

INDIA'S WAR ELEPHANTS.

THEY ARE COURT-MARTIALED LIKE HUMAN OFFENDERS.

Flogged for Murder—How These Huge Animals Weep When Accused—Their Manoeuvres to Save Soldiers from Punishment—Conduct on Parade and Battle.

Captain Montague W. Martin says that of all the animals in the world the elephant is by far the most intelligent. Few people who have not travelled in India are aware of its extraordinary sagacity. Everybody will doubtless admit that he is the strongest animal living and possessed of a most marvellous memory, but beyond this there is very little known or thought about him, excepting that he is exceedingly awkward and ungainly to look at. But those who have lived in India and visited places where the elephant convict stations are and who have met an elephant battery have a little more to say on the matter. Elephants are used for many purposes, but principally for carrying heavy loads from one part of the country to another. The Indian Government procures the best of them, which they use as transports and for their artillery. When garrison artillery go to India they become either mule or elephant batteries. There are elephants to each battery. To each gun (forty pounders) are attached two elephants tandem fashion, and a third elephant follows as a reserve. When they come to a very rough road or steep hill, where the two are unable to pull it, the reserve elephant catches hold of the gun behind with his trunk and pushes.

Elephants are very particular about their rights. For instance, when formed up on parade, the senior or longest serving elephant takes the right of the rank, the others forming up in succession according to their seniority.

JUST LIKE SOLDIERS, the tallest man always taking the right, the others forming on his left according to size. If, say, No. 9 elephant, by mistake or otherwise, formed up on the right of No. 7, elephants Nos. 7 and 8 would push him bodily out of their way. There is quite frequently a tremendous row in the ranks, occasioned by this sort of thing and only stopped by the officer in command shouting "Attention!"

There was one battery in India of which I took particular notice, as I lay in the same station with it for a long time; in fact, I became just as well acquainted with the men and elephants as if I really belonged to the battery. It was known as the first battery of the First Brigade of garrison artillery. We were stationed at Campbellpore, near Rowall Pindi, Bengal. On one occasion I noticed, as the battery fell in as usual for the morning parade, a scuffle in the centre between two elephants, originating by No. 9 elephant forming up on the right hand side of No. 8 elephant. No. 8 objected to this and by reining back out of the ranks and pushing forward again jammed in between No. 9 and No. 7. being particular to knock as roughly against No. 9 as possible. No. 9 gunner was angry and not easily pacified. He said No. 8 gunner did it himself and not the elephant. The consequence was a fierce fight.

No. 9 proved more than a match for No. 8 and kept hitting him unmercifully, when No. 8 elephant, who had lingered behind the other elephants, apparently suspecting mischief, ran to the rescue and, picking No. 9 gunner up with his trunk,

THREW HIM UP INTO THE AIR.

He was afterward found in an unconscious condition and revived with difficulty though practically unhurt. No. 8 elephant was brought as a prisoner to orderly room and charged with violent assault. It is a fact that in India elephants are tried and punished by reducing their diet, by terms of imprisonment or flogging, all according to the merit of their crime.

On a certain occasion there was an afternoon parade ordered. It happened to be pay day, and, as the canteen had been open all day, some of the men were a little late in turning out, but the one that seemed more troubled than anybody else was No. 5 elephant, who moved about searching for his absent rider. The elephant continually turned his little eye in the direction of the canteen, and was presently rewarded by seeing his worthy master running from there with very unsteady steps, but when within a few feet of the parade ground, the unfortunate gunner fell flat on the ground, and, though struggling hard to get up, appeared utterly incapable of doing so. His friend, the elephant, took the position in a glance. In three strides he was at the gunner's side, and, picking him up gently with his trunk and placing him in his correct position on his head, formed up in his proper place on parade, with Burke, the gunner, sitting to attention as if nothing unusual had occurred.

During that afternoon No. 5 elephant went through every movement, including the march past, without a single mistake, although his rider was practically incapable of guiding him. The following morning the lieutenant temporarily in charge of the battery sent for Gunner Burke and addressed him as follows:—"Gunner Burke, do not run away with the idea that I did not notice your drunken condition on parade yesterday. By right I should have had you confined to the guardroom, but my reasons for not doing so were simply because I knew you to be a clean and in every respect, except being too partial to beer,

A GOOD SOLDIER.

