BIG GAME HUNTING
IN TWO CONTINENTS.

By Percy Selous.

VII.

HOW I SHOT MY RHINOCEROSES.

The white or square-nosed rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros simus*), formerly so plentiful, has been practically exterminated south of the Zambesi, unless it may be sparingly found in some isolated tracts in the south-east. The black species, too, has been so harassed that it may be considered rare in South Africa proper. Now-a-days it is generally the countries dubbed "best hunting" which get the onslaught of the sportsman, whilst others are passed over because the probabilities of a large bag are small. So much the better for the naturalist, who then has an opportunity for studying habits of fauna under less trying conditions than catching a glimpse of an animal in the distance and then having to gallop it down. Of course it is an acknowledged fact that many of the Ungulata, without being strictly migratory, are plentiful in a district for a time, and then may not be met with again for months or even years, when they re-appear in large numbers. Take the elephant, for instance; the eland also travels long distances for change of food. So with the rhinoceros also. They may be to all intents and purposes wiped out of existence, but in consequence of having been left alone for years, they have been found once more in their old haunts. Anyway I got a couple of rhinoceroses where I never anticipated meeting with any; I also know that these were not the only ones. I was returning to the wagon with a magnificent bustard (*Otis Kori*), almost as large as an ostrich, slung across my saddle, when I struck, much to my astonishment, rhinoceros spoor. Halting, I satisfied myself as to its freshness: also that there were two of them; and as there were always bushmen hovering around the camp on the chance of any stray morsels, I made up my mind to have a hunt, which I should not otherwise have done. Hastening back I hung my bustard in a thorn tree, and getting a mouthful myself and letting my horse get a bite or two and a drink, just to freshen him without endangering his wind, I started back to where I had first seen the spoor of the rhinoceros, and took it up. Both animals had been to the river to drink, and had there been a moon I should have laid up on the chance of their returning that night. This was, however, impracticable; neither was there any certainty that they would return, as there were plenty of other places where they could drink equally well. I rode on for several miles, the bush all along being sparsely herbaged, open bits of flat alternating with small clumps of thorns. Three koodoos I surprised, two cows and a young bull, whose small horns, however, were not a sufficient inducement to make me risk alarming the larger game by a shot, although they turned and stared at me in a tantalising manner, and my horse champed and pawed the sand in expectation, wondering why I did not allow him to start in pursuit. On I went for another mile or more, when the traces of the rhinoceroses became plainer. This made me brace up in expectation of coming up with them at any moment, as when they commence feeding they travel very leisurely.

I had not ridden many yards further before I sighted the two great animals, busy munching the shoots of some bushes. I had gone up wind, of course; to have done otherwise would have been useless, and my approach had been facilitated by their doing likewise. Although they would have scented me long before, they are not quick-sighted at a distance. But their hearing is as acute as their sense of smell, so I proceeded as cautiously as ever, going down nearer the river in order to get the wind a point or two more in my favour, and working from clump to clump of thorn bushes as opportunity served, in this manner getting into a bit of bush about twenty paces from where the rhinoceroses were feeding. Here, however, their keen sense of hearing soon discovered something, and they ceased eating, looking wistfully in every direction with their little twinkling eyes. The weapon I was using was a 10-bore muzzle-loader, a rifle which had great smashing power, and as a killer would compare favourably with elaborate modern weapons. When a rhinoceros does charge he is by no means particular at what, being so near-sighted that the most conspicuous object gets the onslaught. At the same time I must say they are usually most inoffensive animals, and even when wounded will, as a rule, get out of the way if they can. One would imagine that with a huge beast like this it would be very easy to plant a bullet in a manner sure to be effective. This is by no means the case, and it took consideration before I settled on the exact spot at which to fire. The brain-pan is so small and the amount of bone surrounding it so great that, unless from very near, it is a dangerous shot to give, and a good knowledge of the creature's anatomy is necessary. Half-way down the neck, to catch the vertebræ, is a good place if you can make sure of hitting, but through the lungs is the shot *par excellence*, and has the advantage of offering a larger surface. I myself prefer this shot to almost any other and at any game, and I think a great many other hunters do so too. So taking a steady aim at the back of the shoulder of the nearer rhinoceros I fired, and the great beast lurched over against his companion, both nearly coming to the ground. He, however, recovered himself and scampered off after his fellow, but came to a stop after going three or four hundred yards. After reloading I followed, and as I approached he half raised his head and then with an angry grunt made a groggy charge, which I had little difficulty in avoiding, although my horse was very restive, having at any rate since he had been in my possession, never seen such an animal. The rhinoceros, on missing me, came gradually to a stand, and turned again, but he was bleeding freely both from the wound and from his nostrils, and but for putting him out of his misery, or possibly averting an accident, I had half a mind to let him die as he stood. I wished afterwards that I had done this and saved a good deal of trouble, but instead I gave him another shot, on receiving which he immediately set off at such a gallop and at such a pace that I found it difficult to keep near him. Right ahead he went as if he were blind, through bush and open just the same; but whilst his heavy carcase crashed through everything as if there were nothing to impede him, it completely threw me out. He made straight down to the river and I managed to catch a glimpse of him now and again until he got into a thicker belt of timber running immediately alongside it; I thought I heard the plunge he made into the water, too.

