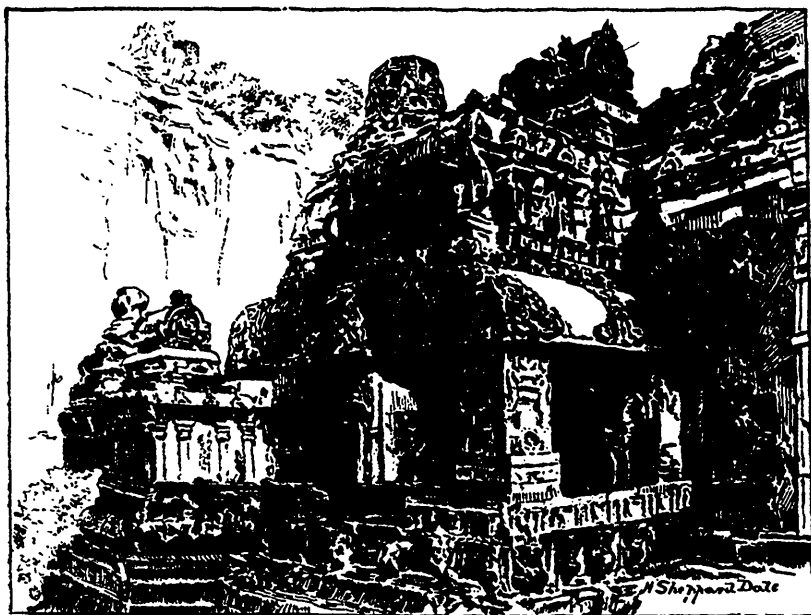


picturesque beauty of the river and the cliffs, and the fine carvings on these ancient shrines, some of which date back 700 or 800 years, make Mandhata one of the most attractive spots in Central India.

The famous caves of Ellora are, on the whole, the finest and most perfect group of those marvellous temples and monasteries which have been cut out of the solid rock by the ancient people of this land of wonders. Scattered along the base of a range of beautiful wooded hills, rising some 500 feet out of the plain, are a succession of rock temples, Buddhist, Hindu and Jain. Their



GALLERY OVER THE GATEWAY OF THE KYLAS.

dates are obscure, but the oldest is set down by authority at 200 B.C., and the most recent at 1200 A.D. The smallest and most insignificant of them, if alone, would well repay the fatigue of the journey; but passing from one to another the traveller is struck dumb with amazement, as he enters a series of caves as big as churches; with huge images eight or ten feet high ranged round the walls, elephants, lions, tigers, alligators, rams, antelopes, swans and oxen, or symbolical representations of them, larger than life; friezes of figure subjects as big as that of the Parthenon, varied by intricate wall sculpture of every description, and the whole dug and carved out of the solid rock without a single stone being introduced.