

THE  
BENGAL  
SPORTING MAGAZINE,

AND  
EASTERN MISCELLANY.

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CONDUCTED

BY

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*James H. Stocqueler*

light of morning we were after them, and in the course of half an hour had bagged five ducks and seventeen teal; as they had then become too wary to give any hopes of sport, we mounted and away towards Boree, leaving the horsekeepers with our guns to follow, a most unfortunate business! for when near Sheroor we heard a vast shouting in a patch of sugar-cane, whence bolted a splendid sounder of hog which crossed within fifty yards of us. Neither spear or gun at hand! so we were fain to look and grin at them, with the poor consolation that we might meet again, as they had taken the road we wished. At Boree, we found all our people prepared, but my *factotum* Wyrā in considerable tribulation at having been robbed the preceding night of my single gun, together with his own jacket and turban. My own loss I bore with great philosophy, derived partly I confess from Mr. Wyrā's participation in my misfortune. Whilst at breakfast a large gang of beaters was assembled and we proceeded incontinently to look for our acquaintances of the morning in Sheroor *Beere*; not a bristle however was to be found there, and were all but in despair when we saw an enormous *Dummulgundy* making the best of his way for the Jungle. Tally-ho, and after him we went at a spitting pace in spite of a stony ground, as I ever rode over. H—was nearest at starting and holding his own, had the first spear. After taking breath and a pint of beer each, we turned towards camp, and in our way had good sport with grey quail, hare and partridge. The next morning our part was westward along the Takulghaut nullah and *Beere*, where we found a large sounder of hog and shot three, as riding them was out of the question, I killed two goat antelope with No. 4 shot also, and amongst us we bagged lots of peafowl and painted partridge. Here we had occasion to *pray* for our late Governor General whose order against borrowing elephants has greatly tended to the increase of tigers, one of which gentry bounced up within ten yards of D—who seeing something rushing through the long grass thought it was a hog and turned sharp for his rifle; *luckily* the bearer was some yards in the rear, having stooped to rid himself of spear grass which he found troublesome, I say *luckily* far had he wounded the tiger, some of us would probably have suffered, as altho' the animals are very rarely uncivil to sportsmen unless interfered with, they invariably make a point of revenging any aggression.

It was in this very nullah that I killed 'my first tiger' under tuition of poor S—, now no more, and in whom we have lost one of the best shots and sportsmen on this side of India. S—always considered the Takulghaut nullah a sure find. On the occasion alluded to he having received intelligence that a *Dunger* or herdsman had been carried off the night before near the village of Edora, sent for me, ordered his favorite elephant Heeracullee and the batteries to be forthwith prepared and started them off sharp, together with my own two guns under charge of his man *Werda*—To let fly an application for leave and a note to the Resident for one of the Raja's *Hatees* did not take long, and I went to bed in a state of excitement that I believe I never felt before, and am sure, have not since experienced.—On reaching Boree the following morning, we found a goodly assemblage, the Rajah's elephants from the Takulghaut *Paugha* having been sent to assist in beating the extensive *Beere* and almost impervious jungle on the nullah where in the enemy was supposed to lay—and under S—'s guidance we searched as closely as possible; I confess I was more than once tempted to disobey orders and blaze at the hog who turned out by dozens—Four mortal hours were we so toiling; I was in downright despair and S—very red in the

face, when he said 'if we don't find him there, [pointing to a very close bit of jungle which we were approaching we shall have no luck to-day'—hardly had we entered the patch when my Mahout turning round whispered 'bura shair hy Sahib, deckho,' and there sure enough was the tiger stretched out on a large stone in the nullah, with his head on his paws, his tail whisking about, as I have often seen that of a cat in the same attitude; he was instantly on the move, and my gun went 'snick,' I having in my agitation knocked off the cap, and felt almost inclined to throw it at him. S—however got a hasty glimpse and gave him two barrels through the bushes without effect; I had then a fair but very distant view, and my ball evidently told, for he was round and at us like lightning. I had never before seen a tiger charge, and certainly felt a little nervous, especially as my elephant appeared equally so, but as the tiger rushed on I gave him a brace of balls and S—half a dozen, which tho' they evidently staggered, did not stop him—round went my beast of an elephant in spite of the *ankoos* digging into his skull, but just as he turned, my last barrel laid the tiger prostrate by breaking his spine; still the savage monster made incredible efforts to drag himself towards the elephant, tho' his hind quarters were at the time paralyzed—A brace of balls in the head settled him and S—then shook me heartily by the hand as he congratulated me on 'my first tiger'—you know that country well, Mr. Editor, and will therefore feel some interest in a letter from your old friend.

