

## Journal.

Saturday June 22 set off from Dinapore in a Budgerow with Hume at 9 oclock having slept on board during the previous night, we had a glorious [?] and ran along beautifully, we got the Budgerow into a little order before we started and the Cabin now looks pretty well, there are 2 rooms one a much smaller one which is my Bed room. We (lagoned) i.e. "fastened the Boat to the shore" a little before sunset near a village called Borjah about 4 miles before Chuprah and I took my gun & had a walk. I found no game to shoot at so I knocked over a Couple of Birds to keep my hand in one of them was a sort of crane or kingfisher or something of that sort and was beautifully marked every single feather was white tipped with Black.

June 23rd set sail about 5 in the morning with a good breeze and we went up on Deck and had a Cup of Tea enjoying the air the breeze increased and we flew past all the other boats that were going the same way; we did not get Breakfast till 11 in consequence of the Cook Boat being so slow - And the wind changing to the wrong quarter we were delayed some time. We made a good run today about 20 miles or more and lagoned near Seerpore a small village. We had a storm during the night which kept us awake for an hour or two.

June 24th started at 5 with a good breeze and got to Duboly at 12 miles shot nothing.

June 25th off at 5 a little breeze. Shot nothing went to sleep after dinner and lost our walk.

26th. All things as usual. Wind dead against us so we had to tow. Lagoned off Buxar near a sand bank. Went out and shot  $\frac{1}{2}$  a dozen terns Black heads and ash coloured bodies.

27th heavy storm at night. Breeze against us so we do not get on much - went out in the evening on a sandbank and had a long chase after 6 wild Geese immense fellows just as I got within shot they rose & I sent a bullet after them quite forgetting that a fleet of Boats were lying in a line with me. I had to pass these boats going home and a great crowd came out and one fellow showed me my Bullet which according to his account had gone among the Boats and into the Bank between a man and a Dog who were sitting together. Rather close shave Eh - I only succeeded in destroying a kind of Bittern or Heron. In the evening a heavy storm of wind and Rain &c.

June 28th. We did not get off till late. Wind against us but nice and cool.

June 29th (My Birthday) we got to Ghazepore or rather passed it on the way. Wind rather against us.

June 30. Wind Do. I suppose you would like to know how I pass my time on Board. Get up 7 oclock

Breakfast 8

Read, write & amuse myself with one thing and the other till 12

Then Glass of Sherry & Biscuit

3 o'clock Dinner

Between 5 - 6 the Boat is Lagoned and I go out for a stroll with my Gun. Come back about 8, then Bathe (if the River allows it). Cup of coffee, Chat and to Bed.

Under the head of amusements come such things as making Ball Cartridges a Game of Back Gammon or Chess covering Bullets with leather - making fishing Lines - firing at wild Geese &

Alligators &c on the sandbanks that we pass. We take our Coffee seated on the Roof of the Budgerow - Listening to the howl of the Jackals which it is very easy to make out for instance "where am I to get my D-i-n-n-e-r" the later word greatly lengthened. "Where Where" - then another answers "Here Here" - And then a concert of screams, yells & howls from all quarters as they hasten down to the river side to take their supper of cold natives. The Mosquitoes Bully us most awfully I have not had a single comfortable night since I came on Board.

July 1. Today we had a nice breeze and away we went merrily every now and then Bumping on the Sandbanks &c. In the evening we came within sight of the holy city of Benares and lagoned under its Banks.

July 2nd we remained till near 2 oclock off Benares - And a most magnificent city it is - the houses very high Beautiful Ghauts by the River side (large flights of steps very Broad with a Moeque or some other Building of the sort at the top). Tombs, temples, minarets &c peeping out from the houses. It is a very large place - And we were very much pleased with it we did not land on account of the hot sun - we lagoned in the evening about 3 miles off Benares passing on our way a large Palace belonging to some Rajah or other. At night it came on to pour and as we were obliged to shut all the windows it was very warm so we sat up till it chose to give over. And then I had my first real good night for not one Mosquitoe had found its way through the Musquitoe Curtains.

July 3rd. We found it blowing and raining hard and it continued so for some time. The wind being against us so we made but little way today about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles.

July 4th. Raining and blowing hard against us we did not move all day. I went out in the mornning but did not find anything.

July 5th. Wind hard against us we made about a mile in the whole day, we saw some hills in the distance and there was a fort by the river side but we did not reach it there was also the tower of an English [?] among the trees.

