

IV.—*Extracts from a Journal kept by Captain F. T. Grant, of the Manipúr Levy, during a Tour of Inspection on the Manipúr Frontier, along the course of the Ningthee River, &c. in January 1832*.*

Marching Stations and Distances.

Tuobal, 11 miles; a depôt of grain.

Huerok, 8 miles; inhabitants came from Tiperah 100 years ago.

Muchi, 9 miles; a Nâga village on the most western range of Mu-rung hills.

Kolbang, 12 miles; hence three roads lead to the *Kuboo* valley. Violent hoar frost on the 15th January. Lieut. PEMBERTON has described this road from actual survey.

Kwatobee, 10 miles; good road. Suparî nut and cocoa nut trees were planted here by the raja's grandfather.

Khondong, 5 miles; very good road. The people of Kuboo escaped from the opposite side of the Ningthee.

Maylung nala, 9 miles; road passes through a forest of keoo, teak, saul, ootton, and other trees: innumerable and recent tracks of the wild elephant, tiger, rhinoceros, bear, boar, cattle, and deer of various descriptions. Six wild elephants came to the nala together to drink; they were of a very large size.

Numhookam nala, 7 miles, east of the first range of Angoching hills.

Num-sing-yeet, 8 miles; a nala east of the second range.

Source of the *Helao nala*, 13 miles; road good: crossed the highest range of the Angoching hills.

Helao, 12 miles; on the banks of the Ningthee.

The foregoing route across the Angoching hills, I consider equally good with those to Mulphoo and Sunayachil, and it might with very little trouble be made practicable for every description of cattle. Not having been travelled for many years, and never before by Europeans, it is at present impeded by large trees, which have fallen across it, and also by bamboos which unite from both sides in many places, at about

* The above journal was some time since placed in our hands by Mr. GEORGE SWINTON, late Chief Secretary to Government. The new facts which it communicates to the geography of Ava and Manipur, are, the journey along the bank of the Ningthee for a space of about 40 miles between two points already well known; viz. Mulfoo, on the north, and Saway Chit, opposite to the Burmese post Gendah, on the south, which place is connected with Ava by Dr. RICHARDSON'S route, published in the second volume of the Journal, page 59. The navigation of the river between the same points is also new, and the return route through the Mofiong nala, which connects the Kuboo valley with the banks of the Ningthee, finding its way through the Angoching hills, which form the eastern boundary of the valley, separating it from the Ningthee.—ED.

seven or eight feet high above it ; and through which my elephants were obliged to break a passage for themselves. It possesses an advantage over the before-mentioned routes in a more abundant supply of water. The whole of the hills throughout this route to the Ningthee are covered with a dense bamboo jungle, which grows to an immense size. In that part of the last day's march where the road runs along the bed of the Helao nala, there is a second road on the bank just above, which is at present so overgrown with forest and jungle as to be impracticable. Just opposite Helao, a large nala called the Moo, Num-moo, or Muwa, falls into the Ningthee, in the bed of which the Kubos tell me, gold is more abundant than in the latter : the Kubos also say that gold is found in the sands of all the small streams which join the Ningthee on its eastern side. The road from Tum-moo direct to Helao joins this one at about two miles distance from the latter village : it is much shorter, but so very bad as to have obtained the name of the "Noong-chongbi Lumpee," (stone-leaping road :) loaded coolies can however manage to travel it. Some who left Tum-moo, the day after I left Khondong, with grain, arrived the day before me at Helao, being only three days on the road.

Halted the 23rd, 24th, and 25th January. Visited the cultivation, which is extensive in proportion to the number of inhabitants. They are now busily employed in transplanting their cold-weather crop : they have two crops in the year, one in the rains, and one in the cold season ; the former is close to the hills, to which the annual inundation of the Ningthee does not extend : the latter in the valleys, (if I may so call them,) formed by the bends of the river, by which they are annually overflowed, leaving large jheels on its retiring, that at the present time of the year are sufficiently dried up to allow of their being cultivated. On the evening of the 25th, went to see the process of washing the sands of the Ningthee for gold : it occupied two men for about a quarter of an hour, and the quantity found was about a grain troy-weight.

