

We have many tygers in most parts of the country, but are not under apprehensions of danger from any beast, as they are not so fierce in our neighbourhood as in the south part of the country, which is one large forest called the *Sunderbunds*, from *Sunder*, the name of a tree which abounds there, and *bund*, a forest. This forest is about four hundred miles long, and one hundred wide, intersected with great numbers of rivers, many of them very large. It is uninhabitable to men, and is abandoned to tygers, rhinoceroses, buffaloes, hogs and deer, on which account it is dangerous even to land there.



*Mr. CAREY to Dr. RYLAND.*

March 19.

In conformity to my promise, and because I reflect with pleasure upon the degree of friendship with which you were pleased to favour me whilst I was at Leicester, I now write to you; not with a view of giving you any information respecting myself—that can be of little consequence; but to acquaint you, as far as I am able, with what respects the country.

The country of Bengal is one large plain, or rather valley, watered by some hundreds of navigable rivers, many of them as large as the *Thames* at *London*; the principal are the *Ganges* and *Berhampooter*, each of which are on an average, about three miles in breath, and present an exceedingly grand scene to the eye of the spectator. I live near a small river called the *Tanguan*, and am not very far from the entrance of *Tibet*. In Bengal there is not

toes off, the hands and feet are covered with ulcers, and the parties die miserably. It seems to be allied to the scrophula. This dreadful complaint has been always thought incurable, but Mr. Thomas has been successful in his applications. Preparations of mercury have always succeeded, and one patient was cured by a preparation of steel. Another singular disorder is an excruciating periodical pain in the bowels, which generally returns in two or three days, but not at regular intervals. The natives have a method of cure exactly like animal magnetism.

The natural history of Bengal would furnish innumerable novelties to a curious enquirer. I am making collections and minute descriptions of whatever I can obtain; and intend at some future time to transmit them to Europe.

The species of plants are not numerous, and many which grow in other countries will not thrive here; as vines, oranges, and some others. Birds are very numerous; many, I believe, have never been described by any author. I think there are almost as many species in this country which have been hitherto undescribed, as I have ever seen descriptions of in the world. The beasts here have in general not been unnoticed, but I have seen some of which I never read.

We have eight species of the cat kind that I have seen or obtained credible accounts of, viz. the tyger, leopard, ounce, cottas, tyger-cat, small tyger-cat called *boon-billo*, a smaller kind, and the common cat. The lion is not in Bengal; and there is an amazing difference in the ferocity of the tygers. We have rhinoceroses, buffaloes, bears, elephants, hogs, deers, jackalls, and wild dogs, hares, muskrats, rats, mice, foxes, monkeys of two sorts and porcupines. Lizards of many kinds, and serpents innumerable.