After a bit I managed to reach the river-side, and, fastening my horse to a tree, walked down till I found the spot where the rhinoceros struck the water. I could, however, see nothing of him, and came to the conclusion that he must have swam across to the opposite side, or else died and sunk to the bottom. From the disturbed and bloody state of the water, together with the bubbles continually rising, I was pretty certain that he had gone down, and, as these signs soon disappeared, leaving the surface as unruffled as usual, there was nothing else to do but to allow time for the rising of the carcase. I had never seen or heard of a rhinoceros dying in this way, but hippopotami always sink when killed in the water, remaining below for many hours, according to whether they be in a fat or lean condition. As I did not imagine he would float before three or four hours at least had elapsed, I rode back for assistance. On the way I met some bushmen, who had got wind of my doings, and I told them to go and watch for the rising of the body and that they could have the meat, but were to leave the horns untouched and I would chop them out myself. I returned to the wagon and sent Bob after them to see that my instructions were carried out and then, after some refreshment, I went to the spot where I had first met with the rhinoceroses, to see if I could not take up the spoor of the one which had got away. After following for a couple of miles the bush became thicker and I half wished I had come on foot, for I dared not leave my horse fastened up for long, out of sight, or I would have dismounted and gone on by myself. I therefore proceeded as well as I could, under no slight difficulties. I don't think we could possibly have got through, but that the rhinoceros had opened up a kind of lane by smashing everything before him. Pretty glad was I when the bush became less dense; he had halted on reaching the open, and had torn up the ground with his horn for several yards around and then gone on at a walk. So I cautiously reconnoitred. Just at this moment three koodoo bulls dashed past a little ahead of me, but they gave me no chance of a shot even if I had not now made up my mind to possess the fine horns of the rhinoceros, the anterior one of which looked to be almost two feet in length, whilst the other did not appear so very much shorter, which is unusual. I now caught sight of him, rather to my astonishment, as I did not expect, after the koodoo's galloping past, to have seen him just yet. He was standing under a thorn bush, almost hidden from me with thick brush. His small ears were flapping, and I could see his head was held on one side in an attitude of attention. Before, when I had come upon them, I had not noticed the Buphagas or Rhinoceros birds, though doubtless they were in attendance; but now several of these birds, reminding one somewhat of the missel thrush of England, were vociferating around and endeavouring to bring their huge companion to a sense of his danger. For some reason he did not take any notice. I suppose they must have followed him overhead, for I don't see how they could have done so through the undergrowth. Feeling my chances of a shot depended on my looking sharp, I trotted quickly up to where he was standing and fired as soon as I could get a sight at his shoulder. With a snort he rushed forward a few yards, and stood looking spitefully from side to side. I could feel my horse trembling between my knees, but he did not otherwise move, and I suppose my background of bush prevented the rhinoceros from catching a definite sight of us in his confused state. I therefore let him have the other barrel, and he fell forward, getting up again immediately, however, and coming on straight at me like a battering ram. My gun was now empty and my horse became very unruly; but I evaded his rush and galloped across to the other cover as the rhinoceros crashed headlong into that I had left. Once out of sight I loaded as quickly as possible, putting two bullets into my left barrel. I was debating how to act next, for I could hear my friend rampaging around in the thicket, when he suddenly emerged, looking, however, very sick; and, after standing staring about him for a few minutes, he quietly lay down. This was rather perplexing. It might certainly mean that he was done. But I was not by any means certain about the accuracy of my two shots, for they had been fired from the back of a restive horse. Besides, his ears kept flapping, as if his senses were still on the alert. I was much too far away for firing safely, so I got my horse in hand and started towards him again. As I had half anticipated, up he got; as nimbly as if his vast body were no weight to speak of, and, with a vicious shake of his head, came charging at us once more. I had, however, got my horse more under command, and, wheeling just in time, I gave him the double bullet charge at close quarters as he passed me, this time catching him in the right place, rolling him over in such a manner that he was past returning to the attack. He was, however, not yet dead; and I was compelled to put him out of his misery with a ball through the brain. I measured his horns with my little tape, and found the longer one to be twenty inches in length round the curve, and the posterior one seventeen and a half inches. The longest black rhinoceros horn I had ever seen before had a length of twenty-five inches. The so-called white species, of course, carries much longer nasal appendages, from three to four feet being sometimes recorded, and even longer.

