

## H. E. THE GOVERNOR ON TOUR.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

BARODA, JAN. 11.

HIS EXCELLENCY last evening proceeded to the Motee Bagh, where a grand entertainment had been prepared, but before going into any particulars of the *tumasha*, I should mention that he and his party had a capital day's duck shooting in some tanks about four miles from here. Boats had been provided, and as the birds had not been disturbed for some weeks, they were unusually plentiful. There were twenty guns, and the bag made consisted of one hundred and thirteen couple of duck and teal, and a brace of snipe. The shooting might have been improved upon, but considering every one was out of practice, it was good upon the whole. His Excellency got a capital share of the sport. But to return to the entertainment at the Motee Bagh. The party first met at the Residency, and proceeded in carriages down the long lighted avenues to the town, and between the walls of light, I mentioned in my last letter, until the place was reached where the elephants were in waiting. Here, alighting from the carriages, all were mounted upon elephants, and a procession arranged. The illuminations were even more brilliant than those of the previous night, and the streets and houses seemed a mass of flame. On nearing the entrance of the Motee Bagh, the road was lined with troops,—cavalry, infantry, and artillery. As the procession passed, it was received with a *feu de joie* which made the elephants somewhat uneasy, and a salute from the silver cannon did not tend to restore them to their wonted quietude; still they behaved on the whole very well. His Excellency was welcomed with alternate salutes and *feu de joie*s until his arrival at the Palace, an exceedingly handsome building, with an upper and lower portico. I should mention that His Excellency was accompanied on the leading elephant by His Highness the Gaekwar, Captain R. Graham Mayne, and the Prime Minister, while on the second were Colonel Barr, the Resident; and Mr. Wedderburn, C.S. After going over the Palace, which is a splendid building, and richly furnished, a move was made to the balcony, from whence we were to view the fireworks. Natives are fond of light, and are especially delighted with fireworks; and therefore displays are frequent, but I will venture to say that there was never a better display, when artistic design, general excellence of the work, and taste in arrangement are considered. His Excellency, His Highness the Gaekwar, and the ladies, with Colonel Barr, and Captain Graham Mayne were in the front of the balcony, and had a splendid view of all that went on. The first device was the happy one of "Welcome to Baroda" in diamond-like stars, which was followed by one wishing His Excellency, and the company in general, a "Happy New Year." Then followed various pieces which only a pyrotechnist could describe. On the one side was to be seen the Star of India, and the other an octagonal shield; then wheels within wheels revolving in opposite directions, and other things too numerous to mention. Flights of rockets rushed up to the sky, and descended either in brilliant stars or clouds of serpents, shot rockets, port fires, transparencies, &c., made the display one of the most beautiful, in fact, the best I have ever seen. At Cremorne, Vauxhall, and Covent Garden they are seen on a larger scale, but as far as quality, design, and taste go, these could not have been surpassed, and the manufacturer, Mr. Cuttris, Pyrotechnist to His

His Excellency the Governor after the  
presentation of a beautiful transparency of Her Gracious  
Majesty the Queen, shown surrounded by a splendid  
array of diamond-like stars. His Excellency told Mr.  
Crichton that every one had been delighted at the  
magnificent display, and that he congratulated him  
on his success. After the fireworks, a move was made to  
the dinner table, and a large party, including several  
ladies, was present. The band of the Gaikwar, which  
is one that many regiments might envy, was present,  
and, as William Shakespeare has it, "discoursed sweet  
music" during the evening. Dinner over, His Highness  
the Gaikwar, attended by Colonel Barr, came into the  
room. The health of Her Majesty the Queen having  
been right loyally drunk, His Excellency proposed the  
health of His Highness the Gaikwar, their host,  
who had so regally received and entertained them  
during their arrival at Baroda. His Highness, through  
Colonel Barr, said that he felt in the highest degree  
honoured by the attendance of His Excellency the  
Governor and the ladies and gentlemen he saw around  
him, and hoped that His Excellency would soon  
honour him again with another visit. His Highness  
then withdrew, and the party broke up, but many re-  
mained in the garden listening to the band till near  
midnight. A delightful drive through the cold bracing  
air brought the party to the Camp, after as pleasant  
an evening as could have been spent. This morning there  
is to be an elephant fight, and I am rather anxious to  
see how the huge gentlemen will comport themselves.  
His Excellency leaves for Ahmedabad at five o'clock  
this evening, where, I hear, every effort is and has been  
made to rival Baroda, and he will probably be in Bom-  
bay by Sunday, the 15th. I forgot to mention there was a  
cheetah hunt yesterday morning, and the only run re-  
sulted in a kill. One of the most curious sights in  
Baroda is the bagh-ka-pinjra, where four magnificent  
tigers and two lionesses are secured, not in a cage, but  
simply by collar and chain, and in the adjoining  
compound are four panthers. The menagerie, also,  
includes a huge rhinoceros and three cheetahs, which  
are kept in another part of the town.

I shall make some general remarks upon Baroda and  
the reception in general, in my next letter.