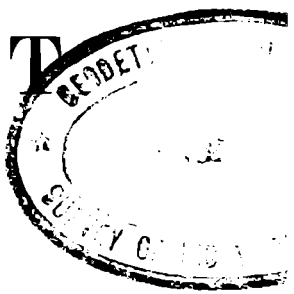
REPORT



ON THE

EXPLORATION SURVEY

OF THE

NAGA HILLS,

SEASON 1874-75.

BY

CAPTAIN JOHN BUTLER,

POLITICAL AGENT, NAGA HILLS.

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REPORT ON THE EXPLORATION SURVEY OF THE NAGA HILLS.

No. 65, dated Samaguting, the 29th May, 1875.

From—Captain John Butler, Political Agent, Nága Hills,

To—The Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

I HAVE now the honour to submit a full report of my proceedings in connection with the exploration and survey of that portion of the Nága Hills lying south of, and running parallel with, the Sibságar district, between the Doyong and Dikhú rivers, undertaken in accordance with the instructions contained in your letter No. 281, dated 19th September, 1874.

2. I returned from England and re-assumed charge of this Agency on the 15th December last. Hence I had but scant time to make such arrangements for the start as I should otherwise have made. In order to avoid losing even a single day that could possibly be taken advantage of, I wrote from Calcutta and authorized Lieutenant Woodthorpe to break ground from the Golághát side, and finish up that little corner of the hills lying immediately south of that station, before coming on to join me at Samaguting. This he did most satisfactorily, thus saving our afterwards having to make a detour of several days' journey out of our course.

3. On the 21st December, I despatched Captain La Touche with one sub-Inspector and forty constables, with stores, &c., to take up a position at Tesephima, and there await my arrival. I placed a guard of two non-commissioned officers and fifteen sepoys of the 43rd Regiment Native Infantry, with one sub-Inspector, one head-constable, and five constables, at Dimapur, and a guard of one non-commissioned officer, nine sepoys, and one constable at the Diphúpáni outpost. In the station of Samaguting I stationed a garrison of one native commissioned

officer, two non-commissioned officers, and ten sepoys of the 43rd Regiment, with one Inspector, two head-constables, and fifty-one constables of the Nága Hills police. On the 24th December I made over charge of the current duties of my office to Mr. Needham, Assistant Political Agent, and left Samaguting the following morning, accompanied by Lieutenant Woodthorpe, R.E., and Mr. McCay, of the Survey Department, with Lieutenant Austin, of the 43rd. Our escort consisted of two non-commissioned officers, one bugler, and twenty-eight sepoys of the 43rd; and one Inspector, three head-constables, and fifty constables of the Nága Hills police.

4. On the 25th December, we encamped on the Zúmhá, below Piphemah, and the following day (after ascending Kediuba) just below Kerúphimah, and reached Kohima on the 27th. Thence we proceeded *viâ* Thisámá, and reached Nerhama the day after; from the latter village, passing through Chichámáh and Tophemah, *en route*, a long day's march brought us into Themoketsamah (the first of the Rengmah Nága villages on this side); on the 31st December, proceeding through Themokedimah, we joined Captain La Touche at Tesephimah. Here I found that the Tesephimah people were most cordially disposed towards us, and had evidently quite forgiven, if not forgotten, the punishment they had so wantonly provoked and so justly suffered at our hands last year. They had not only built huts and godowns for our standing camp, but had also furnished us with abundance of rice and other supplies, more even than we required. Far from showing any ignorance of the use of money, they had now learnt gratefully to accept payment for all the work they had done, as well as for all the supplies they had furnished.

5. On the 31st December I halted at Tesephimah, in order to receive several deputations of Nágas who had come in from Insemah, Kotsomah, and Lozmah, on the east, and from Phurmah and Khubamah, on the west. They all assured me of their friendship, and said they would be very glad indeed to see me again at their villages, and hoped I was going to revisit them this year. I gathered from their naive remarks that, now that they were quite sure both of my power to punish and my wish to do good, they would always be glad to see me. I had to explain to them that, as I had a great number of new villages to visit, where I hoped to make new friends, I did

not think I should be able to revisit all my old friends this year, but that I should certainly do so as soon as I could find the time, and that I was very glad indeed to hear they were all so ready to welcome me back.

6. Some of the Tesephimah men informed me that Nonsechong and Wokha had both given out that they intended to oppose our further advance; but, as I knew the former had long been at war with both the latter villages, and was aware that the Lhota Nágas (to which tribe Nonsechong and Wokha belong) had for ages past kept the Rengmah Nágas (to which tribe Tesephimah belongs) back from having any intercourse with the plains, and were hence hated by them, I looked upon this bit of news with considerable distrust, more especially as they were both villages we had peaceably visited only the previous year. I left an Inspector and twenty men at Tesephimah. On the morning of the 1st January last we marched to Nonsechong, and that evening pitched our camp on the saddle-ridge between that village and its petty neighbour, Nirohi. Our route lay *viâ* Insemah and Kotsomah, up to which point the road was a capital one, but from thence on it was very bad indeed. It was at times difficult to trace it at all through the dense, high grass jungle on either side, except where it happened to pass through fields of cultivation, and that was only on our nearing the village. On our arrival at Nonsechong we found the entrance very strongly barricaded, and a number of fully-armed Nágas drawn up behind it in battle-array, who at first most peremptorily refused us any admittance. However, on my going forward with some of my Dobashias (interpreters), and explaining matters to them, they sent out a woman to us with the symbolical green bough, and we were then duly admitted.

7. Having been compelled to leave thirty loads behind me at Kotsomah, owing to the Rengmah Nágas being unwilling to come on with me among the Lhotas, I halted at Nonsechong on the 2nd January, and sent some of my Kuki coolies back with an escort to bring them on, which they did that evening. In the course of the day crowds of fully-armed Nágas, said to belong to other villages in the neighbourhood, kept coming in, apparently with no particular object, except to watch our actions. On one occasion, when I was sitting down quietly on a stone in the village, looking on at the wild scene around me,

my attention was drawn to three very fine young fellows, evidently strangers, dressed in full war-paint, who came stalking up through the village, every now and again throwing stealthy glances over their shoulders, as if anticipating an attack. Suddenly, to my astonishment, I saw a man step out of the crowd and rush towards them, dao in hand, as if to cut them down, at seeing which, the three then turned round and fled, followed by a crowd of pursuers, one of whom threw his spear, which very narrowly missed hitting the last of them, as they all bounded behind the friendly shelter of an undulation in the ground, and dived into the jungle. After this there was a regular stampede down the cliff, when I lost sight of both pursuers and pursued. However, I am happy to say I afterwards heard that the latter escaped untouched. The explanation I received of this strange action was that the three young fellows who had so pluckily entered the village were Hattigorias, who had come in to see me, notwithstanding their being at feud with the Lhotas, whom I then warned that they had no business to have acted in the way they had.

