

Five, 13st. 7lb. Six and aged, 14st. 1lb. penalties, &c. It was won by—

Captain Montgomery's Acorn, aged 14st. 6lbs. (Garratt Moore) ...	1
Hiawatha	2
Confusion	3

Acorn won easily by seven lengths. There were several other horses in the race, three of whom came to grief. Quiver fell at the big wall just after the start. He over-jumped, fell on his head, and broke his neck, his rider coming off scatheless. Barmaid fell, got up again, and galloped away riderless. Salute came down at the brook and Deyanthes broke both her pastern joints and was immediately shot. Captain Macfarlan, the rider of Quiver, was badly hurt, and I heard from a gentlemen who called to enquire for him next day that he had concussion of the brain.

This finished the best sport I ever had in my life in the racing way; and I would very strongly advise all who can join me next year to come to Punchestown, where B.B. will always put up all friends of the *O.S.M.*

RECORDS OF SPORT IN ASSAM.

(Continued from page 393.)

September 13th, 1870.—On September 13th, Colonel Hicks, Ommanney, Bourne of the 44th Regiment Native Infantry, and I left Shillong for the fishing-grounds on the Sylhet side. We rode to Cherra the first day and got wet of course, getting there in the evening. All our traps had arrived and a good dinner awaited us, and a cheerful fire comforted us after our day's wetting. Notwithstanding the excessive fall of rain at Cherra, I think it has many advantages over Shillong. It is well-drained and very healthy near the plains, with easy water communication from Calcutta. The houses were very good, far better than the generality of houses at Shillong. After incessant rains, lasting over a week, within a few hours of its ceasing the place would be perfectly dry. Labour was plentiful, and, better than all, those fond of sport could indulge their propensities. It was an easy ride there and back to Tereah Ghat, where good fishing could be got, and to Pundawah, where some of the best snipe-shooting in India was to be obtained. The great drawback to the present sanatorium is the utter want of game in its immediate vicinity. A few snipe, a few woodcock are to be obtained in the season; an occasional partridge or pheasant is to be shot now and then; but there is neither fishing or sufficient sport to repay one within a day's ride out and back of the station. By going some

distance for three or four days, bears, sambur and other game are to be obtained; but the expense of coolies is a serious drawback, and there is no one to show you the whereabouts of the game. During the many seasons I have spent at Shillong, I only shot two bears, a sambur and a few sniped woodcock, partridge, duck and teal. But to continue my fishing journal.

September 14th.—We started with our fishing things and breakfast ahead of the rest of our traps, reached Terreah Ghat at 9 A.M., got hold of four boats, and after breakfast went up the stream: this river is not now what it used to be for sport. The Cossyachs have nearly destroyed the sport by periodical poisoning, and where in former days bags of 50 and 100lbs. of fish were made in a morning, it is now difficult to obtain any fish at all: there is no one to conserve the river now. When a fish is struck, you have to be extra sharp in keeping a taut line; the bed of the river is full of lime stone boulders under which fish run if they can, and if they succeed in doing so then goodbye to a considerable portion of your tackle, as you cannot draw the fish out of its berth, and you have either to cut your line or the chafing against the rocks soon does that for you. The river is divided into runs, with two or three bad rapids; the boats are heavy and clumsy compared to the Cossyah ones and the boatmen lazy Mussulmen, about the worst class in India; they can work splendidly for themselves, but will not do so for any body else. In the morning Colonel Hicks caught two fish, one 8lbs, one 3lbs; Ommanney one 3lbs., one 2½lbs, and 14 small ones, with the fly. I got one 3lbs. In the afternoon Bourne caught one 5lbs., one 3lbs., one 2lbs; Ommanney one 3lbs., one 2lbs., and some small ones with the fly. I got one 20lbs., one 9lbs., and one 2lbs.

September 15th.—To-day we moved camp, went a short cut towards the Durrung, but near Lakat had to encamp for the night on a sandbank.

