



"AT CLOSE QUARTERS"
AN INCIDENT OF THE DUC D'ORLEANS' RECENT HUNTING TOUR IN INDIA

will suffice here. *The Pearl Fishers* may be regarded as a novelty, for it attracted very little attention when given two years ago by Mr. Mapleson under the title of *Leila*. The opera was written in 1863, when Bizet was only twenty-five. The libretto is rather feeble. *Leila*, the heroine (Miss Ella Russell), is a virgin priestess of Brahma, and the pearl-fishers of Ceylon are in the habit of placing her on a promontory near the sea at the beginning of their fishing season, in order that her prayers and songs may appease the evil spirits of the waters. During this period she is closely veiled, and is bound, under pain of death, to remain concealed from human gaze. But Nadir, an old lover (M. Talazac), unexpectedly appears, and *Leila*, casting away her veil, joins him in an impassioned duet. They are discovered, and Zurga (Signor d'Andrade), the chief of the tribe, who is also an admirer of the young priestess, sentences them to be burnt alive. At the last moment, however, he repents of his severity, and aids the lovers to escape. For this act of mercy Zurga suffers death at the hands of his angry subjects.

STATUE OF THE QUEEN AT THE MEDICAL EXAMINATION HALL

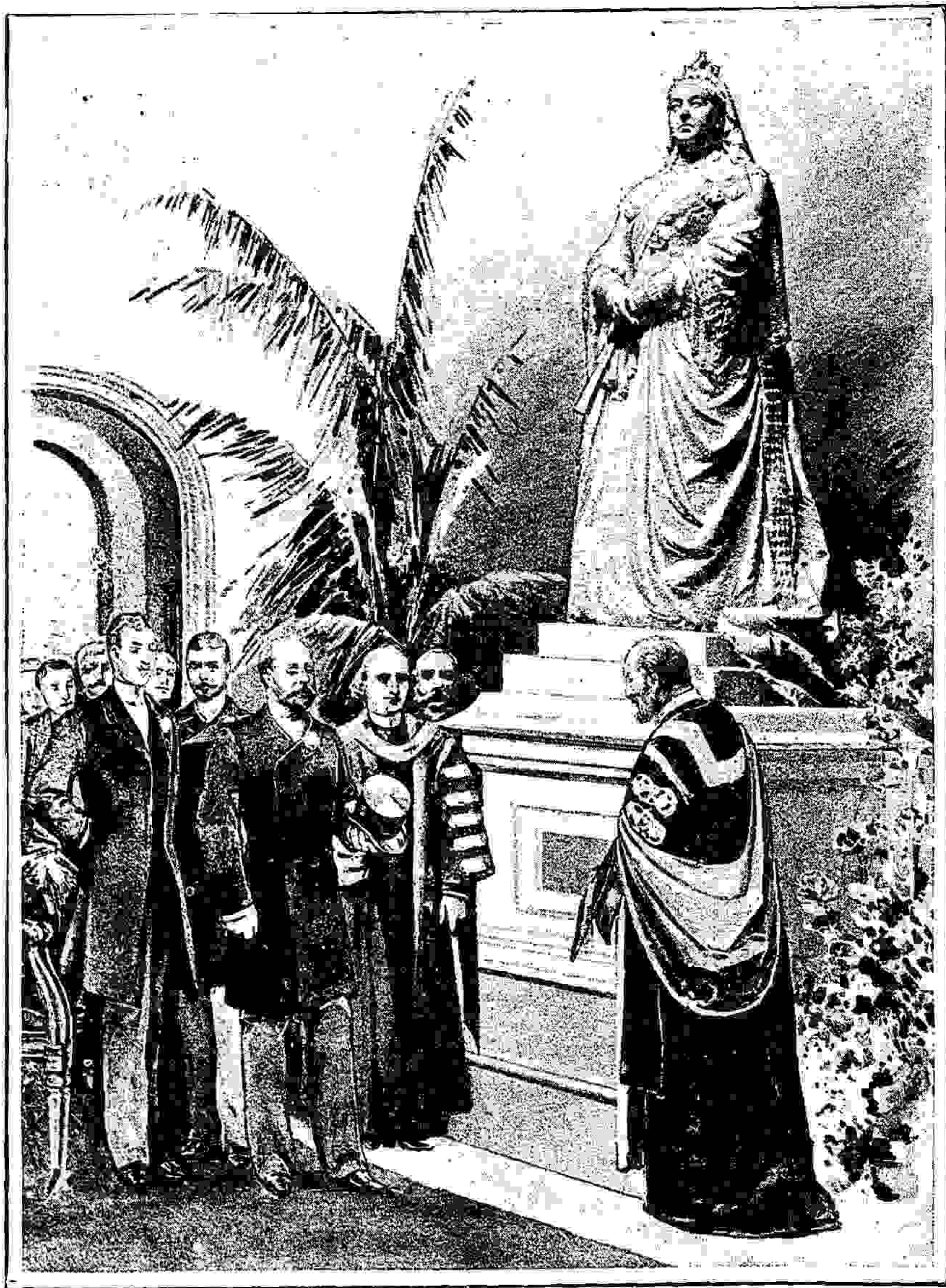
At noon on May 24th, being the Queen's birth day, the Prince of Wales, accompanied by his sons Prince Albert Victor and Prince George, visited the Examination Hall of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of England, Victoria Embankment, for the purpose of unveiling a statue of Her Majesty, in remembrance of the Jubilee, and of her action in laying the foundation stone of the building. Within the vestibule of the hall, where the statue stands, were gathered the representatives of the Royal Colleges and many eminent physicians and surgeons. The Royal party having been escorted to a space in front of the statue, Sir Andrew

