

A N  
A C C O U N T  
O F T H E  
HUNTING EXCURSIONS  
O F  
A S O P H U L D O U L A H,

Vicer of the Mogul Empire, and Nabob of Oude.

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By WILLIAM BLANE, Esq;  
Who attended in these Excursions in the Years  
1785 and 1786.

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M D C C L X X X V I I .

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ACCOUN T  
OF THE  
HUNTING EXCURSIONS  
OF  
ASOPH UL DOULAH.

THE Vizier always sets out upon his annual hunting party as soon as the cold season is well set in; that is, about the beginning of December; and he stays out till the heats, about the beginning of March, force him back again. During this time, he generally makes a circuit of country from four to six hundred miles always bending his course towards the skirts of the Northern Mountains, where

as to let the elephants come up, he is soon dispatched by the match-lock: some of the buffaloes are of prodigious size and strength, and have an uncommonly wild and furious look, and they are so formidable in the jungles, that it is said even the largest royal tyger never ventures to attack them.

I have never seen the rhinoceros hunted, although there are many of them on the route the Nabob goes; but they generally keep to the thick forests where it is impossible to follow them. When they can be got at, they are pursued upon elephants and shot; but it is both more difficult and dangerous than any other sport, for even the elephant is not safe against him; for if he charges an elephant and rips him with his horn, he generally kills him on the spot; and except his eyes or temples, and a small part of his breast before the shoulder, he is invulnerable to the largest musket-ball in every other part of his body.

When the Prince is with the Nabob upon the party, the etiquette observed in regard to

C him,