhood, and they are all good for mahaseer. Platt has caught several very fine ones. Our anglers (I am not one) intend to try it to-morrow. The hills have been fully distinct during the last two days, so clear that the jungle of trees on the lower ridge can be distinctly seen with the naked eye. Yesterday we had a glorious view of the snowy range beyond the gorge through which the Cowriallie rushes on to the plains. It is formed by the junction of two streams which unite and fall through this gorge forming the Cowriallie as it enters the plains; above this the streams have other names. The Mohaan also joins the Cowriallie near Sitaba Ghât; it is joined in its turn near Sona Patta by a small stream called the Patteria. We do not appear to have attained any great elevation, and the hills appear to rise abruptly from the belt of forest on the outskirts of which we are now encamped,



but still the climate is totally different to that we have left even at Seetapore. The nights are quite cold, the days warm, but when out of the rays of the sun the atmosphere is fresh and cool. This is to be attributed to the proximity of the hills, the quantity of forest vegetation, and the numerous mountain streams.

The *Cannabis Indicus*, Indian hemp, grows here in great quantities; our tents are now pitched on a patch of the young plants, and a very heavy disagreeable odour the young plants have. Tobacco also thrives; in all the villages you see patches of it. A few patches of grain cultivation one sees occasionally in the plains of this part of the Terai, but they are few and far between, and one would think barely sufficient for the support of the few inhabitants. On the banks of this river in more than one place I have observed large quantities of cut and squared saul trees evidently intended to be floated down the stream in rafts. A mullah told me they would take three weeks to get to Lucknow, so slow and so winding are the streams, especially the Goomti.

We tried a rapid below our camp this evening, but D. caught only a pretty looking silvery fish called by the natives "bykerpo." Mahasea rose at the fly, which was of a bright yellow color; the stream is to be tried again to-morrow.

On our return we found Colonel Platt had time to pay us a visit; he takes the direction to-morrow we have just come from. I fear he will not find many tigers left.

I forgot to note before that the last tigress measured before being skinned 8ft. 9in. and the cub 5ft. 8in.

26th.—We did not go out to-day, in order that the elephants and people might have a rest, as they have been working hard every day up to the present, but in the morning and afternoon tried the rapids again for mahseer; both D. and B. lost some tackle taken away by large fish; one mahseer of about 10lbs. was caught, and several small fish, the byker, also three or four shark-like looking monsters of the cartilaginous tribe, very ugly, and I should think very unfit for food.

They say that these rapids are not nearly so good for fishing in as they used to be, owing partly to the quantity of timber that is now floated down the stream, and partly to the alteration in the beds and channels of the rivers.

Near our camp there are two or three Bungarrah villages. The Bungarrahs are a wandering gipsy-like race who live chiefly by hunting, and selling or exchanging the produce of the Terai. They are both Mussalman and Hindoo, but they all assimilate very much, and they have a very peculiar and characteristic appearance. They generally have a number of dogs with which they



hunt the wild hog and the spotted and hog deer; the dogs run the animals down and the Bungarrahs run up and kill them with their spears. Their women wear a very picturesque and variegated costume, one corner of which is thrown over the head when they wish to hide their faces, as they pretend to do when one looks at them.

We hear of a tigress and cubs not far from our camp. They say she has been doing no end of mischief amongst the cattle, and that lately she has killed two horses. Platt has been trying for some time to get her, but without success; he has had little chance of doing so, being alone and with few elephants, from the nature of the ground she has taken up her quarters in; it is near the forest, and she escapes into it before she can be cut off in the swamp, where she generally is found. He has, however, killed one of her cubs; we have also *khubber* of another tigress and cubs near our next halting place, and we are off in search of them to-morrow morning.

27th.—We did not get the tigress after all, though we found her traces in the swamp in the shape of a newly killed cow almost warm; she had heard us coming and sneaked off into the forest, which is dense on either side and where there would not be the slightest chance of finding her. We therefore gave her up with reluctance and struck off due westwards towards a large swamp near Hilowna Gourie where we are to pitch our tents to-night. We were more successful here, for we got a very fine tigress in the swamp. I hardly expected to have got anything in it, for it looked more like a large jheel than a bhagar; the grass was short, and in many places there was really no cover at all. We put up quantities of partridges, snipe, painted snipe, and hog deer, and I was preparing to have a shot at the next partridge that rose, when suddenly I heard two or three shots to my left, and in a moment the well-known grunts of a wounded and angry tiger. D. and B. had put him out of a clump of long grass and sent him over to H's and my side, where we had an open space with about a foot deep of water between us. He charged right at us in the most determined manner, and was almost on my elephant when a couple of barrels in the ribs turned him, and he went growling off to a clump of grass in which he lay down; we went up to him, and before we finished him he had been upon B's elephant's hind quarters; D. I think gave him the *coup de grace* in that position. He was a very fine tiger, and the aheers told us he had only just come down from the forest, which was close to the swamp, to kill; he was lean and hungry looking, and had an old festering wound in one of his fore legs,