8. On the 3rd January we all marched into Wokha, to which place there is a capital road. But our Nongsechong guides, for reasons of their own, first took us wandering off into the jungles, some miles out of our way, until we refused to follow their lead any further. After some little difficulty, we managed to cut our way back into the regular road. Our reception at Wokha was anything but cordial, for, instead of coming out to meet us and helping to build our huts for us, talking and laughing the while with all around, as the Nágas generally do when their intentions are friendly, they assumed a very sulky manner towards us, and at first contented themselves with standing about on the village heights, below which we had halted, in large groups of from twenty to forty, with their spear-shafts in their hands (the heads being probably concealed under the cloths which most of them wore thrown loosely over their shoulders,—at least, this was the suspicion one of my Dobashias quietly confided to me at the time). Afterwards, on our coolies going to cut grass and bamboos in the adjoining jungle, they tried to prevent their doing so by throwing stones at them, and on one occasion some of them actually went so far as to threaten to cut up a man who had gone about 150 yards off to fetch water. However, I very quickly threw out some constables as sentries all round the

position I had taken up, with the usual standing orders in my camp,—that, although they were to admit freely any unarmed Nágas wishing to come in, no armed parties were to be admitted on any pretence whatever without my special permission. I then sent out a head-constable, with some interpreters to try and explain matters and quiet them, and thus endeavour to get them to bring me in some rice and fowls, &c., for sale. After some time I was glad to see them return with some of the chiefs, who, however, only brought in about $2\frac{1}{2}$ maunds of rice and one fowl; still, that was something, and I paid them handsomely for what they had brought in. They eagerly accepted payment, promising to bring more rice on the morrow, and explaining that they had been unable to bring more just then, as they had not yet husked it out. I thought we had made a good beginning, and that very evening congratulated some of the other officers of the expedition on our having successfully got over (as I then thought we had) our difficulty with Wokha.

9. Early the following morning (4th January), having first of all sent off a party of coolies with an escort to cut grass about a mile off, and away from the village, so as to avoid all chance of giving any offence to the Wokha men, and having left Lieutenant Austin in charge of the camp, I and Captain La Touche, accompanying Lieutenant Woodthorpe and Mr. McCay, ascended the Wokha (or Thebzothu) mountain (6,600 feet above the level of the sea), in order to put up a trigonometrical station there. Whilst passing through the village we noticed a fresh human head hanging from a bamboo in the large sacred tree in the centre of the village, and I tried to ascertain where it had been obtained, but in vain, for, although they again repeated their promise of letting me have some more rice later on in the day, they were not very communicatively inclined on other points. We reached the summit of the mountain about 10 a.m., and at about half-past 1 o'clock, leaving Woódthorpe and McCay to finish their work, Captain La Touche and I began to descend the hill. Before we had gone very far we met a constable and four sepoys, who handed me over a short pencil note from Lieutenant Austin, telling me that a Kuki coolie had just been murdered by the Nágas, and that he had sent out men to bring the body in. This note I then sent on to Lieutenant Woodthorpe, with a pencil endorsement, requesting him to rejoin me as quickly as possible, and then

hastened on into camp, where, in front of my tent, I found the unfortunate man's headless body. The whole camp was in a great state of excitement.

10. Whilst passing through the village on our way back we had noticed the sulky, defiant looks of the villagers, and I was therefore not surprised to find that, far from having brought in "lots of rice for sale," as they had promised to do, not a single ounce had been brought in. From the inquiry I immediately made, it appeared that the unfortunate Kuki coolie had been decoyed into the jungle some hundred yards' distance from the rest of the party, and had there been most brutally murdered, and his head carried off. Of course, there was no direct evidence to show who had committed the deed; but, taking into consideration the attitude assumed towards us all along by the Wokha men, the proximity of the village to the spot where the murder had been committed, and the fact that the Wokha men had been throughout the day passing up and down the path within ten yards of which the man had been murdered, I felt quite convinced that the deed had been done either by the Wokha men themselves, or else with their full knowledge and connivance. Determining to have the matter thoroughly sifted, but at the same time anxious to avoid any chance of a disturbance, I at once sent up a head-constable alone, and unarmed, to the village, with a message to the effect that I wished to see the chiefs on a very serious matter, and requested they would come down to meet me as soon as possible. In about half-an-hour the head-constable returned, and reported that they had not only refused to come down, but had been most impertinent in their manner towards him, that he had noticed that they were sending off their women and children, that all the men were assembling together in large groups, fully armed, and he was therefore of opinion that they meant mischief. On learning this, I warned my men and the European officers to be ready to turn out at a moment's notice in case of anything occurring, and waited quietly to see what the next move was going to be. I had determined that, as it was already past four o'clock, and the evenings were short, I would not myself take further action in the matter until the following morning, when I intended to insist upon my orders being obeyed. At about 5 p.m., to my great surprise, three of the Wokha chiefs came in, accompanied by two Nágas (who spoke Assamese fluently, and said they came from Sanigaon), and presented me

with two fowls. I asked them why they had not come in before. To this question they gave me no direct answer, but replied they had brought "two fowls to present to me, and other men would bring rice presently." To this I replied as nearly as possible in the following words :—"This is no time for the presentation or acceptance of friendly presents. I asked you yesterday to help me to build some huts, and you not only refused to do so, but tried to prevent my coolies from building them, by throwing stones at them, and you also threatened to spear my men when they went to fetch water. I asked you to-day to sell me some rice, and you promised to do so, but you have not only failed to bring me in a single handful, but some of your men have most brutally murdered one of my coolies, and you now bring me two fowls. My orders to you are that you immediately surrender the man or men who committed the murder, and that you bring back to me at once the head of the murdered man, and, should you fail to carry out these orders, I shall hold the chiefs of Wokha responsible." On this being very carefully interpreted to them, some agitated and half-whispered conversation (the purport of which we could not discover) passed between them, and the two Sanigaon men then asked permission to go up to the village for the purpose of bringing down some of the other chiefs. To this I consented, at the same time detaining the three Wokha chiefs, who were very anxious to get away too. I must explain here that all these men were disarmed previous to admission into my camp, my plan having always been to insist that all arms be left under the charge of the outer sentry on anyone coming into camp, and taken away again on their departure. On looking back now at past events, I cannot help attributing a great portion of the success with which I have travelled among these barbarous tribes to this very simple precaution; and I may add here that I have reason to believe that, so long as the safety of the camp is ensured, it matters very little, as a rule, what personal risks the leader may run. It must be remembered that in his case there is very often no choice, for he must obviously trust his life to numberless chances, any one of which may at any time end it. As time went on, and it became dark, and yet there were no signs of the Sanigaon men returning, I dismissed the three Wokha chiefs, telling them to return to me as soon as they had decided upon the answer they were going to make to my demands. The three chiefs then went off to the village, and we all sat down to dinner,

