

THE KING'S INDIAN SUBJECTS

Dec. 16. be his honour and his influence among those who are placed under his rule. For he can then say to any who offer him disrespect, "If I bow to the ground before the King, you owe the like homage and obedience to me as his vicerent." If on the other hand any Viceroy should aspire to take rank with his Sovereign in that Sovereign's presence and put himself forward as of equal importance, so much the worse for him. He would be set down not only as ill-mannered, but as a foolish man who knows not that all subjects alike sink into insignificance before the King. This is the reason why His Majesty's visit to India filled even the poorest classes with a mysterious joy—a joy which was mightily increased when King George showed himself to be in true sympathy with all his subjects. The lowest peasant feels that he has a part in this Sovereign Lord, which no man can take from him, and his heart is uplifted as to something given of Heaven.

XI

At the Selimgarh station the King and Queen took different routes, the first to Nipal, and the second to Agra. It will be convenient first to follow the movements of His Majesty. Traveling by special train the King reached Arrah at ten o'clock on the morning of Sunday the 17th of December ; where he stopped for two hours and

KING'S JOURNEY TO NIPAL

a half in order to attend Divine Service. Before Dec. 17. starting again he went to visit the billiard-room which was the scene of the famous defence against the mutineers in 1857.¹ Two Indians who had taken part in the defence were present, the one a bowed and shrivelled old man over one hundred years old ; the other younger in years, having been at the time a boy, who stole out of the compound and gave information to the relieving force concerning the beleaguered garrison. To both of them the King said a few words, ordering also a present to be given to them of a certain sum for every year that they had lived. Returning to the train before one o'clock the King on arrival at Bankipore embarked at Digba Ghat and steamed for three or four miles down the Ganges, the vessel hugging the bank on the side of Patna city, which was lined with crowds of cheering inhabitants. Here there was leisure to think of the fatal errors of the Agent at Calcutta, which led to the massacre at Patna in 1763, the desperate fighting of the victims before they finally succumbed, the escape of the sergeant who bore a charmed life, and the vengeance taken for the massacre by Major Adams.

Soon after ten on the morning of the 18th the train arrived at Bikna Thori, on the borders of British India and Nipal. Here the Hereditary

¹ The story of the defence of Arrah has been written once for all by Sir George Trevelyan, to whose book any readers who do not know it should turn without delay. I have no intention of spoiling their enjoyment, nor of marring a noble narrative by attempting to abridge it.

THE MAHARAJA OF NIPAL

Dec. 17. Prime Minister and actual ruler of Nipal, Sir Chandra Sham Sher Jang Bahadur Rana, G.C.B., was awaiting His Majesty with his three sons, his military commander-in-chief, the British Resident, Colonel Manners Smith, V.C., and one or two more. Having presented the members of his suite to the Maharaja,¹ the King-Emperor, followed by the rest of the party, motored by a road, specially cut through the jungle for some thirteen miles, to a spot where elephants were awaiting him.

The ground here was flat and undulating, being in fact the lower slopes of the lower hills of the Himalayas, the main range of which, rising to a height of twenty-five thousand feet, could be seen in all its majesty of unbroken snow, apparently twenty miles, but really seven times that distance, away to the northward. Below this great wall of white the lower hills loomed gaunt and blue, and below them again the blue melted into the green of the nearer thicket and forest. For many months the Maharaja had been making preparations for the King's visit, clearing the ground for camps, cutting roads for miles through the jungle, and keeping careful watch upon the game. In all he had six hundred and forty-five elephants ready for the sport, the need of which number

¹ The Duke of Teck, Lord Durham, Lord Stamfordham, Lord Annaly, Lord C. Fitzmaurice, Sir E. Henry, Sir H. Smith-Dorrien, Sir Derek Keppel, Sir Colin Keppel, Sir C. Cust, Sir Havelock Charles, Capt. G. Faussett, Major Wigram, Sir R. Grimston, Col. Watson, Capt. Hogg, Mr. Jacomb Hood.

THE CHASE OF THE TIGER

will be more readily understood when the Dec. 17.
methods of proceeding are explained.