RIFLEMAN.

## CAPTAIN HARRIS'S RESEARCHES.

Our notice has been attracted to a curious collection of skins and exuviae of rare wild animals from the centre of Africa, by an advertisement which appeared in our paper of the 2nd instant, and we have been much gratified by the sight both of the *remains* of the noble ferocious nature as well by the ably delineated pictures of the various specimens. Captain Harris, appears to have established a high reputation among sportsmen by his indefatigable zeal and the unerring correctness of his workmanship, but we do not consider that these qualities, however alluring they may prove to a particular class, are by any means the sole attractions to his museum, now exhibiting in Bombay, or to the works which he proposes to publish. To natural historians his researches will prove most valuable, and he may pride himself on being enrolled in the number of those who have added to the scientific knowledge of his fellow countrymen, by having discovered in the country which he has traversed, and delineated a species of antelope, hitherto unknown and undescribed. The skeleton of this animal has been preserved, and we understand has been forwarded by Captain Harris to one of the societies of London.

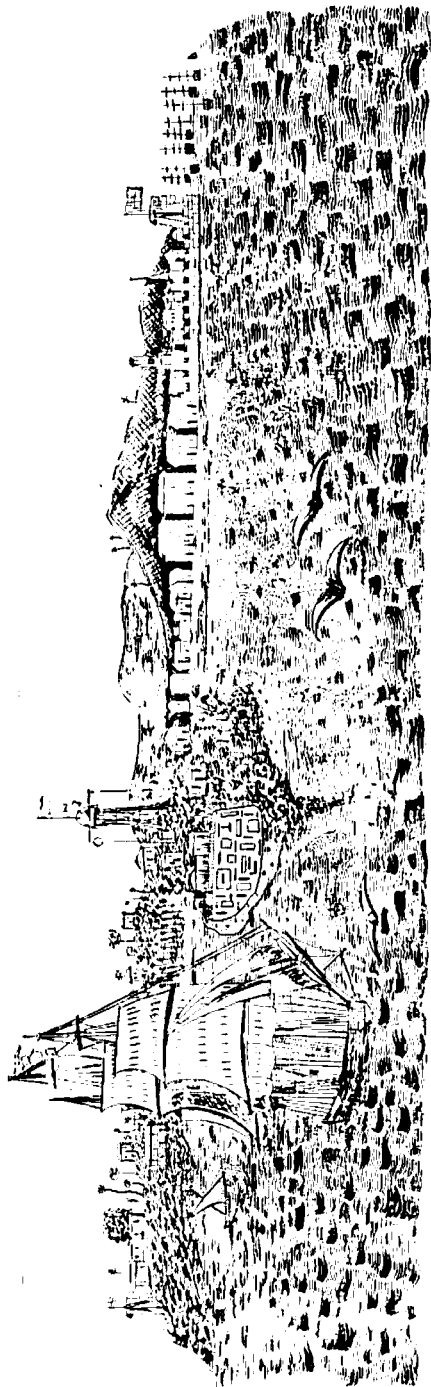
*Description of a new species of Antelope, belonging to the Sub Genus Aigocerus, killed in the country of the Matabili, 11th December, 1836, by Captain Harris, E. I. C. Engineers.*

## AIGOCERUS HARRISII—THE SABLE ANTELOPE

Adult male 4 feet 6 inches high at the shoulder; nearly 9 feet in extreme length. Horns 37 inches over the curve, placed immediately above the eyes, rather higher than occurs in the aigocerus Equina or Roan Antelope, flat slender, suberect, and then strongly bent back sci-

mitarwise; at first gradually diverging, and then running parallel to each other, three-fourths annulated with about 30 strongly pronounced incomplete rings, more rigid on the edges, but chiefly broken on the outside of the horn; the remaining one-fourth smooth, round, slender, and pointed. Head somewhat attenuated towards the muzzle, and compressed laterally. Carcase robust, withers elevated, neck broad and flat. Hoofs black, obtuse and rather short. Hair close and smooth, general color of the coat intense glossy black, with an occasional cast of deep chesnut, a dirty white streak commencing above each eye, continued by a pencil of long hair covering the place of the suborbital pouch, (of which cavity no trace is to be found in this Antelope) and then running down the sides of the nose to the muzzle, which is entirely white, the same color pervading one half of the cheek, the chin, and the throat. Ears 10 inches long, narrow, tapering, and pointed, white within, lively chesnut without, with black pencilled tips. A broad half crescent of deeper chesnut at the base of each ear behind. A small entire sharp muzzle. A copious standing back mane  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inch high, somewhat inclined forward, and extending from between the ears to the middle of the back. Hair of the throat and neck longer than that of the body. Belly, buttocks and inside of thighs pure white, a longitudinal dusky white stripe behind each arm. Fore legs jet black inside and out, with a tinge of chesnut at and below the knees. Hind legs black with a lively chesnut patch on and below the hocks. Tailblack, long hair skirting the posterior edge, and terminating in a tuft which extend below the hocks, sheath tipped with black.

