PICTURESQUE CEYLON. VOL. III.

NUWARA ELIYA

AND

ADAM'S PEAK

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ILLUSTRATIONS.

NUWARA ELIYA AND ADAM'S PEAK.

ILLUSTRATIONS.

"From the sounding sea,
Dewy and fleet, let us rise and soar.
Dewy, and gleaming, and fleet are we!
Let us look on the tree-clad mountain crest,
On the sacred earth, where the fruits rejoice,
On the waters that murmur east and west,
On the trembling sea with his moaning voice,
For unwearied glitters the Eye of the Air,
And the bright rays gleam;
Then cast we our shadows of mist, and fare
In our deathless shapes to glance everywhere
From the height of the heaven, on the land and air,
And the Ocean stream."

Andrew Lang.

NUWARA ELIYA AND ADAM'S PEAK.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

THERE is probably no other place in the world that possesses such a remarkable combination of attractions as Nuwara Eliya and its surrounding districts. This fact is scarcely yet known to that large class of our countrymen who winter abroad. I shall therefore endeavour, in commenting upon the pictures in this volume, to adhere as much as possible to points of interest which concern the traveller and the ever-increasing number of wanderers who flee from the rigours of the European winter.

Seven thousand miles from London, six degrees from the Equator, and 6200 feet above the sea, lies this unique retreat, whose precious attributes, hitherto practically inaccessible, must now become familiar to thousands.

Egypt has its healing climate, the Engadine its lovely scenery, Brazil its wooded wilderness, the Alps their flowery meadows, and Peru its high plateau; but here, in one of our own Colonies, easy of access and free from any serious drawback, are all these and a hundred other attractions, forming a combination of the most delightful conditions under which man can desire to live.

"The sea hath its pearls,"

and that same beneficent ocean, which by its yield of the precious *mollusca* contributes so largely to the revenue of Ceylon, administers in no small degree to the conditions which exempt the climate from every objectionable extreme, and render it such a favourable contrast to that of the great Indian peninsula. To the moderate dimensions of the island, and its geographical position in the Indian ocean, like a pendant of the great continent, receiving the full benefit of the monsoons at all times of the year, its superb climate is mainly due.

In the West Highlands of Scotland, both landscape and climate, at their best, may be suggestive of Nuwara Eliya, but the latter has a special charm of situation which, as we shall see, possesses advantages over every other health resort in the world. Here we can enjoy the purest and most invigorating air, with a temperature best suited to the health of Europeans, and yet look down upon a luxuriant tropical country at our feet. We can experience the change from a glorious bright day to a cold Scotch mist, and yet, if we choose, we can leave the moist atmosphere and leaden sky at will, and by an hour's walk reach dry hills and sunny plains.

A clear idea of the situation of this favoured spot can best be gained by regarding the highlands of Ceylon as one huge upheaval, having an area of about 4000 square miles, with an irregular surface of hills and peaks of varying elevation, deep ravines and grassy plains, dense forests and open valleys, gentle streams and roaring cataracts; a dozen distinct climates, each with its special characteristics of animal and vegetable life, from the lofty palms and gorgeous flowering shrubs of the lower elevations to the hardwood trees and English flowers of the highest; from the steaming haunts of the bear and buffalo to the cool regions beloved of the elk and elephant. There are choice of climate and choice of scenery to suit any constitution and to gratify every taste; the wildest rugged country and the sweetest undulating grassy plains; wild sport for the daring, golf-links and trout-fishing for quieter spirits, and a new world withal for those who need a complete change from familiar scenes.

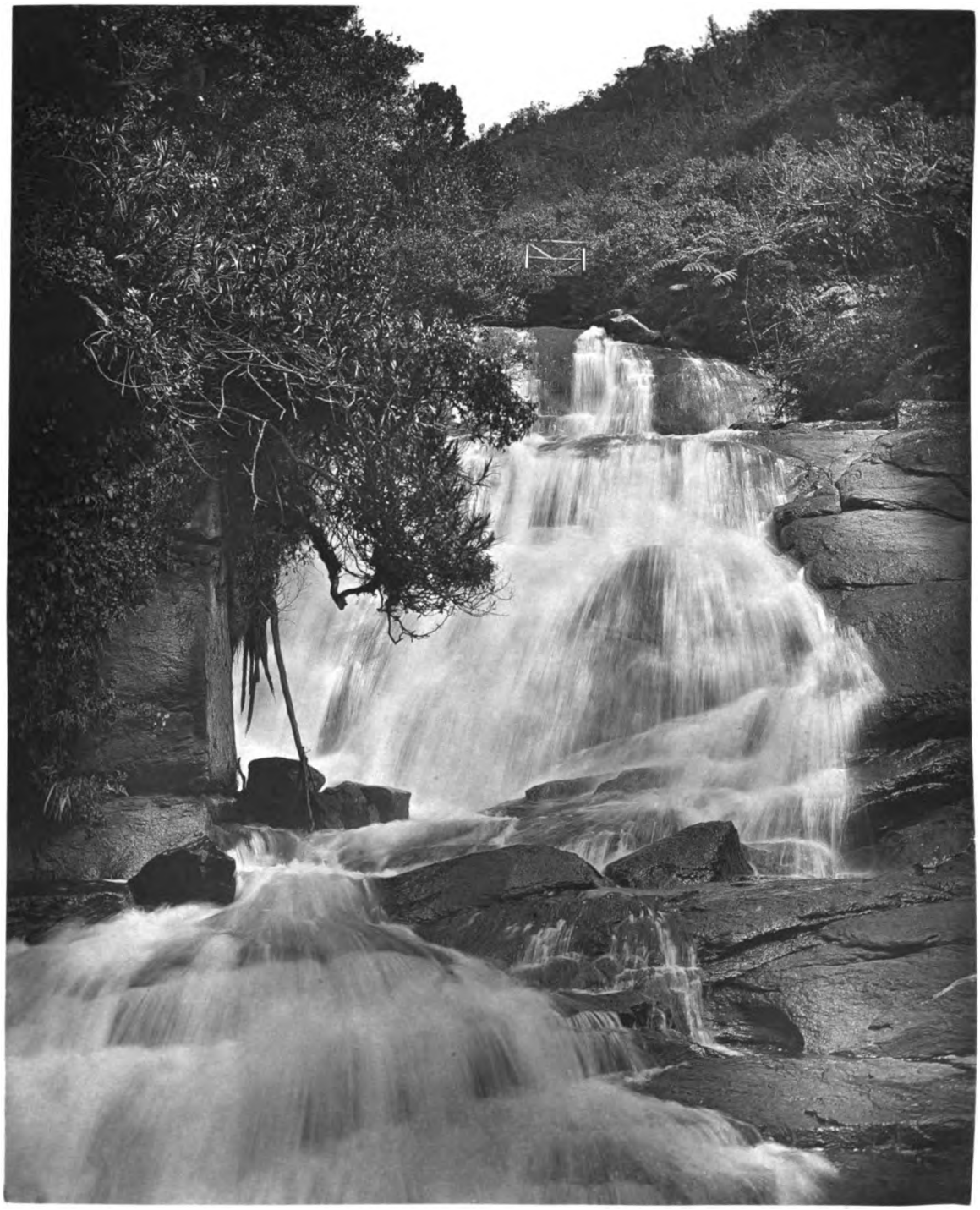
From the base of this mighty upheaval rise abruptly four extensive ledges, at different elevations, and a number of lofty mountains, some of which reach the height of 5000 to 8000 feet above sea level. The highest, called Pidurutallagalla, reaches 8280 feet, and at the foot of it lies the Nuwara Eliya plain, just 2000 feet below. Its position is, roughly speaking, in the centre of the highlands and approximately at the highest elevation,' o'ertopped by only one of the mountain ledges. What wonder, then, at its pure and unpolluted air and its marvellous effects on the enervated constitutions of denizens of the low country, who use it as a sanatorium for recruiting the energies they have lost!

With this general idea of the position and characteristics of the district, the reader is now invited to accompany me back to Kandy, which has been already dealt with in the second volume, and thence to Nuwara Eliya by the old route, in order that the past and present means of access may be contrasted.

PLATE II.

WATERFALL AT NUWARA ELIYA.

"Although in February, the month in which this picture was obtained, the Nanu Oya River flows gently over the rock, at the change of the monsoon it becomes a roaring torrent. Before the making of the road and the construction of the bridges, horsemen used to cross at this point upon the rocks that here strew the river bed,—a practice not unattended with risk, as was proved a few years ago by the fatal accident to a planter, whose horse stumbled upon a boulder and fell with his rider over the cataract."—PAGE 21.



WATERFALL AT NUWARA ELIYA.

CHAPTER II.

THE OLD ROUTE.

WENTY years ago Kandy was the highest point to which the Ceylon Government Railway extended. The traveller in those days was compelled to leave the iron road at Gampola and thence journey by foot or by coach for about thirty-five miles, scaling the mountain slopes by zig-zag cuttings, now on the mountain-side, now passing through narrow defiles and onwards upon the verge of deep abysses, beautiful everywhere, in many parts enchanting, and in one, the pass above Rambodde, magnificent.

For the first stage—Gampola to Pussellawa—the formation of the hills, coupled with the luxuriant growth of tropical vegetation, which here seems to reach the height of its loveliness, and the torrents foaming in the ravines below the tortuous paths, present a singularly beautiful panorama.

Here and there come into view stretches of brilliant green paddy-fields, with their hundreds of gracefully curved terraces, bordered by Kitool and Areca palms, whose crowns tower above the broad-leaved plantains and curious blue-green castor-oil plants which, with thousands of gay flowering shrubs, form a massive and gorgeous undergrowth. As yet we have not

risen too high for these good things, but at this elevation of 2000 feet, the colour of the landscape is enhanced by an extraordinary profusion of wild flowers, and the air, now fresh and bracing, is fragrant with the scent of honeysuckle, violets, mignonette, myrtles, jasmines, and oleanders, proceeding from the pretty gardens of the bungalows by the wayside.

The sensation of enchanting peace, and the pure and invigorating atmosphere which is so noticeable upon arriving at Pussellawa after a walk from the heated plains, once experienced will never be forgotten. Eight miles below, by the winding road, lies Gampola in almost insufferable heat, yet here one may rest beneath the shade of orange trees, laden with their golden fruit, and breathe such pure cool air as only those who have been for months in the enervating heat of the lowlands can fully appreciate. When looking down upon the simmering haze which enshrouds the lower valleys, and glancing back at the cool blue shadows of the surrounding hills, fresh life creeps through the veins, and a feeling of supreme delight enthralls every sense. Here the gardens combine the characteristics of England and the tropics. Bright with lilacs, pinks, convolvuli, passion flowers, and crotons of every fantastic admixture of colour, they are no less gay with butterflies and birds of brightest plumage, while delicious fruits are plentiful around.

The second stage—from Pussellawa to Rambodde—leads through the lovely vale of Kotmalee, where the Mahawelliganga rolls majestically down its mountain course, fed by

numerous torrents from neighbouring ravines. Without any considerable rise the road now winds along the mountain side in picturesque contortions. On the one hand is the scarped rock and on the other the ever-present precipitous bank, with the constant danger of a fall from the roadside to the depths below.

It is now unnecessary to risk the dangers of coaching along these mountain roads, since by another route, where the gradient is somewhat easier, the railway extends to within five miles of Nuwara Eliya. But that there were dangers in the past is a fact of which I had experience in the early eighties upon the downward journey. The coach, a heavy and roughly-constructed conveyance, resembling to some extent a huge waggonette surmounted by a large canopy supported by iron rods to serve as a protection from the sun, started from Nuwara Eliya with the Governor's private secretary upon the box seat on the near side. This gentleman had recently sustained a fractured leg from the kick of a horse, and he was therefore carefully packed into his seat with pillows to obtain an easy position; between him and the coachman sat my wife, whilst I with my little daughter three years old was provided with a seat behind with some native passengers. All went well while the horses galloped down the zigzag road of the mountain pass for some twenty miles, when, without the slightest warning, and on the edge of a deep ravine, off flew the tyre of the right front wheel, and crash went all the spokes, sending the coachman flying into the road upon his back. The reins were unbuckled, and the right one flew away with the coachman. To pull the left would have resulted in

the whole coach, horses, and passengers being hurled to the bottom of the ravine many hundreds of feet below. Liberated from all control, away galloped the horses, ploughing up the road with the front axletree, now within a foot of the awful abyss, now in danger of crashing against the rock wall of the mountain side. The private secretary was, of course, powerless to move, and my wife also kept her seat, while I sprang out with the child fortunately unhurt. The chances were now a thousand to one that the coach and its living freight would be smashed to pieces on the rocks below. Some distance ahead, and at the edge of the precipice, there happened to be a huge heap of broken stones. Into this dashed the near-side wheels, and owing to the great weight of the coach, sank deeply in, fixing the vehicle at an angle of about forty-five degrees. By this fortuitous incident a terrible calamity was averted. If these lines should meet the eye of my disabled companion, he will doubtless remember the agony in which after his extrication he sat by the roadside, relieved only by the consciousness of having escaped a much more terrible fate.

At Rambodde begins the third stage of ascent. The features of this place are worthy of being carefully noticed here in view of the fact that it is a delightful one-day trip from Nuwara Eliya, and may be visited by those who travel thither by the new route.

The glen of Rambodde is one of the most romantic spots in the whole of Ceylon. At first sight it appears to be a sort of *cul de sac*. An apparently insurmountable barrier of mountains seems to defy the traveller who would

reach the plains of Nuwara Eliya, 3000 feet above. But the steep acclivities that bound the narrow gorge have been terraced with winding roads, by means of which the almost precipitous hill may be surmounted. The defile is entered between two of the finest cataracts in Ceylon, descending upon either side of the pass, the Puna-Ella and the Garunda-Ella, both tributaries of the Mahawelliganga, which they join in the valley below. From this point the ascent begins in real earnest, the gradient increasing to one in fourteen. The traveller on foot may save several miles by short-cut paths, but this alternative is literally mountain climbing, and entails a considerable amount of exertion.

Before the cultivation of coffee caused such immense destruction of primæval forest on either side of this lovely gorge, the scenery must have been surpassingly beautiful; but even now many miles of the landscape are as romantic as any of Doré's wildest imaginings.

By the first four miles of road above Rambodde we reach a further elevation of a thousand feet, and now we can sit in the delightful cool atmosphere and gaze upon the grand panorama of the Kotmalee valley, over thousands of acres of tea flourishing to perfection upon the slopes and rocky crags of the broken country, interspersed with dense masses of forest, glowing with every imaginable tint.

But grand and beautiful as are the prospects presented by day from the heights above Rambodde, they are surpassed

by the scenes in the gorge below by night. The moon, thrice as brilliant as in northern Europe, yet having a slight tinge of gold that gives a softness to her rays; the air, pure and cool, perfumed with the sweet fragrance of lemon grass; all nature silent, save the mighty tones of distant cataracts, and the music of mountain streams; tree ferns, wonderful in beauty and variety, exhibiting every curve and pattern of their lovely fronds that fringe the silvery torrents which leap on both sides into the valley; the weird shadows of the dark rocks on the opposing slopes; the grand flow of outline along the ridges, centred in the distance by a lofty double cone—these are some of the features of a moonlight scene in the pass of Rambodde.

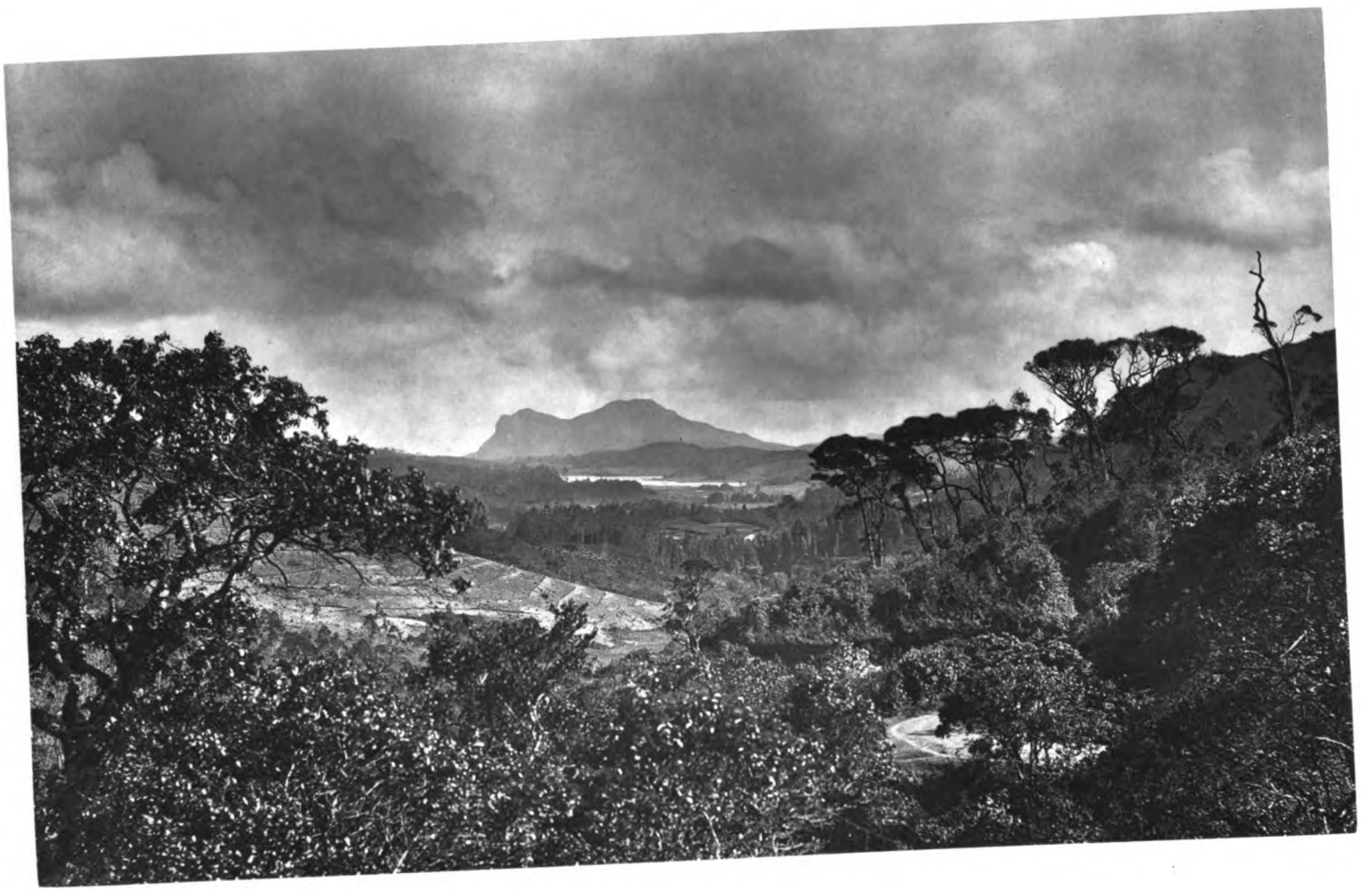
It is now nearly twenty years since I was a solitary witness of this scene, but its impression will never pass away, although it certainly left me for a moment when, upon nearing the top of the pass, I heard the trumpeting of an elephant about two hundred yards distant. So sudden a disturbance of the stilly night would under any circumstances have startled my unaccustomed ears, but as it occurred on the very spot where to my knowledge a pioneer of the public works had met a "rogue" at a turning of the road, and the savage brute had immediately caught him up in his trunk and dashed out his brains against the bank, I felt somewhat anxious as to my own fate. However, as I heard nothing more of him, my elephant was probably one of a herd who sounded the alarm upon getting wind of my approach, and who then made off into the jungle.

