

**TRAVELS IN INDIA,**  
**INCLUDING**  
**SINDE AND THE PUNJAB.**

**BY**  
**CAPTAIN LEOPOLD VON ORLICH.**

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**TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN,**

**BY**  
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## LETTER X.

TO ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT.

*Journey to Cawnpoor.—The town and the neighbourhood.—  
 Journey to Lucknow.—Historical notices of the kingdom  
 of Oude.—Lucknow.—House of the British Resident.—  
 Combats of elephants.—The country palaces of the King  
 of Oude.—Nasseeree-Baugh, and Padsha-Baugh.—  
 The Mews.—The palace of Constantia.—The Observ-  
 atory.—The road from Husan-Abad.—The tombs of  
 Imam-Bara and Husan-Abad.—Rides through the  
 bazar.—Audience of the King of Oude.—His palace  
 and mode of life.—Tomb of the Nabob Saadut-Ali Khan.  
 The King's menagerie.—Ride along the Goomty.—Return  
 to Cawnpoor.—Departure for Allahabad.—Allahabad and  
 its environs.—Tombs of Shah Kusra.—Society at Alla-  
 habad.—Journey to Benares.—Benares.—Peregrination  
 through the city, and view of the Hindoo temples.—The  
 village of Durgagund with the sacred monkeys.—Ruins  
 and tower near the village of Saranath.*

Benares, March 14. 1843.

I TAKE it for granted that you have read my letter to Mr. Carl Ritter, in which I give an account of my stay at Agra, and of my journey through the country of Bhurtpoor. Resuming my narrative at the point where I broke off, I will now give you an outline of some of my proceedings in the kingdom of Oude, in Allahabad, and Benares. You will probably hear many things, with which you are

rain, which cause all the rivers to overflow, the air is filled with very disagreeable dampness which produces fever and cholera.

One of my friends had given me an introduction to his brother-in-law, Lieutenant Anson of the ninth regiment of Lancers; but before I could find his residence in this great city of villas and bungalows, several hours had passed away, and evening would have come on, if that hospitable officer had not sent one of his servants to meet me. I passed only one day at Cawnpoor, chiefly among the officers of the ninth regiment of Lancers, who had the kindness to make me a member of their mess.

On the 27th, at six in the afternoon, I set out by dawk, for Lucknow, which is forty-three miles distant. The day was clear, but extremely warm and oppressive; for the temperature, which had hitherto been, uniformly, not above  $58^{\circ}$  in the morning,  $82\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  at the most at noon, and  $73\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  in the evening, suddenly rose on this day to  $60^{\circ}$  in the morning,  $87^{\circ}$  at noon, and  $78^{\circ}$  in the evening, at which it remained almost unchanged for several days. My palanquin bearers carried me over the bridge of boats thrown across the Ganges, which is 500 paces in length, and subsequently for some miles along the sandy bed of the river. As soon as I passed from the English territory into the kingdom of Oude, — the ancient North Kausala, or “the Happy,” — I was struck with the difference in the cultivation of the soil: there, the country was like a garden, here, there are only a few arable fields amidst immense tracts of desert.

sums of money are expended. Among the former is that of Saadut Ali Khan, which lies at the east end of the city; it is a simple but handsome building, surrounded by verandas, resting upon columns, and consists of a lofty vaulted circular hall, in the centre of which stands a silver cenotaph. The Nabob himself reposes in the lower vaults, in a marble sarcophagus, between his daughter and his grand-daughter. The garden, which is entirely neglected, is surrounded by colonnades and small buildings, which are inhabited by some natives of Cashmere, who fled thither twelve years ago. Hukeem Mehdi, the King's minister and the most judicious counsellor that ever lived at this court, not only gave them a settlement here, but plenty of work, for he at once availed himself of their skill in making shawls. They are still employed in this manner, but their work is much inferior to that of Cashmere, and here, too, like their countrymen, they bear the character of liars and swindlers.

Ghazi ud Deen Hyder Shah, the first king of Oude, is buried on the left bank of the Goomty, in a plain vaulted building which is surrounded by a fine garden. The retired situation, and the silence which prevails here, make this a favourite resort of devotees, and we found a priest here reading the Koran to some pious Mussulmans. Not far from it is the King's menagerie, a large, square court, surrounded by piazzas: we were shown thirteen tigers, many monkeys, rabbits, fighting antelopes, and rams, and fighting quails;

the latter bit each other with such fury, that the keeper was obliged to shut up the little enraged creatures before the combat was decided. Their love of fighting is excited by jealousy; and when the King has large entertainments, he has them put upon the table at dessert, for the amusement of himself and his guests.

I here saw the Beejee or Indian Ichneumon, which is very common in the district of Moorshe-dabad. When taken young it is easily domesticated, and is very much attached to human beings. It possesses the remarkable property of being able to kill the most poisonous serpents, for even the Cobra on seeing the Beejee coils itself up, and remains in a state of stupor. The Beejee meanwhile looks at its intended victim with a piercing eye, and, at the slightest motion, pounces upon it, seizes the serpent by the head, and kills it upon the spot.

I am sorry to say, the value of this menagerie has been very much decreased by the removal of several animals—six Rhinoceroses and several other remarkable animals having been taken to adorn various sepulchral monuments.

In conclusion, I must mention the Shah-Manzil (*i. e.* the King's house), which is situated in a fine garden, and consists of a spacious apartment, supported by columns, furnished with silk divans, and three chandeliers, of the value of 81,000*l.* sterling. A large marble basin in front of it was nearly completed. Though the English residents have many gardens, they have, however, likewise formed a fine