

CORRESPONDENCE.

INFORMATION ANENT THE SOONDERBUNS, ETC.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE ORIENTAL SPORTING MAGAZINE.

GENTLEMEN,—Responding to your appeal for information anent the Soonderbuns on behalf of your correspondent, I have the pleasure to send you the following few lines :—

If KHOOLGHA will turn to the *Old Series* of the *Oriental Sporting Magazine*, Vol. I., No. 12, December 1866, he can learn a good deal about the Soonderbuns as a sporting locality, &c., in a rather lengthy article of mine entitled “The Soonderbuns, and the Game there abounding.”

I cannot advise your correspondent to venture in the Soonderbuns in any other than the cold season, as the risk to life from fevers during other periods of the year is very great indeed to all but those inured to the malarious climate. Of course April and May are infinitely preferable to August and September, but the very best time to enjoy one's self, and obtain a fair amount of sport at the same time, is the cold weather, say December, January and February.

The Soonderbuns although teeming with large game, tigers, buffaloes, single-horned rhinoceri, four species of deer, (Ganges stag, spotted deer, hog deer and barking deer,) are extremely difficult to get at, and can *only* be obtained with the aid of a staunch and skilful local *Shikaree*.

We may divide the Soonderbuns into three portions: commencing from the westward the first part is the Twenty-four Pergunna Soonderbuns, which is that tract lying between the Rivers Hooghly and Kabootok, &c.; the next or centre part is the Jessore Soonderbuns, lying between the Rivers Kabootok, &c, and the Bulissur; and lastly, the Backergunge Soonderbuns, lying between the Rivers Bulissur and Megna. The Backergunge Soonderbuns is the best adapted for sport, as in none of the other parts can one penetrate the jungle, owing to the closeness of the forests and under-wood.

A Calcutta *Bholeau* with a couple of comfortable and spacious cabins, besides closet and pantry, can be hired for about Rs. 120 per mensem* in the cold weather, and a good canoe or dug-out can be purchased from the Mugs in the Backergunge Soonderbuns for 2 G. Ms. or so.

I think the above is all the information that your correspondent will need, added to the somewhat minute details he will find in the paper referred to in para. 2nd of this letter.

* Including the full complement of hands, *viz.*, one steersman and seven to eight boatmen.

Before concluding I would fain disabuse the minds of brother sportsmen of the impression, that I think tigers attain the (so fabulous) length of twelve feet. In one of my articles in your Number for November last, I made mention of a large-sized tigress, measuring over twelve feet, but I should have written *after skinning*. I quite agree with M. G. G., (who seems to have acquired a considerable stock of very accurate information regarding the superior felines in a short space of time) that no tigers ever bagged had a length of twelve feet *before skinning*, though I won't be so sure of none being over eleven feet measured as above. However, more of this anon, when I shall send you the first of the series of articles on "The Feline Race of the Soonderbuns."

YOUNG NIMROD.

KHULNA : *February 17th*, 1872.