July 6th. The wind a little better so we managed to sail but very slowly passed the station and fort of Chunar in the morning it is an invalid Establishment and seems a very nice



place the fort is on a high hill overlooking the river we got some fresh Bread and butter it is a thing worth mentioning and was very eatable. Lagoned for some time in the morning waiting for the Cook Boat so I went out for a walk. Immense quantities of insects flying about But I could not make them out they seemed very busy fighting and shaking off their wings. Breakfasted at 11 - a very fashionable hour!! After Breakfast a turn of the River Brought the wind against us so we go on very slowly the sky looks very threatening. In the Evening we found the oil of our lamp (a tumbler  $\frac{1}{2}$  water  $\frac{1}{2}$  oil) filled thick with flies and the whole table where the light had been literally covered with wings.

I was out for a long time this evening But saw nothing but a few pigeons - the hills still in sight 5 or 6 miles from the River.

July 7 Wind against us the air pleasantly cool, sailing under a high bank - one of the men caught a young bird on the bank the native name is (Nil Kanth) or the Coracias Bengalensis - with Blue wings great numbers live in the holes of the Banks. The other side of the river is quite flat with Jungle - very close at night as the wind was kept off from us by the high bank. We heard the Guns from Mirzapore.

July 8 the Wind has changed and we are now running before it. I hope we shall be at Mirzapore today.

We got there in the morning and passed it with a good breeze. Went ashore today and found the country quite wild and uncultivated. It was very late or I might have shot something as there were many Partridges about.

July 9. Wind pretty good made a nice run. The country this Evening was beautifully wooded. I went out early and roamed about for a long time shooting Pigeons - came home pretty tired, and in the night was agreeably awoken by the rats running all about my Bed, very pleasant indeed.

July 10 a glorious breeze we shall most likely be in Allahabad today if the wind holds. No nothing of the sort for as the river twists in a most strange manner at one [minute] we are sailing along at a fine rate and the next turn brings the wind straight against us.

July 11 today we came within sight of the fort but not till the

evening and we lagged on the opposite side of the river on account of the stream being so strong.

July 12. This morning we anchored off the town and I went up in a palkee to see an officer of the 1st (Mainwaring) who was on duty here. It is a very beautiful station - a number of drives all round the fort looks very fine and stands on the junction of the Ganges and Jumna, we passed some men burning a body on the Bank of the river. There are some fine temples and I passed by one that was building of very large size with beautiful arches all round something like the moorish.

July 13 up and in a palkee (Both of us) at 7 oclock to look for the steam office as we were expecting our uniforms from Calcutta. But no - and we had to make a long search for nothing. We came back late to get breakfast I finished mine as the clock struck two - how fashionable. We lagged between 4 & 5 and I went out for nothing wild goose chase on the sand. But I could not ~~shame~~ touch them, however I went ashore and wandered about in a quantity of jhow (a plant that grows like broom) were I picked up 2 Brace of Rain Quail (they have just come in and are beautiful eating) we had a glorious bathe in the Evening. This morning the stream was tremendously strong like a mill stream and the banks were falling in everywhere - so we made about a mile today and were 2 hours doing that being towed up against wind and stream.

July 14. Tremendous stream and they cannot get the Boat to move anyhow on the shore there are a flock picking a dead body and we have been abreast of them all the morning. In trying to get to the opposite side the stream took us down stream below where we set off from this morning, very pleasant work this - and we lagged in the same place as yesterday Evening.

July 15. By dint of hard labour and 8 other hands we got to the other side and gradually woked up and upon turning the corner we got the wind and went along merrily, lagged on a large sand bank there was a quantity of Jhow all over it but I did not take my gun as I had been physicking myself. In the night it came on to blow and rain &c most furiously.

July 16. The wind is in our favour and we go along merrily. I did not get out shooting this evening as I was not quite Well.

July 17. Wind very light we had to tow all the way in the afternoon. We came to very pretty country the grass beautifully



green with trees over hanging the water and here & there fields of young rice of a most delicious green - then the bank would become high and steep with bushes and creepers hanging down. We went on very slowly and I had a great mind to get on shore and walk on with my gun, but I am sorry I did not go. I went on shore in the evening but it was too late though I saw or rather heard numbers of quail getting up round me. I made up my mind to get up early before the boat started but I found it raining hard. I forgot to say that for the last 3 or 4 days we have seen something very like mountains in the far distance and we have come to the conclusion that they are the Himalayahs,

July 18. <sup>Good</sup> ~~Gold~~ Breeze. Banks sometimes very wild covered with jungle with I should think much game in them. But I did not try.

July 19. Went out in the middle of the day as we were being towed along on a large island and wandered about with my Gun for some time But I only bagged a Partridge 1 Quail and a large snake about 4 feet long a black fellow called the Nag, very poisonous. Went out again in the evening and succeeded in killing a hare it is my first, and made a very nice hash.

