

**JOURNAL**  
**OF**  
**A WINTER'S TOUR IN INDIA:**

**WITH**  
**A Visit to the Court of Nepaul.**

**BY THE**  
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**With Illustrations.**

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## CHAPTER VI.

Scenery on the River—Barrackpore—The Garden and the Menagerie—  
Separation of our Party—Palankeen Travelling—A Bad Night—  
Scenery—Burdwan—Dāk Bungalow—The Road, and the Travellers  
thereon—Parasnath—Dangerous Vicinity—Bengal Officials and their  
Suite—Quit the Delhi Road—Arrival at Gyah—Picturesque Scene—  
The Lady and the Tiger—Arrival at Patna.

BARRACKPORE is the country seat of the Governor-General, besides being the military station of Calcutta, from which it is distant about fifteen miles. Our conveyance there was the Governor's barge, a great clumsy craft, with comfortable airy cabins, a good promenade deck well sheltered by thick awnings, and towed by a steamer. Certainly river-navigation is in its infancy in India, or else the rivers present difficulties utterly unknown to any other streams. They still stick to the old plan of having flats towed by steamers all the way to Allahabad, instead of conveying the goods or passengers in the steamers themselves. I hear, however, that they are now trying a steamer on the model of the American

Our bright domestic and the palkees came soon after dinner, and were placed under the care of the guard in the recesses below.

*Sunday, Jan. 12.*—In the morning we had a very pleasant walk about the grounds, and to the menagerie. The gardens are very pretty, and contain a great many plants I know nothing about, besides specimens of almost all the different sorts of trees which can be got to grow there. The menagerie is not so extensive as it has been. There are two rhinoceroses, a fine tigress, a giraffe, some leopards (one a black one), tiger-cats, monkeys, ostriches, a huge tortoise, and some birds. About the most curious animal is a rare monkey called an oolook. It is tailless, black, and travels about the trees in a surprising manner, making great bounds with its arms, swinging itself from branch to branch. It seemed quite tame, and very gentle. In the garden among the greatest ornaments, are a red-leafed plant brought from Brazil, and a very large blue convolvulus, which last seems pretty common in this country. Barrackpore itself is merely a village of officers' bungalows and sepoy's huts (or, as they call them, lines), standing about the Governor-General's palace, and on the edge of a wide plain,

## CHAPTER VIII.

Singular Laws—Ducks—Irrigation—Push-Putty—Great Buddhist Temple—A Queen under “Surveillance”—The ancient City of Patan—The Arsenal—Temples of Sumbhoo Nath—Bhootias—Reception at Court—A Walk in Khatmandoo.

AFTER breakfast, and a consultation as to our future plans, we all started for a walk about the neighbourhood of the Residency. There are a quantity of orange-trees in its neighbourhood, principally the small mandarin orange, bearing a very pleasant, very well-flavoured, fruit. Many of these belong to the Durbar, and we were told that the taking of any of the fruit was punishable with the loss of one's left hand—a second offence, with that of one's right—and number three, with that of one's head; such being the punishment for any kind of theft, which is therefore not a vice often indulged in by the Nepaulese. Somebody once suggested, I believe, to Jung, that there was a physical difficulty in the way of incurring the last penalty, one hand at least being almost

seemed much puzzled at our attempts at sketching. I think both ponies and riders were glad when the sight-seeing was over. We are unlucky in having so little time, it obliges us to crowd too many sights into one day, and we forget much of what we have seen, from the confusion of so many objects. A month or more might well be spent in Nepaul. No intelligence has reached us from Jung yet, and the Durbar declares he knows nothing about him.

