

NARRATIVE
OF
A JOURNEY
THROUGH THE
UPPER PROVINCES OF INDIA,

FROM
CALCUTTA TO BOMBAY,
1824—1825.

(WITH NOTES UPON CEYLON,)

AN ACCOUNT OF A JOURNEY TO
MADRAS AND THE SOUTHERN PROVINCES, 1826,
AND LETTERS WRITTEN IN INDIA.

BY THE LATE RIGHT REV.
REGINALD HEBER, D.D.
LORD BISHOP OF CALCUTTA.

SECOND EDITION.

IN THREE VOLUMES.
VOL. I.

LONDON:
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.

MDCCCXXVIII.

hâl. It was too wet to walk, and altogether the halt was very uncomfortable. I could not help feeling some regret that I was to pass so near the ruins of Gour without visiting them, though by all accounts, they are mere shapeless mounds, covered with jungle, and haunted, as usual, by snakes and wild beasts. Yet the great antiquity of the place, which is said to be mentioned in the oldest Hindoo poetry, its size, which seems almost to have rivalled Babylon or Nineveh, and the circumstances which led to its abandonment are all striking.

“ It was not in the battle, no tempest gave the shock ;”

The same mighty river whose active powers of destruction we witnessed yesterday, by a different process turned Gour into a wilderness. The main advantage of its situation was, that the Ganges rolled under its walls ; two hundred years ago the Ganges deserted its old bed for that which it at present occupies, six or seven miles south of the former, and Gour began to decay. The governors of Bahar and Bengal deserted it for other residences, and

“ Now pointed at by wisdom and by wealth,
Stands, in the wilderness of woe, Masar !”

It is impossible to pass it without recollecting that what Gour is, Calcutta may any day become, unless the river in its fresh channel should assume a more fatal direction, and sweep in its new track our Churches, markets, and palaces, (by the way of the Loll Diggy and the Balighât,) to that salt-

water lake which seems its natural estuary. The length of the ruins of Gour, as marked on Rennell's map, is eighteen miles, and their breadth six.

August 6.—After passing for some time through a channel between a newly-formed island and the south-western shore, we emerged on the broad river again, and found ourselves close upon the town of Rajmahâl; apparently not much of a place, but very prettily situated, though still on the same perfect level, the hills, to my surprise, being yet at a considerable distance. I had always understood, and the maps had confirmed the idea, that the town was at their foot; and I could now easily believe that I had underrated their size, when I saw what an interval still separated me from them, observing how indistinct the objects on them still appeared, and knowing how much apparent distance is abridged by the brilliant sun and clear skies of India. The banks of the river are, however, here a little higher than I have seen lately, and a few boulder-stones, and small masses of granite may be observed here and there, brought probably, by water, from the hills.

As soon as it was cool, I walked to see the ruins of the ancient palace built by Sultan Sujah, brother to the emperor Aurungzebe, in 1630. I ascended what, for Bengal, was really a steep place, passing a little brook, in which I almost fancied I saw gravel, a phenomenon which I had not seen since I left England. The path wound among cottages, toddy palms, and other fruit-trees, as well as some little ruinous mosques, and a cutcherry, which

struck me as simple and elegant. It was merely a thatched shed, like an Otaheitan house, with an earthenware ornament at each end of its ridge-pole; but it was supported on a basement of stone, (another novelty,) with some broad, easy steps, and a small raised platform in its centre. Its situation, surrounded as it was by trees, reminded me of the Crimea, or might have been such a place as Samuel or Saul sate to do judgment in, in Ramah. From hence we ascended a little further to a large court, surrounded by ruinous buildings, some of them not inelegant; but of all, the desolation was too recent,—the beams and pillars of the verandahs remaining naked but entire,—to be beautiful or picturesque ruins. It looked like a great house which had been lately burned. I was a little at a loss to find my way through the ruins and young jungle, when a man came up, and in Persian, with many low bows, offered his services. He led me into a sort of second court, a little lower on the hill, where I saw two European tombs, and then to three very beautiful arches of black slate, on pillars of the same, leading into a small but singularly elegant hall, opening immediately on the river, though a considerable height above it, through three similar arches to those by which we entered. The roof was vaulted with stone, delicately carved, and the walls divided by Gothic tracery into pannels, still retaining traces of gilding and Arabic inscriptions. At each end of this beautiful room was a gothic arch, in like manner of slate, leading into two small