the room at that moment, and whom he announced as 'My father, the Comte de Paris.' The latter very courteously brought me some prints and an album of most interesting photographs of the expedition taken by Prince Henry of Orleans. The Duke then gave me an account of the most exciting incident of the hunting tour—the narrow escape that he had from the claws of a tigress, explaining by means of a map the locality where the encounter took place. "Two cubs of a tigress had been shot, and the mother hemmed in by a line of elephants. There was an idea that she was crouching in a small patch of jungle behind a tree on the bank of a small stream, but none of our elephants could be got anywhere near it. After some time, my elephant, being pluckier than the others, was induced to move forward and push the tree down. While thus engaged, the tigress sprang out from beside it with a roar and a tremendous leap right to the top of my howdah, smashing in the front of it—breaking my gun with one blow of her paw and exploding the right barrel before I had time to fire. This is the gun," producing a double-barrelled rifle broken in two pieces just below the barrels, the trigger-guard and metal plates wrenched off and twisted by the force of the blow, and with one barrel discharged, the other still at half-cock. 'Fortunately for me,' continued the Prince, 'she then tumbled backwards, possibly startled by the explosion, and made off for the jungle. My elephant, mad with fright, bolted in the opposite direction, and for a considerable distance nothing would stop her. When at length we got back to the others, we found the whole line of elephants so demoralised that we had to give up sport for the day, and return to the camp. Next morning we cornered our game in nearly the same spot, and I had the good luck to bring her down just as she was crossing the river.' 'What became of the mahout when the tigress leapt on the elephant?' I asked. 'Oh, he managed to slip round in some

ceremony of presenting eight firemen, and awarding them decorations, was gone through in what the *Daily Telegraph* describes as 'the vacuum of a vortex,' Captain Shaw rearing out their several services, and the Princess pinning the medals to their coats. The programme for the day had included various speeches, and a display of the firemen at work, but neither item could be carried out. Meanwhile reinforcements of constables had been sent for, and some mounted police cleared a way through the crowd for the Royal carriages to the Horse Guards. The Prince and Princess entered the building, and appeared at the windows of the Levée Room, being greeted with the most enthusiastic cheers by the crowd, amongst whom an exaggerated report had been spread of the Royal party having been dangerously mobbed. Many distinguished personages, and amongst others the Duke of Cambridge, met with somewhat rough treatment in the crowd, and it is a matter of congratulation that no serious casualty had to be recorded. The engines were then galloped round for the inspection of the Prince and Princess, and then left the ground. Shortly afterwards the Royal party re-entered their carriages, and drove off amid renewed cheers from the remaining crowd.

WRECK OF THE "GETTYSBURG"

On February 6th the barque *Gettysburg*, of 1,024 tons register, owned by Mr. James Milne, of Aberdeen, sailed from Montevideo, for Pensacola, with a crew of sixteen hands. On March 30th she struck on a coral reef off Morant Cayes, some thirty-three miles from Jamaica, fell over on her port side seaward, and at once began to break up. For some time the captain (John Stuart) and ten of the crew clung to the ship's bottom. After a while an able seaman, named Carter, who showed great pluck and resource, swam for a yard and spar which were floating by. He and another man named



Clark, President of the Royal College of Physicians, delivered a brief address, to which the Prince of Wales, after unveiling the statue, made a terse reply. Presentations were then made to the Prince of Wales, and, after inspecting the Hall, the Royal party departed. The statue stands on a plinth, and is of Sicilian marble. Her Majesty is depicted as wearing the small crown, and is standing with the right hand over the left. The drapery of the dress, robes, and jewelry are finely carved. The Queen gave the sculptor, Mr. F. J. Williamson, seven sittings, and the Prince said he had never seen a finer representation of his mother.