*Tuesday, Jan. 28.*—Our shooting arrangements, for the present at least, are knocked on the head. We had settled to go with Mr. Erskine to a place in the Tirhaj, where we should have had a fair chance of a shot at a rhinoceros, an almost certainty of deer, and a probability of buffalo; but he can't go until Jung arrives, and the Queen's letter has been presented. If he does not go, we shall not get a sufficient number of elephants, and, in fact, the sport will be uncertain, and hardly worth trying for, so we have given it up altogether, and to-day determined to go round by Benares, instead of going straight to Lucknow, which will take a little longer time, but will show us the first-named place. I am not altogether sorry for this, as I suspect our time would have been too short to allow of

diverted, so was the mob, at our making purchases and paying for them in ready money, a system of barter being the usual one in Nepaul. They have not much money in cash; the only coin, if coin it can be called, that I saw in use in the country, being little square bits of copper. One shopkeeper had a small quantity of English goods in his store, such as needles, tea-pots, empty bottles, powder and shot, &c., &c. In another place I saw some calico with an English mark. There were quantities of brass and other metal pots, strings of red silk or cotton, little pictures of hideous deities, with looking-glasses at the backs, and other valuables. We also visited a rhinoceros, which they keep tied up in a yard; it was firmly secured to a post, by a chain round its neck, and by another one round its fore-legs; they said it was much inclined to be mischievous. Further on, in a wooden cage, near the gate of the town, is a very savage leopard. Our stroll was, in fact, very amusing; the people are so different from anything one sees anywhere else, and if we had had time we might have got some beautiful patterns from the woodcarving on the exteriors of the houses. This art seems to have degenerated here, for none of the new houses

## CHAPTER IX.

A Dinner and a Review—Visit to the House of Jung Bahadoor—Another Feast—Cover Shooting—Nepaulese Politics—Our last Walk in the Valley of Nepaul—Start from Khatmandoo—The Passes and the Road—Meeting with the High Priest of Nepaul—The Cook and his Kitchen—Meeting with Jung Bahadoor—His Suite and his Escort—A Disappointment.

*Thursday, Jan. 30.*—Cloudy, but no fog this morning. The Durbar sent a dinner, another custom of the country, but not peculiar to Nepaul. As you cannot eat the said dinner, and have to make a baksheesh to the people who bring it, it becomes a rather expensive present. It was brought by about fifty ragged boys and men, and consisted of about two hundred and fifty pots or dishes of rice, grain of various kinds, preserves, vegetables, fruits, cakes, and sundry cooked and curiously nasty dishes, enough to keep a small family for a twelve-month. Many of the dishes were simply green leaves neatly sewed together. The only at all eatable things I tasted were some sugar-candy and

enough, and to have made good use of his eyes and ears during his tour. However, our conversation with him was not very long, as he soon had to follow his master, and we to pursue our road to Hetowra. Nahl Sing was perpetually bringing ponies for me to get upon, being much puzzled at my preferring to go on foot, but a desperate feat of mine, viz., walking through a river about a foot deep, quite floored him. We were obliged to explain to the officer in command of our escort that it was a voluntary performance of mine, or I fancy the dandy-bearers and soldiers would have been punished for not carrying me over. When we got to Hetowra, we found that some mistake had been made. Jung had told us that we should find a quantity of elephants and soldiers there, and that with them we might go and beat up for a rhinoceros, said to be within eight or ten miles ; but on our arrival all we found were a couple of elephants, and about a dozen men in charge of them, not nearly enough for sport, so we were obliged to give up the idea. Our subadar seemed much annoyed, and told us he could collect elephants, &c., if we could wait two days. However, this would not do either. We had no provisions, no ammunition, no anything, and,



above all, no time to spare for the after all rather remote chance of finding the animal, so we contented ourselves with requesting him to provide elephants to take us to Bichako in the morning. Loch and I had a pleasant bath in the Rapté before dinner. I should have liked to have seen the elephant-hunt. They usually catch them in pitfalls in the Tirhaj, and only use the hunt system for their amusement. The tame animals, when they come up with the wild one, regularly bully him with their trunks until he submits. The difficulty is for the mahouts and riders to avoid being swept off the backs of their animals by any overhanging branch which may come in the way. To prevent that, there is no howdah placed on the elephant's back, but only a low pad or cushion with stirrups of rope, and a crupper of the same on which to "cramponner" oneself; in fact, to hang on by when one would otherwise be swept off. It must have been splendid sport. Jung, while here, inspected the two hundred elephants which had been caught during his absence, and discarded all that had not good tufts to their tails. These will probably be sold in the British territories, or to anybody else that will buy them.