The road from Helao to Mulphoo, about 36 miles, or four marches, runs along the valley of the Ningthee, and might also be made available for all military purposes : elephants have travelled the whole way from Manipur.

31st January. Sent my elephants and coolies round to meet me at Sunayachil, intending to proceed myself to that place by water, as no boats larger than canoes are procurable ; two of these fastened at about four feet apart by small timbers, and a bambu platform laid over the whole, form a raft sufficiently large to hold sixty men ; on which I mean to proceed. A raft of this description would answer well to cross troops, were boats not procurable. The current of the Ningthee, at the

present season, is very slow, certainly not much more than a mile an hour.

1st February.—Kneesung, which I reached in five hours. A short distance below Mulphoo a small range of hills crosses the river, composed of a reddish sand, with layers of pebbles running across it: in the rains the river saps the bottom, and carries away portions of the whole face annually; the greater the portion of the hill thus carried off, the more abundant is the gold found at Chanda-sneek (ghat), a short distance below it. A number of Kubos were busily employed in washing for gold, when I passed the latter place. Gold is only found in the sand, where mixed with pebbles and gravel. For the number and names of villages passed this day, see the sketch.

2nd—Halted. Received a visit from the Burmese commandant of the stockade on the opposite side of the river; his object was to see the English Bo-meng, never having seen such a monster before! He was very inquisitive as to the object of Captains JENKINS and PEMBERTON'S trip. I made him a few presents, with which, particularly a couple of bottles of brandy, he was delighted and took his leave. Another chief passed down during the day with two boats and about thirty followers; he had been called up to Sumjok in consequence of my visit to this quarter: there were piled in the boats a number of what I at first took to be muskets, but which I, with the assistance of my telescope, discovered to be nothing more than branches of trees and bamboos made to resemble them; the actual number of muskets being only three. My coming it appears has created considerable alarm, and given rise to the most exaggerated reports; amongst others that I intended to place Manipur thanas at the Noajeri hills: on my trip up to Mulphoo, I could hardly discover a soul on the opposite side of the river; they appear now however to have got over their alarm, and I am visited by persons from all the villages as I pass down. A dozen large boats, which were detained above Mulphoo for some days, until my intentions were ascertained, also passed down in full sail. A considerable traffic is carried on between the capital of Ava and the villages on the Ningthee up as far as the Sing-Phos; the latter giving grain in return for bunats, coral beads, &c. &c.

Whilst some of my people were in the village on the opposite side of the river, a woman was carried off from the centre of it by a tiger: the inhabitants say it is the fourth occurrence of the kind which has taken place within the last two months. The Kubos do not appear at all alarmed at the vicinity of these animals, as they say the instances are very rare of their attacking or destroying human beings; if however such once happens, it is almost certain to be continued, and the only al-

ternative is to quit the vicinity of the place where it occurs ; they do not attribute the recurrence to a relish for human flesh required from having once tasted it, but to the displeasure of the " Laee" (Deity) of the place ; they endeavour to deprecate his anger by offerings on the first occurrence, but on a second taking place, they conclude he is implacable, and take it as a warning to remove. The village in question is only waiting to collect in the crops now on the ground and fit.

3rd—Mung-ya, two and a half hours. Passed a small nala on the Burmese side of the river, called Khywook-ma-Kywoong, at the mouth of which a number of people were employed washing the sand for gold. Was visited during the day by nearly the whole of the inhabitants, men, women and children, of the village, on the opposite side of the river ; who came, as they said, to see the wonder ! an European. Much cannot be said in favour of the modesty of the Kubos. I saw both this day and yesterday numbers both of men and women bathing at not ten paces distant from each other, with not so much covering even as a fig leaf. Unmarried girls observe, I am told, some little decorum in dress ; married women, none !

4th—Helao five and a half hours. The current in one or two places somewhat more rapid than yesterday.—Passed three parties washing for gold, one at a place called Nan-yen-sneek on the Burmese side of the river, and two on the Manipur one, near Eng-da-baong.