THE DUC D'ORLEANS AND THE TIGRESS

The Duke of Orleans has recently returned from India, where he has been serving as a lieutenant in the British Army, and as galloper and A.D.C. to General Luck and the Commander-in-Chief, Sir Frederick Roberts, and, during the intervals of service, has earned considerable distinction as a hunter of "big" game. While on a visit to Lord Dufferin at Calcutta, the Viceroy organised a grand shooting expedition in Nepal, and the Duke, accompanied by his cousin, Prince Henry of Orleans, M. de Parseval, M. de Boissy, the Duke of Montrose, and the Marquess and Marchioness de Mores, with a number of beaters, elephants, tents, &c., hunted the Nepalese country for about 160 miles, on the left bank of the Cootee River, the expedition lasting about six weeks.

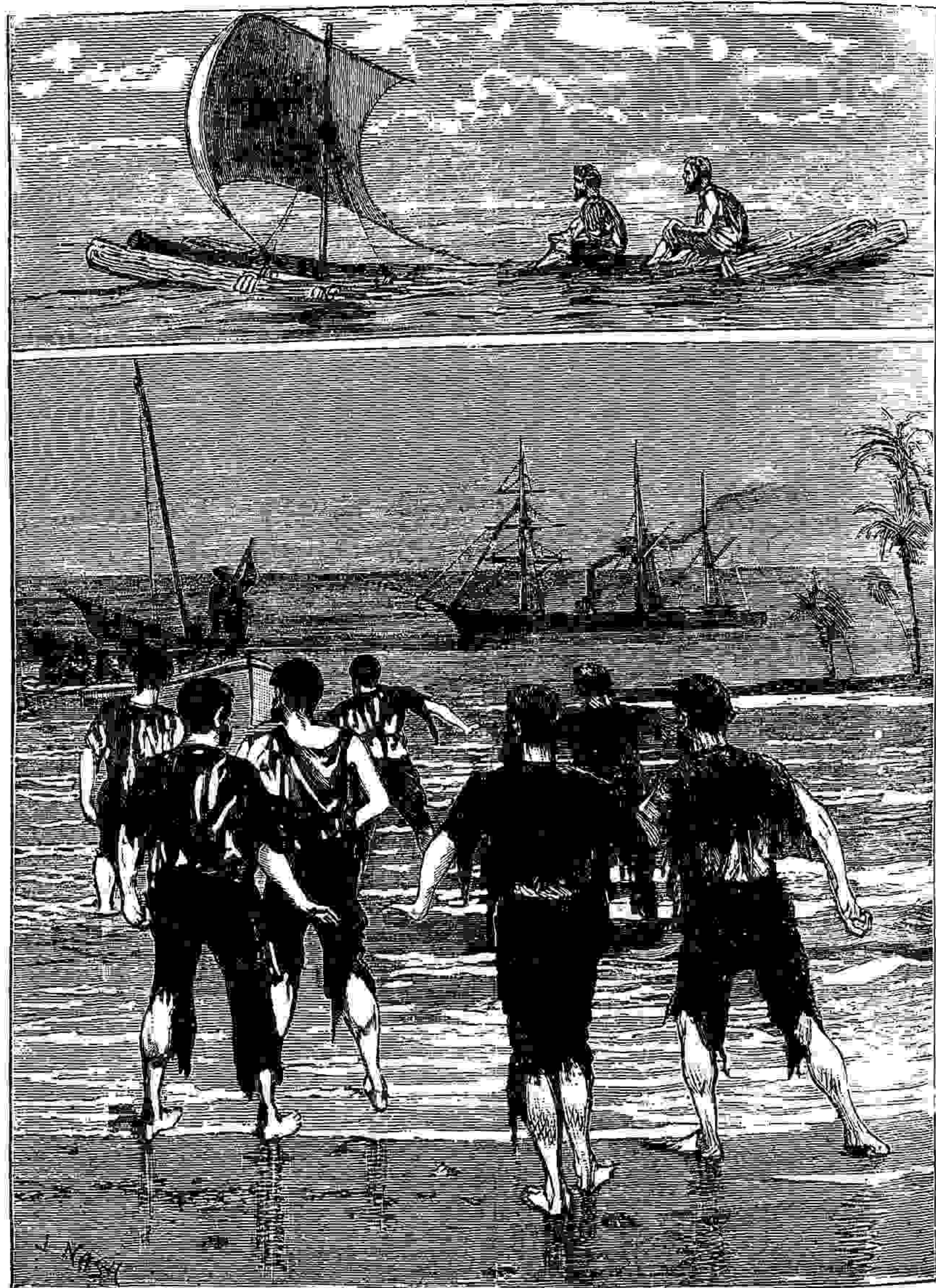
On calling at Sheen House lately, our artist was shown up to the room of the Duke of Orleans, which was literally crammed with spoils of the chase—tiger-skins and skulls, pythons, crocodiles, bears, birds, huge antlers, and all kinds of richly-inlaid arms and Oriental curios. "The Duke pointed out the skins of seven very fine tigers he had shot, another was away being stuffed. On hearing that I had been over nearly the same ground with the Prince of Wales he was much interested, and asked me various questions concerning the number and size of the tigers the Prince shot, and the methods of beating on that occasion—"We," he said, "had sixty howdahs and paid elephants, thirty lent by the Nepalese Government." I mentioned that the Prince of Wales had at one period as many as 700 elephants with him. The Duke expressed great surprise and repeated the statement to a tall stately gentleman, who entered