There was nothing now to do but to leave him as he lay until next day, so I took the back trail down to the river, where I found the bushmen had already dragged the rhinoceros on to the shelving river bank and were busy to their heart's content. I now set to work and chopped out the horns. They were, however, considerably less than those of the one I had just killed, it being a younger bull and a smaller animal altogether. Taking one thing with another, this had been a tolerably stiff day's work, and I was not sorry to get back again to the waggon; and, after a good square meal of koodoo steak, to seek my blanket.

LITERATURE

Messrs. Virtue and Co. have recently published two little handbooks on Cookery—one of them (by "Cordon bleu") entitled Economical French Cookery for Ladies; the other, by Miss M. L. Allen, on Soups, Broths, Purees. The aim of the first-named is to check the fearful waste in English kitchens, to improve our daily fare and to make ladies less dependent on their cooks. The last-named endeavours to show that the idea in middle-class houses that soup is an extravagant luxury is quite a mistake, the authoress claiming, from long experience, that the "stock-pot" rather encourages thrift and prevents waste. In both these little works, the directions appear to be very clear and concisely given.

The Wife's Guide to Health and Happiness.—(London: Jarrold, 10, Warwick-lane, 2s. 6d.)—Dr. Gordon Stables is a prolific writer, and is equally at home in the fields of romance and in laying down the laws of health. Not content with devoting a special volume for the good of boys and girls, he has written the present little work, concerning which, in a non-medical journal, it is unnecessary to say much, excepting that it seems to be written with a great deal of common sense, notably the first of the three divisions, viz., "How to be healthy and happy." The two latter sections concern the ailments incidental to a certain condition and the critical periods of life, confinement, &c. Perhaps a single sentence from the brief preface will best explain the scope of Dr. Gordon Stables's work: "For the young wife the best medicines are those of a preventive nature, such as fresh air, judicious diet, perfect ablution, recreative exercise and occupation. With these, and with trust in God, the majority of married people may succeed in living healthful, happy, useful lives."

It is only necessary to refer to two articles in the Magazine of Art (Cassell), that on the 25th exhibition of old masters at the Royal Academy and "Some Rising Artists." But there are some artistic full-page plates, such as the frontispiece, Mr. J. W. Waterhouse's "La Belle Dame sans Merci," and the panel by the President of the Royal Academy, "Phœnicians bartering with Britons."

Politics tinge, more or less, all the three articles with which the Nineteenth Century begins this month—Mr. Wilfrid Blunt's attempt to show that we ought to evacuate Egypt (written before the Khedive's last burst of petulance), the Rev. J. Guinness Rogers' summary of "The Position of the Liberal Party" and "The Political Future of Labour," by the secretary to the Labour Electoral Association. Mr. R. B. Brett, who recently wrote on Lord Melbourne, now describes Sir R. Peel, the Queen's second Prime Minister. The Duke of Argyll enters on the very vexed subject of "The Glacial Theory," Lady Catherine Gaskell writes on the ancient customs of Much Wenlock, in Shropshire, and the ways of "Bores" past and present are told by Sir Herbert Maxwell.

