

compliments in return for the letter of the Commodore. "Fame is on your brow," he said: "you shall be my son: may we never part!" &c. Having seated ourselves, of course, pipes and coffee made their appearance, and conversation started, as usual. The rooms were filled with Sheiks and chief men, who stood in a respectful circle round the carpet on which the Emir and ourselves were seated. Two secretaries knelt in a corner, behind the great man, writing from occasional dictation. Presently we were gratified by seeing preparations for a repast, for it was then mid-day, and we had been in the mountains since sunrise. A small inlaid table, the size of a chess-board, was placed in the midst of the party. A pilau, and other Eastern dishes, sweet and sour, were then brought forward, and—most notable of luxuries for a mountaineer to produce—there were silver spoons and forks! It would appear, however, that, in practice, if his highness had any choice about the matter, it was still a preference for his fingers. After our meal, a ewer and basin were presented, when the prince washed not only his hands, but the inside of his mouth, with abundance of soap, as is the Syrian custom. The further intellectual recreation of pipes and coffee then again ensued, after which we arose to depart: but it was soon notified that our entertainer had not yet shown the full measure of attention with which he determined to honour his guest. Major Napier had previously, in the course of conversation, expressed a desire to see the Emir's troops under arms: but the latter seemed at the time to take little notice of the request. Now, however, he informed him that his brother Abdallah would proceed with him to a spot where the men would be drawn out for his inspection. We were then conducted to another apartment in the same house, where we found Abdallah installed in an equal degree of ceremony, with this difference only, that the Sheiks and other subordinate chiefs might sit in his presence. We proceeded with him through the village to the place of review, and at length reached the large court of the principal residence, where Capt. Laué and myself alighted on a former occasion. The place was yet empty, and we waited with patient expectation with Abdallah and his numerous attendants.

ALLIGATORS AND THEIR ROAR.

The large alligators or caymans are the foremost among the inhabitants of the water which prey upon the fishes. There they lie, like dry logs of wood, at the foot of some cataract, their mouth half open, ready to snatch and swallow what the increased rapidity of the current should carry down the fall. How frequently have we seen them in that situation while ascending the upper river, which, beyond all others, seemed to swarm with these horrid mon-

sters. I have already observed how often they tore the flesh from our spring-hooks, and carried fish, hook, and line away; and we naturally did not owe them good will for their stealing propensities, which served as an additional proof to what extent their depredations must be carried on. And although abundance of fish during certain seasons prevail in the rivers of the interior, the cayman is nevertheless the most covetous of all animals, and envies every other successful fisher. This he gives to understand, particularly by angry growls, if the line with the captive is drawing in, and his attempts to intercept the captured fish before it be drawn on the land should have proved unsuccessful. While we were encamped at the mouth of the river Rewa, or Roiva, during our last expedition, the afternoon of the 21st of October had passed under thunder and rain; but at the approach of night Nature lulled herself to rest, and only the droppings from the leaves of the trees now told of the former storm. I was lying sleepless in my hammock, and I watched two Indians who had their lines out to entrap some hungry fish. A *kilbagre*, lured away by the tempting bait, had snapped at it; and the fisherman, acquainted by the stress on his line of his success, drew the unwilling fish towards the canoe, when the roar of a cayman awoke the echo of the wood; and rushing towards the course with all his might, he recaptured the fish as the astonished Indians were just on the point of drawing it in; and with it went the hook and a great part of the line. At our second night's camp, after we had entered the river Rupununi, the Indians were likewise fishing; and drawing towards the canoe the caymans commenced such a roar that it baffled description. We distinctly heard that there were three: first one commenced, when the fish that was drawn in began to struggle; and another answered him, until the noise was so great that the Indians, as in self-defence, and to intimidate the approaching monsters, set up a shout themselves. Indeed the roaring of the cayman is so strong, that in the still hour of night it may be heard a mile off; and there is something awful and indescribable in it: it is not the tiger's growl, the bull's bellowing, the lion's roar—it is different from all, and really terrific when the sound bursts suddenly upon the ear. I might compare it to the snorting of a frightened horse, if the strength of that snort could be increased ten—no, twenty fold in effect.—*Schomburg's Fishes of Guiana.*

ANGER.

To be angry about trifles is mean and childish; to rage and be furious is brutish; and to maintain perpetual wrath is akin to the practice and temper of devils; but to prevent and suppress rising resentment is wise and glorious, is manly and divine.—*Watt's Doctrine of the Passions.*