September 16th.—As we started this morning I was the only one who threw a line out; almost immediately I hooked an immense fish and all the rest pulled up whilst I played it—some kept yelling that I kept the fish too taut, others that I had the line a great deal too loose, and so on, but I kept to my work steadily in my own way, and at last reduced the fish to the last gasp. It had already turned belly uppermost several times, but in a last expiring effort, as it turned over, every hook broke and I lost as fine a fish as I believe I have ever struck:—after this all had their lines out. Ommanney was in the same boat with me, and fished with exactly the same tackle and spoons, yet I got all the luck. About 10, going up a rapid, we met Bourne, with the whole of his line out fast on to a very large fish, and he perforce had to follow it down stream. I

hooked one almost immediately and had to follow him. I landed mine, a 32lb., but he lost his. Going back I struck another and got him—22lbs., the size of the larger fish was 3 feet 9 inches length, and 2 feet in girth. I had now a proper spring scale for weighing fish up to 60lbs., so there was no likelihood of any errors this time. By breakfast time we arrived at a hut Major Stewart, the Deputy Commissioner, had erected for us, and Colonel Hicks had nine fish, weighing 43lbs., the largest being 13lbs. Bourne had six fish weighing 27lbs. I the largest 11lbs. Ommanney one 6lbs. I had five fish weighing 66lbs., the largest 32lbs. In the evening we went up stream to where we had fished the previous year with General Blake, and the result was Colonel Hicks one of 16lbs., two of 4lbs. each. I got one of 9lbs., one of 5lbs., one of 2lbs., one of 1½lbs., and one of ¾lbs. Bourne got one of 4lbs. and one of 10lbs. Ommanney seven fish, 47lbs.; largest fish 26lbs.;—our weight of fish amounted to-day to 245lbs.

September 17th.—To-day Colonel Hicks in the morning caught one 4lbs., one ½lb. I caught one 12lbs., one 9½lbs., two 4lb., each, and one 3lbs. Bourne one 8lbs., Ommanney one 8lbs. In the evening below the weir again I caught one 41lbs., and one 4lbs., the size of the large fish 4 feet 3 inches long, 2 feet 3 inches in girth. Colonel Hicks one 7lbs.

September 18th.—To-day Ommanney in a rapid caught two fish, one 30lbs., and one 20lbs. Colonel Hicks one 1½lb., one ½lb. I caught one 7lbs., and one 5lbs. In the afternoon Ommanney two 17lbs. each, and one 6lbs.; Colonel Hicks one 10lbs., and one 3½lbs. I got one 26lbs., one 14lbs., one 3½lbs., and one 6lbs. Bourne one 14lbs., one 11lbs., one 4lbs., one 3½lbs., one 2lbs., and one 2½lbs.;—the fish caught in the afternoon were caught off the sandbank where we had slept on our way out. No sooner was the spoon in than there was a fish fastened to it, we got to it when nearly dark, and a better half hour's work I never saw. Bourne lost me one fish about 14lbs. by trying to gaff it, as he said, in a scientific way. In fact I think a gaff nearly useless for mahseer; the best thing is a light two-pronged spear: the gaff went go through the scales, and I have seen many a fish escape by the use of the gaff, and only a few, when the spear has been used. To-night Colonel Hicks and Bourne left us.

September 19th.—I fished for a long time but did not get a run, whilst Ommanney caught fish as fast as his spoon could reach the water. I then found my spinning gear was jammed; when that was put to rights I quickly caught three—one 14lbs., one 4lbs., and one 6lbs., whilst Ommanney got one 26lbs., one 22lbs., one 20lbs., one 14lbs., and one 4lbs.,—thus ended our trip. We caught

736lbs. of fish, of which I got 276lbs., Ommanney 258½lbs., Colonel Hicks 105½lbs., and Bourne 96lbs.

October 16th, 1870.—Started for the Durrung again, this time by myself, McWilliam, Deputy Commissioner of Cachar, accompanied me a part of the way, but as he does not care for sport he did not stop to fish. I got to Cherra for a wonder without getting wet.

October 17th.—I tried the Terreah Ghat river from 9 A.M. to 2 P.M., and all I caught was a fish about ½lb. in weight by the eye, and the manjee dropped it overboard in lifting it into the boat. Returned to Terreah Ghat and started at 3 P.M. for Company-gunge; I got there at 10 P.M., put up in a shed, had a bathe, and dined at 11 P.M.

