MY FIRST TIGER.

A STORY OF ADVENTURE IN INDIA.

(Continued.)

As a matter of course, this news created not a little stir among us. I can see our party now, and remember each incident that occurred, although it is more than twenty years since the events I am relating happened. We sat in various positions, and vested in curious shooting jackets and other garments, smoking our after-dinner cigars, questioning and listening to Hassein's tale. Poor old fellow!

Long before we went to bed all our arrangements were made. There was a good, well trained sporting elephant for each of the party, all of them, with the exception of myself, had more than once assisted at the death of a tiger. Our camp was left standing where it was, for we expected to be back before breakfast. A little after 2 a. m. Hassein went round our tents and awoke us, and by 3 o'clock we were fully under way. I, being the only young hand of the party, was entrusted especially to the care of the shikarie, who arranged to accompany me on my elephant, and promised me a good place when we got to the ground. So far as I could understand—for the old fellow's English was limited, and of Hindostance I could only speak a very few words—from what Hassein told me on our way to the scene of action, he did not hope to get within shot of the tiger while the latter was at the pool, but to be able to trace the beast from thence to its usual haunts, and then beat it up in the usual manner. The tiger, he informed me, was one which "got a "madam," meaning thereby that it had, probably, a female and cubs, and could not wander very far from where the latter were to be found.

On our way to the ground, however, Hassein changed his plans. He stopped the elephants that were plodding along, each one with a sportsman and his battery of rifles on its back, and after a long conference in Hindostance with the rest of the party, I was told that we were to leave our elephants and proceed on foot—I being, as before, under the special care of the shikarie. The mahouts in charge of the elephants had orders to remain where they were, but to come toward us quickly the moment they heard a shot fired. After about a quarter of an hour's quick walking we came to a tope, or clump of trees, situated, so far as I could judge in the moonlight, about sixty yards from a large pool of shallow water. Two of the party—Captain Ring and Mr. Hogan, who were the best shots—he placed behind a large boulder of rock, which commanded a good view of the pool, but was at least eighty yards from it; three more he placed in different trees of the small grove, whilst the "chota saib," or youngster, (meaning myself,) he took with him to the tree which was nearest the pool, and at the same time was least high from the ground, and, consequently, easiest to shoot from. These various arrangements took some little time, and they were barely complete when Hassein, who was standing on a tree just below me, pinched my arm, and, pointing with his chin to the east, made me see that the first peep of dawn was coloring the horizon. "Soon him come."

Nor had we long to wait. In the dim grey of the morning—the moon having gone down since we arrived—I could make out that there was an animal drinking at the pool, but it might have been a calf, a colt—anything. It certainly looked much smaller than I had expected to see a Bengal royal tiger, and it was not until Hassein had again and again declared it to be "him tiger," that I believed I saw my first tiger in the jungles. Hassein feared that, in my anxiety to kill, I should fire before I could see the animal well, and thus frighten him away without any of the others of the party getting a shot at him. However, the light was getting stronger every moment, and, as I very soon felt calm and self-possessed enough to take aim, I quickly cocked my single barrelled rifle, which carried a two ounce ball, and which I had already sighted for as near the distance as I could guess.

The only fear I felt was lest some of my companions should shoot before me, and kill the brute before I could do so. This thought no doubt flurried me a little, but otherwise no more certain aim was ever taken from behind gun or rifle than I took. Just as I was to pull the trigger, the tiger looked up from drinking, moved a little further into the pool, and brought his broadside full to me. This, of course, made my shot all the easier, and gave me fresh courage. I aimed direct at the shoulder, and the fearful roar that followed told me plainer than any words could, that I had not missed the brute.

But I had neither killed nor even disabled the tiger to the extent of hindering him from getting away. In a moment, and repeating again the tremendous roar, he had turned and was making off. As he did so, two shots rang out from the rock where my brother officer and his companions were stationed. So far as I could judge, the first of them missed him—but the second stopped him. He tumbled forward, as a horse that has put his foot on a rolling stone might do. But in a moment he was up again, and I could see that he dragged one of his hind legs behind him, evidently broken, whilst with one of his fore legs he leaped with great pain, and seemed badly hurt. A moment more, and he was hid from our sight by some thick undergrowth.

