



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

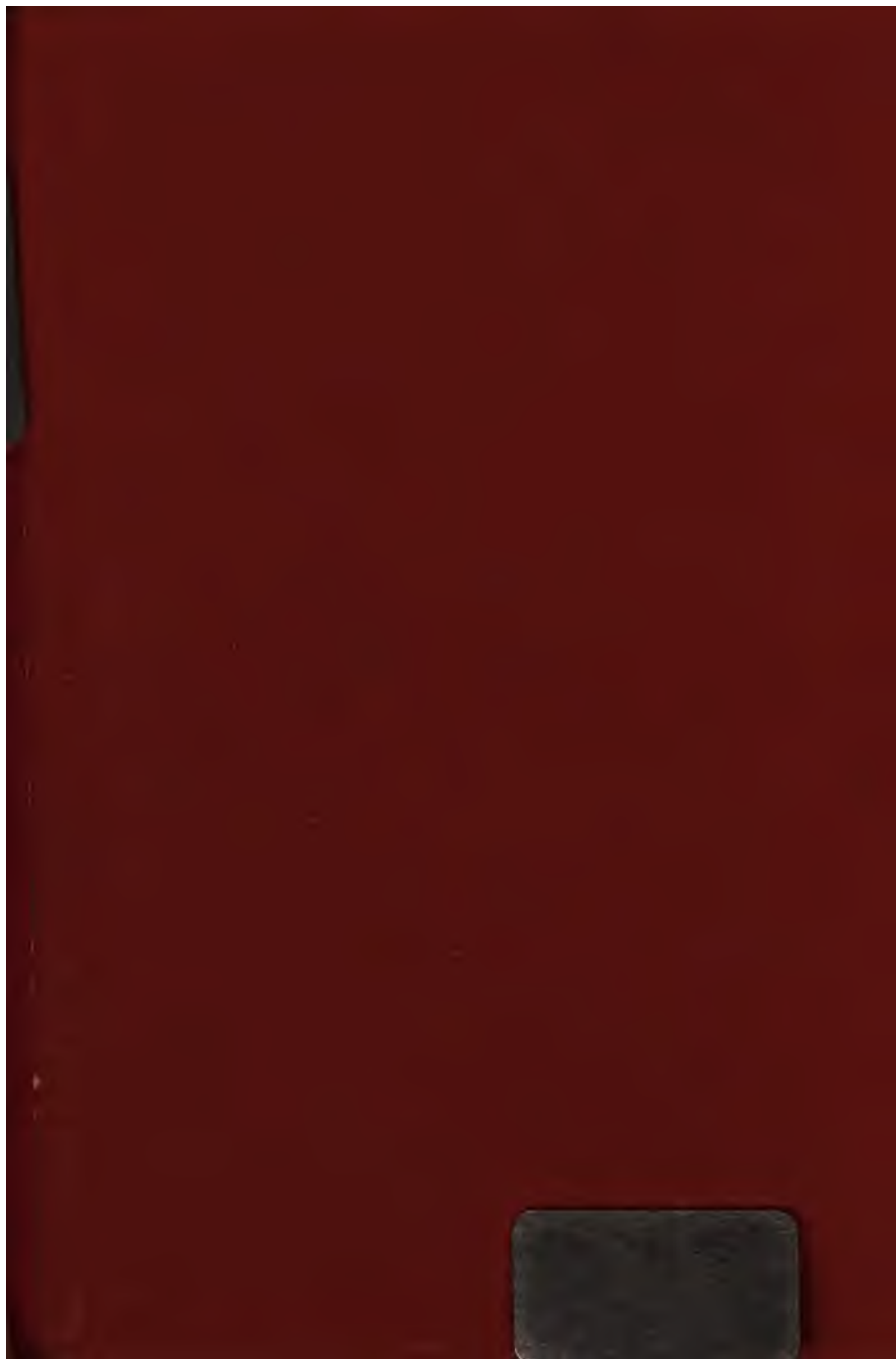
We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>

REMINISCENCES
OF
SCHOOL AND ARMY LIFE,
1839 to 1859.



the 1990s, the number of people with diabetes has increased in all industrialized countries. In the Netherlands, the prevalence of diabetes is 6.5% (10.5% in people aged 65 years and over) (1). The prevalence of diabetes is expected to increase further in the next decades (2).

Diabetes is a chronic disease with a high prevalence and a high mortality. The most common complications of diabetes are cardiovascular disease, nephropathy, retinopathy and neuropathy. The prevalence of these complications is high, especially in people with long-standing diabetes (3). The prevalence of cardiovascular disease is 20% in people with long-standing diabetes (4). The prevalence of nephropathy is 10% in people with long-standing diabetes (5). The prevalence of retinopathy is 10% in people with long-standing diabetes (6). The prevalence of neuropathy is 10% in people with long-standing diabetes (7).

The prevalence of diabetes is expected to increase further in the next decades (2). The prevalence of diabetes is expected to increase from 6.5% in 1990 to 10.5% in 2010 (2). The prevalence of diabetes is expected to increase from 10.5% in 1990 to 15.5% in 2010 (2). The prevalence of diabetes is expected to increase from 15.5% in 1990 to 20.5% in 2010 (2). The prevalence of diabetes is expected to increase from 20.5% in 1990 to 25.5% in 2010 (2).

The prevalence of diabetes is expected to increase further in the next decades (2). The prevalence of diabetes is expected to increase from 25.5% in 1990 to 30.5% in 2010 (2). The prevalence of diabetes is expected to increase from 30.5% in 1990 to 35.5% in 2010 (2). The prevalence of diabetes is expected to increase from 35.5% in 1990 to 40.5% in 2010 (2). The prevalence of diabetes is expected to increase from 40.5% in 1990 to 45.5% in 2010 (2).

The prevalence of diabetes is expected to increase further in the next decades (2). The prevalence of diabetes is expected to increase from 45.5% in 1990 to 50.5% in 2010 (2). The prevalence of diabetes is expected to increase from 50.5% in 1990 to 55.5% in 2010 (2). The prevalence of diabetes is expected to increase from 55.5% in 1990 to 60.5% in 2010 (2). The prevalence of diabetes is expected to increase from 60.5% in 1990 to 65.5% in 2010 (2).

The prevalence of diabetes is expected to increase further in the next decades (2). The prevalence of diabetes is expected to increase from 65.5% in 1990 to 70.5% in 2010 (2). The prevalence of diabetes is expected to increase from 70.5% in 1990 to 75.5% in 2010 (2). The prevalence of diabetes is expected to increase from 75.5% in 1990 to 80.5% in 2010 (2). The prevalence of diabetes is expected to increase from 80.5% in 1990 to 85.5% in 2010 (2).

The prevalence of diabetes is expected to increase further in the next decades (2). The prevalence of diabetes is expected to increase from 85.5% in 1990 to 90.5% in 2010 (2). The prevalence of diabetes is expected to increase from 90.5% in 1990 to 95.5% in 2010 (2). The prevalence of diabetes is expected to increase from 95.5% in 1990 to 100.5% in 2010 (2). The prevalence of diabetes is expected to increase from 100.5% in 1990 to 105.5% in 2010 (2).

The prevalence of diabetes is expected to increase further in the next decades (2). The prevalence of diabetes is expected to increase from 105.5% in 1990 to 110.5% in 2010 (2). The prevalence of diabetes is expected to increase from 110.5% in 1990 to 115.5% in 2010 (2). The prevalence of diabetes is expected to increase from 115.5% in 1990 to 120.5% in 2010 (2). The prevalence of diabetes is expected to increase from 120.5% in 1990 to 125.5% in 2010 (2).

~~2~~65

Yve.

• W. Corbett
from his old friend The Author -
REMINISCENCES

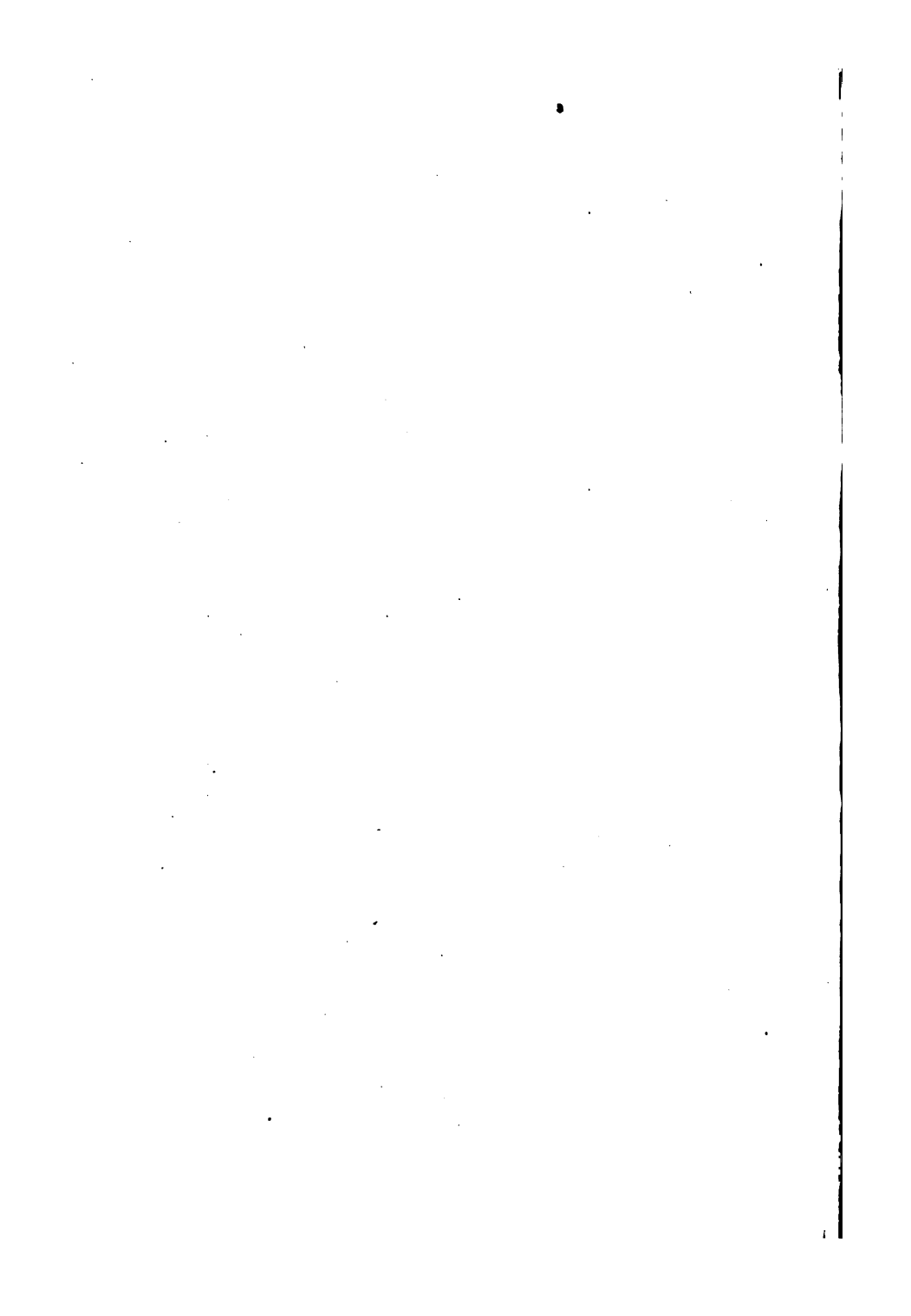
C. Millicent Corbett Winder
OF Iron Will -

SCHOOL AND ARMY LIFE,

1839 TO 1859.

The following Reminiscences were originally intended solely for the amusement of the writer's Nephews and Nieces. They are now printed for the use of such of his friends as may care to read them.

April, 1875.



CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

| | PAGE |
|---|------|
| Eton College—Private Business—Fagging—Boating and Cricket—Foot Races—I leave Eton and read for Army Examination—Go to Hanover—Salzderhelden—Eimbeck—Return to England . . . | 1 |

CHAPTER II.

| | |
|---|----|
| I obtain my Commission and join Her Majesty's 52nd Light Infantry—The Levée—Limerick—Cahir—Dublin—Athy, Election Riots—Dublin—Customs of the Regiment—Packing-up—Mock Court Martial—Dublin International Exhibition—"Toss" and the Duck—Dublin Bay—Pigeon House Fort—A Lucky Shot | 12 |
|---|----|

CHAPTER III.

| | |
|---|----|
| Voyage to Calcutta in the <i>Akbar</i> —The Ship's Carpenter—Fish—Card-playing—Effects of the Sea Air—The Ship's Steward—A Calm—The Captain and the Stores—Moon-Blindness—A Shark—The Lightning Conductor—Heavy Sea—The Captain's Parrot—A Man Overboard—Crossing the Line—Ship on Fire—A Shark Caught—Birds—A Squall—The Pilot—Steering the Ship—Usefulness of the Soldiers—The Hooghly—The "James and Mary" Quicksand—Land at Chinsurah—The Captain | 25 |
|---|----|

CHAPTER IV.

| | PAGE |
|--|------|
| Indian Life—Native Servants—Soldier's Clothing— Snakes—Mosquitoes—Ringworm—Steaming up the Ganges—The Sunderbunds—Cremation—Be- nares—The Two Scotch Highlanders—Allahabad —Tents—Ponies—The Celtic Oracle—Goats' Milk—The March to Umballa—Baggage Guard— Thieves—Sentence Reversed after Execution— Grasscutters—Cooking Arrangements—Cawn- pore—Native Christians—Missionaries—German Missionaries—Delhi—Kurnaul | 45 |

CHAPTER V.

| | |
|---|----|
| Umballa—March to Subathoo—A Man Missing— Kalka—Kussowlie—Accident to the General— Subathoo—Spear Grass—Recruits of the 96th and 98th Regiments attack 52nd—A Cobra— Eagles—Hyenas—The Mongoose—Fight between a Monkey and a Cobra—Snake Charmers—Con- jurers—Mango Trick—Basket Trick | 71 |
|---|----|

CHAPTER VI.

| | |
|--|----|
| March to Umballa—Flogging—A Bad Recruit—In- subordination—On the March—Camp of Instruc- tion at Umballa—Athletic Sports—Ball to the Commander-in-Chief—Fight at Juggaroon— March to Meerut—Storm—Deobund—Meerut— Officers' Houses—Rifle Practice—The "Fili" | 86 |
|--|----|

CONTENTS.

v

CHAPTER VII.

| | PAGE |
|---|------|
| Six Months' Leave—Preparations for Hill Campaign— Doctoring the Natives—Punjemoo, our Ghoorkha Shikarry—Ghoorkha Knife—The March—Coolies —Cure for a Leech—The New Road to Chini and Ladak—A Short Cut—Activity of the Hill-men— Grass Shoes—Our Daily Food—Tartars, their Sheep and Dogs—Scenery in the Hills—Game— No Sport—A Bear—Avalanche at Ruxum—The Buspa Valley—A Cold Bath—Desertion and Recapture of the "Oont"—Chitcool—Return to Chini—Start for Ladak—Ordered back by Sir H. Lawrence on report of Small-pox in our front— Burra Chin—Chinese "Llamas"—Llamaic Piles— Praying Machines—The Chuck Muck—Inhospita- lity at Hango—Campbell of 28th Native Infan- try—Lord L. and Co.—Return to the Buspa Valley—The Zula, or Rope Bridge—Punjemoo goes to a Fair—A Fall over the Cliff—Arrival at Mussourie—Return to Meerut | 103 |

CHAPTER VIII.

| | |
|---|-----|
| Route for Lucknow—State of Oude—The Field-force for the Annexation of Oude—Lucknow—The King's Stables—Want of Engineers—Cholera— Survey of the City by Moorsom of the 52nd—A Visit to the Ladies—Elephants in the Streets— Tigers and Fighting Antelopes—Rhinoceroses— Sale of King's Armoury—A Guest at Mess— A Vicious Horse—The 2nd Irregulars—The Photographer—Lungoors—Punkah Coolies— Fishing for a Bite—Bees—The Doctor's Dream | 133 |
|---|-----|

CONTENTS.

| | |
|--|-----|
| March to Sealkote—Agra—Peal of Bells—Shower of Fish—Arrival at Sealkote—Punishment of Thieves—Sir Charles Napier's Barracks—Hill Stations—Mischief Brewing—The "Chupaties"—Leave granted for the Hills—Start for Cashmere—Arrive at Shrinuggur—Valley of Cashmere | 14 |
| CHAPTER IX. | |
| News of the Mutiny—The Maharajah of Cashmere—March from Cashmere—Visit to Cashmere—Officers—Fishing in the Poonch Valley—Arrive at Sealkote—Rejoin the Regiment—Execution of Mutineers—New Boots—A Misfit—The Telegraph Employé—Tattoos—Nicholson joins as Brigadier vice Neville Chamberlain—Intercepted Letter from 35th Native Infantry—That Regiment Disarmed—33rd Native Infantry—That armed—Nicholson's disregard of Orders—More Executions—59th Native Infantry Disarmed—March from Umritzur to Goordaspore—The Long 1857—Action with the Sealkote Mutineers at Trimmoo Ghat on the Ravee—Fight on the Island—More Executions—Nicholson disregards an Order from Calcutta—Return to Umritzur—Cross the Sutlej—Rats—Loodianah—The Right Man in the Right Place—Leave Umballa with Treasure—Company's Accounts—Address of the Men | 160 |
| CHAPTER X. | |
| Arrival in Camp before Delhi—The Siege—Cricket—A Visitor from Umballa—Brigadier Nicholson—A Woman Escaped from Delhi—Military Commission—Summary Proceeding | 185 |
| CHAPTER XI. | |

IX.

CHAPTER XII.

of Bells—Sow.
ishment of the
Hill Sack-
parties"—Lar-
or Cashmer-
ashmere . .

PAGE

Assault of the Cashmere Gate—I am Wounded—
Nicholson Wounded—Sir Theophilus Metcalfe—
52nd Reach the Jumma Musjid—Being Unsup-
ported retire to the Church—The Field Hospital
—Atkinson Wounded—Sir Hope Grant—A Rob-
ber in the Camp—The Mutineers evacuate
Delhi—Simla—Journey to Moultan—Vicious
Horses—Down the Indus to Kurrachee—Voyage
to Suez—Troublesome Children—A Man for the
Occasion—Across the Desert—Voyage to South-
ampton—Ball at Buckingham Palace—Depôt at
Chatham—I leave the Service

195

shmere-
shmere
rive at
ion of
Tele-
as
er-
it

[The page contains extremely faint and illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the document. The text is too light to transcribe accurately.]



REMINISCENCES.

CHAPTER I.

I WAS born in Bedford Square on the 13th July, 1831. At the age of eight years I was sent to school at Rottingdean, and afterwards to schools at Sevenoaks and Tonbridge. In January, 1845, I went to Eton College. There I boarded at a "Dame's" (Holt's); and Luxmoore was my tutor. Those were jolly days; though for the first year and a half the boys passed a good deal of time in their tutors' pupil-rooms. There they prepared their lessons for school; and there, on whole holidays, the upper boys were regaled with Greek play. This was a private amusement of the tutors, and was called "private business." It was unpleasant to be kept indoors on a fine day during play-hours, when a boat-race or a cricket-match was going on; and most tutors had "private business" in the early morning; but Luxmoore, in other respects one of the best fellows in the world, had a theory, of which we were the victims, that the boys *could* not want "after twelve," "after four," and "after six" to themselves; and he magnanimously left us to choose which of the three should be devoted to construing a Greek play, the beauties of which

few, if any of us, could understand. One time was as bad for us as the others. The boats "went up" after twelve, four, and six. The cricket matches commenced after twelve, and were continued after four and six. Being much wanted as a bowler in "Upper Club," I, on one occasion, "shirked" private business, and was the next day, as a matter of course, "put in the bill." This I considered a most striking proof that cricket and private business were irreconcilable, and I appealed to my father. He took, as I then thought, a sporting view of the case; but I afterwards learnt that he was mainly influenced by an idea that health and strength acquired in the cricket-field would probably be of greater service to me in after-life, than even an intimate acquaintance with the best works of the Greek tragedians. He communicated his view to my tutor, who a few days after laughingly told me that for the future I was to be quit of Greek play, and might addict myself solely to cricket.

For the first year and a-half, or thereabouts, I was a "fag." Fagging at Eton in those days was not hard work, and there was no bullying; at least I saw none. The feeling of the school was entirely opposed to it. The sixth and fifth forms had the privilege of fagging, and those below them, termed "lower boys," that of being fagged. There was fagging in the house and fagging out of it. The captain of the house, at the commencement of the half, allotted the fags to their several masters, keeping as many as he chose for himself; and when lower boys were scarce in a house, many of the fifth form had to go without; but the fags so allotted had only

to look after their master's interests at breakfast and tea-time. They laid the cloth, toasted his bread, made the tea, and, if required, ran to a "sock-shop" for steaks, chops, sausages, or whatever he was pleased to send them for.

Out of doors any sixth or fifth-form boy could hail a lower boy and say, "Here, take my books to my room;" "Smith at Evan's;" or, "Go up to Tolla-day's (the boat-keeper), and tell him to have my boat ready at twelve o'clock sharp." In short, he could send him anywhere on a message; and, as a rule, the fags did what they were told to do. When they did not they were thrashed; and thus discipline was maintained. The thrashings were not severe or frequent; and a very good thing this sort of discipline was. Many a young peer, who in the nursery or school-room at home had never been controlled or contradicted, learnt a useful lesson when he found that he was bound, under pain of a thrashing, to run up Eton as fast as his legs could carry him and fetch a pound of sausages for Smith major's breakfast; Smith possibly being well known to be the son of a rich tradesman in London or Liverpool. The youngest were all on an equality. As boys got to the top of the school their acquaintances were fewer, and they used their discretion in selecting them.

Other schools may have other customs; but, looking back dispassionately on my Eton days, I can truly say that I think the system worked well. There was no bullying. There may, of course, have been isolated cases; but it was generally unknown. It would not have been tolerated for a day; and,

among 800 of us, what went on was well known to all. A more jolly, contented, happy set of boys was never seen together.

Of course, the two principal amusements were boating and cricket. By far the greater number boated. Cricket was rather looked down upon. I should think that at least 600 out of the 800 were boaters, or "wetbobs." The other 200 were nearly all cricketers, or "drybobs," Some few did neither, and were called "nobobs." I was a "drybob." Two of my cousins had been captains of the eleven, one of them, now Sir Emilius Bayley, having beaten the Harrow eleven at Lord's in one innings off his own bat. I was one of the bowlers in the eleven in 1848, when we won the match against Winchester, but were beaten by Harrow.

The foot-races were run in the winter, or Football, half. In 1848 the flat-race was won by the present Lord Bury. I ran second in the first heat, third in the second, and fourth in the third. The hurdle-race, over ten flights of hurdles, was won by Blundell, afterwards in the Rifle Brigade, and now in the Guards. I ran second in both heats.

I used to boat whenever I could find time for it, which was not often.

Having been at Eton was a great advantage to me afterwards, as, on joining my regiment, I found in it several men who had been at Eton with me—two in my division—and many joined us afterwards.

I left Eton at Easter, 1849—somewhat suddenly—as I expected to get my commission in a short time. I at first read for my examination in London, and was fortunate in the tutor who coached me. I had

been ten years at school, and no master had ever been able to make me understand in arithmetic anything beyond the first four rules. I believe that many of my schoolfellows were equally in the dark, as I never found any of them able to do my sums for me. Of course I, like the others, had, with painful struggles and much assistance from the masters, "been" all through the arithmetic-book, and, I believe, nearly all through Colenso's "Algebra;" but I could not do a sum by myself, and hated the very word "mathematics" like poison. I told my coach of this, and said I was afraid that I should never be got up to passing point. He, having probably met with many such cases before, quietly remarked, "Oh, we shall see. Perhaps you have never been properly taught." Under his instruction, in one month I could understand and do, without help, every sum in the arithmetic-book. I made good progress in algebra, trigonometry, and mensuration. At the examination I found my paper of questions quite child's play, and I have ever since had a liking for figures. This change was effected simply by a little careful explanation.

Finding that my commission was long in coming, and being advised by Lord Fitzroy Somerset, afterwards Lord Raglan, to study German in Germany, I went, in December, 1849, to Hanover.

There I read daily with a master, but did not work so hard as I might have done. On my arrival in Hanover, I found a most lovely frost, the ice three feet thick, and any extent of it. Being a tolerable performer on skates, it naturally followed that I passed most of my time on them. Some

friends of my family also were resident there, and I was a frequent guest at their houses. The British Hotel, in which I lived, was one of the best in Europe at that time. The two proprietors were named Wessel. I liked them both, but saw most of the eldest, who was exceedingly civil and kind to me. He managed, on one occasion, at considerable risk to himself, to get me out of a scrape, which might otherwise have had unpleasant results.

I was sitting alone at supper in the public room one night, when an Irishman, a big man of about forty years of age, just arrived off a long journey, came in, and calling for his supper sat down by me, and entered into conversation. When our meal was finished, he called for the "materials," and compounded two large tumblers of stiff arrack punch, one of which he insisted on my "concealing," as he called it. He then requested me to take him for a stroll in the town, the streets of which, at that hour, were quite deserted, the weather being very cold, and the ground thickly covered with snow. We had not gone very far when we passed some students, who politely informed us that we were "Verdammt Engländer." Without hesitating a moment, or saying a word, my companion dashed into the midst of them, hitting out right and left, knocking down two or three, and soon putting them all to flight. The noise they made, shouting and abusing us, brought the nachtwächter, *anglice* "Charlies," to the spot. Whether they would have meddled with us or not I cannot say, but my friend at once attacked them, and we had a very lively round, during which I was sent head over heels in the snow by a blow from one

of their iron-shod sticks. The Irishman, however, was too much for them, and they retired; and we also beat a retreat to the hotel, followed at a distance by the watchmen, who, after we had gone to bed, sent for the landlord and asked for our names, stating that we should have to appear before the beak in the morning. With great presence of mind, he gave the names of "Lord Kullingwar and son," adding that we were going to leave Hanover by the 5 A.M. train the next morning. At 6 A.M. a policeman came to take us into custody, but was informed that we had left. He demanded the landlord's books; and there found a regular account entered to "Lord Kullingwar and son," which appeared to have been settled that morning. The old king was very angry, saying that Englishmen always got into rows, and swearing that if he could catch us in his dominions he would put us in prison. I believe that my Irish friend did leave by the early train, as I never saw him again.

I am here tempted to relate a story which was told to me in Hanover, and the truth of which was vouched for by an Englishman just arrived from Cologne. I give it as showing the peculiar "weakness" of Irishmen, even when bordering on the age of fifty. My informant stated that he was sitting in a public room in one of the hotels at Cologne, in company with some young Americans, who had just dined, and were expressing a wish to go out and have some fun in the streets.

A tall, quiet-looking gentleman, who had been dining near them, at once crossed over to their table, and offered his services, stating as an inducement

that he was confident that he could in a few minutes get them into as jolly a row as they had ever seen. This friendly offer being at once accepted, their guide, who, I need scarcely say, was Irish, led them to a street on the bank of the river, where, having reconnoitred the place, they selected for the scene of their operations a promising-looking pothouse, which was apparently full of Rhine boatmen.

Taking their instructions from their guide, they made a barricade of empty casks against the entrance-door, and then heaved a great stone through the window among the boatmen within. These, with loud yells, charged the barricade, and eventually completely demolished it with a combined rush. The Americans ran up the street, followed by their antagonists; the Irishman, upset by the rush, and hidden by the casks, lying unnoticed. While doubtful what to do, he heard a heavy tramp slowly approaching the door from the inside; and, cautiously peering round an intervening cask, saw the landlord, an enormously tall and fat man, smoking a long pipe, and looking up and down the street.

Gathering himself together, he suddenly rushed at him, and, as he described it afterwards, "I just gave him one, two, and sent him flat on his back in the passage, and his pipe up to the second-storey window outside, and all without him knowing who done it." He then ran off, and found that the contending parties had, after a smart skirmish, entered into a truce. They all then adjourned to another pothouse, where the Americans stood treat; and, when at a late hour they broke up, the boatmen, with many protestations of regard, assured them

that on the same terms they might come and have a row there any night they felt so inclined.

After staying at Hanover a month or two I went to Salzderhelden, about forty miles off, where Captain Trott, a Hanoverian officer, formerly in De Rolle's regiment of the German Legion, "prepared young gentlemen for the army." There, I am sorry to say, I did not study much, and gave the captain much trouble. He, too, was unreasonable, and tried to keep us too much, as we thought, under his thumb. This we resented, and in July I returned to England, having acquired a fair knowledge of the language.

We had very good fun at Salzderhelden. For some time the Guards Cuirassiers were in out-quarters in the neighbourhood. One squadron was in our village, and we were much with the officers. I had a little black Polish pony, the most intractable brute I ever saw. It reared, bit and kicked at every one who came near it. I could not ride it until I got one of the Cuirassiers to break it in. The officers used to come and practise pistol-shooting with us, and we occasionally dined with them at their inn off potato pancakes and corn-schnapps. A most horribly-smelling cheese, which always made its appearance under a bell-glass, we used to request the waitress to remove, much to the amusement of the officers, who, however, allowed it to be placed on the sideboard. They were very friendly, but at first seemed not quite to understand our laughing at and chaffing them like schoolboys. "Do you wish, then, to insult me," one of them, Cadet von Hugo, said to my companion one day. "Not by no means," said

my friend, giving him at the same time a friendly dig in the ribs. At this they all looked aghast; but presently burst out into a loud laugh, and never afterwards took offence at anything we said or did.

One day I told Captain Trott that I had seen a snipe. He said there were none in the country. I borrowed his gun, without his leave, as he said, when I asked it, that the jagdmeister would seize it, as I had no licence. I shot the snipe; but it fell in the river; and though I followed it a long way, I could not retrieve it. There was snow on the ground; and the river was swollen, and full of broken ice; but I wanted to show the bird to the Herr Hauptmann. So there was nothing to be done, but to strip and swim for it. This I did, keeping on my shoes and socks. I was carried down more than a quarter of a mile; but got my snipe; and having run back to my clothes as fast as I could, was quite warm by the time I was dressed. The captain acknowledged his mistake, and ate the snipe at supper that night.

The captain was always talking of taking us on a "small journey" to the Harz Mountains; but as the journey seemed likely never to come off, a fellow pupil and I proposed a small journey to Hanover for a change. Leave for this purpose being peremptorily refused by the Hauptmann, we felt ourselves under the painful necessity of taking it, and accordingly visited that lively place; then on to Brunswick and Hamburg, the latter being well worth seeing. On our return thence to Hanover, the Hauptmann, who, I believe, having business of his own there, had followed us, invaded our bed-room at 5 A.M.

two mornings running, and insisted on our returning with him to Salzderhelden. This, we explained, could not be done, as the people there would say that he had brought us back prisoners; so he returned by himself; and we followed him the next night, but not before I had been well blown up for my insubordination by old Sir Hugh Halkett, the Commander-in-Chief of the Hanoverian Army, whom I had known before, and whom I chanced to meet in the street.

When I left Salzderhelden for good, I travelled by the mail-coach, which stopped at Eimbeck, and picked me up on its way to Hanover. The postmaster, a man of position in Eimbeck, said, "Your luggage must be weighed;" and presently returning, whispered to me, "There is nothing to pay, I have weighed it light." Hearing this, I thought it right to give him a shilling. The coach arrived and I got inside, where I found two young Germans. We then heard the following conversation outside:—

(Coachman) "I cannot take that luggage, I will not undo the tarpaulin—it must come by the next coach."

(Postmaster) "You *must* take it. Open the tarpaulin there. I tell you, he is an Englishman—Er ist ein guter kerl—Er bezahlt gut." The luggage was put in, and my companions laughed till they cried, patted me on the back, and in the most friendly manner insisted on my smoking a very nauseous cigar which they presented to me.

CHAPTER II.

IN February, 1851, I passed my examination for the army at Sandhurst. On the 10th March I was gazetted to an ensigncy in the 52nd Light Infantry. As soon as my red coat came home from the tailor's, I was presented at Court by Lord Hardinge; and when a few days afterwards there was a Drawing Room, which I thought I might never afterwards have an opportunity of seeing, I went there, being curious to see the ladies in their Court dresses; but as I was unaccompanied by a lady, I could not enter the Presence Room.

On each of these occasions, I was dressed by my tailor; who, not being acquainted with the mode in which the sash was worn in the 52nd, sent me to Court with the tassels looped up to the coat buttons on my chest, when they should have been fastened just below the waist.

At the levée the crowd was very great; and, in order to get to the opening in the barrier in the corner of the first room, one was obliged to push and squeeze as if one were engaged in a game of football. Some of the older men were quite overpowered, and got out of the press as quickly as they could; but

General Sir Charles Napier, who was as old as most there, dashed at once into the fray, and made his way to the gate in a short time. It was the only time that I ever saw him, and I do not think that I shall ever forget his appearance. His long hair and whiskers, great hooked nose, and deep-set flashing eyes made him very remarkable. Those who felt his impetuous onset, at first turned angrily round; but recognizing him, at once stood aside as much as the crush permitted, and allowed him and his companion, a feeble old man, to pass on before them.