The noble act performed by your elephant showed that you were kind to it, and, further, should I have had you put in the guardroom, the elephant might possibly have thought it had done wrong in lifting you up, and perhaps at another time, where it might be really the means of saving your life by so doing, the elephant might let you lie to die. Just try and keep sober on the next afternoon parade."

Shortly after this I happened to be appointed a member of a court-martial ordered to assemble at Campbellpore for the purpose of trying Elephant Abdul (No. 15) for causing the death of Syce Ramboucles. This court-martial was certainly the most impressive one I had ever witnessed. The prisoner, with his eyes filled with tears, was marched in front of us between an escort composed of No. 2 and No. 3 elephants. Along with them came all the witnesses. The president of the court-martial was Major Cameron, a gray-haired man of the Thirty-fourth Hogra Native Infantry, who had been for years in India. He read the charges: "Elephant Abdul is charged with causing the death of Syce Ramboucles by catching him by the legs in his trunk and beating his brains out against the wall of the grain hut." The first witness called was Bombardier Roberts, who said he was in the lines at twelve o'clock seeing the elephants fed. When the trumpeter sounded "feed" he saw Syce Ramboucles run with a bag of grain toward Elephant Abdul. At this time all the other elephants were fed, consequently Syce Ramboucles was late in feeding Elephant Abdul. He, the bombardier, ordered the Syce to hurry and feed him, but he did not seem to move any quicker. As soon as he approached Elephant Abdul seized him by the legs and

DASHED HIS BRAINS OUT against the little grain hut. Eight Syces and the Jemadiah gave similar statements. When they had finished, the president,



MAKING ELEPHANTS USEFUL.

who had kept his head down the whole time, with the elephant's defaulter sheet in front of him, suddenly looked up and glared at the prisoner. Seeing the elephant's eyes swimming with tears he said: "It's no use; that game won't do me. I am quite accustomed to see tears and never take any notice of them. I see by this defaulter book that you have been guilty of no fewer than sixteen crimes of injuring people, and I have not the slightest compassion for you." We members all agreed with the old major, and after a short adjournment found Abdul guilty, and sentenced him to fifty lashes and two years' imprisonment.

When the elephant was marched back a prisoner he roared, not from grief for having killed Ramboucles, but for his own sake. He anticipated some severe punishment, especially as he was marched to the prison shed, where only those who are awarded a long term of imprisonment are taken. Three days after I was informed the flogging process would take place, and as I was very anxious to see how the gigantic Abdul would stand his punishment I resolved to be an eye witness to this painful, though necessary, mode of enforcing discipline. The whole thing struck me as being a most peculiar sight, but rendered very distressing owing to Abdul's pitiful howls; but you could not help laughing occasionally at the comical actions of the flogger. When I arrived on the scene I found the

WHOLE BATTERY DRAWN UP in a square, fourteen elephants forming one side and the non-commissioned officers and men the other three sides. In the centre were two huge elephants, the prisoner Abdul and his flogger, Lalla No. 1. It always falls to the senior elephant's lot to inflict the punishment. Besides these two elephants all the officers of the battery, the provosts, the brigade major and the doctor, were in the centre, and elephants Nos. 2 and 3 stood on either flank as an escort in case the prisoner might try to escape. There were four great iron pegs driven into the ground, to each of which one of the prisoner's legs was chained. Lalla No. 1 elephant stood by with a huge chain fastened round her trunk, waiting further orders. When all was pronounced ready the doctor, who stood with a watch in his hand, gave the signal to begin. Lalla raised her trunk in the air, gave it two turns and down came the cable with terrific force on Abdul's back. A loud thud was heard, followed by an unearthly roar from the unfortunate Abdul. Again the doctor gave the signal and down came the cable with terrific force, causing more roaring. Again and again it came down until the full number of lashes were given, after which the prisoner was marched back to his quarters, trembling from head to foot and having a few lumps on his back as the result of the lashing. The parade was dismissed and things went on as usual.

This is an exact description of how they use elephants in India, all of which can be verified by writing to the Civil and Military Gazette, Lahore, India.

COST OF LIVING IN EUROPE'S CAPITALS.

