

bird six feet high decked in plumage of lilac and black, and a couple of goats, who knowing their safest asylum, kept close to his trunk or under the shelter of his huge limbs. Beyond, reposed a group of camels with their drivers,—some lying down, others standing or kneeling. Numerous white bullocks, their companions in labour, rested at their feet, while pack saddles, paniers, and sacks piled around, completed the picture.

Within the circle of the camp a lively scene was passing,—fires blazed in every quarter, and sundry operations of roasting, boiling, and frying were going on in the open air.

Every fire was surrounded by a busy crowd, all engaged in that important office—preparation for the evening meal. The interior of the tents also presented an animated spectacle, as the servants were putting them in order for the night; they were lighted with lamps, the walls hung with chintz or tiger skins, carpets were spread upon the ground, and sofas surrounded by curtains of transparent gauze (a necessary precaution against insects) became commodious beds. Polished swords and daggers, silver-mounted pistols and guns, with knives, boar spears, and the gilded bows, arrows, and quivers of native workmanship, were scattered around. The tables were covered with European books and newspapers, so that it was necessary to be continually reminded by some savage object, that these temporary abodes were placed in the heart of an Indian forest. The vast number of persons—the noise, bustle, and many fires about the camp, precluded every idea of danger; and the gentlemen of the party collected together in front of the tents, conversed carelessly with each other, or amused themselves with looking about them. While thus indolently beguiling the few minutes which had to elapse before they were summoned to dinner, a full-grown tiger, of the largest size, sprang suddenly into the centre of the group, seized one of the party in his extended jaws, and bore him away into the wood with a rapidity which defied pursuit. The loud outcries, raised by those persons whose faculties were not entirely paralysed by terror and consternation, only served to increase the tiger's speed. Though scarcely a moment had elapsed, not a trace of the animal remained, so impenetrable was the thicket through which he had retreated; but notwithstanding the apparent hopelessness of the case, no means which human prudence could suggest were left untried. Torches were instantly collected, weapons hastily snatched up, and the whole party rushed into the forest—some beating the bushes on every side, while others pressed their way through the tangled underwood, in a state of anxiety incapable of description.

The victim selected by the tiger was an officer whose presence of mind and dauntless courage, in the midst of this most appalling danger, providentially enabled him to meet the exigencies of his situation. Neither the anguish he endured from the wounds already inflicted, the horrible manner in which he was hurried along through bush and brake, and the prospect so immediately before him of a dreadful death, subdued the firmness of his spirit; and meditating, with the utmost coolness, upon the readiest means of effecting his own deliverance, he proceeded cautiously to make the attempt. He wore a brace of pistols in his belt, and the tiger having seized him by the waist, his arms were consequently left at liberty. Applying his hand to the monster's side, he ascertained the exact position of the heart; then drawing out one of his pistols, he placed the muzzle close to the part, and fired. Perhaps some slight tremor in his own fingers, or a jerk occasioned by the rough road and brisk pace of the animal, caused the ball to miss its aim, and a tighter gripe and an accelerated trot, alone announced the wound he had received. A moment of inexpressible anxiety ensued; yet undismayed by the ill success of his effort, though painfully aware that he now possessed only a single chance for life, the heroic individual prepared with more careful deliberation to make a fresh attempt. He felt for the pulsations of the heart a second time, placed his remaining pistol firmly against his vital part, and drew the trigger with a steadier hand, and with nicer precision. The jaws suddenly relaxed their grasp, and the tiger dropped dead beneath his burthen! The triumph of the victor, as he surveyed the lifeless body of the animal stretched upon the ground, was somewhat subdued by the loss of blood and the pain of his wounds. He was uncertain, too, whether his failing strength would enable him to reach the camp, even if he could be certain of finding the way to it; but his anxiety upon this point was speedily ended by the shouts which met his ear, those of his friends searching for him. He staggered onward in the direction whence the sounds proceeded, and issued from the thicket, covered with blood and exhausted, but free from wounds of a mortal nature. The joy of the party may be conceived. Incidents similar to the foregoing narrative, and sometimes ending more fatally, are by no means rare—of three escapes effected by officers of the Indian army, which are still fresh in the recollection of their friends and companions, the one above mentioned seemed best adapted to illustrate the adventurous nature of Asiatic field sports, and the gallant spirits of those who engage in them. Of the other two, a brief notice may not be uninteresting.

A young officer was struck down by a tiger, and while writhing under wounds inflicted by the stroke of the claws, and

threatened with the jaws of the animal, who growled and gnashed his teeth as his fierce eye glared upon the prostrate prey, he retained sufficient presence of mind to direct the bystanders when and where to fire, so as to kill the animal without injuring himself. The other incident was even more frightful; it might be called a personal combat between a man and a tiger, in which, before the animal was conquered, his human opponent received seventeen wounds. The heroic individual who achieved this extraordinary exploit, never could be induced to relate the particulars of the deadly combat; partly from a fear of seeming vain-glorious, and partly from the horror produced on his mind whenever he recollected his death-wrestle with the ferocious creature, and remembered that literally, and not figuratively, he had been in the "jaws of death."

THE LABOUR OF IDLENESS.

Mr. Cook and his son Edward were one day taking a ride on the turnpike road which leads to Chester. "Look at those two boys," said he to his son, "and tell me which works the hardest." Edward did as he was directed. One boy was busily employed breaking large stones, his face was flushed with the exercise, and large drops of perspiration ran down his forehead. The other lay on the grass by the side of the road, and but for his occasionally stretching his arms over his head, and throwing one leg listlessly over the other, he might have supposed to be lifeless. Edward smiled; "You cannot be serious, Sir," said he, "your question does not admit of an answer." "I agree with you," said Mr. Cook, "but still I desire you to give me a direct reply." "That boy certainly works the hardest," said Edward, pointing to the one breaking stones. "I do not agree with you," replied his father; "but they shall themselves decide the point." "You are very tired," said he, stopping before the little labourer, "are you not?" "No, Sir," replied he, briskly, "not very," and looking up as he spoke, his cheerful countenance shewed he had declared the truth. "And you," exclaimed Mr. Cook, turning to the other, "I need not ask you such a question, you cannot be tired." He raised his dull and heavy eyes, and with a kind of half yawn, and partly rising from the ground, he murmured in a low voice, "Indeed but I am." Mr. Cook looked at his son. "Edward," said he, "let not this be forgotten; believe me no taskmaster is so severe as idleness, and no day so irksome as that which is spent in doing nothing."

When the body is indisposed, it is in vain that we call upon the mind for any strenuous application.—*Gallus*.

Fear is often concealed by a show of daring.