At the Drawing Room I saw a great display of diamonds, and a very unnecessary and unbecoming quantity of rouge on the cheeks of some of the older ladies. The young ones, who were about to be presented, were, for the most part, in a great state of nervousness, and scarcely seemed to know where they were, or whom they were with.

On the 10th May I joined my regiment at Limerick. Five companies were at head-quarters, the other five on detachment. I was attached to Captain Cumming's company, and kept hard at work at drill. The regiment in those days was principally composed of old soldiers, men who had enlisted for twenty-one years. The discipline was very strict, and the appearance and movements of the regiment under arms were magnificent. Many of the subalterns were of my own age; and a very pleasant time we had together, with cricket and boating in the summer, and snipe and duck-shooting in the winter.

Late, one evening, a man dressed like a gentle-

man, drove up to our mess-house on a car, and inquired for one of our senior captains, who happened to be away. He then asked for another, who also was absent. Some one then invited him into the anteroom, where, at his request, he was supplied with a brandy-and-soda and a cigar. His behaviour, however, shortly afterwards became so singular that he was advised to take himself off. This, with much strong language, he refused to do, insisting at the same time on more brandy-and-soda and a bed. So the subalterns, there being unfortunately no pump in barracks, were obliged to put him under the large tap of the barrack cistern, and after ten minutes of this cooling treatment, he was chucked on to his car, and taken away. No one knew who he was, but some days afterwards we learnt that he was an exciseman, in a state of delirium tremens, on French leave from his nurse; and the doctor who attended him attributed his ultimate recovery to our very remarkable presence of mind in substituting the cold-water cure for the second dose of brandy-and-soda, which he had prescribed for himself.

Shortly before I joined, the general incautiously remarked to one of his staff, that he would like to see in how short a time so smart a regiment as the 52nd would turn out when the "alarm" sounded; adding that he would try the experiment the next morning at 2 A.M., but forgetting apparently that the walls of his brigade office had ears. At the appointed hour, he and his staff stood in the centre of the barrack square. All around was silent as the grave, until the bugler, whom he had borrowed from

the "main guard," sounded the "alarm," at the last note of which, the barrack doors were thrown open, and in one minute the regiment stood in marching order on the parade ground. The scene was too ludicrous; and the general expressed his disgust in the very strongest terms. Luckily for us he did not try the experiment again.

In June I was appointed to Captain Denison's company, and with it, in January, 1852, went to Cahir on detachment. There the men were lodged in the old castle standing on the left bank of the Suir. The officers had very good quarters in a modern cottage built within the outer wall of the castle. The 4th Dragoon Guards were quartered two miles off, and we were frequently at their mess.

We remained at Cahir until the 17th March, 1852, when we marched to Cashel and Thurles, where we took the rail for Dublin.

At Cahir we had the run of Lord Glengall's Park, which is very pretty, and in which laurels and other evergreens grow to a great height. It is watered by the River Suir, in which we were allowed to fish; but the early season was very dry; and we had but little sport. From Cahir I had the pleasure of escorting a lot of prisoners, men, women, and two small boys to Clonmel, where I dined with the 89th Regiment.

On our arrival in Dublin, we were quartered in the Royal Barracks, with the 35th Regiment, and the King's Dragoon Guards. Dublin was then, as it always has been, a first-rate quarter. What with hunting, cricket, rackets, a good club, balls, parties, and dinners, every one had enough to do; not to

mention that we were soon made acquainted with every corner of the Phoenix Park, where we were continually drilled, first by Prince George of Cambridge, and afterwards by General Cochrane. On the occasion of the General Election of 1852, I was sent with Captain Bouchier and his company to Athy, in aid of the civil power, where for the first time I had the pleasure of seeing a mob of wild Irish "Boys from the Hills" breaking each others' heads. A cask labelled as containing 118 gallons of whiskey was on tap in a tiny grocer's shop; and the free and enlightened voters, assisted by the aforesaid "Boys," were not long in emptying it. The result is easily imagined; and we had to clear the streets. I was struck by the absolute power the priests seemed to exercise over the mob. At Athy the clerical nominees were at the head of the poll; so the priests interfered to preserve order; and the manner in which three or four stalwart young men from Maynooth dashed through the crowd, and upset would-be rioters right and left; the way they took away their sticks, and thrashed the owners with them, was very pleasant to see and very instructive. One young fellow, who, as I was informed afterwards, was called by the people "the blessed praste" was quite a giant in strength and stature. He was very energetic, and seemed determined not to leave a single stick, whistle, or trumpet in the hands of the townspeople. He kept everything he took from them; and had at last some half-dozen "dacent boys" following him, carrying large bundles of shillelaghs and other weapons. The last thing at night, I heard him, when the result of the polling was

known, haranguing the mob in stentorian tones: "Ye bate them! Ye bate them! three to wan! three to wan!" answered by the unwashed by, "And we'll bate them again. Glory be to God!"

In the South of Ireland, in those days, the priests could by themselves have kept the peace at elections, had they wished to do so, without any assistance from soldiers or constabulary; but when their candidate was known to be losing, they incited their followers to violence. At one place, during the same election, Captain Arohdall's company was heavily stoned, and had many men injured by a mob led by a priest, twirling a shillelagh in his fingers over his head, and defying the soldiers. The right-hand man of the company, a "red hot Roman," who, when in quarters, used to attend mass every day, jumped out of the ranks, and with hearty goodwill charged the reverend gentleman with his bayonet, which went through both tails of his coat, and would have gone through his body, had he not been very active in jumping aside and running away.

The winter of 1852 was very cold; and in Ireland, when the thermometer marks a degree or two of frost, the cold is almost unbearable. We had a few days' skating; and the snow was at one time very deep.

Early one morning the inhabitants of our barrack square were alarmed by fearful shrieks proceeding from a window at one end of the square. It was found, on inquiry, that the cornets of the King's Dragoon Guards having reason to suspect that one of their number had, since the commencement of the frost, omitted to take his morning tub, had ordered a committee of investigation; and the committee

having that morning ascertained that their suspicion was correct, had straightway put the culprit into his bath, and held him in it until he was nearly frozen.

In the 52nd, an ensign, on joining, was placed in the charge of his brother "subs.," who taught him the rules of the service, and the customs of the regiment, and were in some degree considered by the seniors responsible for his behaviour. Some were apt pupils, with whom all went smoothly; while others, perhaps equally well meaning, but misled by well-intentioned but unfortunate advice given by their friends before leaving home, such as "Remember that you are no longer a boy, but an officer in the army, and a man," resolved to strike out a line for themselves, and were unwilling to listen to the hints given them by their young brother officers. But if one of them appeared on parade inaccurately dressed, "What are the subalterns about?" said his captain. "Why does that young man come to mess in a coloured tie?" I once heard an old field officer say, "The subalterns should look after him as they used to do in my time."

When advice was found to be thrown away, other measures, gentle at first, were tried. The offender found himself detained in the anteroom after dinner by a friendly "sub.," who perhaps wished to learn his opinion as to a new brand of cigars which he had purchased. On his retiring to bed at a later hour than usual, he found his room not exactly "swept and garnished," but rather the reverse, the whole of his furniture having been carefully packed in their several cases, screwed down, and corded, and his carpet, the only thing in the room for which there



was no case, neatly rolled up, corded, and labelled, "With care, Ensign So and So, London," or elsewhere. Very likely he passed a wretched night, but had a fine opportunity for reflection; and after sulking for a day, generally came round, and showed himself to be the pleasant, unaffected fellow that he naturally was.

Occasionally, "packing up" failed to effect a cure; then stronger measures became necessary. The junior ensign then, always supposing him not to be the culprit, issued an order, convening a Subaltern's Court Martial, by which the offender was tried; and there being no jury of tradesmen, was as certainly convicted, the witnesses being, in accordance with an old custom, invariably sworn on Bradshaw's Railway Guide. The prisoner was probably sentenced to be tossed in a blanket, which was immediately done by the members of the court in person.

This generally was sufficient; but a second court martial has in some cases been found requisite, when, a former conviction having been proved, a more severe sentence was the consequence.

I remember one ensign at Limerick, whose bumptiousness was proof against such kindly remonstrances. One morning he received by the post a letter, in which he found himself invited to spend a few days with a family named O'Shea, residing near Pallas Green, some twenty or thirty miles from Limerick, and their carriage was to meet him at the station there at a certain hour in the evening. Having got leave, he passed the day in showing his letter, and saying, "Deuced civil, isn't it? I never heard of the people in my life."

On his arrival at Pallas Green, however, he learnt two things—first, that no carriage had come to meet him, and secondly, the station-master, who was well acquainted with the neighbourhood, assured him that the O'Sheas were unknown in those parts; and hinted that he rather thought he had been made a fool of. He was also sorry to inform him that there was no train back to Limerick until the next day, and that there was no inn at which he could get a bed for the night, but, I believe, like a good fellow, he gave him some dinner and a shakedown in the booking office.

On his arrival in Limerick the next night, he found his room perfectly empty; but the next day his effects were accidentally discovered under a shed in the barracks, most carefully packed up, and addressed to him at Pallas Green.

He soon afterwards retired from the service.

Another newly-joined ensign was tried at Limerick by a Subaltern's Court Martial on the heinous, and to the Court, perfectly novel charge, of appearing at mess in an embroidered shirt front, termed by the prisoner a "dicky," worn over a dirty shirt. The evidence of the junior ensign, sworn on Bradshaw's Guide, was incontrovertible; but the Court, taking into consideration the prisoner's general good character, the fact that he had not been previously convicted, and the natural supposition that no subaltern of the 52nd was at all likely to follow his evil example, were lenient in their sentence. He was severely reprimanded, and ordered to burn the offensive garment in the presence of the Court.

To the surprise of every one present, the prisoner,

who up to this moment had seemed inclined to treat the whole matter as a joke, on hearing the sentence, became violently excited; and repeatedly exclaiming that the "dicky" was embroidered, and had cost him 5s. 6d., begged for mercy. The sentence, however, having been confirmed by the junior ensign, was carried into effect, and the "dicky" was committed to the flames.

At the end of the cricketing season of 1852 an eleven, composed of officers of the King's Dragoon Guards and ourselves, went over to Liverpool and played a match with the club there, which we won. We had been quartered there about two years before, and the Liverpoolians were delighted to see us again, and were most hospitable. After darkness put an end to the play, we dined in the pavilion, where the popping of champagne corks was incessant, and the festivities were kept up until a very late hour. The next day, Sunday, they entertained us at their country houses, and on Monday a return match was played; then more champagne, songs, and feasting, until in the middle of the night we at last tore ourselves away, and returned to Dublin *via* Holyhead. Shortly afterwards, our Liverpool friends paid us a visit in Dublin, played us at cricket, and lived at our messes; and I can only say that I hope they were as satisfied and pleased with their trip as we were with ours.

Untowardly for my own appearance and personal comfort, an "elopement in high life" took place the day we started for Liverpool, and was carried out as far as Kingstown, by the same train. In the hurry and excitement of the moment, the gentleman

walked off with my portmanteau, leaving his own on the platform. It was so like mine that the mistake, under the circumstances, was easily accounted for. Wishing to learn to whom it belonged, I had it opened in the presence of the station-master, when it was found to contain twenty pairs of trousers belonging to a man of about six feet four. His astonishment and delight at his first halt, on opening mine, and finding in it nothing but flannel garments made for a man of five feet six, can be easily imagined. He left it in disgust at a station half way between Holyhead and London, whence I recovered it after a search of about a fortnight.

On the occasion of the opening of the Dublin International Exhibition, each regiment quartered there furnished a company to the guard of honour. All but ourselves sent their tallest and finest men, and I could not help remarking how diminutive our fellows looked when standing in line with the rest. Inside the building were posted about one hundred and fifty old soldiers of the 16th Lancers, recently returned from India, and all wearing medals shortly before gained for the battles in the Punjab and Afghanistan. They looked remarkably well as they marched in, but, being on the guard of honour, I could not follow them or go inside.

There were, of course, a great many dogs belonging to the regiment, and on one occasion we took most of them out to some deep ponds in the Phoenix Park, into which some ducks, whose wings had been clipped to prevent their flying, were turned, and a "grande chasse" commenced. After they had been in the water about an hour, without having effected

a capture, an old dog of mine, well-known in the regiment, named "Toss," got within about a yard of one of the ducks, which dived, and, to the astonishment of all, Toss dived after it, and, though the water was very deep, shortly reappeared with the bird in his mouth. He swam to shore with it, but I was on the other side of the pond, and could not get round in time to take it from him, and he would not give it to any one else, so he let it go unhurt, when it splashed into the water again, with Toss after it. Again it dived, and again following it under water he retrieved it, and brought it to land. Some Irish "Boys," who had watched the chase, and had several times remarked "Sure, if I had my old dog that's at home, he would catch them," were much struck with Toss's ability in diving, and frankly admitted that the "old dog at home" could not have acquitted himself better.

Toss lived to the good old age of fourteen, and at last, one morning, at Copford, in the words of the poet,

"Grown blind, alas! He'd
Some prussic acid;
And that put him out of his pain."

Towards the end of the year 1852, three officers and one hundred men of my regiment were sent to the Pigeon House Fort to be instructed in the use of the Minié rifle, at that time a new weapon. I was one of the party, and on one occasion, the men being anxious to see if the rifle would carry as far as it was said it would, I was asked to aim at a cormorant sitting far away out at sea. I put up the

800 yards sight, and the men and officers crowded on the wall to mark where the bullet fell. As much to my own astonishment as to that of the others, the shot killed the bird, after which the men had a great opinion of the weapon.

CHAPTER III.

IN the early part of 1853, to the horror of most of us, we got the route for India, and were shortly afterwards sent to Cork for embarkation. On the 17th June I was sent in charge of the baggage of my detachment on board the *Akbar*, of 808 tons, in Queenstown Harbour, and the next day we sailed for Calcutta.

For the first few days the weather was very rough, and few seemed to care for their dinner ; but before we reached the Bay of Biscay the *mal de mer* was forgotten, and we were getting accustomed to our new life. We had a good ship, and a good-humoured, pleasant captain. The fare was good, and our appetites to match. We sighted Madeira, the Cape de Verde Islands, Teneriffe, and Tristan d'Acunha, but we never touched land, or spoke a ship until we arrived at the Sandheads, about the 26th of September.

The ship's carpenter was the most hardworking fellow I ever saw. A small wiry man, a total abstainer from tobacco and fermented liquors, he never was idle, and never seemed to be tired. When we arrived on board, he the same afternoon, without

assistance, fastened all the baggage, which we kept in our cabins, with cleats to the floor, making the cleats out of wood as they were wanted. When a new maintopmast was required, he set to work, and never seemed to stop for rest until it was finished. If, during a gale of wind at night topsails were to be reefed, he was always at the main weather ear-ring, although such work formed no part of his duty. When he could find nothing else to do, he used to take a hammer, and wander all over the ship, masts, and yards, and tap the ironwork, to see that nothing was sprung.

Before we had been a week at sea, it was found necessary to close with a leather valve one of the drains leading from the cabins into the sea. As it was on the weather side, and the sea was very high, the captain was rather puzzled as to how it should be done. But the carpenter said he could do it in a few minutes, and he was accordingly lowered over the side by a rope, holding the leather in his left hand, a hammer in his right, and the nails in his mouth. We watched his proceedings from the poop. No sooner had he reached the mouth of the drain, than a heavy sea covered him some four or five feet deep. A few seconds after, and before the arrival of the next wave, he had fastened the leather valve with one nail to the ship's side. Every time that his head was above water he drove in one or two nails, and the job was soon finished. How it happened that he was not driven against the ship's side and stunned, I could not imagine. But he seemed to think nothing of it, but went and changed his clothes, and at once set to work at something else.

The captain told me that during thirty years' service he had never had such a man on board his ship.

About a fortnight after we landed in India I went down to Calcutta, and paid the captain a visit on board. In the course of conversation I asked him the meaning of a large scarlet umbrella, which I had noticed at the masthead. He laughed and said, "Oh, that's the carpenter, there is no keeping him quiet. I told him that he must not be perpetually working in the sun; but he persisted, until he got a sunstroke, and as, directly he recovered a bit, he was at his old tricks again, I gave him that umbrella, and you will see it moving up and down the rigging and about the decks from sunrise to sunset."

On our way out we saw much that was novel and curious to us, though common enough to sailors, and often described in books. We saw several whales spouting at no great distance from the ship, shoals of grampus, and coveys, one might call them, of flying fish. Large fish, such as porpoises, bonito, and others with whose names I am unacquainted, were in constant attendance on the ship. We saw but little of them by day; but at night, in certain latitudes, where the water is phosphorescent, they appeared like flashes of fire, as they either swam alongside, or darted forward at a pace which left the ship behind in a moment. Then there was the "Portuguese man of war," a tiny little animal, which hoists its sail, and is blown along the surface of the water like a nautilus. In southern latitudes we saw in the heavens constellations which are not visible in England. Of these, that called

the Southern Cross is the largest and most brilliant. In the tropics, the sunsets were wonderfully varied and beautiful, and the colours extraordinarily bright.

Most people find long voyages tedious, and we had had quite enough of it to be glad of a change at the end of three months and a half; but we were all young, in good health, and on the best terms with each other, this last being, perhaps, the most important requisite for comfort and happiness during a long confinement on board ship. So, what with good fare, an obliging captain, plenty of books, pistol and rifle practice, cards, singing, fiddling, and dancing in the evening, the rigging to climb in, and the officers of the ship to spin us yarns, I don't think we were much to be pitied. Most of us had nicknames; mine was "Plum."

Passengers on board, if caught by the crew in the rigging, are generally tied up there until they pay a small sum, called their "footing." I was on the jibboom one morning, when the boatswain made his appearance with some rope-yarns in his mouth, with which he expressed his intention to tie me up. Finding my retreat cut off I surrendered, and said that I would pay my "footing," which I did that afternoon.

The sea never had any other effect on me than making me furiously hungry. Even in the short passage between Folkestone and Boulogne, I could not get on without biscuits, cheese, and stout; so, on the voyage to India, as there was a high sea at starting, I was the only passenger who appeared at meal times for the first two days. The captain in command of the detachment, and his wife, kept

their cabin for one or two days, as did also the doctor and his wife. One "sub.," an Irishman, endowed with the most exuberant spirits, was frightfully sick, but between the paroxysms fed largely on biscuit, and screamed with laughter as if it was a good joke. He made his appearance regularly at every meal; but bolted on deck when the covers were taken off. He was the first to recover. Another, also an Irishman, passed several days in his cabin with a basket of biscuit, and a quart bottle of tea, which was constantly replenished; while the third, after behaving like a reasonable sick being, for several days, at last gave it up as a bad job, locked the door of his cabin, went to bed, and when requested to come out and do his watch, refused either to come out himself, or to let any one into his cabin; so we unrigged the grating over his door, and introducing the nozzle of a hose pipe, deluged him and his bedding with sea water. The cure was instantaneous. In half an hour he was on deck, and he had no relapse.

When there was but little wind, and the sea was tolerably calm, the captain always allowed us to lower the boats and go for a row; and in the morning, when the crew were washing decks, we used to improvise a "tub" by sitting on the deck, and having any number of buckets of sea water poured over us. No one was sick or sorry, and we had not a single disagreement among ourselves from first to last.

Before leaving Cork we bought, for the use of the soldiers, fiddles, boxing-gloves, cards, &c. Each man had, as part of his outfit for the voyage, a considerable quantity of cake tobacco. This, cut into small squares, was the stake played for at some

curious, and, to us, unknown game of cards. Long before we reached India the cards had become indistinguishable. It was amusing to look on and witness the disputes in consequence. The cards being worn nearly oval, and the pips all but obliterated, a game was seldom finished without a card being spat upon, and violently rubbed with a handkerchief, this being the only available means at hand of determining its value. We used also to watch the men at their dinners, and they were so well and plentifully supplied that, in spite of their sea appetite, many could not get through their rations; and it was laughable to see some old grumbler who, in Ireland, was always complaining to the officer on duty that the cook had not given him his full allowance, looking with disgust at a lump of beef or plum-dough, which he could not finish, and did not like to give or throw away; and I shall never forget the appearance of the detachment on our arrival in India, when their canvas suits were laid aside, and they tried to button their coatees. Half of them could not be got to meet round the waist.

The officers were quite as badly off in this respect as the men; and a few days after we were settled at Chinsurah, when sitting on a court martial, an old field officer of the Company's service, who had been sent as president from Calcutta, suddenly said, "Gentlemen, you seem to be much inconvenienced by the tightness of your jackets, pray unbutton them."

The ship's steward, an African negro, had a great idea of his own dignity. He paid great attention to us, and did not seem to mind our chaffing him; but he had a great contempt for the "low soldier

fellows," who had somehow found out that the word "chew" pronounced sharply in his presence, irritated him greatly. Just before our dinner-time, one day, I saw him making his way from the galley to the cuddy, carrying a large meat pie, and I could see that the dish was very hot, and burnt his fingers. As he picked his way through the groups of men who were sitting about, the detested sound met his ear. Instantly putting down the dish on the deck he glared around him, his eyes flashing fire. "Chew," cried he, "Chew, what for you say 'chew,' you — soldiers!" Then, after another glare round, he picked up his pie, and stalked off to the cuddy in the most dignified manner.

Scarcely anything is more disagreeable at sea than a perfect calm. We had a week of it in the Bay of Biscay, and another in the Bay of Bengal. It is bad enough to learn, when the day's reckoning is made up, that you have retrograded a dozen miles; but that is nothing compared to the incessant rolling of the ship. Hour after hour, and day after day, the same horrid motion continues. A slight roll to starboard is followed by a deeper one to port, and then they go on increasing in intensity, until at last you expect the yardarms to touch the water, when you perceive that the next roll is rather shorter, and they gradually decrease until the ship is, for a few moments, perfectly still. Then in the same deliberate manner the horrid proceeding recommences, and the whole thing is repeated over and over again, until a breeze springs up. The masts at each heavy roll bend like whips, and the yards make a diabolical snapping and creaking. You

cannot stand, sit, or lie in your berth, without holding tight on to something; and at meal times, notwithstanding the arrangements made for holding them, the plates, dishes, and their contents are sent flying about the cabin, and you fly after them if, in your anxiety to stop them, you let go your hold. A ship's tendency to roll is increased or decreased by the manner in which the cargo is stowed. In the *Akbar* the weights were badly placed. The captain, however, was not to blame for this. Wishing to make a quick voyage, he had taken the utmost care in loading his ship; but when partly laden the owners ordered him to take on board 200 tons of shot and railway iron. When that was stowed away, orders came that he should provide accommodation for about 250 men, women, and children, with their stores, water, &c. No wonder, then, that he often said that he was afraid she would roll her masts out. Notwithstanding, we made a fair passage out, reaching Calcutta in rather less than three months and a-half, although we sailed up the Hooghly without having the assistance of a steam-tug, as is usually the case.

A few days after leaving Queenstown, Captain Graham, who commanded the *Akbar*, said to us, "I have on board a quantity of stores for you—beer, wine, &c., and I think it would be much more pleasant for all parties if one of you would take charge of them, and order the steward to put them on the table when you want them. Here is the list, you can see what has been provided for you, and if you finish it all during the first week, you will have no one to blame but yourselves." This was at once done, and Coote

volunteered his services as caterer ; but so generous a provision had been made, that a large quantity remained unconsumed at the end of the voyage. Captain Graham was not in the habit of taking out troops ; which was unfortunate, for he was peculiarly well-fitted for that duty, being an experienced seaman, who, with his wife, did everything in their power to make us comfortable, and I sincerely hope that he was as well satisfied with us as we were with him.

The soldiers were divided into three watches, one of which, under an officer, was always on deck. They were useful in many ways, such as tailing on to ropes, &c. &c. At night it was the duty of the officer on watch to see that his men kept awake ; not because their services were continually needed, but because in certain latitudes if they went to sleep under the rays of the moon they became moon-blind. When so affected, though able to see perfectly well by daylight, towards evening as it grew dark they became stone-blind. One or two having from this cause fallen down the main hatchway, very stringent orders were given, and the officer on watch was kept perpetually on the trot, as the men stowed themselves away in every snug corner they could find. This moon-blindness, however, wore off after a time.

The men, being no fools, soon became handy ; more especially as they saw that their officers took an interest in, and tried to become acquainted with the management of the ship, and the duties of the sailors. This, as will subsequently appear, was not without its fruits ; and, on one occasion at least, the

handiness and knowledge acquired by the soldiers saved us when in a dangerous situation.

We had very bad luck as regards fishing, which the sailors attributed to the fact that the ship was new, and her copper bright. Bonito were always in attendance on the ship; and a few flying-fish, of which we saw a great quantity, flew on board, and stayed to dinner in the cuddy. As far as I can recollect, they somewhat resembled large smelts. One day I was on the flying jibboom, with a piece of scarlet rag on my hook trying for a bonito, when underneath me, and close to the surface of the water, I saw a small shark, about five feet in length. The day was hot, we were becalmed, and the sun was shining brightly on the brute, which I watched as he lay basking for a while, and then dropped my hook close to his nose. He took it lazily enough, but directly he felt the point turned his tail up and went straight down. There was a scarcely perceptible tug at the line, which immediately came up with the hook cleanly bitten in two.

Shortly after we started the captain had a lightning conductor screwed into the main-truck, connected with which a copper chain, carried down the main rigging, hung over the side into the sea. The crew, ignorant and superstitious, hated this arrangement, fancying that by it the lightning would be attracted to the ship; and one morning we found the end of the chain, which should have been in the sea, carefully coiled in a bucket of water on the quarter-deck.

During the day we read, and wrote letters, which were to be sent home if we met a homeward-bound ship, which we did not. Some of us youngsters

passed a good deal of our time in the rigging, on a gymnastic pole which the captain rigged up for us. At night we played vingt-et-un for pence. One night there was a very heavy sea on. We were at our usual game at the cuddy table, on the lee side of which a lady and three gentlemen were seated on a bench which was bolted to the deck; I had taken up my position on a bamboo stool, at the end of the table. All of a sudden a heavy sea struck the ship, which heeled right over; the bolts holding the bench to the deck broke, and the occupants of it were sent flying backwards with so much force that they burst open the doors of the cabins behind them, and were left with their heels in the air and their heads out of sight. After this, the bench on the weather side was at a premium. I was sent flying through the door of the cabin in which the captain kept his chronometers, and into which no one was allowed to go, but I alighted on my feet, and did no damage.

The captain had a green and red parrot, which was a wonderful talker. It lived in the stern cabin, and when it heard the captain giving orders in a loud voice on deck would imitate him, screaming out the words of command, "Helms a lee," "Mainsail haul," "Tacks and sheets," &c. It also used to pick up things which were said in the cuddy, and said something new nearly every day. It was, in consequence, a general favourite; and great was the consternation, therefore, when the captain's wife made her appearance on deck, singing out in broad Scotch that the parrot was overboard. The boats, of course, were so well secured that it took a long time to lower one. The crew were in at once, but the

oars had to be found, and also the bung, which had been taken out to allow the accumulated rain water to escape. The captain's wife meanwhile was tearing her hair, and seemed half inclined to swim for her bird, which was at last picked up and restored to her; but it was remarked that, for the next few days, Polly could not be got to say a word.

On board of the *Akbar* was an old soldier named Greer, who, though perfectly well able to converse with his comrades, was, apparently from nervousness, utterly unable to articulate when spoken to by an officer. How a man so affected came to be enlisted I cannot imagine; but, several times when going the rounds at night, I have been properly challenged by this man, and yet when I went up to him and asked him what his orders were, he was unable to utter a sound. He commenced to "swell visibly" in his violent attempt to get out an answer, which never came. Knowing his peculiarity, I used to pass on to the next post. Well, one fine day, in mid ocean, when we were all but becalmed, and though the ship was moving through the water—it was so slowly that she seemed to be stationary—it occurred to this wiseacre that it was a good opportunity to wash his canvas trousers; so, taking the end of a rope off the deck, he tied it round them, carefully making what sailors call a soldier's knot, that is, a knot which is sure to come undone. He then lowered them into the sea from the gangway; the knot opened, the trousers went astern, and the owner, seeing his property floating away, at once jumped after them, although he could not swim a stroke. Luckily for him, this occurred only a few

days after the rescue of the captain's parrot; and at the cry of "Man overboard" a boat was in the water nearly as soon as she had her crew on board; and though the man had been left nearly a hundred yards astern he managed to keep on the surface, and only sunk just as they reached him, when the boatswain putting his arm into the water up to the shoulder, caught him by the hair and pulled him and his trousers into the boat.

The day that we crossed the line Neptune and his attendant came on board, and were, of course, suitably entertained. Sails were rigged across the ship just before the mainmast, behind which those soldiers who wished to be left in quiet were to remain. On the deck was an enormous tank full of water. Neptune and his wife took their seats on a gun-carriage, and those of the crew who had not passed the line before, with some soldiers who joined in the fun, were brought before them. One by one they were introduced to their majesties, who inquired after their health, and offered the services of their chief physician, who asked to see their tongues, and, on their opening their mouths, popped a pill made of something horrible down their throats. Neptune's barber then offered his assistance, and lathered their faces with some dreadful compound, which he scraped off again with an enormous razor made from the hoop of a cask. They were then soused in the tub, and buckets of water were showered upon them, after which they were allowed to make their escape. We were permitted to witness the proceedings without being operated on, on payment of a bottle of rum each; and towards the end some of us got sky-

larking with buckets of water ; but then the soldiers behind the screen, who had been peeping, joined in ; and whether they thought it *infra dig.* that their officers should be soused with water by the sailors I don't know, but, buckets without water in them beginning to fly about, the amusements of the day were put an end to, and Neptune, Amphitrite, and their court settled down to their grog.

I was talking one evening to the captain, when a sailor came up the poop ladder, and pulling his forelock said, in the most unconcerned manner, "The ship's on fire forward, sir." Being at the time about a thousand miles from Bahia, the nearest land, this was rather startling. We ran forward, and beat to quarters. The men's wives, who, as usual on fine afternoons, were seated working on the quarter deck, immediately set up a most melodious Irish howl ; but the men at once toed a line on each side of the ship, leaving the centre free for the sailors to come and go, and did not say a word. They also hemmed in the women, and prevented their moving. The fire, which was underneath the galley, was soon put out ; not, however, before it had burned right through the deck. One of our subalterns, quite a youngster, who afterwards turned out a soldier of rare promise, and after having distinguished himself during the Mutiny in an extraordinary manner was, to the regret of every one, killed at the last occupation of Lucknow, on hearing the cry of "The ship's on fire" rushed into his cabin, and immediately afterwards appeared on deck with his trousers tucked up to his knees for wading, a mackintosh cloak on his shoulders, a bag of sovereigns in one hand, and his

double-barrelled gun, which he greatly prized, in the other. He was properly roasted by us afterwards, as may be imagined.

Captain Stronge, who commanded our detachment, hooked a large shark one day over the taffrail; but the soldiers, directly they heard of it, rushed on to the poop deck, tailed on to the rope, and before any sailor could interfere, ran away with it, and bringing the fish up against the rail with a jerk the hold broke, and it fell back and was lost. Fearful was the language of the sailors on learning that their mortal enemy had escaped; and much good advice was given by which we profited, when, a few days afterwards, Stronge hooked another. She, for it was a lady, and the mother of nine young ones, which the sailors and soldiers ate for supper that evening, was most tenderly treated. Under the skilful directions of the second mate, she was played over the stern for awhile; then a slip knot was passed over her head, and she was towed round to the gangway and hoisted on board, when she speedily cleared the deck, snapping at the men's legs like a bull-dog. The carpenter, however, an inventive genius, offered her an inch deal plank, in which she at once made her teeth meet. Some one then cut off her tail with a broad axe, when she shortly gave in and was killed. Nevertheless, incredible as it may appear, three-quarters of an hour after her total dismemberment, the second mate showed me, on the bulwarks, what he called her heart. It was a dark substance enclosed in a white jelly, and it was pulsating as regularly as the heart of a living animal. Steaks of fried sharkling were brought to us at tea-time, but I

don't think that any one ventured to taste them. The skull and backbone of the shark were scientifically cleaned by a sailor, and the latter was made into a walking stick for Stronge, the owner of the hook, which caught the only shark that we got on our voyage out.

When approaching the Cape of Good Hope, we were joined by large flocks of birds, Cape pigeons, albatrosses, boobies, noddies, and a white bird with a long pointed tail, which the sailors, I think, called a boatswain. We found them useful as targets, and they were little the worse for it.

Generally, we may be said to have had fair weather, but we met with two severe squalls. The captain, who was a great ally of mine, one day pointed out to me a small white spot, something like the white arch at the root of one's finger nail, and around which all was black, apparently rising quickly from the horizon. "That is a squall coming up," said he, and at once called all hands to shorten sail. What wind there had been had suddenly fallen, and outside the ship everything seemed curiously still. It grew darker every moment, when all at once the sea on the port side was covered with foam, and with an extraordinary whistling noise the squall struck the ship; she heeled over as if she were going to capsize, then recovered herself a little, and being gradually forced round to leeward, started off at last before the wind at a great rate, although under bare poles. The rain then fell in torrents, and in half an hour the squall had blown over.