5th—Maloo, seven hours. Immediately below Helao the Ningthee is joined by a river of considerable size, called the Moo, Nummoo, or Muwa, coming directly from the east and Neojeri hills. Gold is said to be more abundant in it than in the Ningthee, in this neighbourhood ; but not equal to the quantity found in the more northern parts of the latter, in the Sing-Phos country. The Kubos say that gold is not sought for in the Ningthee itself, below Helao, but only in the different hill streams which fall into it on the eastern side. As usual, since I left Mulphoo, I was visited by numbers of the inhabitants from the different villages as I passed down : my communications with these people leave not a doubt on my mind but what they would be happy to change their masters : indeed many of them took opportunities of silyly telling me so, and expressed disappointment at my not proceeding to the Neojeri hills to place thanas.

6th—Brought to at a small nala called Khywook-kan-khywoong, six hours, no village. The current generally very slow, in some places almost still. Passed but one village during the day, and that on the opposite side of the river ; it belongs to the knight of the " branches and bamboos," who passed down whilst I was at Knesung. At a short distance below this village is an extraordinary hill called Swe-

ba-leng, the residence of a *Læe* or Deity, and by the Kubos's account a most jealous one he is : on approaching it, my Kubo boatmen put on their dhoties, being previously literally naked ! and warned my Manipurees against making use of improper or obscene language, or spitting in the river whilst passing the precincts of his godship's residence. The infringement of these warnings they assured them might be attended with the most serious consequences to the whole party, and many were the instances of ship or rather boat wreck which they adduced to prove it. They also requested the Manipurees to give over a game, at which they were amusing themselves, as continuing it would doubtless be offensive. The Manipurees, who are not a jot less superstitious than the Kubos, implicitly followed the advice given, and put on the most serious countenances ; indeed the greater part of them had previously heard the fame of Swe-ba-leng. The hill, on which are several small temples, rises abruptly from the bed of the river, forming a natural wall of about three hundred feet perpendicular height, and is of a yellowish sand formation, based on rocks of hard grey sandstone : it appears the sudden commencement of a range, differing from the other hills in its vicinity, being free of trees, with which the others are overgrown, and running in a succession of cones to the south-west, as far as the eye could reach. No continuance of any of a similar appearance to the south-east. The face of the hill turns the river suddenly from a southerly to a westerly direction, in which it does not continue for above two hundred or three hundred yards, when the hills cause it again suddenly to resume its former course. The river is here very narrow, and just previous to its resuming its course to the south, a tremendous block of rock juts nearly half across, which repels the stream backwards and causes in the rains a whirlpool, which the Kubos say may be heard roaring at some miles distance, and which they attribute to the pranks of the "*Læe* ;" not the sudden checks which the current meets. In the rains the navigation past this spot must be very dangerous to any but a Kubo acquainted with its localities ; at the present season, however, it is a perfect mill pond. Some lime kilns were in the neighbourhood, but whether the lime-stone is procured from the Swe-ba-leng hill, or where, no person in the boat could inform me. I did not land to examine them, they being on the Burmese side of the river. No visitors during to-day, which is owing no doubt to my having now entered Ningthee-Rakha's jurisdiction. The village just above Swe-ba-leng is called Tan-beng-goong ; the chief of it is evidently very anxious to appear formidable in my eyes : he had hastily run up a loose fence of bamboos, plantain trees, and such like along the river front of his village, which he no doubt thought I would take

for a strong stockade, he also made a tremendous hubbub with songs, trumpets, &c. whilst I was passing; the village is a good-sized one, containing about eighty houses.

Eleven hours more brought me to Sunayachil. At this season the current is very trifling. On the eastern side sand-banks extend for four hundred yards into the bed of the river, offering favourable points for the crossing of troops, which at this season of the year might be effected on rafts, were boats not procurable. Both sides of the Ningthee are overgrown with dense forests, except on the sides of villages: the high road from Gendah to the present capital of Sumpok runs to the east of the small range of hills, which skirts the Burmese bank of the Ningthee.