At length I reached the gap at the top of the pass, where Nuwara Eliya is revealed to view, as seen in Plate iii. This

PLATE III.

ENTRANCE TO NUWARA ELIYA FROM RAMBODDE PASS.

"At length I reacked the gap at the top of the pass, where Nuwara Eliya is revealed to view. This photograph was taken in 1893, but at the time of my first visit, referred to above, the Keena tree on the right, which is now a ghostly skeleton, was the finest of all, and the large clearing on the left was covered with primæval forest."—PAGE 13.



VIEW FROM RAVINDA PASS.

photograph was taken in 1893, but at the time of my first visit, referred to above, the Keena tree on the right, which is now a ghostly skeleton, was the finest of all, and the large clearing on the left was covered with primæval forest.

After a couple of miles of easy descent to the plain by the winding road visible in the picture, I arrived at St. Andrew's Club, at that time the only establishment for the accommodation of visitors. The homely dinner, the cigars and toddy by a blazing wood fire, the refreshing sleep that followed, and the morning stroll while the grass was white with hoar frost and the leaves crackled under one's feet, and above all the cool mountain air, were nothing short of delicious. To experience this within a single day's journey from the flaming noonday and suffocating nights of Colombo—but this is another story; we must return to the lowlands and come up again by the new and easier route.

CHAPTER III.

THE NEW ROUTE.

IT will be understood from the foregoing sketch of the now obsolete route, that the delightful climate of Nuwara Eliya was, but a few years ago, the monopoly of the enterprising few. It is now accessible, even for a week-end trip, to the busy merchant on the coast; it is within easy reach of passengers who call at the port of Colombo *en route* for other countries, and it is deserving the attention of the European invalid in search of winter quarters. Not only have the recent extensions of the Ceylon Government Railway rendered the journey easy, cheap and luxurious, but a new district has been reached little inferior to Nuwara Eliya itself and having the same health-giving characteristics. This is the adjoining district of Ouva, which is always fine when Nuwara Eliya is wet, whereas Nuwara Eliya is generally fine when Ouva is wet. Thus can the holiday-maker always obtain fine weather without risk or delay. Details of this curious phenomenon will be given in another chapter.

The magnificent country through which the railway passes between Colombo and Kandy has already been described in a previous volume. We now branch off to the right, from the

PLATE IV.

THE MUD-CARESSING BUFFALO.

"He may be treading out rice on the threshing-floor as heedless of the muzzle as though he were a subject of the Mosaic law, or wallowing idly in the most miry places he can find, but he will always be there."—PAGE 15.

THE MUD-CARESSING BUFFALO.

Kandy line at Peradeniya, a place already familiar to the reader from its renowned Botanic Gardens. For the first seventeen miles—which are covered in about an hour—the line passes through a fertile and beautiful valley. Here the chief attraction is to be found in a series of rice fields, where the mud-enamoured buffalo is seen harnessed to the primitive plough, the classic implement of Virgil's Italy. We marvel at his strength in turning a furrow of full eighteen inches in these fields of mud. Pass when we will, at any season of the year, the domestic buffalo is always a prominent figure in the landscape. He may be treading out rice on the threshing-floor as heedless of the muzzle as though he were a subject of the Mosaic law, or wallowing idly in the most miry place he can find, but he will always be there. Although so quiet and useful when tamed and broken in, he is the same species as the fierce and dangerous beast that affords such exciting sport in the jungle, where he is an enemy by no means to be despised. Those heavy ribbed horns which lie apparently so harmless on his shoulders are good both for attack and defence, and when threatened either by man or beast he is a very dangerous and resolute antagonist.

It will be admitted that rice cultivation, though not the cleanest or the most pleasant of occupations, is suited to a slim and wiry race like the Singhalese, the paucity of whose clothing is not without obvious advantages. The appearance of the fields is very interesting, whether seen in the flooded stage, when the terraces on the hillsides are converted into tiny lakes of fantastic shapes, or when the same terraces, tier above tier, are waving with ripening corn.

At the eighth mile from Peradeniya we reach the town of Gampola, for a time the seat of Singhalese power. The well-tended station is distinguished by the unusual effect of a series of arches formed by a flowering creeper along the whole front of the canopy on the platform, while homely English roses in unwonted luxuriance provide a background to the gorgeous tropical plants that border it for some distance beyond.

As the last of the native capitals of Ceylon before the removal of the moribund dynasty to Cotta in 1410, Gampola can claim to be a place of considerable interest. Moreover it is the point at which the roads of several important tea districts converge; and it is here that the new route to Nuwara Eliya begins. It aspires also to the honour of being the first district in which coffee was planted, although the soil was eventually found to be unsuited to its cultivation.

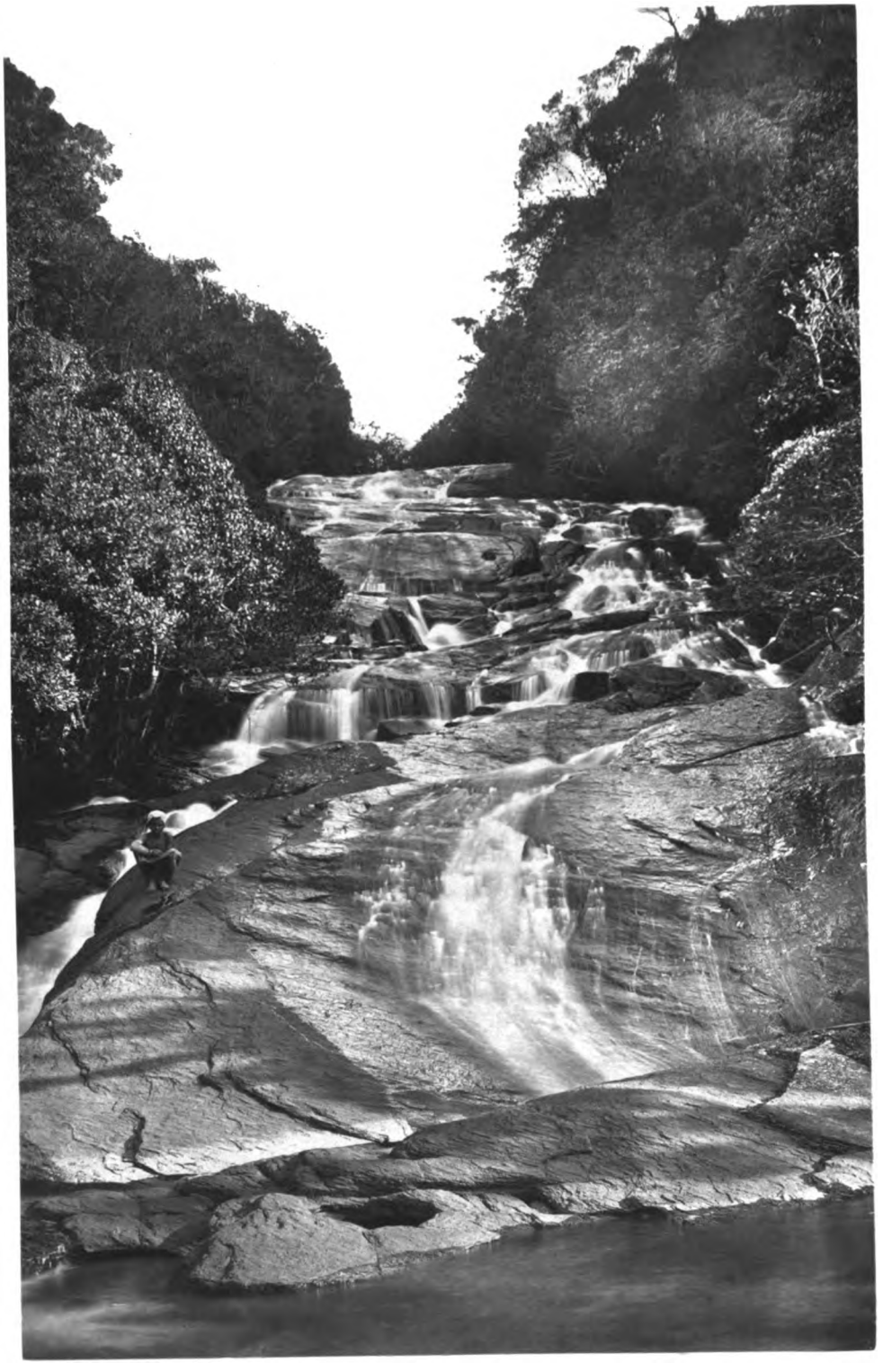
After leaving Gampola there is so much to see that the eyes must be constantly on the alert. To the left is the Maria-watte estate, famous alike for its marvellous yield and the fine quality of its tea. Perhaps the best view before we reach Nawalapitiya is that of the Mahawelliganga—"the great sandy river"—with its graceful clumps of yellow bamboo overhanging the banks, its hill sides thickly clad with forest trees, here and there broken by tea plantations, with a foreground of terraced rice fields below the railway embankment.

At Nawalapitiya an elevation of 1913 feet above the sea is reached. The gradient now increases, and the line passes through the tea estates of Ambagamuwa, the wettest

Plate V.

THE NANU OYA MEANDERING THROUGH THE FOREST.

"Here from January to April the Nanu Oya meanders so gently through the forest and between the rocks that it is easy to pick one's way for about two miles among the streamlets into which it divides, although great care must be taken to avoid slipping into one of the deep water-worn pot-holes, the results of ceaseless swirls through the long ages of time."—Page 22.



planting district in Ceylon, having an annual rainfall of about two hundred inches, or eight times that of London. Here the Mahawelliganga is crossed by one of the finest railway bridges in the island, with a single span of one hundred and forty feet.

Still ascending in snake-like windings of every possible shape, now along the almost precipitous rock trimly cut like the scarp of a fortress, now right through masses of solid gneiss, and out into the open eminence again, the scene changing with every curve, we come upon a sight which will nevertheless elude all but the expectant traveller—I refer to the view at the entrance and exit of the Hog's-back Tunnel. As we approach, the mountain is cleft by a deep narrow ravine, which is in reality a watercourse, down whose steeps rushes a torrent towards the river in the valley below. Over this the train passes, affording a grand spectacle when the water, in the south-west monsoon, dashes with resistless force amongst the boulders and broken crags of the chasm above which the train seems momentarily suspended. The vision lasts but a few seconds, when the tunnel heightens the keen sense of wonderment with its contrast of absolute darkness. In a few moments more the scene seems to reappear as the mountain side is cleft again, and an exactly similar ravine is bridged, followed by the darkness of a second tunnel. After obtaining a view of the Galbodda cliff on the left, we arrive at Galbodda station.

As we move upward in ever-winding course the town of Nawalapitiya is again presented to view several hundred feet below and five miles distant as the crow flies. Passing through Blackpool and Weweltalawa estates, a grand open view is

afforded, extending over the low country right away to the famous Kelani valley. Even Colombo is said to be discernible from this point on a clear day. The Dickoya district with its thirty thousand acres of tea bushes next appears, the railway running parallel to the road on the opposite side of the valley and the Mahawelliganga flowing between.

At the entrance of Dickoya is Hatton station, the great centre of the tea districts. A few years ago the site of this important railway station was a marsh, providing good sport in the form of snipe shooting, but now graced by a comfortable hotel, "The Adam's Peak," after the famous sacred mountain visible from its grounds; churches, both English and Roman Catholic; residential bungalows; foundry and workshops; a busy native market; law courts and police barracks —all growing up as the outcome of railway extension. Hatton can boast, too, of one of the best appreciated climates of Ceylon. Its elevation of four thousand feet above the sea is sufficient to ensure nights delightfully cool and free from frosts, while the noonday heat is never excessive. It is a convenient journey from Colombo, and with its new and adequate accommodation it will no doubt continue to grow in favour with Europeans in need of an occasional change. It is, moreover, the most convenient station for Adam's Peak and the Maskeliya district.

It will be already evident to the reader that this journey is worth making for its own sake, but even the excitement of an occasional suspension 'twixt earth and sky over a steep ravine, the wonderful dissolving views of mountain, forest, and

Plate VI.

REST BY THE WAY.

"A rest by the way is frequent, and the bullocks extricated from their burdens may be seen lying quietly by the roadside."—Page 23.

REST BY THE WAY.

stream, and the rapid changes of climate, do not exhaust all the points of interest on this remarkable line. The European traveller will notice with curious interest the gangs of coolies —men, women, and children—some arriving from Southern India, each carrying the sum of his worldly goods, some departing for the coast to return to their native land, others merely leaving one district for another, but all enjoying the freedom of unrestrained conversation in their very limited vocabulary, the subjects of wages and food providing the chief topics and those of paramount concern. Other gangs are noticed engaged in their daily task of plucking or pruning the hardy little tea bushes on the various estates. Nor should we pass over the pretty feature of the numerous bungalows, each situated upon some charming knoll and surrounded by a veritable little paradise. The neat tea factories, too, dotted here and there in the landscape cannot but be noticed, and give the clue to the *raison d'être* of the railway.

As we move slowly upwards overcoats are donned with a degree of satisfaction hardly to be expected in the latitude of Colombo and within six degrees of the Equator. After passing the next station—Kotagalla—the loveliness of the view increases, as the remarkable beauty of the St. Clair Falls unfolds itself. Some amount of watchfulness is necessary to catch the finest glimpse of these Falls, as the whole scene is passed in thirty seconds. At first only the upper half is visible on the right, but immediately after the whole scene bursts on the enchanted gaze. We next see the Kotmale River flowing through the valley several hundred feet below, while in the distance towers aloft the grand range known as

the "Great Western," whose highest point is some seven thousand feet above the sea.

Now begins the final ascent to Nanu Oya, and we come to Talawakelle, an important station serving the mid-Dimbula and Agra Patana tea estates. A mile or two beyond is the beautiful cataract known as Devon Falls. But the most interesting feature of this part of the journey is the curious serpentine winding of the line. In one place to advance a single furlong it takes a curve of nearly a mile in length, tracing the outline of a huge soda-water bottle, and rising meanwhile ninety feet. The windings necessary to reach the Great Western mountains now become so compressed that to accomplish the distance of about one mile direct the train traverses six miles of railway in a fashion so circuitous that a straight line drawn from a certain point would cross the rails nine times.

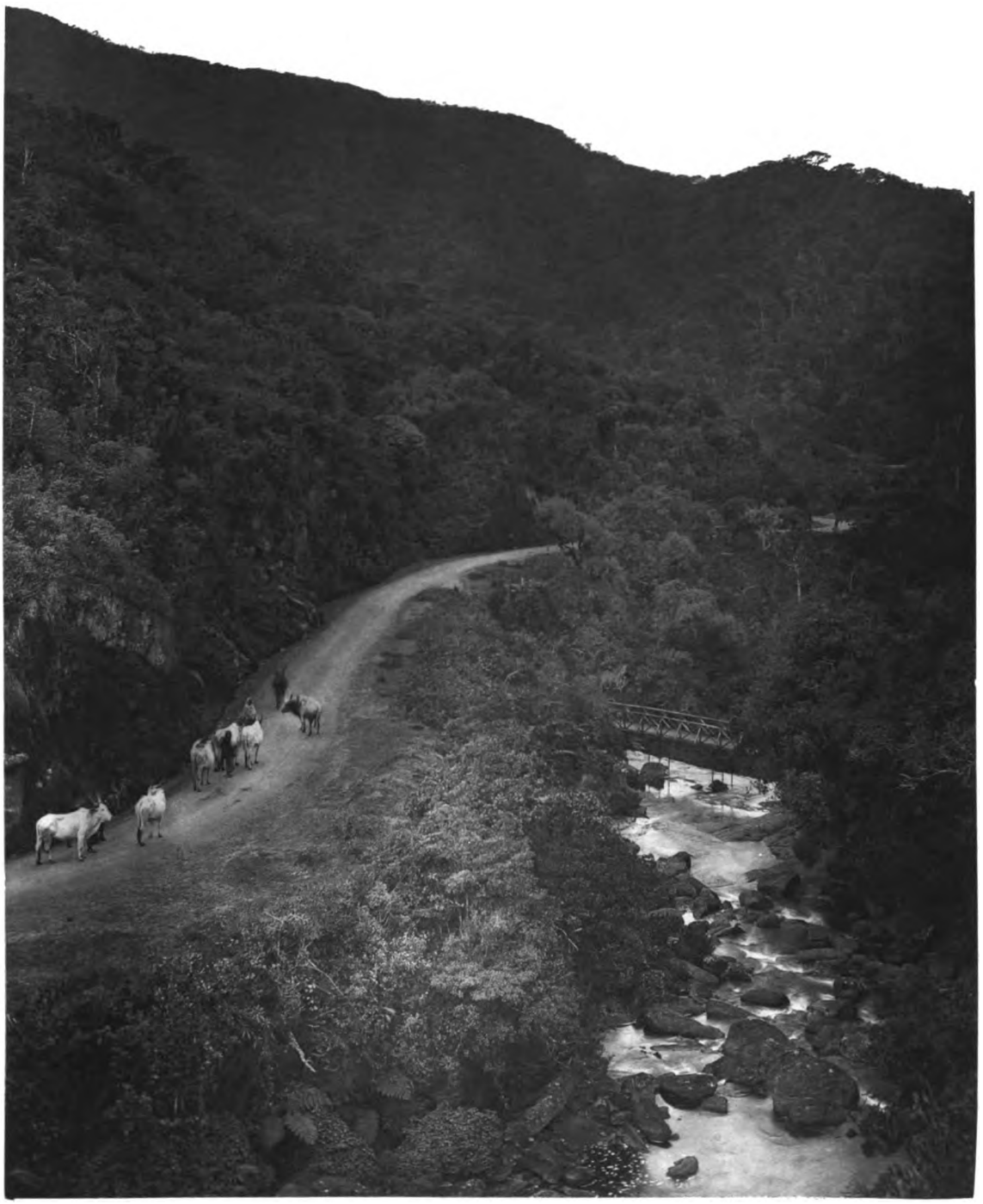
The journey ends with sensational crossings upon girders laid from rock to rock over the clefts of the mountains, affording magnificent views of the Dimbula district and of Adam's Peak, twenty-five miles distant, and upwards of seven thousand feet above sea level. The lovely purple glow that softly lights the distant ridges in the early morn lends an additional charm to the return journey begun at daybreak.