never dreaming that anything more of any consequence would happen that night. At about 7 p.m., just as we were finishing our meal, we were suddenly startled by a shot, followed by shouts and more shots, and on rushing out we found the whole camp surrounded by Nágas,—at least, so it appeared to us, judging from the yells that came from every quarter of the jungle, for it was so dark that we could not see a yard before us. Of course, as can easily be imagined, the confusion at first was very great indeed, with coolies and camp-followers (of various nationalities,* all speaking different languages) rushing about the camp seeking for a place of safety, and not knowing exactly from what direction the foe meant to attack. However, setting alight to some blue-lights, which I had taken the precaution to bring with me for such emergencies, and which, together with my lantern, were always kept ready at hand, the men (both sepoys and constables) were soon assembled under arms. Being apprehensive that a sudden rush would be made upon us, when I knew that, with the numerically superior odds against us, a fight at close quarters would inevitably have told a terrible tale, I promptly decided that our best chance of safety lay in our turning the tables upon our enemy at once, and, by attacking their village, thus distract their attention from our camp. Leaving Lieutenant Woodthorpe and Mr. McCay, with Inspector Memaram and thirty constables, and a havildar and twenty-five sepoys of the 43rd Regiment, to hold the camp at all risk, I detached a sub-Inspector and forty constables, and, accompanied by Captain La Touche and Lieutenant Austin, with three sepoys of the 43rd Regiment, made straight for the village, from which they had already commenced to hurl down big stones upon us. This manœuvre seemed to take the Wokha men rather aback, for, Nága-like, they had evidently made up their minds that, as soon as we discovered that we had been surrounded, we should take to flight and seek safety in the jungles, where we should of course have fallen easy victims to their method of warfare, and have probably been cut up to a man; that we should turn round and become the attackers, was a result they never anticipated for a moment. On our having effected an entrance into the village, finding that the darkness was all in favour of the enemy, loth though, I confess, I was, to do more harm than I could possibly avoid to these ignorant wretches, under the circumstances I did not hesitate to order the houses on either side to be set on fire. We

* Kookies, Khasias, Kacharies, Goorkhas, and Hindustanies.

then advanced steadily up through the village in skirmishing order, the enemy falling back as we did so, so that at about 9 p.m. we were complete masters of the position. I then posted a picket of one sub-Inspector, one head-constable, and twenty constables on a good commanding position in the centre of the village, with orders to keep a sharp look-out, and patrol all night. Then returned to camp, where I found everything safe. I learnt from Lieutenant Woodthorpe that, after a few more shots had been fired into the jungle, the enemy had retired in the direction of the eastern end of the village, when they ascertained from the firing that we had turned the attack, which is exactly what I anticipated. Parties of Nágas were out prowling about all night, and a sharp watch had to be kept up until morning; but they never attempted to come down upon us again in any number, after we had once taken possession of the village. They seemed to restrict themselves to the endeavour to sneak up quietly, and cut off stragglers. I am happy to say we managed to get off with the comparatively very small number of only four constables wounded (two with spears, and two with stones). On the other hand, the Nágas must, I am afraid, have lost heavily, as some eighteen bodies were counted lying where they had fallen. Thus the Wokha men met a fate which they certainly richly deserved, for it was entirely brought upon themselves, and yet it is one I cannot help feeling the greatest regret for; utter savages, with a most inordinate idea of their own power, taught from childhood to believe that "might is right," regardless of bloodshed, and thinking we were utterly at their mercy, they most foolishly rushed into the pit they had dug for us. The melancholy sight of a large village in ruins, and its cattle wandering about homeless, is not one I care to recall, although I have the consolation of knowing that the measure was necessary. For it was simply (humanly speaking) the result of a choice of two evils,—either to suffer severe punishment ourselves, or be content to inflict it.

11. The whole of the following day (5th January) we were occupied in stockading the position I had taken up for a picket, in the centre of the village. By evening I was enabled to place the whole of our coolies and unarmed camp-followers in a place of comparative security. The same afternoon I received a deputation from the people of Nongse, who came in to assure me of their friendship, and I then took the opportunity

to tell them to let it be known to the Wokha men that I bore them no malice for the unwarrantable attack they had made upon me, but at the same time that I could not now listen to any overtures of peace until they consented to comply with my original demands, namely, the surrender of the murderers and return of the head, after which I should be glad to forgive and forget what had passed.

12. On the morning of the 6th I received another deputation from Phurmah, and again repeated what I had said to the Nongse men. That same afternoon I was not at all surprised to find them return, accompanied by two Wokha men, whose abject looks and servile actions now formed a marked contrast to their proud and defiant bearing but a few days before. To these men I again repeated the only conditions on which I would consent to make peace, and, after some hesitation, they promised they should be fully complied with "within three days" from that time. They then took leave, after most solemnly assuring me that they would never again act as they had done, or ever refuse again to carry out any order I might give. And I was sanguine enough then to think that there was every chance of this very serious affair being speedily settled without further trouble. The sequel proves what little reliance can be placed upon the word of these savages; for, after anxiously waiting for three days, just when I was momentarily expecting to see the Wokha men keep their promise, I was suddenly astonished to find myself called upon to repel a second attack, the particulars of which are as follow:—On the morning of the 9th I had received deputations from Nongse, Nongsechong, and Nirohi, and yet the same evening I received a report from the sub-Inspector at Tesephimah, telling me that the two constables escorting the dâk on the 8th had been attacked by Nágas of Nongsechong, and one of them severely wounded by two arrows through the leg. I also heard that these same men had murdered one of the very few Tesephimah coolies that had accompanied me on the 2nd. I immediately instructed Captain La Touche to proceed out the following morning to inquire into the matter. From this duty he had but just returned, bringing back with him the headmen of Nongsechong, who most emphatically declared that the attack on the constables had been made by Wokha men, and denied the murder of the Tesephimah man *in toto*, when, at about 2-45 p.m. on the afternoon of the

10th, both our camp and stockade were simultaneously attacked again by a large Nága force, estimated at the very lowest to be composed of between four and five hundred men, which we afterwards ascertained had been collected together from no less than seven villages, namely, Wokha, Changse, Pangti, Lungiung, Koio, Seleku, and Chingaki. They crept up through the dense jungle, unperceived, to within a hundred yards of our position, before we had the very slightest idea of their proximity, and even then it was only through their foolishly shouting out their war-cry, as they came down on us, that we learnt the fact that we were attacked. However, they were met again as usual, and driven back into the jungles, through which we followed them up for several miles, again inflicting a loss of some eight or nine killed, besides wounded.

13. At this juncture, although clearly of opinion that the Wokha men would very shortly be compelled to comply with my demands and sue for peace (which is exactly what they did do), and, notwithstanding that I considered Captain La Touche was probably fully able to hold his own against any Nága foe in the very strong position I had taken up for him, yet, taking all things into consideration, I did not think that, with the comparatively small garrison of only twenty constables (which is all I could spare), it would be possible for us to keep open our communications if I proceeded further east. As I was quite confident that the least sign of any hesitation or weakness would only have the effect of causing other villages to join the enemy, I deemed it right to lose no time in assuming the responsibility of at once writing to Golághát for a reinforcement, at the same time reporting to you that I had done so.