10th February—Embarked in my dingy, accompanied by two others, to return up the Ningthee to Yuwa, where it is joined by the Maglung. I was rather confined for room; indeed, regularly packed, being unable to move hands or feet after once being seated in the boat. Reached Wegadza in six hours, where my people ran up a covering, for me to pass the night, of branches and leaves: a precaution rendered necessary as a protection against the heavy dew which soaks through every thing exposed to it. The fogs which continue till 9 A. M. are also so heavy as to render indistinct, objects at fifteen or twenty paces distance.

11th—Reached Yuwa in three hours, being in all nine hours from Sunayachil; or only two hours more than it took the boat to go the same distance with the current. Two men were all that rowed the boat up. This will give an idea of the slackness of the stream. After proceeding up the Maglung for three hours, put to for the night. The Maglung discharges itself with some force into the Ningthee, and as before observed, a boat or raft coming out of it would be carried without any exertion nearly to the opposite side of the latter, in which there is no perceptible current. After once getting fairly into the Maglung, the current is moderate, and the waters shoal, not more than two feet in depth; its course during this day nearly from west to east. Put to for the night on the sand-bank and enjoyed a coal fire, of which mineral there was abundance lying about. The tracks of wild beasts of every description were numerous and recent in the sand.

12th—At day-light this morning, was roused by a loud but not very harmonious concert, the performers being elephants, tigers, bears, boars, and deer. About three hours after starting reached the site of a village named Yang-num, at which was formerly a Manipur thana; near the site of the thana is a peepul tree, planted, the Kubos say, by the Manipurees, another proof that Kubo belonged to them at a former period. I landed for the purpose of examin-

ing salt wells in this village : the springs are copious and in full play, sufficiently so to feed a small stream which flows from them into the Maglung ; the water in the centre of the well is nearly as salt as brine, and on the sides, where it has been exposed to the sun for any time, and only so : in the bed of the river, immediately opposite the village, are also salt springs, which rise in bubbles to the surface of the water. The village, though not inhabited for many years, is perfectly free of grass and jungle, the salt wells rendering it a favourite resort for wild animals. In two hours from the village, reached the site of the second Num-mo, where also are salt springs ; and in another hour, the junction of the Tadoi Khynong nala, where I put to for the night ; from hence to where the road to Sunayachil crosses the Tadoi Khynong is five hours' journey. The current during the day generally very slow. Passed three rapids, each of about thirty yards continuance, but the last so trifling as not to render it necessary to unload the boats : some of my people were generally walking and amusing themselves in searching for turtles' eggs, which are so abundant that the boat might have been almost loaded with them. In several places found an ore containing a light-coloured metal, of what nature I have not skill enough to determine, but have kept specimens (iron pyrites) ; coal also abundant. The Kubos say it is petrified charcoal of teak, in which opinion I am inclined to agree, as I saw several blocks of that wood, which were undergoing the change, parts of which were burnt and appeared the same as the coal : total time travelling this day six hours.

13th—Roused by a concert similar to that of yesterday morning ; a bear, which had been growling nearly the whole night on the opposite side of the river, came in the morning to have a look at us. Before I could get my gun ready to salute him, he walked off. Three hours after leaving yesterday's halting place, reached a rapid called Khyuk-taeeng, where the boats were obliged to be unloaded ; and after about three hours more, a second, where a like precaution was necessary. Neither of these rapids is of a greater length than 40 yards : the last which is named Chum-ka-te, is the worst, being, as far as I could judge, a fall of about 10 feet ; its difficulties are increased by large and loose rocks, over which it rushes. The obstacles offered to the navigation of the Maglung by these rapids might I conceive be overcome by digging small canals, for which there is sufficient room : even as it is, however, the river is perfectly practicable for dingees, such as the one I am embarked on, and would be more so were the rocks in the bed removed, which I understand the raja intends doing : the only precaution necessary is to unload and carry the loads for about 40 yards. Immediately above and below the rapids the river is as still nearly as a

pond. A short distance above the last rapid, reached the site of a village called Chum-ka-te, and put to for the night: here also are salt springs. Total time moving this day, eight hours.

14th—Reached the junction of the Kumbut and Maglung rivers without meeting any impediment from rapids; the point where the above rivers unite is about eight miles east of Wetup, and in the Kubo valley. The village of Mo, from whence is the ascent of the pass leading to Pa-tche-ne, across the Angoching, is distant from hence about one and a half mile. East at the last-named village are most extensive salt springs, which supply the whole of the southern division of Kubo, and Nga villages to the west of it, with salt. Total time moving this day, seven and half hours.