The second was not so severe, although it lasted longer. To our great joy one day we sighted the

Sandheads, and were shortly after boarded by a boat from one of the brigs which brought on board a pilot. He was not in the least like a Channel pilot in a rough pea-jacket, but a smart gentleman, dressed like an officer in the navy, attended by his servants who brought with them his bed and pillows, and by a sucking pilot, his leadsman. No sooner was he on board, than, to our intense disgust, he put the ship about and stood out to sea again, saying that we were too far to the west to make the entrance to the channel. We soon got over our disappointment, and I sat up very late talking to him. He was a very jolly fellow, and spun innumerable yarns about India. At last I turned in without undressing, and at about three in the morning was awakened by a great noise overhead. The lightning and thunder were incessant, the wind roaring and the ship flying about like mad. I made my way on to the deck, and found no one there but the soldiers on watch, and the captain at the wheel steering. I heard afterwards that, finding that no sailors were on deck, he had sent first the mates, and afterwards the man at the wheel to make them turn out. He had frequently given me lessons in steering, which was a favourite occupation of mine during the voyage. He now shoved the wheel into my hands, saying, "Keep her head 'nor-west,' as near as you can," and ran forward. I was only half awake, but this effectually roused me; I did not half like being left in charge of the wheel, not knowing what I ought to do if the wind were to chop round suddenly. However, the first thing to mind clearly was to keep her head "nor-west" as nearly as I could; but the infernal spray

drove in my eyes and half blinded me, at the same time wetting the glass top of the binnacle, and preventing my seeing the points of the compass. I managed to keep her head somewhere in the right direction, taking great care not to come too near the wind, which at last moderated a bit. I then felt easier in my mind; but, as luck would have it, the pilot, who up to this time had been forward, took it into his head to seat himself on the poop, and to sing out, "How's her head" every other minute. Now I could box the compass well enough; but in spite of all my efforts the ship was dancing about, and the card in the binnacle followed suit; the glass, moreover, was dimmed by the spray, so I was slower in my answer than a sailor would have been. It was not long before he smelt a rat and came aft; when, recognizing me, he sung out, "Good God, you don't mean to say that you are steering the ship." I told him what had happened, and my fears about the wind chopping round. He did not say much, and he did not relieve me at the wheel, which I should have thanked him for, but he stayed by me until one of the crew was sent aft.

The boat which brought the pilot was alongside of us for a moment only; and yet it is certain that in that moment with all eyes on them, the Lascars who manned it managed to convey some liquor to our crew; for they received no rations of grog; and yet when the squall struck us they were all drunk and asleep in the forecabin. The officers of the ship therefore had to depend on the watch of the 52nd men, who were not allowed to go aloft. The crew were drunk again the next night, when we were

anchored in the narrow channel off Kedgerree, with a strong current running across it.

In the middle of the night the pilot became aware that the ship was dragging her anchors. The sailors were drunk and asleep, but he managed to make all right with the assistance of the soldiers acting under the orders of the captain and the mates; and next morning he said to me, "I never met such good handy fellows as your men are; I could turn the ship upside down with them."

We now looked about for a steam-tug to take us up the Hooghly; but not being able to get one at once, the captain made up his mind to sail up, which he did in three days, anchoring in Garden Reach on the 1st of October, 1853.

On the Hooghly, between the sea and Calcutta, there is a most dangerous quicksand, called the "James and Mary." Our captain was most anxious while we were passing it, and this seemed astonishing to us, as the river was broad and not rapid, and nothing betokening danger was visible.

His anxiety, however, was explained to us afterwards by those who in the *Barham* passed it a few days after us.

Everybody was on deck, and the officers of the ship were pointing out the position of the quicksand, which a ship of large size, towed by a steamer, was on the point of crossing just before them. The steamer with her long tow-rope had followed a bend in the river, but the ship being badly steered followed the chord of the arc. Suddenly it was evident that something was wrong with her, and she slowly heeled over.

“She’s touched,” cried the crew of the *Barham*, and “touched” she had with a vengeance; for in half an hour, ship, masts and all had disappeared, the crew having just had time to escape in their boats.

Ours was the first detachment to arrive, but we had been the first to start. Our ship being a small one, many bets were laid that the others would arrive before us.

The next morning we were transferred to a flat towed by a steamer, and landed at Chinsurah, about eighteen miles above Calcutta, and situated on the right bank of the Hooghly. The captain of the *Akbar*, who was much liked by everyone, came up and stayed with us for a few days; and when, to our regret, he was obliged to rejoin his ship, he declared that, having several times brought out troops, he had never before had so quiet a time on board, or been so comfortable, and he added, that he had never had a party of officers in his ship who drank so little or smoked so much. He was a kind good fellow, and I hope that he is alive and flourishing at the present minute.

CHAPTER IV.

TO a man just landed for the first time in India, everything he sees is new and strange. The people, the animals, the trees, the houses, and even the ground he treads on, are different from those he left behind him in England. The dark lithe forms, and often handsome features of the men, in their varied costumes, the women with their nose rings and bangles on arms and legs, and often carrying a child astride on the hip, the tall upright sepoy in undress, swaggering along with his medals slung round his neck, the carts drawn by bullocks with humps on their backs, the luxuriant vegetation, the camels, the elephants, with here and there a dirty fakir, or religious mendicant, nearly, and sometimes quite naked, and his body smeared with ashes,—all these, seen under the glare of an Eastern sun, present to his view a novel and curious picture, to which, however, as also to the wild cries of the jackals, and the loud chirping of insects by night, he soon becomes accustomed.

He finds his ways of life changed. In England one soldier servant did all that he required. In India half a dozen are necessary. To be sure, their

wages are very small, and his own pay double what it was. The native servants, anxious to be hired, crowd round him ; all of them are in possession of testimonials which describe their owners as perfect Phoenixes. After much talking, influenced probably more by personal appearance, than by the written characters, some of which are contradictory, and others older than the individuals for whose useful talents they are supposed to vouch, he selects and engages—first, a Bearer, a head servant and valet, who takes charge of his money and looks after his things ; second, a Khitmutgar, to wait upon him at table, and to cook his breakfast ; third, a Dhoby, or washerman ; fourth, a Bhestic, or water carrier ; fifth, a Mehter, or sweeper, who does the dirty work. These five are indispensable. When he buys a tent and horses he will have to engage other and additional servants. In our dealings with native servants “ caste ” was the great bugbear. Each in his turn would refuse to perform some particular duty, on the ground that it was against his caste. We as new comers gave into this, as we found that the old Indians did so. In fact, to interfere in any way with caste regulations was considered most improper. From what I have since heard, I believe that we and others were imposed upon, and that such servants as we engaged had no caste at all.

A native Rajah hearing Sir John Inglis address his servant by his name instead of by his professional designation of “ Bearer,” expressed his astonishment ; and when Sir John said that the man was a favourite servant, and of high caste, remarked, “ You do not understand the matter as I do. You think that you

have a high caste servant ; I know that no man of any caste at all would take service with a Sahib. They tell you that they are of a caste which prevents their performing such and such duties, because they are idle, and do not wish to perform them. But if you were to send your high caste man with a letter or message to my house, my servants would not admit him. The whole thing is a farce, and is done only to force Sahibs to engage additional servants."

At Chinsurah the soldiers received their Indian clothing of white cotton for summer wear. In winter the same dress is worn as in England. During our stay here several of the native servants were bitten by snakes, which were very numerous. One seldom heard of a European being bitten. In fact, during my five years' service in India, I did not hear of one case. Europeans keep a sharper look out, and do not move about their house at night without a light, their dress also protects them, whereas the native is careless, and, trusting to fate, walks bare-footed and barelegged, at all hours, wherever he has occasion to go, never avoiding long grass, or other "snakey" places. Sooner or later he treads on one when he jumps aside with a loud yell, and is fortunate if he escapes being bitten.

The depôt at Chinsurah, when we first arrived there, was under the command of an old captain of the 29th Regiment, named Douglas, who loved snakes, of which he had made a great collection of all sorts. One afternoon our servants found a cobra in a bucket full of wet straw, in which soda-water bottles had been placed to cool. Douglas was at once sent for, and, in a few minutes, made his ap-

pearance with a short stick in his hand, with which he stirred up the straw, when the cobra sat up, and erecting its hood, watched him. Holding the stick in his left hand, he stooped over the bucket, and offered it to the snake from the opposite side, and on the latter turning its head from him to follow the stick he caught it by the neck with his right hand, pulled it out of the bucket, and ran off with it to his house in a high state of delight.

On first landing, we, like true Britons, refused to conform to the effeminate customs of the East, and among other things disdained to sleep under mosquito curtains. The result was that in about three days the surface of my skin was apparently one large mosquito bite, or rather, for I do not wish to exaggerate, there was a difficulty in putting the point of my finger between the one bite and the next. Only just landed from a long voyage, and with our blood rich with sea air, English porter, and beef, we offered a particularly attractive feeding ground to that abominable insect, which naturally made the most of it while it lasted. I wonder that the irritation caused by the bites did not give us fever. Luckily it did not, but a bite and the Hooghly water combined gave me something which, at the moment, I considered infinitely worse. I found one day that a spot from which I had, as a summary way of allaying the irritation, scratched the skin off, showed no signs of dying away, as others, subjected to the same treatment, had done, but was getting larger and more troublesome. The next day it was worse and I showed it to a subaltern who had been some years in the country. "It is either a boil coming,

or a ringworm," said he. "Ringworm!" cried I, recollecting a small dirty boy at Rottingdean with a shaven head, and a black silk skull cap, and at once posted off to the doctor, who, having inspected my leg, said, "You have got a ringworm." Then, seeing how horrified I looked, he added, with a burst of laughter, "Oh! you are thinking of little boys at home with dirty heads; that is not true ringworm, this is; and probably the Hooghly water on a scratch has caused it—they say it often does. I will send you some ointment from the hospital which will soon cure it." In a day or two it disappeared, but if not properly attended to it is a nasty thing; and I saw natives at Chinsurah with deeply indented rings, some more than an inch in diameter on their cheeks. Any sore place affected in this way heals in the centre, but extends round the sides.

The other ships came in one by one, and on the 18th October, 1853, the first detachment started for the upper provinces, the others following soon after. The men were carried in "flats" or flat-bottomed barges, furnished with an upper deck, on which, as well as on the lower one, the men's beds are spread at night. In the daytime they are stowed in the hold. Each flat was towed by a steamer on board which the officers lived. At night steamers and flats were either anchored in the stream, or made fast to the shore, in which latter case all got a run on dry land. The water in the Hooghly above Chinsurah being too low to allow of our ascending the Ganges that way, we were obliged to drop down below Calcutta, and make our way eastwards through the Sunderbunds until at Coolneah or Comercolly, I forget

which, we reached a deeper channel of communication with the main stream. This tract, through which we steamed for several days, is the delta of the Ganges, and consists of patches of land, cut up in every direction by creeks and ditches, and covered by trees and long grass, the abode of tigers, deer, and snakes. One afternoon, on anchoring, some of our party went on shore, and finding at the water's edge the fresh footprints of a tiger, at once, though unarmed, set off in the most foolish manner in pursuit. Luckily they did not find the tiger, and still more fortunately the tiger and his friends did not interfere with them. The same evening we were informed that a tiger has been known to leap in the night from the shore on to a vessel at anchor, and return the same way, carrying with him a wretched man who was sleeping on the deck. A few natives reside in huts here and there, but the "luxuriant vegetation of the East" which is, in reality, a dense mass of foliage, large and small, growing out of fetid mud under the rays of a broiling sun, makes the climate so unhealthy, that even if they escape the tigers, they seldom stay there long.

Our upward progress was slow, as the stream was strong. We amused ourselves by shooting at the alligators, numbers of which were seen everywhere reposing on the mudbanks.

The Hindoos burn their dead, and always, if possible, on the bank of the Ganges, which is considered an especially holy river. Occasionally, we found ourselves enveloped in thick black smoke arising from a funeral pyre, the smell of which baffles description.

If the bereaved family is poor, and unable to provide sufficient wood to burn the body, they content themselves with singeing the defunct, whom they then throw into the river, leaving his stick and his coat, if it is a very old one, on the bank, confident that the river will carry his body to heaven. As a matter of fact, perhaps not known to them, if the body floats down the Hooghly branch, that portion of it which has escaped the alligators and birds of prey, is stopped a short distance above Calcutta, taken to a neighbouring ghaut, and burnt.

The Mussulmans bury their dead.

Whenever our course lay round a sharp bend in the river, we used to land with our guns, and shoot our way across it. Sometimes, when the boats had to travel thirty or forty miles, the distance across was not more than ten or twelve.

We passed Dinapore, where we had a jovial night with the 29th Regiment; Ghazeepore, where the attar of rose is made; and Benares, a very holy place, chiefly remarkable for the beauty of its mosques and the great number of Brahminee bulls and naked fakirs, both of which seem to run wild there. Both are, in the eyes of the Hindoos, sacred, and the bulls feed as they like on the vegetables and grain exposed for sale in the markets, the owners of which, being afraid to beat them off, threaten them with sticks, yell, and abuse their fathers and mothers, which the animals, being used to it, take as a matter of course.

In consequence, I suppose, of the holiness of the town, the river face of Benares is one succession of ghauts or flights of steps leading down into the waters of the holiest of rivers. On these, at certain

great religious festivals, the people congregate in immense numbers, and, at the auspicious moment signalled by their priest, rush down yelling into the stream. Many are drowned every year, the only creatures benefited being the alligators.

I noticed that Scotsmen got on very well in India, as their countrymen, who are clannish, are to be found everywhere in that country. Stewart, with a brother officer, having hired a buggy, told the driver to take them to the hotel at Ghazee-pore. On their arrival there the servants seemed terrified, and the landlord, though loudly called for, did not for some time make his appearance. Getting angry at this, they sat down on the table in the largest room, drummed on it with their feet, and abused the servants, the landlord, and the country, when a gentleman entered suddenly, and, white with passion, demanded "what the devil they meant by sitting on his dining-table and making that row?" "You are a nice landlord," rejoined Stewart. "Here have we been sitting for the last half-hour, shouting for brandy-and-soda, and your brutes of servants do nothing but look at us round the corner." "Where do you suppose you are?" said the new comer. "Why, in the Ghazee-pore Hotel," said Stewart. "Then I beg to inform you that this is not the Ghazee-pore Hotel; that it is not a hotel at all; it is my private house, and the sooner you are out of it the better." Jumping off the table, they made every apology and excuse they could, laying the blame on the driver of the buggy.

Nothing would, however, appease the wrath of the old Scotsman, whose anger seemed to increase

rather than diminish. They were on the point of re-entering the buggy, when, from something that was said, the old man perceived that Stewart was a Highlander. He at once cooled down, wanted no apology, laughed at the matter as a first-rate joke, dismissed the buggy, and insisted on their staying in his house till next day, when they were obliged to rejoin the steamer.

The various detachments arrived one after the other at Allahabad, situated at the confluence of the Ganges and the Jumna.

There we found our camp equipage, *i.e.*, tents. Those for the men were provided by the East India Company. The officers had to buy theirs. Now, there were two rival tent-makers at Futteghur, and we sent all our orders to one of them. Each of us ordered a hill tent ten feet square; but the maker, grateful for so large an order, sent us all tents twelve feet square, charging only the price of the smaller ones, about £22 each. This made a great increase in our comfort on the march. In England, a tent is unknown; there is a poor thing made of a single thickness of canvas, which goes by that name, but an Indian tent was a reality. The sides of the inner portion of it, or inner fly, as it was called, were perpendicular, strengthened with bamboos, and about five and a half feet high; from these the roof sloped upwards to the pole, by which it was supported at the height of about twelve feet. The outer fly, which was much broader, and extended much further than the inner one, was held up by and fastened to the top of the pole, which was, perhaps, fifteen feet high. By this arrangement, there

was a space of three feet between the two flies, under the outer of which the servants lived. In a good tent the inner fly was made of five thicknesses of cotton cloth, and the outer of three.

At Allahabad, we had to provide ourselves with everything requisite for the march to Umballa, distant some 500 miles. It was soon known in the country round about that ponies, or tattoos, as they are there called, were in request, and every one who had one to sell made his way to the Alopeebagh, where our camp was. The prices asked were absurdly low, and by that time we were aware that an Indian always asks a higher price than he intends to take. In a day or two every one was suited, and in possession of a pony or two. Most of them turned out well, some were excellent. An old Irish major, deeply versed in the science of horseflesh, pressed me to buy a little ragged brute, which, I told him, I did not like the look of. "Nonsense, young man," said he, "when he has been fed and groomed for a month, you will not know him for the same," "and they are only asking twenty-five rupees for him." I bought him for twenty rupees, and he turned out not only very useful, but very good looking. At Umballa, a few months after, I was offered fifty rupees for him.

Having provided ourselves with ponies, we tried to ride their tails off in pursuit of pariah dogs, which, however, we found to be regular curs, giving but little sport.

Several of us, at one time or another, engaged "moonshis" or teachers, and tried to learn Hindustani, in which language, with one exception I think,

none of us became very proficient. The old officer above-mentioned, knowing nothing of foreign tongues, and but little of his own, frequently expressed his opinion that we were throwing away our money, and going the wrong way to work. "It's all rubbish," said this Celtic oracle "to go talking about native languages, and moonshis, and humbug; what *I* say, is Crystallize (Christianize) the natives, and make them speak English."

Our old friend seldom allowed his thoughts to wander far from his beloved horses and dogs; but he sometimes gave his opinion on other and less interesting subjects, when he seldom failed to raise a laugh. He would store away in his memory an axiom which he heard, and afterwards apply it in a manner which showed that he did not understand its meaning. One, of which he was very proud, was "Water always finds its own level." For some reason only known to himself, he regarded me as an authority. I found him one day in the anteroom, with a map on the table, and some subalterns before him. "Bayley," said he, "come and tell these young fellows, that what I have pointed out is correct. This map is evidently wrong. The river here is made to cross a range of mountains, where everybody knows that water always finds its own level, and cannot run up hill." Of course I agreed with him that the map was very badly drawn, and said that there was a break in the range there, which the draughtsman ought to have delineated. "Well, well," said he, "I knew it was wrong," and went out for his ride perfectly satisfied.

Another time I heard him say to some one, "It's

very wrong; the fellows that make these maps ought not to be so careless; here is a river, starting here (down south), and going there (due north, which he considered up hill), when every fool knows that water always finds its own level, &c. &c. They should be more careful." On board ship, during a dead calm in the Bay of Bengal, he remarked to a brother officer, "Henley, it's no wonder they call this the Pacific, for, sure, it is a *very* pacific sea."

He was very methodical, and, when on a voyage, allotted so many hours to sleep, so many to pacing the deck, so many for meals, and half an hour for reading. These arrangements he strictly adhered to. When returning in a sailing ship from Canada to England, an officer, noticing the regularity with which he read daily for half an hour by his watch, then marked the place, and put the book down, from that day forward put back the marker every day to the same page. This he never noticed; but when, land being sighted, he put in the marker for the last time, he remarked, "It's a strange thing, Corbett, but I can't help thinking that I've read that book before."

Notwithstanding his ignorance, he was a useful member of our society, and, as far as the performance of duty went, a most conscientious soldier. He set a good example to the young officers; for he was sober, careful, always properly dressed, and a thorough good sportsman. Though a very poor man, he never owed a farthing. He said to me once, "I never had more than £60 besides my pay. I have always kept one horse, and now can afford to keep two. I never was in debt, and I have always a £10 note to lend to any man who I think will pay

it back." He could not have commanded a regiment with credit for any length of time, but I have known many others like him in that respect. He was a kind, cheery, good-humoured man, and is affectionately remembered by many.

In these "competition" days he could not have entered the service; but then, luckily for him and for us all, competition was not; and as in India it was suddenly discovered that a man who had "passed a splendid examination in the Persian language" was not necessarily a good general, so it is quite possible that one who is able to get the highest marks in an examination and pass brilliantly in Shakespeare, Spenser's "Faërie Queene," &c., may make an indifferent soldier, and turn out generally less serviceable than many a rejected candidate would have been.

The scene in camp here was very pretty. The regiment was very strong, officers and men numbering 1,100. Every officer possessed a tent, and all, officers' and men's, were quite new. They were pitched in lines under a grove of trees, with a broad street down the centre, in which the regimental parades were held. Altogether, there must have been nearly 100 tents.

We each bought a goat to provide milk for breakfast; but a day or two after we started the supply unaccountably failed. The chokedars, to whom they were given in charge, declared that we had been taken in by their former owners; but at a small station where we halted one day, Stewart met a civilian, a brother Scot, by name McWhirter, whom he entertained at mess. The matter of the goats

cropping up in conversation, he at once suggested a remedy. "Thrash your chokedars," said he, "and thrash them every morning until the goats give milk again; your servants like milk as much as you do." Next morning every chokedar received "bamboo bachshish," or, a present of bamboo. The cure was instantaneous, as McWhirter had predicted.

Talking of the bamboo, a modern philosopher, late a subaltern in a marching regiment, recently discovered that, in countries inhabited by black men, Nature has wisely provided a plentiful growth of this most useful tree; from which he argues that she must have been well aware how utterly useless the darkies would be were not that graceful plant always at hand to stimulate them to exertion and rouse their flagging energy.

By-and-by our carriage for the march arrived. Elephants for the tents, camels for the men's bedding and for the officers' tents, and country carts with tilts for the soldiers' families. We were drilled in pitching and striking tents, and at last we started on our march up the "Grand Trunk Road," leading through Cawnpore, Allyghur, and Delhi to Umballa.

THE MARCH.

Not a sound is heard in camp until 3 A.M., when the first deep notes of the "rouse" fall upon the ear.

The subaltern, dreaming, maybe, of "England, home, and beauty," takes the bugler for the "waits," who, he thinks, play better than usual. A few

seconds later, the voice of his bearer, bleating "Sāāāb, first bugle," reminds him that he is in the gorgeous East, and that he must look sharp if he wishes to be on parade before his captain. Dashing out of bed, he indulges in a hasty wash, known as "a lick and a promise," dresses, tries to swallow a cup of boiling tea which his Khitmutgar brings him, and rushes out, when he finds the morning very cold and dark, except where, here and there, a heap of blazing straw lights up the scene and discovers the men actively engaged all around him. No sooner has the "rouse" sounded than the silence of the night is broken. Tent-pegs are rapped, the men begin to talk, and the elephants and camels make their appearance. The tents are now struck, rolled up, and secured on the elephants, and the bedding on the camels, which are by no means the patient animals which writers describe them. They roar incessantly while they are being loaded; their kick sends one flying, though their feet, being very soft, seldom break bones. Their bite is very severe. The tents once down on the ground, one finds that he has lost his landmarks, and can hardly tell where he is, and in which direction the high road lies. The men fall in, and are marched to the road, where column is formed; and, the baggage being left to follow in charge of a guard, the regiment quickly moves off.

The duty of "baggage-guard" was very disagreeable, the officer being obliged to see everything off the camping-ground before he left it. What with the married people's carts drawn by bullocks, the dodges that the camel-drivers were up

to, and the fact that some of the elephants were "bobbery," and shook off their loads two or three times during the march, he had a troublesome morning's work, and seldom got into camp in less than two hours after the column. As it was dark when we started it was very difficult to collect the camels, as their drivers, after being sent off in the direction of the road, would turn aside and get anywhere out of sight, to sit over a fire and smoke their hubble-bubbles, and consequently the subaltern on guard had to ride round and round the camp many times before he could be sure that all had started. After a few marches, when the nature of the difficulty was realized, hunting-whips were brought into play, and accelerated the movements of the camp-followers amazingly. The men march in silence, and occasionally one, half asleep, rolls a few paces out of the ranks. At the end of an hour the lights at the coffee-shop are sighted ahead. On reaching it, the regiment is halted; some five or six large coppers, full of hot coffee for the men, are placed twenty yards apart on one side of the road; on the other side of which, about the centre of the column, a table, with candles, cups and saucers, plates, biscuits, coffee and hard-boiled eggs, is prepared for the officers. Here all the discomfort of the early march ends. It is still quite dark, but all are warm with walking. The coffee &c. are discussed, pipes and cigars lighted. The bugle sounds, the men fall in, the band strikes up, and off we go. In another hour the sun rises. We halt again for five minutes, and then march straight into camp, half a mile short of which the "tomtomwala" sits by the side of the road furiously

beating his "tomtom," a small kettledrum, for which performance the men reward him with a few copper coins.

As soon as the sun was up, and the pipes finished, the men usually began to sing, by companies generally, one man taking the solo and the rest the chorus; but this was not always possible, as, unless there was a side wind, the dust rose in thick clouds, and hung over the column. Of course, it was worse in rear than in front; so, in order that every one should have a fair chance, the order of march was altered daily, the company marching in rear to-day, going to the front to-morrow. Letter F., the company which I afterwards commanded, were not good at singing, but were known as "The Jackals," from the skill with which they imitated the discordant cries of those infernal beasts. The new camp had been marked out by the "camp colour men," sent on overnight. The baggage has followed us closely, and, after seeing our company's tents pitched and their breakfasts served out, we adjourn to our comrade's tent, which was sent on overnight, he having slept in ours at the last camping-ground. We tub, and go to breakfast. After which, if so inclined, we send for the village shikarry and coolies, and go out shooting until parade at 4 P.M. Game of some sort is generally to be found. Grey and black partridge, the latter a very fine bird; quail in abundance, both plain and painted, that is, brightly-coloured on the back; antelope; and neelgao, a large beast, half deer, half cow. After parade we dine, and at about eight go to bed. This is repeated every day; though we usually halt

on Sunday, when divine service is performed in the main street of the camp. It seldom rains in the winter, the usual marching season, except during two or three days about Christmas. It is a most enjoyable time. Occasionally, a station is reached, when a challenge is sent, and a cricket-match is the result. Every morning we find ourselves in a strange place; and, though in the plains the scenery is not varied, every halting-place is somewhat different from the last. Occasionally, however, on awaking in the morning, a man discovers that during the night thieves have cut a hole in his tent and walked off with everything he possessed. The "cotwal," or head man of the bazaar which follows the regiment, is then summoned, and his "puggees," or trackers, follow the thieves across country, guided by their "pugs," or footmarks. I recollect a case occurring during our first march up the country.

The alarm was given in the middle of the night. It was pitch dark, but by the light of a torch the "puggees" tracked the thieves, one of whom had a remarkably long foot, into a village about four miles off across country. This village was surrounded by a wall having several gates. Before entering they made the circuit of the wall, carefully examining the sandy roads at each of the gates. The long foot-track was pugged from the inside of the tent straight into the village, but not out of it. The head man of the village was then sent for and the houses searched. The stolen goods were not found; but, on the matter being investigated by the civil

authorities of the district, the village was condemned to make good the loss, amounting to some £25 or £30.

On another occasion, our camp colour men, who were nightly sent on in advance, having been several times robbed, one of them, named Marchant, determined to keep watch. For security, they had retained the services of a chokedar, or professional watchman, from the nearest village. This, according to Indian custom, should have prevented all chance of robbery being attempted, the chokedar belonging to the thief caste, and his retainer being a sort of blackmail. However, at night, Marchant saw a thief crawl on his stomach up to the faithless chokedar, who, after a short conversation, allowed him to approach the tent, which he was on the point of entering, when Marchant seized hold of him. He was nearly naked, and his skin covered with oil, which enabled him to escape for a moment; but Marchant gave chase, and, though he was a very fat fellow, caught him and held him by his hair. The next morning, on the arrival of the regiment, the culprits, thief and chokedar, were brought up before the colonel, who sentenced the former to have one side of his head, beard, moustache, and eyebrows shaved and painted white, then to be paraded and tomtomed round the camp on a donkey, with his face to the tail, and then to receive two dozen strokes with a bamboo. The chokedar was ordered three dozen. Hearing that it was likely that the executioner would inflict the punishment lightly on receipt of a few rupees from the friends of the culprits, a party of subalterns determined to be present. The sentence

was, in consequence, most effectually carried out, and a very severe punishment it was. The matter was taken before the district commissioner, who held that the colonel had no power to flog the men. It was a great comfort that he could not remit the sentences. How the matter, which was eventually brought to the notice of the governor-general, ended, I do not know; but we had no more cases of robbery in camp.

Having provided himself with a tent, the officer has to engage a "classic," or tentman, to look after it, and for each horse he must have a syce or groom, and a grasscutter. The latter has no sinecure; for grass is scarce in India, and they often have to go five or six miles away from cantonments to dig it, for they do not cut it, but dig it up by the roots. Grasscutters are very subject to what is called a "wind stroke," caused, I should think, by their squatting exposed to sun and wind for hours at a time when digging grass. An attack of this sort seems to paralyze them for some hours.

Considering the disadvantages under which they labour, it is astonishing that the cooks in India can send up such well-dressed dinners as they do. In Europe the mess kitchen contains all the latest improvements in ranges, hot plates, &c., all of which are utterly unknown in the East. At Umballa I had the curiosity to visit the kitchen shortly before dinner-time. It was in a miserable little hut outside the mess-house. I cannot say whether it had a chimney, but from the open door and from one or two small windows a dense smoke made its exit. As I stood just outside the door, I could see the lower

extremities of several natives running about, their bodies being quite hidden by the smoke—wood being the only fuel used, the smoke from which makes the eyes smart in a horrible manner, it seemed wonderful to me that they could bear it. Its effect on me was so great, that after standing at the door for half a minute I was obliged to go away.

I paid a second visit to the cooks one day when we were on the line of march in the Punjab. There I found that the cooking was done in the open air, without any shelter from tent or hut. Over a heap of glowing charcoal laid on the ground, some five feet in length, two feet in breadth, and eighteen inches high, a spit, on which were impaled a joint of beef, another of mutton, a couple of ducks, and a couple of fowls, and resting on two iron uprights, was slowly turned by a native squatting at one end of it; how the boiling and baking were managed I forget; but it was doubtless done in the little mud fireplaces which natives construct in a few minutes, and in which they boil their rice and bake their chupatties. A French artist, finding himself expected to send up a good dinner for some thirty or forty hungry officers, with no other appliances than these, would, probably, unless in his early days he had served a campaign in a battalion of Zouaves, resign his situation and light a cigarette. Possibly, if he knew that the commander-in-chief was expected at dinner, he would, like an historical personage, commit suicide. Somehow or another, whatever the weather, our dinner was always well cooked and served to time; and I have known on one occasion, shortly before the dinner hour, rain followed by a

hailstorm so heavy, that the whole surrounding plain, camping ground included, was covered with water four inches deep, with hailstones an inch deep floating on the surface. We had to ride on our servant's backs to the mess tent, where dinner was served as if nothing unusual had happened.

At Cawnpore we found the 70th Regiment, who lined the road to welcome us in. They were just recovering from an epidemic of cholera, and we were horrified at their white and sickly appearance, little dreaming that in two and a half years' time we should look as bad, if not worse.

At Cawnpore there was in those days a colony of Chinese, who carried on a great trade in articles made of leather. There must also have been a missionary station there; for no sooner had we got into camp than we were invaded by a swarm of natives, dressed in suits of dirty European dittos and wide-awake hats, who walked straight into our tents, and claimed hospitality as brother Christians. As "hospitality" in their sense of the word meant brandy and water and cheroots, coupled with the run of the camp, and the consequent chance of picking up anything which they might find in a tent from which the owner was absent, the whole force of the regimental police was at once put on duty, and an order was published that any native Christian who should be found in camp after he had been turned out of it, would receive one dozen with a bamboo. Now, John Chinaman sold a very good imitation of an English hunting whip for a rupee, a great number of which had been bought in camp; and here, happily, was a fine opportunity for trying

them. It was hinted to the police that they need not be too particular about keeping the native convert from re-entering; and we posted ourselves on the look-out in different parts of the camp. Finding at last that the police paid little attention to their movements, they soon made their reappearance. If what they wanted was a warm reception, they cannot have been disappointed, for when they were well in we broke from our cover, and, with a loud tally-ho, gave chase. I must do the native convert the justice to say that at the first taste of the lash he bounded like a deer, and made such good use of his legs that he was soon out of camp, which from that time he showed no wish to re-enter.

From all that I heard on the subject it was my firm belief that the native convert, in that part of India at least, was a Christian only in name. Of the tenets of his new religion he knew nothing. He was generally a man of the lowest caste, who, as a Hindoo, was forbidden to drink spirits, which, as a professing Christian, he was able to indulge in, and did so whenever they came in his way. I believe that it would be impossible, or, at all events, a most difficult thing, to explain the principles of Christianity to any but a very highly-educated Hindoo; and even then, if he understood and were convinced of their truth, he would be a long way from actual conversion. Once having declared himself a Christian, he would become an outcast. His friends would disown him, and look upon him as accursed. His family would not live with him, or give him shelter. They would not give him a drink of water if he were dying of thirst. The Europeans, whose

religion he had embraced, would make much of him as a convert ; but he could not live, or even associate with them except at church. He would probably be employed as a missionary among his own people, by whom he would be abused and cursed as an unclean thing. Few natives of India would feel hope of prospective advantage sufficiently strong to induce them to take so decisive a step ; though in the South, where many children are educated in the missionary schools from their earliest years, I heard that the prospects were more encouraging.