Vide my letter No. 4T. of the 10th January, 1875.

14. On the afternoon of the 11th (the very next day after their second bold attack on our position) some ten or twelve Wokha men were seen waving green boughs over their heads about one-fourth of a mile off. On being invited, they came into camp, and informed us that they had been deputed to tell us that "their stomachs were quite sick of fighting," and that they were now negotiating about bringing in the murderers; and on the 13th they returned again with Santchepomo, one of the two men concerned in the murder of the Kuki coolie. This man at once confessed the share he had

taken in the crime, and led us to where he and his accomplice, Chijampemo, had hidden the unfortunate man's head. From the Wokha men I learnt that Chijampemo had taken refuge in Sanigaon, and was living in the house of one Nibomo, of that village, but that they would produce him in the course of a few days. It was now that I first learnt the names of all the villages that had combined together, and taken part in the second attack, already described above. During the 13th and 14th I received visits from numerous Assamese-speaking Nágas from Bhandari, Lakhuti, and other villages across the Doyong,—men who had previously sworn most positively that the Wokha people, and all across the Doyong, were "Abors,—terrible fellows all of them! with whom they had no connection whatever, speaking a different language, &c., &c." A tissue of lies from beginning to end, and yet, when I taxed them with their untruthfulness, they simply smiled, and seemed to think it was rather a good joke, their having thus tried to take me in. The old chief of Bhandarigaon (who, by the way, remembered Brodie visiting his village in 1842) laughingly added, that he had often heard of me before, and that among the Nágas they spoke of me as the " Hawk," because, forsooth, I was always said to be circling about among the hills, at one time swooping down here, at another there, and no-one seemed to know exactly where I came from, or where I went to; and all this was said with such a comical naive air, I could not help joining heartily in the general titter it raised.

15. On the 15th, in compliance with the strict injunctions I had issued the day before, to the effect that, if the other murderer were not given up within twenty-four hours, I should proceed in person to Sanigaon to fetch him, Chijampemo was duly surrendered to me by the very man in whose house he had taken sanctuary, and who now tried to make it appear that he had only arrested the unfortunate wretch at great personal risk of violence to himself, and was hence deserving of great reward at my hands, a point on which I very soon undeceived him. This same man, I must tell you, very shortly afterwards distinguished himself by proposing that I should pay him for any services he might render me, by an order that every village I passed through should give him a couple of cloths, or a spear, or any other little trifle I liked to mention, but, finding his talents were not appreciated, he very soon made himself scarce.

16. On the 16th, I received deputations from Yekum, Rephim, and Changse, who came in to express their sorrow at having joined Wokha in the second attack on our camp. The same day the Wokha chiefs came in and took a most solemn oath (accompanied with the usual ceremonies,—the decapitation of a fowl, &c.) never to molest us again, after which, peace being declared in due form, I made over to them all the little grain and property that had been saved, with the exception of sufficient rice for our own consumption. I then explained to them that they were now at liberty to rebuild their village, with the exception of the central portion, occupied by our stockade, which would now be held until I returned.

17. On the 17th, I held a formal trial in the matter of the murder of the Kuki coolie, which ended in a conviction and sentence of death, the proceedings connected with which were all duly forwarded for the confirmation of the Chief Commissioner, who, however, although fully concurring with me in the guilt of the accused and justice of the sentence, nevertheless saw grounds on which to remit the sentence to one of penal servitude for seven years. Thus, in the brief course of thirteen days, the Nágas had attacked us twice, and suffered a signal defeat on each occasion; a most brutal murder had been avenged, the demands of justice fully satisfied, our prestige re-established, peace made, and everything cleared once more for a fresh start into the unknown regions lying before us.

18. The 18th and 19th I passed at Wokha, hoping every hour to see the Golághát reinforcement arrive, but, not having recived any reply to my call for aid, despatched on the 11th, I determined it was useless my waiting any longer, and so, leaving Captain La Touche, with one sub-Inspector and twenty-five constables, to hold Wokha, on the 20th I moved to Changse. The road between Wokha and Yekum was very bad indeed, especially the descent close to and above the latter village, which was excessively steep; between Yekum and Rephim, however, it was fair, and thence on into Changse very good indeed, quite fit for laden ponies. Passing through Changse-Yangher, we pitched camp just below Changse-Yanthemo. Our late foes in all these villages came out to meet us, with their cloths full of delicious oranges and sweet-limes, which were gratuitously distributed and highly appreciated after our long and hot march.

19. On the 21st, crossing the Doyong at about three miles below Changse (where the river was about sixty feet broad and its bed about 960 feet above the sea-level), we moved camp to Are-Yanghen, and were again well received.

20. On the 22nd, marching along a capital road the whole way, we moved into the Hattigoria country, and encamped at Nunkum, a very fine, large village, perched upon the conical but broad summit of a hill, 5,100 feet above the level of the sea. On our first approach, which seemed to take the inhabitants rather by surprise, as most of them were out in their fields, they began assembling in large numbers, fully armed; but, on being assured that our intentions were perfectly friendly, they at once put away their arms and made us heartily welcome. I came across Assamese-speaking Nágas here, who told me that they regularly visited the plains *viâ* Titabor, and yet, it must be remembered that this was the Nunkam sharp Abor Peak of the old north-east frontier maps, a sort of *ultima thule*. We all noticed here, how strange it was, that, although these men were scarcely distinguishable by their garb and general appearance from their neighbours and deadly foes, the Lhotas, yet that they spoke an entirely different language, and in manner and disposition were far more akin to the frank and open Angami than to the sulky, treacherous Lhota. Were I to classify the whole Nága race, from the Kopili to the Bori-Dihing, I should certainly place the Angami, Hattigoria, and Namsangia groups first, and the Lhota, Tablúngia, and Ninú lots last. I may here observe that I have again left the ethnographical portions of our late most interesting labours to be undertaken by my able colleague, Lieutenant Woodthorpe, whose graphic pen and talented pencil have again done ample justice to a subject, full of the greatest interest, not only to us humble workers in the field, but also to *savants* at home.

21. On the 23rd, we marched to Nungatong, and encamped about a mile to the north of the village. The road was a rideable path the whole way, and the entrances, or approaches, to the village were extremely pretty: to the south a broad road, with a fine avenue of oaks on either side; to the north a similar road between rows of bamboos, whose feathery stems almost met overhead. Here, as at Nunkam, we met a most cordial welcome, and, instead of scarcely ever getting a glimpse even of the flutter of a petticoat, the women (clean and comely,

as a rule, in comparison with their sisters in Lhota-land) came out and had a good look at us, laughing and chatting among themselves, and evidently enjoying the fun of what to them must have been a great sight. I envied the gift of tongues that would have enabled me to learn and appreciate the criticism they were doubtless passing on us.