Over night, or in the afternoon bullocks are tied up in likely places for a tiger, generally at the edge of thick jungle; and in the morning the shikaris (or gamekeepers as we should call them) go round to see if any of these have been killed. A tiger does not necessarily kill his victim because he is in want of food, for he will often do so from sheer wantonness; but having done so he generally, though not always, drags it a little way into the thick jungle, devours enough to satisfy himself if he is hungry, or simply leaves it and lies down not far away to sleep. In the morning the shikaris come in with reports of the "kills," upon which about a hundred and fifty "pad" elephants, that is to say elephants not intended to carry guns, proceed to the appointed place. These include many of the female elephants, with their young ones roped to them to train them up in the right way. The whole, having been formed into line a mile or more from the "kill," advance through the jungle, and, as they approach nearer to it, the flanks of the line move forward from right and left and meet beyond it, thus forming a ring of perhaps half a mile in diameter. All of the elephants in the ring then advance towards the centre, closing in gradually until they almost touch each other, by which time the diameter of the circle is reduced to two or three hundred yards. At this point the "howdah-elephants,"

THE KING IN NIPAL

Dec. 17. which carry guns or privileged spectators, enter the ring at intervals which leave eight or twelve pad-elephants between each of them. It is necessary to keep the guns pretty close together, otherwise an incautious or erratic shot might slay his neighbour on the other side of the circle.

Such a ring was already formed when the King arrived. A ride of a mile and a half through the jungle on pad-elephants brought the whole party to the howdah-elephants, to which they transferred themselves, His Majesty being accompanied by the Maharaja, and took their places in the ring. Four or five staunch pad-elephants then went inside the ring, tramping through the grass to move the tiger; and here it must be explained that the grass and reeds are incredibly high, often rising not merely above the backs of the elephants but over the very tops of the howdahs. In such an undergrowth, if the term may legitimately be employed, a tiger or a rhinoceros looks like a rabbit among rushes, visible only in open patches and disappearing very rapidly. Very soon a tiger dashed out with a roar, leaped over a nullah (watercourse), and disappeared, but presently charged back straight upon the King, who fired and wounded him badly. Again he disappeared, but a second tiger came out, rose in the air to leap the nullah, and fell stone-dead, in sight of every one except the King, who had killed him with a snap-shot



A CLOSE SHOT BY THE KING.

THE KING IN NIPAL

through the neck as if he had been a rabbit. Dec. 18.
The howdah - elephants then advanced, the wounded tiger was presently found and despatched by His Majesty ; and a move was then made in motors to another ring, nineteen miles away ; the Duke of Teck, Sir Charles Cust and Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien going in a different direction in search of another tiger.

After luncheon the howdah-elephants entered the new ring, His Majesty announcing that Lord Durham and Lord Annaly should have first shot. The tiger presently charged. Lord Annaly fired and hit him ; but the animal went on until, as it was turning back into the long grass, Lord Durham stopped its progress for ever. The elephants then formed line to beat for rhinoceros, and soon a very fine one broke away at great speed, offering a difficult shot to the King, who fired without apparent effect, for the huge creature disappeared into impassable jungle, and was seen no more. The line continued to advance, and by chance the King happened upon two more rhinoceros, killed the first dead with one barrel, and with his second wounded the other, which was followed, and in due time despatched by His Majesty. Yet another was wounded by Lord Durham and Lord Annaly, and led his pursuers a long chase, being quite invisible in the tall grass ; and it was not until many shots had been fired into the moving reeds that he was at last killed.

By half-past five the camp, being close at

THE KING IN NIPAL

Dec. 19. hand, was reached, a most beautiful spot from which the jungle had been cleared on the bank of the Rapti river, with a noble view of the great wall of the Himalayas to northward. Here the Maharaja had erected a spacious wooden hut with six rooms, replete with every comfort, for the King, and tents close by for the suite, the whole being lit by electric light. This camp offered a very pleasant contrast to that at Delhi which, so far as the suite was concerned, was incomparably the worst in every respect that we encountered in India. The nights were cold, and the dew after sunset so heavy that it was hopeless to think of reaching the mess-tent dry-shod without waterproof overshoes, which, however, the King's Indian staff had been careful to provide. In the mornings there was always thick fog until ten o'clock or rather later, when it cleared off, giving place to a very hot sun. Reports of the "kills" during the preceding night could not therefore come in until that time, nor could a start be made for the day's shooting.