large, at least, as Peckwater Quadrangle, surrounded with cloisters, and the whole in that state of *verdant* decay which is most agreeable to an artist's eye. I was here going to offer my self-appointed cicerone some trifling payment, but he stopped me, by putting a petition into my hands, with the humble request that I would give or send it, when I got to Boglipoor, to Mr. Chalmers, the senior judge. I said I was not acquainted with Mr. Chalmers, and that knowing nothing of him, (the petitioner,) I could not recommend his case. But he said that all he wished was, that his case might meet Mr. Chalmers's eye, without going through the post-office here. As I knew not what reason he might have for the request, I told him I would either give or send his paper to the judge, but could do no more.

In my return to the river I met a large party from one out of three budgerows which arrived at the same time with my pinnace. They had been twenty-four days coming from Calcutta, had had a disastrous voyage, having seen their baggage-boat go down before their eyes, and their stock of European comforts being nearly exhausted, I was glad to be able to supply them with some trifles out of my store, as also to lend them my Peon to shew them the way to the ruins. We had a smart storm of wind and rain in the night, and when I looked out in the morning of August 7, I feared that Mohammed would be afraid to launch from the shore. He, however, ventured, but owing to the weight and size of the vessel, and in part to

the tardiness of the Clashees in getting up the sails, we were driven by the eddy among the rocks and the ruins which had fallen from the old palace into the river, and remained beating for five or six minutes before we were disengaged. I was disappointed to find that our approach to the hills was still to be delayed, the wind being unfavourable to advancing directly up the river. We were forced to proceed along a nullah winding through marshes. We had in fact our backs to the hills, and should not have come near them again till near their termination, had I not told the Serang I wanted to see Sicligully, which by his own statement was just as near as the course he wished to pursue. We therefore turned short to our left hand, and came right down on Sicligully, enjoying a noble view of the hills, which in extent, indeed, as in height as well as beauty, far exceed what I had expected. They rise from the flat surface of Bengal as out of the sea; a large waterfall is seen from a very considerable distance tumbling down the mountain in several successive cascades, that nearest the plain of very considerable height.

The people of these mountains, and of all the hilly country between this place and Burdwan, are a race distinct from those of the plain in features, language, civilization, and religion. They have no castes, care nothing for the Hindoo deities, and are even said to have no idols. They are still more naked than the Hindoo peasants, and live chiefly by the chace, for which they are provided with bows and arrows, few of them having fire-

themselves, and wear black, rough-looking blankets, thrown over their heads and shoulders. They are, I think, a more manly-looking race than the Bengalees, or at least the length and thickness of their beards, and their dark Circassian mantles, give them that appearance.

The plant in the corner of the subjoined sketch is Indian corn; the hill in the distance is over the village of Colgony, near our last halting-place. There are, I think, more buffaloes in proportion seen in Bahar than Bengal; but the number of cattle of all kinds is certainly greater.

Our day's course had hitherto lain through jeels and nullahs, and we had some little difficulties and delays in getting back to the Ganges, and afterwards from the Ganges to the branch on which Boglipoor stands. We could not reach this place, but stopped short of it at a rather pretty village, named Tingypoor, with some green, English-looking meadows, hedges of cactus, and tall, round-topped trees.

August 10.—I arrived at Boglipoor, or Bhaugulpoor, about seven o'clock in the morning, and found, to my great joy, my friends the Corries still there, established very comfortably in the circuit-house (a bungalow provided in each of the minor stations for the district judges when on their circuit), which had been lent them by the judge and magistrate Mr. Chalmers. I breakfasted with them, and went afterwards with Mr. Chalmers to see the objects principally worth notice,—the gaol, a very neat and creditable building, with no less than six

wards for the classification of the prisoners, Mr. Cleveland's house and monument, and a school established for the Puharrees by Lord Hastings. Mr. Cleveland's monument is in the form of a Hindoo mut, in a pretty situation on a green hill. The land with which it was endowed, is rented by government, and the cutcherry, magistrate's-house, circuit-house, &c. are built on it, the rent being duly appropriated to the repair of the building. As being raised to the memory of a Christian, this last is called by the natives "Grigi," (Church) and they still meet once a year in considerable numbers, and have a handsome "Poojah," or religious spectacle in honour of his memory.

