

NOTES OF THE VISITS
TO INDIA

OF THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES THE

PRINCE OF WALES

AND

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

1870—1875-6.

BY

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that to Ceylon, calling at Beypore, Goa—perhaps Travancore—on the way. The Government of Ceylon is informed that the Prince will be there rather sooner than was at first anticipated. I continue to receive unfavourable reports of the health of the Madras Presidency.

Thursday, 18th November, on board Serapis, Bombay Harbour.—It is very hot—86° in my cabin; but the health of my party, and also of the *Serapis* crew is good. We slept on board last night. Thermometer fell during the night to 79°, but it is steamy and oppressive to-day. C. Beresford is better; he telegraphed to his mother, to tell her so. Our baggage leaves for Baroda at 11 a.m. To-day I received a telegram in cypher from General Ponsonby from the Queen. Knollys had the key, and deciphered it. I replied immediately that all were well; that the trip to Beypore and the Annamallays had been put off; that we were going to Baroda, which is healthy; and that the Prince would have less work in future, I hoped. I had a conference with Dr. Cunningham, Sanitary Commissioner, who also saw H.R.H. and Sir B. F., and advised that the Annamallay, and perhaps the Madras trip should be given up on account of cholera, and gave me a memo. on the subject. All the afternoon I was confined to my cabin with a return of the gastric pain like that I had at Cairo. Dr. Watson was very kind, and I got better towards evening. C. B. had a return of pain, and is unable to go to Baroda. I leave him in Watson's care.

After dinner, at 9 p.m., we landed, and started by train for Baroda at 9.30. We had saloon carriages (Russell, Ellis and I had a compartment). We travelled during the night; I slept pretty well.

Friday, 19th November, Baroda.—We reached Baroda at 8 a.m. The night was pleasant; climate becomes cooler as we go north. There were great preparations at the station. The boy Guikowar and his minister, Sir Madava Rao, were there; also a detachment of the 83rd Regiment. Salutes were fired, and "God Save the Queen" and "God Bless the Prince of Wales" played. We found a number of elephants gorgeously caparisoned, and painted blue, ochre, and a variety of colours, some fine tuskers among them, and with howdahs—silver, gold and carved—of all kinds waiting; and guards of honour and escorts of cavalry. We mounted the elephants and proceeded to our camp at the Residency formerly occupied by Outram, and the same where an attempt was made to poison Col. Phayre. The road passed partly through the city, and was gaily decorated with triumphal arches, flags, devices, &c., and crowded with natives, who seemed intensely interested in the sight. The Prince and the young Guikowar rode on a very fine elephant, magnificently caparisoned and painted. The suite followed on other elephants. Sir R. Meade and Mr. Melville (the new Resident) accompanied him to the Residency. The notice of H.R.H.'s visit to Baroda has been so short that there has not been much time for preparation; nevertheless, they have done wonderfully well, and the place presents a very festive appearance. The decorations are made chiefly of plantain trees and bamboos formed into arches.

The morning delightful; it is now the cold season, and much cooler than Bombay. The air is fresh and dry, but as the day advances the sun is very hot. We are lodged at the Residency—some in the house, some in tents in the compound. I have a tent; it is comfortable, but during the day very hot. Soon after arriving at the Residency, there was a formal reception of the Guikowar and the