October 18th.—Started very early. The fish were rising in numbers, and the water was pretty clear, the stream deep and broad. I soon had my line out, but I did not get a single run till the afternoon, when I caught two bassah (fish without scales, but first rate eating, called in Burmese Nga Mein), and one mahseer, 14lbs. I got to the sandbank near Lakat at 8 P.M. The stream had altered greatly, and was not worth fishing; the sandbank was crowded with men, women, and children catching fish, which they did in thousands by frightening them with nets and yelling like demons; as this noise went on all night, I had not much sleep, and was glad to get off at daylight. I first went down stream, caught a small masheer, 2½lbs., and then hooked a large fish, but the knowing brute made for the bank at once, and rubbed off the hooks on to the stump of a tree a good twenty feet under water; fortunately one of my boatmen was a good diver, and, taking a header, brought up my tackle intact; we then went on to our old ground near the weir and during the day caught ten other fish; the weight of fish caught during the day being 118½lbs., consisting of one 16lbs., one 12lbs., one 9lbs., one 10lbs., two 8lbs. each, one 7lbs., one 2½lbs., one 11lbs., one 15lbs., one 20lbs.

October 20th.—Went up stream, starting at 7 A.M. In the gorge hooked a large fish and landed it within quarter of an hour; weight 42lbs.; gave little or no play. Almost immediately after I hooked another very large fish, and got it within ten minutes. It swam up to my boat, and the steersman cleverly speared it; weight 36lbs. Fished all the favourite pools and rapids, but did not get a single run till I reached opposite the village, where I caught one of 28lbs., this gave more play and was the first fish caught opposite the village, though from the cliff overhanging we could see thousands of them in the water. They never would take either spoon, live bait, or fly; we did not try other. Shortly afterwards I caught another 14lbs., and got home to breakfast at 10 with 120lbs. of

fish. The 42lbs. measured 4 feet long, 2 feet 5 inches in girth—the 36lbs. 3 feet 10 inches long, 2 feet 2 inches in girth. The evening I caught one 18lbs., one 7lbs., one 5lbs., one 4lbs.,—total in the day, 154lbs.

October 21st.—Started very early and beat up and down the deep pool in the gorge three times, not a nibble even; then went down stream to beyond the last rapid, not a run; going homewards near the weir caught two, one 10lbs., one 3lbs. I tried live bait and all sorts of spoons to-day, but the fish would not look at the baits. In the afternoon fished from 2½ o'clock to dark without a single run, so gave up in disgust.

October 22nd.—Met my old boatman, "Wind up," real name "Byan;" he had been absent at some village cultivating. I went up stream as far as I could and back without a run, so put my traps into the boats and moved homewards, and caught by dark seven fish, one 24lbs., one 9lbs., one 7lbs., one 14lbs., one 17lbs., one, 8lbs., and five bassah weighing 14lbs. I had great difficulty in getting into the Terreah Ghat river, the small channels leading into it were all dry but one, and I could not get a single brute at Companygunge to show it to me; however, I hit it off by accident and after great trouble found myself at Terreah Ghat about 3 P.M. the next day, and rode to Shillong the next. In 1871, in September, I again fished here and caught in four days 376lbs. of fish, the largest being 41lbs., another of 40lbs., one of 36lbs., and the rest averaging from 28lbs. to 4lbs., besides losing, of course, a good many others.

September 12th, 1872.—Left at 10 A.M., after breakfast, with Vetch of the 11th Hussars for Cherra; had a beautiful day and got there at 6 P.M. Here we trusted to find beer belonging to a dealer called Emans, but it had all gone on, so wrote in to Shillong for a supply to be sent to us to Lakat, and for present use borrowed a dozen from Colonel McCulloch who lives at Cherra with his family.

September 13th.—A fine hot morning, rode down the ghat a-head of our traps, having sent on very early our breakfast and fishing-tackle; the latter arrived all right, but the former did not come up till 11. The grass-cutter, to whom it had been given, pretended he had lost his way to account for the delay, so gave him a hiding to teach him better for the future. Set out at 12 to fish; the heat awful: at first starting Vetch lost his spoon, so had to go back for another. I heard here that all the big fish had lately been poisoned, and such seemed to be the fact, as although we fished till dark, I succeeded in catching only one small fish, one 1lb., whilst Vetch did not get a run.

September 14th.—Rained slightly during the night, morning cloudy and cool, did not start for Lakat till 9, and then only after the devil's own trouble in getting boats; even after we had made a fair start one of the boatmen jumped overboard and escaped. We went the short cut, and were detained some time in forcing a way through the stony barriers, which the fishermen erect all round. Directly we got into the main stream, I struck a large fish, but the split-ring broke and I lost my spoon and fish: we had a hot day. Breakfasted at 11½, and then through an extensive bheel to the Lakat river. On entering this Vetch caught the first fish, and during the afternoon he caught four, 13, 6, 1 and 9lbs. I also caught—four, 3½, 6, 2, and 24lbs: we got to the sandbank at dark and slept in the open. Mosquitoes rather bad.