extraordinary way under the elephant's ears, and was unhurt, but lost his headdress. Here was the tree," said the Duke, moving a paper-weight on his writing-table, "and here my elephant, and the tigress sprang from this side. I am unable to show you the beast, as her skin is now at Ward's being stuffed, but if you could go there you would see it." Our artist made a rough sketch of the incident, and, after one or two alterations suggested by the Duke, he was pleased to say that "he liked it much, and that it gave a very good idea of his adventure."

Our artist wishes to tender his acknowledgments for assistance in drawing the tigress to Mr. Rowland Ward, F.Z.S., of 166, Piccadilly, who has admirably stuffed the brute as if in the act of springing.

THE FIRE BRIGADE PARADE

WHAT should have been a picturesque and interesting ceremony on Saturday was spoilt by one of those extraordinary blunders which are occasionally perpetrated in public gatherings, and for which it is difficult to fix the responsibility on any one in particular. It had been arranged that Captain Shaw and his gallant army of London firemen should pass in review with their engines before the Prince and Princess of Wales on the Horse Guards Parade, and that afterwards the Princess should present awards to certain firemen who had especially distinguished themselves. The arrangements were presumably made by the County Council, and it had been decided that the ground should be kept by the Queen's Westminster Volunteers under Colonel Howard Vincent, M.P. Long before the appointed time, however, a great crowd had assembled. When the Volunteers marched up, they were far too few to form a guard round the whole area, or even to keep the enclosure for which the County Council had issued special tickets. Consequently, when the Royal carriages arrived with the Prince and Princess and their daughters, they were completely surrounded by the crowd, and a great scene of disorder ensued. Captain Shaw managed with much difficulty to reach the Royal carriage, placed a fireman at each door, and then Miss Shaw was brought through the crowd by a bodyguard of the Volunteer Firemen of London, and presented a bouquet to the Princess. Next, the



Crawford made a rough sort of raft, and by means of this they rescued their shipmates, six excepted, who were drowned. Their first destination was a small island, but, as there was no water on it, they removed to another, where they found water, and remained eighteen days, subsisting on shell-fish and small crabs. They, having made a more substantial raft out of the wreckage of the *Gettysburg* (they waded to the island on which she was wrecked), two men, named Jones and Allen, started on the raft, and, after forty-eight hours, reached Beacon Bay, Jamaica, quite exhausted. Here they were provided with food and clothes, while H.M.S. *Forward*, Commander Grey, was sent to succour the survivors, who were all safely removed after twenty-five days on the island, and were eventually landed at Plymouth last Saturday by the Royal Mail Company's steamer *Tara*, Captain Brander.

PRINCE ALBERT VICTOR AT BELFAST

THE visit of Prince Albert Victor to Belfast last week was in every way a distinct success, and his warm reception by all classes cannot but engender the wish that such visits on the part of the Royal Family to our Sister Isle were more frequent. The two chief functions performed by the Prince were the opening of the Alexandra Graving Dock and the laying the foundation-stone of the new Albert Bridge. The first ceremony took place on Tuesday week, when the city was handsomely decorated in honour of the occasion. The Prince was received by the Harbour Commissioners, and in his reply to their address of welcome he alluded pleasantly to his visit four years ago, when his mother laid the foundation-stone of the dock. The Prince and the Commissioners then drove to the dock, when the Prince at once walked to the caisson, and having been handed a silver knife by Mr. Musgrave, Chairman of the Belfast Harbour Commissioners, severed a golden cord to which a bottle of champagne was attached, saying, "I have great pleasure in naming this the Alexandra Dock." The water at once began to flow into the dock, and the Prince went on board a large vessel, the *Tenonic*, built for the White Star Line, in which he steamed into the dock. He then landed, and was entertained at lunch by the Commissioners, whose health the Prince proposed in a few well-chosen words, pronouncing the new dock "perfect in every sense of the word," and