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OF

THE LATE

DAVID SCOTT, ESQ.

AGENT TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL, ON THE NORTH-
EAST FRONTIER OF BENGAL,

AND

COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE AND CIRCUIT IN ASSAM,

&c. &c. &c.

Calcutta :

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circumstances. Of course I watch Mr. S. very narrowly, and not the slightest symptom can pass unnoticed. Query—If disease really exists, by the plan now in practice, I am shortening Mr. Scott's days ; if those days are made much more comfortable to his feeling, am I justified ? Most sincerely hoping that my next will be as favourable as the present one, with compliments to Mrs. Lamb,

I am,

My dear Sir,

Your's much obliged,

HENRY L. BEADON.

P. S. Should any thing in the smallest degree unfavourable occur, you shall be immediately informed of it.

No. 8.

Mr. Scott to Mr. Lamb, Singamaree, 8th May.

MY DEAR LAMB,

I HAVE given so many contradictory accounts of the state of my health, that I have now delayed writing to you, until I might ascertain whether the amendment that took place after the despatch of my last letter, was likely to prove at all permanent. Since the 16th ultimo, I have not had a bad night, nor any starting of consequence ; but, at the same time, I do not think that the palpitation is much, if at all, abated ; nor is there any alteration in the thrilling (I fancy) *purring* sensation, with which it is attended. I have been taking bitters and alteratives, and living well ; going out also to shoot, occasionally, from which I have not experienced any bad consequences. Nevertheless, there is not so great an abatement of the

chief symptom, as I experienced about the time I was at *Naraingong*.—Many thanks for the drawings, and the promised oat seed. I never saw this lizard—in color it resembles the biskopra, but the latter has a shorter tail, and is considered (I believe without foundation) poisonous by the natives. We had a tremendous storm of hail a few days ago; which, if it extended so far, must, I fear, have greatly injured your coffee crop. I collected a sufficient quantity of the stones to enable me to ascertain the rate at which ice melts; and the result leaves no doubt as to the feasibility of supplying Calcutta from Churra Poonjee. The contents of a small bucket, weighing about 14lbs., and not exceeding eight or nine inches in diameter, took about 40 hours to melt, so that a mass of — in every direction would not be entirely consumed in less than about a month; and, as the voyage might, by proper means, be performed in fifteen days, a sufficient portion of every cargo would reach the presidency. We have been shooting tigers and rhinoceroses, or, rather, shooting *at* the latter; having seen six the day before yesterday, and failed in killing even one. With best regards to the Ladies,

I am, Your's very sincerely,

D. SCOTT.

P. S. I have not ventured to take (moogdur*) exercise yet, but have rode a good deal, slowly, without any inconvenience.

D. S.

* This is an exercise common in India. It consists in throwing the arms (with a short and very heavy club in each hand) successively over the head and opposite shoulders. Its object is to expand and strengthen the chest and arms.—ED.