22. On the 24th, passing through Kemindra, we moved camp to Allibar. The following day, crossing the head-waters of the Chebi (about half-way), we marched into Chánki, or Borodúbia, where we were once more very heartily welcomed. The Nágas turning out to receive us in all their gala costume, led by an old chief, with a very battered sola-topi on his head, a gear of which the old fellow was evidently very proud, but which very nearly upset our gravity altogether, for the picture represented to our view, in all the proud innocence of savage pretension, was about as incongruously ludicrous as it could well be.

23. On the 26th we bid adieu to our Hattigoria friends, and once more entered the Lhota country, moving camp to Mekúlá. This march was a most wearisome one, leading along a narrow track, occasionally lost in jungle, over the summit of the range running parallel with, and between the Chebi and Seopani streams. We were much delayed in picking out the panjies with which the whole path had been covered, and avoiding numerous deep pitfalls, skilfully concealed with grass and leaves, a tumble into which would have been almost certain death by impalement on the bamboo, spear-like panjies with which such pits were invariably furnished.

24. On the 27th we continued our march through Akuk into Lakhuti, where I found the party of ten constables, with thirty coolies and stores, which I had sent on from Wokha to await our arrival there, all safe. Here I once more got some letters, both from Samaguting and Golághát, which informed me of the arrival at Wokha of the reinforcement I had written for on the 10th. As Lieutenant Austin had been constantly suffering from fever, and I was apprehensive that it might assume a more serious form at any time, and thus incapacitate him from being able to assist me in the arduous work we had still before us, I deemed it advisable, in the interests of the expedition, to leave him behind to support

Captain La Touche. Accordingly, I directed him to proceed the following morning, together with the detachment of the 43rd under his command, to Wokha, with instructions to send the detachment of the 44th (which had just arrived there) to join me at Lakhuti with all practicable speed. Agreeably to these instructions, he left me on the morning of the 28th. On the 29th I accompanied the survey officers to Khergaon, with a view to explore the country in search of a good line of communication between Wokha and Golághát, a distance of only thirty-five miles as the crow flies. My labours were fully rewarded by the discovery of a capital line of country already reported upon elsewhere. On the evening of the 30th the detachment of the 44th, consisting of one subadar, three havildars, and thirty sepoys, arrived, and so everything was ready again for a move on the morrow.

25. Whilst halted at Lakhuti, I received a deputation from our late foes at Pangti, who expressed their sorrow at what had occurred, and explained that, on our having fallen out with Wokha and destroyed that village, a great council of war had been held, and it had there been decided that, if they all combined together, there could be no doubt that they must be victorious. So the six villages previously named had all joined Wokha, and made the attack on the 10th, with what result I have already stated. They could not tell me of the strength of the contingents furnished by the other villages, or the loss they sustained, but gave the number of the force that started from their own village as eighty fighting men, of whom one was killed and two were wounded.

26. On the 31st we crossed the westernmost feeder of the Disoi, and moved camp to Borogaon, or Yembang, a village situated on the crest of the outer range of hills, bordering the plains, from which we could see several of the tea-gardens, with their corrugated-iron-roofed buildings, most distinctly. In the neighbourhood of this village I personally noticed for the first time several patches of poppy-cultivation, and was extremely sorry to learn that the story I had heard* some years back, that numbers of the border Nágas were opium-caters, was only too true. I have little doubt now, but that some proportion of the opium grown up in these hills finds its way down to the plains below, where of course the profit at which it could be

* This matter was reported in my letter No. 187, of 10th October, 1871.

bartered would be enormous, and I mention the matter here, as I think the subject is one deserving of further inquiry.

27. On the 1st February we marched into Jampang, having passed through Lúngitúng, *en route*. The road between these villages was one of the worst I have ever travelled on, a succession of short but stiff ups-and-downs the whole way, with thick grass and reed jungle on either side, which cut both our hands and faces in forcing our way through it. At Jampang we received the most unpleasant intelligence, that there was no path whatever in the north-easterly direction we wished to go, and so had to make up our minds to make one as best we could. I do not think in all my rough experience in these hills I ever underwent much harder work and exposure than that we experienced the two following days.

28. On the 2nd February, a precipitous descent for about one mile and a half brought us to the bed of the Singdú, down which we waded knee-deep in icy-cold water for about eight long miles, until evening found us at the junction of the Singdú and Rengdú streams, about a mile from where the latter falls into the Disoi. Here we pitched our camp for the night, heartily tired out, and glad to get on dry land again. Early the following morning we were off, wading again, only this time we were often up to our thighs, and indeed, now and again, where an unforeseen hole received our unwary footsteps, even up to our waists. The consequence was we had to divest ourselves of all nether garments, and in the primitive, but appropriate, costume of shirt-sleeves and helmet, we struggled on for something like ten miles, keeping to the water almost the whole time. When we attempted to cut off a bend of the river we were driven back again by the leeches, forest-flies, and nettles, all of which abound in these low valleys. The abundant and fresh spoor of elephants, rhinoceros, buffalo, tiger; deer, mithan, and pig in every direction proved also that these wild beasts of the forest mustered in considerable numbers. Owing probably to the great noise made by our long string of followers, splashing through the water, we did not see a single thing in the shape of game, although two huge water-lizards, the largest measuring six feet one inch in length, and some otters, afforded us a little sport, especially the latter, which, after a long and exciting chase, managed to escape after all.

At about four o'clock in the afternoon we came across the path leading down from Lungmikhaba to the plains. Here we again halted in the heart of the jungles for the night, thoroughly worn out and footsore, with our legs blistered by the sun, and bitten by the leeches. Notwithstanding all this, the following day (the 4th February) we pushed on to Cholemsen, or Mukhigaon, glad to get among the Hattigorias again, for this is the last of their villages on the east. As was usually the case in the Hattigoria country, our road was a very fair one,—first of all a stiff little ascent of about three miles and a half to Lungmikhaba, then down into the valley on the other side, and across the head-waters of the Seopani, at a point just above a spot called "the Bokapothar." Here for many years some Assamese took refuge, and lived in secluded safety during their own troubleous times, and until they were driven out again by the extortions of their new neighbours. Finally, we marched up a long spur into the village, a distance of, I should say, about eleven or twelve miles altogether. The last mile, however, was very precipitous, and cut in a regular ladder-like succession of short steps.

29. On the 5th February we entered the Assiringia pale, and pitched camp at Munching. The road, a bad one, ran along the summit of the ridge the whole way, passing close above, and to the north of, the village of Khari. On the 6th, following the path along the ridge for about three miles, brought us into Dibua or Booragaon, which we found had been attacked some months ago by the Khensa people, and half the village burnt to the ground. Passing through the village, and still keeping to the ridge, about three miles more brought us to Woromong, below which village we struck off to the west, and descended into the valley of the Tirú, crossing which river, we ascended up a long spur into Assiringia, or Merinokho. This ascent, owing to its passing through jhooms, without a particle of shade almost the whole way, and under a burning sun, was a very trying one indeed. We all felt the march a good deal, although I do not think the actual distance travelled could have been much, if anything, over twelve miles.