July 20. Banks very wild - passed an old native fort in ruins. The trees grow down to the river and hang over very prettily went ashore early and I only shot 1 quail (or rather something of the sort for it was very different from the common sort) and 1 dove which were made into a small curry and eat for breakfast on the

July 21st (My father's Birthday). Went on today with a good breeze and we made a good run of it. Strolled out in the Evening But there was nothing to be found.

July 22nd (Richard's Birthday). This morning saw 2 Alligators But my gun not being loaded I could not get a nearer view of them. Also saw a Bird of the crane species with Purple feathers, and 3 others, they all came one after the other, and I could only look at them. In the Evening I went ashore and shot 4 Brace of Pigeons besides 2 strange Birds 1 was the Cuculus Castanens I do not know the English name and the other a sort of Toucan.

July 23rd Shot 2 quail & 1 Partridge in the day time. Came up to the other side of the river to Cawnpore and lagoned there.

July 24th crossed the river and arrived at Cawnpore on the 32nd day of our travels.

July 26th left Cannanpore. We were fearfully Bothered with flies from that place which we did not lose for several days. The stream is very strong and the water shallow so we got on very slowly today also for the 27th & 28th it was the same nothing happened except that on the 28th I shot 3 snakes 2 were in the water and though I did not see them dead I think they will be quite harmless in future. I shot them in the head as they were swimming and after kicking a little they sunk. The other one was a fine fellow about 3 or 4 ft long and very poisonous.

July 29th. Oh dear!!! today the wind was Bad and as we were going to order dinner (about 3 oclock) we heard a great disturbance and on getting ashore (for we were close to it) we saw that the cook boat had got entangled with another larger boat and all we could see was just the roof of it. They were trying to hold it near the shore in a very strong stream by one rope and that a thin one. A few things such as crockery ware glasses the 2 goats 12 fowls 2 ducks & 1 goose were all that were saved. The rope broke and away it rolled down stream with 2 men on it. (We knew they were safe as the natives are a sort of amphibious animal and take to the water like ducks) so we ran along the bank till she stopped in the middle of the river on a sandbank and then we had the pleasure of finding there was no getting at her. We stopped for some time but there was nothing to be done so slowly & sadly we all walked home and left her alone in her glory. Luckily she had nearly been swamped a week or so before and we had taken most of the provisions out of her But all our cooking utensils and the potatoes, firing, not to mention an unfortunate kid all went to feed the fishes. Made our dinner on a grilled fowl and some half baked (chupatties) a sort of round cake like oatmeal cakes and congratulated ourselves that it was no worse. The unfortunate Mangi (or head man) of the cook boat sat down on the bank and began to cry like a child. We gave him some money and left him. I suppose he was most likely nearly if not quite ruined by it. There is a nice story for you. Now do not laugh at it for we had a very poor dinner it was to have been roast duck and curry but I hope the fishes were poisoned.

July 30. Set off as usual only there was a little wind and that was the right way so we hoisted sails and left the scene of our misfortunes far behind us.

August 8. You see I have been very idle in not continuing my journal for so long a time But I must try and make up from this. We went along for the most part fearfully slow But at last we got to Futteyghur on the 6th. We then replaced our losses and went on again and stopped near some ruined



Bungalows a short distance from Futteyghur and wandered about what had been a very pretty garden. We found many flowers none of which we had seen before and the gardener brought us 2 sprigs of sweet Briar (from some pet plant I fancy for we could not find it). What thoughts of England and every thing belonging to it did those little bits of green bring to my mind. I put my Bit in a Book with some myrtle. I have taken to picking up curious flowers, grasses &c. &c, & feathers from Birds that I have shot. A nosegay of our own gathering now stands on the table before me.

August 8 today we set off with a fine breeze and went along merrily But the breeze has increased to a gale and we are stuck on a bank for the present. Before we came to Futteyghur we lived chiefly on  $\frac{1}{2}$  baked chupatties, nothing but thin round cakes of dough. I wonder they did not make us ill. But they do not seem to have affected us. Would you like to know what my establishment consists of on shore. It will fill up this page nicely.

1st	1 Bearer or valet de chambre	)
	He takes care of all my goods	) He is paid 7Rs. a month.
	money and everything	)

1	Khitmudgar. He stands behind)
	my seat at dinner and takes
	care of the silver

1	Bhistie or water Carrier	5Rs.
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1	Mhatur or sweeper	4Rs.
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If I have a horse

1	Sice or groom	5Rs.
1	Grass cutter	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ Rs.

At some places

1	Chokydar to protect the	
	house at night	4Rs.

So much for my servants about 33 Rs. in all or £3.6s. a month.