A brother officer of mine, travelling in the Himalayas, came upon two German missionaries living in a village near which he had pitched his camp. He saw a good deal of them during the two days that he stayed there. They were well-educated men ; but miserably poor. They told him that they had for fourteen years lived as natives among the natives, who, they said, were very friendly and kind to them. They told him also that they thought that the natives respected them more than they did the other missionaries, who were better off and lived like gentlemen, drinking wine and beer, and eating beef and pork. They were patiently listened to, replied to, and argued with ; but, after their long experience, they had sorrowfully come to the conclusion that, in these parts, the work of the missionary was attended by no satisfactory result. They kept on at their post, hoping to do good ; but they could not, in all those years, boast of a single convert, and they had given up all hope of ever making one.

Somewhere between Cawnpore and Delhi a party of some eight of us were riding across country one

afternoon, when we came upon a herd of deer, and at once went after them. We were mounted on the ponies which we had bought at Allahabad, and in a short time those who were best mounted went to the front, and left the others behind. We rode a long way, sometimes in one direction, sometimes in another. At last our ponies were fairly pumped out, and one by one stopped without giving us the trouble of pulling up. Then came the question, Where were we? or, rather, Where was the "Grand Trunk Road," on the side of which our camp was? Champion and I had been left together, and we were fairly puzzled what course to steer. On every side there was a perfectly level plain, dotted here and there with groves of trees and small villages, and we could not see anything to indicate from which quarter we had come. Neither of us being good at guessing, we rode to the nearest village, and in the mildest Hindustani inquired our way to the high road. Either they failed to understand what we wanted, or, what is equally probable, the villagers were glad to see us in a fix; for they gave us no information, but seemed inclined to be uncivil, and at last surrounded us, and would, I believe, have proceeded to pull us off our ponies, had we not ridden through them and got away. We then tried to judge our position by the sun, in which we succeeded only so far that, on comparing notes, I was for going in one direction and Champion in one diametrically opposite. We both agreed that we must not separate; so we urged our tired tattoos first in one direction and then in another, until at last, after a very long ride, by great good luck, we saw the camp in the distance. The others, who had followed the deer

further than we had, struck the road seven miles from camp, and did not get in until long after dark.

We made our way slowly up the country, marching about ten miles each day, until at last we reached Delhi, the city of the Great Mogul, where we halted for two days. It was a fine large Mohammedan town, in which the old king still kept up some state, and where there were several fine buildings to be seen. It was surrounded by a high wall, fortified by European engineers. Old Delhi must have extended over a very large tract of ground round the present city, as the undulating plain is for miles covered with ruins. About ten miles off is the "Kootab Minar," a tower of great size and height, the origin of which no one seems to be acquainted with. Delhi is a great place for jewellers and shawl makers, and our camp was full of them, offering their goods for sale. The shawls we did not think much of. The jewellery was pretty, and a few rings, &c., were bought; but the gold which they use, being quite pure and soft, bends very easily, and, in consequence, the stones set in it are apt to fall out.

Seven marches above Delhi we camped at Kur-
naul; before the annexation of the Punjab a large frontier station, now a heap of ruins. There is much water in the neighbourhood, and great quantities of wild fowl of every description. We shot lots of ducks, &c., in the paddy fields; but they congregated in immense numbers on the "gheels," or lakes, where, there being no boats, we could not reach them.

At last, on the 6th February, after a march of 513 miles, we arrived at Umballa, where we were to be stationed.

CHAPTER V.

UMBALLA was an important place, having a garrison of one European and one native cavalry regiment, a troop of horse, and a battery of foot artillery, one European and three native infantry regiments, and a large civil station.

The men of the regiment at once went into barracks, while the officers remained in tents until they succeeded in either buying or hiring houses. Generally, two or three of us joined together and took a house, for which we paid a rent varying from fifty to one hundred rupees a month. Our baggage, sent up by bullock dāk from Allahabad, had arrived before us, and we were soon all comfortably settled.

In Bombay very fair Arab horses were procurable at prices varying from £50 to £100, and many which had been ordered by officers in the regiment made their appearance at Umballa shortly after our arrival there. They had been chosen by an officer resident in Bombay, who sent them up country, a distance of over 800 miles, in charge of their native grooms, who were a very honest set of men, for none of the horses were missing, and all were in good condition.

In India it is the rule that new comers call upon the residents. Of this we were unaware, and were, besides, busily employed looking for houses. It was, therefore, very unsatisfactory to learn, at the end of a week, that we had given great offence in not having called on the ladies of the station. On our part, we thought them somewhat unreasonable to expect us to ride about making calls before we were properly housed; but the mischief had been done, and we never went much into society there.

In the lines on our right were the 9th Lancers, a splendid regiment, with whom we were soon well acquainted. In their ranks were many old soldiers, volunteers from the 3rd and 4th Light Dragoons and the 16th Lancers. Up to the year 1847 cavalry soldiers enlisted for twenty-four years; and when a Queen's regiment was ordered home, those men in it who desired to remain in the country, were allowed to volunteer to any regiment serving there. Some preferred India to Europe; others, who were married and had families, for each member of which the East India Company granted a monthly allowance, were much better off there than they would have been anywhere else. In this way men would pass from regiment to regiment, becoming thoroughly acclimatized, and every one of them, as soldiers, worth half-a-dozen recruits. Their sons joined the regiment, and their daughters became soldiers' wives. Many of them, on getting their discharge, settled in the country, and took up some trade.

Here, having just come off a march, we had plenty of drill; but we found time for cricket, and played a match with the 9th Lancers, which we lost.

Three of our officers, with some of the 9th, went off for a month's tiger shooting; as far as I can recollect, they bagged three. It was expensive work; as the party took some twenty or thirty elephants, and the keep of one of these animals costs ninety rupees a month.

In May, 1854, one of our barrack bungalows caught fire, and was burnt down. The regiment, being very strong, was crowded before; so three companies, under the command of Major Mills, were at once ordered to the hills; one to Kussowlie, and two to Subathoo; to which latter place I was lucky enough to go in command of "A" company.

From Umballa to Kalka, a village at the immediate foot of the hills, was three marches; from which one march, straight up the first range of hills, landed us in Kussowlie, and a second, descending somewhat on the other side, took us to Subathoo.

The weather being very hot, we marched at night; and the very first night an occurrence took place, which puzzled the old Indians, and was never accounted for. About a mile from the end of the march, a corporal, named Gilpin, fell out. Being a non-commissioned officer, no one was left with him, and the rear-guard did not bring him on with them. After we had been some time in camp, it was reported to the commanding officer that he had not come in. A party sent back along the road could find no trace of him; so, as soon as it was daylight, about an hour afterwards, officers on horseback, and men on foot hunted for him everywhere. Eventually the civil authorities were communicated with; and the villagers all around turned out. Parties with

elephants were despatched to the spot; and the whole country was thoroughly searched. He had fallen out close to the bed of a river, which, however, was all but dry; the little water there was being divided into numerous little streams, none of which had wetted us above the ankle. The wells, with which the country abounds, were tried, but without success.

Some at first thought that he had been carried off by a tiger; but a tiger, however hungry, would not have taken his musket, which was missing. Others fancied that he had been killed, and buried by thugs; and I have ever since been of that opinion. From what I have heard and read of their proceedings, they were most expeditious rascals. They usually selected the bank of a river for the scene of their murders; and buried the bodies of their victims in the bed of the stream, the course of which they diverted temporarily for the purpose; and once weighed down by heavy stones, with the water again flowing over it, the body was not likely to be found. This theory did not find favour with old Indians, who said that thugs never meddled with Europeans, who, if missed, would be diligently sought for. Whatever was his fate, he was never heard of again. There was no sign of a struggle on the sandy road; and it was considered impossible that he could have remained away from the regiment for a week without the authorities being made aware of it. He was a remarkably steady good man; and everyone was much concerned at his disappearance.

We had to ford several shallow streams that night, and at the first the men began to straggle and pick

their way. "Keep your sections, men, don't open out," shouted Mills, the commanding officer. "Oh! it's all very well for him on horseback to say don't open out; he wouldn't like to walk through it himself," grumbled a young soldier. "Hold your tongue, you — young fool," said an old man of letter A company, "you don't know him; if it was up to his neck, and running like a millrace, he'd get off his horse, and lead us through it on foot."

Kalka is a village lying at the foot of the first range of hills, on the top of which, and straight above is Kussowlie, one or two buildings of which can just be descried from the plain. Kalka is, I believe, one thousand feet above the level of the sea, and Kussowlie seven thousand. The road between the two is very steep; and we were about four hours marching it. At Kussowlie we found the head-quarters of the 32nd, with whom we dined. One company remained there, while the other two went on to Subathoo the next morning. The 32nd were most hospitable; we stayed with them until very late, and a great deal of claret was consumed. One of our party, on his way home to the "Dāk Bungalow," had his attention attracted by a loud growling and swearing, proceeding seemingly from the hill-side considerably below the road on which he was standing. "*Vino ciboque gravatus,*" he did not like to descend and investigate the matter, so he hailed the injured individual, and inquired who he was, and what had happened. Finding that it was the "general," who with his pony had rolled down the hill, he called for assistance, and they were rescued. The general, on arriving on level ground,

was not very communicative as to the cause of his accident; but from the few words which escaped him, we were led to suppose that his pony and syce were both drunk.

At Subathoo we found the other wing of the 32nd, of whose mess we became members.

The change from the broiling heat of the plains to the fresh air of the hills was delicious. The men soon recovered their health, and took kindly to the sport afforded by the place, butterfly hunting, or, as they termed it, "Dodging fleas." Some parts of the Himalaya abound in large and very beautiful butterflies. These the men catch in gauze nets, and set up in a box shaped like a backgammon board, and of about the same size; each half being protected by a pane of glass. A good collection in such a box will fetch £2 or £3.

The lowest pay which a private soldier in India receives is £1 a month, from which the regular stoppages are trifling in amount. He gets his rations gratis, and at the canteen is allowed only a certain quantity of liquor; so, there being no public-houses, as in England, some of them soon find their purses growing heavy, and begin for the first time, to invest in the "Regimental Savings Bank," where they get a small interest for their money. Some who know a trade, practise it, whenever there is an opportunity; and, in this way, many a man, at the expiration of his term of service, finds that he has a good round sum to start with on getting his discharge.

We were told that there was a jackal's cave somewhere about a mile from the station; and one day

some of us started off to see if we could find it. When about half a mile on our way, we ran through a lot of spear-grass. None of us knew it by sight; and, as far as I can remember, it does not, in appearance, differ much from any ordinary coarse grass. The end of each blade, however, is tipped with a regular small spear, having three or four barbs. It enters woollen clothing, breaks off and remains in it, and penetrates further at every movement. My companions probably wore cotton trousers, which it does not pierce; but I had on a pair made of loose open flannel, which were completely riddled; and when I had gone a little further, I was brought to a standstill. The points were as sharp as needles; and from ankle to knee were, in hundreds, trying to make their way through my skin. I could not move a step without pain; so I took off my trousers, and sitting down on the hill side, turned them inside out, and set to work to pull the heads through; and I was busily employed for more than an hour before they were wearable. My companions, of course, laughed at my ridiculous appearance, and advised me to throw away my trousers, and go back to the station, where I might account for the curious state of my dress by stating that I had exchanged into a highland corps. They then left me, and went on to prosecute their search; but the jackal's cave was not discovered.

Subathoo stands on the crest of a narrow ridge, bordered by deep valleys, and lower than the hills surrounding it. It is about 5,000 feet above the level of the sea; and from it there is a good view of Simla, distant about eighteen miles as the crow flies.

During the hot weather the air is not so bracing as it is at the higher stations in the neighbourhood, Simla, Kussowlie, and Dugshai; but, during the rainy season, when these last are enveloped in clouds, less rain falls at Subathoo, which is comparatively dry. This is a great advantage, when it is remembered that hill stations are sanitariums; as, in consequence, diarrhoea, dysentery, and rheumatism, so prevalent at the higher stations, and the seeds of which are often sown in the plains, are seldom heard of there. If the year 1854 was not an exceptional one, but little rain falls there; and the residents have the benefit of a cooler climate, unattended by the nuisance of a continuous downpour.

When the rains are over, and the days begin to shorten, the changes of temperature in the twenty-four hours are very remarkable. For a considerable period the thermometer at noon marked 90° ; while it fell below freezing point at night; but the hospital did not fill in consequence.

One of the barrack bungalows at Umballa having fallen down, and the others being in a shaky condition, five more companies, with head-quarters, were moved up to Subathoo; the wing of the 32nd going to Kussowlie to make room for them. The company, which up to this time had been at Kussowlie, was moved to Subathoo, where Letters A, C, D, E, F, H, and K were now quartered; I being at Dugshai, and B and G left behind at Umballa.

There were also at this time in barracks adjacent to ours two strong companies of recruits belonging to the 96th and 98th Regiments, under

the command of Captain Curren. For some reason, the explanation of which I never heard, these men, one night after dark, attacked ours; and after a short fight, when our men turned out in superior numbers, one party took refuge in their barracks, the doors of which they barricaded, while another, mounting the hill behind, sent large boulders rolling down on to our barracks and parade ground. We were summoned from mess, and at once proceeded to the spot, the adjutant's lanthorn which he carried in his hand, being, at the very commencement, demolished by a large stone. The roll was called, and the colonel appearing, ordered two companies, one with arms, and the other with sticks, to storm the recruits' quarters, and make prisoners of the rioters. The doors were burst in; and for a time there was a rattle of sticks, such as is seldom heard out of Donnybrook Fair. The prisoners were then brought out, guarded by the company under arms. The next morning our colonel, who was in command of the station, strictly investigated the affair; and coming to the conclusion that the recruits had not enough occupation, ordered them to march round the hill every day—a distance of about ten miles; and when they were not so employed, the roll to be frequently called. The ring-leaders also were severely punished.

There were great numbers of cobras here, and we frequently heard of their being killed. I was reading in my verandah one afternoon, when I heard a great noise in the direction of the stables; and shortly afterwards my servants brought, and laid down beside me, a large cobra which my syce had

seen on the back of the "chirper," one of my ponies, and which they had killed, as they supposed. I measured it, and found it to be four feet nine inches in length. It was, however, only stunned, and in a short time became so lively that I was obliged to interfere; so, having heard it said that a snake is all neck, and that breaking his tail is, in fact, breaking his neck, I struck it with the edge of the chokedar's spear about four inches from the point of the tail, when its body was at once paralyzed, though the extreme end of the tail continued to move for a time. The idea that deadly snakes are always in one's neighbourhood is one of the most unpleasant things in India; and how it happened that, during the Mutiny in 1857, when night after night we slept where we halted on the bare ground, no cases of snake bites were reported, I cannot imagine; for we were out from the middle of the hot winds until the end of the "rains."

Within a practicable distance good fishing was to be had, but I think that none of us had any tackle; as I cannot recollect that any fish were caught. "Mahseer," the Indian salmon, which weigh sometimes over one hundred pounds, but are sluggish and do not give much play, were to be found in a river not far off; and the natives used to catch and bring up to our mess numbers of a small fish much resembling a smelt, which were highly appreciated at breakfast. This was also the only place in India where we used to get fresh mushrooms, though some dried ones were given to me a few marches above Simla.

Some magnificent golden eagles lived in the

neighbourhood, and sometimes came our way. An officer of the 32nd shot one.

I was often on the look out for them, and one day, tired of watching in vain, I sat down on the edge of a steep cliff and began to read, Clive's rifle lying beside me. Suddenly I saw one "displayed," as the heralds call it, within six yards of me. I was on my legs, looking over the side, with the rifle at my shoulder, in a few seconds; but the eagle was, in that short time, right at the base of the cliff. The moment he caught sight of me he turned over and dropped to the bottom. He looked enormous as, just for one moment, he remained perfectly upright in the air, with his breast towards me, and his wings at their full extent.

Among other pleasant neighbours were a few hyenas; and I remember at breakfast one morning, an officer of the 32nd complaining that he had been awakened several times during the night by one which kept sniffing round his bed, which, for coolness, he had placed in the verandah. He got up more than once and drove him away with stones, but the animal kept re-appearing at intervals.

The genus snake in India is generally represented by the cobra-capello; and a more poisonous, ill-looking representative one could not wish for. It is to be found pretty nearly everywhere, and consequently it is comforting to know that it has a natural enemy, which seems to be more than a match for it. This is the mungoose, an animal not unlike a small ferret, except that its coat is longer, and, as is the case with other animals when excited, stands on end, and makes its wearer appear larger than it really

is. In a fight between these two the movements are so rapid that it is impossible for the eye to follow them; but in every case which I witnessed the mongoose, in a few seconds, bit the snake through the head, and holding on like a bulldog, trotted about, dragging the long body after it. It was commonly believed that the mongoose, if bitten by the cobra, ran off and ate something which proved an antidote; for it never died from the effects of the encounter.

A schoolmaster, whom I met in the hills, told me that he had more than once seen a fight between a monkey and a cobra. His description amused me, and he declared it was true. The monkey, on being introduced to the snake in an empty bathroom, at first tried to escape; but finding that impossible, squatted down out of reach of the cobra, gradually edged up to it, and when it struck at him, jumped over it, and squatted on the other side just as before. This manœuvre having been several times repeated, immediately after a jump, he seized the snake round the neck with his fore paws; then sitting quietly down, and crossing his hind legs, he held its head close to his own face, and after grinning at it, laying his ears back, and making faces such as only an angry monkey can make, rubbed its head for some time on the stone floor; then examined and grinned at it again; and so, alternately grinning and rubbing, never let go his hold until the snake's head was rubbed out.

"Snake charmers," as they are called, are, in my opinion, impostors. To look at their performance is, once in a way, very amusing; but to fancy that they

can charm, and play with the cobra in its wild and undoctored state, is impossible.

You are, most likely, smoking the pipe of peace, so universal in the East, when a most disagreeable noise half induces you to believe, either that pigs are being ringed next door, a thing which you are aware is never done in India, or else, what is still more unlikely, that Italian Pifferari, or strolling bagpipers from the highlands of St. Giles', are coming down the road. You naturally go outside; the musicians enter your compound, and the first flageolet informs you, after a frightful flourish on his instrument, that he has reason to believe that there are snakes in your garden. You answer that you have no doubt there are. He then offers to find and catch one for a rupee. You tell him that he is at liberty to catch, and take away with him the whole lot, for which you will charge him nothing. Eventually, some newly-joined ensign wishing to see the performance, terms are agreed to. The charmers, playing a hideous tune, perambulate the compound, and soon making for the most bushy corner, let loose a tame cobra, long since deprived of his fangs, when the sahibs are summoned with loud cries to come and see that there is no deception. On their arrival, they see the animal sitting up, and waving his body, or dancing, as it is called, to the music. The feat has been performed, and every one is satisfied, save the newly-joined ensign, who, inflamed at the sight of the reptile, which, since he landed, he has been always expecting to find coiled up under his pillow, seizes the nearest bamboo, and, before he can be prevented, with one blow puts an

end to the performance. Then all is uproar; the old hands shriek with laughter; and the charmers, alternately cursing the "Feringhee," and bewailing the fate of their old friend, are not got rid of until the market price of the defunct is paid to them.

The Indian conjurers are very clever. With them all really is deception. Their sleight of hand is marvellous. I used to prefer those of the poorer sort. They did not, like those in England, perform on a stage, full of practicable holes, &c., at a distance from the spectators; and the latter were not confined to their seats in stalls or boxes. Out there the conjurer, naked to the waist, and with only a basket beside him, containing perhaps a pipe, a sword, a handkerchief, some straws, and cards, sits on the bare ground, and has for spectators in front of him a few sahibs, and behind him their servants. There he will sit, and puzzle you for an hour, with the aid of a handkerchief, a sword, or a card. Somehow or another, I was always away when the "basket" and the "mango" tricks were exhibited. They have been often described, but never, I believe, explained.

The latter commences with the planting of a mango stone in the hard ground. It is then watered and covered with a cloth, which being presently removed, the first young green shoot is seen appearing. It is again watered, covered up and uncovered, when it is found to have grown considerably, and after this has been several times repeated, it attains its full growth, and bears fruit, which is handed to and eaten by the spectators.

The basket trick is begun by a boy making his

appearance and chaffing the conjurer, who, eventually getting angry, throws a net over him, captures, and puts him (still in the net) under a bowl-shaped basket on the ground. In this position the boy still continues his abuse, until the conjurer, apparently losing all command of his temper, seizes a sword, which he thrusts through the basket in every direction, the boy meanwhile screaming hideously. The newly-joined ensign, horrified beyond measure, then knocks over the conjurer, and overturns the basket, under which he discovers—only the net. The performance is supposed to be finished; great praise and proportionate “bachshish” being given to the conjurer, who gathers up his traps, bows, and after some little delay retires. It is only at a later hour, when the first bugle for mess has sounded, and the spectators have retired to their quarters to dress, that the discovery is made that the boy, whom at one time they had thought pierced by twenty sword thrusts, had at that very moment been busily engaged making the tour of the rooms in the bungalow, from which, the servants, being to a man, all in the compound looking at the conjurer, he had abstracted all studs, rings, watches, and other light articles of value which he could lay hands on. By the time this is found out, the Wizard of the East and his precious boy are out of the station, and gone, no man can say whither.

CHAPTER VI.

AT the end of November the route came for Umballa, where a camp of instruction was to be formed, and for which we were one of the regiments detailed. At Kussowlie two men of letter F company thought fit to get drunk, and exhibit themselves in that condition to the 32nd, who turned out to see us pass. For this they were tried by court-martial next day, and sentenced to fifty lashes each. One, a broad-shouldered, hard ruffian, took his punishment without flinching; but the other, a weakly Scotchman, whose constitution was undermined by drink, could not stand it, and after about forty lashes had been inflicted, was taken down from the triangles by order of the commanding officer. At that time a man was never sentenced to corporal punishment unless he had been guilty of "disgraceful conduct," as it was termed, such as stealing from a comrade, malingering, selling or making away with his regimental necessaries, insubordination, or for drunkenness on the line of march. During my eight years' service I saw about half-a-dozen men flogged, and they were all, with one exception, irreclaimable blackguards,

whom, in those days, there were no means of getting rid of. .

When we were in Dublin, an Irish recruit, named Spelecy, was sent to us. Captain Bouchier, to whose company he was appointed, soon found that he was half-witted; but the rules of the service would not permit of his being discharged, and he went with us to India, and was, I think, still with the regiment when I returned home in 1858. He was never fit for duty, and his freaks caused much trouble to his comrades and captain. He knew well enough what he was about, and what he ought to do; but was of a very low type, and more like a wild beast than a man.

Once, on board the flat between Chinsurah and Allahabad, on the company parading for "kit inspection," Spelecy was reported absent. The flat and steamer being thoroughly searched in vain, it was supposed that he had fallen overboard and been drowned. He was such a general nuisance, that I really think the company would have been glad if this had turned out to be the case. But Bouchier at last bethought him of the hold, in which the men's bedding was stowed by day, and which was fastened down and locked. It was opened, and a party sent down to search. In a few minutes they emerged, dragging with them the delinquent, who had nothing but his trousers on. As punishing or blowing him up was known to be useless, he was ordered to produce and lay out his kit; but though there was a long search, I think nothing could be found of it but a pair of scissors. On the line of march he

never assisted in pitching the tents, but having taken off his belts, would sit at a little distance under a tree, if one was handy, until that operation had been finished, when he quietly went to his tent. Bouchier meeting him one morning sauntering into camp, carrying his musket in one hand and his accoutrements in the other, rated him soundly, and informed him in tones loud enough to be audible to half the camp, that if the men of the company were to give him a good thrashing he should not find fault with them. A sergeant who was standing by, said that the men were not likely to touch him, and gave us to understand that he was what the Americans would call "a vindictive cuss," and "deliberate ugly," and that his comrades were afraid to thrash him, as he would probably take the first opportunity to stick a bayonet into them. So he remained on our hands a perfectly useless individual. Afterwards, when well-conducted, good soldiers were dying by the score, though, in defiance of the strict orders issued, he used to walk about in the sun, often without a cap on his head, he never got fever or sunstroke, but was well and hearty. What ultimately became of him I do not know; but he was a disgrace to the regiment, caused endless trouble, cost the country a good deal of money, and never did a day's work.

Once, during the Mutiny, a man of my company, who bore a very good character, was reported for insubordination by a young lance-corporal. Several similar cases having recently occurred, a court martial was ordered, at which I was to preside; and the colonel calling me aside, said that, under the

circumstances, in the event of the prisoner being convicted, he hoped, although he would not presume to dictate to the Court, that corporal punishment would be ordered. At the same time he hinted that the sentence would not be carried out. The prisoner's character being well known, and the act of insubordination of which he had been guilty not having been very serious, the astonishment of the men, and the horror of the culprit, on hearing the sentence read out, were extreme. It was shown by a profound silence, after which every man at the same moment seemed to draw a long breath, which was distinctly audible.

The colonel then addressed them, and said "that the Court had given a very proper sentence; but that taking into consideration the general good character of the prisoner, and trusting that there would be no more complaint of the sort, he remitted the sentence. In any future case," he added, "it would be rigorously carried out."

This warning was sufficient, and the offence was not repeated afterwards.

Marching in India was usually done in the early morning, though we occasionally started at 8 or 9 p.m. In the former case the air is much cooler, and the men, refreshed with sleep, step out with comparative ease; instead of which, starting at night, they are oppressed with a feeling of lassitude consequent on the fatigues of the day. Some officers, our colonel for one, paid great attention to the men's comfort, halting them every hour for a few minutes, and regulating the pace at which they marched.

When with a detachment of two companies between Sealkote and Lahore, at the commencement of the Mutiny, we were allowed to proceed nine miles without a halt, through deep sand, and with the hot wind blowing in our faces, and parching our throats. The officer in command had ridden on, and though he was probably not far off, it was quite dark, and we could not see where he was. The men, who at first had been laughing and singing, had for some little time been plodding on in silence; and at last a sergeant fell out and asked me to halt the detachment, which was much fatigued. This I was obliged to decline doing; though I longed for a halt as much as they did, knowing that the commanding officer, who was a new arrival in the regiment, would at once return, and blow me up for taking the command. So the march was continued in silence, until a voice was heard, saying, "Well, d——n me, if ever I leave the 'colours' (the head-quarters under the command of the colonel) again! I'll stick to old George (the colonel); he's very strict, but then he is so —— just." This remark, the latter part of which was singularly correct, seemed to find favour with the detachment; and, luckily for the speaker, the commanding officer was out of hearing, and feeling aggrieved myself, I did not inquire who had spoken.

We were altogether about 10,000 men in camp at Umballa, composed as follows:—Four European Infantry regiments, the 32nd, 53rd, 1st battalion 60th Rifles, and ourselves; the 9th Lancers; some Native Cavalry; Artillery, European and Native; a battalion of Ghoorkhas, and some Native Infantry

regiments. We were brigaded with one of the latter and the 32nd.

We used to parade at 10 A.M., and drill through the heat of the day, for it was very hot, although it was winter time, until about 3 P.M. The arrangements for dress were curious. The Europeans wore no protection for the head beyond their small cloth forage caps; while the sepoy, with heads as hard as cannon balls, wore white cap-covers. Some of the glazed peaks of our caps melted with the heat, and many men fell out.

At last the doctors interfered; and after some opposition on the part of the brigadier, who never felt warm, and of a few old officers, who contended that the cold morning air would be more prejudicial to health than the midday sun, the time for parade was altered to one hour before daybreak, a change which we were all very glad of. We had two or three field-days a week, and the rest of our time was well filled up with cricket matches by day, and hunting with the 9th Lancer pack in the morning. They met three times a week, and with them we had large fields and capital fun. Foxes out there give no sport; but the natives caught and brought to the master of the hounds a sufficient number of jackals, which were kept in a large pit until wanted. One of these, well anointed with aniseed, was turned out, and a quarter of an hour's law allowed him before the hounds were put on. Some gave us good runs, while others gave in at once; but altogether we generally got a good morning's ride. Every sort of horse was out, from the high-cast Arab, Australian, Cape, and Whaler, down

to the little country tattoo. There were scarcely any fences, but plenty of nullahs, or water-courses, and dry wells, which sometimes caused accidents. The dresses of the riders were of every description, and, altogether, the scene was very different to that presented by an English hunting field.

Besides a number of other cricket matches, we had a great tussle with the 60th, who, up to that time, had proved themselves to be the best players in the country. They were very strong, playing in the old style, and trusting mainly to straight, underhand bowling, backed up by their field, which was very good, and well managed. As they won the first game and we the second, there was great excitement as to the result of the third, in which we were well beaten. We tried very hard to get them to play a return match at Delhi, when we halted there on our way from Lucknow to Sealkote in the beginning of 1857; but it did not come off; and they afterwards admitted that they had heard we were very strong, and so were glad to rest on their laurels.

Just before the camp broke up, there were three days of "athletic sports."

For the native troops there were flat races, and one hurdle race. For the Europeans, flat races, high and long jumps, hop, skip and jump, putting the light and heavy weights, throwing the cricket ball, quoits, sack and three-legged races. For officers, one hurdle and two flat races.

It is a long time to look back; but I can recollect some of the results. William McGennis, our big-drummer, won one foot race. The sergeants' race was won by

Ronayne, of the 9th Lancers. A small tailor of the 60th, named Reilly, won the high jump at five feet; and the prize for hop, skip and jump fell to a 52nd man. That for putting the heavy weight to a man of the 32nd, one of the 60th being second, and one of the 52nd third. A half-caste trumpeter of the Bengal Artillery threw the cricket ball nearly 100 yards, and gained the prize. While the officers' hurdle race was won by Crosse, of the 52nd; the 100 yards race by Chardin Johnson, of the 9th Lancers; and the 150 yards race by Acton, of the 53rd.

The sepoys entered in great numbers for their foot races, and formed a mass six or eight deep at the starting point; but, once started, they soon tailed off, and few ran the whole distance. The hurdle race for natives was won by a Ghoorkha, who took the hurdles in a manner novel to us, touching them with both feet, one on the top and the other about a foot below. These games were held on the 9th Lancers' cricket ground; and nearly the whole force in camp assembled to witness them.

In one of the native infantry regiments there was an Affghan, a man of great strength, who, we were told, used "mogdas" or Indian clubs of an enormous weight. The officers of his regiment wished him to join in the contest with the European soldiers, who were putting the heavy weight, 56 lbs.; thinking that a man of his strength, although unacquainted with the knack, would be able to throw it to a great distance. In fact, I heard one of them say, "Pooh! 56 lbs., why it's nothing to him." He made his appearance, accordingly, clad, for the occasion, in perfect clouds of white muslin, and closely watched

the proceedings ; as it had been arranged that, when the match between the Europeans had been decided, he should try conclusions with the winner.

He was a fine, handsome, stalwart man, evidently of great muscular power. Picking up the weight, as if it were nothing, he toed the line as he had seen the others do, and for a moment looked as if about to make a tremendous cast ; but the whole thing was new to him ; and after making several offers, he at last threw the weight about a yard and a-half, and stalked off the ground, evidently deeply mortified at his failure, and totally disregarding the officers of his regiment, and others who wished him to try again. They must have had some difficulty in restoring him to good humour ; for, as he walked away, he looked as if he would have liked to cut their throats for having caused him to disgrace himself, as he considered he had done, in the presence of the commander-in-chief and the crowd of spectators.

Just about this time we gave a ball to the commander-in-chief and the station, which was very numerously attended. The walls of the mess-room, in which we danced, were decorated, soldier fashion, with stars and other devices, composed of bright bayonets and ramrods. These, on a background of black velvet, reflected the lights a thousand ways, and had a very pretty effect.

Some of the ladies whom, on our arrival, we had unintentionally offended by not calling on at once, talked of refusing our invitation ; but hearing that the commander-in-chief and Lady Gomm were to be present, pocketed their dignity, and changed their minds.

About this time Monson and Atkinson, who had come up from Bombay with a detachment of recruits, joined us.

Their party had had a fight at Juggaroon, a Sikh village near Ferozepore.

Monson, who was in command, and Blair of the 9th Lancers, were out shooting in the neighbourhood of the camp, and happening to pass through the village, were set upon and severely beaten by the inhabitants. Blair was quite stunned; and Monson, after having succeeded in carrying him a short distance towards camp, fainted, just at the moment when, to his horror, he saw Atkinson at the head of the recruits coming up at the double, and brandishing tent pegs, the only offensive weapon to be found at the moment. N.B.—An Indian tent peg is not a bad weapon in an emergency, being made of hard wood, pointed at one end, two feet long, and about three inches in diameter in the middle.

When they came up, the village gates, which had been hastily closed, were soon burst in; and a Sikh soldier, armed and mounted, who was at the head of the villagers, having been disposed of with a tent peg by a corporal of the 9th Lancers, a short and lively scrimmage took place, in which the recruits of the 9th and 52nd, who had just passed their respective commanding officers lying insensible outside, vied with each other in retaliating on their assailants. All the able-bodied inhabitants having been put *hors-de-combat*, the recruits proceeded to loot the houses; but Monson luckily recovered his senses in time to check this, before any great damage had been done.

tame, and many of them visited us ; but they were so mischievous, and inclined to run off with anything they came across, that we were obliged to have recourse to our pellet bows, which soon sent them scampering off to their trees, and drew down upon us first the remonstrances and afterwards the maledictions of the Brahmins.