While on few other railways in the world can scenes so interesting and experiences so exciting be obtained, the end is crowned by the beautiful pass between Nanu Oya and Nuwara Eliya, which is perhaps the most exquisite thing in Ceylon. A glance at Plate vii will be better than pages of

Plate VII.

IN THE PASS BETWEEN NANU OYA AND NUWARA ELIYA.

"*At the bottom of the ravine, bordered by tree ferns innumerable, the Nanu Oya River is seen foaming amongst its huge boulders, and the brilliant trees of the primæval forest in various stages of growth, marked in this land of no seasons by tints of scarlet, gold, crimson, sallow green, and most striking of all, the rich claret colour, the chief glory of the Keena tree.*"—Page 21.



description. In traversing its length of four and a half miles, the coach to which we must now have recourse makes a further ascent of a thousand feet. At the bottom of the ravine, bordered by tree ferns innumerable, the Nanu Oya River is seen foaming amongst its huge boulders, and the brilliant trees of the primæval forest in various stages of growth, marked in this land of no seasons by tints of scarlet, gold, crimson, sallow green, and most striking of all, the rich claret colour, the chief glory of the Keena tree. Here is no leafless winter, though we have reached an altitude where frost is not unknown. In such a climate, however, with bright warm and sunny days following on the chilly nights, the lovely ferns which sometimes in the early morn look so pitiable with their blackened fronds soon recover their wonted hues.

The traveller who wishes to make the most of his opportunities should leave the coach and make his way across the narrow foot-bridge in Plate vii. This bridge spans the Nanu Oya just above the cataract illustrated by Plate ii. Although in February, the month in which this picture was obtained, the Nanu Oya River flows gently over the rock, at the change of the monsoon it becomes a roaring torrent. Before the making of the road and the construction of the bridges, horsemen used to cross at this point upon the rocks that here strew the river bed,—a practice not unattended with risk, as was proved a few years ago by the fatal accident to a planter, whose horse stumbled upon a boulder and fell with his rider over the cataract.

Below the fall is a succession of dells and dingles, the favourite haunts of picnic parties from Nuwara Eliya. Of

these the best is illustrated by Plate xxv, and is known as Blackpool, although it would be difficult to discover anything in such a charmingly romantic spot to suggest a name so prosaic.

A few hundred yards higher is the opening of the gap leading to Horton Plains, well beloved of Ceylon sportsmen. This view (Plate xxiii), taken almost at the entrance, suggests a still evening on a Yorkshire moor rather than a scene in the tropics. Were it not for the tree ferns and the huge rhododendrons, some more than a hundred years old, there would be nothing in scenery or climate differing greatly from the Highlands of Scotland. On the left is a pretty spot known as the Ladies' Waterfall, a near view of which is given in Plate v. Here from January to April the Nanu Oya meanders so gently through the forest and between the rocks that it is easy to pick one's way for about two miles among the streamlets into which it divides, although great care must be taken to avoid slipping into one of the deep water-worn pot-holes, the results of ceaseless swirls through the long ages of time. It would be impossible to get out of one of these dark and dangerous holes of mysterious depth without assistance. The calm pool in Plate xxiii. is characteristic of the grassy levels or ledges which occur at intervals in the courses of the fierce mountain torrents. The water here flows peacefully for a space, and then, reaching another ravine, it dashes down to the next ledge, and so on by a succession of rapids until it arrives at the low-country plains.

The road through the pass is of recent construction, and was made to connect Nuwara Eliya with the railway at

PLATE VIII.

COMPANIONS OF THE BATH.

"*The curious brands upon his skin, which seem to be the result of unnecessary cruelty, are probably intended to have a decorative effect, but in some cases such treatment is begun as a remedy for lameness or rheumatism and afterwards continued for ornament. The Tamil characters on the shoulder, Navena Rena* (Anglice N.E.), *are the initials of the owner or of the estate to which he belongs. A pair of such animals would draw more than a ton up the steep incline by the mere pressure of their humps against a huge crossbar resting upon their necks and attached in the centre to the pole of the cart.*"—PAGE 23.

COMPANIONS OF THE BATH.

Nanu Oya. It is sufficiently wide to admit of a light tramway without interference with the ordinary traffic. Loads of tea are always to be seen in course of transit to the Nanu Oya railway station, drawn by pairs of fine Indian bullocks. These gentle and useful beasts of burden differ from the little hackery-trotting bullocks described in the first volume, as an English cart-horse differs from a hackney trotter. I came upon the subject of Plate viii, a fair sample of the Mysore breed, enjoying his bath by the wayside. The curious brands upon his skin, which seem to be the result of unnecessary cruelty, are probably intended to have a decorative effect, but in some cases such treatment is begun as a remedy for lameness or rheumatism and afterwards continued for ornament. The Tamil characters on the shoulder, Navena Rena (*Anglice* N.E.), are the initials of the owner or of the estate to which he belongs. A pair of such animals would draw more than a ton up the steep incline by the mere pressure of their humps against a huge crossbar resting upon their necks and attached in the centre to the pole of the cart. In the days of coffee planting, before the railway from Colombo to Kandy was made, such a pair would take down to the port a hundred and twenty bushels of coffee, with the necessary food for the journey, at the rate of twenty miles a day. A rest by the way is frequent, and the bullocks extricated from their burdens may be seen lying quietly by the roadside as in Plate vi.

Another view (Plate ix) taken at a greater distance shows the carts by the wayside in the final reach of the pass approaching Nuwara Eliya. The distant mountain to the left

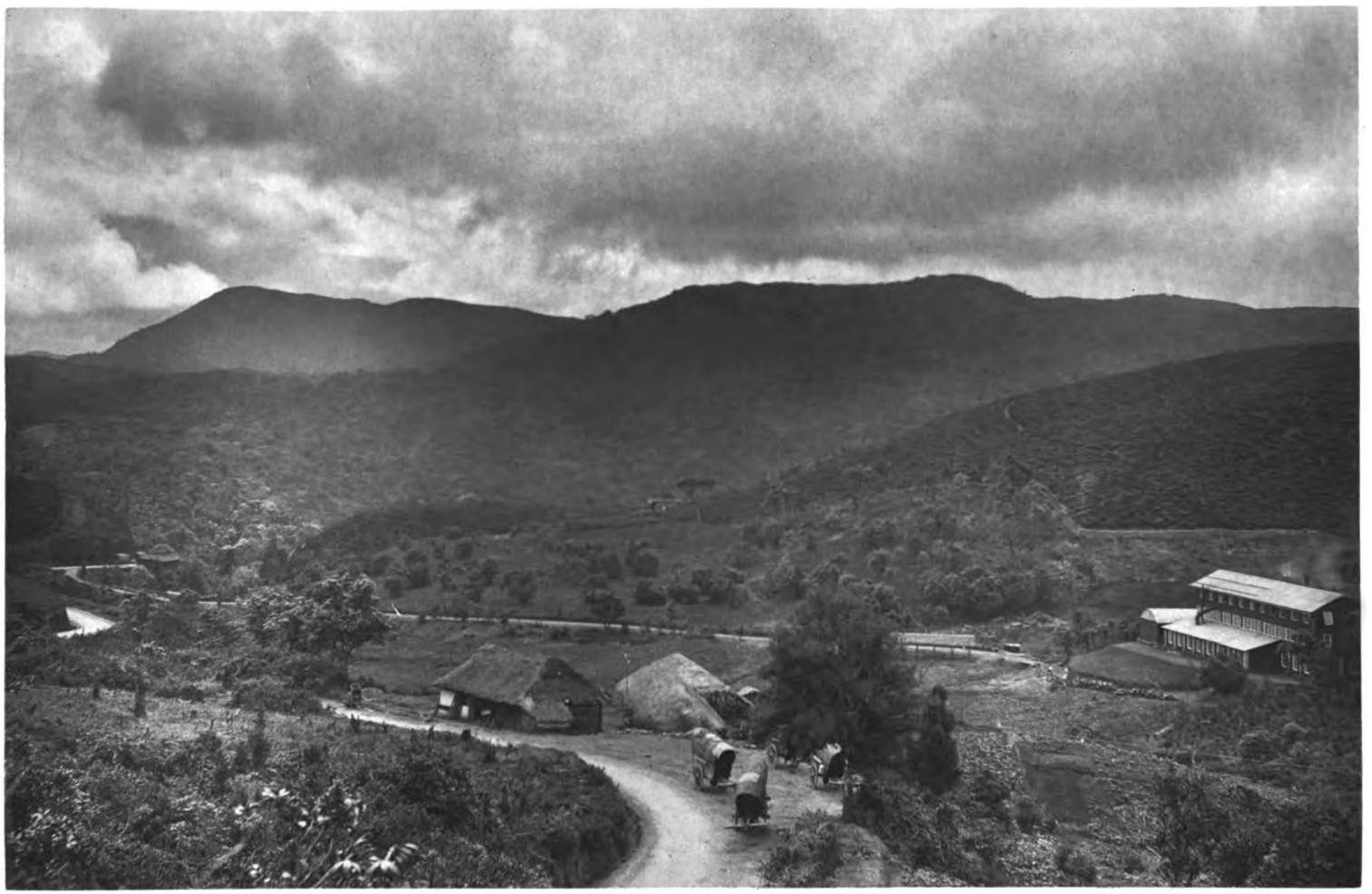
is Kuduhugalla, 7607 feet above sea-level; the one in the middle is Totapella, 7746 feet; and the one to the right is Kirigalpotta, which reaches to the height of 7832 feet. This strange name owes its origin to a white rock at the summit in the form of an open book, the literal translation of "Kirigalpotta" being "milk-stone-book-mountain." Much of the forest on these lofty mountains would be cleared and the land brought under cultivation but for the resolution of late years adopted by the Government to sell no land above the altitude of five thousand feet. The risk of reducing the rainfall by the destruction of forest is the obvious justification of this resolve. It has been advanced, however, by Mr. John Ferguson, in an able paper before the Royal Colonial Institute, that there are considerable portions of such reserves which might well be utilised for market-gardening and pastoral purposes. These might be sold on the condition of leaving all large trees untouched while clearing the undergrowth and introducing new and better fodder grass for a high class of stock which can only flourish at these altitudes. This is, indeed, by no means one of the smallest benefits which may accrue to the whole country by the latest extension of railway communication, for there is no want more keenly felt by the increasing population than the means of procuring such supplies as might in this way be rendered abundant.

One more feature in the landscape under notice is the neatly-constructed tea factory of Scrubs Estate in the foreground to the right. The extent of this property is a hundred and fifty acres, of which two-thirds are covered with fine tea bushes, growing to the highest point of the estate nearly seven

Plate IX.

ROAD TO NANU OYA.

"The distant mountain to the left is Kuduhugalla, 7607 feet above sea-level; the one in the middle is Totapella, 7746 feet; and the one to the right is Kirigalpotta, which reaches to the height of 7832 feet. This strange name owes its origin to a white rock at the summit in the form of an open book, the literal translation of 'Kirigalpotta' being 'milk-stone-book-mountain.'"—Page 23.



thousand feet above sea level. The annual yield averages six hundred and fifty pounds of made tea to the acre, and the average price obtained in Colombo in 1894 was the satisfactory figure of sixty cents a pound. The well-appointed factory in which the teas are prepared and the intricate process by which the green leaf is transformed into the withered little morsels which represent the manufactured article are well worth seeing. The factory is equipped with rolling-machines requiring a very considerable expenditure of steam power, and all the latest appliances for the most economical and perfect production. The coolies employed number two hundred and fifty, in addition to factory hands. Visitors are welcomed, and have the privilege, not only of seeing teas made, but of purchasing them on the spot, where their purity can be assured. The convenience of such purchases being forwarded to any address in the world, payment being deferred until delivery, is one that cannot well be over-estimated. It may be of some general interest to state that this is one of the properties of the premier company of the island—The Ceylon Tea Plantations Company, Limited —which owns an area under cultivation of nearly nine thousand acres, and which has for some years paid the highly satisfactory dividend of fifteen per cent on its ordinary shares.

CHAPTER IV.

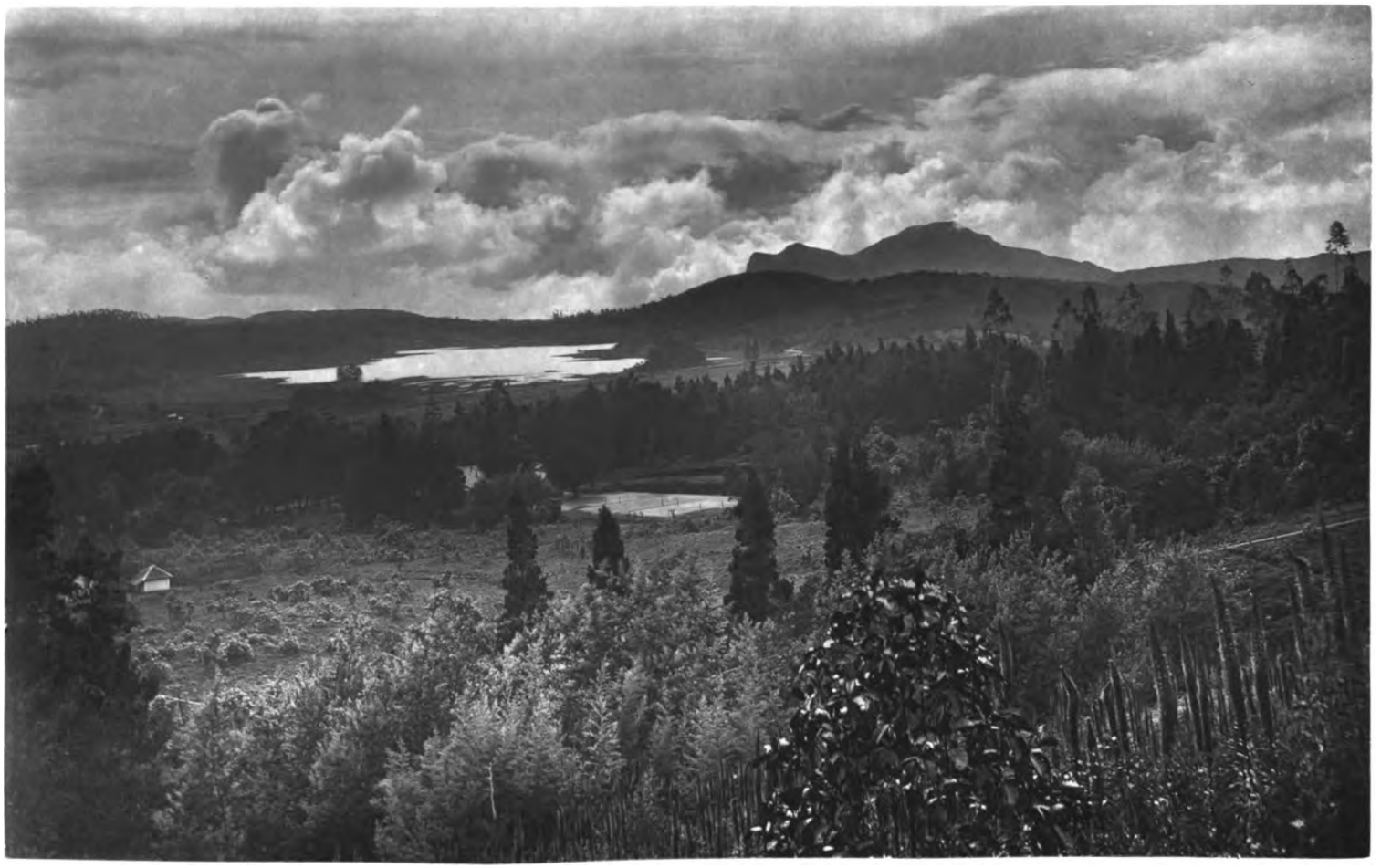
ON THE PLATEAU.

WE have now reached the open plain of Nuwara Eliya. As first impressions are the best, I cannot do better than quote those of an able author and critic, who visited this place while I was occupied in taking the photographs which illustrate this volume, and especially as my own are now nearly twenty years old. One bright cold night in February 1893 I was sitting in the hall of the Grand Hotel, awaiting the sound of the dinner gong, when there entered a travel-stained form in heavy ulster and huge sun topee—a combination peculiar to this elevated region. I at once recognised the face as the subject of portraits widely exhibited in London windows devoted to the display of the celebrities of the day. Mr. Clement Scott, the eminent journalist, had arranged to meet here the exiled Egyptian patriot, Arabi, and to hear from his own lips the story of his life. The touching words of his message to the British nation will be readily recalled, and especially the pathetic appeal with which he bade farewell to the distinguished representative of the English press: "Tell the English people," said he, "that I am an old man—old before my time. Tell

PLATE X.

NUWARA ELIYA.

"*The points of interest portrayed are the* Lobelia Excelsa, *growing in wild profusion to the right of the wild and uncultivated foreground, the Gregory lake, the famous Hakgalla, or 'mouth rock,' fully six miles distant, and the cloud effect, which is a distinctive feature of the remarkable phenomenon of the alternative climate to which brief reference has already been made.*"—PAGE 32.



the English people that I have been ten years in exile, and that I am broken down in health, unfit for anything but reflection on the past, incapable of dishonesty or dishonour. Tell the English people that you have looked into my eyes, and seen them clouded with the shadow that will soon close to them the light of day for ever. I want to die amongst my own people. I want to see Egypt and those I love before the last hour comes. If the English Government would allow me to go back to Egypt I should go, not as an enemy, but the friend of England."

But I am digressing. My first thoughts were what would Mr. Clement Scott—he who had been so unfavourably impressed with the hotels of India—think of those in Ceylon? what would he say about Nuwara Eliya? Should I, with my own love for the place born of long experience, have to wage an unequal combat with his adverse impressions? Happily I have been spared this task. With the authority of an experienced traveller in all parts of the world he writes of Ceylon that it is a place "Where every prospect pleases and no hotel is vile. . . ." "You must come up the wonderful mountain railway into the pure fresh air—away past Kandy, with its sacred Buddhist relics, away to the lily-garden of Nuwara Eliya, where the scenery is as beautiful as at the Engadine, where the air is as pure as at St. Moritz, and the hotel as cosy as at Pontresina. . . . Ceylon might be made, with a little capital and a fresh infusion of English energy, the great sanatorium of the world. In my travels I have not met with one single individual so far who has not voted enthusiastically for Ceylon as one of the most charming spots on earth.

You may remember how I basked on the terrace of Shepheard's hotel at Cairo, and saw the sunset between the old Pyramids, walking round the citadel where Tommy Atkins protects British interests. You may recall a journey up the Nile, and a donkey ride across the desert to Sukarrah. You cannot have forgotten how I told you how the invalids, chased out of Torquay and Bournemouth, driven by one doctor to the Cape and another to Australia, exposed to all the many discomforts of a long sea journey, found themselves ultimately banished to Luxor, there to recover or to be laid to rest with the mummies in the Egyptian sand. It was of these same invalids that I thought one morning as I sat, after breakfast, under a tree, glorious in blossom, in the garden of the mountain hotel at Nuwara Eliya, in an atmosphere as pure and soothing as any sick person could desire. . . . . Here are walks and drives and mountain excursions without number, and if a fashionable doctor or so in London could be induced to write a pamphlet on 'Ceylon as a Health Resort,' I doubt not that there would be plenty of visitors every winter to sip tea in the very heart of its own tea bushes, with cinnamon on the one hand for their invalid puddings, and as much quinine on the other as they could conveniently consume."