What do you think we have taken into our heads to amuse ourselves with. We have turned Carpenters and have been making watch stands. Would you like to see what sort of a thing mine is. Rather a curious article But it does remarkably well. [sketch follows] The horizontal piece is white deal the rest is Brown a most peculiar creature I assure you.



August 9. A splendid breeze, the stream is very strong but we work up against it at a fine pace. As we were passing by some swamps this morning an alarm was given that a deer was seen close at hand. I slipped a couple of Balls into my gun and leaving my shoes behind me I went after him. But he got alarmed and was off before I could get within shot. He was a nyl-ghau (or Blue ox) and a very fine one. I discharged my gun at 2 birds as we passed But the boat was going at such a pace that I missed them. In the evening when I had loaded my gun to go out 2 Sarais were seen (large cranes and very handsome). I wounded one But I did not bag him however it was some luck doing as much as I did. I fired a ball at 2 Big birds in the Evening at a very long distance and I put the Ball between the 2 But I am afraid it was all chance. By the Bye I forgot to say that a few days ago I was nearly expended. I jumped out of the Budgerow as she was passing in the evening and my Bearer jumped after with my gun in his hand. Some how or other it went off and the Ball whistled by me and went among a herd of cattle But I do not think it did much harm there. However it has taught me a little experience.

I do not think I have told you that I am possessed of two little pups. One has turned out a pariah (native dog) a regular brute but the other, it was given me by Mrs. Rowcroft (the Major's wife in the 1st) I think will be a slight degree better.

August 10. Still got the breeze and we heard that we were 52 miles from Futteyghur. this morning so we are going ahead in style. Shot 2 partridges this evening.

August 11. A Fine Breeze. We landed this morning as we heard many peafowl in the jungle. I had a few shots, But I never succeeded in bringing them down. In the Evening as we were going round a Corner against a strong stream the towing rope broke and away we went down stream at a tremendous rate. We managed to recover our ground a little and got into the middle of the river where we lagoned on a sandbank with a strong stream between us and the shore. All the crew except 3 were on the shore.

August 12. As there was a little wind this morning we managed to set off & though we did get to the shore the stream took us against the bank with fearful force, ropes were thrown out to the men on shore, we both of us jumped out and with great difficulty managed to fasten the boat. We got on a few miles but that was all.

August 13. We are now running on with a little breeze. We ought to ~~be~~ be  $\frac{1}{2}$  way by this evening.

August 13 - 16. A strong Breeze blowing from the East and if it was not for that I do not know when we should get to Ghur Moktesir. I hope to be there in a day or 2 now. We saw some deer twice during the last 3 days But we were going at such a fine rate that it was a pity to stop the Budgerow so we left them to their meditations. On the 15th we came to Anopshebir and had the agreeable intelligence that a Budgerow coming down the river had been upset there 4 or 5 days before and the gentleman had lost all except a small Box of clothes. Pleasant certainly. However we have met with no accident to our Boat as yet & I hope all will go well.

August 17. Wind not good and we go very slowly. This morning I was told a peacock was in sight so I loaded my gun and away I went. My attendant pointed to an enormous tail spread above some small bushes. I crept up and fired 2 shots as he tried to get into a tree, and while he was up I hit him and down he tumbled. There was a hen but she had walked away. I went after her but did not find her and I shot 1 partridge 1 dove and 1 green pigeon. I have never shot the latter before. They are of a beautiful yellowish green and very good eating as I can testify.

August 18. Mighty slow. We are to have a curry made of Peacock's giblets today - a strange idea.

August 19. They actually went and sent the whole bird up for dinner. It was uneatable so we almost lost our dinner for the curry was nearly as bad.

Aug. 20. Saw 2 large Muggurs or Crocodiles who feed on human flesh but I could not get a shot at them. The wind is very bad and we can move only very slowly.

Aug. 23. Saw Ghur Moktesir but we did not get across till 1 o'clock on the 24th when we finished our river troubles and bid goodbye to the Budgerow and the holy ~~Ganges~~ Gunga.

Aug. 26. Having settled everything we set out this morning at 3 o'clock and walked (as there was no other way) to Sejahunpore 14 miles - pleasant - we arrived between 10 & 11 rather tired, however a bath and a breakfast has made me all right again and here I am writing from a tent again. The day after tomorrow we get to Meerut. How we proceed after that We have no notion. They say that the roads will be very bad.