Meerut, at which place we arrived on the 26th of March, was an old station, and in consequence, the houses were large and good. In the days in which they were built, officers went to India, intending, if not to spend their lives there, at least to stay there a long time. If one of them was in want of money, the banks were always ready to lend it to him, and received an order on the paymaster for the monthly payment of interest and instalment of repayment. The climate of India was considered deadly, which, in consequence of their intemperate habits, it doubtless proved to many of them ; so when they found that they had to build, they recklessly borrowed a good round sum, and built a good large house.

Later on, several changes, the opening of the overland route for one, altered considerably the conditions of service in India ; the result of which was, that when a man was obliged to build, he generally did so as cheaply as possible ; and as in the newer stations these small houses only were to be found, and the incoming regiment were obliged either to buy or to rent them, or else to live in tents, the small houses in the new stations let for nearly as large a rent as the large ones in the old. They were certainly cheaper to buy, because the owner was glad

to get his money back, and preferred to get rid of property in a place which he was never likely to revisit. In an old station like Meerut, if the houses were large, they were also numerous; and if the rents had been kept up, many of them would have remained unlet; as, for economy's sake, many officers would have lived in the same house; so the owners preferred letting them at a reduced rent to the chance of having them unoccupied.

From time to time, as the frontier line of our territory was pushed further north and west, fresh stations became necessary; and this was the way in which they were built:—

The spot having been selected, a brigade of troops was encamped there; the outline of the future station was marked out and apportioned to the different arms.

To take Umballa for an example. On the extreme left space was allotted for three regiments of native infantry, and on their right for a regiment of European infantry, on whose right European cavalry were placed, and further on artillery; in whose right rear were the native cavalry; at some distance in rear of the infantry line was the civil station.

All along the front, which at Umballa was about a mile and a half in length, barracks for the Europeans, and mud huts called "Lines," for the natives, were constructed; the officers being considerably allowed the option of living in their tents or building houses for themselves. It is only fair to state that under these circumstances they were in receipt of increased allowances of pay, which went far towards

the rent of a house, when one was built. Sooner or later, houses sprung up on the ground allotted to the different corps. Most were built by the officers themselves, though a few were the property of European or native speculators; and a very good investment they were, as they were seldom unoccupied, and a house which had cost £200 to build, let easily for £60 a year. Officers who had been obliged to build, were only too glad to recover some of their money, when they got the route for a distant station, and so most of the bungalows eventually became the property of shop-keepers and merchants resident there.

When we first arrived in the country, it was common enough to hear that So-and-So, who was in receipt of a very large salary, was hard up, the reason being that he was "in the banks," into whose coffers the greater part of his monthly pay regularly found its way.

It was well known at Umballa, that one unfortunate, a married man in a native infantry regiment, received only £5 out of £30 a month. The result of this is easily imagined. He and his family were half starved, and went about in rags. His children were uneducated, and none of them, if ill, could get away to the hills, or expect at any future time to return to England.

From all the accounts which we heard, men in those days were reckless. They squandered their money in racing and gambling, and frequently drank themselves into their graves. It is needless to state that there were very many brilliant exceptions. The history of British India proves that;

but the description above given is not exaggerated, and applies to several cases with which we were acquainted. There was, as I have said, no difficulty beyond that of choice, in getting housed at Meerut. We had not been more than a few days in ours, when Moorsom put up a mark against the wall which divided our compound from the next, and indulged in a little rifle practice, which the wall was, unfortunately, not strong enough to resist; for just before dinner time a native servant brought us a letter, enclosing a flattened rifle bullet, from our next door neighbour, a perfect stranger to us, who wrote:—"My dear Gentlemen,—The enclosed entered the wall of my house this afternoon, within an inch of my bearer's head; may I request that you will have the kindness to place your target against somebody else's wall. Yours truly, &c."

We found here the head-quarters of the Bengal Artillery, the 3rd Light Cavalry (Native), several native infantry regiments, and the 81st Regiment, with whom we had been quartered in Dublin, and who had sailed for India with us. For some reason or other, a fat man was called by the 52nd officers "Filius;" and as there were several very stout men in the 81st we used to call the whole regiment "Fili," and eventually anglicizing it, "Filis." That they were aware of this we had no suspicion; but, one evening when I was going round the barracks to visit the men at their tea, after passing through a great number of our own bungalows, I was going to enter by mistake one occupied by the 81st. One of their sergeants, who was standing near the door, came out and said, "This is the 81st,

sir," on which I turned away; but as the sergeant was speaking, I heard a man inside, who was evidently relating something which had happened to him, say in a loud voice, "And he said, that we were a set of d—— d Filis." I heard nothing more; but this showed me that the name had spread further than we had any idea of.

CHAPTER VII.

AS the hot weather approached, those whose turn it was to go away on leave began to think of starting for the hills.

After the annexation of the Punjaub by the East India Company, the territory of Cashmere, which had belonged to the Sikhs, was sold to Goolab Singh, who from that time became the Maharajah of Cashmere. He was considered the best politician in India; and as he thoroughly appreciated the power of the Company, backed up by the resources of the mother country, he behaved in the most friendly manner.

As it was customary for every one who could manage it to visit the hills during the hot months, and as Cashmere was within an easy distance of the North-Western Provinces and the Punjaub, and presented in itself every advantage that could be desired for a residence during the summer, he signified to the Chief Commissioner his willingness to receive as guests all Europeans who wished to visit the valley; and he built for their accommodation a number of houses on the right bank of the Jhelum, just above his capital, "Shrinuggur." For form's

sake, and also by way of introduction, those who proposed to go there had to send their names to the Chief Commissioner, and apply for the requisite leave. Henley and I, having obtained leave to the 1st November, left Meerut on the 1st May, and travelling dâk to the foot of the hills, continued our journey to Simla on foot. There Cecil Peel and Curzon put us up, while we made preparations for our hill campaign.

Before leaving Meerut, we had sent on in advance two small tents and such servants as we intended to take with us, viz., two khitmutgars or cooks, two bheesties or water-carriers, and a dhobee or washerman; but there were many other things which it was necessary to provide, as our leave was for six months, and we were going to a country where nothing but sheep and flour was procurable.

First, we had to give our servants warm clothing; then "kiltas," long tapering baskets, in which our things were to be carried on the backs of the hill porters, were to be covered with leather and otherwise strengthened. Next, we invested £9 in medicine, the greater part of which was intended for, and eventually found its way into, the *dura ilia* of the hill men, who believed that every Sahib was a physician, and came sometimes from long distances to be prescribed for and physicked. To get rid of this subject at once, I will here briefly describe our practice. It was not long before a patient presented himself, followed at a short distance by half the village as spectators. His complaint he described as a pain in his stomach. After inspecting him, and feeling his pulse, Henley said, "A little jalap is the

thing for you, my man—Plum, look at the outside of the bottle, and see how much we ought to give him.” Following the instructions there given by the chemist, the dose was made up and swallowed; when, comforted, if he understood it, by Henley’s assurance that “it would warm him up, and make him as lively as a three-year-old,” he retired to his friends, who looked upon him as a superior being for the time, and remained with him all the day.

Before long it transpired that jalap was not in favour with them. They said it was cold. Now, one day a native praises an eatable or drinkable because it is cold, and the next because it is hot; and we were never able to make out exactly what they wanted. We got over the difficulty, however, pretty well. I was engaged stirring up a large jorum of jalap and water for a man who had come from a great distance to consult us, when Punjemoo, our Ghoorkha and interpreter, informed me that the patient, who was looking on, would object to take it, giving as a reason that he had heard it was *cold*. Rather disgusted at this, for jalap was our *pièce de résistance*, and we had a great quantity of it, I was thinking whether I should give him a five-grain calomel pill, a bottle of which we had intended to keep for serious cases, when Henley came to the rescue. “I see what it is, my man,” said he, “you are an epicure—you should have said so at first. Give him a good spoonful of essence of ginger in it, that will suit him down to the ground.” This was done, and the man left delighted with the mixture. The fame of the new stuff, which they called “Fire Medicine,” spread far and wide; and the bottle,

which was a very large one, was soon empty. At the end of our six months' trip, there was nothing left but two large calomel pills and a bottle of sulphate of quinine, which we had kept for ourselves, and which was untouched. The health of the population in that district was, I heard, the year after remarkably good; but whether this was caused by our judicious treatment, or that none but the most hardy survived it, I cannot say.

It has just come to my recollection that Henley, according to his own account, treated unsuccessfully an old man at Sungla, in the Buspa Valley. I believe he tried to extract one of his grinders, though I am certain he had no instrument more fitted for the purpose than the punch in his knife. Anyhow, he failed miserably, and put the old man to such torture that there was a tumult in the village in consequence. I had gone on a day's march in advance, wishing to find Cowan, who was said to be at Chini, about thirty miles off; and Henley, being left in sole surgical charge, and hoping to have a successful operation to report, was perhaps too venturesome.

In the valleys about Simla there is a curious method of disposing of young children by day, while their mothers are at work. A slight narcotic is first administered, and the child is then laid on its back under an arrangement of leaves, so adjusted that the water from a neighbouring stream trickling over them falls in single drops on the child's forehead.

At the bottom of the valley in front of Simla, a dozen or more babies may every day be seen laid

out in this manner. One woman is left on sentry, and it is said that although they awake immediately they are taken up, they never move until then.

Reverting to our preparations for the march. We laid in some soup in tins, three maunds, or 240lbs., of potatoes; powder, shot, and lead for bullets; one dozen of port, and three and a half dozen of brandy, which were packed in strong boxes, each containing one and a half dozen.

It had been our intention to march straight through Chumba (thirty days) to Cashmere; but a captain of the 32nd, with whom we stayed a night at Subathoo, advised us to take the long route (ninety days) by Ladak, and on our way to make a stay in the Buspa Valley, which was but little known to Europeans, and in which we might expect to get good sport. He also wrote to a Ghoorkha shikarry, who lived near Simla, telling him to join us there; and advised us, if possible, to secure his services, as he was a first-rate man, who knew all that country and the different dialects, and was generally known to and liked by the people.

This advice we followed; and when "Punjemoo" made his appearance, soon came to terms with him. He was, like many Ghoorkhas, a very short, stoutly built man, of great personal strength and activity; and though his features were high and well shaped, he was, we thought, remarkably ugly. He was dressed in a short white cloth jacket and trousers, with a brace of pistols, a present from an officer, in his belt, and his curved knife or "kookery" at his side. The "kookery" is a knife with a blade of about fifteen inches in length, slightly curved, with

the edge inside ; and in the hands of a Ghoorkha it is a terrible weapon. With one downright blow they decapitate a buffalo ; but this for obvious reasons is a feat not often performed. I have frequently seen them cut off the heads of sheep and goats ; but Captain Ramsay, who commanded the Kumaon battalion of Ghoorkhas at Delhi, told me that his men, who had had plenty of practice there, said that of all subjects a man was the most difficult to decapitate.

The kookery is the national weapon of the Ghoorkhas, who are never seen without it. Punjemoo was a rajpoot, with some pretension to sanctity, which stood us in good stead, as he was looked up to by the villagers on the road, who supplied us with all that he asked for. When we halted for the night, he summoned the head man of the place, and ordered him to supply our wants ; and when he had satisfied himself that we were being properly attended to, he vanished from our sight, and shortly afterwards appeared sitting cross-legged on the top of the village temple in company with one or two elders, and looking remarkably like the figure of " Buddha " carved on a Chinese snuff-box.

Punjemoo stipulated that he should have a personal attendant to carry his traps, and on our allowing his claim, he speedily engaged the services of a very tall ugly fellow, whom we nicknamed the " oout " or camel. A day or two after starting, we found that another man was required ; so a young active hill-man, whom from his antics we named " devil-skin," was enlisted. Our camp, therefore, consisted of our two selves and eight attendants.

The tents, kiltas, and boxes of brandy, &c. were carried on the backs of coolies. I cannot recollect what the exact weight of a load was; but I think it was about 60 lbs. When we arrived at the village where we were to halt for the night, the head man was summoned; and sheep, flour, wood, &c. were requisitioned, and, I need scarcely say, paid for; after which he inquired how many coolies were wanted for the morrow. At starting the number was twenty-four; but afterwards, when some of our stores had been consumed, twenty or twenty-two. They were at first all of the male sex; but, about the fifth or sixth day, two women were discovered among them. This we thought very unfair, and we gave them double pay; but the next day there were five, and the day after that ten, and by the time that we reached Chini, we found that all the hard work was allotted to the women, while the men, reversing the European order of things, strolled about, chatting, and spinning thread from goat's hair, which they afterwards plaited into flat ropes, with which they carried their loads, and made bridges. Punjemoo, who was a high caste man, was of great use to us; as the villagers looked upon him as a superior being, and produced without hesitation everything which he demanded. Great was our consternation, therefore, when, within a few miles of Chini, he demanded "chuthi" or "leave" to return to Simla; giving as a reason, that, some marches back, when drinking at a stream, a leech had got up his nose, which had since taken two pounds of blood from him, and refused to be extracted. He said that he was getting weaker every day; and that, unless

he could come across a doctor, he was really afraid that he would, as the Americans say, "peg under." Luckily, it occurred to me that a leech born and bred in a mountain torrent had never taken a pinch of snuff, which might probably disagree with him; Punjemoo did not smoke, and had no tobacco; but I pounded up some of mine, and offered it to him. He took three or four large pinches, and snuffed them up greedily; after which we walked on to Chini, leaving him to follow at his leisure. On our arrival we were met by our servants, who said that the head man of the village utterly refused to supply them with anything; and they could not, in consequence, prepare our dinner. This would have been a facer anywhere; but, hill appetites taken into consideration, it was horrible; so we sent for the head man, who returned an evasive answer, and refused to come. As we proposed to remain for some time in the neighbourhood, and afterwards to return there, we were anxious to avoid a row; so we agreed to wait until Punjemoo made his appearance; which he did rather late in the afternoon, walking very slowly, and looking very seedy. He was at once informed of the villagers' insubordination, and that we were without provisions. Waving his hand, he said, "There is plenty here, and you will have whatever you want," and walked on to the village; from which, in a few minutes, we saw men hurrying towards us, bringing sheep, flour, wood, and everything which we required. The next time we saw him, we asked after his pet leech. "Sahibs," said he, "after I smelt your tobacco, and you left me, my head turned round, and I became as one dead; when

I recovered my senses, I walked on and joined you here, and I have not since felt the leech."

One cannot wonder at his head having turned round; for he was totally unused to tobacco in any shape, and he had snuffed up at least half an ounce of most particularly pungent bird's eye; which, however, had effected a cure; for he rapidly got well, and we heard no more of the leech.

As our proposed journey lay through Chini to Ladak, it was open to us at first to march either by the old or the new road. The latter, though supposed to be open as far as Chini, about 150 miles from the plains by the old road, was defective in many places. It had been in course of construction for many years, and was intended to be very much prolonged, with the view of inducing the Thibetan and Chinese traders to use it for the transport of their merchandise to the plains. It was cleverly engineered round the great hills, the gradients being, I think, never greater than one in fifty; and was broad enough for bullock hackeries, things which no native of Chini had even seen. Whether it has since been carried up the country, and proved a success commercially, I do not know; but in 1855 the natives of the hills paid little or no attention to it, not understanding why it was there, and looking on it as the result of a mad freak of the Feringhee, who, they knew, was always doing something useless and incomprehensible. They had never seen or heard of a wheeled carriage, and, therefore, did not know their requirements; and it was not wonderful that they failed to understand why a broad winding road fifty miles long should be made, at great trouble and expense, when there was already

one, passing directly over the hill, and only ten miles in length, by which they, their ponies, and sheep had from time immemorial been accustomed to travel in safety. A hill-man invariably takes the straightest and most direct path, no matter how steep and rough it may be, and, from long practice, he is able, with a heavy load on his back, to walk easily in places where a European, who thinks himself pretty active, can scarcely keep his balance. Even the old road was not sufficiently direct for them always, and our shikarry Punjemoo, who walked in front, alarmed us considerably during our third march by, as it seemed to us, coolly jumping from the road down a precipice. Running at once to the spot, we were reassured by the sight of his ugly face among some bushes a few yards below us, and he smilingly informed us that he was on a "pugdundee," or short cut, by descending which, fording a stream, and ascending the precipice opposite, we should, at the imminent risk of our lives, gain the road further on, and save a few hundred yards. We followed him, of course, and after much sliding, falling, and hanging on to bushes, &c., arrived in safety, he all the while, though encumbered with a double rifle, trotting on easily in front, and expatiating on the comfort and shortness of the cut.

We soon became accustomed to this sort of thing, and followed the "pugdundees" in preference to the road; but, when left to our own guidance, we frequently made mistakes, and found out that a man must have been acquainted with hill countries for a long time before he could form an accurate idea where a "pugdundee" was likely to lead him to.

We were both young and active, and before long became fair mountaineers, and thought little of crossing bad places, where we really had to hold on by our eyelids; but we never, even at our best, could hold a candle to the mildest hill-man. One day out shooting I arrived at a place where I found it impossible to advance a step; the hard smooth side of the hill presenting such an angle that I could only just keep my footing where I stood; and it became still steeper just in front; so I said, "we must go back," when "devilskin" jumped down below, and making his way to the front, put up his hands against the hill side before me, and in that manner steadied my steps across the bad place. I never was more ashamed of myself in my life.

Before long we arrived at a village where grass shoes were procurable, and bought twenty pairs of the largest we could find. We would have bought more, but found a difficulty in fitting ourselves, as the hillmen's feet are so small. They are wonderful things for walking in on steep slippery ground; as the soles are rough and soft, and enable one to walk easily in places where one could not stand in leather boots. At first we wore them over our socks; but this, with our small kit, was found to be too expensive; as the socks wore into holes in a day, so we discarded them, and though at first the skin of our feet was rubbed and scratched, it soon became so hard all over that about two months later I was out shooting and climbing the hills barefooted a whole afternoon without suffering any inconvenience; not intentionally, however, for we always wore shoes; but seeing some pigeons near, which I thought would be

improved by roasting, I took up my gun, and leaving my shoes in the tent, followed them, eventually to a considerable distance.

Our daily fare consisted of mutton and "chup-paties," or unleavened cakes, made of flour and water. Sheep and flour were always obtainable; but the sheep, for the first of which we gave 2s. 6d. probably more than his market value, were always in racing condition and remarkably tough. Once we sent to a place four marches off, where a flock was feeding on the young grass left uncovered by the melting of the snow; and they were fat and good, but we had to pay eight shillings a head for them.

The hill air had such an effect on our appetites that a sheep did not go far.

I was speaking of this afterwards at mess, and saying that Henley and I used to finish a leg of mutton for dinner; when Hallam, who died during the Mutiny, and had been in the hills, though in another part of them, the same year that we were there, and who was known to be a great trencherman, interrupted me with, "A leg of mutton between you *and* Ginger; I should think so! Why! I used to polish off a leg and a shoulder myself."

The Tartars from Thibet bring down, I think in the autumn, large droves of sheep, each of which carries on his back two bags containing salt or borax. This they sell in the plains; where, or in the lower hills, they remain during the winter. In the spring, or at the commencement of the summer, when the upper and higher passes are again open, they return to their homes, the sheep being loaded with corn purchased in the plains. These flocks are often very

large, and are driven and looked after by half a dozen Tartars—men, women, and boys, with several large Tartar mastiffs, wearing spiked collars as a protection against the leopards, which are very numerous and fond of mutton. These mastiffs are very strong and fierce; so that when we passed a flock, the Tartars used to call them in, and sitting down, cover their heads with cloths, and hold them until we had got some distance away. The women wore a strip of velvet, passing along the middle of the head from the forehead to the back, on which were gummed turquoises, many of them an inch in diameter, but flawed and discoloured. Thinking, as the people seemed very poor, that we might buy a strip for a small sum, we made proposals; but were told that they were heirlooms, on which they set great store. One of the worst which was offered to us for three hundred rupees, we declined with thanks. When they halted for the night the sheep were relieved of their packs, which were then placed one above the other so as to form four walls enclosing a small quadrangle, in which the sheep, by means of ropes and pegs, were secured in a standing position; each jammed tight against his neighbour, the Tartars with their dogs keeping guard against the leopards outside. When mutton is not to be got, the leopard will willingly make his supper off a dog. Henley took up with him a young spaniel, which used to sleep in our tent. About six marches above Simla, I was awakened in the night by loud yells, which, I thought or dreamed, were uttered by a monkey, which had put his head inside the tent, and been bitten by the dog; but next morning the dog was

nowhere to be found ; and on Punjemoo's inspecting the tent, he quietly informed us that a large leopard had taken him out from under my bed, where his tracks were quite visible.

The scenery for a considerable distance above Simla is exceedingly beautiful, the valleys being very broad and deep, and the hills covered with evergreens. The rhododendron there is a forest tree ; as are also the deodars, of which there are three sorts—pines, cedars, and cypress, the word deodar meaning "Sacred to the Deota," or god of the stream. In May, when the rhododendrons are in full flower, the hill side at Simla is a bright scarlet relieved by dark green. Higher up some of the timber is of very great size ; but every hill which we crossed was higher than that left behind ; and beyond Chini, which is thirteen days' march from Simla, the elevation is so great that little vegetation is visible besides coarse grass, wild thyme, and other herbs, which make the country in some parts smell like an apothecary's shop. No comparison can well be made between the most beautiful parts of the Himalaya and the Swiss Alps ; because, when in the pine forests of the latter, one is never at a great distance from the snow, which is visible all around ; and the effect of the picture is prettier and more complete. In the Himalaya, where the hills are so much higher, it is only in a sheltered valley here and there that trees of any size are found near the snow ; and even then the crest of the lower ridges, and the whole country below the snow line, are yellow and bare. But the sides of the great mountains, with their enormous glaciers, are inexpressibly grand ;

and when the traveller has fully penetrated the snowy range, the enormous peaks, which tower around him in every direction, to the height of 25,000 or 26,000 feet above the level of the sea, present a picture which can never be forgotten, and may be sought for in vain in the wildest parts of the Alps.

In the Himalaya the traveller has many distractions which are not to be found in the Alps.

When in the Bernese Oberland one autumn, I was in conversation with my guide Xavier Hoffman, the most attentive and merriest man of his class that I ever met, and he expressed great astonishment at hearing that in England a licence to kill game cost more than £4, as it did in those days. He inquired how long it was good for, and on my saying "for about six months," screamed out "Why, see now, for five francs you can have here in Switzerland a *permis-de-chasse* for a whole year." "And what," said I, "is there to shoot here?" "Eh!" said he, with one of his loud bursts of laughter, "dere is nothing; when dere is snow you may perhaps track a hare, and get it if you have good legs."

Now, in the Himalaya, game of some sort is to be found nearly everywhere. On the hill sides in the Buspa Valley, there were ibex, burrell, bears, red and black, musk deer, and pheasants of many descriptions, besides the munal and argus, both of which are rare and very beautiful.

If we were unsuccessful there were good reason for it. In the first place we were not efficiently armed. Our intention, when we left the regiment, had been to march from Simla straight through Chumba

to Cashmere, and there shoot bears, which in those days were very numerous and come-at-able.

Breech-loading rifles being then unknown, common double-barrelled guns were said to be the best weapons for the purpose; and of these I had two, and Henley one and a short double rifle. In Cashmere, bears and men lived together like brothers; and the former were so accustomed to make their meals off the fruit trees belonging to the latter, that, with a little care, it was not difficult to come to close quarters with them; when a smooth bore was as effective as a rifle and far more quickly loaded—a great desideratum for that sort of shooting. But having altered our route, and gone to the Buspa Valley in search of sport, my smooth-bore guns and Henley's short rifled carbine were found to be of little use, when stalking burrell and bears; which, instead of being near at hand in the fruit trees, were only to be approached with great difficulty on the broad hillsides, where long-range rifles were especially required. This, of course, we being new to the work, were not aware of, until constant failure to bag a head of big game impressed it forcibly on our minds; and then it was too late to replenish our armoury. From long before sunrise until dark, halting and lying under any cover we could find during the heat of the day, we toiled over the hills only to see the game, which, if properly armed, we should probably have bagged, trot off unharmed on hearing the report of our guns. We found that we had made an irreparable mistake; but it was then too late to change our route; so we had to stay where we were, and amuse ourselves the best way we could.

We were told also that there had been an unusual quantity of snow during the preceding winter; and that in consequence many bears had been killed by the avalanches, which had ravaged the hillsides; and this the natives said accounted for the few which we came across; but their tracks, which we found in numbers just underneath the snow line, contradicted this; and we were fairly puzzled as to why we so seldom saw them; for we were intent on slaughter, and worked like horses. Our tents, of course, were in the neighbourhood of a village near the stream at the bottom of the valley; and every morning when it was frightfully cold and pitch dark, we started and made our way up the mountains so as to get to our ground before sunrise; and it was no easy work; walking for hours always up a steep hill, over slippery grass, with not even a footpath to give us an occasional rest. We could not help remarking one thing which seemed curious, viz. :—when wearied with our upward walk, and feeling ready to drop, a hundred yards on the level or down hill, as we crossed from one hillside to another, set us to rights at once, and made us feel stronger than when we started.

At last, having attained a very elevated position, we halted, and waited for sunrise, at which time the game began to move to their feeding grounds. Being able from our post to command an immense tract of country, we seldom failed to see flocks of burrell, a species of large deer, or solitary bears below us; but then there were all sorts of difficulties to be surmounted; of which the direction of the wind, and more especially the enormous distance to be tra-

versed, were the greatest. Being novices, we of course followed blindly the instructions and advice of our Ghoorkha Punjemoo, who, after a short time, Henley declared was leading us astray; an opinion which I strongly combated at the time, but fully coincided with afterwards. With our inferior armament, we soon gave up the idea of doing anything with the deer, and only hoped to make a bag of bears: but they kept out of our reach in a way unaccountable to us at the time. We heard afterwards that Punjemoo had once been badly mauled by one of these gentlemen: and I have now no doubt that he felt disinclined to trust himself within reach of one of them in company with two young Sahibs, of whose skill and pluck he knew but little. Anyhow, from whatever cause it may have been, though, as I said, we worked like horses, our bag remained empty. Out on the hills by day, at night seated in trees, we watched the small gardens of the hill-men, to which, in our absence, the bears invariably came; but luck seemed to be against us and we got no sport. One night, disgusted with our ill fortune, we were a few minutes later than usual, and on reaching the garden where our hiding places were, we separated. As I crept softly up to mine, I became aware that two bears were feeding in the high corn close to me. I could have touched either of them with my gun; but the corn prevented my seeing how they stood, and where their heads were. Holding my gun ready to fire in my right hand, with my foot on a projecting stump and my left hand grasping a bough, I raised myself silently, and felt sure that I should bag one at last; when Henley, making his way to the opposite side

of the field, trod on a dry stick—crack! Several loud grunts, and the brutes were off, to return no more.

One day we agreed to separate, which we ought to have done long before. I went with Punjemoo and got no sport; but Henley was in a short time introduced to two bears, one of which he wounded, but did not get.

One fine warm day, about noon, we were sitting reading in our tent, when we heard what sounded like a very loud peal of thunder; but so prolonged that we went outside. It ceased at last, and as there was not a cloud in the sky, we were unable to account for it; and were about to re-enter the tent, when the whole population of the village, in a state of wild excitement, rushed past us and disappeared to the left. Of course we followed, and found them collected on the brink of a large ravine, distant about fifty yards from our camp, and through which a tiny stream of water, about two inches deep, had up to that time been trickling. It was not long before Punjemoo appeared, and from him we learnt that an avalanche had fallen into the valley just above us.

By great good luck it had fallen into the ravine, which was about thirty yards wide and thirty feet deep: so we stayed there to see it come down, which it did in a great stream of wet snow, ice, and water, which completely filled the ravine and tore away its banks; large stones from which, mingled with uprooted trees, were carried along on the surface.

In about half an hour it had all passed; and we went up the valley to inspect the damage; when we

found that a large pine, which used to stand in front of our camp, had fallen across the ravine, the bank having been torn away right up to its roots, a distance of about thirty yards.

It was not possible to grow much corn on the precipitous hill sides; though the hill-men were very good engineers, and laid out every practicable spot in terraces, the supporting walls of which were often ten feet high, while the width of the terrace was not more than eight. Their system of irrigation also was very clever, the water being often brought from a great distance along the hillside to the upper terrace, where it was allowed to stand for a short time; after which the tiny embankment which contained it being at one corner removed by a touch of the foot, it flowed off down a conduit to the next level spot, and so on to the lowest.

The main aqueduct being supplied from a running-stream, it was, of course, necessary to let it empty itself, when the water was not required for irrigation; and this was done by allowing it to flow into little deep channels, carried straight down the hill into the stream at the bottom of the valley, and on these the mills to grind corn were placed. Near one of these our tents were for some time pitched; and where there was a fall of about four feet we used to take our morning's bath. The water came from the snow a mile above us, and was very cold.

The door of our tent having been opened, we used to lie in bed and look at the waterfall, which was about thirty yards off; then he who had first made up his mind dashed out of bed, and rushed under the fall, emerging, half a minute later, nearly frozen;

then a good lather of soap, followed by a second sluice; after which a rough towel soon made all comfortable. On days when we went out shooting early, our toilet was necessarily performed before dinner.

The valley being 9,000 or 10,000 feet above the level of the sea, and the climate bracing, to say the least of it, our native servants entirely gave up washing, and considered themselves ill-used when we insisted on their occasionally taking a tub.

The inhabitants of the valley were very civil; which I expect was due in a great measure to their being high caste Hindoos, who for that reason got on very well with Punjemoo, who had a very good time of it.

Early one-morning our servants informed us that, at daybreak, the "Oont," as Punjemoo's attendant was called, was found to have gone off, and, as they suspected, had taken with him some property belonging to his master, who, on being apprised of his disappearance, had at once loaded his pistols, looked at his knife, and gone down the valley. There was no use in our following, as we knew that Punjemoo would travel at a fearful rate; so we quietly awaited his return. The next morning he made his appearance, looking grave but apparently satisfied, with the "Oont" trotting quietly behind him, but we could get no explanation of the matter. Punjemoo returned evasive answers to our inquiries; and the "Oont," whose language we could not understand, and whose head and face bore the marks of severe punishment, kept aloof from every one.

We went to the highest village, Chitcool, close to

the glacier, but got no sport; so at last, our time being up, we retraced our steps to Chini, and started for Ladak. But our ill-luck pursued us; and when some ten marches on our way, a courier from the Chief Commissioner of the Punjab, the late Sir Henry Lawrence, overtook us, and gave us a letter, in which we were informed that the country above, through which we were about to pass, was being depopulated by small-pox, and that we ought not to think of taking our camp there. Here Henley, who was for going on, was again right, for the report of the small-pox turned out to be a myth; but I thought that our unvaccinated servants would run a great risk; and, after a long discussion, we made up our minds to return to the Buspa Valley, where, though our sport had been bad, we had at all events enjoyed ourselves very much.

We were then in the Bhōt country, inhabited by Tartars; and in Sūngnam and Khānum we found large monasteries of Chinese "Llamas," or priests of Buddha. On our way up Punjemoo was continually talking of a neighbouring country, which he called "Burra Chin," or Great Chin. At every valley to the right which we passed, he would say, "Up that valley, five, six, or eight," as the case might be, "marches to Burra Chin." We had no map, and with an ignorance of geography, at that time usual among British subalterns, were not aware that we were marching along the frontier of Chinese Tartary, and we could not make out what country he meant by Burra Chin, the men of which he described as tall, like trees, and the most redoubtable

warriors. Soon, however, we came to a "Llamaia Pile," which we found to be a great mass of stones, apparently collected and brought up from the bed of the river running miles below. They were piled up so as to form a sort of wall, some ten feet in height and breadth, of which we saw many afterwards, varying from twenty to three hundred yards in length. At the foot of the first, Punjemoo, evidently having an important communication to make, awaited us. "This," said he, "is the work of the men of Burra Chin." "Confound the Burra Chins," said Henley. "Who the devil can they be?" Devilskin, at a sign from Punjemoo, climbed on to the top, from which he detached and threw down a large flat stone, on which we found sculptured a figure, which we at once recognized as our old friend Buddha, whom we had often seen on the top of a Chinese snuff-box.

"Burra Chin! why it's China!" cried we; and to Punjemoo's astonishment, we began to chaff him about it. "How about your men as big as trees, and such valiant warriors?" said we; "why, one hundred of our men can thrash a thousand of them, whenever they will stand to be thrashed. We know all about it now." "Did you ever hear of Peking, Canton, and the Yang-tse-Kiang?" and we drew sketches of John Chinaman in the sand with our sticks. Punjemoo looked dumbfounded. He had travelled in China, and apparently knew the names we mentioned; but he had no idea that China was approachable otherwise than overland, through Thibet, and had never even heard of the sea. He knew also that we were for the first time in that

part of the hills; and could not imagine how we could have any knowledge of the Chinese. After a while he laughed, and told us endless stories of how his people in Nepal were always engaged in war with them; and how they were in the habit of thrashing them; and by degrees he entirely altered his tone, and, forgetting his former eulogiums, at last got to speak of them quite contemptuously.

