



Meer Saib. Bruin came towards me. I hit him with "Poll," and Scott also wounded him, after which Braddock finished him. More bears were heard growling. Bag—I, one bear.

On the 20th June again reached Bolarum, and so terminated this trip.

THE SUMATRAN RHINOCEROS.

THE accompanying is a sketch (taken by Lieutenant Banbury, of the Commissariat Department,) of a female double-horned rhinoceros, of the Sumatran species, which came into my possession in November, 1867, at Chittagong.

The animal in question was captured by some villagers on the Sungoo river, close to the Chittagong Hill Tracts, from whence it had probably strayed, doubtless attracted by the ripening paddy-fields. It became involved in a quick sand, or bog, in which it fell an easy prey to the natives, who threw a noose over its head, hauled it out, and tied it securely to a neighbouring tree. Some two hundred of them, I believe, were engaged in this interesting operation. Some of the headmen of the village then came into the station with the news of having captured a strange *janwar*, whose name they were unacquainted with, but described as something between an elephant and a pig! They also said that if some of the sahib logue did not come out and take it away, they should shoot it, as they were much afraid, and did not know what to do with such an extraordinary animal. Anxious to secure the prize, I started that evening with all the available elephants in the station—some eight in all. By making a forced march over a difficult country, I reached the scene of action—some 30 miles distant—on the evening of the following day. True enough, there was a strange *janwar* bound to the tree, and a veritable Sumatran rhinoceros into the bargain.

The difficulties attendant on taking the beast in tow, between frightened elephants, who at first could not be persuaded to venture within 20 yards of it, I regret, I have not time to describe; neither the trouble experienced *en route* crossing the various rivers and boggy places, &c. I may here mention that a friend who accompanied me as a spectator afforded me much assistance, more particularly in the Commissariat Department.

Suffice it to say, for the present, that I reached Chittagong on the sixth day with my prize in safety, but a good deal cut about the neck from the chafing of the ropes. A stockade was quickly run up for her, and a small tank extemporised in it. After a few days, her wounds healed rapidly, and she became so tame, that I would frequently go into the stockade, where she was quite loose, and apply the dressings to her sores. At first her appetite was most capricious, and she would only eat plantains and pieces of sugarcane, disposing of vast quanti-

ties of the former and never appearing satisfied. This, however, was beyond a joke, as her daily feeding expenses were Rs. 2 per diem! so we gradually made experiments with the various kinds of *charra* (fodder) to which elephants are accustomed, and at last succeeded in discovering her tastes, which lie chiefly in the direction of burgot, peepul, and plantain leaves. She has also a daily ration of six seers of atta, made into chuppattees and mixed up with goor. Occasionally her diet is varied with plantains and sugarcane, both of which she is inordinately fond of, and will stow away any known quantity. Begum—for such is her name, and she answers to it readily—is a full-grown female Sumatran rhinoceros, apparently young, for she is cutting her incisor teeth, and stands just 4ft. 4in. at the shoulder. In length she is nearly 7ft., to the root of her tail. Her bulk is tremendous, and her skin, when clean, is quite pink, with black bristles sparsely distributed over it. She has the plait behind the shoulders—peculiar to the species—and another in front of her hind limbs, but no shields, as the *R. Indicus*; and her hide is smooth throughout. Her anterior horn, when I first obtained her, was some three inches in height, and the posterior one about two inches. The former she has worn much away from rubbing it against the palings of her stockade, but it has developed considerably at the base.

It is not generally known amongst sportsmen in India, I believe, that there are two varieties of the one-horned rhinoceros in India; but such is the case. The animal peculiar to Indo-Chinese countries, Malayan Peninsula, and Bengal Sunderbuns, is, according to Z., a learned correspondent of *Land and Water*, identical with that of Java—*R. Sondaicus*. The two species resemble each other “so nearly, that few sportsmen would distinguish them apart, unless upon actual comparison. The Burmese rhinoceros (one-horned one) is about one-third smaller than the common Indian one peculiar to Assam and the Terai. An easy distinction consists in a fold of skin at the base of the neck, which crosses the neck *above* in *R. Sondaicus*, but in *R. Indicus* curves backward across the shoulder to join the great shoulder-plait, which is alike in both species.” The two-horned *R. Sumatrensis* is not uncommon in the Indo-Chinese countries and Malayan Peninsula, but is seldom found, by all accounts, in the immediate neighbourhood of *R. Sondaicus*.

Many years ago, I believe, a specimen was obtained by some natives in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, but it was badly wounded, and did not live.* No living specimen has ever reached Europe; but I hear there is a skeleton of an adult in the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons in England. The Zoölogical Society at home are desirous of possessing Begum to complete their collection, and have written me to this effect; but as they steadily decline to bear any of the cost of

* The native who told me this could not, however, be certain that it was a double-horned rhinoceros; but he *thought* it was. Captain Lewin, the Deputy Commissioner of the Hill Tracts, informed me that he has heard of the existence of these animals in the hills, and has seen their tracks, but never met with the animals themselves.

passage, or risk, and merely offer a certain sum for her on delivery in good condition in London, we have not, up to the present, been able "to come to terms."

F. H. HOOD, Captain,
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CALCUTTA HORSE AUCTIONS.

I AM a lover of the noble animal, and when opportunity occurs, and my means allow, I am always ready for a "spec" in the purchase of one of the right sort. To effect this, however, I have to go to a horse auction. These auctions, as you well know, are held by three firms in Calcutta. One of them has its sale-day regularly on two days of the week; a second on two other days, except when the third firm has a sale on one of the other days, when the second, to which I refer, fixes its sale also on the same day. The third firm used to have a fixed sale-day, but, apparently, has none now, but trusts to chance.

Auction firms have one common fault which militates against their success. A grand sale of walers is advertised; or, perhaps, a grand sale of capes, capes, capes; or a select batch of horses well adapted for weight-carrying hunters, magnificent carriage horses, or for the turf. If any *bonâ fide* buyer goes with the view of purchasing, he finds a weight-carrying hunter as advertised to prove either a cart-horse unable to carry himself, or something just equal to 12 stone over the maiden on a fine day. If he looks for a pair of magnificent carriage horses, he will probably see pairs of horses which are no matches, and equal to one mile on the level at 12 miles an hour; or if he goes for turf horses, he is bewildered with unknown pedigrees—half-brother to Catch 'em alive oh! or Dash my Buttons, or Rosy be aisy, and so on.

In fact, whatever he is looking for, it is not possible to find what he wants.

Supposing him to find what he wants, it is reasonable to suppose he will attend the auction. He does so, asks for a catalogue, and what does he find?—not lot 1 to commence with, but some 20 to 30 lots from A to Z; and from A¹ to Z¹, perhaps, in addition. The auction is to commence at 12 noon. It does begin with lot A, but before lot 1 is reached, half-past one has struck; and if he is to have a chance of bidding for lot 20, it will be perhaps half-past 2 o'clock before he gets the chance, and then the day is over. The bidders are departing, the salesman leaves his box to an East Indian understrapper, the few remaining public get angry and go, and half the horses are unsold!

I appeal to the Calcutta public if this is not a correct account of a Calcutta horse auction. Can you not, sir, through the magazine, raise your voice and stop this waste of time, and of patience? If a sale is to be comprised, say A to Z, and then A¹ to Z¹, of horse buckets,

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