To the newly-arrived visitor nothing is more astonishing than the mental and physical change that he himself experiences. The pale and languid victim of the sultry plains is surprised at the sudden return of his lost appetite and the delightful glow that pervades the system marking the return of the warm tints of health. A few days effect a still greater

change; the muscles become firm, the limbs gain vigour, and, above all, the rising spirits rapidly dispel the clouds of depression and invest existence with new delight. All this is due to the wonderful influence of the pure mountain air. Such was the experience of Sir Samuel Baker, the mighty hunter and explorer, so far back as fifty years ago. After shooting in the lowlands for about a year he was attacked by jungle fever and reduced to a mere shadow. As soon as he was able to endure the journey, he was sent by his doctor to Nuwara Eliya. What better testimony of its invigorating influence is needed than this? "A poor and miserable wretch I was upon my arrival at this elevated station, suffering not only from the fever itself, but from the feeling of an exquisite debility that creates an utter hopelessness of the renewal of strength. I was only a fortnight at Nuwara Eliya. The rest-house was the perfection of everything that was dirty and uncomfortable. The toughest possible specimen of a beefsteak, black bread and potatoes, were the choicest and only viands obtainable for an invalid. There was literally nothing else; it was a land of starvation. But the climate! What can I say to describe the wonderful effects of such a pure and unpolluted air? Simply, that at the expiration of a fortnight, in spite of the tough beef and the black bread and potatoes, I was as well and as strong as I ever had been; and in proof of this, I started instanter for another shooting excursion in the interior."

When we remember that Nuwara Eliya is only six degrees north of the Equator, and no more than 6240 feet above the sea, the mean temperature, which is only 57° Fahrenheit,

appears extraordinarily low. There is no doubt that this is mainly due to the geographical position of the island. Its moderate dimensions expose it to the full influence of the surrounding seas, with their uniform temperature, while it is subject to the direct rays of the sun only twelve hours out of the twenty-four. The intense evaporation by day and the rapid cooling by night are also two important factors in the climatic peculiarities of the island.

Not the least among the features that contribute to the growing popularity of Nuwara Eliya is the appeal to the inveterate instincts of the Northman, who has so large a share in that composite being—the true Briton. Though there is no winter in Ceylon, he still has a hankering after a fire on his hearth and a blanket on his bed. These delights, unknown at Colombo, can be enjoyed and appreciated at Nuwara Eliya, and in them he finds the satisfaction of a natural instinct and a reminiscence of his northern home.

Before reading any description of the landscape and its general characteristics, it would be well to take a glance at Plates xi to xxii, which faithfully portray many of the scenes to which reference will be made. Nuwara Eliya is an elliptical mountain valley, the plateau being 6240 feet above sea level and about eight miles in circumference. It is surrounded by steep mountain ridges rising to a height varying from a few hundred to two thousand feet above the plain. There are four gaps, that on the north-east leading into the Kotmalé valley, that on the south-east to the province of Ouva, that on the west to the Dimbula valley, and that on the east to

PLATE XI.

PIDURUTALLAGALLA FROM ONE TREE HILL.

"A glance at Plate xi gives the position of the mountain as viewed from the Grand Hotel, whose white roof is visible in the foreground."—PAGE 41.

PIDURUTALLAGALLA FROM ONE TREE HILL.

Kandapolla and Udapussellawa. The tops themselves are for the most part thickly wooded, and still constitute favourite haunts of the leopard, the elk, and the elephant, not to mention such small deer as monkeys, who swarm in troops through the forests. The plain is charmingly undulated, and, owing nothing to cultivation, forms an admirable playground for both residents and visitors. In this connection it boasts, like so many others, of the best golf link out of Scotland, and possesses an excellent racecourse. It is for the most part clear of timber, with the exception of great numbers of fine rhododendron trees, which grow freely everywhere, not as moderate bushes such as we see in England, but as large forest trees, sometimes to a height of sixty feet with gnarled stems five feet girth. Though only of one species (*Rhododendron arboreum*), there are two varieties, one bearing scarlet and the other pink blossoms. It is a grand sight in the month of May to see a forest of these trees, then at the height of their glory, and some of them more than one hundred years old, with their lofty branches as full of flowers as are the twigs of the modest bushes that are regarded as such a feature of Richmond Park or Kew.

The bungalows of the residents are mostly built upon grassy knolls at the foot of the mountains, and are surrounded by choice gardens, not unfrequently bordered by hedgerows of geraniums. Water of unimpeachable purity flows from the heights over picturesque waterfalls of great beauty. A purling stream babbles through the middle of the valley, finally losing itself in a lake which is surrounded by a well-constructed carriage drive six miles in length. From the Grand Hotel

looking east the landscape appears as represented by Plate x. The points of interest portrayed are the *Lobelia Excelsa*, growing in wild profusion to the right of the wild and uncultivated foreground, the Gregory lake, the famous Hakgalla, or "mouth rock," fully six miles distant, and the cloud effect, which is a distinctive feature of the remarkable phenomenon of the alternative climate to which brief reference has already been made.

The existence of these two distinct and separate climates is due to the action of the trade winds conditioned by the peculiar formation of the mountain district, and the effect is this: When Nuwara Eliya is basking in fine weather and bright sunshine, storm clouds and rain cover the districts beyond the rock shown in Plate x, and *vice versâ*. So sharp is the boundary that during the rainy season at Nuwara Eliya a clear sky and sunny weather can always be obtained by an hour's drive into the district of Ouva. The effects produced by the masses of cloud that constantly hover above the Hakgalla rock are grand in the extreme, and during my last visit scarcely a day of the two months passed without an opportunity of obtaining a picture such as the one here given. The graceful forms evolved out of the mists as they roll onwards from the east till they approach the Nuwara Eliya range are not the least beautiful of the natural characteristics of the place.

Although this astonishing effect is not limited to the immediate neighbourhood of Hakgalla, but extends to the whole range, yet from the plateau this towering rock with its forest-clad slopes and its precipitous eastern shoulder of more than a

PLATE XII.

HAKGALLA FROM ONE TREE HILL.

"*From the same spot the landscape of Plate xii, looking towards Hakgalla, is to be seen. In the foreground lies a plantation of monotonous little tea bushes, relieved by a background of wild primæval forest. The cloud effect observable over Hakgalla indicates, as we have seen, fine weather in Nuwara Eliya.*"—PAGE 46.

KARGALLA, FROM ONE-TREE HILL.

thousand feet sheer descent seems alone to rule the storms, and to check them in their headlong struggle to reach the sunny plain, holding them in ever fearful obedience; season after season the wind may howl and the forests groan, but past the rock they never come. The hither side is the reserve of storm-clouds from the west, which, when the south-west monsoon sets in, form up in the same majestic array upon the whole western side of the ridge, leaving the eastern clear and resplendent with sunshine. But upon approaching Hakgalla from the west we reverse the picture. The clouds dissolve into a thick mist, which fills the lovely gorge between the opposing slopes. Onwards the traveller wends his way till, as through a veil, he sees at his feet the charming panorama of Ouva glistening beneath a cloudless sky. A few more minutes and he treads the dusty road, while behind him a rainbow may be seen almost encircling the veil of mist which now enshrouds the hills he has left.

This choice of climate is now available at all seasons in consequence of the recent extension of the railway into the heart of the Ouva district, and Bandarawella, commanding the most beautiful prospect in this region, will now become the sanatorium of Ceylon while Nuwara Eliya is under its rainy mantle; already an hotel has been opened there by the enterprising company that provides for our comfort at the latter place. But let it not be supposed that the merits of Nuwara Eliya as a health resort disappear with the fine weather. It is true that during the second half of the year rainy days are prevalent, but the occasional bright spells intervening bring the most glorious days of the year, and the worst

that can be said is that during this period it resembles a rather wet summer in the Highlands of Scotland. Moderately warm days, with a Scotch mist, followed by cool evenings that allure to the cheerful fireside of a well-furnished and carpeted bungalow, with intermittent days of sunshine, and a change to any temperate climate you may fancy within easy distance, make up a state of things not to be contemned even by those who are in a position to humour their every whim.

The square plot in the middle distance in the centre of of Plate x is the tennis ground attached to St. Edward's school for European boys, the roof of which is partly visible among the trees to the left. The recent foundation of this and the erection of several other buildings must have been a considerable gratification to the late Sir Samuel Baker, who upon his arrival in Nuwara Eliya nearly half a century ago wrote: "Why should not the highlands of Ceylon, with an Italian climate, be rescued from this state of barrenness? . . . . Why should not schools be established, a comfortable hotel erected, a church built?" These and many other excellent institutions are now well established. In place of the uncomfortable rest-house, with its rather monotonous *menu* of tough beef and black potatoes, there is a luxurious hotel whose extensive grounds abound with romantic nooks interesting alike to the artist and the man of science.

On a pretty site above the hotel and in its grounds is a rustic summer-house, so hidden by foliage as to be almost difficult to discover, though it is a favourable spot for the observation of the denizens of the jungle and their habits.

PLATE XIII.

THE LIZARD AND THE LILY.

"On one occasion, when walking to the summer-house, I counted more than a dozen lizards of the versicolor species sitting upon the spathes of the arums that grow in great profusion about the hotel grounds. Struck by their disregard of my footsteps I returned for my camera with the result that may be seen."—PAGE 35.

THE TOAD AND THE SNAKE.

The character of this garden of nature is represented in our Frontispiece. The music of the distant waterfall, descending from the mountain summit; the chirping of thousands of tiny birds of bright plumage, as they flutter from twig to twig in search of seeds; the rustling of the undergrowth, as the gay lizards dart upon their prey, while others sit within the fragrant spathes of the arum lily; the lofty tree ferns, with their lovely plumes rising gracefully above the flowering shrubs —all these contribute to an effect which no words or pictures can describe.

On one occasion, when walking to the summer-house, I counted more than a dozen lizards of the versicolor species sitting upon the spathes of the arums that grow in great profusion about the hotel grounds. Struck by their disregard of my footsteps I returned for my camera with the result that may be seen in Plate xiii. These gay little creatures have the power of changing their colour to any hue. They sometimes appear with deep blue body and throat of mottled red, and when alarmed they endeavour to conceal their presence by changing to the tints of their immediate surroundings. If upon the grass, they become green; if upon the trunk of a tree they approximate its colour so nearly as to resemble the bark. The lovely blends of colour which they assume when undisturbed remind one of the lines—

> "What skilful limner e'er would choose
> To paint the rainbow's varying hues,
> Unless to mortal man were given
> To dip his brush in dyes of heaven?"

CHAPTER V.

HAKGALLA.

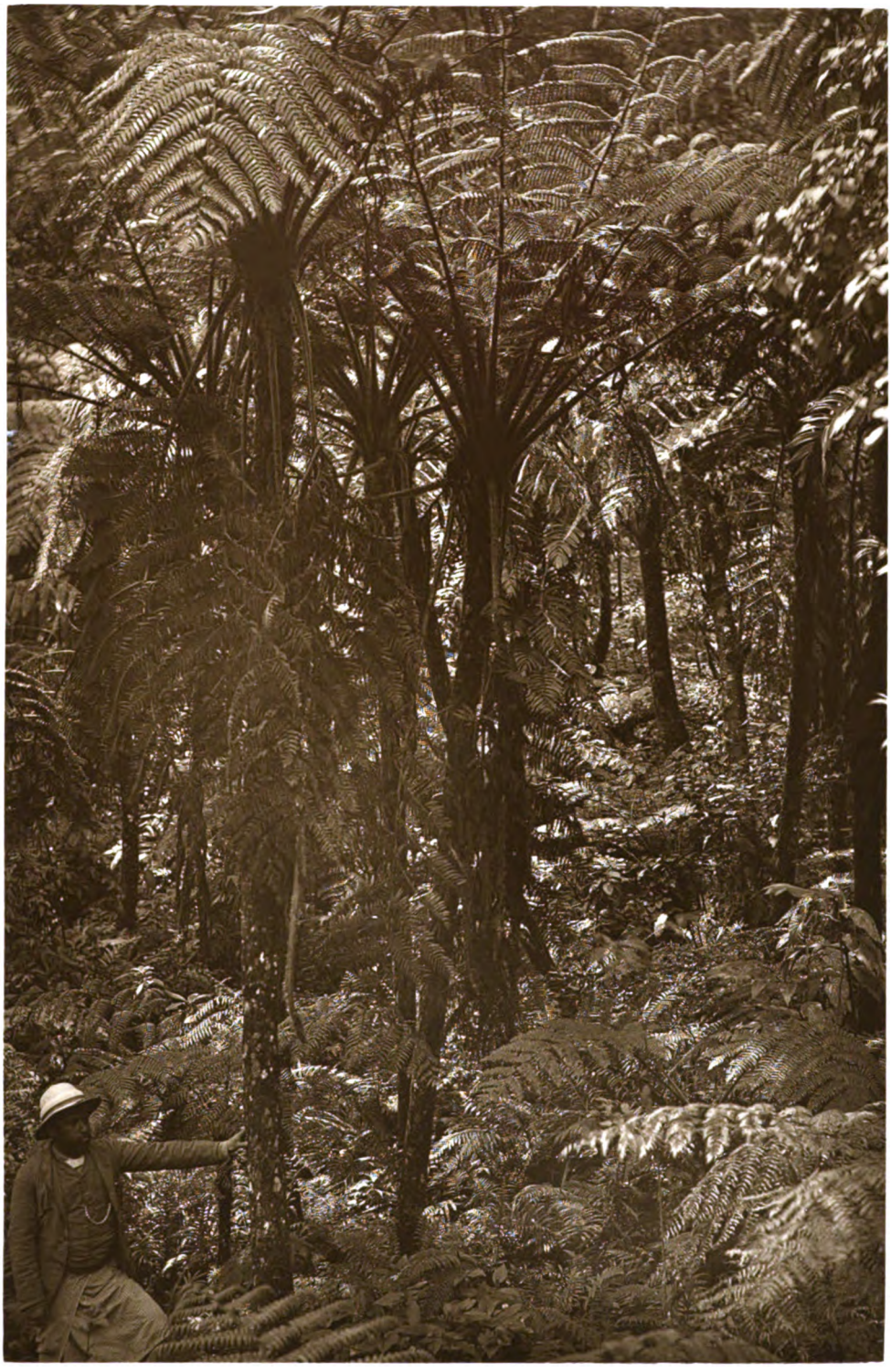
WE have already noticed the shallow gap on the mountain heights, which forms the exit from Nuwara Eliya on the Ouva side. This gap leads to a lovely gorge, which extends to the foot of the majestic Hakgalla, where the clouds descend in saturating mist during the wet season. This is the most interesting drive in the neighbourhood. For five miles the descent is steep. The precipitous crags have been cut away for the construction of the road, which in its winding course affords grand views of deep wooded ravines, covered with tree ferns in wonderful variety, and teeming with cataracts.

Beneath the rock, which in its form and outline is one of the notable things in Ceylon, nestle the Government Botanic Gardens. While these Gardens are no less than 5400 feet above the sea, this mighty crag towers above them to the height of a further 1600 feet. Here is a spot famous for picnic breakfasts, usually discussed in an arbour with an unbroken view of the undulating plains of Ouva stretching far below.

Plate XIV.

TREE FERNS AT HAKGALLA.

"*In the body of the fernery the native tree ferns* (Alsophila crinita), *for which these gardens are celebrated, form a striking group. The trunks are mostly eighteen to twenty feet high, and the spreading fronds fifteen to twenty feet across.*"—Page 38.



TREE FERNS AT KANGALLA.

The Gardens, beautiful in themselves, owe much to their situation, and are the seat of experiments in the acclimatisation of plants from temperate lands outside the tropics and from the tropical heights of other countries. We are surprised at the number of trees and shrubs, and the variety of fruits and flowers, that are rarely to be found in a tropical garden. In addition to acclimatisation, the all-important work of extending and improving the various species of indigenous plants is carried on, in order that the natural resources of the country may be utilised to the best advantage. In this place of practical science agricultural theories are translated into actual fact, and provide invaluable material for the enterprise and speculation of the colonist.

Although the main purpose is kept strictly in view, the Gardens are planned with such excellent taste, and the natural features of their situation are so romantic and beautiful, that they form a great attraction to the unscientific spectator. The ornamental creeks and pools; the shrubberies planted with trees of varied foliage; the trickling streams from the mountain tops, with their fringes of native ferns; the flame-tree blazing above its trunk clad with cream-blossomed creepers; rocky beds covered with maidenhair ferns in the shade of spreading trees with their lovely parasitic growth of orchids; the handsome *Pinus longifolia*, with its fourteen-inch leaves; the hundred kinds of roses; the giant banana; and even the true English oak, as a good omen, keeping in countenance British enterprise in this far-off land—these are a few of the many features of unfailing interest to the casual observer.

In the body of the fernery the native tree ferns (*Alsophila crinita*), for which these gardens are celebrated, form a striking group. The trunks are mostly eighteen to twenty feet high, and the spreading fronds fifteen to twenty feet across. This species is one of the most stately and graceful of tree ferns, and fine specimens are to be seen in every ravine. The unexpanded fronds are a favourite food of the wild elephant, which inhabits this locality in great numbers. In one respect this fern resembles the cocoanut palm—it grows from the crown, and the lower fronds fall off as the new ones appear above. Until they die off, they hang down the stem of the tree as in the cocoanut (see Frontispiece), but with this difference, that whereas the frond of the latter comes away entirely, leaving a ring mark upon the trunk, the frond of the tree fern breaks off, leaving the base of the stem on the pithy trunk as a sort of protection. The height of the ferns in our picture may be realised by noticing the figure in the foreground — Mr. Menarigamage Gemonis Perera, the Singhalese clerk and foreman of the Gardens. This gentleman extends the utmost courtesy and attention to visitors, and is ready with apt information on all points of interest. Though we may marvel at the height of these ferns, we are informed that when prospecting for the railway extension to Ouva the engineers came upon specimens in a gorge of the Elk Plains fully sixty feet high.

. The sheltered creek, illustrated by Plate xv, is fed by a stream, rising in the lofty eastern crag in the background, and flowing into the Sitya Ellia, which is the name of the stream dashing through the gorge from Nuwara Eliya. There is a

Plate XV.

A SHELTERED CREEK AT HAKGALLA.

"The sheltered creek is fed by a stream, rising in the lofty eastern crag in the background, and flowing into the Sitya Ellia, which is the name of the stream dashing through the gorge from Nuwara Eliya."—Page 38.

