
THE DRUMMERS AND THE RHINOCEROS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MADRAS MAIL.

SIR,—In justice to the parties concerned, I have no doubt you will be pleased to publish the enclosed exculpatory letter, considerably forwarded by the Police Commissioner.

Yours sincerely,

B. W. BROUGHTON, Capt.,
Adj't., 35th M. N. I.

Vepery, 9th Decr. 1871.

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE, MADRAS POLICE,

MY DEAR SIR,—I noticed in the *Madras Times* of yesterday a statement to the effect that some Drummers of your Regiment whom you were good enough to send to the People's Park were terrified and took to their heels, throwing down their drums. This is not true. The Drummers retreated on my making signals to them to do so. The Police took some of their drums, and with the assistance of a bugler did their best to drive away the rhinoceros. They may have been successful, but I am inclined to think he only left his victim when he thought he was dead. What was done by any body was done within easy run to a place of shelter to which all readily betook themselves when the proper time arrived.

Your's truly,

G. W. BOWEN.

Dec. 9th, 1871.

The strategic movement of the drummers does them no discredit, whether it was prompted by well-founded fears of the rhinoceros, or by Major Bowen's signals. Let those who are inclined to question the bravery of the drummers, take drums, and enter the animal's enclosure and perform on those unmusical but martial instruments for the exclusive benefit of the leviathan. The gallant Major talks about an "easy run" to a place to which all readily betook themselves, and yet argues that the drummers did not run, but only retreated. This is a very fine distinction.

—ED. M. M.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENT.

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