

chisel, cut a hole about one-and-a-half inches square and about half an inch deep on its upper or round surface, and into this he hammered down his navil, a little iron block of about three cubic inches. His apparatus was then complete. For the rest of the day he was occupied alternately heating and hammering the gold until he had beaten it into a bar about ten inches long and had cut this into certain lengths. We found out it would take him about three days to finish it, and the labour was to cost ten rupees (about five dollars at that time). We were sorry we could not stay to see the whole ornament finished, so we left him the money for the labour and desired the proprietor of the hotel to get it and forward it to Nynee Tal our next visiting place. The main reason for our leaving so soon was that we were tired of inactivity and cloudland and absence of view, so we decided to start the next day.

The ride back to Kusscong was delightful, as the thermometer had fallen to forty degrees, and the view we had been waiting for became visible, we supposed from a storm somewhere, in the hills but not near

enough for us to see it or hear it, for these storms are unvariably accompanied by terrific thunder and lightning. Such a sight cannot be described in a few words, it was nevertheless one I shall never forget as long as I live, although I have seen many a grand mountain scenery since in other parts of the world.

It is worth remarking, before I conclude, that I bought a thermometer at Kusscong on my way down, more for its comfortless amusement than anything else. Now, as I have said, Kusscong is only six or eight hours journey from Darjeeling, and this thermometer stood at one hundred degrees, exactly sixty degrees more than at the latter place; by this you will readily see what a difference there is between the plains and the hills, and why Europeans are so anxious to sojourn in the hills whenever they get a chance. You must bear in mind also, that the hot weather was only just commencing. At some future time I will describe life in an Indian city in the plains, which, except for the intense heat and sundry visitations of cholera and fever, is enjoyable enough.

VIATOR.