Like most young sportsmen, I was rash enough to wish to follow him on foot, but Captain Ring, who was by common consent the leader of the party would not listen to such folly. He insisted upon waiting until the elephants came up, and then tracking the animal to his lair. A wounded tiger is not a pleasant creature to meet—the more so as you can never know when he may spring out upon you. Captain Ring was by far too old a hand at tiger shooting, and had witnessed too many accidents, to be rash on these occasions. The mahouts, moreover, had been on the alert, and at the first sound of our firing had made towards the spot where we had left them, not less than a quarter of a mile far and we had departed, where speed is [illegible] sent.

That evening old Hassein, who was now [illegible] rie, returned to camp, and [illegible] news—"kubber," as it is called in [illegible] direction the animal had taken, and every here and there large fresh drops of blood showed that the animal had been badly wounded. Sickening very plainly did the old shikarie weight.

(To be continued.)

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As may be seen by the following article, which we copy from the New Orleans *Times* of 15th inst., Buck & Wright have borne off the highest premium in the stove line at the New Orleans Fair. Six entries were made with Buck's "Brilliant," away ahead of the heap.

The great stove trial was resumed yesterday at 12 o'clock, before a largely increased crowd over the day preceding. The utmost good humor seemed to prevail, both among the exhibitors and spectators, all of whom seemed thoroughly imbued with the good old P. R. principle of "may the best stove win." Promptly to the time the committee appeared on the judges' stand, Saunders particularly glowing with excitement and responsibility. The entries were the same as at the previous trial, and the engineers had not been changed.

At ten minutes to one the drum tapped, and all lighted up. Norton's Furnace, run by Mr. E. Wood Perry, led off in smoke, amid the cheers of the crowd and loud cries of "Go it, old one." Charter Oak followed, and the rest gave vapor immediately after. In four minutes, just as they were (as we might say reckoning the quarter stretch,) "Cotton Plant" popped in bread; all followed suit as quickly as though life depended on the issue, but Buck's Brilliant had started fire with bread already in the stove. Then came the tug, the cookers looked as if they glowed like the stoves, a perpetual snapping of opening and shutting doors resounded over the arena. Stoves were patted, coaxed and petted as though they were human beings. All seemed confident of winning, and the crowd enlivened the scene with numerous and encouraging comments from time to time. Mr. Perry's efforts seeming to be the greatest favored.

At twenty minutes past one "Cotton Plant" threw open its throttle valves and announced that it wanted no more fuel. All the others "shut up" and "keeping dark." As the time for the bread to be baked approached, excitement had increased to a boiling heat, both within and without the ring. At last Peerless turned out its bread in 41 minutes; Norton's Furnace followed suit, in 42:15; Cotton Plant next, in 43, then Charter Oak, in 43:2; then Good Samaritan, 44:30, and lastly Buck's Brilliant, in 47. The result of the trial was as follows:

Norton's Furnace, E. Wood Perry, bread weighed 7 lbs 3 oz; burned fuel 7¼ lbs.
Charter Oak, Rice, Bros. & Co., bread weighed 7 lbs 4 oz; burned fuel 6¾ lbs.
Peerless, Campman & Co., bread weighed 7 lbs 4 oz; burned fuel 6¾ lbs.
Good Samaritan, bread weighed 7 lbs 3 oz; burned fuel, 7½ pounds.
Cotton Plant, Levi & Davis, bread weighed 7 lbs 1 oz; burned fuel, 7¼ lbs.
Buck's Brilliant, Buck & Wright, bread weighed 7 lbs 4 oz; burned fuel, 3½ lbs.

At the conclusion of the trial, the bread was taken charge of by the Awarding Committee and locked up for an hour, at the expiration of which it was all eaten by them, in accordance with their duty, and the gold medal awarded for best wood stoves to Buck & Wright, of St. Louis, honorable mention being made of the Peerless, Campman & Co., N.O. [illegible] Jan. 15.

d116 & s17-1m & w8-1

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