Aug. 29. We were told that the Hackeries (carts) should be



off early so we got up at - 12!!! oh dear - and footed it for 12 miles. The road was very good & when we came up to where the tent had stopped (which had been sent on the night before) we found the hackeries in the road and all the people asleep. It was 4.20 o'clock. We got a bit of the tent spread, part on the ground and with the help of two chairs and some sticks we made a canopy over us into which crept and were soon fast asleep. The servants when they came up put the tent in a young corn field - stupid fools - and we were abused by the owner of it. However we managed as we best might and this is the second day of our march. This is the sort of thing we slept under. [sketch] Does it give you any idea of the thing. I luckily had sent on a great P jacket so I was very warm and comfortable. My pillow was another bit of canvass rolled up.

Aug 28 (or rather 29 for so I found it out to be afterwards). We heard that the road was very bad and a nullah (or small stream) was to be forded so we got up at 12½ and walked my feet being very sore already, well, we came to this nullah and took off shoes & stockings and forded it. We went on and when we came to Meerut we could not find the small tent which we had sent on (about 4½ o'clock) we wandered about and at last got hold of the hackeries which started at the same time with us. We walked with them right through the town but no tent so we stopped at the first bit of clear ground to pitch the remaining tent just as 4 palanquins came up which I had sent for. I lay down in one of them, got hold of a bottle of beer and drunk nearly the whole of it, when a man (my bearer) came up who had gone overnight and we arrived at the tent after being 8 hours on our legs about 24 miles altogether. Breakfast vanished very quickly and as I was sitting in my chair, my bearer came in with 2 packets from the dâk (post office) one was the mail of May last with a bit from Edward the other my last pay certificate without which I could get hold of no more pay. I was delighted, I saw that the last was all right - Business before pleasure - and I read your letters. I only sent the ones directed to me in particular. The one that was sealed separately pleased me very much as it was from a young friend who I thought had forgotten. We went and reported ourselves to the Brigade Major came home to dinner, went out again to do a little more business, home in the Evening and here I am writing with pencil for quickness. Having heard that the road from Meerut to Kurnal was impossible we purpose going round by Delhi of which I hope to give some account. It is



now so dark that I must leave off for the present. Have I given you a very awful idea of the hardships of an Indian Tub.

Aug. 30-31. At Meerut during which time we got information of the routes and changed to Seharumpore not Delhi (you will find it near the Jumna only some way higher up than Kurnaul). We got hackeries - ponies - & last not least a good supply of money. My pony is a very pretty little beast But very obstinate. I found all the people in office that I went to excessively kind and obliging.

Sept 1. Set off for Douralla 3 miles.  $3\frac{1}{2}$  o'clock and, after having some trouble with the road, we managed to get to the Camp about 7. I forgot to say that we have with us a guard of 1 Naick (native noncommissioned officer) & 4 sepoy as the country swarms with thieves and they are very daring.

Sept. 2. Set off at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to Kuttowlee 14 miles. Encamped under 2 fine trees, it is very pleasant. We heard quantities of quail as we came along. I intend to try my luck But somehow or other they had all vanished so I shot some pigeons and an enormous owl and broke my ramrod over his head trying to kill him.

Sept. 3. Very agreeable, we looked at the time when we had dressed this morning and found it just 12 instead of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ , however there was no help for it, so off we set and got to Muzaffernuggur, 14 miles, about 4 or half past. I lay down to go to sleep but failing to do that, I took my gun out but it was no use. We stop here all tomorrow. I intend to carry on warfare against the quail early in the morning with a line of Beaters. But I could not get them to rise at all. We wrote to the Judge (a Mr. Deane) for some fresh Hackeries and 4 were sent, very small. We wrote again but received no answer so we sent two ahead in the evening and in the morning when we had got a mile from the camp we found 1 broken down. We went back and hearing that there was a Dak Bungalow (a sort of inn) at Deobund (14 miles) we set off again and arrived there just as it came on to pour not in drops but in buckets full. We stayed there the rest of the day (the 5th) and on the 6th we set off again, went about 2 miles and found the Hackery (which had gone on) stuck fast in a slough with all the people lying fast asleep on the side of the road (about 3 o'clock). We got a number of villagers and some extra bullocks and began to move on by degrees. At 9 o'clock we got  $\frac{1}{2}$  way and stopped as the sun was getting slightly warm. The next day we got to Seharumpore 14 miles, found the tent in a most out of the way place. I wrote to

Mr. Thomas the commissary officer about some hackeries and about 1 o'clock a buggy came and in it was Capt Dickey 14th. He welcomed me as a brother officer and took us both in his buggy to his house. We did not get there in his buggy for it broke down and got smashed half way and we walked the rest. There was no one hurt but the horse. But it was very distressing to us. We stopped there that day and walked round the stud (he belongs to it). There were about 400 horses and a very fine sight it was. On the Evening of the next day we found ourselves on horseback going to Chilkanah 10 miles. We got there about 9 o'clock and were soon fast asleep.