30. On the 7th, we kept our camp standing at Assiringia in order to enable the survey officers to visit Chanchong (or Noagaon) and Lakhu (or Kolabaria), which latter village was also found to have been attacked and burnt to the ground only two months before by the men of Khari.

31. On the 8th, passing through Lasso (or Nokhemchen) *en route*, we moved camp to Kampungia (or Liramon). On the following day, retracing our steps to Lasso, we recrossed the valley of the Tirú, and, ascending the opposite ridge, struck into the main road a little below Bora Haimong (or Yemchenkimung). Thence, turning to the left along the main spur, we marched into Deka Haimong (or Mulung Kimung) the first of the Dupdoria lot at which we encamped. Here, finding we were running short of rice, and the villagers could not supply us with a sufficient quantity to fill up all our reserve bags, I ordered a halt for the morrow. The following morning (10th) I sent off a party to purchase and fetch up some rice from the plains. That same evening, about 6 p.m., I received a short note from Mr. Buckingham, of Amguri, telling me of the sad disaster that had occurred to Lieutenant Holcombe and his party, but the when, where, and how, were all questions on which he could give me no information. There was quite enough to tell me that the story in its main facts was a true one, and, judging that prompt measures would have to be taken, and, being aware that the bulk of our frontier force was occupied in the Duffla country, I immediately addressed the Chief Commissioner, as well as the Deputy-Commissioners of Sibságar and Lakhimpur, inquiring whether I could be of any assistance, and offering the services of myself and party for any work that might be required.

32. On the 11th, finding that the party of men I had sent down for rice had not yet returned, and a further delay being thus inevitable, I wrote off that afternoon to Mr. Buckingham, asking him very kindly to lay out a horse-dâk for me to Sibságar. The following morning, giving charge of the camp to Lieutenant Woodthorpe, I left Deka Haimong at 7-15 a.m., and, walking down to Amguri, a distance of about fourteen miles, reached that place at 11-30. There I breakfasted and rested until 1-30 p.m., when I started off again, and rode into Sibságar, arriving at the station at 4-30 p.m. Here I found the Deputy-Commissioner had left for Jorehat, and so, after having made arrangements to have my letters sent on to camp by express messengers, I rode back to Amguri. Availing myself of Mr. Buckingham's kind hospitality, I passed the night there, and the following morning (13th) rejoined my party at Deka Haimong. No sooner had I done so, than that same afternoon I received letters which induced me to determine to

run into Sibságar again, in the hope that I might there intercept the Chief Commissioner on his road up to Dibrugarh. So, on the 14th I again went into Sibságar, and stayed there the three following days, until, on the evening of the 17th, I received the Chief Commissioner's instructions to bring my own expedition to a close, and proceed at once to join the Nága field force as Political Officer, taking over charge from Major Clarke, at Buruarchali, near Jaipur. On receipt of these instructions, I immediately returned to Deka Haimong. On the 19th, after crossing the valley of the Jhanzi, or Melak as it is called by the Nágas, we moved camp to Merangkung or Naogaon, and the following day marched into Kanching, both very trying marches, the road leading through thick jungle, swarming with leeches almost the whole way. On the 21st February, marching into Nazirah, a distance of some twenty miles, I was enabled to take the whole of my party out of the hills, and thus bring the western expedition to a close. This is the fifth expedition of the kind I have had the honour to command, and the good fortune to bring to a successful issue.

33. With regard to the results of the expedition from a geographical point of view, I think these can best be seen by a reference to the accompanying map, which shows a tract of something like 800 square miles completed by Lieutenant Woodthorpe, on the scale of two miles to the inch, a tract comprising the whole of the country drained by the Desoi and Jhanzi rivers, and lying between the Doyong and Dikhu rivers, besides an overlap of about 300 square miles, out of a total area of 1,100 square miles done by Mr. McCay on the scale of four miles to the inch. When it is remembered that this work was done in the short space of only two months, by far the greater number of days in which all survey operations had to be suspended, owing, first of all, to the determined opposition offered to us by the Wokha people and their allies, and afterwards to the almost constant rain we had on and off throughout (far more rain having fallen this season than I have ever experienced before), I think the result will be considered extremely creditable to both the survey officers above-named. I may mention here, as it is not shown in the map, that we ascertained that the westernmost feeder of the Dikhú rises close below and to the east of Nunkam. We afterwards also learnt that its most eastern feeder rises about eight miles south-west of Kamhua. These two branches,

coming in from diametrically opposite directions, meet below and almost due north of Tengsa, whilst a third main feeder is said to come in somewhere south of Tablung, and thus these three streams go to form the Dikhu, which debouches into the plains between Namsang and Kongan. Hence we can account for the mystery whence this river gets all its water, which, if you remember, puzzled us not a little last year, when we tracked the Lanier out into the Kaiendwen, or Námtanái. In the course of this expedition, although it was brought to so premature an end, we traversed a tract of country occupied by no less than six distinct tribes, namely, the Angamies, Rengmahs, Lhotas, Hattigorias, Assiringias, and Dupdorias, the latter three of which had never been visited by any European since the days when Brodie took (as he says himself) a "hurried" month's run through some of the border villages in 1844. To turn to the political and general effect of the expedition. I am glad to be able to say that it has been everything we could possibly have desired it to have been. The complete success attending every measure taken in connection with the expedition, notwithstanding the very great difficulties we had to contend against at times, has more than fully realized our utmost expectations. Nor can I forget that these, to me, most gratifying results have been mainly due to the thorough and able support I received, not only from every one of the four European officers, Captain La Touche, Lieutenants Woodthorpe and Austin, and Mr. McCay, but also from Inspector Mena Ram and the men (both regulars and police) who formed my escort. Without their cordial assistance and staunch support I could have done nothing.

34. Both Captain La Touche and Lieutenant Austin had each a difficult duty to perform,—the former in charge of the advanced post at Wokha, and the latter, first of all, in command of my escort, and afterwards, in support of Captain La Touche, —and they each performed their allotted task to my satisfaction.

35. Of Lieutenant Woodthorpe's services, I really feel that I cannot speak in too high terms, for they were simply invaluable to me ; ever ready, cheerfully and promptly to carry out any instructions, whether connected with his own legitimate work or not; I always felt that I could entrust him with any duty in the fullest confidence that it would be done well, and done quickly. My opinion of this officer's merits, especially

with regard to his courage, endurance, and ability, was fully mentioned in my report last year, and I have very great pleasure in now stating that a further acquaintance has only tended to confirm me fully in the opinion I then formed of him, and I have only to add here that if, in the future, the Government are again pleased to entrust me with the conduct of another exploration expedition (as I trust they will), I hope Lieutenant Woodthorpe may again be the chief officer in charge of the survey deputed to assist me. I could not, I think, wish for any better assistant for him than the officer who accompanied us this year, namely, Mr. McCay, who, most energetic and zealous in the performance of his work, promises to become a capital officer. I may here mention that this officer took a series of interesting photographs during the expedition, copies of which he has very kindly allowed me to attach hereto.