N. B.—The general width of the valley of the Maglung is about two miles, that of the river about 120 yards: its course upwards nearly east and west, except where it rounds the bases of the different ranges of hills, which it does by turning for a short distance to the north; in places throughout its course it is confined by a steep or abrupt face of rock. The hills from both sides terminate at, and slope gradually down to, its bed, leaving a gap for its egress to the Ningthee*. I have no doubt a road might be made through the valley: it must necessarily, however, be very circuitous, and the river crossed frequently; drawbacks which would more than counterbalance the advantages to be derived from it. That the river might, with great advantage, be made available for transporting grain and other stores by boats from the Kubo valley to the Ningthee, my trip up it places beyond a doubt. The shore on either side is covered to the water's edge with a forest of teak, saul, keú, cotton, (semul,) wood oil, (gurjun,) and other noble trees, similar to those of the Kubo valley, and actually swarms with wild beasts, of the descriptions already mentioned in this journal; throughout the whole course of the river through the Angoching hills, there is not a space of ten yards free of paths made by them down to the water, which gives the idea of a crowded population. In the neighbourhood of the Ningthee, fish are most abundant; the Manipurees (inordinate fish-eaters), who accompanied me, were regularly satiated with it: amongst others, I recognized the roo muchlee, cutla, mirga, kulbause, poontea, large and small, bowali, soli, mullet, pufta, gurri, and various others of which I know not the names; but all of which my Bengalee servants recognised as similar to those found in the Surma at Sylhet. I had also prawns of an immense size brought me, and porpoises were amusing themselves in the Ningthee.

* It is to be regretted that the course of the Maglung was not given in the sketch map from which Plate VII. is lithographed.—ED.

15th—Wetup, about eight miles west; road good, and similar to that throughout all parts of the Kubo valley. Just after starting I was joined by my suwaree elephant, the mahout still trembling from the effects of a fright he had received about three hours before. His story was, that being tired with riding, he had dismounted to recreate himself with a walk, having put his coolie to supply his place on the elephant; he had got about twenty paces ahead, and was jogging along merrily, when he heard a rustling in a thick bush on the road side: thinking it caused by a deer, his curiosity led him to take a peep, and pushing aside some of the branches, a deer was there sure enough, but it was a dead one, and also a live tiger, which he was not prepared to expect; the latter on being disturbed at his meal, gave a growl and raised his phiz to within a few inches of that of the terrified mahout, who retreated as fast as his fright would permit to the elephant, and took up a position on its tusks. The coolie also saw the tiger, and was in an equal fright with the mahout. The parties remained reconnoitring each other for about five minutes, when some sepoy and Kubos coming up, the tiger retreated, casting many an anxious look towards the bush which contained the remains of the deer, which were seized on as a good prize by the Kubos. The deer could only have been killed a few hours, as it was perfectly fresh and still warm. The tiger had made a breakfast on one hind-quarter and part of the other; a tolerable lunch, however, as the deer was a very large one of the species called in Hindustan "Bara Singhi."

16th—Num-muldah nala; this road, having already been frequently reported on by Lieut. PEMBERTON, renders it unnecessary for me to say any thing about it.

17th—Pausa ditto; ditto ditto. A village has been established here, since visited by Lieut. PEMBERTON, of six families, or about forty inhabitants. Just previous to my arrival, a poor Naga had been frightened *entirely* out of its wits, and *half* out of his life, by a tiger; he was on his way from the hills to the village, close to which he had arrived, when he was surprized by a smart slap from behind on his most prominent and fleshy part, and at the same time a basket which he was carrying pulled from him. On turning round to see who it was that was taking such liberties, he saw a tiger walking off with the basket; he did not stop to reclaim it, but made the best speed he could to the village, bearing marks of the truth of his story on the part before mentioned. The head-man of the village told me, with a very serious face, that he was fearful the "Læe" was displeased in consequence of some omission of the proper respect and attention due him, and took this means of showing it; but he hoped to be able to appease him by

proper offerings; which he proceeded forthwith to prepare in the shape of some of the best rice and vegetables procurable, cooked with great care and many prayers. The mess when ready he placed under a banyan tree on the outside of the village. If the "Laee" partook of it within the two succeeding days, it would be a sure sign his anger had evaporated. As he knew I was anxious, he said, regarding the welfare of the village, he would let me know in a day or two how matters stood.