On the 19th no news of tiger came in until half an hour after noon, when His Majesty, the Duke of Teck, Lord Durham and Lord Annaly set off at once on pad-elephants, travelling at good speed, and therefore with considerable shaking and discomfort, to the spot where the ring was formed. A tiger was soon found, but wisely kept himself under cover, charging continuously from side to side in the long grass,

THE KING IN NIPAL

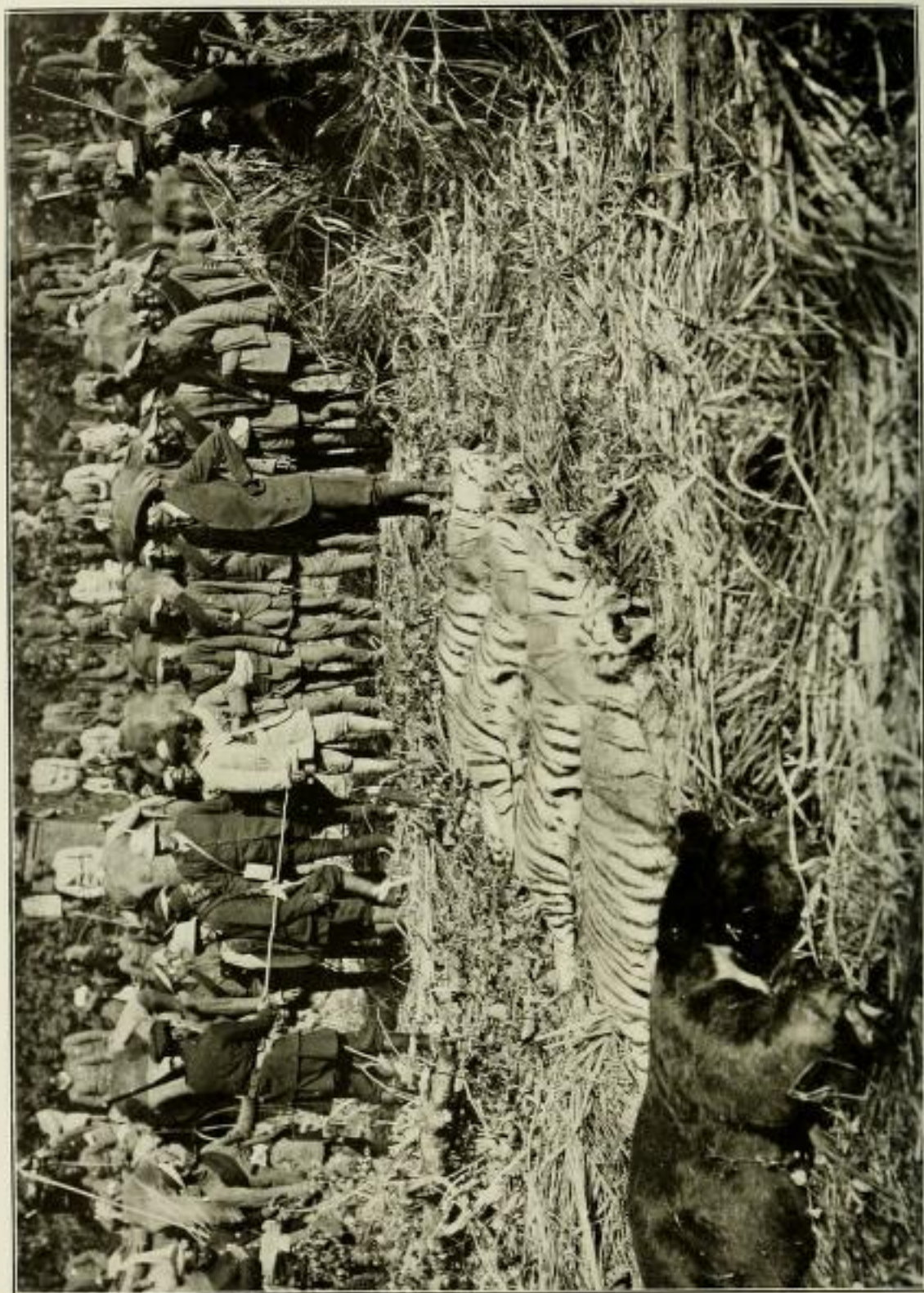
until at last he fell to the King's rifle. After Dec. 20.
luncheon a line was formed to beat homeward, but nothing was seen. The remainder of the suite went out in several different parties, among whom Sir Charles Cust got a tiger, and Sir Colin Keppel and Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien each a rhinoceros.

