

the body was buried within the precincts of the city gaol.

## ELEPHANT AND RHINOCEROS FIGHTS IN INDIA.

A Baroda correspondent of the *Bombay Gazette* describes some curious "sports" to which the Guicowar has been treating the Europeans in his capital. First came an elephant fight. "Seventy or eighty men with long spears were scattered about to stir up the animals to greater fury, and to preserve order generally. On first entering the balcony we perceived two elephants standing about 100 yards apart, secured by chains passed round the hind legs, and fastened inside the narrow openings in the brick work. They were both much excited, and stamped and waved their trunks about nervously, being occasionally soothed by the iron prong of the mahout, who stuck gallantly to his charge throughout the combat. The elephants are fed upon stimulating provender to render them sufficiently fierce for the occasion. Their tusks were half sawn off, or they would have been able to damage each other in a very expensive manner. A sporting wag immediately christened the combatants; calling one from the extreme length of his trunk 'Conkey Jem,' and the other the 'Baroda Novice.' And now, all being ready, the Guicowar gave the signal, and the elephants were let loose. Round 1. The Novice advanced to the scratch smiling, and evidently ready to meet his elephant. Conkey Jem, on the other hand, seemed inclined to disappoint his backers, and shuffled about in a strange way, till the Novice went after him, when C. J. suddenly closed, being evidently the heavier, the Novice had the worst of the grip, but disengaging himself cleverly, bolted to his corner. Round 2. The Novice less inclined to force the fighting this time, not liking the taste of his adversary's quality; being urged by his seconds, however, with sharp spears, he faced the Conkey once again, when much cautious sparring took place. The Novice twisted his trunk round his antagonist's and tried to turn him, Jem retaliated by putting his tusk into the young one's kissing trap (first blood for Conkey Jem). Round 3. Much the same. The Novice bellowing and evidently finking. Round 4 and last. The Novice's friends, finding that he would not come to the scratch, threw up the sponge, and the Conkey one was hailed a winner, with scarcely a mark upon him. The cowardly behaviour of the Novice excited the disgust of the King, and it was very amusing to see the jaunty air with which the winner walked about the arena, pointing his toes, and flourishing his trunk. The elephants were now hobbled with chains and walked off to their respective residences. It was then announced that a rhinoceros fight would take place. Accordingly, two of these hideous animals were produced and set perfectly free. One of the animals was older and more stolid than the other, who, on being unchained, jumped and bucked all over the place, with an agility which no one would even have supposed such a creature to possess. The older one seemed to know what was coming, and kept himself cool for the encounter. Presently they came close together, and watched each other angrily with heads down to the ground, the younger one, however, did not want to fight, and turned away pursued by the other, who could not catch him. This happened several times, and we began to think that they would not engage; the spearmen began to prick the young one smartly in the rear, but this made him turn and charge them, when they scuttled off through the apertures in the walls. One man nearly came to grief; he was irritating the young one from behind, when the old animal, who was pursuing the other, came up, and without seeing the man apparently, bowled him over with his shoulder. Presently both animals, being worked up to the requisite pitch of ferocity, engaged in earnest. Their mode of fighting is very peculiar; they put their heads down as low as possible, each trying to get his horned nose under the throat of his antagonist, and working away to get a good hold, the one whose head is uppermost tries all sorts of jerks and shifts to get free and sometimes succeeds. There is a great deal of very skilful and quick wrestling in this struggle. As soon as one of them gets a firm hold he heaves the other slowly up, pressing forwards as he lifts. When one was well lifted into the air he generally came down unhurt, and instantly renewed the struggle; it was indeed a wonderful sight to see these huge creatures alternately lifting one another up, and exerting their marvellous strength. The fight lasted about half an hour, the combatants being liberally doused with water, to lay the dust which would otherwise have obscured their manoeuvres. Both were very much exhausted, and grunted terribly, but their fury was unabated. It was now, however, considered that they had had enough of it, and they were separated by letting off fireworks close to their noses; and they were then chained and led slowly off."