An investigation into the comparative cost of living at the various European capitals results in the following interesting facts: At Vienna the prices of most articles of food are lowest; at Madrid they are dearer than any other capital, and such things as bread, meat, sugar, and coal are very expensive. At St. Petersburg also the price of bread is so high that white bread is still considered a luxury above the means of the working classes. Next to Vienna, Brussels is an inexpensive city. Paris is a little higher in the scale, but London is "terribly expensive."

MILITARY SIGNALLING.

HOW COMMUNICATION IS KEPT UP WITH THE MAIN BODY.

The Telephone Used to Transmit Morse's Telegraphic Code and Not for Verbal Messages—the Work of the Helio-graph—England Stands in the Front Rank in This Branch.

The rapid transmission of news, reports and orders has ever been indispensable to the success of a campaign. From the earliest ages every good general has made it his first care to secure his communications. As time rolled on, countries became more thickly populated, new routes opened and the primitive small armies swelled to the mighty hosts of the present day till this consideration has now become of the highest importance. When an army is scattered over a wide track of country, or is separated into different bodies on the march, victory often depends on the accurate junction of the various forces at a given point and at a given moment. Therefore, in future wars—even more than hitherto—the news and intelligence department, i.e., the army telegraph, in divers forms, will play almost a decisive part.

In its primitive condition, military signalling can be traced back distinctly to the days of antiquity in the Trojan war. The Scotch signalled the approach of their hereditary foes by means of beacons on hill tops. One fire beacon denoted that the enemy was coming, two that they were a strong party, and three beacons that the force was overwhelming. By the same means and with the aid of mounted messengers the whole of England was made aware of the approach of the Spanish Armada. In later ages the place of these rude methods was taken by "visual" or "optical telegraphy," with which many inventors appeared in the field, including King James II, then Duke of York. At the end of the last century the semaphore was imported from France into England and became highly popular. These semaphores consisted of towers posted on lofty heights

EIGHT MILES APART,

carrying at the top an apparatus resembling the present flash light system, as the signals were conveyed by closing and opening shutters at intervals. Afterwards a mast, with two moving arms superseded the shutter method. A farther development followed on the invention of the "aerial telegraph" by Claude Chappe, in 182, which was utilized most effectively by Napoleon. Towards the middle of this century electric telegraphy superseded this system, which was first used by the English in the Indian mutiny. Nearly the whole burden of maintaining the intelligence service in an army corps devolves upon the cavalry. To lighten this duty many armies have introduced cyclists, war-dogs and carrier pigeons. The first two can only be used, however, under certain circumstances, and the value of the last, at least to France, has been greatly curtailed by the Germans training hawks to attack them, and bring both pigeon and despatch to the German lines. In several armies the communication is kept up between the advance guard and the main body by the telephone, the most popular form of which is the micro-telephone and the Summer. These are not used for speaking purposes, but simply as a mode of transmitting the Morse sign of dot and dash, which is much more easy to understand than the human voice. By means of the telephone the cavalry can intercept the enemy's despatches, can restore interrupted communication or establish new lines with the shortest expenditure of time.

THE FIELD TELEGRAPH SERVICE in the French army is particularly well organized. Each cavalry regiment contains six telegraphists in two groups of three men apiece. This telegraph troop is more like an independent technical division than an actual fighting body. Each telegraphist carries a tiny electric battery in his holster pocket besides a telephone in his shoulder belt instead of cartridges. A light single-horsed waggon accompanies the regiment, carrying four coils of telegraph cable, each half a kilometre in length. When a line is to be laid, the first telegraphist of the first group goes on in advance, taking on his back in a small box one of the coils, which unrolls as he goes along. The second man follows, also carrying a coil and a light bamboo pole with hooks. He guides the cable of the first coil as it unrolls, protecting it from injury when passing over boughs of trees, walls, hedges, and ditches. The third man remains at the starting point of line. The second group of telegraphists follow with the waggon, and are ready to relieve the first detachment as soon as their

store of cable is exhausted. Further, a two-horsed waggon goes with each regiment, containing thirty kilometres of telegraph wire, electric batteries and tools. Altogether each telegraph contingent can lay fully forty-two kilometres of line. At the French manoeuvres held a few years ago, the telegraph corps laid in five hours a line of forty-three kilometres with ten intervening stations, giving uninterrupted communication between the two headquarters. The line was taken up again with equal rapidity. In the same year one of these cables, twelve kilometres long, was kept at work on the very

SCENE OF THE MANOEUVRES

during the whole of the battle without suffering the slightest interruption, although a whole cavalry division galloped over the ground intersected by the telegraph lines. Experiments were also made to give the telegraphists more freedom in their movements. Thus, a speaking telephone was fixed to their headgear, so that the wearer might have one hand at liberty whilst the other managed the transmitter. When from the nature of the country the telegraph cannot be used, optical signalling comes to the rescue.