News came in earlier on the 20th, and three parties started out, two after tiger and one after rhinoceros. In the first His Majesty was the only gun, though several were with him as spectators; and the ring being close at hand was reached before eleven o'clock. In the first ring the King shot a tigress; after which a second ring was formed close by. Here there was another tiger, but also a cow-rhinoceros and calf, which charged straight at the ring and broke it at once, for no elephant will face the charge of a rhinoceros. The tiger probably slipped out at the same time, for no more was seen of him. After luncheon yet another ring was reached in which four tigers were enclosed; and here the sight was a wonderful one. The imprisoned tigers charged the line of elephants at various points; and everywhere the mahouts scared them back by throwing sticks at them and by frantic shouts, which the elephants swelled by loud trumpeting and screams. One succeeded in breaking the ring, but some elephants were quickly passed round him and again he was hemmed in; another actually made a spring at an elephant, mauling its trunk with his claws; but for the most part

THE KING IN NIPAL

Dec. 20. the elephants plucked branches of trees, stripped them of leaves and small twigs, and holding them horizontally under their trunks, kept brandishing them to avert any such assault. Ultimately every one of the four tigers fell to the King's rifle. A line was then formed to move homeward, when a solitary bull rhinoceros suddenly appeared before His Majesty, and though only wounded by his first shot, was eventually killed by him. Five tigers, a rhinoceros and a hog-deer were the King's bag for the day ; to which Captain Godfrey Faussett and Sir Colin Keppel added each one tiger ; Captain Godfrey Faussett and Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien each a bear ; and the Duke of Teck a rhinoceros.

By great good fortune this party witnessed a very singular scene. A tiger, slightly wounded by Sir Colin Keppel, took refuge in thick grass, where he came upon a she-bear and cub. Furious at being disturbed the enraged mother at once fell upon the tiger, standing up to her full height and striking at him savagely with her fore-paws. The tiger, whose temper had been ruffled by his wound, was in no mood to endure such aggression tamely ; and the two settled down to a regular fight with savage grunting and snarling, until the bear made off in one direction and the tiger in another, both of them to meet their end by a rifle bullet. But perhaps the most exciting experience was that of Major Wigram, whose pad-elephant, while on the way home, was pursued by a rhinoceros.



THE KING, AND THE SPOIL OF HIS RIFLE.

THE KING IN NIPAL

The elephant of course ran madly away through the jungle, and the Major was obliged to lie down at full length on his back, clinging with all his strength to the pad, with the second mahout on top of him. After a burst of half a mile the rhinoceros fortunately abandoned the chase of Major Wigram, and transferred his attentions to another pad-elephant, which he hunted for four miles before at last allowing it to go in peace. The mahouts, however, had the enjoyment of this latter pursuit to themselves. Dec. 21.

On the 21st the King reached the first ring, not far from home, before noon, and found in it four tigers and a Himalyan bear—the last named a very rare visitor in the low country—all of which he killed, one tiger and the bear right and left, each with a single bullet. This ended his day's sport, for a second ring in the afternoon proved to be blank. On this day Captain Faussett and Lord Charles Fitzmaurice went out in another direction after rhinoceros; and the former underwent the uncomfortable experience which had befallen Major Wigram on the 20th, his elephant being hunted for some distance by a fine bull rhinoceros, which he eventually killed.

On the 22nd Sir Charles Cust and Captain Faussett accompanied the King with rifles, several other gentlemen going as spectators. The first ring, being near home, was reached before noon, and three tigers were found to be within it. Two at once dashed out towards the

THE KING IN NIPAL

Dec. 23. King, who killed with his first barrel but missed with his second. The second tiger, however, again charged towards him and was killed ; and the third met with the same fate at a single shot. A line was then formed to beat for rhinoceros, and after a long time one was reported to be on the left of the line. All the elephants therefore started in that direction at once, and in ten minutes the whole were scattered about the dense jungle in hopeless confusion. From the midst of them there suddenly emerged a fine bull rhinoceros. He received a bullet from Sir Charles Cust, blundered on past the King who had an awkward shot at him, but missed, and finally charged three pad-elephants close to Captain Faussett, who killed him just as he had passed them. On this day Lord Durham, Lord Charles Fitzmaurice, Sir Derek Keppel, Sir Colin Keppel and Sir Henry McMahon killed between them seven tigers and a Himalayan bear, making a total bag of ten tigers, a bear and a rhinoceros ; a wonderful day's sport.

On the 24th, being Sunday, the King and suite attended Divine Service, which was conducted by the Rev. J. Godber, chaplain to the Bishop of Calcutta. In the evening His Majesty with the whole of his suite moved to a new camp at Kasra, a duplicate of the former camp at Sakhi Bar and about eight miles from it. Early on the 25th all again attended Divine Service ; and towards noon the whole party went with the King to the jungle about three