Reminiscences of the Great Mutiny 1857-59 by William Forbes-Mitchell (Macmillan and Co.) possess an interest which is not shared by any other account of the Indian Mutiny, whether written by soldier or civilian. Mr. Forbes-Mitchell served as a sergeant in the 93rd Sutherland Highlanders during the period of which he writes, and witnessed the relief, siege and capture of Lucknow, and the campaigns in Rohilcund and Oude. He thus saw the Mutiny—or rather the process of its extinction—from the point of view of the ranks—a coign of vantage missed by the other historians of that stirring time—and occasionally he makes use of his experience, and perhaps relieves his feelings, by criticising the conduct of officers who fell under his notice. A recent visit to India and the great scenes of its history 35 years ago has enabled the author to confirm or correct his views on many points and, in one or two not unimportant instances, to supply gaps or to point out errors in the pages of recognised authorities. Nor are the reminiscences less useful because Mr. Forbes-Mitchell begins where Lady Inglis left off. The defence of Lucknow was described so graphically by the latter historian that it is high praise to say of this account of the relief and capture that it is little, if anything, inferior, in this respect, to the history of which it is a sequel. But it is perhaps less valuable as a chronicle of stirring events, sufficiently well known already, than as "a snapper up of unconsidered trifles" illustrating minor points of interest among the lower ranks of the English army or the natives, at the birth of a new era for both of them.

SEVERE GALES AND LOSS OF LIFE.

The weather at the beginning of this week was very boisterous over the British Islands and the Continent. Very many fatalities on land are reported, and there have been several wrecks.

A severe snowstorm prevailed on Saturday in Orkney. All the mails were interrupted, and the public coaches stopped running.—During the storm on Sunday night at Bootle, one of the stones of the pinnacle of St. John's Church fell and smashed the roof of the church, covering the congregation with dust and *débris*. A small slate struck a woman on the head.—The gale which raged over Burnley on Monday and during Sunday night has not been equalled in violence for many years. Hundreds of windows were blown out. A large hoarding was blown down in Trafalgar-street, and a young man was struck on the head and killed.—The body of a young farmer, named Charles Yates, was found in the river at Brereton, near Sandbach, on Monday. It is supposed the strong wind blew him into the water.—On Monday morning, at Wolverhampton, Rebecca Smith, 28, and Amelia Tivey, aged 18, were both found killed in bed at the house of Mr. George Wynn, Penn-road, an aged gentleman whom they had been nursing. They were completely buried by the roof and chimney of the house, which had been blown in during the night by the gale.—A car on the Wolverhampton and Dudley Tramway was overturned, but its passengers, 20 in number, escaped any very serious injury.—During Sunday night there was a great storm of wind at Newcastle-on-Tyne and district. A young woman named Margaret Jane Dodgson was killed through the fall of a chimney and roof into her bedroom.—During the gale on Monday a child four years of age, named Mary Thompson, was killed at Easington-lane, county Durham, by the collapse of a roof.—At Boscastle, Cornwall, on Sunday night a party of young persons were walking in New-road, when a large tree fell across the roadway owing to the force of the wind, and Thomas Pearse, aged 17, was killed.—At Hartlepool a chimney was blown down, imprisoning a father, mother, and child, who were in bed. When the *débris* was removed the child was found to be dead.

The damage done at Whitchurch and district amounts to many thousands of pounds. The largest chimney at the workhouse fell on the roof with a terrific crash, making an opening into the old men's sick ward. Almost the entire mass fell on John Summer, 82 years old. Three massive rafters lay across his chest, but the full pressure was kept off him, as the ends lay on a wash-hand-stand. On being extricated he was found to be only slightly injured.

Over fifty trees were uprooted at the residence of Major R. H. Colley, St. James's Priory, Bridgnorth, and one of them wrecked the coach-house and damaged the carriages inside.

In Waterlow Park, Highgate, one of the aviaries was blown down and broken, and 23 song birds flew away. A number of them returned during the day.

During the gale on Sunday the lifeboats Covent Garden and Beauchamp, belonging to the Royal Lifeboat Institution, and stationed at Caistor, Norfolk, were called out on service, and rescued 75 persons from the steamer Resolven, wrecked on the Barber Sand.