A SHELTERED CREEK, AT KANGALLA.

pretty legend connected with this stream. The beautiful Queen Sitya, wife of Rama, fell into the hands of Ravana, the demon king, who kept her in captivity in a forest here. The monkey-god, Hanuman, with intent to her rescue, set fire to the forest. The Queen being in great peril escaped the girdle of fire by diving underground and coming up again seventy or eighty yards further on. The stream in consequence followed the course she took, and after disappearing in the pool shown in the Plate, reappears where the Queen came out into the light again.

A fine example of the tree fern (*Alsophila crinita*), will be again noticed at the extreme end of the pool. The long, narrow-leaved plants on either side are New Zealand flax (*Phormium terrax*), whose sword-shaped leaves contain a large quantity of strong useful fibre. The rock visible through the trees is the north-west shoulder of Hakgalla.

Another pretty spot is a hexangular-shaped arbour covered with Chinese honeysuckle, having an outlook over an ornamental pond, which reflects the twin rock of Hakgalla. Around the pond flourish a number of most interesting plants, among them the wedding flower, resembling a gigantic iris, and the tree-fuchsia, which when in flower is not unlike the lilac.

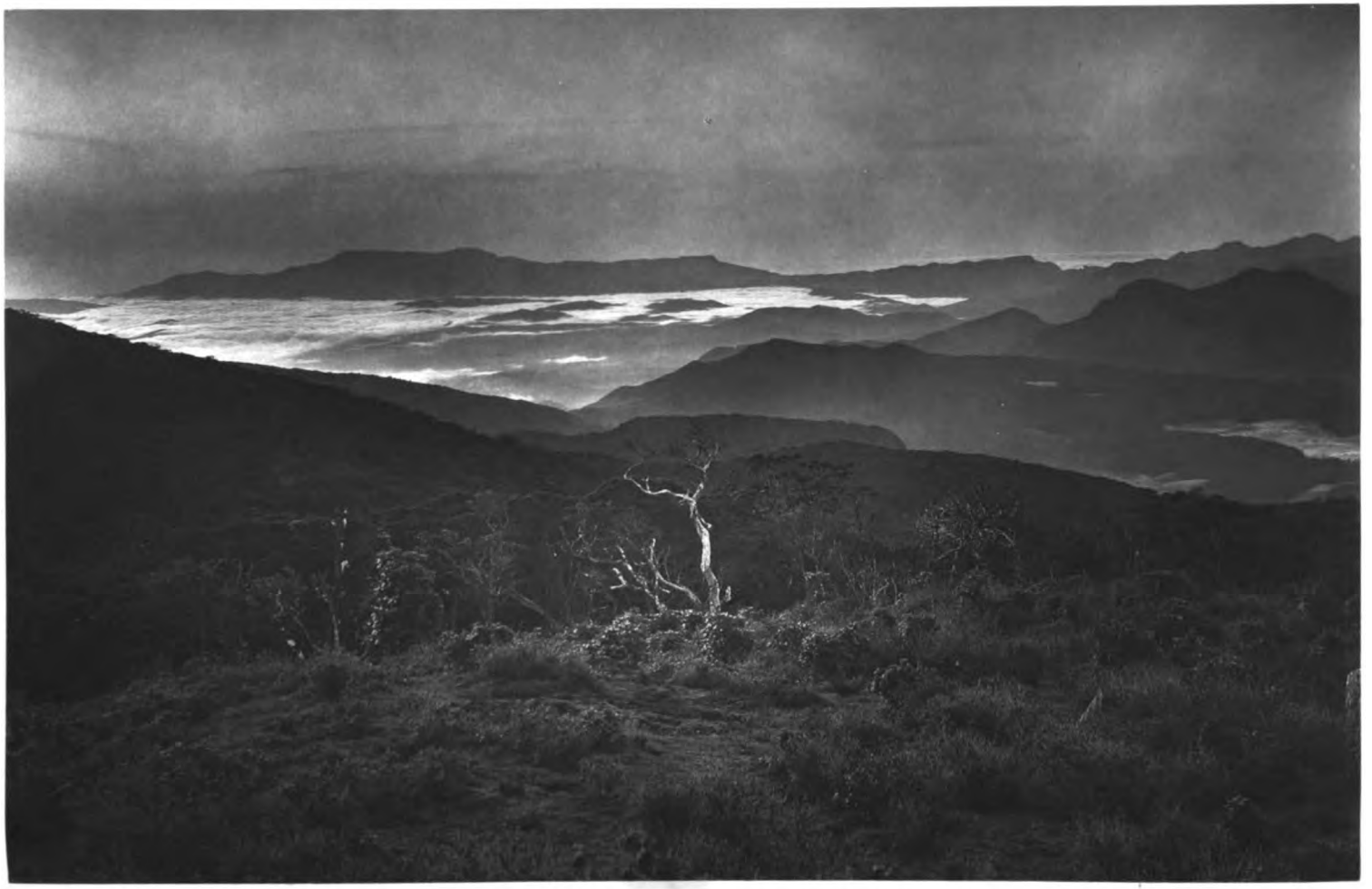
In addition to the rich botanical feast which the Gardens afford, the student of zoology is well catered for. The curious hoarse cry of the monkeys in their gambols on the trees, where they may be seen leaping from branch to branch; giant worms of cerulean hue, five feet long and an inch

thick, are calculated to startle the stranger; black and grey squirrels and creeping things innumerable are to be seen; and many other animals, such as the civet cat, the leopard, the jackal, the deer, the porcupine, the elephant, and the hog, though not often visible, nevertheless inhabit the thick surrounding jungles.

Plate XVI.

ABOVE THE CLOUDS BEFORE SUNRISE.

"But grandest of all is that beautiful scene which heralds the approach of day. To stand upon the highest point of this sea-girt land, with the shadowed sky above and brooding darkness below, there to watch the rosy-fingered dawn cast her first rays upon the thousand peaks that begin to peep through the snowy mists which yet enshroud the low-lying valleys, is an experience well worth the surrender of a few hours of sleep and an occasional fright at midnight forest sounds betokening the proximity of a leopard or an elephant."—Page 42.



BEFORE SUNRISE

CHAPTER VI.

PIDURUTALLAGALLA.

THERE is perhaps nothing more attractive to the traveller who visits Nuwara Eliya than a walk to the summit of Pidurutallagalla, the highest mountain in the island. The ascent is easy, and the reward great. From no other mountain top in the world can you literally see over a whole island of such extent and beauty as you can from this. From shore to shore lie outstretched in every direction forests and plains, mountain ranges interlaced in intricate confusion, masses of verdant patana lands, interspersed with glittering streams; while the stillness of the profound solitude is only broken by the sounds from mountain torrents in their wild rush over the huge boulders in the rocky ravines. It is here, with the accumulated impressions of the whole journey from the coast to the highest point of the highlands fresh in his mind, that the traveller confers on Ceylon the title of "the show place of the universe."

A glance at Plate xi gives the position of the mountain as viewed from the Grand Hotel, whose white roof is visible in the foreground. A good carriage road leads across the plain to Kina Cottage, standing on a grassy knoll at the entrance of

the forest, whence a zigzag bridle path conducts us to the summit. This pretty bungalow, a view of which may be seen in Plate xxi, is the residence of Mr. H. D. Deane, the owner of Kintyre Tea Estate and a mighty hunter, whose trophies provide one of our illustrations. The photograph, having been taken from the top of the opposite range, is exceedingly minute in its particulars, but by the aid of a powerful reading glass the course of the path can here and there be descried. The journey to the top is about four miles, and very good two and a half hours' walk. There is also a choice between covering the whole distance on horseback and being carried on the shoulders of four coolies in a chair supported on two bamboo poles; the latter method, however, although frequently adopted by ladies, is not too comfortable, especially when the coolies are of unequal height. In any case the ground is so uneven that it is impossible to keep the bamboos in a horizontal position. In Plate xvii may be seen an illustration of this style of ascent. The glorious exhilaration of the pure and bracing air encourages residents in Nuwara Eliya to make frequent excursions on this account alone. The prospect varies so much under different atmospheric conditions that every fresh trip is amply rewarded by the ever-changing scenes that meet the gaze, while the cloud studies surpass even those of Alpine countries.

But grandest of all is that beautiful scene which heralds the approach of day. To stand upon the highest point of this sea-girt land, with the shadowed sky above and brooding darkness below, there to watch the rosy-fingered dawn cast her first rays upon the thousand peaks that begin to peep

PLATE XVII.

ADAM'S PEAK FROM PIDURUTALLAGALLA.

"As the sun rises higher the nearer slopes become more distinct, and the distant ranges clearly visible, as in Plate xvii, which gives a view in the direction of Adam's Peak. This lofty cone, 7352 feet above the sea and 23 miles distant in a direct line, is clearly defined."—PAGE 43.

ADAM'S PEAK FROM PIDURUTALLAGALLA.

through the snowy mists which yet enshroud the low-lying valleys, is an experience well worth the surrender of a few hours of sleep and an occasional fright at midnight forest sounds betokening the proximity of a leopard or an elephant. The first glimmer of light is represented in Plate xvi, a photographic undertaking of some difficulty, and in this respect second only to "the shadow of Adam's Peak" in Plate xxx. Only a small portion of the snowy masses of mist can be seen in the picture, but from the summit, as far as the eye can scan, right away to the ocean east and west, the lighted peaks peering through the veil resemble laughing islands dotting a sea of foam. Then as the dawn breaks a golden tint gradually appears over the hills, and when the sun bursts over the horizon, a rapid transformation takes place. The petrified surf of the mists now begins to move upwards, and reveals with vivid clearness the valleys all fresh from their repose. The dewy leaves of the forest trees and the trails of beautiful moss which cling to their branches glisten with tints of gold, the moistened rocks sparkle with diamonds, and all nature rejoices at the new-born day.

In the foreground of the picture the blasted trunk is the victim of a forest fire, which has given to the spot an air of desolation, not however reaching to any great distance. As the sun rises higher the nearer slopes become more distinct, and the distant ranges clearly visible, as in Plate xvii, which gives a view in the direction of Adam's Peak. This lofty cone, 7352 feet above the sea and twenty-three miles distant in a direct line, is clearly defined. The intermediate ranges are the Great Western (7264 feet), five miles west of Nuwara Eliya, to which

reference has already been made in a previous chapter, and Talankanda range (6137 feet), dividing the tea-growing districts of Dimbula and Dickoya.

In Plate xviii, Nuwara Eliya is seen lying at our feet. The whole plain glistens with hoar frost; the river, like a silver streak, winds its course to the Hakgalla gorge, and for a great distance ranges of forest-clad mountains alternate with waving plains. The nearest range is that called after One Tree Hill, then comes the Elk Plains range, the next is a mountain of the Agra Patana district, and the lofty range in the distance is that of Horton Plains. The tops of all these ranges are clothed with forests, while undulating patanas cover the ridges between.

Refer again, if you please, to the view of Pidurutallagalla from One Tree Hill, and notice the large extent of forest behind Kina Cottage. Here the elk abounds, and at night in great numbers swoops down upon the bungalow gardens, destroying the fences and eating all the vegetables. It is very difficult to hunt these animals, not only on account of the depth of the forest, but also of the interference of leopards with the sport, in which the dogs come upon the latter, give tongue and chase, and receive a pat on the head, which puts a sudden end to their career. The nocturnal depredations of the leopard being limited to the occasional theft of a cow from the compound are of much less concern than those of the more destructive elk.

As we descend by the broadening day we notice the great contrast between the character of the Pidurutallagalla forest

PLATE XVIII.

NUWARA ELIYA FROM PIDURUTALLAGALLA.

"*Nuwara Eliya is seen lying at our feet. The whole plain glistens with hoar frost.*"—PAGE 44.

and that of the lowlands. Instead of waving palms we see weird trees with gnarled trunks and forked boughs, festooned with long beards of lichens and orange moss. Many of the trunks are clothed with rich green creepers and adorned with the fantastic blossoms of native orchids, and parasites innumerable bedeck the upper branches with strangest flowers, while the magnificent *Rhododendron arboreum*, with its great branches and brilliant blossoms, appears everywhere as a common forest tree.

The creatures of the mountain summits being nocturnal in their habits, there are no outward signs of life by day, deep silence taking the place of the noise that proceeds from the thickets of the low country plains. The elephant and the leopard, although present in large numbers, are seldom seen or heard, but remain hidden in the deepest recesses. A couple of large wanderoo monkeys may sometimes be seen quarrelling like angry school boys; but as a rule the only sound is the occasional deep note of the jungle cock, and even he is so modest in hiding his brilliant plumage from the eye of man that he seldom falls a victim to the sportsman's gun.

In the garden of Kina Cottage, at the foot of the mountain, stands a solitary Keena tree (see Plate xix), whose gnarled stem measures thirty-five feet at its base and twenty-six feet when measured fifty-four inches from the ground, and has withstood the blasts of a hundred monsoons; but its once beautiful crown, changing its tints from green to a rich red, according to the season of the year, is gradually disappearing. A dozen years ago, when I was tenant of the bungalow to

which it gives its name, its downward course had scarce begun, but here, as elsewhere, death marks his victims, and a dozen more years may see the final doom of this well-known monarch of the Keenas.

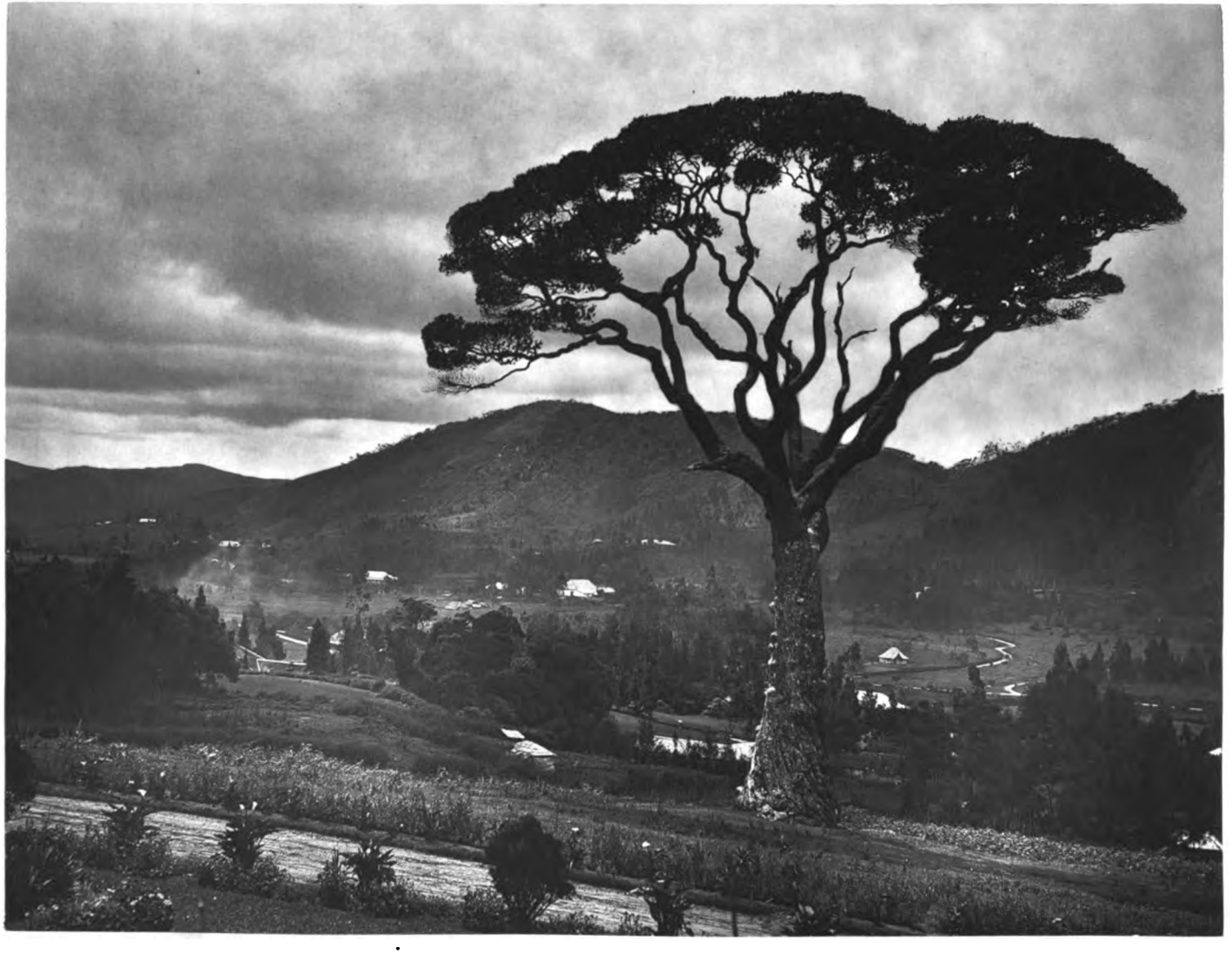
Of this tree there are no less than twelve varieties in Ceylon. The species in our illustration is the *Callophyllum Walkeri*, named after General Walker, a botanist of considerable distinction. It grows in all the mountain forests above an altitude of three thousand feet. The wood is of a dark red colour, and being very hard, weather-proof, and durable, is much used for the roofing of bungalows.

In the same picture we get a view of the plateau of Nuwara Eliya looking west. The distant height is One Tree Hill, from the top of which the view of Pidurutallagalla was obtained. From the same spot the landscape of Plate xii, looking towards Hakgalla, is to be seen. In the foreground lies a plantation of monotonous little tea bushes, relieved by a background of wild primæval forest. The cloud effect observable over Hakgalla indicates, as we have seen, fine weather in Nuwara Eliya.

PLATE XIX.

KEENA TREE.

"In the garden of Kina Cottage, at the foot of the mountain, stands a solitary Keena tree, whose gnarled stem measures thirty-five feet at its base and twenty-six feet when measured fifty-four inches from the ground, and has withstood the blasts of a hundred monsoons; but its once beautiful crown, changing its tints from green to a rich red, according to the season of the year, is gradually disappearing."—PAGE 45.



CHAPTER VII.

NASEBY.

FREEDOM to roam at will in his native land is a privilege seldom enjoyed by an Englishman. The restrictions imposed by private ownership are one of the greatest drawbacks to life in the old country; and the absence of these restrictions in Nuwara Eliya invests it with a special charm. The resident or the visitor can practically set his foot anywhere he pleases. Not even the tea and cinchona estates need be excepted, for their owners welcome all who care to make use of their private roads to display their interest in the cultivation of the various products.

An easy stroll of two miles from the Grand Hotel brings us to the top of Naseby Hill, commanding a wonderful view of the principal peaks of the island. On a clear day both Adam's Peak and Namunakulakanda are both distinctly visible, although distant from each other forty-seven miles in a direct line. But the chief feature is the charming character of the scenery immediately surrounding the famous tea plantation which encircles the hill.

On the west the calm waters of the lake (see Plate xx), reflecting the wooded hills and the lofty mountains, recall memories of Ullswater.