9th at Chilkanah. The next march we cross the Jumna. I forget to say that in our march from Deobund the Mighty Himalayas burst upon our sight in all their glory at sunrise and on the same day a party from the village brought us a present of fruit with their salam (compliments). The fruit was a rum sort of stuff like cucumber, nice stuff for Cholera. I cannot say we eat much but it was the first kindness we had met with from the savages. On the

11th (I make several mistakes in the dates but that is of little consequence) we got up and set out. We had ordered them to call us at 3 and after we had gone some way we found it was 1 1/2, pleasant - very - the march was 10 miles. We got guides at some of the different villages and once we found ourselves walking as hard as we could to Chilkanah for 3 hours and more we wandered about and about sunrise we found ourselves at the ferry. None of the hackeries had crossed. Presently 2 made their appearance. We put them on board a boat and saw them depart. We waited for some time and sent the other 2 off with ourselves and the rest of our possessions and landed on the other side. We had a good bit to go yet. The sun was awfully hot. It went straight through my cap, head and body down to my toes. The <sup>hats</sup> (ponies) were getting fearfully knocked up when luckily we came to the 2 hackeries with Tent, and Breakfast equipment in a beautifully shaded grove. I had shot a wild duck the Evening before and I took a peep at it as it was being done for breakfast, and I began to feel happy. We came in about 11 pleasant, very. The W. Duck was good and we both took a nice nap after it. N.B. No fresh Hackeries to be obtained here. We are out of the C's Dominions and are in the "protected Sheikh states" as they are called. I forget to say that I shot also 2 or 3 birds of a uniform dark brown colour with white shoulders to their wings which I fancy must have been Avocets from their bills.



Sept. 12 (1844). To Mustaphabad  $13\frac{1}{2}$  miles - 2 rivers and 4 nullahs (small streams) by the Road book not always small though. We crossed 2 by bridges the rest we forded. One was awful. The banks were about 30 ft. deep cutting straight across the road something of this sort [sketch] nearly as steep as that. One hackery had an upset and was damaged but nothing very much. We encamped in a beautiful grove with an old ruin in the middle of it. I do not think I told you that at Booreah we had a very civil message from the Ranees (the Rajan's wife) to know if we wanted anything in the way of corn or provisions. I sent my card up as a mark of civility saying that we were not in want of anything. Capt. Dickey had given us a letter to a Mons. Gourment at Booreah. But we could get no hackeries so we were obliged to take the old ones on.

Sept. 13. To Molamoh (3 o'clock or rather nearer 4 when we started) 8 miles several streams which we forded and a small river with a good bit of sand on each side, a pleasant little march. The hills looked most magnificent. We could make out 3 ranges. Encamped under a fine tree (peepul). We have 2 letters for Umballa. We shall be there in a couple of days and we have got over the worst part of our march.

Sept. 14. Khoodah. 9 miles. We were roused up at night 3 instead of 4, crossed another small river and arrived at  $6\frac{1}{2}$ . Found the tent pitched in a plain, 1 Tree & very little shade. Went out in the Evening and shot 1 Partridge 1 Quail and 2 Snippets. There were quantities of Quail but it was too dark.

Sept. 15 At Umballa 6 miles. I was awake at 5 instead of 4 today. We were a long time finding our Tent, of course it was put in some out of the way place without any trees. We made them strike it and go to another precious quick. Really the natives here are the most rascally, impertinent, self willed set that I have seen. We sent off all our letters (from Capt. Dickey) and we are now awaiting the result. We were agreeably surprised, just when we retired to our beds last night, by a loud cry of Taup, Taup (a snake a snake) from one of the Bearers. I jumped up and found him following one with a light in his hand. I got hold of a stick and he soon departed this life. He was not above  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet in length, of a light colour and remarkably venomous called the keraites. The bearer felt him crawling over his foot. Pleasant. Went to Capt Bartleson and have found him very kind. He tells us that the overland goes the day after tomorrow.



Sept 15 (I was out of my reckoning). Today I shall finish my letter and send you a packet. In somewhat less than 20 days I hope to be at Ferozepore so in all probability the next mail after this will leave me at the end of my troubles. I did not expect to send my letters by this mail so I have nothing ready for individuals except a line or 2 for Sophy. So hoping this finds you all in health and happiness I make my bow.