Great loss of life and damage to property were caused in Germany by the storm on Monday, which exceeded in violence any other within memory. A tramcar and horses near Berlin were blown back along the rails, mail carts were overturned, and trees torn up. At Luckenwalde a chimney stack fell, killing ten persons and injuring others, and at Adamsdorf, near Penzlin, five children met their deaths by the fall of a barn in which they had sought shelter.

The tempest which raged over a great part of the United States is said to have been the most violent for many years. Snow has fallen in great quantities. In Oklahama many persons have been frozen to death. Reports of disastrous snowstorms also come from Canada.

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ANNUAL BALANCE SHEET, JANUARY 31, 1894.

Dr. LIABILITIES.	£ s. d.	ASSETS.	£ s. d.	Cr. £ s. d.
To Deposit and Current Accounts	507,637 2 3	By Cash in hand, at call, with London Agents, and other Banks	87,094 0 3	
,, Notes in Circulation	9,900 0 0	,, Ditto at three days' notice	110,000 0 0	197,094 0 3
,, Drafts on London Agents, Rebate on Bills and other Accounts	9,559 3 8	By Investments:— Consols (£101,000), including £1,000 deposited as security	95,950 0 0	
,, Partners' Capital	100,000 0 0	Indian and Colonial Government Securities, and London Corporation Bonds	37,330 0 0	
		British Columbia 3 per cent. Stock and other Securities	4,167 0 0	137,447 0 0
		Bills Discounted, Advances to Customers, &c.		272,555 5 8
		By Freehold Bank Premises at Reading, Henley, Wycombe, Wokingham, and Crowthorne, and Properties adjoining the Head Office		20,000 0 0
	£627,096 5 11			£627,096 5 11

We have examined the above Balance Sheet with the Books of the Bank, and find it to represent a true statement of the affairs of the Firm. We have also verified the Cash Balances and Securities representing the Investments of the Bank, and have found the same to be in order.

44, Gresham Street, London, E.C., 15th February, 1894. PRICE, WATERHOUSE, & CO.

N.B.—The responsibility of the Partners to the full extent of their Property is in no way altered by the publication of an annual Balance Sheet.

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BOROUGH MAGISTRATES' OFFICE, READING.

Saturday, Feb. 10.

(Before Alfred Sutton, Esq., in the chair, and F. B. Parfitt, Esq.)

Violent through Drink.—Frank Turner, Norcot-terrace, Tilehurst, labourer, was charged with being drunk and disorderly in the Oxford-road on Friday, with assaulting P.c. Robinson, and with doing damage to the amount of 7s. 6d. to the constable's coat.

P.c. Robinson said about 10.30 on the previous night he saw defendant and his brother coming through West-street, both drunk and using bad language. Witness overtook them near the "Fox," Oxford-road, and tried to persuade them to go home. He had to take defendant's brother into custody, upon which defendant caught hold of his brother and said "If you don't let him go I'll knock your head off." Defendant then struck him in the mouth. Witness released the brother and seized defendant, with whom he struggled for some time. At length they fell to the ground, and witness' coat was torn by the defendant. With assistance defendant was got to the station, and on the way he struck witness several times. Defendant's brother was taken home by some friends.

Mr. Luke Minns and Mr. Hy. Swain proved going to the officer's assistance.

Defendant said his brother had just come home from India, and had had drink, which made him very excited. He (defendant) was trying to get him home, when the officer came up.

Fines and costs amounting in all to £1 7s., were imposed, and in default of payment, defendant was committed to prison for 14 days, with hard labour.

A Lazy Tramp.—William Grey, no fixed residence, labourer, was charged with, being an inmate of the casual ward of the Reading Union, unlawfully refusing to do the allotted work, viz., to break 4 cwt. of stones, on the previous day.

Charles Fisher, the labour-master, proved the case, and said prisoner had only broken 10lbs. by 3 p.m., although witness had offered to let him off if he did half the task.

Prisoner was committed for seven days with hard labour.

Monday, Feb. 12.

(Before the Mayor, C. G. Field, Esq.; W. S. Darter, C. J. Andrewes, and A. Hill, Esqrs.)

Drunk and Disorderly.—Edwin Walter Stephens, 60, Great Knolly's-street, was charged with being drunk and disorderly in the Market-place, on Saturday night.

P.c. Frank State and P.s. Connon stated that the defendant was drunk and created a disturbance.

The defendant denied the offence, and called Edward Henry Long and Mary Ann Warwick, both of whom said defendant was sober.