On the east is the precipitous shoulder of Pidurutallagalla, known as Lovers' Leap, taking its name from the legend that tells how a Kandyan prince became greatly attached to a maiden of low caste. Upon the fact coming to the King's knowledge, the lovers took to flight, and were pursued by the King's soldiers to the mountain range of Pidurutallagalla. Seeing no hope of escape, they preferred to be united in death rather than in life to be divided, and in sight of their pursuers, locked in a last embrace, leapt from this precipice.

Near Lovers' Leap is Pedro Estate, one of the possessions of Captain Bayley, the popular agent of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, and famous above all other estates in Ceylon for the beautiful ferns and plants introduced by the owner and cultivated by him with great care and equal success.

From Naseby we see the best outline of Hakgalla, and obtain many pretty peeps across patana and forest in the direction of the Moon Plains. The plantation of Naseby was first started for the cultivation of cinchona, and the belts of gums and acacias which were designed to shelter the Jesuits' tree still remain in picturesque avenues. Thus it may be said that Naseby's charms include—

"The melodies of woods and winds and water,"

and that amongst the tea estates of the highlands it is unique in the number of its attractions.

The annual yield of this beautiful plantation is about four hundred pounds per acre of tea of a very fine delicate quality, which sometimes realises as much as a rupee a pound in the

PLATE XX.

NUWARA ELIYA FROM NASEBY.

PLATE XXI.

KINA COTTAGE.

NUWARA ELIYA FROM MACLEOD.

KINA COURT.

Colombo market. Visitors are made welcome to the factory, which is fitted with the usual tea making machinery, driven by steam power.

Beyond Naseby is a pretty drive round the Moon Plains, so called from the number of moonstones found there. The forests are here intersected with patana, or grass land, as seen in Plate xxii. There are various theories as to the origin of these patana lands and the distinct and sharp demarcation of the forests that bound them. There is doubtless a difference in the constituents of the patana soil and that of the forest, nevertheless it is held that the forests are encroaching upon the patana land at the rate of about a yard in a year. In very many cases, however, this natural extension is checked by burning off the coarse patana grass, and the consequent destruction of the young seedlings growing outside the forest edge. The long mana grass is too coarse and too deficient in nutriment to be of any value for grazing purposes, and is suitable only for thatching and litter. It has been the custom of the natives to regard the patanas as common land, and by annually firing the long grass they obtain young shoots for their cattle. Even these young shoots, however, are poor stuff for this purpose, and it is considered that nothing short of scientific farming can render the soil of any service. That it can be cultivated has been abundantly proved. Some of the best tea in the Udapussellawa district has been grown by careful treatment upon patana land. It is difficult to see why the Government, interested as it is in the increase of the mountain forests, should not secure their gradual extension by protecting the patanas, and in the course of time

sell portions of the older forests, where the soil is suitable for tea cultivation.

In the left foreground of the picture is an old rhododendron tree, which has withstood many a scorching fire and many a gale in its open wind-swept position. The rhododendrons of Nuwara Eliya are so hardy that, in spite of the fires, they produce their huge crimson flowers every July and August as long as they live. This specimen is probably not less than fifty years old.

The road round the Moon Plains and across these patanas bring us to a magnificent ravine, five hundred feet sheer down from the road. This is the most beautifully wooded mountain gorge in the district, and although it is generally stated that the Ceylon bear is never met with in Nuwara Eliya, I once came across Bruin in this ravine. He had doubtless come up from the low country in search of food, and was engaged upon his dessert of wild raspberries, which he eat wholesale by the simple expedient of drawing the canes through his mouth.

We next come upon the Barrack Plains Lake, which, owing to the hills that surround it, resembles a loch of the Scotch Highlands. Although there are rivers innumerable, expanses of water are very rare in the highlands of Ceylon, notwithstanding the great need of them. That it is possible to supply this want in some places is evident from the successful experiment of Sir William Gregory, which gave Nuwara Eliya the fine sheet of water which bears his name. I cannot do better than describe this in his own words: "The first sight that now catches the eye is a deep blue lake, called after me,

PLATE XXII.

THE MOON PLAINS.

"Beyond Naseby is a pretty drive round the Moon Plains, so called from the number of moonstones found there. The forests are here intersected with patana, or grass land."—PAGE 49.

THE MOON PLAINS.

which has covered the ungainly swamp, and is about a mile in length, and half a mile in breadth. It was one of my early undertakings, and this wonderful improvement was carried out at a cost hardly exceeding £1200. A river ran tortuously through this morass, to and fro, in a constant series of curves. Though the distance from where it entered the morass to where it fell over a rocky barrier into a valley below could not have been more than a mile, it was calculated that the length of its windings was over eight miles. Immediately on seeing it, I suggested to an engineer that, by erecting a stone embankment at the point where the river left the plain, its water could be arrested and regulated by sluices, and the whole plain inundated to whatever depth was required. This proposal of mine was assailed by carping criticisms of all kinds in the newspapers, and letters appeared as thick as blackberries with objections. This lake, if made, some said, would change the climate of Nuwara Eliya, and render it too cold; others declared it would breed fever, and others mosquitos; while an engineering class of objectors maintained that there would not be enough fresh water coming into it to fill it during certain months; and another insisted that it would never hold water, owing to the fissures in the geological condition of the soil. However, the stone embankment was finished, and the rain came. I was telegraphed for to come and see the wonderful effect. At the top of the pass I looked down upon a blue expanse of water, which we can raise or let fall exactly as we wish. And now boats are on it, and a beautiful drive of three or four miles runs round it, and the climate is said to be much improved."

CHAPTER VIII.

THE WORLD'S END AND THE BANDARAWELA RAILWAY.

AMONGST the numerous excursions which may be made, none is more interesting and exciting than a trip to the World's End—which, as we shall see, is a very appropriate name for this region. Its exact position is twenty miles south-west of Nuwara Eliya. The way thither is down the Nanu Oya Road (Plate ix), for two miles. A path then leads past the crystal pool in Plate xxiii, and following the elephant tracks through jungle and forest to the Elk Plains, whose rolling patanas are studded with beautiful wild flowers, we come to Horton Plains, seven thousand feet above sea level. These wilds are the haunt of the elk, red deer, wild boar and leopard. Until the recent railway extension, the only building for fifteen miles was a solitary rest-house. Here the traveller may find comfortable quarters for the night, and can proceed onwards to his destination at daybreak. The southern portion of this great table-land ends abruptly on the verge of an abyss so appalling as to give the sensation of having literally arrived at the end of the world. The traveller comes upon this suddenly when emerging from the forest, and the effect is startling in the extreme. To approach to the very edge of the giddy precipice would be a severe trial for the strongest nerve, but securely

PLATE XXIII.

EVENTIDE.

"The calm pool is characteristic of the grassy levels or ledges which occur at intervals in the courses of the fierce mountain torrents. The water here flows peacefully for a space, and then, reaching another ravine, it dashes down to the next ledge, and so on by a succession of rapids until it arrives at the low-country plains."—PAGE 22.

EVENTIDE

NEAR

BLACK POOL, NEWERA ELIYA.

fastened to a tree by a rope round the waist one may stand on the brink and gaze straight down the sheer side of the mountain upon another world five thousand feet below, and even hurl down a huge boulder without a sound returning from the crash of its contact with the earth. Here is an atmosphere bracing and cold, there lie the steaming plains of the low country. Behind lies a wild and almost unfrequented region, while below nestle the cosy bungalows of the Balangoda district, in the midst of expanses of tea bushes, only 1700 feet above sea level. Such is the distance of the plantations, rivers, bungalows and forests, that only by the aid of a telescope can the nature of any particular object be determined. When I visited this spot eleven years ago it was necessary to set out with a retinue of coolies carrying provisions, blankets, and other paraphernalia; the only accommodation then was the uninhabited hut or rest-house built there by the Government. To-day the expedition is not such a serious affair, as the railway takes us within four or five miles. Although the leopard may have deserted his old lair and the herds of elephants betaken themselves to quieter regions undisturbed by the iron horse, the same weird forests, with their dense undergrowth of masses of nelu scrub, the same magnificent landscapes and the impressive scene at the "World's End" are there unaltered. The human eyes that have looked across that marvellous abyss are at present few, but with the facilities now offered by the new railway it will doubtless become a much-frequented spot. Few people now journey to the Horton Plains by the old paths from Nuwara Eliya, and they will therefore soon be overgrown and effaced, while the crossings over streams and gullies will decay and perish. It is now usual to go to Nanu

Oya by coach, and thence to proceed up the Bandarawela railway to Ohiya. From Ohiya the entrance to the plains may be reached by a climb of about an hour and a half over rugged country, and the return journey is now best made by the old Nuwara Eliya path for about eight miles to Ambawela, and thence by rail to Nanu Oya. By this route very grand views of scenery from the side of the Totapola range may be obtained, and many delightful bits of forest, differing in character from any elsewhere. The trees, which look so old and undisturbed with their rich long beards of variegated moss, appear to be dwarfed by the cold of their lofty and exposed situation. Wild flowers, orchids and ferns always render the scene fairy-like in the sunshine, but it is when the nelu is in blossom that these highland forests transcend in beauty almost every other part of Ceylon. This lovely flowering shrub, of the *Strobilanthes* family, is the chief undergrowth in these forests, and the species number as many as twenty-seven, some of which grow only in the drier parts of the country, but about twenty of them favour those forests with a considerable rainfall. Some are delicate and small, others have thick cane stems and grow to a great height. The blossoms cluster round the joints of their stems, and display great variety of colour—blue, purple, red, white, and the parti-coloured crimson and white. The blossoming is so profuse that the plant takes some years to recover, and it is therefore seldom that these high jungles are seen in their fullest glory. The fragrance of the atmosphere is no less remarkable than the beauty of the scene. Huge swarms of bees are attracted by the flowers, and when these are succeeded by the nuts, all sorts of creatures appear, as if by magic, to take their turn at the feast.

PLATE XXIV.

FOREST AND PATANAS FROM PATTIPOLA.

"For the first few miles from Nanu Oya the scenery consists of dense forests, and as the line runs along the heights to the summit station of Pattipola there are many parts where the steep descent, although affording lovely views of rugged and beautiful country, is somewhat alarming to the timid traveller."—PAGE 55.

Coming down the side of Totapola, we obtain grand views of Nuwara Eliya, a thousand feet below; even its bungalows and lake being distinctly visible on a clear day, though twelve miles distant.

There is some very fine soil on the slopes and valleys outside the Horton Plains only awaiting the removal of the State embargo prohibiting the sale of land at above five thousand feet to be brought under cultivation. Unless some exception be made in this sweeping prohibition in favour of the cultivation of chena and patana land wherever possible, the most costly section of the mountain railway will continue to surprise every visitor at the existence of such magnificent means of communication in a region so destitute and uncultivated as that between Upper Dimbula and Ohiya.

This section of the railway, which is laid over the highest parts of the mountain districts, was sanctioned by the Secretary of State in 1888, and was constructed by the Government itself without the intervention of the contractor in four and a half years. Mr. F. J. Waring, C.M.G., was the chief resident engineer of this magnificent work, of which he may well be proud. The line passes through nineteen tunnels and over twenty bridges in the twenty-five miles it traverses, and the average cost was about a quarter of a million rupees per mile.

For the first few miles from Nanu Oya the scenery consists of dense forests, and as the line runs along the heights to the summit station of Pattipola there are many parts where the steep descent, although affording lovely views of rugged and

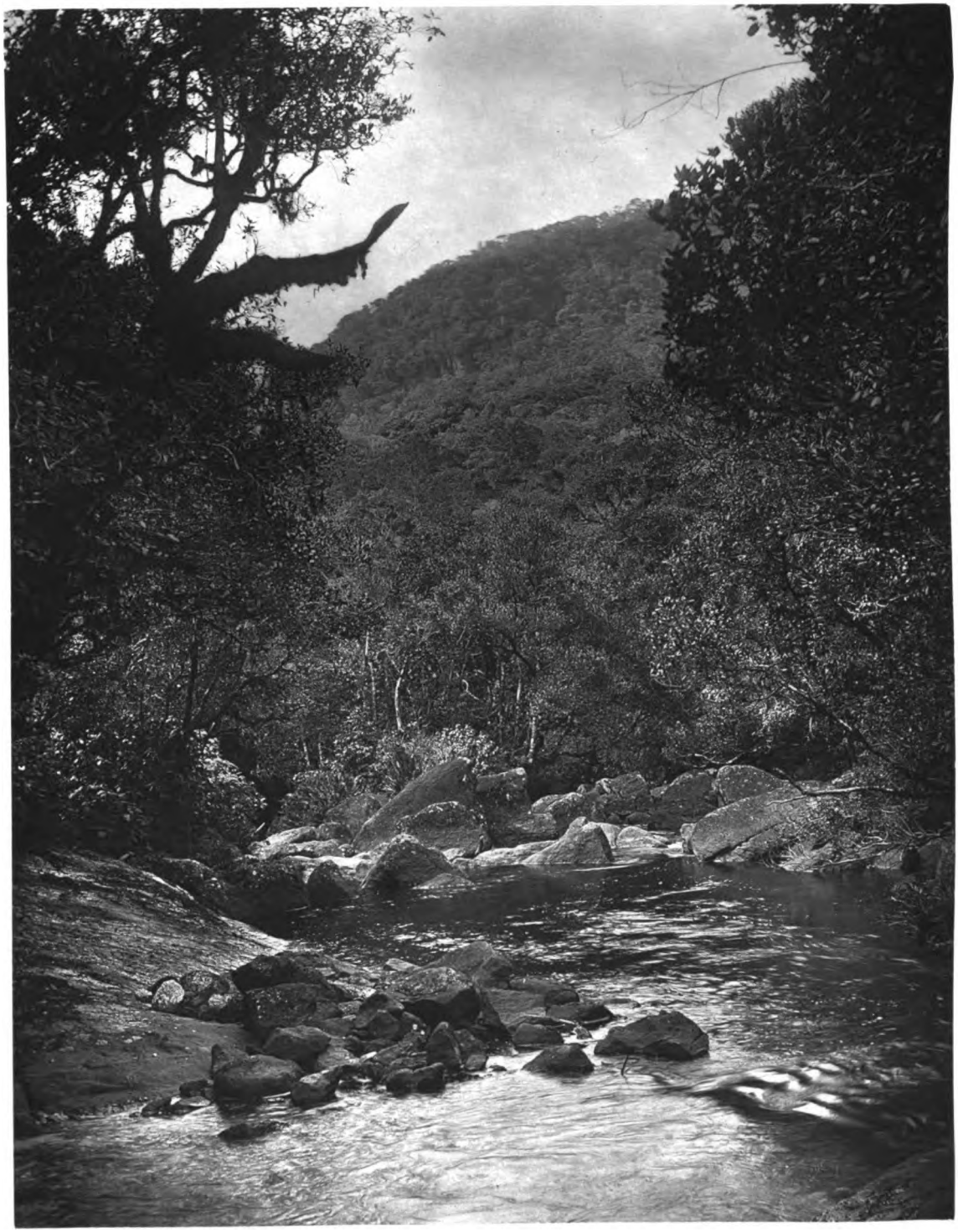
beautiful country, is somewhat alarming to the timid traveller. A pair of cataracts bursting side by side through the forest on the opposite mountain side are, perhaps, the most entrancing sight before we enter the summit tunnel to come out upon a scene of a character entirely different from any other in Ceylon. In the place of forest and jungle we see miles of rolling downs covered with mana grass, here and there interspersed with clumps of forest, as far as the eye can reach. New beauties of landscape unfold themselves every mile of the way, until at Haputale the country can be seen stretching right away to the eastern coast.

The line presently terminates at Bandarawela, whose perfect climate would make it a rival of Nuwara Eliya as a sanatorium were it not that its fine season happens to come when Nuwara Eliya is generally deserted.

PLATE XXV.

A FOREST DELL.

"Below the fall is a succession of dells and dingles, the favourite haunts of picnic parties from Nuwara Eliya. Of these the best is illustrated by Plate xxv, and is known as Blackpool, although it would be difficult to discover anything in such a charmingly romantic spot to suggest a name so prosaic."—PAGE 21.



CHAPTER IX.

LIFE IN NUWARA ELIYA.

THE European population of Nuwara Eliya numbers about two hundred and fifty, many of whom are all-the-year-round residents having estates in the district, and others who for the most part having their occupations in Colombo or other towns of the low country, still possess the luxury of a residence at the Sanatorium, which they usually occupy in "the season." The native population amounts to about two thousand, drawn from many races and with an equal variety of occupations. There are Singhalese, Tamils, Moormen, Malays, and a few descendants of the Portuguese, and their professions include those of lawyers, physicians, storekeepers, astrologers, devil-dancers, pedlars, pingo-bearers, dhobies, jaggery-sellers, goldsmiths, betel-sellers, tinkers, tom-tom beaters, beggars, and others, which according to the declarations of the last census amounted to upwards of one hundred.

Although the European community is small, it cannot be said that life is in the least degree monotonous to those who are fond of country pursuits. In addition to the wild sport of the jungle, there are many distractions such as cricket, golf, and lawn-tennis. The lake is full of carp, and trout have been

successfully introduced into the neighbouring streams, for which licences to fish are granted for any period. The golf-links are now one of the chief attractions of the place, and are the scene of many exciting contests. There is also a well laid out race-course, and the Jymkana is quite the event of the year. All Colombo flocks to Nuwara Eliya for the races, and the sporting fever extends even to the ladies, who vie with one another in the latest Parisian confections. Every bungalow, hotel, and club is taxed to its utmost capacity. Many who cannot find accommodation ride daily into the station, distances of twenty and even thirty miles not being considered too great even when followed by a dance at the end of the day. The invigorating mountain air seems to banish all fatigue, and nowhere is there more fun crammed into a single week than amongst the genial society and vivacious spirits to be found in Nuwara Eliya during the Jymkana.

It has more than once been stated in recent publications that residence in Nuwara Eliya is subject to serious drawbacks in the shape of costly living and indifferent food. These statements are not intentionally misleading, but may be traced to a reliance upon old accounts of the place rather than actual recent experience. It is true that even twenty years ago the cost of general provisions was out of all proportion to their quality, but the improved means of communication has changed all this. It is now not only no longer a place of expense and privation, but living is even cheap and luxurious. The *table d'hôte* of the Grand Hotel or the Hill Club is equal to that of a fashionable London hotel, and the tariff one half. It is only necessary to glance at the gardens surrounding the

Plate XXVI.

PORKIE.

"They are rather a nuisance to sportsmen who hunt with dogs, for if a hound turns up a porcupine he will follow it only to return with a number of quills in his head, neck, and chest, the victim of an ingenious ruse by which he is inveigled into a hole to be rammed at close quarters by the porcupine who backs on to him and leaves his darts sticking in his pursuer."—Page 60.