and was also blind of an eye ; he was 9 ft. 7 in. in length. The sheers said that they had frightened him off a buffalo that he had struck down yesterday ; he must have been awfully hungry and very savage ; he would have killed again that day to a certainty. When we entered the swamp, though it was beautiful grazing ground, the short young green grass being much liked by the cattle, yet there was not a single cow or buffalo in it. As we came out with our friend on an elephant's back we met them going in in numbers ; it is wonderful how instinct seems to tell them of the presence of their enemy. The number of cattle killed by tigers in the Terai annually must be enormous ; they prefer them to any other food ; for they give less trouble than deer and make a better meal. I suppose a tiger kills every second day at least, and when one or two establish themselves near a cattle-grazing village, they very soon decimate the herd. They rarely attack men, and when they do so it is only when provoked ; some are man-eaters, but we met none such. I think from what I have seen and heard that they show the most extraordinary forbearance, for already we have met with two men who have been in the grip of a tiger and yet allowed to go away almost unhurt. I am certain that a tiger would never touch a man unless he went out of his way to disturb him, or he was very hard pressed by hunger. They nearly always try to get away when first found, but wound them and they fight like devils incarnate. On returning to the tents we found that he had more than one old wound besides the one in his fore leg, and whilst his skin was being taken off a Bungarra came forward and told us that 15 days ago his brother-in-law was returning from the forest in the direction (where we found him) ; that in the dark he saw something lying in the grass, as he forced his way through it, which he took to be a deer ; he fired at it and in the next moment to his horror he was in the grip of a large tiger. The animal seized him by the shoulder, but dropped him again almost immediately, and leaving him disappeared in the forest. The man is now recovering from the wounds, which do not appear from the description to have been very severe. It seems extraordinary that the tiger being wounded should have let him off so easily.

After bagging our tiger we struck off through the edge of the forest in a northerly direction for a plain in the forest in which there is said to be a good find for a tiger. It is here that the tigress and cubs live ; we beat it all over, finding only long grass and a dry nullah, but got nothing except some hog deer ; it was too dry for a tiger. We killed a little small game on the way back to the tents, and amongst other animals a young boar ; we saw also one or two florican, as yet we have not had an oppor-



tunity of getting a shot at this bird. The florican is a very easy bird to shoot if you get down from your elephant and stalk him, but not otherwise.

The forest we entered to-day was chiefly saul, but the trees not very large; the sissou has almost disappeared.

We are told that a few years ago Hindoo Rao shot five tigers in the jheel where we killed one to-day, and the Nawab Munower-ood-Dowlah has also killed several there. It is evidently a favorite resort; in fact in this part of the country whenever you find a swamp near the edge of the forest you are almost certain some time or other to find a tiger.

There are certain haunts that appear to be known to them, for if you kill a tiger his place is taken in a few days by another. The country we crossed to-day is more cultivated than any we have seen in the Terai as yet. B. tells me that when he was here four years ago there was not a trace or vestige of cultivation. We crossed the Mohaan and entered Khyreghur district. The tehseeldar is said to be a good man, and this cultivation and accompanying population is, I suppose, the proof of it. To get to our camp in the evening we had to recross the Mohaan; we found the tents in a pretty tope of trees not far from the river just on the edge of the forest. Received letters and papers from H. again to-day.

I forgot to mention that in going in search of the second tiger to-day, we crossed another small and clear stream and a belt of the forest before we reached the plain where the tigress with her cubs was said to live. The wind to-day has been blowing freshly from the south-west, very dry, and rather warm; it is doubtless the first indication of the coming hot winds. The view of the lower range of hills, on which a dense bank of cumuli clouds was resting, has to-day been very clear, and the snowy range at times very distinctly visible beyond the magnificent gorge through which the two streams that form the Cowriallie rush to unite. The Mohaan where we are now encamped is a sandy-bottomed stream, shallow and sluggish, but clear.

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## ADVENTURES WITH BEARS.

BY A TYRO SPORTSMAN.

MEMORY! what a strange power it is which can summon before us scenes, realities, and shadows of years long swept by—can fly in the “twinkling of an eye” to distant lands where have been enacted incidents startling to reflect upon; and can give them again vividly and palpably to one’s mental sight. Thrice fortunate