The Bench convicted the defendant, and fined him 5s., which was paid.

Military Deserter.—Henry Truelock, labourer, of no fixed residence, was charged, on his own confession with deserting from the Royal Artillery, at Woolwich, on the 30th August, 1891.

Lance-Corporal Poucher, of the Royal Berks Regiment, at Reading, said that on the afternoon of Saturday last, the defendant came to the Barracks and gave himself up as a deserter from the Royal Artillery at Woolwich. He took him to the Sergeant-major, who ordered him to be handed over to the police.

Defendant was ordered to be handed over to the military authorities.

Tuesday, Feb. 13.

(Before C. Smith and J. A. Brain, Esqrs.)

The Charge of Stealing a Piano.—Herbert Overson, 64, Heaton-road, Newcastle-on-Tyne, was charged on remand with stealing, on the 5th of January, a piano, value £15, the property of Mr. A. J. Walker, Oxford-road.

Mrs. Walker, on account of whose illness the case had been adjourned, was still unable to attend, and Mr. Shaw (solicitor) who appeared for the defendant, asked the Magistrates to fix a light bail. Defendant had been detained since last Saturday week, and as Mrs. Walker's illness was of a serious nature, he would probably be detained for another three weeks.

The Chairman pointed out that the defendant was arrested as far away as Newcastle, and added that they had to consider his past character. Ultimately the Bench consented to liberate defendant on his own recognizance of £100, and two sureties of £50 each.

Several rate summonses were disposed of.

Wednesday, Feb. 14.

(Before Nalder Clarke and J. A. Brain, Esqrs.)

Charge of Obstructing the Footway.—Mr. E. Salmon, butcher, Broad-street, was summoned for hanging meat outside his shop so as to project 12 inches too far over the footway. The case was dismissed upon payment of 5s. 6d. costs.

Sleeping in the Cattle Market.—George Hewett, of no fixed residence, was charged with lodging in an outhouse at the Reading Cattle Market this (Wednesday) morning, and not having any visible means of support. P.s. Withnall proved finding defendant asleep in one of the sheds at 2.25 that morning. He had no money upon him.

Defendant was committed to gaol for seven days.

Leaving a Cart Unattended.—John Gibbons was charged with leaving a horse and cart standing unattended in the King's-road longer than necessary for the purpose of loading and unloading. He was fined 10s. inclusive.

Drunkenness.—William Turner, of Tilehurst, was fined 10s. inclusive for being drunk and disorderly in the Oxford-road on Friday.

A Disorderly Character.—Thos. Wm. Clark was charged with using obscene language in the street at Newtown.

P.c. Richards proved the case, saying that the defendant had been turned out of the South-Eastern beer-house.

Defendant was fined £1 and 8s. costs, with the alternative of 14 days' hard labour.

Football in the Streets.—A boy named Albert Tyndall was fined 2s. 6d. for playing football in Southampton-street on Friday.

Five boys named Dunk, Warrilow, Mabbet, Emmett, and Stamp, all employed at Messrs. Huntley and Palmers' Factory, were fined 2s. 6d. each for playing football in Sidmouth-street on Friday morning.

Assaulting a Brother.—George Ward, 38 Watlington-street, striker, was summoned for assaulting his brother, William Ward, labourer, of the same address, on Monday. He admitted the offence, saying that he was the worse for drink at the time.

The Bench bound defendant over in the sum of £10 and one surety of £5 to keep the peace for six months.

Theft of a Purse.—Albert Pearson, a young man employed at the "Peacock" Inn, Broad-street, was charged with stealing, on Tuesday, from the kitchen of the inn, a leather purse, containing two half-sovereigns, a pawn-ticket, &c., the property of Thomas Leaver, commercial traveller, of Gravesend.

The prosecutor said he was lodging at the "Peacock," and on the previous evening he was in the kitchen, at about 7.30, doing some writing. Before commencing he took all his money out of his pocket and placed it on the table together with the purse produced, which contained two half-sovereigns. Defendant was seated at the next table having tea. Witness left the room for a moment, and upon returning saw defendant leave by the door leading into the yard. Witness wrote for about ten minutes, and was about to pick up his money when he missed the purse. Defendant had, in the meantime, returned, but when spoken to he denied knowing anything about the purse. No one but the defendant was in the kitchen from the time witness put the purse on the table to the time he missed it.