PORKUPINE.

bungalows to see how this comes about. Upon the slightest encouragement the land brings forth such abundance that half the needs of the table are obtained at the most trifling expense for labour. In addition to the native fruits and vegetables there are splendid crops of peas, cabbage, potatoes, turnips, carrots, and beans; fine strawberries, citrons, gooseberries, raspberries, and blackberries. Everything thrives to perfection under good management, and the small gardeners of Nuwara Eliya are having a good time as the popularity of the district increases. The only serious difficulty that besets the gardener is the enormous number of insects and grubs, but this is minimised by the plentiful supply of cheap labour. Flowers both wild and cultivated are the great glory of the place; hedgerows of geraniums, myriads of arum lilies, thickets of wild roses, huge bushes of chrysanthemum, heliotrope, camellias, and fuchsias, and all manner of smaller things, such as carnations, azaleas, pansies, stocks, and phloxes are everywhere to be seen. Many old colonists dwell there with a record of health such as few residents in the mother country can boast of; and, although it has hitherto been customary to regard the climate of Ceylon as unsuited for prolonged residence, the opening up of such districts as Nuwara Eliya and Bandarawela will make this an almost incredible tradition of the past by providing every means for recruiting lost energies without the trouble of a sea voyage and the dangers of an English winter. The lack of hotel accommodation and the difficulty in obtaining supplies in the very districts where they were most needed have been sorely felt; but with the new railway and the good hotels at Hatton, Nuwara Eliya, and Bandarawela, the greatest anxiety of the colonist with the responsibilities of

a family has been removed, and he is no longer threatened by the ever-present bugbear of an inevitable voyage home for the health of himself, his wife, or his children.

English children indeed are very happy in Nuwara Eliya. The freedom of life and the many opportunities of outdoor amusement are much appreciated, and they thrive under such suitable conditions. It is a wonderful place for strange pets, a favourite amongst them being the porcupine, of which a specimen is given in Plate xxvi. Although porcupines are very plentiful in the jungle, at Nuwara Eliya they are seldom seen, being nocturnal in their habits and hiding in holes and caves by day. They live upon roots and are consequently extremely mischievous, but their fondness for potatoes is their destruction, as it leads them to visit gardens where they are easily entrapped. When old they shed their quills, which are collected by the natives from their haunts and used with much skill in the construction of the well-known ornamental boxes which are to be found in every curiosity shop. They are rather a nuisance to sportsmen who hunt with dogs, for if a hound turns up a porcupine he will follow it only to return with a number of quills in his head, neck, and chest, the victim of an ingenious ruse by which he is inveigled into a hole to be rammed at close quarters by the porcupine who backs on to him and leaves his darts sticking in his pursuer.

There are various theories by which it is sought to prove that in the remote past Nuwara Eliya was a thickly populated and very important station, though all we really know is that a century ago it was uninhabited. Its rediscovery is

due to the enterprise of Dr. Davy, a brother of the celebrated Sir Humphry, who made his way thither in 1819. A portion of his own account is worth quoting here. He says: "We entered a forest, in which we began to see traces of elephants, and proceeded over wooded hills, gradually descending till we came to a great extent of open country, the aspect of which was no less novel than agreeable. Our guides called it Neuraelliyapattan. In point of elevation and extent, this tract, there is reason to believe, surpasses every other of the kind in the island; perhaps it is fifteen or twenty miles in circumference, and its average height may be about 5300 feet above the level of the sea. Surrounded by the tops of mountains, which have the appearance of hills of moderate height, its character is that of table-land, elevated and depressed into numerous hillocks and hollows. The wood which covers the boundary mountains (and they are all, without exception, covered with wood), is of a peculiar kind, quite Alpine, and very similar to what we found on the summit of Namunakulakanda. The same kind of wood ramifying into the table-land, and occurring scattered about in insulated clumps, with large solitary rhododendrons here and there, has a very picturesque effect, and helps to make a very charming landscape.

"Beautiful as this region is, and cleared, and possessing, in all probability, a fine climate (certainly a cool climate), like the similar heights between Maturata and Fort M^{c}Donald, it is quite deserted by man. It is the dominion entirely of wild animals; and, in an especial manner, of the elephant, of whom we saw innumerable traces. Indeed, judging from the great quantity of the dung of this animal, which was scattered

over the ground, it must abound here more than in any other part of the island. Reasoning *à priori* would have led to a different conclusion; and at first it appears not a little singular that the most elevated and coldest tract of Ceylon, where the average temperature of the air is, probably, below 60°, should be the favourite haunt of an animal that is supposed to be particularly fond of warmth. He is probably attracted to this place by the charms of good pasture, and of a quiet peaceable life, out of the way of being annoyed by man. In respect of cold, I suspect he is much less delicate than is commonly imagined, and that he is capable of bearing with impunity considerable vicissitudes and a pretty extensive range of temperature; and this seems to be established by the circumstance of elephants being numerous in some parts of Southern Africa, where ice occasionally forms, and where the climate is certainly colder than on the Neuraelliya-pattan. The importance which I attach to this fact is in its geological bearing. It tends, apparently, to diminish the marvel of the occurrence of the bones of elephants in the alluvial deposits of temperate climates, and seems to render it far from improbable that the animals to which they belonged lived in the countries where their remains are now found; and the Arctic species, of which one specimen has been discovered included and preserved in ice in Siberia, may, perhaps, entitle the same explanation to be extended to the bones of elephants found in high latitudes.

"Before I entirely quit this region, I may remark that I could obtain very little information respecting it from my guides. The probability is, though I am not aware it is sup-

ported by tradition, that it was once inhabited and cultivated, or at least cleared by man; and, for a reason assigned already, that in a state of nature the local circumstances are such as would favour rather than prevent the growth of wood. All I could collect from the natives with me amounted to this—that the Pattan was never inhabited, and that, except by the passing traveller, it is visited only by two descriptions of men—by the blacksmiths of Kotmalé, who come in the dry season to make iron, and by the gem-renter and his people in quest of precious stones. I could not learn with any precision either the spot where the ores of iron occur or where the gems are found. When at Badulla I saw some specimens, said to have been collected on the Neuraelliya; they were chiefly cat's-eye and adularia, and different varieties of sapphire, all very similar to the minerals of the same kind from Matura and Saffragam."

There are signs visible around Nuwara Eliya of an ancient irrigation system, which must have involved immense labour and great engineering skill. These seem to demand the theory of former prosperity and immense population. Sir Samuel Baker thought that the supposed ancient importance of the place was due to its sources of water supply, upon which the lower regions depended, and to its gems. Traces of masonry in the angles of ravines suggest that the watercourses were at one time very numerous, and that they were directed to vast stretches of country now uncultivated and covered with jungle. Most of these courses are now dry, and the gigantic aqueducts of two thousand years ago are overgrown with forest trees. There are remains of one impressive work of masonry, apparently unfinished,

about which a Singhalese legend says that it was begun one early morning by a giant, who at mid-day, hearing of the illness of his wife, left his work and never returned.

But whatever may have been its glorious past—and the extensive ruins in the North Central Province prove beyond question that the country was thickly populated before the Christian era—we owe its present usefulness as a sanatorium in the first place to the efforts of a remarkable man, the road-maker of the century, and in the next to the extension of the Government railway.

Major Skinner arrived in Ceylon in the year 1814 at the age of fourteen, at a time when the journey from Colombo to Kandy, across swamps, jungle, and ravines, occupied about six weeks. Two years after his arrival young Skinner was entrusted by the Governor, Sir Edward Barnes, with the construction of the most difficult part of a road, which was soon to bring this hitherto almost inaccessible region within five days' march of Colombo. To the genius of this lad the success of the enterprise was mainly due. Becoming an officer of the Ceylon Rifles, he soon applied military organisation to the work for which his abilities so obviously fitted him by enlisting a pioneer force to the number of about four thousand men, in order that he might have trained labourers on whom he could always rely. With an army of experienced workmen he spent nearly fifty years in the construction of roads and bridges, often undergoing the greatest privations during his surveys of the trackless wilderness. Few men have left behind them such an imperishable record of a useful career as the accomplished and un-

assuming Major Skinner. The magnificent network of roads all over the country is his lasting memorial. Upon his arrival there were none, and at his departure there were three thousand miles, mostly due to his genius, pluck, energy, and self-reliance.

The good order in which these roads are kept is generally surprising to the visitor, and the method by which repairs are accomplished affords some interest and amusement. The first process, that of breaking up metal by the roadside, is much the same as in England; but when the road requires mending, a gang of Government coolies is told off for the purpose, each carrying a huge pounding-block, the prototype of the Anglo-Saxon beetle. The metal is taken in small baskets from the roadside heaps by women, who spread it on the road. The coolies then form into a group, each man with his pounder. They all begin by singing a monotonous Tamil ditty, the burden of which is generally some coarse humour. At the end of each verse the pounders are raised in strict time and dropped with a thud upon the road. Another verse is sung and another thump is given, and so on *da capo* until the metal is driven home. Twenty to thirty strokes an hour is a good average. This method strikes the stranger as rather primitive, but it is found to be as effective and economical as any up-to-date process that could be substituted.

The facility with which the regions of wild game are now reached has not yet succeeded in depriving the island of its claim to be regarded as a sporting country. It has always been celebrated for its elephants, leopards, elk,

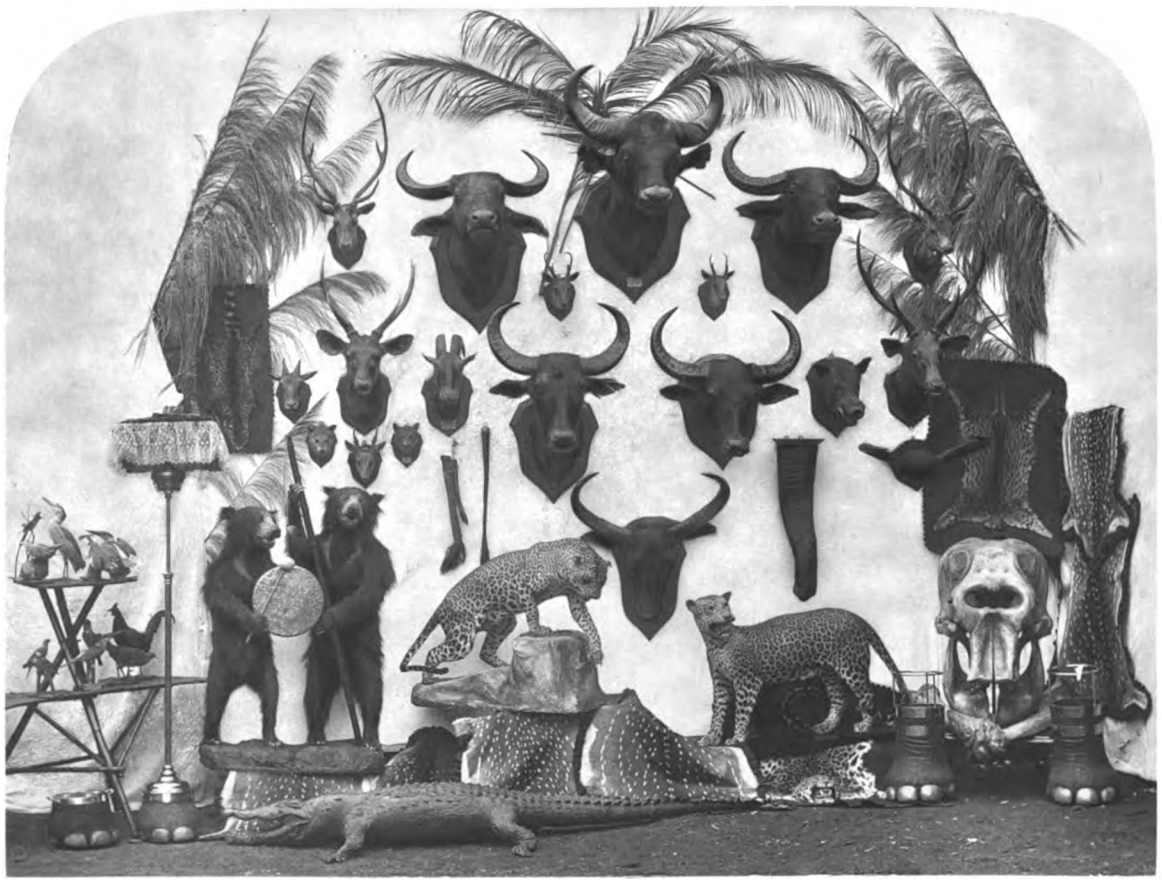
bears, buffalo, and hogs; and although the ruthless slaughter which is carried on by the natives, even during the close season from May to October, has undoubtedly reduced their numbers in recent years, there is still a large amount of game, and as no period of protection is afforded the leopard bear or elephant the visitor who has a taste for hunting can be suited all the year round. In addition to this, the State of Travancore, with its bison tiger and the Nilgiri ibex, is within easy reach across the Straits. In the accompanying Plate may be seen specimens of all the animals above mentioned, with the exception of the tiger. These trophies have been selected from the large collection of one of Ceylon's keenest resident sportsmen—Mr. H. Drummond Deane, of Kintyre Estate. Although in this brief comment on the attractions of Ceylon I cannot pretend to deal at all adequately with the wide subject of sport, these spoils of the hunter suggest one point too seldom referred to in text-books intended as a complete guide for those in search of big game —I mean the difficulty in a climate so moist and hot as that of the lower plains of Ceylon of temporarily preserving the trophies which it is desired to get mounted in England. Mr. C. Thorpe, of Croydon, the naturalist who prepared and set up those in our illustration, has enlightened me as to the great loss of fine specimens to be attributed to this cause, and suggests that every sportsman should obtain such instructions as may ensure the arrival of his treasures in good condition.

The most attractive sport in Ceylon is that of sambur hunting on the hills round about Nuwara Eliya and the Horton

PLATE XXVII.

TROPHIES.

"These trophies have been selected from the large collection of one of Ceylon's keenest resident sportsmen."—PAGE 66.



Plains. An early meet of the hounds is arranged, usually at six, when the air is keen, frosty, and exhilarating. In such a country horses are useless, and the sportsman, who must be in good training, follows the hounds through jungle and river, across mountain and plain, with knife in hand. This is his only weapon for every emergency, and although the sambur deer or elk, as he is locally called, is the animal he seeks, the dogs may at any moment give tongue to the ferocious and more dangerous boar. When the elk is found he makes for the nearest water, even though it be miles distant, through tangled jungle, steep ravines, and trackless forests, followed by the hounds, who almost out-distance the huntsmen; the latter strive for the foremost place, and the first man who comes up with the stag at bay has the honour of knifing him, a task which requires considerable skill and agility. Unfortunately, both the sambur and the spotted deer have more ruthless enemies than the genuine sportsman. Gipsy hunters, chiefly Moormen or Indo-Arabs, shoot them in the dry months of the close season from small platforms, erected for this purpose near the water-holes to which they come by moonlight to drink, merely for the sake of their horns and hides, which in their thousands find a ready market in Colombo for shipment to Europe. These wholesale poachers owe their escape from detection to the circumstance that Europeans, being unable to obtain licenses for deer sambur or buffalo during those months, rarely enter these regions to interfere with them. Unless the extermination of these animals is desired, some steps must be taken by the Government to deal with this illicit sport. Perhaps the simplest and at once the most efficacious way would be either to forbid the export

of horns and hides altogether, or to place on it a prohibitive duty.

The best districts for shooting lie within a day's journey of Nuwara Eliya, Hambantotte, on the west coast, being perhaps the most favoured by sportsmen. Here the game consists chiefly of bear, buffalo, and elephant, all of which are numerous in that part of the country, but more especially the first, who may be met with near any water-hole.

Smaller game is very plentiful, comprising chiefly the tiger cat, monkey, porcupine, and crocodile; while among the birds are pea-fowl, jungle fowl, flamingoes, pelicans, cranes, snipe and quail.

This brief description may serve to show that in spite of the rapid spread of cultivation since the days of such giants of the rifle as Sir Samuel Baker, Major Rogers, and Gordon Cumming, the sportsman is still well catered for, and that the island even yet provides plenty of all descriptions of sport, in comparison with which those of the old country seem tame in the extreme.

CHAPTER X.

ADAM'S PEAK.

THERE is no object more familiar to the inhabitants of Ceylon or makes a deeper impression upon the multitudes who visit her shores than the lofty cone which bears the name of our first parent; and it may be said without fear of contradiction that among all the mountains in the world invested by tradition with superstitious veneration none has stirred the emotions of so many of our fellow subjects as Adam's Peak. The origin of its sacred character involved at once as it is in the legendary history of several ancient religions has been the subject of considerable research and greater conjecture.

There is no doubt that the legends take their rise in the mark on the summit resembling the impress of a gigantic human foot. This the Buddhists devoutly worship as the sacred footprint of Gautama, while the Hindoos equally claim it as that of Siva, and the Mahommedans, borrowing their history from the Jews, as that of Adam. Thus do the adherents of three great religions, to the number of 800,000,000 of our fellow creatures, vie with one another in veneration of the

lonely Peak. As in pilgrim bands they ascend the mighty cone their hearts are moved and they regard its rugged paths as steps unto Heaven. From all parts of Asia thousands annually flock up the steep and rocky track enduring privation and hardship for the good of their souls. Some of the very old people of both sexes are borne aloft upon the shoulders of their stalwart sons, others struggle upwards unaided, until, fainting by the way, they are considerately carried with all haste in their swooning condition to the summit and forced into an attitude of worship at the shrine to secure the full benefits of their pilgrimage before death should supervene; others never reach the top at all but perish from cold and fatigue, and there have been many instances of pilgrims losing their lives by being blown over precipices or falling from giddiness induced by a thoughtless retrospect when surmounting especially dangerous cliffs. Some idea of the appalling difficulties that present themselves to those who ascend from the western side may be gathered by a glance at the precipitous shoulder of the rock observable on the right-hand side of Plate xxix. The passage of this involves such imminent risk that a false step at any moment would result in a fall of several hundred feet.

The European traveller, although uninfluenced by any superstition, is nevertheless affected by the awe-inspiring prospect that meets his gaze when he has reached the summit. There are many mountains of greater height from whose lofty peaks the eye can scan vast stretches of eternal snow, but none can unfold a scene where Nature asserts herself with such impressive effect as here.

Plate XXVIII.

THROUGH FOREST AND FERN.

"*The foreground of this view was once Suluganga coffee estate, which upon the advent of the destructive leaf disease was planted with cinchona, and when that in its turn was abandoned in consequence of the fall in the price of quinine occasioned by over production, the scene was rendered fairer by the* Alsophylla crinita, *a feathery variety of tree fern as seen in the picture.*"—Page 75.

Before describing the chief features of the summit and the curious shadow phenomenon, some details of the ascent may be of interest. The journey may be accomplished from the south-western or the north-eastern side of the cone, the former being extremely steep and difficult while the latter is comparatively easy. Pilgrims generally choose the more arduous route, owing to the importance that is attached to the religious rites to be observed at various stages marked by some cliff or spring to which legends have attributed a sacred character.

