

## HUNTING IN BURMAH.



**B**URMAH, the largest province of the Indian Empire, is a beautiful and very varied country, covered in many places with forests which in the month of March are bright with the many colours and sweet with the varying scents of thousands of flowering trees and shrubs. This country is traversed by many rivers, the largest of

which is the Irawadi, with a course of probably eleven hundred miles from its unknown source among the snows of Thibet, down to the Bay of Bengal. These rivers during the rainy season (which lasts for a long time) overflow their banks and spread over the plains, the flood water of the Irawadi often flowing over the country for ten or fifteen miles on either side to a depth of from four to fourteen feet.

The inundated villages, however, do not suffer, as the natives, knowing what they may expect during the rainy season, are prudent enough to build their houses on piles, and the flood waters move but slowly. But one can easily imagine how unhealthy the flooded country must be, with a great heat and a burning sun.

During the time of the floods, all hunting operations are carried on by the natives from boats; these boats, which are very light, being manned according to their size with spearmen, paddlers, and steersmen. Hunting in this manner is an occupation of great danger, as it is impossible to guess what animal may be encountered in the flooded country, and Burmah has a long list of wild animals, including the elephant, rhinoceros, tapir, buffalo, many kinds of deer, tigers, leopards, and bears. But the Burmans are an excitable, impulsive, and courageous people, and they really seem to enjoy this sport, notwithstanding the risks they run. They are also anxious to secure a hog or a deer: for although their staple food is rice, which is as cheap as it is in India, the inhabitants of Burmah eat fish or meat daily, and in all respects live better than the lower classes of India. Therefore, in going out to hunt over the flooded country, these men are in search, not only of excitement, but of to-morrow's dinner.

Our illustration shows us one of these hunting parties in pursuit of a fine specimen of the marsh deer: all is anxiety and excitement, when suddenly a rhinoceros makes his appearance, angry at being disturbed, and open-mouthed he capsize them, boat and all, into the water! The rhinoceros, however, unless very much provoked, will not injure them further, its food being entirely of a vegetable nature; and, as the Burmese natives can all swim like fish, we may hope that these men will safely reach the shore.

M.

**T**HE principle on which Sir Humphrey Davy made his safety-lamp for the use of colliers is a very simple one; it is that flame cannot pass through wire-gauze.

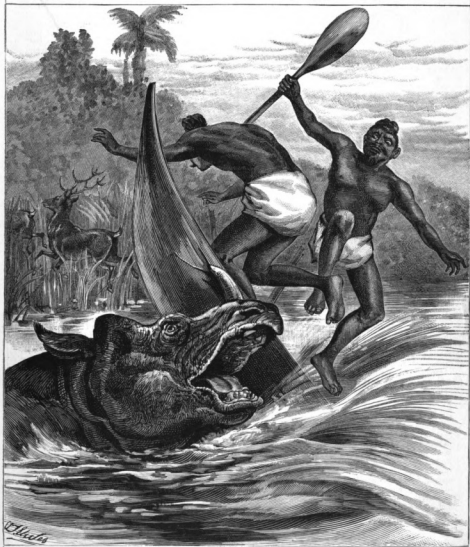
## GRIZZLY AND PRAIRIE BULL.

**T**HE grizzly bear, a strong and fierce animal, is still found in North America. The only wild beast that can hold its own against the grizzly bear is the prairie bull. Some idea of the strength and ferocity of both these animals may be gathered from the following story of an encounter between them.

The unfortunate man who was compelled to look on during this struggle had been riding on urgent business from Stockton to San José, a distance of ninety miles or more. He had not been many hours on the road when he was overtaken by a terrible thunderstorm, accompanied by torrents of rain. He had to dismount, picket his horse, and, wrapping himself in his blanket, try to shelter himself as much as possible from the storm. When the tempest had somewhat abated, great was his consternation to find that the horse, so soon as the ground had become soft with rain, had pulled out the peg to which it was fastened, and had wandered away out of sight! It was useless for the man to think of pursuing his journey on foot. He therefore rolled up his blanket and followed in the direction the animal had taken, hoping to be able to track him by his hoof-marks on the softened ground, and by the drag of his long lariat and peg.

More intent upon the trail than on surrounding objects, he had gone about a mile on the way when he discovered that he was being followed by a herd of wild cattle, who were closing in upon him. It is a curious but well-known fact that prairie cattle are always hostile to foot travellers, though a horseman might safely ride close up to them. This made the man's position one of great danger, especially as the herd was under the guidance of a fierce bull, who was pawing the ground in fury, while the others were crowding together, switching their tails high in the air, tossing their horns, and staring wildly in mingled rage and wonder. The traveller quickly made for a tree which he had passed a few minutes before. He was just in time, for, as he gained the tree, he looked back and saw that the foremost of the herd was only about one hundred yards behind him. But he was safe at least for the moment, and with a feeling of thankfulness he settled himself on a fork of the tree, out of the reach of the enemy. But what was his next move to be? Who could say how long a time these fierce animals, who were tearing up the ground with their horns all round the tree, would keep him prisoner?

Just as those perplexing thoughts were passing through his mind, the unexpected happened, as it so often does. The herd, after a short time, seemed tired of their watch; they strayed away, while the bull wandered in among some bushes, which fringed a little stream. Suddenly there arose a fearful uproar, and it became evident that the leader of the herd had got into trouble. The bushes were shaken about in every direction. A hoarse bellowing and confused growling proved that some desperate struggle was taking place, though what adversary the bull had met with was not as yet clear. Presently, however, he emerged from the bushes with blood



Danger of Hunting in Burmah.