Females smaller than the male with smaller but similiary shaped horns. Color dark chesnut brown verging upon black. very rare. gregarious in small families. Inhabits the great mountain range which threads the more eastern parts of Moselekatse's territory.—*Bombay Courier*.



SEA VIEW OF THE ISLAND OF BOMBAY.

THE  
MONTHLY MISCELLANY

OF

Western India.

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COMPRISING THE

HISTORY OF THE WESTERN PRESIDENCY

OF

BRITISH INDIA:

COMPILED FROM AUTHENTIC SOURCES.

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1850

closure on the Esplanade where wooden benches have been expressly placed for pedestrians and such invalids who would desire to occupy them for the enjoyment of the sea-breeze. All that portion of ground which now forms the glacis of the Fort to the verge of the outer town was in bygone years covered with cocoanut *oarts* or groves, the Government had to purchase and clear them to afford the present noble open Prado. This is the favorite resort for carriage drives, where every Jehu—European and Indian—displays his acquaintance with the whip-fraternity; and sometimes with such rapid recklessness, to the manifest terror of less spirited creatures. The vicinity towards Kambala and the Breach, and the immediate contiguity of the R. C. Military Church at Kulaka are esteemed by those whose object is *hava khana*—the Urdu expression importing the enjoyment of the breeze, literally ‘to eat the breeze.’ On the Esplanade, almost directly before (though fully a stone’s throw from) the Commander-in-chief’s fair weather quarters at the Presidency, is an open shed with a fancy roof of wood-work, built at the suggestion of Mr. Clerk while Governor of Bombay, where the Garrison Band executes with no little talent and taste between the hours of five and seven of an afternoon thrice a week the popular pieces of the day, concluding on every occasion with the National Anthem. Whenever the Head Quarters of a royal corps should be stationed at Kulaba, the intermediate evenings are at times (dependent upon the pleasure of the commanding officer) as harmoniously occupied; and the cool of the evening is thus agreeably passed away, particularly during the hot weather, and after the trying exertions of the day. The Garrison Band, we have elsewhere remarked generally accompanies the Governor with his movements from the Presidency; not however when Mahabaleshvar should be his retreat.

#### IV. — PICNIC SCENES FOR THE ANTIQUARIAN AND SPORTSMAN.

##### *A Fragment.*

The mere ethnography of Western India would be interesting, if it did not exceed the limits and purpose of the present volume. When Sir William Harris upon his return from Southern Africa exhibited (in the Town-hall) along with the stuffed specimens of the object of his rifle—the garbs of the band of Moselekatse, the Fungis, and other nomadic tribes; even Hindus looked with equal concern and amusement at the strange habiliments of the African hordes while around them lay scattered clans, equally as wild and predatory in character, if not quite so savage in disposition. Theirs too was a home as indistinct, a faithlessness in futurity, and a recognition of ‘the God of Tigers’ as the divinity of their faith—the personification of the lord of their forest was the Supreme Majesty they worshipped. And such are the Katodis, Waratis, Nakras, and others. The Parsis alone, of all the people of India proper, possess any thing like European stamina. Indu-Portuguese are sub-divided into *pan-inthers*, or natives of Salset; and *nothers*, or natives of Bombay, who designate themselves occasionally as *portas fora*. The Jesuits romanised a portion of the Puranas and the Kulis in their Christian Churches sing this once a year as a portion of the Papal liturgy; this has been recently ascertained—but what various and singular disclosures transpire daily to the student in quest of information in the East! Yet, entertaining as all this is, and must ever prove to be; it is desirable in an Oriental climate to seek relaxation from literary as well as physical exertion. India is truly the land of the sportsman—here are the Katiwar lion, the tiger, the chetah, the hyena, the panther, the hog—‘the tusky denizen of the forest.’ the