Sirdars. After breakfast, H.R.H. inspected the elephants—the first state elephants he has seen; Hall sketched some of them. Mr. and Mrs. Melville and their daughter have only just arrived at Baroda. It must have been rather trying to receive the Prince of Wales suddenly, but they did it very well, and have made all very comfortable. In the afternoon, the Prince, with his suite, returned the Guikowar's visit. They drove in state to the Moti-Bagh—the usual salutes were fired, and ceremonies of a Durbar gone through. From the Moti Bagh, we drove to the Rumna, where the wild beasts are kept, and there saw some wild beast fights—elephants, rhinoceros, buffalo, rams. A tiger was led in, secured by chains, and a number of other animals. These fights of animals were really very harmless proceedings, as they did not hurt each other in the least, the weaker very speedily giving way. One buffalo, in pushing another managed to break off his horn, but that was the only thing suggestive of pain. A man on horseback chased about the court-yard by an elephant was rather exciting, but he eluded the brute so easily that it was mere play. There was some wrestling by men, which was equally harmless. The Prince, with the Guikowar and suite, sat on a chabotra, and watched the fight going on in an enclosed court-yard below; the walls crowded with spectators. The fights were very much like those that one saw in former times at Lucknow. The city was illuminated, and the native town looked picturesque with its quaint-looking houses and coloured verandahs, triumphal arches, and grotesque figures of natives stuck up here and there to represent ferishtas (fairies). Many of the buildings were prettily illuminated, and the general effect was good. We drove home and dressed for dinner with Col. Thompson, and the 9th Madras N.I. The road was illuminated by chiraghs on bamboo arches. The mess-room of the 9th was very prettily decorated, and the entertainment was excellent. The Prince's health was proposed by the Colonel, to which H.R.H. made a most gracious reply. The decorations of the city have been managed by Mr. Hill, the State engineer, and very creditable they are, considering how short a time he had for preparation.

The Prince's visit will have a good effect, confirming the recent proceedings which resulted in the selection and elevation of the present Guikowar to the Guddie. He is a nice-looking little boy, of about 10 years of age, who six months ago was making mud-pies in his native village. He is of the family of Mulhar-Rao—the recently deposed Guikowar—and is one of three boys, chosen by Sir R. Meade, who was then Resident, for the Maharani Jumna Bhai, widow of the late Guikowar, to select from. She chose this boy, who was forthwith converted from a little native villager to a sovereign Prince. A greater or more sudden change of fortune could hardly be imagined; her choice was confirmed by Government. The poor little fellow looks shy and overwhelmed by his jewels and gorgeous turban. He appears to be a nice little lad, and there is every reason to hope that he will get on well under the fostering care of the Indian Government. His Dewan, Sir Madava Rao, is a very able man, and no doubt will guide the young Prince carefully.

After the Durbar, some of us went with H.R.H. into the inner rooms, and had an interview with the Maharani Jumna Bhai. She is only 24, but looks older; a very ordinary looking Hindoo woman, plainly dressed, and partly concealing her face with her veil. Her daughter, Tara Bhai, aged 4 years, was with her, sitting on an English

THE

DUKE OF EDINBURGH IN INDIA.

1869-70.

its escape; the man followed, thrusting in his bayonet, and then, having fired all his (six) cartridges, clubbed his rifle, and belaboured it until the stock was broken. The brute by this time was so far *hors de combat* that it turned over as if dead, was dragged on shore and brought into camp along with the man it had bitten. Fortunately the grip had not been very firm, and a portion of integument only, about five inches in circumference, had been torn away, leaving a painful, though not very dangerous wound. The gurril was over 16 feet in length. It was opened, and the stomach found empty, with the exception of about twenty or thirty pebbles, from the size of peas or marbles to a hen's egg. These are useful for purposes of digestion, and are probably always found in the stomachs of these creatures. This incident quite settles the question that the gurril does take other food than fish, although from the conformation of his jaws he is not able to seize so large a morsel, or inflict so great a wound as the alligator.

The weather is almost cold at night, and the heat during the day is not oppressive, as there is generally a breeze. All the party are well. After dinner a small elephant about three years old, which has been trained to go at great speed, and has been presented to the Duke by the Maharajah, was brought into the tent to be inspected. He was evidently very nervous and timid on finding himself in such a new and strange position, and groaned loudly in protestation. Sir Jung also sent a nuzzur of tiger skins, a young living tiger cub, some yaks' tails, musk pods, pieces of silk, and a variety of kookries and bougialis to be presented to the Duke, and a kookrie for each of the suite. An infusion of cinnamon and some fruits were also sent, and reported on favourably after dinner.

We halt to-morrow, and it is hoped that the search for tigers may be more successful than it has been to-day.