A start is made from Ratnapura, the City of Gems, in whose vicinity are found most of the sapphires and cats-eyes of Ceylon. The heat of this place is great when the sun is abroad, and renders the walk through several miles of jungle land very trying, but the path lies through such lovely vegetation, that the orchid, pitcher-plants, and other equally beautiful flowers, turn one's mind from the discomforts of the way, which to the European traveller, more heavily handicapped than the native by clothing, are nevertheless very real. After about eight miles we begin to reach a cooler atmosphere, and the scene changes to a landscape of ravines and crags hung with giant creepers in festoons spread from tree to tree and rock to rock. Then we begin to toil up the remaining ten miles of the rocky pilgrimage over gnarled and interlaced roots and relentless obstacles innumerable, at one moment on the edge of a steep abyss at another traversing narrow passes o'erhung with the boughs of forest trees. At length we reach Ouda Pawanella, a hamlet at the foot of a huge beetling cliff. As we climb on we pass near the edge of a dizzy precipice about eight hundred feet in depth, called Nilihela, after a

maiden who incautiously fell over it and was dashed to pieces on the rocks below. Her spirit still haunts the spot, and her voice is heard in the echo that answers to ours. Every open eminence for the rest of the way discloses a prospect both enchanting and magnificent. A toilsome mile further brings us to Diyabetma where the Peak now comes into view, and the reverential salutation of the pilgrims, "Saädu!" "Saädu!" breaks the stillness of the dense forest as the goal of their aspirations is revealed to their sight.

Here is a dilapidated bungalow which is now useless to the traveller being choked up with a rank growth of vegetation. Probably one of the last Europeans who made use of it was Mr. Knighton, who described it as a damp, uncomfortable cell where all attempt to sleep was vain owing to the roar of elephants and the scream of leopards and monkeys, which alone were sufficient to make night hideous, to say nothing of the possibility of a visit from such unwelcome guests.

Next we come to a romantic bathing-pool, where the Sitaganga, a sacred mountain stream, the subject of a great deal of legendary superstition, provides the pilgrims with holy water for the obligatory purification before they attempt to ascend the precipitous rocks which for the rest of the way now demand the utmost intrepidity.

The most appalling obstacle is reached when the traveller having climbed to the summit of a precipice is met by a cliff whose crest literally overhangs the spot upon which he stands. To scale this wall of rock with its projecting cornice

without artificial aids would be utterly impossible. An iron ladder, however, has been affixed to the perpendicular wall, and at the top the defiant projection has to be overcome by means of links let into the rock and by the aid of chains attached to the sloping slabs of granite which crown the cliff. The stoutest heart cannot but experience moments of anxiety as this point is reached, and the feet leave the firm ladder to be inserted in the rusty, ill-shaped links. There is nothing between us and the yawning abyss save the links which grate and sway as, with every nerve o'erstrained, we haul ourselves over the next thirty yards of bare and sloping rock. So great is the peril, that the slightest hesitation or the merest glance to right or left might unsteady the nerves and end in a fatal catastrophe.

The history of these rusty chains, with their shapeless links of varying size bearing the unmistakeable impress of antiquity, is involved in myth and mystery. The chain near the top is said to have been made by Adam himself, who is believed by all true followers of the Prophet to have been hurled from the seventh heaven of Paradise upon this Peak, where he remained standing on one foot until years of penitence and suffering had expiated his offence. His partner Eve is believed to have fallen near Mecca, and after being separated from her husband for two hundred years, Adam, with the assistance of the angel Gabriel, fetched her to Ceylon as being in his opinion the best substitute for Paradise.

Ashreef, a Persian poet, tells us that we owe the fixing of the chains to Alexander the Great, who "voyaged to Ceylon about B.C. 330, and there devised means whereby he and his friends might ascend the mountain of Serendib, fixing thereto

chains with rings and nails and rivets made of iron and brass, so that travellers, by their assistance, may be enabled to climb the mountain, and obtain glory by finding the sepulchre of Adam, on whom be the blessing of Allah!"

Whatever value may be set upon these statements as to the origin of the chains, it is certain that they existed at a very early period. Marco Polo, who visited Ceylon in the thirteenth century, thus refers to them:—"In this island there is a very high mountain, so rocky and precipitous that the ascent to the top is impracticable except by the assistance of iron chains employed for that purpose." How they were affixed is a mystery impossible of solution, and I certainly have no theory to advance.

The summit is reached by climbing an almost perpendicular precipice by the aid of a chain called the "chain of the creed," on each link of which the weary pilgrims utter some expression of devotion as they attain to the miniature plateau where their longing hearts are satisfied before the Sri-pada or sacred footprint.

The ascent to the Peak from the north-eastern side is, as we have said, easier than the one described above, and, although it is generally considered less meritorious from the pilgrim's point of view, many forego the benefits to be derived from the more arduous climb in the belief that the additional peril, though by no means supererogatory, is not essential to their sacred duty.

The European traveller is of course quite free in his choice. If he does not care to take his life in his hands up the south-western route, he may journey by rail to Hatton where he will find an equipment for the journey easily obtainable. The way

PLATE XXIX.

ADAM'S PEAK FROM OOSAMALLE.

"This is the last place where water is procurable before the summit is reached. On either side of the ledge will be noticed rude huts where pilgrims are wont to refresh themselves prior to the task that now awaits them. The beautiful flowering nelu is seen in the foreground, and the aged rhododendrons spread their haggard branches above the dilapidated roofing of the hovels."—PAGE 75.

then lies through the tea plantations of Dickoya for about fourteen miles and onwards to the gap of Maskeliya, where the lovely waterfalls of the Peak burst into view. So far the distance may be covered by coach. The traveller then proceeds on foot in full view of the Peak, as presented in Plate xxviii. The foreground of this view was once Suluganga coffee estate, which upon the advent of the destructive leaf disease was planted with cinchona, and when that in its turn was abandoned in consequence of the fall in the price of quinine occasioned by over production, the scene was rendered fairer by the *Alsophylla crinita*, a feathery variety of tree fern as seen in the picture. This species of fern is indigenous to Ceylon, and from its love of light soon spreads over the open spaces of derelict land, and so its presence here is accounted for. Although my visit was as recent as 1893, I am told that already the ferns have been ousted by flourishing little tea bushes.

Onwards we advance through the forest to Oosamalle, the final ascent to which is made by means of steps cut in the precipitous rocks as in the ledge observable in the foreground of Plate xxix. This is the last place where water is procurable before the summit is reached. On either side of the ledge will be noticed rude huts where pilgrims are wont to refresh themselves prior to the task that now awaits them. The beautiful flowering nelu is seen in the foreground, and the aged rhododendrons spread their haggard branches above the dilapidated roofing of the hovels.

It is the custom of the Tamils upon making a pilgrimage to provide themselves with supplies of cotton which they attach to the trees at Oosamalle. Some of these threads may be distinctly seen in Plate xxix, hanging from the topmost

boughs of the rhododendrons, to which they have been fastened at considerable hazard of life and limb. This curious practice is due to a common belief in the following story:—In the days when the Tamils were the masters of Ceylon, their king made a pilgrimage to the Peak, and on his way he shot a deer, wounding it in the leg. Its blood was traced as far as Oosamalle, where the king saw the figure of a man sewing up a wound in his leg. He thereupon exclaimed, "What is this that I have done? I have shot a swamy instead of a deer." He then gave orders that all pilgrims going up the Peak should leave some cotton on the Oosamalle for the swamy, in case he should be shot again and need more thread to sew up his wounds. The Singhalese, however, justify the custom on a different ground, saying that Buddha halted at this spot to sew up a rent in his robe, and they have a curious belief that by fastening threads to any place which has been specially sanctified by Sakya-muin and holding the ends the sacred influence is thereby transmitted, and they receive benefits and favours and even cures for sickness.

It will be noticed that Oosamalle lies at the very foot of the actual cone, and here the ascent in real earnest begins. It is about three miles to the summit, and as the difficulties of the climb on this side may be easily realised from an examination of the picture, I shall spare the reader any further description, only adding that similar chains of mysterious origin are found suspended over every cliff presenting great danger for the assistance of the pilgrims by this route also.

The last glimmer of light was passing away as I clambered into the open space enclosed within a wall of rock,

PLATE XXX.

THE SHADOW OF THE PEAK.

"The first faint beams revealed the fleecy shroud of mist covering the world below, and, as clearer grew the welling light, up rose the mighty shadow."—PAGE 78.

THE SHADOW OF ADAMS PEAK.

within which lies the sacred footprint beneath a picturesque little canopy. I had the good fortune to make the ascent in the genial company of a gentleman whose estate lies at the foot of the mountain, and without whose valuable acquaintance with the vernacular, which he placed at my service, my camera at least would never have reached the top. Our retinue of coolies, amongst whom were distributed the necessary provisions and camping paraphernalia for the night, became almost mutinous, complaining bitterly of their burden, and asserting the impossibility of proceeding up the difficult steeps encumbered with its weight. The sorest grievance was the forty pounds of my camera box which we were determined should not fall behind, for the sole object of the journey was to photograph the remarkable shadow of the Peak as seen in Plate xxx. At length, however, all reached the top in safety, and we immediately set to work with such preparations for the comfort of the inner and outer man as are possible where there is literally no protection from the wind that bites the cheek and chills the bones. How the poor and thinly-clad coolies bear the exposure I cannot understand, for with the thickest winter clothing and wrapped in woollen rugs, the cold seemed to us intense. Fires were soon kindled, and the cook who accompanied us served with marvellous alacrity a dinner that would have done credit to a well-appointed kitchen.

The first hours of night were passed in the pleasant talk which is always a natural outcome of excellent toddy accompanied by the fragrant weed. At length Nature's sweet restorer came, and, covered in our wraps, we slept till the buzz of voices told of the approach of dawn. Then came the

moments of suspense. Would the atmospheric conditions, without which the shadow is impossible, present themselves? The first faint beams revealed the fleecy shroud of mist covering the world below, and, as clearer grew the welling light, up rose the mighty shadow. Like a distant pyramid it stood for many seconds; then nearer and nearer, ever increasing in size and distinctness as the rays of light broadened over the horizon, it advanced towards us like a veil, through which the distant mountain forests and plains were distinctly visible, till at length it seemed to merge in its mighty parent, and instantly vanished.

It has been stated that as the shadow approaches the mountain its size diminishes; but this is the opposite of what I saw and the camera recorded. Accounts of this phenomenon are, however, so varying, that doubtless its characteristics differ with the changes of temperature, the density of the vapours, and the direction of the air-currents.

As the shadow departed the mists began to float upwards, revealing a landscape which, by all who have seen it, is unanimously admitted to be amongst the grandest in the world. "No other mountain," wrote Sir Emerson Tennent, "presents the same unobstructed view over land and sea. Around it to the north and east the traveller looks down on the zone of lofty hills that encircle the Kandyan kingdom, whilst to the westward the eye is carried far over undulated plains, threaded by rivers like cords of silver, till in the purple distance the glitter of the sunbeams on the sea marks the line of the Indian Ocean."

PLATE XXXI.

KINTYRE, MASKELIYA.

"*The tree which will be noticed spreading completely over the river is a parasite of the* Ficus *tribe, growing upon the stump of a forest tree which it has completely enveloped.*"—PAGE 84.

CHAPTER XI.

CEYLON TEA.

NLY a few years ago the London papers contained the novel announcement that a consignment of tea from Ceylon had been sold in Mincing Lane. It consisted of only half a dozen chests, and was knocked down at 1*s.* 1½*d.* a pound. The transaction was almost modest enough to have escaped notice, but nevertheless it was considered an event of some importance, as the possible beginning of a new enterprise that might revolutionise the tea trade and restore an almost bankrupt colony to its former prosperity.

How much justification there was for this forlorn hope can be appreciated by the traveller long before he obtains a glimpse of the gardens, from the busy aspect of the port of Colombo, where some fifteen or twenty great steamers are always to be seen engaged in embarking the millions of chests filled with the Pekoes and the Souchongs for which the island is now famous throughout the world. The rapidity with which the new industry developed and the importance which it has conferred upon the island as a field for the capitalist are now too well known to need more than a passing reference here.

The plantation which I have chosen for illustration is the well known Kintyre Estate, one of the properties of Mr. H. D.

Deane, whom we already know in another capacity, and situated at the foot of Adam's Peak. Like many other tea gardens in Ceylon, it was originally a coffee plantation, and one of the first in the Maskeliya district to be adapted for tea on a large scale. In the first instance the tea was sown as seed under the coffee trees when they began to show signs of succumbing to the leaf disease that ultimately ruined the industry. As the tea bushes grew up the coffee was gradually uprooted giving place to an unbroken expanse of tea as seen in Plate xxxiv. The beginnings were made in a small way, and for some time the manufacture was carried on in a corner of the old coffee store. The rolling of the leaf was done by hand, while the firing was accomplished by means of a pit filled with charcoal over which the trays of rolled leaf were placed. As the little bushes grew to perfection, this primitive and tentative arrangement was succeeded by a large factory fitted with the latest invented machinery driven by steam and water-power. Complete success has attended every effort made by the enterprising proprietor, and he has been further encouraged by first awards at the Exhibitions of Dunedin and Chicago, while the demand for the teas of Kintyre is so great in Queensland that about a third of the whole crop is regularly shipped to that country. The methods of tea growing and the process of its manufacture may be of some assistance to the reader in understanding the illustrations.

The plant flourishes remarkably well in Ceylon at any elevation between two hundred and six thousand feet above the sea, provided that the soil is fairly good, the climate equable, the rainfall frequent and not less than ninety inches in the year. The higher the elevation the finer is the flavour, although the

PLATE XXXII.

PLUCKING TEA.

"*Women are preferred to men for this work. They look very picturesque, with their fine glossy hair and dreamy black eyes, their ears, necks, arms, and ankles adorned with silver ornaments, and their gay cloths of many colours falling in graceful folds while standing intent upon their work among the bushes.*"—PAGE 82.

yield may be less. But the higher we go the better the soil must be to compensate for the loss of moisture and heat. Gently undulating land well watered by streams is the best, although there are many thousands of acres flourishing upon the steeps of the mountains.

An important consideration in planting out the young seedlings which are raised in the nursery is the "lining" or placing them so that each may obtain the fullest exposure to the sun, in order that when they reach maturity the plucking surface, which wholly depends upon the sun's influence, may be as great as possible. When the plants are about fifteen months old the operation of "topping" is begun, and this results in the top of the bush assuming a flat surface. Without this process the plant would grow like a poplar, whereas it is necessary that it should be kept down to about four feet, as seen in Plate xxxii.

Pruning is a frequent and necessary operation, and the amount of mutilation which the hardy little plant endures is astonishing. There is light pruning and heavy pruning, the latter being applied biennially, when nothing more than the stem and shortened branches of the bush are left. The visitor who tries his hand with the pruning knife will be surprised at the hard labour of the task and the discomfort of the stooping attitude that must be adopted; and when it is considered that a field of about fifty acres contains some two hundred thousand bushes, the amount of toil involved will become apparent. Of course male coolies only are employed at this work, and they become so remarkably dexterous that

what seems to the novice a task of great exertion becomes to them one of comparative ease.

Plucking is a most important branch of the tea planter's business, and requires careful teaching and constant supervision. Only the young and succulent leaves can be used in the manufacture, and the younger the leaf the finer the quality of the tea; so that if a specially delicate quality is desired, only two or three of the extreme leaves of each shoot will be taken; whereas if a large yield is wanted, as many as six leaves may be plucked from the top of the shoot downwards, but with the result of a proportionately poorer quality of the manufactured article. There are many other points in the art of tea plucking that require care and judgment, as, for instance, the eye or bud in the axil of the leaf plucked must be left uninjured on the branch; and in case of special grades of tea being required the selection of particular leaves is of the utmost importance.

In Plate xxxii may be seen some tea pluckers at work. The baskets, which they carry suspended by ropes from their heads and into which they cast the leaves over their shoulders, hold about fourteen pounds weight when full. At the end of each row of trees is placed a large transport basket, into which the leaves are emptied from time to time as the baskets become full. Women are preferred to men for this work, and earn as much as twenty-five cents, or threepence half-penny a day. They are not always the wives of the male coolies of the estate; many of them come over from India to seek the high rate of wages above mentioned. They look very

PLATE XXXIII.

RAMASAMY'S CHILDREN.

"*In the earlier days the amount of infant mortality was appalling, but now that children have been found to be well fitted for the work of leaf plucking, Ramasamy finds it useful to preserve his progeny, and little brown urchins of both sexes from the age of five earn their ten to twelve cents a day. Many of them wear very little clothing, as may be seen in Plate xxxii, even although the early mornings when they turn out to work at daybreak are very cold.*"—PAGE 83.

picturesque, with their fine glossy hair and dreamy black eyes, their ears, necks, arms, and ankles adorned with silver ornaments, and their gay cloths of many colours falling in graceful folds while standing intent upon their work among the bushes.

The bulk of the male labourers, too, are Tamils, who have emigrated from Southern India, attracted by the high wages of Ceylon as compared with those of their native home, where a whole family of five would earn less than does each one of its members, who are here housed and doctored free in addition. The demand for coolies may be estimated at about one for every acre of tea. On Kintyre alone about four hundred are employed, in the proportion of one half men and the remainder women and children.

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The Maskeliyaganga will be seen to the best advantage in Plate xxxi. The tree which will be noticed spreading completely over the river is a parasite of the *Ficus* tribe, growing upon the stump of a forest tree, which it has completely enveloped.

The process of tea manufacture adopted by the planters of Ceylon is totally dissimilar to that of the Chinese, and claims many advantages in the direction of wholesome cleanliness. The green leaves are taken from the field to the factory, where they immediately undergo a process of withering, being spread upon "shelves" of hessian jute and subjected to dry heat, after which they are rolled into the little twists that become unfolded only after their infusion in the teapot.

It is by the use of rolling machinery that Ceylon tea is kept pure and free from the dirt which finds its way into the teas of China, where the operation is performed by the hands of bland but unwashed Ah Sin. The rolling process, by breaking the cells of the leaf, induces fermentation which is a very necessary stage of the manufacture, the character of the tea when made depending greatly on the degree to which fermentation is allowed to continue. When the commodity known as green tea is required, the fermentation is checked at once so that no change of colour may take place; but to produce black tea the process must be carried on for a considerable time, the sufficiency of which is determined by the smell and appearance of the leaf—points that require considerable experience and care, since over-fermentation completely spoils the quality.

PLATE XXXIV.

A GANG OF PLUCKERS.

"*A fine stretch of tea on Kintyre Estate, by the banks of the Maskeliya-ganga.*"—PAGE 83.

Firing or drying is accomplished by the machine known as the Sirocco, which dries the tea by means of air heated by being drawn through a furnace.

After sifting and sorting into the various grades known as Pekoe, Souchong, Dust, Fannings, and so on, the tea is packed in chests and despatched to Colombo for exportation.

It remains only to say that it is the firm belief of those most competent to form a reliable opinion that the growth of this enterprise has brought about the highest state of prosperity the Colony has ever known, and there is every reason to hope that this condition will be of indefinite duration. And here I take my leave for the present.

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