The Llamas have invented a mode of praying by deputy, which is at once expeditious and unique. *The* prayer, for there is but one, which consists, I believe, of only two words, is engraved numberless times on a metal cylinder, which is made to revolve on a spindle. Each revolution counts for as many prayers as are engraved on it. I saw one which was intended for use on horseback. It was in shape like a steam whistle used on railway engines, but ten times as large; and attached to one side of the cylinder was a chain with a small weight at the end. Holding the spindle in his hand, the horseman, who might be riding for his life, could, while guiding his horse with his left hand, with the right make good use of his prayer-machine, and invoke aid and assistance some ten thousand times a minute.

A little higher up the country there were two of extra size, worked by water power.

At Süngham there was a famous manufactory of "chuck mucks," or leathern pouches to contain flint and tinder, with a piece of steel, not unlike a miniature skate, attached to the lower part.

A flint and steel is not now thought much of in England; but in the Himalaya, where lucifers are unknown, and a man may be out and about for days

without meeting a friend, it is a most important article. The tinder, formed of the under half of a leaf, is scarce, but very good. Flints, also, are only to be picked up here and there in small pieces. Every hill-man has his chuck-muck, slung round his waist by a brass chain; and the way in which, from constant practice from their youth, they will nearly always get a light at the first stroke, is wonderful.

Not wishing to be behind the fashion, we bought the best chuck-mucks procurable, and practised with them continually; but, what with the tiny flints, the little morsels of tinder, and our want of practice, we were always a long time in getting a light, besides scarifying our fingers considerably.

A hill-man benighted in the forest, and in want of a fire, collects a handful of dry grass, and at one stroke lights a piece of tinder, about the size of a large pin's head, which he places in it, and waves round his head, dancing all the while like a lunatic. In a minute or so the grass bursts into a flame; a few dry sticks are placed over it, and his fire is made.

Having, in consequence of the receipt of the letter from the Chief Commissioner, begun to retrace our steps, at our second halt we came in for a little excitement.

The chief of the village, who was a big man for a mountaineer, positively refused to sell us any fire-wood; saying that he had supplied us once, a few days before, and that we had no right to return by the same road and ask for more. A fight seemed to be imminent, as the villagers turned out to support their head man; and ourselves and attendants were

getting angry, the wood being wanted for cooking purposes. The hill-women, armed with large stones, of which there seemed to be a magazine in the houses, appeared above on the flat roofs, apparently ready to join in the fray; when Punjemoo, who was in great distress and nearly crying, suddenly rushed to the front and addressed the head man, who was twice his size. "Such inhospitality to travellers is not to be borne—it is disgraceful, it is wicked;" then, jumping up to get within reach, he gave him a particularly fine box on the ear with his open hand. We at once ran forward, expecting a general scrimmage; but, to our astonishment, they all took refuge in their houses, and handed over the wood without any further demur.

Punjemoo was always very fair with them, and made us pay a good price for everything, saying, "They are very poor, and have but few stores to last them through the winter, when they will be unable to travel in search of more. *You are rich.*" This was the only disagreement which we had.

A day or two after this I was laid up by an attack of sunburn in the legs, brought on by marching in "jungheers," or bathing-drawers, through a hot valley out by the stream through black rocks. It produced a sort of erysipelas; and we were obliged, in consequence, to halt for a week at Sünghnam. When I had pretty nearly recovered, we received a very welcome addition to our party in Campbell, of the 28th Native Infantry, who had come down from Cashmere through Ladak. He was dressed like a Tartar; and, barring his great beard, looked very like one. He was a perfect stranger to us: but such

was our mutual delight at seeing a European face, that in a moment we were laughing and talking like old schoolfellows. He, for his part, was much pleased at his reception, and said, "Well! it does one's heart good to meet with fellows like you, after what I experienced a week ago. I was walking along the road, not having seen a white face for two months, when, on turning a corner, I met a figure in a paletôt and tall hat. You're a rum one to look at, thought I, but I am d——d glad to see you. 'Good morning, how do you do?' He jumped aside, as though astonished at my addressing him; but recovering himself, said, 'Ah! good morning,' and walked on. I stared after him, wondering who or what he could be; then, proceeding on my way, on turning the next corner, I met his double, wearing apparently the same paletôt and tall hat. He also jumped when I said 'Good morning,' and continued his march, after politely bowing. Well! thought I, who the deuce can they be? After seeing nothing but black faces since I left Cashmere, and then to meet two Englishmen, and to be cut by both. This is what I call cheery. When in the act of relieving my feelings by some outspoken reflections on the wearers of the paletôts, their servants came up, and from them I learnt that I had had the honour of seeing and addressing the Marquess of L—— and the Hon. Mr. E——, who were on their way with a large retinue to Cashmere. I was afterwards much questioned about them by the hillmen; one of whom, a chief, said to me, 'Who are these sahibs? I thought they must be very great men; for no one has ever before brought up such

“purwannahs,” or “letters of introduction,” as they have; I put on my best dress, and have been waiting here several days with more than one hundred coolies to carry their loads, and *neither of them has a beard!*”

We three now went back to the Buspa Valley, crossing the Sutledge River by the rope bridge below Chini.

This was composed of some twenty ropes, made of plaited goat's hair, securely fastened to large posts about forty feet above the torrent, and astride of which a sort of cradle, made of bent wood, was hung. Whatever was to be sent across was tied to the cradle, and then hauled over, with the assistance of the inhabitants of the nearest villages on each side, whose duty it was to serve the bridge. At starting, the loads, consisting either of men, sheep, or baskets, slipped rapidly down to the centre, and hung just above the water, and were hauled up by sheer strength over the remaining half. Ponies and cattle had to swim across, and were carried far down by the current.

Campbell had never seen the Buspa Valley, which we reached without any incident which I can now recollect. About this time a great gathering took place in the valley, for a fair, or something equivalent, to which we did not go; as Punjemoo gave us to understand that the hill-people would be better pleased if we stayed away.

He, of course, attended, and always returned in a very dilapidated and tottery state, which he attributed to vertigo; how brought on he was unable to state.

As, since he had been with us, he had drunk nothing but water, and had, indeed, professed the

greatest abhorrence of everything in the shape of fermented liquor, refusing, as did all the hill-men, our occasional offer of a nip of brandy, we began to be much concerned about his health; for, if anything untoward had happened to him, we should have been greatly inconvenienced. But we noticed that Devilskin, although he kept out of our way, was similarly affected; and at last we learnt from our servants, who, being with one exception Mussulmen, were, like ourselves, excluded from the festivities, that it was a Hindoo religious festival; and that after the fatigues of the day the elders and their guests had a rare good feed; at and after which, as a libation, I suppose, to one of their numerous gods, much strong liquor was consumed. From its effect on Punjemoo I should think that they must have drunk the healths of most of the saints in the Hindoo calendar. The fair lasted three days, and after it was over Punjemoo soon became himself again; though he seemed somewhat put out by our constant inquiries after his health, and whether he was in no fear of a relapse.

We went to our old camps at Sungla and Ruxum, but not up so far as Chitcool. We loitered away our time until, having but two months left, we determined to cross the Rupin Pass, and make our way leisurely to Mussourie, a hill station on the direct road to Meerut. It took us three days to cross the pass from Sungla; it being as high as the top of Mont Blanc; and at the first village on the other side I narrowly escaped being killed. The hill was so precipitous that the only place which we could find for our tents was a little corner overhang-

ing the precipice, over which I fell while endeavouring to drive in a tent-peg.

Luckily for me, there was, exactly underneath, a small projection, like a bracket, with some soft wet turf in the centre; in which I landed backwards on my shoulders. This "bracket," which was about twenty feet below the spot from which I fell, was unknown to the villagers, who all thought that I had gone to the bottom; and having risen to my feet and shaken myself to see if any bones were broken, my attention was attracted by their yells as they ran down the road close by. I escaped with a slight scratch on the hand; and the shock of the fall took away a headache which I had had for three days from a slight touch of the sun. I have ever since been of opinion that a fall from a cliff, provided it be high enough, is a most pleasant and comfortable way of going out of the world.

From this place we jogged along quietly through Gurhwal, and arrived, about the end of September, at Mussourie, a hill station overlooking the plains, and joining Landour, a sanitarium for European troops; from the hill above which, a wonderful panoramic view of the Snowy Range, embracing fully one half of the horizon, is visible. Here we stayed with some officers of the 87th Royal Irish Fusiliers, and passed much of our time at the club, of which we were elected members. At the end of October we went down the hill to Dehra, crossed the Doon in a buggy, and finished our journey to Meerut in dhoolies, arriving there early on the 1st November. During our absence two of our brother officers had died; Stewart, at Subathoo, and Cameron, at Meerut.

CHAPTER VIII.

WE had fully expected to remain at Meerut the usual term of three years; and were therefore much astonished, when on the 6th of January, 1856, we received the route for Lucknow, at which place we were ordered to join the field force then collecting for the annexation of Oude.

This large country was the only province in the North-west still under native rule. From it the greater number of our best sepoys were obtained; and they generally returned and lived on their pensions there, when their term of service was at an end.

Sir James Outram was the British Resident at Lucknow, and had under his command three regiments of native infantry; but Oude, Lucknow included, was entirely under the rule of the king, who, with his favourites and courtiers, passed his time in writing poetry, fiddling, and debauchery. Everything went by favour, and nothing could be obtained without heavy bribes.

In consequence, the whole country was in a state of anarchy; murder and robbery were every-day occurrences. The villages were all fortified; and

each petty chieftain had his armed retainers, whose numbers were regulated by the state of his finances, which again depended on the success or otherwise of the forays which he made on his neighbours.

When the king was in want of money, which was continually happening, he sent out a force from Lucknow to collect his taxes; that is to say, to rob every one who was too weak to resist. This party seldom got very far before they were met by a much superior one, hastily collected by the chiefs in the immediate neighbourhood; who were only too ready to lay aside their private feuds, and band together to resist the tax-gatherer. A fight, more or less serious, then took place, when more chiefs continually arriving to reinforce their brethren, the king's troops returned to Lucknow, leaving their wounded to be dispatched in the usual Asiatic manner, by decapitation or crimping; and carrying back with them whatever treasure they had been able to lay hands on. "Budmashes," or bad characters, on our side of the water, who were "wanted" by the authorities, had only to cross the river to find themselves in safety, and were joyfully received as recruits by the bands of robbers which overran the country.

Such was the state of affairs in Oude in 1855; when, finding that the king and his ministers paid no attention to advice or remonstrance, Lord Dalhousie determined to depose him, and to annex the country.

A force of some 10,000 men was ordered to assemble at Cawnpore, about three miles from the frontier, and about fifty from Lucknow. With the exception of some artillery and ourselves it was composed of natives, who at that time were supposed to

be entirely devoted to the Company's rule. Little did the authorities think that "the Mutiny" was then *en train*, which it undoubtedly was; for we afterwards learnt that when a few miles from Lucknow, the sepoy's of our force had sent in to the king, requesting him not to sign the treaty of abdication, but to raise the "green flag," and attack the Europeans in Lucknow; while they would cut us up; and the entire native army in Bengal would everywhere fall upon the Europeans, and afterwards march to join him.

On the 31st January the field force crossed the river, and arrived at Lucknow, outside of which it halted, on the eleventh day. Though fighting was not expected we marched with a certain degree of military precaution; and all the tents, baggage, &c., followed the column.

We remained a few days outside the town; when, the treaty having been signed, and the townspeople disarmed, we marched to the "Chukkur Koti," or "Old King's Racecourse," where we encamped. Everything then was perfectly quiet; and curiously enough, the annual race meeting was being held at the station, three miles off, to which we went, and there I saw the "Nana Sahib," who had a handsome tent on the ground.

After a short time we joined the main body of the field force on the new race-course; where we remained until, on the 20th March, we went into quarters in a large building in the town, which had, up to that time, been used as stables for the king's horses. We were told that for fourteen years the building had not been cleaned; and to make it fit

for European soldiers to live in during the hot weather was an Augean task, which, unfortunately for the regiment, there was no Hercules on the spot to perform.

To survey the newly-annexed territory, to drain, cleanse, and map Lucknow, to build bridges, make roads, &c., one captain of Madras Native Infantry, attached to the Engineer Department, was sent with the field force; and he was expected to do all this, with the assistance of such native underlings as could be got, which, when done, it was found necessary to appoint a major and six other officers of engineers to look after and repair.

With all these varied duties, the proper superintendence of which would have required his presence in fifty places at once, Captain Anderson was perforce continually in the saddle; riding his horses to death; planning, inspecting, and giving orders here, there, and everywhere; the carrying out of which had to be left to the native subordinates, and contractors, who scamped their work whenever they could; and of this neglect on the part of the proper authorities, our unfortunate men, the least serviceable of whom had cost the Government £100 to land in India, were the victims.

The stables were ordered to be thoroughly cleansed, the floor to be removed to the depth of five feet, and a fresh one to be formed of clean earth; but, taking advantage of Anderson's enforced absence from the works, the native contractor removed only the surface; and then, having placed a thin coating of earth over the accumulated filth below, he made all neat and tidy, and the place was reported fit for the troops.

The result was that after a short time the men lost their health ; and at last “endemic cholera” made its appearance among them. From this disease we lost before long fifty men ; although when the cause was discovered the regiment was at once moved into camp, first to the Dilkhoosha Park, and afterwards to the plain in front of the Alumbagh. The change of air and scene soon put an end to the cholera ; but the men were so much affected and shaken by the pestilential air of the stables, that General Penny, who inspected us about this time, said, “Every man looks as if he was going to die to-morrow !”

There was no case of cholera among the officers, who lived away from the men, nor among the natives in the adjoining bazaar.

A survey and map of Lucknow being urgently required, and Anderson being otherwise engaged, Moorsom, a lieutenant of the 52nd, was told off for the duty ; which he succeeded in performing most satisfactorily, with the assistance of a few natives, and with no other instrument than a chain and a small pocket sextant. The intimate acquaintance which he made with the byways of the city during this survey was of great service the year after ; when he was by it enabled to lead General Have-lock’s column through side streets to the Residency, by which means the barricades and loop-holed houses in the main streets were turned, and the loss on our side rendered comparatively small. The cold weather at Lucknow was delightful ; as the climate there is much cooler than at Cawnpore. The men recovered their strength ; and we had plenty of

cricket and rackets. On the river we found two pretty good four-oared boats, in which some of us, with the chaplain, Mr. Polehampton, an old Etonian, used to row. There were plenty of good fellows among the regiments at the station, which was about three miles off; and there was also a very fair cricket ground there, on which we played several matches every week during the cold weather.

Our mess-house was a fine building, standing about half a mile from the king's stables; and as there were several good rooms in it, which were not required for the purposes of the mess, some half a dozen of the officers occupied them; the rest having quarters allotted them in a large palace, called, I think, the Fureed-Bukoh, on the bank of the Goomtic. This palace was surrounded by houses occupied by rich natives, the female portion of whose establishments were in the habit of frequenting the flat roofs of the houses when the sun was down, and it was nearly dark; the air then being cooler, and the high surrounding walls preventing their seeing or being seen by the passers by outside. From the windows of the lofty palace, however, their movements were perfectly visible; and it was soon evident that they did not take offence at their young neighbours watching them; for they returned their salutes and beckoned to them. After this telegraphing had gone on for some time, two subalterns agreed that they would try to pay their fair friends a visit. It was a very rash undertaking; for though there was a continuous line of communication, it lay along the top of very high walls, and over the top of a narrow and still higher gateway; and of course, if they had

been discovered and caught in the attempt, their lives would have been taken at once. However, I suppose this formed no part of their plans, and most probably never entered their heads. They made their way in safety on to the flat roof, and waited for the ladies; but the first who made her appearance took them for robbers and shrieked; on which the whole place was quickly filled with armed men, carrying torches. Considering the distance, and the bad places which they had to cross in their hasty retreat, it was wonderful that they managed to escape; which they did; and so effectually outran their pursuers, that the latter never even found out that they were the sahibs from the neighbouring palace, who they thought could not have climbed over walls so expeditiously. It was just as well that the affair terminated as it did; for had they been well received on their first visit they would, of course, have returned frequently, and some fine night a trap would have been laid for them, into which they would have fallen, and been heard of no more.

When first quartered in the town, the streets being generally very narrow, we were greatly inconvenienced when riding through them by the number of elephants which we met, to which our horses had a most decided objection. On a soft sandy road an elephant moves along at the rate of five or six miles an hour without making the slightest noise; and as it was a matter of perfect indifference to their mahouts whether foot-passengers or horsemen were run down or not, we occasionally, particularly at night, found ourselves close under the bows of a first-rate of this description, when it was as difficult

to steer clear of him as to stick to our frightened horses afterwards. The principal amusement of the king, his court, and the rich natives, before the annexation, had been, witnessing from a safe position the fights of wild animals; of which, at the time of our arrival, the town was full. Crosse, Moorsom, and I, when out for our usual Sunday afternoon's walk, passed through a deserted Serai; in the middle of which, under a few trees, were three wooden cases, each only just large enough to hold the tiger which was in it. They made a pretty row when they saw us, and we did not stay with them long. A little further on, wishing to ask our way, I looked into the open door of a large house, and was immediately greeted by a loud snort and a stamp close to me. It was quite dark inside, and nothing was visible; but an old native came out quickly, and told us not to go in, as the building was full of fighting antelopes, belonging to the ex-king; and that they were unaccustomed to white faces, which made them mad. In fact, while he was speaking, we could hear the snorts and stamps continually repeated. He was seemingly in a state of great distress; as since the annexation the allowances for keeping up the establishment and feeding the animals had been stopped, and he was afraid that his charges would starve.

One morning when riding into the town I was met by three rhinoceroses, driven along by half-a-dozen horsemen armed with long spears; and in the bazaar, just outside the men's quarters, a very large tiger used to lie all day on a common bedstead. He was a very fine animal, and his coat was much

longer than that of any other that I have ever seen. He seemed perfectly tame, and the bazaar people passed backwards and forwards close to him. His attendant, an old white-bearded native, generally sat by him on the side of the bed and scratched him with a comb.

Before long, however, the elephants, fighting-beasts, &c., disappeared, and their owners went with them. The great crowd of courtiers, eunuchs, native princes, &c., found that, after the annexation, Lucknow was no longer the place for them. Their occupation was gone, and so were their emoluments. Some of them even sold their jewels; and rows of pearls, which may have been very valuable, but were certainly very discoloured, were brought to our messhouse and offered for sale.

The ex-king's armoury also was put up to public auction, which lasted many days. In it were many guns by the best London makers; but the locks of all had been removed. Swords were put up in thousands, and went for small sums. I got a native expert to pick out a good one, which I bought for fourteen rupees; and also a curious long-handled dagger, which he said was a most handy weapon. "You wear it in your waistcloth in front," said he, "and play unconsciously with the handle when in conversation with any one, and in this way you can, in a moment, plunge it into his stomach when he least expects it." I lost both these purchases when our baggage was plundered at the commencement of the mutiny.

In the ex-king's army were several regiments partly officered by Europeans. A card, bearing

the name of Lieutenant —, Oude Irregulars, having been left on our mess, Lieutenant — was invited to dine; and accordingly, at dinner time, an enormous man, wearing a long beard, and old enough to have been the father of most of us, made his appearance. He played a good knife and fork, and faced his liquor like a man; but in the evening we were rather at a loss to know what to propose for his amusement. None of us were whist players, but some one at last suggested a rubber, in which he joined. Our usual points were four annas or sixpence, and eight on the rub; but to these he objected, saying that he did not care to play for less than gold mohur (£1 12s.) points, and four on the rub. At last eight annas and a rupee were agreed to, and play commenced. He consumed cheroots like a furnace, and his thirst seemed unquenchable by brandy and soda water; but luck went against him, and when at a late hour accounts were squared, he was found to be a loser of sixty points; on hearing which, to the astonishment of everybody, he burst into a flood of tears, and, refusing to be comforted, was carried off in his dhooly, sobbing convulsively. He paid up the next morning, but we never saw him again.

I bought about this time a horse, which was said to be an Arab, but certainly did not in any way resemble one. He was warranted to me as sound, but incurably vicious; and it was necessary when on his back to carry a short tommy, like an office ruler, which, applied forcibly between his ears when he was in a worse temper than usual, was the only thing he would take notice of. His price was £5.

Riding home from the racket court one evening, he suddenly turned his head, and caught my left leg, just above the ankle, in his mouth; pulled it straight in front of him, and shook it as a dog does a rat. I clung on, and gave him the light racket, which I had in my hand, between his ears as heavily as I could; and after receiving about a dozen blows, he released my leg, and I rode him home. It caused no pain at the moment; though I was badly torn and bruised, and his tusk had made a hole more than an inch deep; but that night I suffered much, and often regretted that I could not get off my bed and go down and shoot him. I was on the sick list for six weeks, and a few days after the accident I sold him for £5, still warranted incurably vicious, to an officer at the station, who put him between the shafts of a buggy, and got his worth out of him. I heard afterwards that he had long been noted for the skill with which he pulled his riders off by the leg, and then knelt on and worried them.

Shortly after the annexation of Oude three regiments of Irregular Cavalry were raised there, and the adjutant of one, named Barbor, of the 11th Native Infantry, messed with us, and was a great favourite. I was often in his room, and frequently witnessed his reception of new recruits. They were mostly young Mussulmen of the higher class, whose outwardly refined manners I could not help noticing. They were ushered into his presence by a sergeant, and presented the hilts of their swords to Barbor, who touched them and bowed, and they then retired. They turned out rank mutineers in 1857; when, with a detachment of the 48th Native Infantry, they

cut up Barbor, Fletcher Hayes, Fayerer, Farquharson, and several other officers. Barbor, who was a good horseman and well mounted, might have got away; but I was afterwards told that, enraged at the conduct of his men, he turned and rode into the midst of them, and, after shooting several with his revolver, was cut to pieces.

In Lucknow there was a large building, by name, I think, the Imambara, which a certain Moolvie received yearly a large sum of money to look after and keep in order. As far as I could judge from a personal inspection, a great part of the money must have been spent in buying chandeliers, with which, of all colours, the place was so crowded that they actually touched each other.

What was left after the purchase of these he devoted to photography, which he practised *en amateur*; and any one who sent notice that he was coming to be photographed always found him at his post. I cannot say that he was very successful; but his camera was in the open air, in a court surrounded by white houses, and the glare was unbearable, and made the effort to keep our eyes open very painful. He failed several times to get a likeness of Moorsom; but at last succeeded very well by trying a dodge which I invented for the occasion, and which I think might be profitably made use of in this country, where photographers keep you in position, staring at an object until you are nearly blind, and then tell you to keep steady, as they are going to begin. I said to Moorsom, "When you are properly placed, and are being focussed, keep your eyes shut until I begin to speak to you, and then look at me

as if I were the colonel giving you an order." I explained this to the Moolvie, who performed his part satisfactorily, and the result was a very good likeness. On the receipt of mine, my relatives in England wrote to say that if it in the slightest degree resembled me I must have changed very much since I went to India.

We were at one time encamped near the Martinière College, and in the high trees in front of us a number of lungoors, or monkeys of very great size, appeared. A captain of the 52nd, who had bought a large rifle at the sale of the ex-king's armoury, resolved to try it on the bodies of these unfortunates. After a shot or two he brought down a female, with a monkey in arms clinging to her. The mother fell on her back, and the little one was unhurt; but the shock of the fall threw it to a little distance, when it immediately seized hold of a fallen branch lying on the ground, which an old major who was looking on at once picked up and carried to his tent, with the little monkey still clinging to it. But the bereaved widower had no idea of losing wife and child at one shot, so he came down the tree like lightning, and gave chase to the major, whose tent was next to mine. Thinking that shooting monkeys was not fair sport, I had taken no part in it; but when I saw the old male close on the heels of the major I caught up my revolver, which was lying loaded on the table in my tent, and faced him, when he stopped and stood up on his hind legs. He was fully as tall as I, and looked so powerful and savage that I fired a shot, not exactly at him, but close to him; on which he returned to his

tree, and shortly afterwards they all decamped. The little one got on well for some months, and grew considerably; but one morning he was found dead outside the mess-house, having been poisoned, probably, by something which he had picked up and eaten.

During the hot months many men cannot sleep unless the punkahs over their beds are kept constantly in motion; and to ensure this duty being efficiently performed it is necessary to keep three punkah coolies, who relieve each other at intervals. Our paymaster, or "Backshish Sahib," as he was called by the natives, was very particular about his punkah; and we used to have great fun with him in consequence. The coolie is not stationed in the sleeping room, but in the verandah outside, the rope passing through a hole in the wall; and as he not unfrequently goes to sleep himself, it has been found expedient to make him sit on the top of a short ladder, so that if the sahib is awakened by the punkah stopping, he is able by a smart jerk at the rope inside to pull the coolie down from his perch on to the ground, which rouses him for a while. Now and then one of us would quietly dislodge him, and pulling properly at first, by degrees come to a standstill, holding the rope between finger and thumb. "Backshish Sahib," more familiarly "Boxey," was soon awake, and audibly vowing vengeance on the unfortunate coolie, who stood by tremblingly awaiting the catastrophe which was not long in coming; for the rope was cautiously tightened from the inside, and at last with a great jerk pulled altogether through the wall into the

room, from which a moment after a dull thud was heard, announcing that the unresisted exertion had caused the paymaster to roll off his bed on to the floor. The coolie then bolted out of the house, and we fell on our beds and snored, until the injured Boxey made his appearance in light muslin apparel, and a furious rage, brandishing a hunting whip and calling for his punkahwala. The noise he made of course awoke us, and we went out and condoled with him. Before "fishing for a bite," as this was called, we had to promise the coolie that if he were dismissed by his master, we would take him into our service.

One day six or seven swarms of bees appeared hanging from the architrave of the mess-house. They were very large, each measuring at the top eighteen inches in width and four feet in length. I pointed them out to a brother sub., a wild Irishman, who at once began to pelt them with stones. I made for the door of the house, and as I reached it a shout from the Irishman, and a darkening of the air accompanied by a loud buzzing, informed me that a stone had taken effect. I got inside and closed the door, the author of the mischief running in just in time to escape the consequences; but, for a long while, the yells of the native servants encamped outside showed that the bees were busy among them, and we learnt afterwards that most of them had been badly stung.

As a proof of how a dream, which seems to the sleeper to last a long time, in reality passes through his brain in a moment, I will relate one of which I was the cause. Cowan, our surgeon, and I occupied

the two rooms on the top of the mess-house, which before our arrival had been uninhabited for some time except by pigeons; which we at once set to work to get rid of, keeping our guns always loaded and in readiness near the entrance.

On going into my room one morning after early breakfast a pigeon flew out, which I killed, and then lay down to sleep. In a few minutes Cowan's bearer brought me a note, in which he curtly hoped that I had had a good morning's sport; but requested that if in future I wanted to shoot at that early hour, I would send and give him notice. As he was evidently put out, I merely sent him my "Salaam," and went to sleep. At breakfast, having recovered his good temper, he explained the reason of his writing:

Some days previously, Mr. Jackson, the Chief Commissioner in Oude, when replying to some application which Cowan had made to him respecting the hospital accommodation for the men, had used expressions which the doctor had not forgotten or forgiven; and on hearing my shot just outside his door, he immediately dreamt that he had called the Chief Commissioner out, and that when facing each other, pistol in hand, the Chief Commissioner had fired before the word was given, which enraged him so, that he awoke with a start; and, finding that he had only been dreaming, and that the Chief Commissioner was not to be got at, he at once emptied the vial of his wrath upon the disturber of his rest.

CHAPTER IX.

ON the 27th December, 1856, we commenced our march to Sealkote, the 32nd Regiment relieving us the same day.

I recollect very little of this our second march up the country. The novelty had worn off, and we had got to look upon a long march as a regular part of our winter work. On our way, Monson, Moorsom, and I turned off the road to our left and visited Agra; at which place we stayed three days, rejoining the column at Delhi. The 3rd Bengal Europeans, then a newly-raised regiment, were in garrison at Agra, and with them we dined one night. General Anson, the Commander-in-Chief, was also there on his tour of inspection; and several of his staff were old friends of ours, and invited us to dine and breakfast in camp.

Our days were devoted to sightseeing, and I never was in a place where there was so much to admire.

The Taj Mahal has been described over and over again; but I doubt much if any one who reads an accurate detailed description of it can have any idea of its great beauty. The central building, and also the minarets at the four corners, are of white marble,

of which in the interior there are many fretwork screens, the connecting panels being inlaid with most admirable mosaics of precious stones, representing fruits and flowers. It is very large; but, unless one ascends one of the minarets, one is not likely to form an idea of its great size. The original gates which, we were informed, were of solid silver, were no longer to be seen; as, many years before, the Affghans, when plundering the neighbouring country, had unanimously agreed that they did not appear to the best advantage where they stood, and that a site far finer and more worthy of them was to be found in Affghanistan. In accordance with this artistic view, they took them away; but, finding them too heavy for transportation to the hills, they relinquished the idea of setting them up in Caubul, and melted them down instead.

In Agra and its neighbourhood, most of the buildings remarkable for beauty are of white marble, great quantities of which are found in the bed of the Nerbudda River. The climate has no damaging effect on this material. It does not become discoloured; and the work is as sharp and fresh, while the polish is as bright, as if it had been completed yesterday. The Moti Musjid, or "Pearl Mosque," which is in the fort, is one of the most beautiful pieces of architecture that I have ever seen. The rows of arches of the most graceful form seemed to me more admirable than anything in the Taj. We visited Akbar's Tomb, about seven miles off; and when we were on the roof of the building our thoughts were most pleasantly recalled to Old England by a peal of bells in a neighbouring

missionary church. Futtepore Sikri, which we were told was well worth seeing, was twenty-two miles off, over a bad road across country ; and the shortness of our leave did not permit our visiting it.

At Delhi we tried very hard to get the 1st Battalion 60th Rifles to send over their eleven from Meerut to play a return match with us ; but it could not be managed. At Kurnaul we again had a great day's sport with the wild ducks ; and, I think, it was somewhere hereabouts that, during a shower of rain, a number of small fish like whitebait fell. We were marching on a dry road, thickly covered with dust, when the rain fell, and at once the road and surrounding fields were covered with small fish, which must have fallen with it. At Umballa we found, besides the regular garrison, detachments of men and officers from the regiments in the North-West, who were attending the new school of musketry, preparatory to the issue of the Enfield rifle. We challenged the station to a cricket match, which we won. Finally, continuing our route through Julunder, where we were again successful against the 8th Regiment, and Umritzur, we arrived on the 14th March at Sealkote, where we expected to be left for some time in quiet.

We had not been long in the Punjab before we met with several natives who had lost both their hands. To our inquiries as to the reason of this, they gave us to understand that they were saints, whom wicked men had ill-treated in that manner.

This, we afterwards learnt, was not exactly the truth ; and the following explanation was given :

In India, under native rule, a man against whom

a charge of theft was preferred, was at once brought before the nearest authority; who, if he believed the prisoner to be guilty, ordered him to hold out his right hand, with which it might naturally be supposed that the crime was committed, and which the nearest attendant at once cut off with his sword.

The culprit was then ejected by a harmless but ceremonious kick, and left at liberty to go where he liked, and reform at leisure. If he were so unlucky as to be caught thieving a second time, it was obvious that the second offence was committed with his left hand, which followed the right, and he was again a free man.

Then he generally began to reflect, and resolved to reform. To do this, he had only to leave that part of the country, cease washing himself, smear his body with ashes, and give out that he was a persecuted saint; when he was sure to pick up a decent living.

Of course, if his funds enabled him to bribe the judge sufficiently, he was acquitted, and the prosecutor bastinadoed.

A refractory witness also stood no chance before a native tribunal, where such a protracted cross-examination as that of the Claimant by the Solicitor-General would not have been tolerated. A native "beak" would be highly incensed if his valuable time were taken up in listening to repeated answers of "I can't recollect," or "I don't know." He would order his attendants to jog the witness's memory; and they would put a bucket of live wood ashes over his head and shoulders, and thump him on the back until he drew a long breath, after which the bucket

would be removed, and the evidence required would be unhesitatingly given.

Sealkote was one of the stations planned by General Sir Charles Napier, and as was the case in several others built under his orders one barrack bungalow was more lofty than the rest. Having found by experience that the health of the troops was, in consequence of the crowded state of their barracks, much worse than it ought to be, and knowing that if buildings covering a large area were constructed, more men would be crammed into them, he, to defeat this, built lofty narrow barracks, in which no more than a certain quantity of beds could by any possibility be placed, thus hoping to secure to every occupant 1,000 cubic feet of air. In order to do this the walls were required to be raised to the height of thirty-five feet; and his orders to the engineer in charge were, "Run up and complete each bungalow as fast you can, and don't proceed with the whole ten at once." This he did, because he expected that the Indian Government, ever impatient of innovation, jealous of him, and resolute to save a penny, though by doing so a pound might be wasted, would interfere, and the result proved his wisdom and foresight: for at Sealkote, as also, I think, at Hyderabad and Kurrachee, the authorities, on becoming aware of what was being done, sent orders that the walls were on no account to be more than thirty feet in height; thus saving at the moment a few pounds, but at the same time depriving the soldier of the quantity of air, which the doctors said was requisite for the preservation of his health in that climate. However, stunted as they

were, the barracks were higher than those in the older stations; and covering only a small area, could not be unduly crowded. They were healthy quarters; although at a small additional outlay they might undoubtedly have been made more so.