February 25th.—Our camp is on the Kundwarra, a small and very winding tributary of the Mohan. That of Sir Jung Bahadour is on the opposite side, and together they must amount to three or four thousand men, with about five hundred elephants. Sir Jung has recently been catching wild elephants in the terai, not many miles from the present camp, and he is very anxious to take the Duke to see a fresh herd—which has already been surrounded—captured, but unfortunately time does not permit.

Sir Jung has several very large and powerful male elephants which are used for catching the larger wild ones. They are kept at some distance from his camp, being fierce and sometimes dangerous. After breakfast three of the party went with Colonel Lawrence to Sir Jung's camp to see the Nepaulese feats of cutting wood with the kookrie, a heavy trenchant weapon, with a peculiar curve in the blade, and short handle, with which, as Sir Jung said, they do everything—from cutting down a tree or killing a tiger, to making the finest work in wood or other material. The minister was good enough to show how the weapon was used, and himself cut through a piece of green wood about a foot in circumference, with one stroke. One man cut across a piece of semel (cotton) wood, sixteen inches in circumference, with one blow. The young tree is either let into the ground, and the end bent down, so as to make it spring when the cut is made on the convexity, or one end is rested on the ground, and the other on a forked branch. The end projecting from the crutch is the part to be cut. Like many other things, it is easier than it looks, and as it is only done on soft green wood, the feat is not so very

remarkable, and there is no doubt that any English swordsman would, with a week's practice with the kookrie, do all that the Nepaulese can do. They were amused when some of our party expressed a wish to try, and astonished when they saw them cut through young cotton trees like those that had just been divided by the man who was put forward as the champion. Sir Jung himself is an adept, and he told his visitors that he had on one occasion saved the life of an English officer by cutting down a tiger with the kookrie, just as he was on the point of seizing him.

After breakfast we got into the howdahs, and formed line in quest of a tiger, but he was not found, and general shooting commenced. The line of about 350 elephants, which extended over more than a mile, was worked by the bugle call, the howdahs being distributed at intervals. Having crossed the river, the beat lay through grassy plains, or in the forest. One end of the line, indeed, was in the forest nearly all the day.

The bag was varied, consisting of about 18 spotted or hog-deer, hares, black partridges, pea and jungle fowl. Florican are scarce, but some were shot.

The day was fine, and the heat moderate. The Nepaul hills were distinctly seen, and the scenery of the magnificent sâl forest beautiful. The game is found in the grassy plains—very little in the forest, except on the margins, where the spotted axis is common. It is too early in the season for tiger shooting; the grass is too extensive, and it is only by accident that they can be found now, or when marked down after killing a cow or buffalo. When gorged, the tiger is lazy and indisposed to move. A month or six weeks later the grass will be burned, and the tigers confined to particular spots, where they may be more readily found and killed.

There was *khubur* of three tigers yesterday, but, notwithstanding the arrangements made by Sir Jung and his people, and the line of 350 elephants, only foot-prints could be found.

The party has been increased since the 24th by the presence of Captain Speedy and the young Abyssinian Prince Alamayou. Captain S. has an appointment in Oude.

The camp moves from Dhunpal, or as some call it Peihlwan Gowrie, to-day.

This part of the terai is almost uninhabited, except by Taroos and Bunjarras, nomadic people, probably the autocthones of the country. A few cattle herding stations called gowries are met with here and there; the remainder is grass and forest. In some parts of the terai, the elephant, rhinoceros, and game of all kinds abound. The miniature pig (*Porculia selvatica*), described by Hodgson, a great desideratum of naturalists, is said to be here.

February 26th.—The Maharajah crossed the river and came into camp, bringing with him some of his men, who exhibited their skill in cutting green wood with the kookrie. Soon afterwards the party got into their howdahs, and the beat with elephants commenced. It lay again through the same sort of country, grassy plains, and forest consisting chiefly of sâl. The Mohan was recrossed, and the tents, now in British territory, again were in sight, when a Gwalah (cowherd) came up and said he had just seen a tiger kill a cow. The cover was perfect, the country wild and uncultivated, long grass by the river-side, and clumps of forest scattered here and there. The howdahs and pads were gradually got into line on receipt of this welcome news, and the spot