

The ancient joke of giving the motto of *Quid Rides* for this snuff maker's carriage, is also assigned to Curran.

Examining a country squire, who disputed a collier's bill—"Did he not give you the *coals*, friend?"—"he did, Sir, but ———" "But what?—on your oath, was n't your payment *slack*."

RHINOCEROS HUNTING.

THE following is an extract of a letter from the north east frontier of British India, written during the Nepaul war:

"Rhinceros hunting, I believe has seldom been painted, though I have known several sportsmen who have had good opportunities of doing it; perhaps, therefore, an account of a day lately passed in this noble, but dangerous diversion, may afford some gratification to your sporting readers. On a late occasion, our shikaries*, whom we had dispersed in all directions, brought us information of a herd of seven or eight rhinceroses having taken up their abode around a large jheel † near Hurdeen, a village situated about eight costs‡ N. N. E. of Baragurhee. We dispatched our elephants, seven in number, and shooting apparatus, &c. without delay, and followed ourselves, on horseback. On reaching the spot, we found that either side of the lake, for about two hundred yards, was cloathed with glorious jungle for every animal of the savage kind. This we began to beat; each of our party, four in number, having an elephant with howdah† the other three elephants carrying pads, and a few servants only. We had 17 guns, most of them double barrell'd, and five of the latter kind, four ounce rifles.

"Soon after we entered the jungle, the piping of the elephants, and the fresh prints of the rhinceroses' feet, proved that the shikaries were not mistaken, and indeed, in less than an hour, we started two young ones, about the size of a full grown Neel Gaeff, and not unlike that animal in colour. The first fire killed one, and wounded the other severely, which, notwithstanding, went off at a smart clk trot, and howling in a most hideous manner. The sound was infinitely greater, but the tone reminded me of such charming music as I had often heard on the sod at wakes and funerals. The old ones were soon collected around us by the cries, and three males of monstrous size and frightful appearance charged our line with irresistible impetuosity. Two of our elephants giving way, received the charge on their hinder parts, and were instantly upset; those that stood fronting the charge were not knocked down, but staggeted several yards by the shock. Unfortunately, mine was the only howdah elephant that gave way, and you may believe my situation was not by any means laughable. The elephant often attempted to rise, but so often did

* Huntsmen or prickers.—† A herd.—‡ A land measure.

§ Seats on the backs of of the elephants.

† Otherwise written Nil Ghan, or Blue Cow, "a native of Africa."

the rhinoceros lay him flat again, and at length with such force, that I was thrown several yards into the lake, in a state of stupefaction, but luckily, falling on some willows, they supported and saved me from drowning. I was not sorry, on recovering, to find myself out of the howdah; for, while in it, destruction appeared inevitable, either by the horn of the furious enemy—the rolling over of the elephant—or, what was as likely as any, by my companions' shot, who, despairing of my escape, fired many times. Their balls struck the monster's body in several places, without any evident effect, though from the four ounces before mentioned. At last a lucky one knocked a large flake from his horn, and caused a pleasing change in his conduct; for he walked Spanish directly afterwards, tearing through the thickets with astonishing force, at a beautiful Mahratta canter.

"We traced his footsteps for some miles, when, being convinced that he had taken to the forest, we returned to look after the others, fully determined to search again for him on a future day. On our way back, we found the young one, that we had wounded in the morning, dead. Both must have been very young; for, though males, their horns were scarcely perceptible, and no scales appeared either on their breasts or on their shoulders. It was now past one P. M. and we had nearly given up all hopes of finding the others. However on rounding the north end of the lake, we found them again; and, after a chase of more than three hours, killed two, a male and a female. They were not so bold now as we expected to find them, and seemed to have lost their courage with their leader, to whom they were very inferior in size; but still their dimensions astonished us not a little. The largest was above six feet in height, and stronger in proportions than any elephant I ever saw. No elephant but males of known courage ought to be employed in this desperate hunt."

MODERN AUTHORS:—A CHARACTER.

From the *Literary Gazette*.

Faciunt nō intelligendo, nō nihil intelligent.

WHenever I read the lists of new publications, I am always surprised at the number of books of all descriptions which daily issue from the press; writing seems the order of the day. There are now almost as many writers as there were readers a century ago. Our numbers of poets, travellers, biographers, novel writers, &c. seem inexhaustible. But though we may boast of works in all these departments, that would do honour to any age or nation, yet no age has afforded so great a number of demi-authors and authoresses. Men and women, boys and girls, (the evil seems epidemic), every one of common parts and education, who has a facility of connecting sentences