18th—Tummoo; here I was detained for three days in deciding a case, or rather three cases of witchcraft! Motives of humanity induced me to undertake the business, as persons labouring under such an accusation become regular outcasts; whom no village will receive within its precincts; with whose children, male or female, no other family will intermarry; the whole of whose property is seized by the village from which they are expelled. Exclusive of the above, the husbands of two of the women who were accused had been of the utmost service to me as guides in my different trips through Kubo, and otherwise useful from their intelligence and knowledge of the country. The favour with which I consequently treated them was I doubt not one of the causes of their misfortunes, and induced a wily old Kubo to intrigue to get them out of the way of his own prospects. Part of the penalties had already been inflicted previous to my arrival; they had been turned out of the village, and the greater part of their property seized. On the morning after my arrival I assembled the whole village, the accused being also present, and tried to reason with them on the absurdity and folly of believing in witchcraft. I was laughed at for my pains, and told by one or two of the elders that I might as well try to convince them, there was no sun in heaven, as no witches. Finding all remonstrances and arguments were vain, I proposed the ordeal by water usual on such occasions, and called on the persons who were suffering under the supposed witches' incantations to stand forth, that they as well as the witches, as is customary, should undergo it. This caused a demur and whispering, which ended in a request, begging me to defer farther proceedings till next day, to allow them to consult together on the subject, in which I acquiesced. I was almost assured that the same superstition which led to the belief in witchcraft would prevent any persons from coming forward to stand the proposed test, as the accuser, they say, unless actually convinced in his own mind of the truth of his accusation, is sure to draw down signal punishment on himself and family for having made it; besides he is heavily fined by the village, should the result of the ordeal be contrary to his assertion. Even were I disappointed in the hope, that no per-

sons would come forward, I had no doubt the result of the ordeal would be favourable to the witches, as I should be present at it to see fair play. On the next morning, the villagers avowed that none of them would undergo the ordeal, and that consequently the accusation was unfounded: they returned all their property to the accused, re-instated them in their houses, paid a small fine for having brought forward the charge without sufficient grounds, and gave a written acquittal, which I signed, to the supposed witches. Thus the matter was settled satisfactorily to all parties, except the old rascals who originated it and were obliged to return their ill-acquired spoil. I thought the persons who were accused would of course agree with me as to the absurdity of believing in witchcraft. I was however mistaken, as even they expressed their firm conviction of its existence with others, though themselves innocent. The ordeal on such occasions is as follows: The accuser and accused are bound separately, hands and feet, together, so as not to have the power of moving either; they are placed on the inner edges of two canoes, which are placed a foot separate; after some formalities, prayers, &c., are gone through, the canoes are suddenly pulled from under them; if the accused be really a witch, she floats, and the accuser sinks: the case is reversed should the accusation be false. One end of the rope with which the hands and feet are bound, is sufficiently long to allow of its being held by a person in the boat, in readiness to pull up the party that sinks.

The route from Tummoo to Manipur has already been reported on by Lieut. PEMBERTON; it is only therefore necessary to observe, that since he travelled it, villages have been established at most of the places on the line of road, for the purpose of facilitating the communication.

V.—*Note on the Chiru Antelope.* By B. H. Hodgson, Esq.

[Read at the meeting of the 20th instant.]

Having recently received a fine female specimen of the Chiru Antelope of Tibet, besides two more very complete spoils of the male of the species, I conceive I cannot do better than throw into the form of a synoptical character (to avoid prolixity) all the leading and distinctive marks of this most rare and singular animal.

Genus ANTILOPE.

Subgenus GAZELLA, *H. Smith.*

Species, *G. HODGSONII, Abel.*

The Chiru of North-East Tibet.

Gregarious on open plains.