The school is adjoining to the lines, and occupies a large and neat bungalow, one room in which is the lodging of the schoolmaster, a very interesting and intelligent half-caste youth; the other, with a large verandah all round, was, when I saw it, filled with Puharree Sepoys and their sons, who are all taught to read, write, and cypher in the Kythee character, which is that used by the lower classes in this district for their common intercourse, accounts, &c. and differs from the Devanagree about as much as the written character of Western Europe does from its printed. The reason alleged for giving this character the preference is its utility in common life, but this does not seem a good reason for teaching it only, or even for beginning with it. No increase of knowledge, or enlargement of mind, beyond the power of keeping their accounts and writing a shop-bill, can be expected from its ac-

forbidden, but seldom practised. The bridegroom gives a feast on occasion of the marriage; the bride's father addresses a speech to him, exhorting him to use his daughter well; the bridegroom then marks her forehead with red paint, links his little finger in hers, and leads her to his house. The usual mode of making oath is to plant two arrows in the ground, as in the subjoined sketch, the person swearing taking the blade of one and the feather of the other between his finger and thumb. On solemn occasions, however, salt is put on the blade of a sabre, and after the words of the oath are repeated, the blade being placed on the under lip of the person sworn, the salt is washed into his mouth by him who administers it.

Thus far I have learnt from Captain Graham; Mr. Corrie tells me that further particulars of this interesting race are given in the Calcutta Annual Register for 1821; what follows I learnt from different persons in the course of the day.

The Hill country is very beautiful, and naturally fertile, but in many parts of it there is a great scarcity of water, a want which the people urge as an excuse for their neglect of bathing. As so much rain falls, this might, and would by a civilized people, be remedied, but the Puharrees neither make tanks, nor have any instrument proper for digging wells. The thick jungle makes the hills unwholesome to Europeans during the rains, but at other times the climate is extremely agreeable, and in winter more than agreeably cold. Mr. Chalmers one night had a jug of water completely

frozen over to a considerable thickness in his tent, and close to his bed. The Puharrees are a healthy race, but the small-pox used to make dreadful ravages among them. Vaccination has now been generally introduced; they were very thankful for it, bringing their children from thirty and fifty miles off to Boglipoor to obtain it. Wild animals of all kinds are extremely abundant, from the jackall to the tyger, and from the deer to the elephant and rhinoceros. Their way of destroying the large animals is, generally, by poisoned arrows. The poison is a gum which they purchase from the Garrows, a people who inhabit the mountains to the north of Silhet, at Peer-pointee fair.

No attempt has yet been made to introduce them to the knowledge of Christianity. The school at Boglipoor has scarcely been in activity for more than 18 months, and being supported by Government, it cannot, in conformity with the policy which they pursue, be made a means of conversion. Mr. Corrie is strongly disposed to recommend the establishment of a Missionary at Boglipoor; but I am myself inclined to prefer sending him immediately, (or as soon as he may have gained some knowledge of the Puharree language,) into one of the mountain villages. I also would wish to employ some person to accompany the Missionary or Schoolmaster, who may instruct the natives in weaving or pottery; and to choose, in either of these capacities, some one who had himself a little knowledge of gardening. Civilization and instruction will thus go hand in hand,—or rather, the one

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CHAPTER XV.

CAWNPOOR TO LUCKNOW.

Entrance into the King of Oude's Territories—Increase of Guards—King's Suwarra—Aúmeen—Entrance into Lucknow—Court Circular—Narrow Streets—Armed Inhabitants—Prime Minister—Rhinoce-roses—Dil-Koushar—Constantia—Deceased King's Wives—Breakfast at the Palace—Distribution of Money at the Gates—King breakfasts at the Residency—Private Details of the Government—Christians at Lucknow.