36. I have already briefly alluded above to Inspector Mema Ram and the men composing my escort (consisting of detachments from the 43rd and 44th Regiments Assam Light Infantry and Nága Hills Police), and, as their uniform good and gallant conduct has already been fully alluded to in other reports, I need not refer to them further here, than briefly to accord them the high praise they so justly deserve.

37. The conduct of my Kuki coolies is also deserving of special commendation, and I would here beg to take the opportunity of most strongly recommending that I be permitted to present a handsome silver-mounted shield and talwar to each of the three Kuki chieftains who so loyally supported me with porters (coolies) for four long months of hardship and privation.

38. In conclusion, I would invite special attention to the extent up to which our explorations and surveys have already gone, and the amount of work we have still got to do, before we can say that we have really completed our work on this frontier. Had circumstances permitted of our carrying out our original intentions, the result of our work this year would in all probability have given us a map of the entire country drained by the Dikhú, and perhaps a little beyond, whereas at present we have had to content ourselves with something considerably short of this. Now, presuming that the Government are quite determined to carry on this most important work, and, bearing in mind the contemplated change of the head-quarters

station of the Nága Hills Agency from Samaguting to Wokha, I deem it right to point out what a splendid base of operations the latter station would be from which to complete our work. The first thing, however, which, in my humble opinion, we have now got to do, is to consolidate our power over those tracts already explored, and such a measure cannot be better assisted than by the completion of the road from Kohima to Wokha, and thence to Golághát, and by the change of stations above mentioned; after which there ought to be no difficulty whatever in our again pushing on our explorations and surveys, quietly but surely, carefully feeling our way as we go, and avoiding, as far as possible, all risk of opposition or political complication in the manner so successfully carried out hitherto.

39. Once the scheme I have but very briefly and roughly sketched above is properly carried out, I believe we shall have done more towards ensuring a quiet frontier than anything that has ever been done before. However, it is needless my discussing the question any further here, and I have therefore only to add that, should it happen to be eventually decided that we are to carry on our labours in the tracts still unexplored, and should it chance that the work is again entrusted to me, I beg I may receive my orders and instructions at as early a date as possible, in order that I may have ample time for making all necessary arrangements.

NOTES BY LIEUT. R. G. WOODTHORPE,

OF No. 6, TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY.

Dated Shillong, the 26th May, 1875.

From—LIEUT. R. G. WOODTHORPE, R.E., Assistant-Superintendent, Topographical Survey,

To—CAPTAIN JOHN BUTLER, Political Agent, Nága Hills.

IN accordance with your request, verbally conveyed, I have the honour to forward a few notes on the country, tribes, &c., which we had an opportunity of visiting during the first portion of our last cold-weather's work.

2. The original plan of our operations was to carry out the proposal of Captain Badgley, in paragraph 3 of his No. 22B., dated Samaguting, 25th March, 1874, to your address, and continue the triangulation from Wokha and Chosama, by Nunkum and Lakhuti, till it was connected with the points from which Captain Badgley started his work, by which means a good line of triangles would have been carried up along the whole outer range of the hills bounding the valley of Assam on the south, till we reached that portion surveyed last year by Captain Samuells, and from this line we could then have extended our work southward and eastward, as far as time allowed. The sad events which occurred in the early part of February prevented our carrying out our programme, and though a fortnight more would have seen the completion of our part of the triangulations, we were obliged to leave it unfinished. In order to start our work, and find suitable points on which to continue the triangulation in the hills south-east of Golághát, and also with a view to fill in certain gaps still existing in our maps of that part, I visited, with your approval, about fourteen villages overlooking the plains, before your arrival at Samaguting, where I joined you. The work I then did proved useful, by enabling us afterwards to go ahead without having to retrace our steps over a large area, and saved us probably nearly a fortnight; and thus we managed to get all the hills immediately bordering the plains surveyed to their foot, right up to Captain Badgley's work,

before the murder of Lieutenant Holcombe put a stop to all further operations in the so-called Western Nága Hills. However, I had then managed to secure about 800 square miles on the half inch to a mile scale, and Mr. J. McCay had mapped 1,100 square miles on the scale of four miles to an inch. Although we were unfortunately prevented from actually exploring and mapping the sources of the Dikhu river, we have nevertheless been able to get a very accurate idea as to their position. One of the two principal feeders rises from the watershed due east of Nunkum, and, flowing in a north-east direction, meets another large feeder flowing from the east at the junction of our work with Captain Badgley's, whence these two, flowing together, make their exit into the plains.

Our own especial work this season, owing to our not getting beyond the outer ranges, did not take us into any very elevated country, the greatest height visited being Thebzodhu (6,600 feet). The average of the other ranges was about 3,000 feet. These ranges all run remarkably parallel to each other, the valleys are open and cultivated, while the tops of the ridges, as a rule, are very narrow and clothed with long grass jungle. The valley of the Disoi river is very low, flat, and densely covered with large forest trees, and is separated by a very low, wooded, and uninhabited range from the plains beyond. In former days this valley used to be visited by Assamese to work for gold in the river of the Disoi, but the quantity of gold obtained was not, I believe, sufficient to repay the labour of washing it. Many fine rubber-trees grow on the banks of the river, some of which have been ruthlessly cut down for the sake of the rubber.

All the outer ranges of hills are of sandstone, the strata dipping at a very great angle, frequently nearly vertically, and the strike following the general direction of the ranges. In many of the villages the hard stratified rock crops up in a series of knife-like edges, making walking exceedingly difficult, and exciting wonder as to how the stability of the houses can be secured. The northern face of all these ranges is most precipitous, falling nearly perpendicularly for several hundred feet, and making the approach to the villages from that side very steep and difficult.