John Gent, a driver in the employ of Mr. Wernham, landlord of the "Peacock," proved finding the purse, which contained no money, under his horse's nosebag in the yard of the inn at 6.30 on Tuesday evening.

P.c. George deposed to being called to the "Peacock" at about 8.20 and taking defendant into custody. He searched defendant's bedroom and also the yard, but found no money.

Supt. Tewsley said that no money was found on the defendant when he was searched at the station.

Mr. Wernham, defendant's employer, gave the defendant a good character.

The Bench, after deliberating for some time, found defendant guilty, and there being a previous conviction against him, he was sentenced to a month's hard labour.

Defendant pointed out that the purse was said to have been found an hour before the prosecutor alleged that he placed it on the table, but the Chairman said they did not see who could have taken it except the defendant, and he would have to go to prison.

Thursday, Feb. 15.

(Before C. J. Andrewes, Esq., in the chair; and J. W. Martin and E. P. Collier, Esqrs.)

Five School Board summonses were disposed of.

Begging.—Geo. Adams pleaded guilty to begging in Duke-street on the previous evening; and the facts were stated by D.s. Levi, who said he found a large quantity of bread and meat and 10½d. on prisoner. Prisoner was an Army Reserve man, and had a pension of 6d. a day.

He was sent to prison for five days with hard labour, in default of paying a fine of 5s.

WOKINGHAM PETTY SESSIONS.

Tuesday, Feb. 13

(Before Sir Warwick Morshead, Bart., in the chair; Colonel Harvey, H. G. A. Knox, Esq., J. W. Macnabb, Esq., A. A. Weston, Esq., J. A. Wiggett, Esq., and Colonel Molyneux.)

Transfer and other business was transacted by the Bench, but it was of no public interest.

Violent Threats at Twyford.—Edward Lyford was charged with using threatening language towards Joseph Milner, at Twyford, on the 5th February. He pleaded not guilty.

Mr. Joseph Milner, employed in the erection of the new railway station at Twyford, said the defendant was formerly employed there. On the 5th February witness was engaged on the works at the Twyford Station, when the defendant came there. Witness went to his office, and the defendant came and waited outside; he tried the door, and witness told him to come to the window. Defendant said "When you do come out I will smash your face, you ———." About three weeks ago the defendant threatened witness because of his leaving his work. From the threats defendant used he was afraid he would do him some bodily injury.

Mr. Arthur Clipshun, also employed at Twyford, spoke to hearing the threats used.

The defendant denied the offence. He, however, was convicted, and was bound over to keep the peace for six months—himself in £10 and two sureties of £5 each.

Case Dismissed.—Frank Utting, late of Warfield, had been summoned for assaulting Eliza Morton, at Bracknell, on the 8th inst. The defendant did not appear, and the Magistrates' clerk (Mr. Frankum) said the charge was for kissing Mrs. Morton, who was not present that morning.

The case was dismissed.

A Trifling Charge at Wokingham.—Hannah Parrant, a married woman, was charged with stealing an apron and a knife, value 1s., the property of George Goddard, at Wokingham, on the 24th January.

Edith Goddard, wife of George Goddard, Rose-street, said the defendant lived next door. Witness employed the defendant to clean her house on the 24th January, and on the following Sunday she saw defendant wearing the apron produced. On the next day she accused the defendant of stealing the apron, and she said she had bought it. Witness went into defendant's house and saw a dinner knife on her table, and she said her husband found it. She told the police about it. Witness asked the defendant for the articles, and she refused to give them up.

P.c. Finch said that on February 3 he went to the defendant's house, and asked her for the apron belonging to Mrs. Goddard. Defendant said "You can see all the aprons in my house," and she subsequently showed the one produced. On another occasion defendant said she was "not going to give it up for Mrs. Goddard to make her a thief."

In reply to the charge, the defendant said she "bought the apron at the old maids," paying 6½d. for it.

The Magistrates, after deliberating for a time, fined the defendant 2s. 6d.

We are asked to state that Thomas Kersley, labourer, of Reading, who was last week committed for trial on a charge of theft, is in no way connected with Mr. W. Kersley, of 61, Thorn-street, Reading, one of whose sons is named Thomas.

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