

MEMOIRS
OF THE
EARLY LIFE AND SERVICE
OF
A FIELD OFFICER,
OF THE
RETIRED LIST
OF THE
INDIAN ARMY.

FORWARD BY HIS HIGH COMMANDER (1745).



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from the extremity of the thigh bone. And I then distinctly recollected the snap, that occurred when the operation of the saw terminated, and the leg dropped off. But the agony, which at frequent periods, I have ever since continued to suffer, has no otherwise been accounted for, than by the supposition, that in applying the ligatures necessary to stop the hemorrhage at the close of the operation, some nerve has, unfortunately, been fastened up with the artery. Such, at all events, is the opinion of those of the profession to whom I have occasionally spoken on the subject.

18th May.—By a letter received this day by Sir Charles Malet, from Gen. Sir Robert Abercromby, Governor of Bombay, it was intimated that I ~~was~~ likely to obtain the appointment of garrison quartermaster, at Surat. This, as a proof that my misfortune had not entirely escaped the attention of Government, and not less as something of a balance to the loss of full field allowances, which the Resident's escort received, could not but afford to me considerable consolation. But, under Providence, I was remotely indebted for this, to the original suggestion of my commanding officer, Capt. afterwards, Col. Little; not less humane and compassionate than he was brave. I had, however, reason to know, that I was more immediately so, to the application of my respected and valuable friend, Sir Charles Malet. It became then my determination to quit Poona altogether, in 7 or 8 days.

Although the spot has since become sufficiently known to our countrymen, I cannot here omit to state, that Lieut. Emmet, by actual admeasurement, found the fall of the Gutpoorbah, near Gohkawk, to be not less than 175 feet in height; instead of 70, as stated by my fellow-traveller, Gen. Boye.* This would, therefore, make it higher by 15 feet, than the highest part of the stupendous cataract of Niagara.

* See page 281.

During my residence at Poona, I do not recollect that any thing made a more lively impression on my mind, than a visit which, in company with some of our friends from the Sungum, I paid to the Peshwa's ménagerie, at the foot of the hill of Pahrbutty. It then contained some of the finest, if not the very finest, specimens of the brute creation that I had ever beheld. There were, in particular, a lion and rhinoceros; as perfect in their condition and proportions as if they had been at large in their native wilds. The king of animals and lord of the forest, appeared full worthy of his awful dignity. He was in full flesh, perfectly clean; and presented a forehead of such stately and massive proportions, that taken altogether, as a symbol of majesty, activity and strength, there seemed in all nature nothing comparable. Being un-caged and in an open shed, chained only to a strong upright post driven into the ground, the air had sufficient access all around, so as to prevent the nauseous effluvia, which we experience when these animals are more closely confined. The tranquil indifference with which the majestic creature, seated on his hind legs, and presenting his stupendous chest and fore arm, contemplated his strange visitors, in dress and complexion, so different to what he had been accustomed to, could not but impress us with a peculiar sensation of awe. And now, more than ever, I could not be surprised that the celebrated Alep Arslan, should, in the disposition of his hair and beard, have endeavoured to exhibit some resemblance to the features of this most formidable of animals. In this noble creature, at the same time, from its being regularly fed and carefully attended, we had an opportunity of beholding a sample of the species in much higher perfection, than by a transient view in the solitude of the wilderness; or the exhibitions at Exeter 'Change, in its most flourishing state.

Next to the lion, and equally as accessible to the

fresh air, was, also fastened in the same manner, the finest and most perfect model of a rhinoceros, that I have ever seen, either before or since. For, unlike the shapeless monster that we usually see exhibited, with his body enveloped in loose and flaccid folds of indurated hide, this stupendous animal was filled out to its utmost proportions; and its huge armour-like exterior being stretched almost to bursting, it was as round as a hogshead; and at the same time as lively, I was going to say, as any sucking pig. Indeed, when the keeper, by a slight touch with his wand, made him rear up a little on his hind legs, while the alertness surprised me, I could not but compare him to a wine pipe, set a little on one end. At all events, the ponderous agility of the animal was astonishing. Its small, but prominent eye, appeared sparkling, and full of animation; and the horny mass upon its snout, though it did not yet seem to have attained to its full growth, by its backward turn and hook-like shape, furnished sufficient proof, that when applied by a momentum of such force, its effect must be tremendous; and renders less surprising the accounts we receive of its power to subdue the otherwise surpassing strength of the elephant. There were several tigers, and other animals in the same range; but they seemed unworthy of observation, or sunk into insignificance, by the side of the other stupendous creatures.

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ON Thursday, the 24th of May, 1792, at one in the morning, exactly two years from the period at which I left Bombay, with the detachment, under

• Finding that the M.S. of this volume is likely to extend beyond the ordinary size of one, into which compass it was deemed desirable to compress it, the Editor, in view to farther economy of room in the page—attempts at which, a critical eye may have earlier perceived—here drops the headings, hitherto observed, as in the M.S. of CHAPTER. Such divisions, in the M.S.—of no particular advantage in this work—will, in future, be indicated, as here, by a *line*.——