England stands in the first rank in this branch, using elaborate systems of flags, lanterns, limelight and the heliograph. Optical signalling possesses two inestimable advantages over the electric telegraph—greater mobility and security against hostile attacks. It is, therefore, better suited than any other system for use with an advance body and also for communications between ships and land stations. For instance, the heliograph enabled the besieged garrison at Candahar to send word of the enemy's positions and to keep up communication over a distance of 77 kilometres with General Roberts advancing to their relief. In South Africa the Garrison maintained communication through the heliograph between stations some 112 kilometres apart.

In Chancery.

The funds in the British Court of Chancery, in 1894 amounted to the huge total of £84,075,187 4s. 1d.; but the proportion of this sum in want of owners is not stated. It is interesting to note that during the preceding year payments were made to successful claimants and others amounting to £16,324,152 3s. There is also a large sum in court under the heading "Foreign Currencies," made up of rupees, crowns, dollars, florins, francs, guilders, lire, and marks. Reference should also be made to a long list of boxes and other miscellaneous effects remaining in the custody of the Bank of England, on behalf of the Supreme Court of Judicature.

An official list of the titles of Chancery causes dealt with for fifteen years or upward is published triennially; but, as the names of the testators or persons entitled to the funds are in the majority of cases not stated, the information is of little value to the general public. To give an instance: In 1823 Nathaniel Briggs, one of the next of kin of Thomas Storke, who died in 1760, was advertised for by order of the Court of Chancery. The fund was not claimed; and in the latest list of dormant funds we find the title of the Chancery suit given thus: "Pomeroy vs. Brewer." No mention is made that the next of kin of Thomas Storke are wanted. An idea of the large number of similar cases may be gained from the fact that the list of unclaimed funds fills 187 pages. This list is only an index to the titles of accounts, and is not in any sense either a register of next of kin wanted, or of lapsed legacies, intestates' estates, unclaimed dividends, prize money, etc.

Grim Highlanders.

My father had no end of anecdotes about our ancestors, parts of which I remember, though I was only a school-room child of under fourteen when I heard him relating them, says a writer in Blackwood's Magazine. I was, however, old enough to feel keenly interested in them. One story that impressed me very much was related to account for the origin of the Clan Macintyre. A party of Macdonnells on one occasion were out in a boat, when a knot of wood sprang out causing a serious leak; whereupon one of the party stuck in his finger to fill the hole and then cut it off with his dirk, thus saving the life of the whole party. From this circumstance his descendants were called the Macintyres, or Sons of the Carpenter.

Another story which I heard my father tell related to the bloody hand which appears in our coat of arms. A doubt having arisen as to which of two brothers a certain estate belonged to, it was agreed that he whose flesh and blood should first touch the property was to be regarded as the rightful owner. Accordingly, the two young men started into two boats for the land in question. One of them seeing that he was losing his race, when near the shore pulled out his dirk, cut off his hand, and threw it on land, thus establishing his right to the property, as his flesh and blood had touched it first.

Its Name.

There is a pretty story told about the naming of the Marechal Niel rose. When the famous General Niel of Franco-Austrian War, returning from the scene of his many victories, passed through a certain small town, one of the peasant women of the place presented to him a basket of beautiful yellow roses.

One of the flowers still clung to a portion of the root, and Niel, enamored of the flower, transplanted it to his garden in Paris. It thrived in its new soil and when a large bush, covered with blossoms, he presented as a gift to the Empress Eugenie.

She was greatly pleased with the flower, and on inquiry found it had no name. She smiled at the General significantly, and said, "Then I will be the one to give it a name," and added, graciously, "I will christen it the 'Marechal Niel,'" and at the same moment she bestowed upon the man the jewelled emblem which revealed to him his promotion and gave him the title—Marshal of France.

NARROW ESCAPE FROM DEATH.

Up to His Ankles in Loose Gunpowder—A Tale of the Indian Mutiny.