WE left Cawnpoor on Monday afternoon, the 18th of October, having sent our baggage and tents early in the morning to the first station, which is only six miles from the northern bank of the Ganges, the passage of which, by camels and elephants, usually takes up a considerable space of time. The Ganges is still a noble stream; its width, at the usual place of ferrying, is, I should think, not far from a mile and a half, but it is divided at this season by a large sand-bank, and the water is in many places shallow. Its banks on both sides are flat and ugly, but the southern side has the advantage in its numerous bungalows, surrounded by their respective gardens. We had heard much of the misgoverned and desolate state of the kingdom of Oude; boats had been recently menaced, in their way to Cawnpoor, by some of the villagers adjoining the river, and my guard had been increased, without any application from me, from thirty to

some of the ports of Oman and Yemen, in the hope of finding an eligible opportunity of returning home by sea; and then, finding himself in a new and interesting country, determined to make the tour of India. Added to his zeal for seeing new countries, he has an uncommon share of good-nature, and cheerfulness, and is exactly the person whom I could conceive Bankes selecting as his travelling companion.

I do not know that there is any use in writing a regular journal of the manner in which I passed my time at Lucknow. There was, as must be the case, a good deal of sameness, in morning rides, evening sight-seeing, late breakfasts, and later dinners. There were several pleasant people among the crowd, and I was daily more and more pleased with my host and future hostess, and from him I obtained much information as to the manners and customs of northern India. The King very good naturedly sent an elephant every morning for Mr. Lushington and myself, and a chariot for the Corries, that we might see the sights of Lucknow to more advantage. There is a menagerie, with a greater number of scarce and curious animals, but in far worse order, than that at Barrackpore; and on the other side of the river Goomty, in a well-wooded park, is a large collection of different varieties of cows, camels, and deer, and five or six very large rhinoceroses, the first animals of the kind I ever saw, and of which I found that prints and drawings had given me a very imperfect conception. They are more bulky animals, and of a

darker colour, than I had supposed, and the thickness of the folds of their impenetrable skin much surpasses all which I had expected. These at Lucknow are gentle and quiet animals, except that one of them has a feud with horses. They seem to propagate in captivity without reluctance, and I should conceive might be available to carry burthens as well as the elephant, except that, as their pace is still slower than his, their use could only be applicable to very great weights, and very gentle travelling. These have sometimes had howdahs on them, and were once fastened in a carriage, but only as an experiment which was never followed up. There is, on the same side of the river, a poultry-yard of beautiful pigeons ; and on the river itself is a steam-boat, a vessel fitted up like a brig of war, and other things which shew the King to be fond of mechanical inventions. He has, indeed, a very skilful mechanist, an English officer, in his service, and is himself said to know more of the science, and of the different branches of philosophy connected with it, than could be expected in a person who understands no European language.

Another pleasant ride is to "Dil-koushar," Heart's Delight, a small summer palace of the King's, about three miles from the city. The house is small and ugly, with a high front like a grenadier's cap, and two low wings, like some of the old French and German chateaus. It is said to be prettily arranged and furnished inside, but this I did not see.

The park is extensive, and some parts of it ex-

tremely pretty, being sufficiently wild and jungly to offer a picturesque variety, and in parts sufficiently open for air and exercise, as well as to shew off its deer and neelghaus to advantage. Some parts of it put me in mind of the few remaining glades of Needwood forest. There are not only neelghaus and the common Indian deer, but some noble red deer in this park, which contribute much, with a broad and excellent drive through it, and the form of its lodge, to give it an English air, which, however, is from time to time destroyed by the tall jungle grass, with its beautiful silver tufts, and the monkeys. These, as well as all which I have yet seen in this country, resemble the corpulent one which I described on the banks of the Pudda in every particular, except that of wanting a tail, which he, I suppose, had lost by some accident. Though they seem better adapted for climbing than running, they are tolerably swift on the ground. I have more than once taken them at first for Pariar dogs. They are very tame, never being shot at or injured, and are not, I think, the lively frolicsome animal which they are in Europe supposed to be. There is a sort of cage in the middle of the park, where they are fed, at least where some gram is thrown to them to scramble for once in two or three days, whether founded by the King or some pious Hindoo I know not. I suspect the latter, because the people who keep it are Fakirs, and beg, and because there is a statue of Humimân in front of it.