September 15th.—Fine night last night, heavy clouds about, but no rain. As only two boats had arrived, Vetch and I went in one to fish, and sent the other one back to get two more boats to take our traps on to the Durrung. I had all the luck, catching five fish 22, 28, 8, 6, 6, equal to 70lbs.; one of them gave a great deal of trouble to kill; Vetch did not get a run. Got back to the sandbank at 10 A.M., breakfasted, and then moved up stream. I caught two fish, one 4lbs. and one ½lb. Vetch did not get a run the whole day. We got to our destination about 2 P.M., and immediately set to work to make ourselves comfortable, and, with large water proof-sheets, soon rigged up sheds, and were as easy as possible by dark.

September 16th.—Rain in the morning. We both went out and for a long while did not get a nibble; I tried my largest spoon (half as large again as a gravy spoon) in the deep pool in the gorge, but the weight of it spinning frayed the treble gut and I soon lost spoon and a portion of my spinning tackle. Vetch then went up stream and I down; near the weir I caught one fish 6lbs. and below I got a run, but the fish got away; coming back I hooked and landed a large fish, 36lbs. Vetch had one run but lost his fish and spoon. In the afternoon we again went out, first up stream, when I caught three 6, 3, 1lb. each. I then went down through the gorge and below the weir, but only hooked and landed one fish, 15lbs. Vetch caught seven fish, one 12, one 8, one 2, one 4, one 3, one 1, and one ½lb. He also hooked his boatman badly—the second time this trip.

September 17th.—Coolish morning, we both fished up to 11 A.M. Vetch got two small fish, one lb. each. I caught one 20lbs. He gave a great deal of trouble to kill; after the spear was well into him, he snapped my line and swam away with the spear sticking upright on his back. We got him at last, of

course. I then hooked a small fish, but it wriggled itself off when close to the boat. I then struck a large fish, but the treble gut snapped as if it had been a bit of thread, so I lost my fish, spoon, and hooks. In the evening I caught three others, one 12, one 5, and one 2lbs. Vetch got one 1lb.

September 18th.—We went up stream and I got a run, but the hooks broke and the fish escaped. I got nothing more till going down stream below the weir I got one 14lbs. and shortly afterwards another 6lbs. Vetch going down the pet rapid caught 22lbs. weight, one 2lbs., one 1lb. He got upset out of his boat in about fifteen feet of water, and it was some time before we could recover the rod and line which he had dropped. We got to the sandbank at 11; the heat awful. In the afternoon I got two fish, one 17lbs., and one 4lbs. Vetch only got one about a pound in weight: the fish don't seem inclined to bite at all this year.

September 19th.—We left the sandbank for Terreah Ghat. I caught four fish, two weighing 6lbs. each and two 3½lbs. each. Vetch caught an odd kind of fish, 1lb. in weight, this brute seemed to live as well out of the water as in. It was some kind of cat fish. Our stores from Shillong never reached us, so we had nothing to drink the last few days but milk and punch, and even that failed us. The stores had been despatched in due time, but the brutes took their time about it, and I believe they turned up at Lakat the day after we had left it. This was not a very successful trip. I caught 277lbs of fish, and Vetch 87½lbs, but this was his first attempt at fishing, and he certainly had bad luck. There are many more rivers abounding with fish on the Sylhet side, and as steamers ply every week or so, I wonder more sportsmen fond of the gentle craft do not find their way to these diggings. I have tried all sorts of baits,—a spoon, about the size of a large gravy spoon, is the best bait, the spinning tackle should be of the best treble gut, with brass swivels. The hooks not too large but very stout and strong, a light rod, a large winch, and about 100 yards of stout water-proof line are required. Flies are useful, but they will not tempt the largest fish.

(To be continued.)

BEAR SHOOTING.

BY SMOOTHBORE.

MY DEAR SPHERICAL,—I have a very exciting five days' trip to relate for your delectation, in which your old friends, Mr. A. and W. M., were with myself of the party.

Taking advantage of the late holidays, and not like some who love to roam over the much beaten artificial roads of Matheran, or