### On the March

My dear Sophy

As I suppose I must write you a bit for your own sweet self I will send you this for the amusement of your imagination -

#### Scene 1.

Time 12 at night. The Scene is a tent in a grove of Trees. The forms of several men, Bullocks & Hackeries are indistinctly seen among the Trees. The night is cloudy and there is no moon.

2 Bearers are seen to come from the crowd of sleepers and lifting up the curtain of the Tent they throw it open and enter, and each standing near his master's bed says

B. Sahib, Sahib (Master) (6 times at least)

M. Hulloh. What time is it (very sleepy)

B. 12 oclock (in a very sleepy voice)

The Sahib sinks back in a state of unconsciousness.

The same thing is gone over again - at last the Sahib rises and dresses hardly conscious of what happens. Cold water brings his senses to their proper place and he is aware of the awful fact of his having to walk 12 miles. "What must be must" he so off he sets. Not a word is spoken by either till they become aware that a nullah runs straight across the road. Various expressions of despair are heard & it is settled that they sit down and take a ~~sux~~ drop from the Bottle of Cold Tea. Finding themselves just going to sleep, they (with a great effort) get up and get across the nullah somehow or other. They then toddle on for a mile or 2 sit down again and so on till a Hackery is found by the road side everyone being fast asleep. They are roused up & the 2 sahibs roll themselves up in some of the cloths of the Tent and soon forget their sorrows. Now if you make a few alterations such as riding

instead of walking, getting up an hour or 2 later and now  
& then a hackery broken down or stuck in the mire it has a very  
good effect & increases the pleasure of the march a great degree.

I will talk no more of my troubles but I will put your  
letter before me which I last received and see what you say.  
It is the Packet dated May 31. The June is awaiting my  
arrival at Ferozepore.

I am glad that my letters were agreeable. I fancy this  
Packet will carry some amusement with it for that is why I  
have detailed all my troubles. I hope I shall love a horse  
as you say some day. You have been very gay it seems. I  
should like to have been with you to have seen Dr. Saunder's  
picture. Now what a shame to put a dash under the word  
"respected" as much as to say that it ~~is~~ is might little respect  
that I have towards him.

"That Cadet" (But he is not one now) consoles Poor Tom  
on all his troubles. I think you have seen a very wonderful  
thing indeed I do not know that I ever heard of a dwarf that  
was not awfully ugly. I always think of the horrid being  
near the houses of Parliament Dick & I often used to see him.  
I think you can hardly find any match for the ugly beings I  
have seen out here perfectly awful. What a pretty story you  
tell me of Alice, [daughter of his brother Henry] the little  
duck. Pray give my best love to her and tell her that a great  
black man puts me to Bed (my bearer).

Umballa. I send my letters off today as it is the last day.  
The mail goes tomorrow. I hope you can understand my not  
being able to write to many individuals. I have sent a long  
long journal and that ought to be an excuse. Give my best  
love to all of the inhabitants of the cottage, and all who are  
away, and to any of the kind neighbours that I was well  
acquainted with particularly Mrs. Hinde. By the Bye General  
Gilbert commands at Ferozepore and is acquainted with the  
Fortescues<sup>x</sup> (so E tells me).

<sup>x</sup>  
Two of his cousins, daughters  
of the Earl of Harrowby married  
Fortescues.

I will now say good bye  
Ever Yr aff Brother  
Spencer R.

Despatched Sept 13th 1844.  
Umballa.

My dear Mother

I can not let the packet go without sending you a line  
or two to inform you that I have enjoyed delightful health  
during my travels. I am now at Umballa and I have received

every kindness from Capt. Bartleman the Pay Master. Edward seems to have made a mistake when he told me that my allowance was to be £100. £260 is quite sufficient, it will help me in saving I hope under good management. It is very wrong of me I know to send only a few lines to my mother but she will forgive me when she sees the number of letters I have written. When I get settled at Ferozepore you shall have longer ones. I will say good bye now  
And remain

Yr Most Dutiful and aff. Son  
Spencer Ryder.

Sept. 15.

(continuation of journal).

Sept. 16. We left Umballa yesterday evening and went about 5 miles just outside the city (The city of Umballa is 4 miles from the station) and we were very sorry to leave the kind house which had lodged us. I saw in the Delhi Gazette of the 15th that the mail had just arrived, bringing the news of the birth of a young prince. How does the old country like the extra 30000.