Sealkote was a very pleasant station, standing rather higher than the surrounding country; while within twenty-five miles the hills leading to Cashmere overlooked us, and gave promise of a fine bracing climate close at hand. To men accustomed to live in the plains of India, where during the day the eye falls on nothing but an unbroken sandy flat, except where the mirage presents the delusive appearance of a lake; and where every evening the setting sun disappears in a lurid cloud of dust and mist many degrees above the horizon; it is a great relief to see near at hand the bold outlines of mountain ranges, the most distant of which are covered with snow.

In the ordinary course of events a regiment during its tour of service in India was usually once quartered in the hills; but when in the plains, although officers could get leave to visit them, the rank and file remained below in the sweltering heat; and except those who, in consequence of ill-health were sent by the doctors to the sanatoriums in the hills, none could hope to go there. I believe that of late the hill stations have increased in number; but there is no reason why they should not be more numerous than they are at present. There would be fewer deaths; and the health and strength of the regiments would be much benefited, if quarters for all, who could be spared from the neighbouring

garrisons, were prepared in the nearest hills. The reliefs might take place every two or three months; and the lives of many men, who die every year in the plains during the hot months, might thereby be spared. The actual money value of an European soldier in the North-West Provinces is a great consideration; while the moral and physical superiority of an old acclimatized man over a recruit is not to be doubted.

About this time it became evident that something unusual was going on among the native population. "Chuppaties," as the flat unleavened cakes which they eat instead of bread are called, were made to do duty for the "Fiery Cross," and were forwarded with great rapidity from one village to another through the length and breadth of the North-Western Provinces. Neither the military nor the civil authorities were able to get any reliable information as to the meaning of this proceeding, which was said by the natives themselves to be quite novel and unintelligible. It was plain that something was brewing; but what it was no one could determine. Some said it was a charm against cholera; whilst others spoke of a great change. Then came reports of general insubordination prevalent among the native troops at Barrackpore, close to Calcutta: soon after which "Mungul Pandey," a sepoy there, having cut down the adjutant, and called upon the men of his regiment who were on guard to mutiny, was tried and hanged. Still, by old Indians it was not considered possible that Hindoos and Mussulmen could combine for the purpose of a general insurrection. The 19th and 34th were at last disbanded; when they dispersed, and made their way about the

country in small bands, stirring up the people, and calling on their brother sepoys in the neighbouring garrisons to avenge them. I recollect at the time it was stated in the newspapers, that when the two regiments heard the order disbanding them read out on parade, the naturally fine features of the men were convulsed with grief, and showed plainly their intense consciousness of the disgrace brought on them by their wicked conduct and ingratitude to the Company, whose salt they had eaten. If this was the case, they soon got the better of their repentant feelings; for no sooner were they safe across the river, than, tearing off their caps, which in truth were in no way becoming, they threw them on the ground and stamped on them; and then one and all most emphatically cursed the Company and sahibs generally.

At Sealkote we read the accounts of these proceedings as given in the newspapers, discussed them, and came to the conclusion that things certainly looked very queer; but as officers of a Queen's regiment, we were supposed to know nothing of the sepoys or the natives generally; and we had had this idea expounded to us so frequently, that we at last believed that we were not competent to form any opinion on the subject. Our friends in the Company's service declared that their native troops were staunch to the backbone; and angrily resented any doubt on the subject as an insult to the service to which they belonged. Such also was the confidence in which the civil authorities were held, that it was universally admitted that, if any great danger were really brewing, they must necessarily be in possession of

intelligence respecting it. So, though many of us had inward misgivings, we said but little about them, and everything went on as usual. The leaves to the hills were given; and among others I started for Cashmere in company with Affleck Fraser and Lindsay, two Scotchmen in the Bengal Artillery. We rode to Aknoor, at the foot of the hills, about twenty-five miles from Sealkote, on the morning of the 3rd May, 1857, and marched thence straight to Islamabad, in the valley of Cashmere; from which place we went down the river Jhelum in a boat to Shrinuggur, the capital. On our way up we halted one day at Rajourie for fishing: and here our party was joined by Walker, of the 8th Regiment, who was going up on sick leave. As we were in a hurry to get to Cashmere, we marched straight on, and did not go off the road in search of sport; firing a few shots only from the road at bears and musk deer. When crossing the Pir Punjal, the snow pass leading into the valley, we had to make our way up a snow ladder more than half a mile long. It was in a sort of chimney, and very little out of the perpendicular; and though warned to be careful, those in front could not avoid sometimes dislodging small stones, which acquired great velocity in their descent, and flew past those in rear like musket bullets. On reaching Shupyon, near the valley, our names were taken by an officer of the Maharajah, who welcomed us in his master's name.

On our arrival at Shrinuggur on the morning of the 16th May, we found the place full of men on leave, and the bungalows, which had been built for our use on the bank of the Jhelum by Gholab

Singh, all occupied ; so we encamped near them, and having hired boats and four boatmen for each, we set off in the evening to see the town, which is built on the river, the houses all standing in the water. It was a curious place ; but not pretty. There were a few good-looking stone buildings ; but most of the houses were of sun-baked bricks. The Maharajah, on our arrival being announced, sent each of our party a present ; consisting of a sheep, a pair of fowls, a couple of ducks, tea, sugar, a loaf of bread, sweetmeats, &c. The natives do not eat bread ; but the Maharajah kept a professional baker, who, by his orders, supplied every visitor daily with a loaf.

The next day Syngé of the 52nd took me in his boat to see the Nusseeb Bagh and the Shalimar Gardens, which were on the lake. These were, I believe, the country houses of the old Moham-medan rulers, before they were dispossessed by the Sikhs. As was their custom everywhere, they had here made themselves very comfortable. The "Baghs" or gardens stood at the edge of the water, which was covered with lotus ; the buildings, which had been neglected by the Sikhs, according to their usual custom, must have been very beautiful ; and the view from them was lovely. The chumar trees, a sort of plane, were superb, and afforded a shade from the sun more complete than any I had ever met with. On one side, from the hill above, a stream had been brought straight down in a succession of falls to the lake, through broad terraces cut one below the other in the hill side, on each of which, and on either side of the stream large summer houses, overshadowed by the chumar trees, stood,

having broad pieces of water, containing innumerable pipes for fountains, which, when I was there, had unfortunately long ceased to play. Coming from the glare of the hot sun, the apparent change of temperature on the terraces under the trees was very marked. It was almost cold; but though the moguls had taken their departure, the mosquitos had not; and their attentions became so pointed that we could not stay there long. We thought it a great pity that no care was taken of these beautiful places, the carved stone of which was being gradually carried away to patch the houses in Shrinuggur. In this part of the valley the view on all sides was charming; more especially in the eyes of one who had for some years been accustomed to the monotonous scenery of the plains. The cool waters of the lake, which sparkled in the sun, where they were not covered by the lotus plant; the fine trees, with their dense foliage, among which picturesque buildings were dotted here and there, made a lovely foreground, which was set off to advantage by the lower hills in the background rising one behind the other until they reached the snowy range which surrounded the valley on every side. We got back too late to see the Sunday review of the Cashmere army; but we heard all about it from those who had stayed at home. By all accounts they were a wretched lot; as they certainly afterwards proved to be when they joined us before Delhi.

The next day we went all over the town, and visited the shawl merchants and manufactories, taking our time, and perfectly unsuspecting of what was going on in the plains.

CHAPTER X.

EARLY the next morning, when I was dressing, Fraser came in, bringing the first tidings of the mutiny; which were, that the native troops at Meerut had revolted, massacred the Europeans, marched to Delhi, and proclaimed the old king ruler of Hindoostan. We were ordered at once to join our regiments with all possible despatch; and our party lost no time in making arrangements for getting away before the ruck.

It was a time of awful uncertainty; for, we did not know what part Gholab Singh would play. There were more than one hundred officers in the valley, many of whom would not hear the news for several days, being far away on shooting expeditions. The troops in the town, who had heard what was going on, altered their manner completely; and, instead of saluting, eyed us as if they would have much liked to cut our throats. The two senior officers on leave put on their uniforms, and went at once to the palace, saw old Gholab, and asked his intentions. He, the best politician in India, had, no doubt, long been aware of the intended rising, though he had refused to join in it. He was very civil;

and said that he would immediately give orders that everything should be done to expedite our return to the plains, to collect the scattered parties in the valley, and to provide carriage for our baggage. He said also that he thought it probable that the Indian authorities would not at first realize how serious a crisis had arisen; and he ended by saying, "I believe you will put it down; but I think it will take you two years to do it." He himself was dead in six months; and it did take two years to put down the mutiny.

Our party managed to start that night by boat down the river, and through the lake to Baramulla at the lower end. Thence we marched as quickly as we could to Sealkote, where we arrived at daybreak on the 1st June. Shortly after leaving Baramulla, we met several regiments of Cashmerees escorting Gholab Singh's treasury from his palace at Jummoo, on the edge of the plains, to Shrinuggur. Their officers sent to ask us to visit them; which we did; though, being very suspicious, we did not much like it. We found them seated in a semi-circle under the trees, the colonel, a very fat man, being in the middle. We sat down, fronting him, with our guns, having a bullet in each barrel, across our knees. We could not understand their language, but somebody interpreted. They hoped we were well and happy, and we reciprocated the compliment. They then asked to inspect our guns, which, as it looked like disarming us, we at first thought of refusing; but seeing that we were completely in their power, we handed them over. They were passed round, admired, and returned to us, and more compliments

passed, when suddenly the colonel whipped out his tulwar, and the others at once did likewise. This made us jump, Fraser cocked his gun, and I heard him mutter between his teeth, "By —, if they mean anything. I'll take the fat chap in the centre." After a moment or two of painful uncertainty, we were relieved by their passing their swords round for inspection. Shortly after which we took our leave.

In the Poonch Valley we found White and Streatfield of the 24th Regiment encamped by the side of the river, on a fishing excursion. They had that morning before breakfast caught upwards of 90 lbs. of fish, one of which weighed 28 lbs., a second 26 lbs., a third 18 lbs., and the fourth 16 lbs. They were thoroughly enjoying themselves, and had heard nothing of the mutiny. Fraser caught a mahseer weighing 14 lbs. that evening, and the next morning we started on our way, and they to Wuzeerabad, where they arrived just in time for Streatfield to join in the fight at Jhelum, where he lost his leg.

At Rejourie, on our way down, Fraser's bearer got drunk, and awakened every one in the middle of the night by announcing in a loud voice, that the Company's Raj was at an end. Hastily jumping out of bed, we deposited him in a neighbouring tank; which soon brought him to his senses; when his master, with the aid of the invaluable bamboo, at last succeeding in convincing him that the subject was a dangerous one, which he was not at liberty to refer to again.

At Sealkote I learnt that the 52nd had started some time before for Wuzeerabad, leaving behind

two companies, which had the night before marched towards Lahore. I rode after them in the evening, and came up with them just as they were commencing their second march. Not being in uniform, I remained behind the rear guard; but I was so tired that I fell asleep in the saddle; and my horse, which was a fast walker, carried me in that state past the column; and when I awoke, I found myself in front of the advanced guard.

JUNE On the 5th of ~~March~~ we arrived at Annarkullee, in the town of Lahore, where one wing of the regiment was quartered. My Company, letter F, was with the other at Mean Meer, the station, and I joined it on the 6th just in time to be put in orders for night picquet. "I don't know exactly where you are to go, or what you are to do," said the adjutant, "but your post is somewhere near that church." Accordingly off I went with a hundred men; and on the meidan, or plain, near the church, I found a number of tents standing, into which I put the men, having piled arms outside and placed a sentry over them. There were also two guns and a detachment of artillery, which I was told were under my command; but the artillerymen were asleep, and I could learn nothing from them. I had no idea why I was there, or on what side to keep a look-out. I knew that somewhere in the station were three regiments of native infantry and one of cavalry, who had been disarmed a day or two before; but having only just joined, I was ignorant where they were. It was not very likely that they would choose that particular night for mutinying; as there were two strong European regiments in Mean Meer and

Lahore, ourselves and the 81st, so I took things more easily than I should otherwise have done.

At about 9.30 P.M. the brigadier appeared, dismounted, and went into his tent to bed. I accosted his brigade-major, who, when I asked for orders, said, "What! have you not placed your sentries out?" I said, "No! I don't know what I was sent here for, or what I am to guard against." On the latter point he seemed as much in doubt as I was; but eventually said, that it was customary to place sentries all round the meidan. They were to challenge every one who approached, make prisoners of all who could not give the countersign, and shoot them if they tried to force the post. He said also that a cavalry picquet was somewhere in front.

I posted my sentries, and about an hour after made my first round, in the middle of which a dust storm came on. Now, in a dust storm one can hardly see one's hand before one's face; and it is impossible to walk twenty yards without utterly losing one's way. The only prudent course to follow is to stand still, and wait until it is over. This I did, and in about half an hour it passed on; but the rain fell in torrents, and wetted me through and through. Altogether I passed a very unpleasant night. At gun-fire next morning the brigadier and brigade-major got on their horses and rode off. The sentries had not shot any one; and the only prisoners made during the night turned out to be the brigadier's servants, who were on their way to the station ice pits to fetch his allowance for the morrow. On arriving in barracks, I went to the colonel, and having reported the events of the night, asked him

to whom I ought to send my report, as I had not been visited by the field officer. "You need not report at all," said he, "but if you are particularly anxious to do so, write to the brigade office, and say that the brigadier passed a quiet night, and rode off safely in the morning."

On the 9th we paraded at 7.30 A.M. to see two mutineers of the 35th Native Infantry blown from guns; but before going further it is as well to state that I shall only write of and describe what I saw or heard spoken of; and as, in camp, there are always lots of fatherless "shaves" flying about, it is impossible to avoid sometimes repeating false reports.

The execution was to take place on a large open space outside the town of Lahore, where the whole force under Brigadier Neville Chamberlain was to be present. We heard a report that the 35th Native Infantry would refuse to come there; and that, in that case, we were to attack them in their camp. They came, however, and were drawn up in line, with artillery and ourselves facing their left flank, and Coke's regiment of Punjab infantry in their front. These latter were wild mountaineers from the neighbourhood of Peshawur; and the first question they asked, on coming on to the ground, was "Which is our regiment?" meaning, which regiment are we to cut up. Each mutineer was then placed with his back against the muzzle of a field gun loaded with a service charge of powder, 2 lbs. I think, his arms being fastened by a rope to the upper part, and his legs to the lower part of the wheels behind him; the sentences were read, the bugle sounded, and the guns were fired. I was in command of the leading com-

pany, and had an uninterrupted view of all that took place. I think that the muzzles of the guns must have been on a level with the upper part of the men's shoulders; for the effect of the explosion was to send their heads flying up perpendicularly at least thirty feet, the legs and arms falling under the guns.

We heard that it had been discovered later on that these two men were the only well affected men in the regiment; but that they had been caught listening to some of the native officers, who were debating how and when they should mutiny. These at once reported the listeners as mutineers, and they were accordingly executed.

That night the whole moveable column, consisting of Colonel Dawe's Troop Bengal Horse Artillery; Captain Bouchier's Battery; H.M.'s 52nd Light Infantry; 35th Regiment Native Infantry; Wing 9th Light Cavalry; Coke's Regiment; and Sappers, marched half way to Umritzur, at which place we arrived on the 11th. On the evening of the 12th the force paraded to see a man hanged for trying to induce some of Coke's regiment to desert and mutiny, by saying that their cartridges were smeared with hog's lard. After which, Coke's regiment marched away *en route* for Delhi. The next day we followed them, and arrived at Jullundur on the 19th.

As I was away in the hills when the regiment marched from Sealkote, my bearer was told to pack up and take with him everything that I should require on the march. When I joined at Lahore, I found that he had considerably provided as necessaries for the march:—1. My dressing-case,

which I never could find a use for at any time. 2. Some flannel and other clothes, which were so old and ragged that I could not wear them. 3. My light parade sword. 4. Two brass candlesticks. 5. A pair of boots, which had been made by a soldier in the regiment, and were too short for me. These formed the kit, which this intelligent native considered sufficient for a summer campaign. The remainder of a good wardrobe was consigned to the regimental stores, and in due time was plundered by and distributed amongst the Sealkote mutineers. I had therefore to refit myself as well as I could in the regimental bazaar; and the boots which I bought there, rubbed the skin off my foot during the first march. The wound got worse and worse, and at last festered. At Reyah, on the 15th June, it was so bad that I had determined to go on the sick list; when I was informed by the adjutant that the 35th Native Infantry had definitely settled to mutiny that night; and that a picquet, which I was to command, was in orders for duty at once. Of course, under these circumstances, I could not go on the sick list; so I cut the side out of an old canvas shoe, and limped off to find my picquet; but on my way I walked smartly into a gooseberry bush, or its Indian representative, the stem of which opened the sore place to the bone. This, though the unintended operation relieved the pain somewhat, did not add much to my comfort; as all night I tramped about in the deep sand between our camp and that of the 35th Native Infantry, who did not mutiny; and during the next few days I was carried in a dholey.

We had with us a telegraph *employé*, with his battery, whose duty it was to communicate with Lahore and Delhi, the wires between those places being carried by the side of the road on which we were marching.

On one occasion, this young gentleman, wishing to make a show of his talents and importance, set to work on his own account; and tapping the messages which were passing up and down, explained their contents to the admiring crowd of natives. Being detected at this nice little game, he was threatened with severe punishment; but, I believe, escaped with a good thrashing administered by the brigadier in the privacy of his own tent.

The heat being intense, and the soldiers in consequence much fatigued, all available "carriage" was pressed into the service. At one time a number of grasscutters' tattoos were hired for them. These were little thin half-starved animals, with backs like rails, offering most precarious and uncomfortable seats. A tired man, however, would not refuse a mount; so for several nights about 100 of our fellows travelled in this manner, and they presented a very curious appearance. One big fellow, with his feet only just off the ground, and who was evidently saddle-sore, swore at his pony, which was not up to half his weight, and kept on stumbling, and putting him in bodily fear. At last he pulled up and said, "Now! that's the third time you done it; if you do it again, d——n me, if I don't get off, and leave you here."

On the 17th we crossed the Beas River, when one gun of Bouchier's battery, with the limber,

and a horse, went through the bridge. At Julundur Brigadier Chamberlain left for Delhi to take up the duty of adjutant-general, vice Chester, killed at Budlee-ka-Serai. He was succeeded in command of our column by Brigadier John Nicholson. Both he and Chamberlain were captains and brevet-lieutenant-colonels, who received the rank of brigadier to enable them to take command of the column over the head of Colonel Campbell, our commanding officer. This was felt by everyone in the regiment to be a great injustice to a man, who was known to be one of the best officers in the army. But Sir John Lawrence was then omnipotent. Orders must be obeyed, and Colonel Campbell, although he protested against the arrangement, set us all a good example by taking the second place, when he found that it had been decided that the command of the column should be given to another.

With Chamberlain as brigadier, everything had gone on smoothly and comfortably. After Nicholson took command it was not so; although he was a gallant soldier, and extraordinarily well fitted for the post. His rough manners, and scarcely concealed contempt for European troops and their officers, were an unpleasant change from the courteous and thoroughly soldier-like demeanour of his predecessor. The inhabitants of the Punjab believed that he was in league with the Evil One, and knew what was going on everywhere, and even what was passing in their minds, and, in consequence, every one who received intelligence of anything worth knowing, at once begged, bor-

rowed, or stole a horse, and rode off to tell it to Nicholson.

When our baggage was being brought across the Beas, Trench, who was on duty on the bank, saw near him one of Nicholson's men, who had been there a long time, and seemed very tired. He accordingly offered him a drop of something short from his flask, which the man seemed at first inclined to take; but afterwards declined with thanks, saying that Nicholson would be angry.

"What nonsense," said Trench, "Here! take it, it will do you good. The Brigadier Sahib will never know it; he is three miles off." "That is nothing," said the man, "If I were to drink ever so small a drop from your bottle, as soon as I returned to camp, Nicholson Sahib would say, 'You have been drinking spirits,' and would beat me severely."

The native garrison of Jullundur had mutinied some time before, and after a sharp fight with a much inferior force of Sikhs under Ricketts on the bank of the Sutlej, near Loodianah, had made their way by a circuitous route to Delhi.

It was by this time quite evident that the 35th Native Infantry, who were marching with us, were merely biding their time, and would certainly mutiny and be off at the first favourable opportunity. A letter, signed by their native officers, was afterwards intercepted at Delhi. It was addressed to the 38th Native Infantry, in these terms:—"We are coming down with the moveable column, and can do nothing by ourselves. The 52nd have charge of the guns—we have charge of the treasure. When you

hear that we are within a march of Delhi, send out a force and attack the 52nd in front, and we will attack them in rear." This little game was however nipped in the bud, for on the 24th the 35th suddenly found themselves in front of the guns and ourselves, and had to lay down their arms. After which, we remained in position, and at the end of half an hour, the 33rd Native Infantry were seen to march at a great pace across country and halt in front of us. Then their colonel, an old grey-haired man, rode up and said, "General Nicholson, we have made a double march this morning, in our anxiety to go down to Delhi with you, and have left our baggage behind. I must therefore ask you to let us halt a day to enable it to come up." "Colonel Sandeman," said Nicholson, "I regret extremely to say that I must request you to return to your regiment, and order them to lay down their arms." The old man started as if he had been shot, and I thought he would have fallen from his horse. He gave one long look at the brigadier, and then turning round, went slowly back to his men, who at once laid down their arms, and were marched off the ground. Nicholson, as he returned to his tent, said to his brigade-major, "I shall lose the command of the column for this, the last telegram which I received from Sir John Lawrence last night forbade my disarming these regiments, but I know I am right"—and the result proved that he was so. There were, in fact, within a certain radius, some half dozen native regiments, all more or less mutinously inclined, with the flying column in their centre. Nicholson compared us to a lion surrounded

by dogs. The lion might by a sudden spring kill one or two; but then the rest would be off.

Immediately after the men of the 33rd and 35th Regiments had been disarmed, they were addressed by Nicholson, and told that, having been deprived of their arms, they might consider themselves absolved from the oath to mutiny, which, he believed, had been taken by all the sepoys; that if they behaved well, and made no attempt to desert, no harm would befall them; but that he had guards on all the bridges and fords; and if they attempted to escape, they would certainly be taken, and shot. Generally they stayed quietly with their officers; but some tried the experiment, and were caught. On the 28th one of the 33rd was blown from a gun; on the 29th two of the 33rd and one of the 35th; on the 1st July there was an execution; and on the 3rd one of the 35th was blown away. We returned to Umritzur, where on the 8th we disarmed the 59th Native Infantry; and heard the same day that the 14th Native Infantry had mutinied at Jhelum, and beaten off a detachment of H.M.'s 24th Regiment with the loss of a gun. There were also unpleasant rumours as to the state of the Irregular Cavalry at Goordaspore, some forty-five miles off. On the afternoon of the 10th we received intelligence that the 46th Native Infantry with a wing of the 9th Light Cavalry, which we had left behind at Sealkote, had mutinied, and cut up all the Europeans whom they could catch. I was at once sent with 200 men to disarm that wing of the 9th Light Cavalry which was with us. Their arms were given into store at the fort of Govindghur; and I found the receipt for

them in an old desk a few days ago. Their horses were of service to us in many ways; more especially as mounts for the brigadier's staff, which was very numerous, and consisted nearly entirely of officers of native regiments whose men had mutinied. That evening at 8.30 we started for Goordaspore; carriage for one-third of our men accompanying us, and a strong detachment of the regiment with three guns being left at Umritzur under Major Vigors. The mutineers from Sealkote were said to be making their way by a direct road to Goordaspore; and our object was to cut them off from that place, where, had they reached it unopposed, they would have been joined by the Irregular Cavalry; and afterwards picking up several other regiments on their way, would have marched in overpowering force to Umballa, then denuded of troops, and thence down the line of our communication to Delhi, taking our already hard-pressed force then in the rear.

It was, indeed, a moment of great peril, which we hardly appreciated at the time. Our brigadier, however, knew all about it, and continually urged us forward. Starting at what was our usual bedtime, we got over twenty-five miles by daybreak; all of which I did on foot. We then made a halt, which we devoutly hoped would be a long one; and a camel coming up, I got a hunch of bread, and a glass of commissariat rum, a most horrible spirit, which I was obliged to drink neat, as there was no water. We were soon under weigh again; and the heat of that 11th July I shall never forget. Not a cloud was to be seen in the sky, and men, struck by the sun, kept on falling in the ranks as if struck by

shot. The skins borne by the water-carriers were soon exhausted, and the wells which we occasionally came to were dry. At last, though I had always made it a rule to march on foot with my Company, I could stand it no longer; so I got on my pony, and rode until we reached water. Long before this the more weakly men had filled the carts and hospital dholeys; and I heard afterwards that some men had, in consequence, marched the whole forty-five miles on foot. The distance was very great; but it was the having to start on a long march just when after the fatigues of the day we were thinking of turning in, and the intolerable heat of the sun, and want of water, which made this march so trying to all. We arrived at Goordaspore at about 4.30 P.M., and before the tents could be pitched, a heavy thunderstorm broke over us, which deluged the ground, but somewhat cooled the air. The Sealkote rebels had reached the Ravee, and were only ten miles off when we cut in and prevented their junction with the Irregular Cavalry. They therefore halted, and we received orders of readiness to march at midnight, as it was supposed that they would make for Adeenanuggur, some twenty miles up stream. Luckily, we were left to sleep in peace; and that night none of us required rocking. The next day, the dinners were ordered to be ready at 11 A.M., but at 10 o'clock the bugle suddenly sounded the "fall in," and leaving behind a camp-guard of fifty men to watch the Irregulars, we started for our first fight.

It was broiling hot; and though the men were in high spirits, it soon became evident that they had

not yet recovered from the heat and fatigue of the previous day. Many fell out, and were left lying in the road, or under a tree, when one was handy. When we halted for a few minutes, after fording a stream about eight miles from Goordaspore, and one from the position taken up by the enemy, some 200 were in the rear; but some of these rejoined here, and we went into action about 280 strong, with 120 Sikhs, and 9 guns. We had besides two troops of "Cutcherry Hussars," the most curious-looking mounted body I have ever seen. I believe that they were a lot of "tag, rag, and bobtail," caught in the neighbourhood of Umritzur, shoved into antiquated uniforms, mounted, and told off for the protection of the civil authorities there. Before we started, we were informed, whether in joke or not, I cannot say, "You are to have the 'Cutcherry Hussars' with you. They are a splendid lot, and will make short work of the 9th Light Cavalry, if they can get at them." They marched in the van, with the guns immediately behind them; and on catching sight of the enemy drawn up across the road, they faltered so perceptibly, that Nicholson, riding up, informed them that they were only there to mask the guns; on hearing which they continued the advance. The mutineers had about 800 infantry and 300 cavalry in the field. The former, in their scarlet uniforms, were drawn up in line across the road by which we were advancing, and covered by their flank companies lying in a sort of ditch, in their front. On their flanks were some trees, and, it was reported, an impassable swamp. Their cavalry were not visible.

Our guns having deployed into line, the 52nd were extended in the intervals between them; with a troop of "Cutcherry Hussars" on each flank, the Sikhs being held in reserve. In this formation we advanced, halting and opening fire when about 200 yards from their line. Their flank companies answered smartly; and presently their line fired a volley, which caused most of our casualties. A few minutes later, their cavalry, which had hitherto been hidden behind the trees, came down on our flanks. Our hussars at this brandished their swords, and seemed about to charge; but, thinking better of it, bolted to the rear, followed in pursuit by some of the 9th, the rest of whom rode right in among the guns; when our men got together in small bodies, and shot and bayoneted them off their horses. One of the hussars riding for his life just in rear of where I was standing, was pursued by a man of the 9th, who, with his sword above his head, was about to cut him down, when a random shot from a Sikh tumbled him out of the saddle. In an instant the hussar, pulled up short, leaped to the ground, took his sword in his left hand, and squatting on his haunches by the side of his wounded adversary, with two or three clumsily delivered blows hacked his head off, then jumped on his horse, and rode off towards Goordaspore like the wind.

One of the 9th, who tried to make his escape where I was standing, was shot by Bouchier, of the Artillery, and fell close to a gun. Two gunners rushed at him; and one shoving his hand into his jacket, pulled out a white net purse about two feet long, and seemingly well lined with rupees, at which

the second made a snatch, but the other, saying "All right, halves," put it in his pocket, and both returned to their gun.

After about twenty minutes' firing, the sepoys, finding that we did not show any signs of giving way, thought that they had better do so, and retired in a double column of sub-divisions in rear of the centre, a movement which they were well accustomed to, as it was their old commanding officer's favourite bit of drill. They went off very quickly; covered by their flank companies, which behaved very well, jumping out of the ditch, and steadily marching towards us—keeping up a smart fire all the while. Our guns swept them away with case and grape; and the few who escaped the fire were killed by our men, who rushed out of the ranks and bayoneted them. The main body had evidently had enough of it; for, they retreated straight to the river, crossed the ford where the water was above their waists, and reached the island in the centre, on which the old signal gun from Sealkote was placed so as to command the ford. With this they fired at us several times when we approached the river bank. The stream was very strong, and wide; the ford was in consequence very difficult to cross; but they got over it very quickly; though numbers of their wounded were carried down and drowned. They left more than 200 dead on the ground; and the loss sustained by the 52nd was heavy, considering the number engaged; but if the enemy had taken advantage of a small village and a serai, which, masked by high bushes, stood in their rear, one on each side of the road, it would have been much

greater. Colonel Campbell received a nasty blow on the collar bone from a musket ball, which luckily glanced upward; Troup, my subaltern, got a rap in the ribs from a spent shot, and twenty-five rank and file were killed or wounded. In the whole force engaged there were about 100 casualties.

As nothing more could be done then, we returned to camp.

What loot had been taken was placed in the serai, and left in charge of Boswell and his Sikhs. After our departure some of the enemy recrossed the river, and tried to recover possession of it, but were driven off. On the 14th we encamped with 300 men at about a mile from the river; and while waiting for boats, the artillery tried in vain to disable the gun on the island.

Boswell's Sikhs now tried to turn an honest penny, by offering for sale the loot which was under their charge; and happening at the moment to be strolling that way, I had some difficulty in preventing our men from coming to blows with them. A man of my company, whom I ordered back to his tent, grumbled and said, "Why! Sir, the rascal offered me my own new shell-jacket for eight annas."

On the 16th two small boats having been brought from a distance by Angelo of the 59th Native Infantry, we got all our men across before daybreak. The artillery then opened fire from the river bank on the enemy's gun, which, however, they could not silence. We formed a line of skirmishers with supports from one side of the island to the other, and swept it up, the sepoy saluting us with three rounds of grape

when we got near them. The last was fired just as our skirmishers were on them, and it blew away the rammer, and the man who was using it. Then, with the exception of two who bolted, they all picked up their tulwars from the ground, and fought to the last. The two who ran away were pursued and "accounted for" by the brigadier. We then cleared out a small village, and gradually getting to the head of the island, killed every man we could find on it. Some escaped by swimming, but were mostly captured, and brought in by the Sikh villagers.

On the 17th we returned to Goordaspore, where the loot, which was of no great value, was sold, and the proceeds given to the men. The native servants, who had been found in the camp of the mutineers, here received their pay, in the shape of "Bamboo Backshish;" and the dispersed sepoy being continually brought in by the Sikh levies, in parties of ten or twelve, were summarily executed. I witnessed the arrival of one gang of ten. Nicholson was called out of the Dâk Bungalow, and the Sikh corporal in charge gave him a paper, which he looked at, and then counted the prisoners. Going down the line he asked each in turn what he was? Each answered "Sepahi." "Take them away half a koss, and shoot them," said he, and went indoors. Some of our men went to see the first execution, and came back very angry; saying that instead of shooting them, the Sikhs had slowly cut two or three up with their tulwars, asking between each slash, whether "that was as pleasant as cutting up unarmed sahibs and mem-sahibs (ladies)." But this, having been brought to the notice of the brigadier, was at once

put a stop to. An angry telegram came from Calcutta, forbidding the execution of the mutineers without trial: but Nicholson answered, that he had no officers to spare for courts martial; that the prisoners had all admitted that they were sepoys; and, he added, it was his intention to shoot all that he could catch. This was apparently satisfactory, as no further telegrams on the subject were received.

On the 19th we left Goordaspore and returned to Umritzur; hearing on our way that we were at once to join the force before Delhi, which was weak in numbers, and had suffered greatly from the continual attacks of the enemy.