THE KING IN NIPAL

miles away, where a ring had been formed. Dec. 25.
With hardly any delay a very fine tiger came charging through the grass, and was killed stone dead by the King with a shot through the heart. He measured 9 feet 6 inches in length. Another ring had been formed two miles away, but His Majesty made this over to the Duke of Teck and Lord Durham, preferring to beat for rhinoceros. After a time a cow with a well-grown calf was found, which made off, but being fired at and missed by the King, turned back at once and charged at the top of her speed. A second bullet from His Majesty's rifle laid her stone dead with a shot through the chest; and every effort was then made to capture the calf by forming a ring about him. But the gallant little fellow rushed straight at the circle of elephants, broke through it and disappeared. The ladies and Colonel Manners Smith's three little girls came out to luncheon by the King's invitation; and when the meal was over, another line of elephants was formed, when the King again killed a rhinoceros dead with a single shot. Meanwhile the Duke of Teck's party had found four tigers, and had enjoyed some excitement with them, no fewer than three of the animals having jumped on to the elephants' trunks, and one having actually climbed up within striking distance of the mahout. They then hid themselves in thick grass, growling continually, while the mahouts shouted and the elephants trumpeted all round

THE KING IN NIPAL

Dec. 26-27. them, afraid to come nearer. Ultimately they were dislodged by three or four bullets, and the party returned with three tigers and a rhinoceros, making four tigers, three rhinoceros and a hog-deer (shot by the King) for the day. In the evening, being Christmas night, the whole of the suite dined with His Majesty.

The sport of the previous days by this time had begun to tell on the quantity of game still afoot. The reports of the morning of the 26th set forth that though sixty bullocks had been tethered in the jungle on the previous night, one only had been killed. The King appointed that the Duke of Teck, Lord Durham and Lord Annaly should draw lots for the single tiger, and the lot fell upon Lord Durham, who duly killed him. His Majesty himself, with Sir Charles Cust, Sir Henry McMahon and Lord Charles Fitzmaurice beat for rhinoceros with a line of elephants. One only was found, which was killed by the King; and the afternoon was absolutely blank. There was therefore little surprise, when on the 27th there came news that not a single bullock had been killed. However the King started forth at noon on an elephant to a place where a tiger had been tracked; and a ring was formed, but no tiger was within. After luncheon therefore the party was divided; and a line of elephants was formed in which His Majesty, Sir Henry McMahon and Colonel Watson carried rifles. Presently the King noticed the grass moving before him; a tiger

THE KING IN NIPAL

dashed out, and the flank elephants were quickly thrown round to form a ring. The tigress, however, for such she was, was one of those who would not be pent in. Charging straight at the ring, she broke through it not far from the King, who missed her with his first barrel, but rolled her over stone dead outside the ring with his second, making the twentieth tiger that he had shot since his arrival in Nipal. Dec. 28.

On the 28th there was again news of a tiger, and the King started at a little before noon for his last day's sport. A ring had been formed, but it was some time before the tiger broke, crossing straight in front of the King and the Duke of Teck. Both fired simultaneously, and the beast fell dead with two bullets in the neck. After luncheon a move was made by motor to another ring twelve miles distant, where the King killed his twenty-first tiger, and fired his last shot in India. The total bag for the ten days was thirty-nine tigers, eighteen rhinoceros, of which the King killed eight, and four bears, of which the King killed one. An unexpected addition was made to the tale of the killed by the motor mail-cart while on its way from the camp to Biknathori on the night of the 27th, when it ran over a full-grown panther, smashing the lamps and the glass shield and apparently breaking the unlucky animal's back, for he could only with difficulty struggle again into the jungle by the help of his fore-paws. Were it not that the next rains will infallibly wash away all

THE DEPARTURE FROM NIPAL

Dec. 28. the roads made by the Maharaja, motorists in search of new emotions might do worse than take their vehicles to Nipal.

In the evening His Majesty took leave of the Maharaja, who had housed him and his suite with such admirable comfort and provided him with such excellent sport. On Christmas Eve the King had pinned on his breast the Grand Cross of the Victorian Order and a golden Coronation medal ; but the Maharaja's gifts to His Majesty were not so easily carried away, for they included a young elephant, a young rhinoceros, bears, panthers, snow panthers, a Tibetan jackass (very wild and very active with his heels), a pair of Tibetan mastiffs (both rather savage), bara singh deer, sambhur deer, hog deer, cheetul, jackals, and others of the same order, mongeese and other smaller quadrupeds, with peacocks, jungle fowl, pheasants, partridges, and all manner of lovely birds, besides beautiful products of native art in various kinds. But no such remembrances will be necessary to recall to memory the most courteous and hospitable of hosts, from whom His Majesty, and not less the whole of his suite, parted with deep gratitude and very sincere regret.

At six o'clock in the evening the Royal train steamed away to the sound of a salute of one hundred and one guns, and of cheering from a great crowd of natives, many of whom ran alongside the train for so long as they could keep up with it. At every station where the train