

THE RHINOCEROS' HORN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SPORTING MAGAZINE,

DEAR SIR,—The subjoined letter which I have just now received from a correspondent of yours, I send you, as his opinion respecting the use the Rhinoceros makes of its horn, differs so widely from that of every other person I have spoken to on the subject.

I am, Dear Sir, your's truly,

My DEAR —,—I had the pleasure to receive your letter yesterday, and am delighted to hear there is a chance of our seeing you here in the cold season. Don't come too early, though if you want to have some shooting, unless you can pay a good long visit, about January is the best time.

You must not be disheartened by what 'Royal Tiger' says about rhinoceros shooting, though, I must confess, it is but poor sport compared with tiger shooting: but it is not only rhinoceros we have here, Tigers, man, Tigers! and one good tiger is worth a dozen rhinoceros any day! Yet there is *some* excitement in knocking over a thundering big brute, which many persons to this day suppose are not to be killed by common leaden bullets. It's all nonsense. Hit them in the proper place, and they are more easily killed than buffalo,—any where about the back of the shoulder will do. I have never found any great difficulty in getting near them, if in heavy jungle, or caught 'napping,' for they are not easily roused; but you must wound them severely by the first shot or two, or they take to running and you may then whistle for them. They do not, as you say, *ever* charge an elephant; they seldom if ever do, unless it be a female in defense of her young. I recollect a large male which I had been bullying for some time in a nullah, running up the bank and standing across the elephant's head not five yards off without taking any more notice of it than if it had been one of its own kind, and this too after being wounded. Depend on it, you are wrong in supposing the horn is their most formidable weapon: I thought so myself at one time, but have long been satisfied it is merely used in *defence*, and not as an instrument of offence. It is with the cutting teeth they wound so desperately: and I will tell you why I think so. I killed a whacking male, which was cut and slashed all over its body in fighting; the wounds were all fresh, and as *cleanly* cut as if they had been done with a razor,—the horn could not have been used here. Another one we had wounded, stood, and out of pure rage, cut at the jungle right and left, exactly as a hog uses his tusks. Another proof,

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if proofs they can be called. Our friend M., when at Bykontpore, had a man, who was sauntering through the forest, actually *embowel'd* by a rhinoceros. He examined the wound immediately, and I heard him say afterwards that, had it been done with the keenest cutting instrument it could not have been cleaner cut ;—that could not have been with the horn. —As an old friend of mine says when hard run in argument—‘ I have made up my mind, so that's enough !’

You must positively keep to your more than half promise of coming here in the cold season, or you shall never hear the end of it. You shall see as pretty a pack of hounds as India can shew.’

H. C.

DETONATING GUNS.

Messrs. Manton and Co., at ‘ the request of their sporting friends,’ have just put forth a little *brochure* containing a few ‘ Directions to be observed in the use of Detonating Guns.’ These directions are chiefly compiled from Colonel Hawker’s valuable work, which, as Manton and Co. justly observe, is placed by its heavy cost