

Panther hunt

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Rather an ~~exciting~~ ^{exciting} panther hunt took place just opposite my
hungalow in ~~the~~ ^{the} afternoon. A short time ago
It appears that the people of ~~the~~ ^{the} village about 2000 ft above
me, spotted a panther ~~running~~ ^{subliming} herself, (it turned out to be a
female) on the cliffs opposite their village. They collected some
men together, made a detour, & getting behind & above her, rolled
big rocks down on her, & succeeded in hitting & wounding her, but
not seriously. She made her way down hill, as wounded
animals always will, with some fifty villagers & dogs in close
pursuit.

There are several villages, more or less in a line along the hill
side, & about 800 to 1000 ft above ~~the~~ ^{the} only road, the villagers to
whom, attracted by the 'hullabaloo' of those in pursuit of the panther,
turned out in numbers, to see what was the matter, with the
result that they could see the panther below, as she dodged
from one point to another, as the dogs approached her, & were
able to speak to the pursuers, & tell them when she was.

In this manner, they hunted her slowly along the hill side, and
always downward, till about 3 in the afternoon.

She was now out of her own country & did not know when
to look for safety, or she would surely have made for one of
the many caves with which the mountain side is literally
supplied; she therefore endeavoured to hide in any piece of
thick brushwood that she came to, & was ultimately marked just
a bit of scrub just opposite my house. I was sent for, but was
unfortunate at some distance from the house, brock shooting.

damaged, with very deep scalp wound, & with his 2
forehead, nose & cheek deeply scored, & he was
soaked in blood, but fortunately his eyes had
been spared.

We took him to our house, cleaned & bathed his wounds
with a solution of permanganate of potash, stopped the bleeding,
bound up the wounds, gave him some brandy, and wanted
him to go to the native hospital, but it was 8 miles away!
A long walk for a wounded man! Moreover for some reason
or other, that I have never been able to fathom, it is almost
impossible to get these Kadar men to go there! They would
almost rather go to prison! So we gave him plenty of clean
drips, & some antiseptics, & sent him back to his village.
The Panther was carried ~~off~~ in triumph to Janna, to be taken
to the temple, & shown to the 'devta', who, these men said, would
give them some Rupees from temple funds, & they would then carry
it round to the different villages, & all the Zamindars who owned
sheep or cattle would give them money or grain as thank
offerings for having got rid of an enemy to their flocks & herds! They
would then have a big feed & celebrate the event, thereafter taking
the skin to the Dehail to get the government reward of eight
Rupees. As will be gathered therefrom, the death of a panther is an event!
~~Driven~~ ^{Driven} down by heavy snow, there are many of these pets about who
less than four having been reported to me ~~within the last 4~~ ^{in a single day!}
~~hours~~ one of which I got! They have created no end of a
panic this year. One, within the last few days, having killed nine
sheep in a single night! The poor beasts got nothing from

The dogs followed the panther to the top of Dumb, and one man
 braver than the rest, approached her with a lathi which he
 desired to strike her, but she was too quick for him, & before he
 could bring it down, ^{strang} ~~strang~~, & seized him by the ~~head~~ ^{head and}
 arm, knocked him down, & man & panther, locked together,
 rolled down the hillside. At this stage, the dogs fortunately
 came to the rescue, & made the brute loose her hold
 on the man, who, with his arms over his head, and
 doubled up into a ball, continued to roll down the
 hill, until he was brought up on the road. The other
 villagers then came up with the panther, & two of
 them were knocked over & rolled down the hill
 but were not seriously hurt, though they showed
 signs of the panther's claws. The others with their
 long prong headed sticks, which they use for hedging
 thorns, pinned the panther (to the ground) by the neck,
 & she was soon killed with blows from lathis and
 axes.

He, attracted by the noise, were making our way as
 fast as we could towards the "tamasha" when we met
 the man who had been sent to ask for my assistance.
 In a mind however too late to be of any use, I for me had
 the door to cross, & could only watch it from the
 opposite bank.

He was able however, to take charge of the poor
 beggar who had been mangled. He was pretty badly