Sergeant Forbes-Mitchell, late of the Ninety Third Highlanders, in his "Reminiscences of the great Mutiny," describes one of his narrow escapes from death during the siege of Lucknow—an escape not only for himself, but for the whole company of soldiers with him. On the night after the capture of the Shah Nujef it fell to his lot to patrol the first two hours of the night as corporal in charge of the sentries, whilst, the rest of the company bivouacked around the piled arms which were arranged ready for instant action in the center of the Shah Nujef. He had lost his great coat during the previous day's fighting, and when his turn of duty was over he asked permission from the color-sergeant to go out of the gate to where the dead were collected and get one of those which had belonged to his deceased comrades. Color-Sergeant Morton, to whom he applied, refused saying that the captain had given strict orders for no one to leave his post.

The Shah Nujef was a place of Mohammedan pilgrimage, and around the inside of the four walls were a number of small rooms for the accommodation of pilgrims, whilst in the centre was

A GREAT DOMED TOMB.

It occurred to Forbes-Mitchell that the Sepoys, who had been routed from the place that day, might have left behind them in one of these buildings some rug or coat. With this hope he fetched from one of the rooms a lamp which was burning there, and shading the flame with his hand walked to the door of the great tomb adjoining. He peered into the dark vault, not knowing it was a tomb, and seeing nothing advanced slowly. He held the lamp high above his head and looked cautiously round for fear of surprise from a concealed enemy. Near the centre of the vault he came to a black heap, five feet high, which felt to his feet as though he were walking on loose sand. He lowered the lamp to see what it was, and with a start of terror discovered that he was standing up to the ankles in loose gunpowder! Forty hundredweight of it lay in front of him, while to the right and left were barrels of gunpowder, twenty or thirty in number, and with fuses fixed to them, over a hundred eight-inch shells and a miscellaneous mass of slow matches, port fires, and spare fuses. Describing his sensations at this moment Forbes-Mitchell says:—

"My hair literally stood on end; I felt the skin of my head lifting my feather bonnet off my scalp; my knees knocked together, and despite the chilly night air, a cold perspiration burst out all over me and ran down my face and legs. I had neither cloth nor handkerchief in my pocket, and there was not a moment to be lost as already the overhanging wick of the lamp was threatening to shed its smouldering red tip into the live magazine at my feet, with consequences

TOO FRIGHTFUL TO CONTEMPLATE.

Quick as thought I put my left hand under the downdrooping flame, and clasped it with a grasp of determination. Holding it firmly I slowly turned to the door and walked out with my knees knocking one against the other."

When he got outside he poured the oil out of the lamp into his burnt hand, and kneeling down thanked God for having saved him and all the men lying round from horrible destruction. A humorous aspect is given to the affair by the color-sergeant who had refused Forbes-Mitchell to leave the piled arms. When every precaution had been taken, he proposed to the captain that Forbes-Mitchell should be placed under arrest for disobeying orders by leaving his post after permission to do so had been refused. Early next morning the ammunition was removed to a place of safety, and the work of removal completed before the enemy from a fort across the river commenced firing shell and red hot shot straight for the door of the tomb, showing that they believed the powder was still there, and hoped to explode it and blow up the whole place.

Needed a Change.

There are some things which even the poor may get more of than is necessary. The Indianapolis Journal tells that a weary and hungry man fell from sheer faintness by the wayside.

A crowd gathered at once, and an officious bystander bustled forward, shouting:

Stand back! Give him air!
The fainting man rallied and sat up.
Air! he gasped. Give me air? Why, gentlemen I've had nothing but air for three days.

Too Previous.

I could get a heap more advertising out of this ride, hoarsely muttered Paul Revere, bouncing up and down in his saddle, if I were doing it on a pneumatic tired bicycle.

Cause and Effect.

He—There is something wrong with my watch. It doesn't go.
She—That must be due to the unconscious power of personal influence.

A Reflection.

Lanldady—I'm always forgetting—do you take cream in your coffee, Mr. Spuds?
Mr. Spuds (a pessimistic boarder)—Very seldom in this house, madam.

A Correction.

Turnpike Walker—Oh, Willie, Willie, what a hollow mockery you are.
Willie Work (with dignity)—Hollow, perhaps Mr. Walker, but not the other.

The Flower Maid.

What flower is your favorite?
She hesitated. I fain would know, sir,
And he, the practical, replied:
You'll have to ask my grocer.