We set off this morning for a 12 mile March (about 3½) and got here just as the sun was beginning to scorch us. The name of the place is Rajpoorah a small fortified village that is there was a wall all round it and a good sized fort. Most of the towns are built in the same way up here. Capt. Bartleman had 4 young children with him and an old mother (72) his wife had died. The Old Lady was something in the style of Mrs. Hind she talked very freely and heard perfectly well, but she had completely lost her sight. She was going to take the children home in a month or 2. They are an excessively pretty family.

Sept. 19. To Patarsee 8½ miles. A great deal of jungle everywhere. This is a desperate place for thieves. Not long ago a gentleman wrote from this to Umballa begging Capt. Bartleman to send him 20 Rupees to go on with, as he was literally cleaned out of every thing he had got - pleasant.

Sept. 20. To Sirhind 9 miles. We passed last night in safety as far as ~~personal~~ property was concerned but the Mosquitoes kept us awake pretty well and some Pariah dogs paid us a visit and kicked up a horrid row under our very beds.



Sirhind must have been a very fine town in its day. We passed a number of old ruins and 2 fine old bridges. We found the Camp (1 Tent) pitched under some fine trees that met overhead so we shall be pretty comfortably cool today. Breakfasted on 2 brace of quail and a duck which fell to my gun yesterday. Shot 1 duck today.

Sept. 21. To Kunha Ke Serai - 10 miles. Road very sandy and much jungle. Encamped under some trees on the nearest side of the village. Breakfasted, had a snooze then a bathe and here I am writing.

Sept. 22. To Douraha Khan Ke Serai 14 miles in 4 hours. Encamped by the fort no trees and lots of dust. Tomorrow, and I am a week from the end of my journey. That will be a blessing.

Sept. 23. Arrived at Loodianah 14 miles. Stay here 2 or 3 days - and then comes my last stage. What do you think of this - 32s. for 1 dozen of white thread gloves an (?) has just asked that price for them. I offered 12s. a dozen, quite enough. But he would not take it. This is the sort of way that we are treated by these savages. I had a fall from my Tat going at a rattling pace and a black eye and strained leg are the only damages that I got.

Sept. 24. At Loodianah. I stayed here till the 29th and started that morning for Humbur 10½ miles (my leg being quite well). All the country from here to Ferozepore is an immense plain only partially cultivated. I went out on the evening of the 29th and shot 2 Brace of Snippets (something like the sandpiper I think). The next morning shot 2 more. I remain here till the evening as I intend to travel in the evening instead of the morning by way of a change. I hear that it is a fearful country and the people take the law in their own hands. I am now all alone not a soul to speak to except my dog Handsome (called so because he is so very ugly).

Sept. 30. I set off this evening to Sidham 13 miles passed the Hackery that had gone ahead and did not get in till late and then there was no tent so I turned into my bed which had come up with me and went to sleep better than usual.

Oct. 1. (Mother's Birthday). Got up at sun rise and walked down to the Sutledj which runs not far off the village and

killed 2 ducks. Came back about 8 o'clock bath, & Breakfast. My Khitaudgar brought me some Radishes they must have been sown about the year 1 I think for they were ~~was~~ old and hot as they well could be. I have looked on the Punjab (or country between 5 Rivers) at last. Ferozepore is in it though on this side of the River.

Oct. 2nd. Started in the morning to Indgurh 10 miles. All the country that I passed seemed cultivated. I have changed to the old way of travelling as being much the best and no mistake about it. No shooting here, the land is all under the plough.

Oct. 3rd. Off at 3½ to Tulwundee 12 miles. Road rather heavy. There is a good deal of jungle not far off which I intend to try in the Evening. No trees so it is nice and hot. No jungle at all and it evidently existed in my informer's own head and no where else.

Oct. 4. Off at 3½ to Mair Sing 12½ miles. Pretty good shooting to be got - Partridge and Quail. But I was unlucky.

Oct. 5. To Shair Khan - 12 miles. Shooting same as yesterday. A very flat country covered with low jungle.

Oct. 6. Arrived at Ferozepore this morning 9 miles. I had not arrived above an hour when I received a note from Wood of the 14th an old Liverpool friend of Edward inviting me to his house which I was extremely happy to accept. I went to Capt. Walsh who commands the corps, to the Adjutant, and on the 8th I went to the General's (Gilbert) in full fig of course and saw one or two other men besides. Tomorrow (10th) I get into a Bungalow though a very small one, and I hope I shall soon get settled. We have a full dress parade tomorrow for the General to inspect us. So I bring my journal to an end at last, and a great comfort it is, not because my journal is finished but my travels are for the present at least. I shall now have sent you a journal comprising 3½ months and I hope it will fully meet the approval of the "fireside circle".