Another popular drive is to Constantia, a very

NARRATIVE

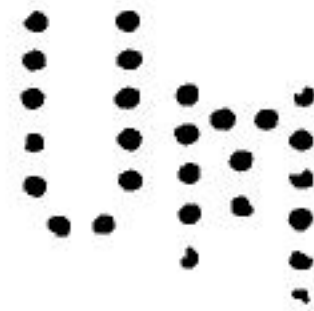
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CHAPTER XXV.

BARODA TO BOMBAY.

Entrance into Baroda—Nandār Khān—Cantonment—Church—Character of the Guicwar—Consecration of the Church—Visit to the Guicwar—Visits from Natives—Guicwar returns the Visit—Departure from Baroda—Crossing the Mhye—Kholees—Swaamee Narain—Hot Winds—Interview with Swaamee Narain—Arrival at Kairah—Insalubrity of Climate—Jain Temple—Departure from Kairah—Difficulty in crossing the Mhye—Breach—Banyan-tree in an Island on the Nerbudda—Surat—Embarkation—Arrival at Bombay.

MARCH 19.—From Jerrdda to Baroda is thirteen miles over a bare and open country, the roads much cut up. Expecting to meet “great men” we made our march in regular order, the nagari beating and Maharatta standard flying before us, followed by my chobdars and a chobdar of the Resident’s, who gave the word for marching in a sort of shrill cry, “Chülō Maharatta!” Forward Maharattas! The vakeels and the dewan followed

by the advice of Trimbuk-jee, and thence proceeding through the different gradations of bankers and financial men, military officers, (of whom many were Patans,) according to their ranks, vakeels of foreign states, ministers, ending with the prime minister, (all of whom were Brahmins) the Raja's brother-in-law, his nephew, a little boy of six years old, the Raja's brother, the heir-apparent, a child also of about six, and the Maharaja himself, a short stout-built young man, of twenty-seven years old. The usual forms of introduction and enquiries after health followed, and his Highness, after asking when I would come to see him, for which I fixed Monday evening, remounted his elephant, and we proceeded different ways into the city, which is large and populous, with tolerably wide streets and very high houses, at least for India, chiefly built of wood, which I had not seen for a long time, with tiled sloping roofs, and *rows* along the streets something like those of Chester. The palace, which is a large shabby building, close to the street, four stories high, with wooden galleries projecting over each other, is quite a specimen of this kind. There are some tolerable pagodas, but no other building which can be admired. The streets are dirty, with many swine running up and down, and no signs of wealth, though, as I was told, there was a good deal of its reality, both among the bankers and principal tradesmen. The Residency is a large ugly house without verandahs, and painted blue, as stuccoed houses sometimes are in England. It was at this time under repair, and

Mr. Williams, with his sister, was encamped in a grove of mangoes about a mile from the city; our tents were pitched near his. In passing through the city I saw two very fine hunting tygers in silver chains, and a rhinoceros (the present of Lord Amherst to the Guicwar) which is so tame as to be ridden by a mohout, quite as patiently as an elephant. There were also some very striking groupés of the native horsemen, who thronged the street like a fair; one of them, a very tall and large man on a powerful horse, was cased completely in chain armour, like the figure representing a crusader at the exhibition of ancient armour in Pall-Mall. He had also a long spear shod with silver, a very large shield of transparent rhinoceros-hide, also with silver studs, and was altogether a most shewy and picturesque cavalier. Many of the others had helmets, vant-braces, gauntlets, &c. but none were so perfectly armed as he was.

During our ride Mr. Williams introduced to me more particularly the officer with the splendid equipment who came to meet me, by the name of Namdar Khân, a native of Persia, and Commander of the Residency escort. He had been aid-de-camp to Sir John Malcolm during the Pindarree war, and was a man of very distinguished and desperate bravery, though, certainly, the greatest còxcomb, as he was also one of the handsomest young men I ever saw. Nothing could exceed the smartness of his embroidery, the spotless purity of his broad belts, the art with which his eyelids were blackened with antimony, his short curling beard, whiskers,