

# THINGS INDIAN

BEING DISCURSIVE NOTES ON  
VARIOUS SUBJECTS CONNECTED  
WITH INDIA

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time any tolerable shot could bag 20 couple, and he knew of 30, 40, and even 50 couple killed in a morning. Sir M. Gerard killed 53 couple of snipe and some teal in one day between 11 A.M. and sunset, and 73 couple snipe and 26 duck and teal in one day. Even bigger bags than this have been recorded in places near Calcutta. Captain Skinner about 1826, in the days of muzzle-loaders, describes an officer laying a wager that he would shoot 70 brace of quail in the Dún, and ride 100 miles between daybreak and 6 o'clock dinner. He won easily.

For large game-shooting the districts are fairly well defined. For tiger-shooting the best area is that between the Himálaya and Ganges, including the Tarái and Sundarbunds, and thence through Assam. Here the amount of swamp and jungle is so great that there is little chance of the extinction of the animal. Elephants are still found wild along the base of the Himálaya as far west as Dehra Dún; also in parts of the forest country between the Ganges and the Kistna, as far west as Biláspur and Mandla along the Western Gháts, and in Mysore. Their destruction, except under special licence from Government, has now wisely been prohibited. Of the three species of Rhinoceros, the large one-horned variety is almost confined to Assam and the hills to the west of that province, where the Tista river enters the Plains; the smaller to the Sundarbunds and East Bengal; the two-horned to the East frontier, and thence into the Malay Peninsula.

The wild sheep and goats are discussed in the article on SHEEP.

Of the great Bovidæ, the *Gour*,\* or so-called *Bison*,\* is found all over the hilly forest country of the Peninsula, Assam, and Burma, and, according to Mr Sanderson, gives the best sport next to elephant-shooting. It is practically identical with the *Gyaul*,\* or Mithan, of Assam. The wild Yak is found on the Tibet plateau at a higher elevation than any other mammal. The wild buffalo is found all over the Peninsula in places which suits its habits, except in the south and west. Various kinds of antelope and deer,