Madras, Government Gardens
1870 ?

Starts 4 March 1871. From a letter sent by a friend from Preston, left England in September 1870, now assistant engineer in Survey Division, Western Jumna Canal, Kurnaul.

Preston Chronicle Saturday 18 March 1871, p.3

A PRESTONIAN'S ACCOUNT OF HIS JOURNEY TO INDIA.

(Concluded from our last.)

About 12 o'clock the next day we sailed from Galle, amidst torrents of rain, which continued until our arrival at Madras on the 20th October. We parted here with several of our fellow passengers, and spent the morning in seeing them off. In the afternoon we went ashore to pay a visit to the Government gardens. This enchanting retreat is designed in the most artistic and natural manner, and, with its zoological and other curiosities, forms the main attraction in the place. In an evening, when the band performs and the fountains play, the inhabitants resort to these grounds and enjoy the cool breeze after their day's work. We saw many curious birds and animals alive in the gardens, amongst which were lions, tigers, panthers, leopards, musk-cats, pelicans, antelopes, &c. We also saw a large rhinoceros, and the curious little animal called the mongoose, which kills and eats all the snakes, &c. After remaining as long as possible, we returned to the vessel, and only just in time to get some dinner. We remained in the harbour during the whole of the night; and—what with the noise made by natives in loading and unloading, added to the torrents of rain which poured down like a waterspout, and the heat of the atmosphere—we could scarcely obtain a particle of sleep. The next day (October 21st) we left Madras—about dinner

excellent shooting on the way, in the wild peacocks, hares, pigeons, wild duc aged to provide myself with very e means of my gun. On an evening I w of the chokee (houses provided by Go stage, on a large canal or road), where main, and with a roaring fire and a ca happy as need be. On Dec. 2nd I arriv Res, and here met one of the canal co chokie, so that we dined together. Th were up by daybreak, and, having sadd out for some shooting. After a ride we came upon an immense jheel, cover but they were so shy that we could n However, I managed at last, under co straw, to creep up close to them, an rising I gave them a regular dose of fine ducks down the first shot. The managed to get one, and then, afte pigeon, we returned to the chokee fo Res about noon, and was once more on I had not proceeded far before my ser to me, in a fearful state of excitement, immense alligator was just ahead of us, I instantly dismounted, and, giving my to them to remain quiet, and have my I found it necessary to bolt, I crept quie and espied Mr. Alligator warming himse paces ahead of me. I remained ner