On the 31st we crossed the Sutlej, but just as we started very heavy rain came on, the river rose as if by magic, and the baggage could not be got across that day. From bank to bank was about one and a half miles, but before the rain, only about a quarter of a mile had to be crossed in boats. We were carried far down by the rapidly-rising stream, and had to march some distance after landing before we got on to the road, which was raised considerably above the surrounding fields. No sooner were we on it, than the rain became heavier than before, and a number of large rats, suddenly drowned out of their holes, joined us, and, apparently quite subdued by fear, those which were not at once killed by the men did not try to leave the road, but trotted along with the column like so many small terriers. On arriving at Loodianah, the camping ground was found to be under water, so we had to get shelter wherever we could find it.

Loodianah was the chief place of a district as large as an English county. It was under the rule of of G—— R——, a civil servant, who though not quite up to the mark as a lawyer, and apt to be loose in his Hindoostani when hurried, was the right man in the right place in a crisis like the mutiny.

It was a disaffected place; and a large colony of Cashmerees which had settled there was not likely to improve its morality, for "to lie like a Cashmeree" is a proverb. There were a few Sikhs in garrison, and a couple of small rajahs with their men were encamped close by. There were but four European subordinates; and of these one was a competition wala, or rather would have been, had competition then been invented, for he had, we were told, taken honours at Oxford, and passed a "splendid examination" in the Persian language.

He seemed to be a very nice fellow; but as affairs then stood, his book-lore was of no service to him; and, as R—— said, he was uncertain whether he was standing on his head or his heels.

R——, however, was a host in himself, and his district was in perfect order.

He was, it is true, "Zubberdust," which, for once, may be translated, "Rough-handed, determined to have his own way, and a most ugly customer to offend."

Wounded officers travelling up country singly or in pairs, might occasionally meet with incivility, and find a difficulty in getting provisions or bearers for their dholeys; but once arrived in the Loodianah district, all they wanted was forthcoming. The headmen of the villages at once appeared, and offered

everything they had; and if, perchance, nothing was wanted, earnestly requested a "chit," or letter, to say that every possible offer of assistance had been made.

When the Native troops at Jullundur mutinied, and made for Delhi *via* Loodianah, R—— sallied out with all his available force, some 200 Sikhs, and two little guns, borrowed from a rajah; and though the sepoys had crossed the river to the number of 1,200, he at once attacked; and disputed their advance so strongly, that after nearly all his men were *hors-de-combat*, and one of his guns lost, they retreated, and only reached Delhi by a circuitous route.

He remained by himself in a village watching them during the night, and early the next morning, on his return to Loodianah, found that, a report of his death having gone forth, the inhabitants had risen in revolt. When they saw him riding back on his big grey horse, they slunk into their houses, and his native subordinates came out from their hiding-places, and gave him full particulars of what had taken place in his absence; on which he at once hung up over their shop-doors upwards of twenty of the ringleaders, and heavily fined the rest.

He was most hospitable to us, and found quarters for ourselves and men during the two or three days that we were obliged to halt there.

On the 3rd August, the baggage having come up, we started on our way again, in company with a wing of the 61st Regiment, from Ferozepore. From this point down to Delhi, we were carried in bullock gharries, and got over twenty or thirty miles each day. On the 6th we left Umballa, with 7½ lakhs

of treasure, and on the same day received a telegram from Delhi, informing us that the mutineers intended to come out and relieve us of it.

In the action at Trimmoo Ghat, on the 12th July, I lost my colour sergeant, who was badly wounded, and was obliged to hand over the Company's accounts to an old sergeant, of whose efficiency I was very doubtful.

When about to sign accounts at the end of the month, I found that they were all wrong, and that the old sergeant had been left behind sick the night before. In fact, I had no accounts for the month; and as the men during the march drew their pay irregularly, and had porter served out to them, of which an account ought to have been kept, I expected to lose a considerable sum. All I could do was to tell the men what had happened, and order them to bring me the next day such accounts as they could make out from memory. This was done, and they treated me so fairly that I did not lose a rupee.

I forgot to say that, on the morning we crossed the Sutlej, I had come off the sick list, where I had been for about a week, in consequence of an attack of boils, brought on by the hard work under the hot sun. Having crossed the river, and drunk a cup of coffee, I was walking about in the pouring rain, trying to keep my pipe alight, which was no easy matter, when I saw about 100 men headed by Johnson, a bugler, coming up to speak to me.

"Beg your pardon, sir," said Johnson, "but the men wish me to say that they are very glad to see

you out again; they were afraid they were going to lose you. They have noticed that you always march with your company instead of riding, and they thought that you had overdone it."

I thanked them, and said I was all right again, and they withdrew.

CHAPTER XI.

ON the 14th August, 1857, we marched into camp before Delhi, 650 strong; but cholera and fever, the seeds of which had been sown during our unavoidable exposure to sun and rain in the Punjab, and during the march down, soon made their appearance, and reduced our strength so much, that on the 14th September, just one month afterwards, we could only parade 240 men for the assault. In May, June, and July we had the protection of our tents by day; but they were struck at sundown, and we slept on the bare ground, and on awaking were generally wet through with the heavy dew. We were brigaded with the 1st Battalion 60th Rifles, and the Sirmoor Battalion of Ghoorkhas. The pluck had been thrashed out of the Pandies before our arrival, and no serious attacks were made by them while we were there. As soon as our camp was pitched, I went with Crosse and Stopford on to the ridge by the Flagstaff Battery, to look at the town; but it was difficult for a new comer to make out the positions. Some of the batteries fired a gun now and then, which was immediately replied to by the other side. We were soon put to work, and out

of the thirty days preceding the assault, I passed thirteen on picquet, and a great part of the remainder on courts-martial, military commissions, and working parties.

For those who kept their health the work, though hard, was pleasant enough. Beyond the fire from the batteries, and occasional skirmishes at the breast-works, there was no fighting; still, we were always on the look out, and, to a certain extent, under fire.

Patrolling up towards the town at night, with neighbouring picquets of guides and Ghoorkhas, all on the look-out for a shot at something, was unpleasant; but we soon got accustomed to the whistling of bullets, which, on first acquaintance, was very disagreeable.

When in camp we had hardly any time to visit our friends; but, of course, as a considerable portion of the force was English, matches at cricket were somehow got up; and I think I heard that our old antagonists, the 60th, played some other regiment; but our captains being few in number, my time was fully occupied, and I had but little opportunity to look about me. More lucky than many, my health was very good, and while some could make no breakfast, I was always ready for a pound of broiled beef, and a plate of souji porridge while the beef was on the gridiron.

As is customary in war-time, every sort of "shave" was current in camp.

One day, the sepoys had no more powder. Another, they had expended their store of copper caps. If this latter report had been true, it would have made a great difference; for caps could only be

procured from Europe ; while they could make powder of an indifferent quality.

Eventually it turned out that they had more of both than they could get through. Every day something new was reported by the spies. The city was to be evacuated at once. A large force was to attack us in front ; while one still larger was to get round our right flank, and fall on our rear, when we were hard pressed and tired by the fighting in our front. One day, it was a great Mohammedan festival, and an attack was to be made on us ; another, it was something else ; but these prognostications were hardly ever verified by the result.

From time to time visitors from the upper provinces made their appearance in camp ; and Lord Frederick Hay, among others, stayed a few days with our colonel.

The firm of — and — was about the best house in the North-West. It was represented at Umballa, at Jullundur, at Simla, and, I think, at Kurrachee. Originally only chemists and druggists, they had, following the custom of traders in the East, extended the scope of their business, until pretty nearly everything was to be found in their catalogue.

The mutiny having come to a head at Delhi, and all available troops having been despatched thither, business at Umballa doubtless became dull ; and the change of climate resulting from the rains succeeding the hot winds having caused some intestine commotions in young Mr. —, a prominent member of the firm, it was determined, with the doctor's sanction, to send him in charge of a cargo of soda-water,

tobacco, eau-de-cologne, and other necessaries to the camp at Delhi, where it was thought that he might, without much danger, see something of the "glorious pomp and circumstance of war," and in addition to gaining health, add something to the credit side of the ledger.


On his arrival he set up his tent, and displayed the various articles which he had brought down, for which he found a ready sale; but he saw nothing, and heard very little of the siege; as the intervening ridge, on which the picquets were stationed, prevented his getting a view of the town. So, one morning, leaving the eau-de-cologne, &c., in charge of a deputy, he donned a frock coat, tall hat, and white kid gloves, articles of apparel never before seen in camp, and mounting his best horse started for the top of the ridge. Having found his way to the rear of the flagstaff battery, he for some time surveyed the scene in silence. The walls of the city, about a mile off, were hardly distinguishable; Delhi was there sure enough; but where it began, and where it ended, was not so easy to discover. There were houses, mosques, and trees, with here and there clouds of smoke; but the outline of the walls was not apparent at a first glance. Suddenly he heard a cry of "Look out! shell," and a sergeant of artillery ran past him, and ensconced himself under a neighbouring rock. A hideous scream, and a loud crackling explosion made him catch his breath, and his horse plunge. Then all was quiet, and the sergeant came out and shook himself. After considering for a few moments, Mr. ——— remarked, "That was a bad shot, my friend." "Well! I don't know," said

the sergeant, "it was pretty near us." "Why," said Mr. —, "that was one of our guns, was it not?" "Our guns!" said the sergeant, "that came from the Moree bastion." "Then," said Mr. —, "we are under fire here, and might be killed." "Well, your honour," said the sergeant, "many a man has been sent to kingdom-come by the fire from that cursed Moree; and only yesterday, my old comrade, poor Pat Callaghan, was took in the small of the back by a round shot just where your honour is sitting, and had only time to say to me who stood beside him, 'Mickey, there's fifteen rupees in my jacket, see that the old woman gets them, those beggars have done for me,' when he was dead; and to think that only that minute he had been saying, what a glorious rouse we would have this very night, when we got off duty, with these same rupees, which he got off the body of a pandy during a scrimmage in the Subzee Mundee the day before we came up here."

Mr. —, horrified at what he heard, and at the dangerous position in which he so suddenly found himself, was silent for a few minutes; and the sergeant, thinking of his dead comrade, and the old woman, did not speak. At last turning his horse's head towards camp, Mr. — remarked, "Well! I dare say war is an exciting thing at first; but I should imagine it would soon pall upon the senses."

On the 23rd or 24th the rebels sent out a force with some guns to our right, as if they intended to attempt to carry out their often-repeated threat that they would cut off our communications; but Nicholson, with a brigade, met them at Nujufghur,

thrashed them to their heart's content, and took most if not all their guns. If they had had the pluck to send a large force of cavalry, which in Delhi was useless, to make a broad sweep round us, and march up the road in our rear, they might have caused great trouble; as, with the exception of a few small armed posts, there were no troops to speak of between us and Umballa; which place also had but a slender garrison. The fact was, that during the earlier part of the siege, their attacks, which were often repeated, and sometimes well pushed home, had been invariably defeated with heavy loss. They were now no longer joined at short intervals by fresh bodies of mutineers, whose recognized duty it was to go out the next day, and attack the Feringhee picquets; and each rebel was beginning to look out for himself. The Subzee Munde, the suburb on the right of our position, which had been the scene of many fights, had been levelled to the ground, and no longer afforded the cover in which the native soldier delights. They were fairly losing heart, and were no longer dangerous; as, from their greatly superior numbers, they had been at first. Their large force of cavalry, which was composed entirely of Mussulmen, and was therefore the most mutinously inclined, was stated by the spies to be looked down upon and abused by the infantry and gunners, who said they consumed more provisions than they were worth, as they did no work. They used, therefore, to make their appearance at the Caubul Gate on our right, and gallop under the fire of our guns along the road close under the walls to the Cashmere Gate on our left. Each time that



this was repeated, a few, but, I regret to say, only a few were knocked over; and except for the purpose of showing that they were in existence, the manoeuvre was utterly useless.

Nicholson, who was appointed to the command of the 1st Brigade, was very energetic, ever in the saddle, visiting the outposts, and questioning the officers in command of them.

One morning when on duty at the Subzee Munde, it was reported to me that an English woman, accompanied by a native, had made her escape from Delhi, and reached the picquet. I went down, and found a half-caste woman, who said she was the wife of a writer, and a swaggering, thievish-looking rascal, apparently an Affghan. We gave them some breakfast; and while I was deliberating how I should send them into camp, Nicholson made his appearance. He at once called them before him, and talked for a long time to the man in a language of which I could not understand a word. But I noticed that the man's swagger soon evaporated; as he answered Nicholson's questions, standing on one leg, round which he nervously twisted and untwisted the other. Presently Nicholson called me up, and said, "I can't quite make this man out; but I think that he is a spy. I know the village near Peshawur from which he comes; I know his father, and I know his brother; but I don't know him. I'll take him into camp with me; some of my fellows will be sure to know him," and away he took both of them, with what ultimate result I never heard; but for three days after, the Affghan was seen sitting in the sun in

front of Nicholson's tent, in the hope that some one would identify him. The woman was hospitably entertained by the wife of one of the staff.

On the 16th two gun lascars were brought up for trial before a military commission, of which I was president, on the charge of tampering with the service ammunition. The first had gone roughly to work, and substituted broken glass and gravel for powder in the cartridges. The second was more astute. On the right of our line of picquets we had some five and a half-inch mortars in position, which were used for shelling the sepoy in the suburb beyond the Subzee Munde; and according as they advanced or retired, smaller or larger charges of powder were required for the cartridges. The powder was weighed out by a serjeant, and poured into the bags through a paper funnel, which was held by the lascar. The officer after a while finding that his shells alternately fell short of and went beyond the mark, sent an angry message to the serjeant, who, having his suspicions roused by it, a few minutes later seized the lascar's hand; and found that by pinching the paper funnel while the powder was being poured through it, he had managed to diminish the charge in one, and increase it in the next. This being the first time that I had tried any one on a capital charge, it was at least an hour before the proceedings terminated, and the prisoners were sentenced to be hanged; and on leaving the tent I was accosted by an old stager, who said, "Well! you've been a precious time polishing off those rascals. ———"

of the Carbineers would have hung a dozen in half the time." Certainly, as I afterwards found out, most cases were disposed of under the "Summary Procedure Act." One morning, when in command of the Mosque Picquet, as I was sitting down to breakfast, two of my men came and asked to be allowed to use my telescope; and when I went out afterwards, I found that they had taken prisoner the man who had charge of our mess goats, whom they said they had watched into a house under the town walls, which I well knew was always occupied by the enemy. I heard their story; and shortly afterwards sent the prisoner down to the provost-martial, with a letter, stating the circumstances, and offering to have the two witnesses relieved from picquet, and to send them down into camp to give their evidence. In the course of an hour or so, I received, to my astonishment, a most polite reply, informing me that my report was quite sufficient, and that the man had been hanged.

Meanwhile, our approaches were pushed nearer to the walls, especially on the extreme right, to which point, although it was enfiladed, it was thought judicious to attract the enemy's attention; but more reinforcements having joined, and the siege train having come in, on the night of the 7th September a large force of working parties and armed guards were pushed down to our left front. My party was employed in the Khoodsia Bagh, about 250 yards in front of the water bastion, to cut down trees and fill sandbags for a battery which was to be constructed there. We paraded at the Engineer's Park at 7 P.M., but continually receiving contradictory

instructions, did not get to our post until past midnight, and soon after 5 A.M. we returned to camp. The enemy did not know what we were about; and being somewhat protected by a wall we suffered no loss. Some of the other brigades were less fortunate.

After this the works on the left, the real point of attack, were pushed forward as quickly as possible. We lost a few men, and Atkinson had a narrow escape, being knocked over by the explosion of a shell. On the 8th the breaching batteries opened on the Cashmere and water bastions, to which the enemy replied, and, bringing out rocket tubes, gave us a pretty display of fireworks.

CHAPTER XII.

ON the 13th Sept., at midnight, I was awoke by Stopford, who told me I was wanted at the colonel's tent. There I learnt that we were to assault at 3 A.M., and that I was to command the storming party of the third column. I saw a map of the place, with our route marked out; and the colonel gave me full instructions as to what I was to do. It was arranged that we were to go down in the dark, accompanied by an explosion party of Engineers, and blow in the Cashmere Gate, of which I was to take possession.

At 3 A.M. we paraded; but were kept standing about, and wasting the precious hours of darkness, in consequence of somebody or something not being ready. At last, but after daybreak, we found ourselves close to Ludlow Castle, from which a straight broad road, about a quarter of a mile in length, led to the Cashmere bastion and gate. The first battalion 60th Rifles, which was to cover the advance, was in front, then my storming party of fifty of the 52nd; behind which came the supports, under Crosse, consisting of fifty men from each of the regiments composing the column, viz., the 52nd, the

Kumaon battalion of Ghoorkhas, and Coke's Regiment. In rear of the supports was the column; the whole under Colonel Campbell, commanding the 52nd. The batteries around us were playing furiously on the breaches and curtain, and some thirty mortars were shelling the houses inside the walls. The enemy replied as well as they could, and occasionally sent a shot among us. At last, at about 6 A.M., the signal to advance was given, and the 60th dashed down the road, breaking into a loud cheer, when ordered to extend, and keep down the fire from the walls. The stormers, accompanied by an explosion party, followed them at a distance of about fifty yards; and on reaching the glacis, the former lay down under a pelting fire of musketry, while the sappers rushing up to the gate laid the powder bags against it, and blew it off its hinges; not, however, before five out of seven, the number of which the explosion party consisted, had been stretched on the ground by the enemy's fire. Hawthorne, a bugler of the 52nd, who accompanied the powder party, then several times sounded the regimental call, as a signal that the explosion had been successful; but the rattle of musketry from the walls was so loud and incessant that the bugle was inaudible where we were; but, about half a minute after the explosion, we made a rush for the gate, the lower part of which was hidden from us by a rise in the ground. A few moments afterwards, a bullet smashed my left arm just below the elbow joint, and knocked me over. I was up at once, and hardly knew that I was wounded, but during the slight delay caused by my endeavouring to pick up my sword and hat, my men had rushed past

me, and were furiously crushing through the narrow opening in the glacis which was partly closed by a mantlet. The supports, which had come up while the powder was being laid, now joined the rear of the stormers, and closely followed by the column rushed headlong through the gate, most of the defenders of which had been killed or disabled by the explosion. They were all soon inside, but Crosse, who had run forward on seeing that I was wounded, was the first to enter.

The column, being speedily reformed, cleared the Cashmere and water bastions with the bayonet, and then set to work to fight their way through the narrow streets to the Jumma Musjid, on the further side of the town. Three other columns, which had assaulted on our left, were now inside the walls, and the fifth, consisting of the picquets from the ridge, and the Cashmere contingent, had orders to capture the battery at Kishengunge on the right, and then join Nicholson, who with the first column, after entering by the breach in the Cashmere bastion, was to clear the walls to the right; but the fifth column met with so determined a resistance, that they failed in their attack and had to retire, the Cashmerees losing some guns; and Nicholson, after passing the Caubul Gate, found that he could get no further, and there, in making a final attempt, he received a wound, from the effects of which he died a few days after.

Meanwhile, our column pushed quickly through the town, driving the enemy before them, and not meeting with any very serious resistance, and here they were greatly assisted by Sir Theophilus Metcalfe, who behaved most gallantly throughout the

day, and whose perfect acquaintance with the streets of the city was of the utmost service to the colonel in command.

On approaching the Jumma Musjid, the gates were found to have been built up, and there was no powder at hand to blow them in. The enemy in its neighbourhood were very numerous, and their fire from the surrounding houses very hot. It was plain that we could not force our way in, but Colonel Campbell would not at once retire, as he was loth to give ground before the rebels, and naturally expected that the columns in rear would soon be up; but after waiting some time, and losing some men, he decided to retreat to the Begum's Bagh, which he held for a considerable time, until, there being no sign of the reinforcements which he had asked for, and his men falling fast by the fire from the houses around, he was at last compelled to retire on the main body at the church at 1.30 P.M. As it is impossible for any one to give a correct account of what took place where he was not engaged, it is better not to hazard a conjecture as to why we were not supported. The result was that that night we held only a small part of the town just inside the breaches by which we had entered.

Considering the number of the 52nd engaged, our losses were considerable. Colonel Campbell, Atkinson and I were wounded; and Bradshaw was killed, while gallantly charging a gun; while 22 men were killed and 62 wounded, out of 240 who paraded for the assault.

After the columns were in, I returned to Ludlow Castle; as my wound was becoming very painful,

and I was losing blood fast. On my way back I had a narrow escape from a shrapnel, which bursting just behind me, severely hurt a wounded man, who was leaning on my shoulder.

Under a wall I found an assistant-surgeon of the 61st, who bound up my arm, and offered me some brandy, which I refused as I did not feel faint; at which he seemed much surprised. I gave him the contents of my flask; and he then put me into a dholey, the bearers of which he ordered to take me up to camp; but they had previously been told to carry all wounded men to the field hospital, in which, in spite of my remonstrances, I soon found myself placed just under the amputating table, at which the surgeons were already busily employed. It was a horrible scene. Around me were more than a hundred dholeys, each containing a wounded man. Next to me was a poor fellow of the 60th, the lower half of whose face had been entirely carried away; to the left one shot through the body; next to him one minus an arm; while above me on the table was a Sikh, whose leg was being amputated at the thigh. Luckily, it was not long before Innes, our "long Scotch doctor" as he was called by the men, found me out, and after a slight inspection, forwarded me on to camp. There I paid a visit to Ingham, one of our assistant-surgeons, who was on the sick list. He endeavoured to stop the bleeding of my wound, but without success. The native servants in camp seemed very uneasy, having received some private information which led them to expect a raid from the enemy's cavalry—as all the troops, with the exception of fifty European convalescents, were in

the town. It was very exciting; the firing in Delhi being as loud as ever, and no one for some time returning to report progress. In the afternoon a dholey appeared, and stopped at the tent next to mine. Atkinson, thought I; and seeing him lifted out, stiff and stark, by the head and heels, I thought that he must have been killed very early in the day. On going into his tent, however, I found him lively enough; though unable to move—the stiffness having been caused, first, by his having been upset into a cactus bush; then by a rap in the ribs from a spent shot; and finally by the unusually severe pedestrian exercise to which he had been subjected during the day's fighting; he being a mighty rider, and not given to walking, except at such times as duty required, and he could not help it. From him, and afterwards from a few others, I got an inkling of what was going on in the town; and afterwards, in the evening, I received a visit from Colonel, afterwards Sir Hope Grant, of the 9th Lancers, who had taken command of the camp, after having been exposed to a heavy fire from the walls and suburb on the right during the whole morning.

Fearing a raid from the enemy's cavalry I did not go to bed; but lay down in my clothes, with a revolver handy. And on the third night, amidst frightful yells and cries of *Māro, Māro* (kill, kill), I found myself standing outside the tent, revolver in hand, with the rain falling in torrents. Here they are at last, thought I, and was about to run for the ridge; when the noise ceased, and all was quiet. In the morning I learnt that a robber had been discovered in the colonel's tent by a servant, whose cry

of "Māro" had been taken up by the syces, who, with the regimental tattoos, were located in rear of my tent.

In the town our outposts were continually advanced; and one position after another being taken from the enemy, who resisted strongly, on the 20th the palace was occupied by the British troops, and the mutineers evacuated the city.

Hodson, with his regiment of Irregular horse, made the King of Delhi prisoner; and brought him in, with the bodies of his three sons, who, on being captured, were at once shot.

Measures were then taken to ascertain and realize the prize captured by the army; and a force under Colonel Greathead of the 8th Regiment, was sent in pursuit of the flying enemy. Being recommended for leave to the hills, on the 27th I started, having a carriage to myself; and, on the 2nd October, reached Simla, where I was most hospitably entertained by Dr. Peskett, the staff-surgeon of the station, with whom I stayed until the 29th January, 1858. The station was full of ladies, wounded officers, and invalids; and as the houses were scattered over a very large area, and were approachable only by very steep roads, up and down hill, Peskett was in the saddle from daybreak until long after dark.

Shortly after my arrival there, the snow began to fall; and when I left, it was several feet in depth.

Provisions became scarce; and every bottle of beer, wine, and spirits in the station having been consumed, we were reduced to commissariat rum, which Peskett managed to get from Kussowlie as a "medical comfort."

Notwithstanding, we passed a very enjoyable time; and were sorry, when the roads being open, we were obliged to take our departure.

I rode down with Lord William Hay as far as Kalka, and then on by myself to Umballa, where I found Henley, who had just come up from the fighting at Cawnpore. The mail cart took us to Jullundur, where we found the 52nd; and on the 6th February I arrived at Lahore; from which place I started by mail cart at 1 A.M. on the 7th, and reached Moulton, a distance of 250 miles, at 6 A.M. on the 8th. This was a most fatiguing journey. The cart had no springs to speak of, and the road was in general villainously bad. The horses were unbroken, and vicious; which latter failing was made worse by the ill-treatment which they received at the hands of the native syces and drivers. We travelled at full gallop, where the state of the road permitted it; and there was a change every seven miles, when the horses, on being put in, generally lay down; and the whole force at the post-house hauled at them with ropes, and belaboured them with bamboos. Once off, they went at a gallop to the next stage; unless, which occurred frequently, we came to a bit of road, where the sand was up to the axles; when they came to a standstill; and then, the coachman and I had great difficulty in extricating the cart and getting it off the road; after which we pursued our way through the jungle by the side, until the road appeared fit to travel on.

At night it froze; and by day the heat was very great. There was no sort of support for one's back; and before we got to Moulton, I was fairly tired out,

and continually in danger of falling off, as I was unable to keep awake.

Once in the Dāk Bungalow at Moultan, I had some tea, and a long sleep; after which I moved up to the station, and joined Trench, Atkinson, and a number of other officers, who were living in the mess tent of the 69th Native Infantry, in the mess compound. On the 17th I started down the Indus in a steamer, having a flat in tow; and arrived at the mouth of the river on the 26th, where the *Hugh Lindsay* steamer received us on board, and took us to Kurrachee.

On the 2nd March we left for Bombay, which we reached on the 5th; and here I learnt that I had got my brevet majority for Delhi.

The homeward-bound ships being at this period very crowded, Trench, Atkinson, and I thought ourselves very lucky in being able to get a steward's cabin on board the *Ottawa*, which left for Suez on the 9th. The party on board consisted of sick and wounded men, and widows and orphans—and Heaven forbid that I should ever again find myself on board ship in company with children brought up in India. They were perfect little devils; and for the first day or two had a fine time of it, as many of the passengers were cripples, and unable to move after them.

Greatly do I envy those fortunate people who have not yet read Thackeray's "Book of Snobs." They have a treat in reserve, such as they can never expect to be provided by modern writers.

In the prefatory remarks to that work, he lays down as an axiom, that "when the times and neces-

sities of the world call for a Man, that individual is found ;” and he goes on to illustrate this by the case of Mr. Washington ; who, when it was found necessary to kick John Bull out of America, stepped forward, and performed that operation satisfactorily—and of Mr. Holloway, who cured the Earl of Aldborough, by administering pills, when that nobleman’s state was nearly desperate. Such a Man on board the *Ottawa* was Trench of the 52nd. From the second day of our homeward voyage he was the terror of mischievous and impertinent children. When a complaint was made to him respecting the bad behaviour of one of them, he sought out the offender, whom he smilingly led away, paying no attention to the remonstrances of its mamma, to the fore part of the deck, from whence, a few moments after, a sound, resembling the clapping of hands, accompanied by loud howls, was heard ; after which the culprit was allowed to rejoin its angry parent.

In a few days the effect of this discipline was very apparent ; and peace and comfort pretty nearly established. There were one or two young persons who continued to be troublesome ; but a call for Trench never failed to send them to their cabins double quick.

We were nearly wrecked in the Red Sea ; and passed a steamer which had coaled at Aden with us, high on a reef of rocks not far from Suez ; from which latter place, in order to join the railway across the desert, we had to travel some twenty miles in small omnibuses ; each containing six passengers, and drawn by four unbroken Arab ponies. Each party of six had been made up on board ship ; and

consequently one omnibus was filled by the six most disagreeable passengers, who were all at feud with each other and with everybody else, and with whom no one wished to travel.

Some thirty of these vehicles started simultaneously from Suez at full gallop; but, in five or ten minutes one came to grief in the deep sand; and then all the rest had to stop until it was extricated. Then away we went again until another was in difficulties. There was no road; or rather, the track resembled Oxford Street with the pavement up; and the jolting was frightful; the insides flying into each other's arms every moment. Proceeding onwards by fits and starts we at last reached the train, which arrived at Alexandria the next morning at 6 A.M. The same night, the 26th, we embarked on board the *Malabar*, which stopped to coal at Malta on the 30th, when we had time to go on shore and see the place.

On the 4th April we landed for a few hours at Gibraltar; where I found my cousin, George Bayley, who was quartered there with the 31st Regiment.

We sailed again the same day, and reached Southampton on the 9th, just one month after leaving Bombay.

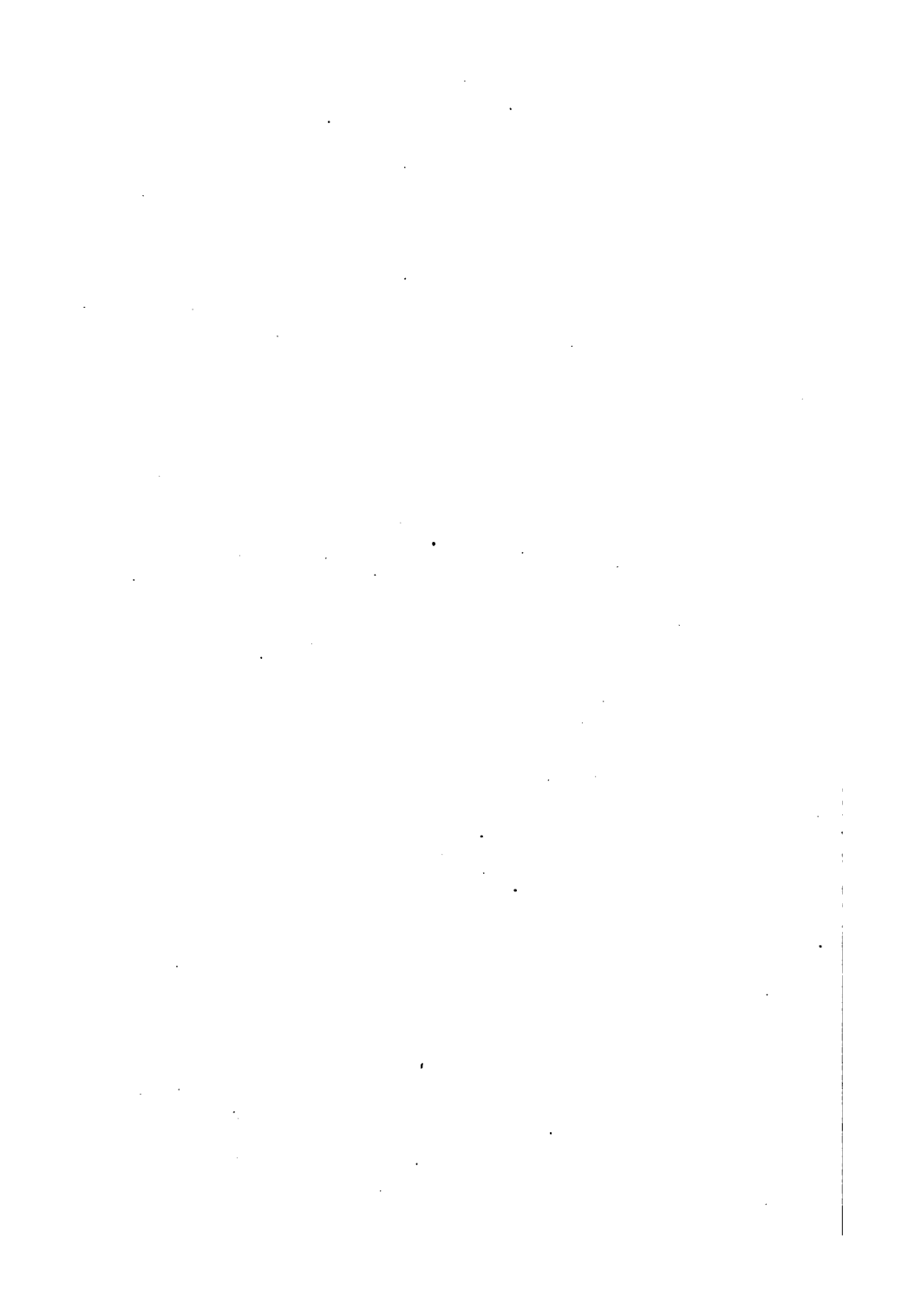
On reporting myself in London, I was sent before a Medical Board, which gave me six months' leave and £211 7s. 11d. blood-money.

In June I went to a ball at Buckingham Palace, where I was specially presented to the Queen; as was the case, I believe, with all field officers who had recently returned from the seat of war in India.

I then went to Scotland and Wales, my leave being twice extended; and after that was attached to the depôt at Chatham, a most unsatisfactory piece of service; after two months of which, having received the offer of a civil appointment in London, I sent in my papers, and was gazetted out of the service on the 18th April, 1859.

45

815



Stanford University Libraries



3 6105 018 279 229

STANFORD UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
CECIL H. GREEN LIBRARY
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 94305-6004
(415) 723-1493

All books may be recalled after 7 days

DATE DUE

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
|--|--|