3. After leaving the Wokha men and the other Lhota Nágas, who have already been described by me (*vide* my report of last year, dated Shillong, the 29th April, 1874), we passed through and saw members of three tribes, *viz.*, Hattigorias, Dupdorias, and Assiringias. The principal differences between these three are linguistic; but, though all are far superior to the Lhotas in physique, manner, bearing, and in the general

well-to-do appearance of their villages, yet the Hattigorias bear off the palm in all these characteristics. Both the men and women, next to the Angamies, are the best looking, best built, and most pleasing of the Nága tribes I have yet seen. The women are especially remarkable for their good looks, many retaining them even in middle age. The dress of the three tribes is the same, consisting for the males of a small waist-cloth tied at the back,—one end, being brought round between the legs and drawn up under the waist-belt, falls in front in a broad flap. These cloths are of various colours and patterns, from dark blue with white stripes, to white with variegated patterns of black, or black and crimson. The Dupdorias fix small strips of brass in clusters down the edges of their flaps, apparently to give them additional weight. The broad dark blue or black flap adorned with cowries is also common among these tribes in full dress. The general decorations are the same as those described last year as being worn by the non-kilted tribes, such as the bearskin coronet, cotton wool bindings for hair, and puffs for the ears, necklaces, &c. There is one ornament worn suspended on the chest, which I think I have not described before; it is a long flat strip of wood about 15 inches long, narrow in the middle, but broadening slightly towards the ends, and covered with coloured canework, cowries, or white seeds, and adorned with a fringe of long red hair. Two broad red and blue sashes, also fringed with hair, support at the back the dâo, and a small bucket for carrying panjies (fig. 1). The spears are generally similar to those found at Primi. The dâos among the Hattigorias and Dupdorias are small-handled, like the Angamies; but among the Assiringias are found an approach to the long hair-tufted handles and broad blades common among the tribes of the Jaipur district. The shields are small, and either of cane-work, or else thin pieces of wood, a hide painted black with white circles and spots on their face, and occasionally decorated with plumes. The Assiringias wear in war-dress, tall conical helmets, adorned with boars' tusks and two straight plumes of hair, one on each side, leaving the apex of the helmet bare. The cloths of these three tribes are many-coloured, and seem to be used indiscriminately, according to the taste of the wearer, rather than as denoting tribal distinctions. They are dark blue, with red and white stripes, or dark blue only, or red only, red and blue, &c., &c., and are frequently adorned by tufts of crimson and white hair, sewn in rows at intervals along the stripes of the cloth.

The women's dress consists of a small petticoat of dark blue, a cloth of the same colour being thrown over the shoulders. They wear large brass rings on each brow, supported by a string passing round the head. Sometimes these rings pass through the upper portion of the ear, but

generally they simply hang on the temples. The lobe of the ear supports large thick, oval, or oblong-shaped pieces of a crystal obtained from the plains (*see* fig. 2). The women all tattoo slightly, four lines are drawn on the chin, the outer ones being tattooed from the corners of the mouth ; the front of the throat has a few crossed lines on it, three arrow-head-shaped lines are tattooed on each breast running up to the shoulders, and a fine diamond pattern runs down the centre of the stomach. The calf of the leg, from about three inches below the knee, is also tattooed with diagonal lines, the space between the highest and the knee is filled up with a few vertical lines ending at the knee in arrow-heads or stars. The wrists are also frequently tattooed with stars and stripes.

The women's necklaces are, as usual, beads or large pieces of shell strung on cotton.

The pipes smoked by both men and women are of the shape shown in fig. 2, though sometimes a small bamboo receptacle is fitted below the bowl to catch the tobacco-juice.

4. The villages, as a rule, occupy the most commanding points along the ridges, and the approaches to them are exceedingly pretty. Broad roads, bordered with grass and low shrubs, lead up through avenues of fine trees to the main entrance, which is generally very strongly guarded by two or three panjied ditches, running right across the ridge, and stockaded on the inner bank. The stockades are strongly built of a double line of posts, supporting a wall of interlaced bamboo, and are capable of offering a good resistance. The outermost ditch is generally of about 200 or 300 yards, or even more, from the village, the second being situated between it and the one enclosing the village. The gate through the stockade of this last ditch into the village is cut out of one huge block, and is frequently four or five feet broad and about six feet high. A large gable roof is constructed over it, giving it a great resemblance to our own old lychgates at home (*see* fig. 3). Look-outs are built commanding the entrances, and in some cases little huts are constructed in large trees outside the most advanced stockades on the main roads, communications being preserved with the interior by means of long ladders and causeways. Passing through the gate into the village, we find ourselves before the morang, or bachelors' house, a large and most peculiar-looking building (*see* fig. 4), appearing to be all roof, which springs from a small back gabled wall of bamboo about five feet high and six or seven feet broad. The ridge rises rapidly from this to the front, till it attains a height from the ground of twenty-five or thirty feet, the eaves resting on the ground on either side. The front

is closed in with a semi-circular wall of thatch, a small door about four feet high giving admittance to the building, which, as this is generally the only opening, is necessarily somewhat dark. As the eye gets accustomed to the gloom though, we find that the house is divided into two parts by a low wall formed of a log of wood, over which a thick bamboo mat is stretched. The half of the house has a matted floor, and is provided with a hearth, and planked sleeping-places round it, and here the young men live; but the other half is unfloored, and is intended for the reception of casual visitors, who drop in for an hour or two only. We also make out that the principal uprights are carved with large figures of men, elephants, tigers, and lizards, &c. (fig. 5), roughly painted with the three colours common to the Nága and Gáro tribes, *viz.*, a black, white, and a reddish brown. Arranged round the walls are skulls of men and animals, and skilful imitations of them made by painting and cutting old gourds; these imitations are so well done that often at a little distance they pass for real skulls. The ridge of the morang projects a few feet in front, and is ornamented with small straw figures of men and tufts of straw placed at regular intervals. Outside each morang is a large platform of logs of wood, on which the young men and their friends sit and smoke through the day, and hard by is an open shed, in which stands the big drum, formed of a huge trunk hollowed out, and elaborately carved and painted in front, after the manner of the figure-head of a ship, and is furnished at the other end with a straight tail (fig. 6). The drum is raised from the ground, and rests on logs of wood; it is sounded by letting a heavy piece of wood fall against it, and by beating it with double-headed clubs. In large villages there are two, and even three, morangs, with their drums in neighbouring sheds. The other houses in the villages are large and long, the front part resting on the ground, the back, as usual, being supported on bamboo piles, with platforms at the back and sides, on which many of the household duties are performed. There is a large open verandah in front, and the interior of the house is divided into two or three rooms. The Hattigoria houses are the largest and best built, and are arranged most regularly and closely adjacent on either side of long streets. The front gables project considerably, those of opposite houses nearly meeting over the roadway, calling to mind the appearance of a lane in some old European town, where the gabled upper stories of the houses overhang the footways. In front of the houses are rows of skulls, and in one or two of the front verandahs we notice rows of curiously carved and painted posts about three feet high. These, we are told, are put up on the occasion of the owner of the house giving a big feast, and thereby proclaiming himself a man of substance.

The bodies of the dead are wrapped in mats, and disposed on platforms, roofed over and fenced in. All the personal decorations and

cloths of the deceased being arranged about the platform and fence. The ground around is sometimes panjied as a protection against the attacks of wild animals. These bodies are placed in groups along the road between the two outer stockades.

The Hattigorias, as road-engineers, far surpass their neighbours. Their roads are constructed with due regard to the easiest gradient, and are not carried up and down over every little hillock. The steeper parts are paved or stepped to prevent the rain washing channels in them, and in the gentler gradients cuts are made across the road at every change of inclination or direction, to carry off the water down the hillside in the most scientific manner.

Altogether, I am very favourably impressed by these three tribes, and I shall be very glad if I am able on any future occasion to renew my aquaintance with, and extend my knowledge of them.