

LEXINGTON WHEATFIELD

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THURSDAY NOVEMBER 8, 1906.

FIGHTING A PANTHER.

Cunning and Skill of the Lithe and Agile Brute.

It was dark, and the windy darkness was full of the mysterious noises of the jungle. My shikari and I were huddled silently on a platform built in the boughs of a tree on the edge of the jungle. Below us the undergrowth was black and still, for the moon had not yet risen. Suddenly there was a movement as though a portion of its blackness had detached itself from the rest and begun to creep away. Just at that moment the moon rose and revealed to us the lithe body of a panther slinking through the undergrowth. A shot rang out, and with a yelp of pain the panther disappeared into the bushes.

With the sunrise we descended from the platform and began to examine the panther's trail. The effect of the shot was shown by the patches of blood on the ground, which led us through a couple of hundred yards of thick jungle. After crawling on hands and knees under the brushwood we reached a narrow nullah. A little beyond this we came upon the wounded panther scaling a tree. I fired, but the range was too long and the shot proved futile. The disturbance had the result, however, of startling the animal into falling from the tree to the ground.

The shikari and I followed quickly on its track. It led finally to a deep and thickly wooded nullah, which had taken the form of a horseshoe. The panther entered the nullah at the center of the bend and turned along the left arm, growling angrily as it covered the ground in heavy strides. We kept about twenty yards from the nullah and skirted it along the right until the top of the bend was reached. Here a halt was made, while I approached the nullah, the panther growling away at the other end, about 200 yards distant.

Then all was still. The animal seemed to have vanished. Suddenly it sprang out right from under my feet, having doubled back along the water course, without making the slightest noise. Caught by surprise I fired rapidly and stepped back to avoid the animal's spring and in so doing fell into the nullah. The next moment the panther was on me and had fixed its teeth in my arm.

Suddenly my little fox terrier Toby flew at the panther and fixed itself on its back, tearing hard at its neck. This diversion caused the panther to leave me to attack the dog, and I was able to stagger up and out of the nullah and run to where the native trackers were cowering. There I fainted and was carried back to the bungalow bleeding from fourteen wounds.—Missionary Price of Central China in Chicago Tribune.

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Division of Labor.
Two English clergymen, one a very stalwart and muscular Christian, the other a frail little man, went for a sail at Brighton, accompanied by an old salt. When they were some distance out at sea the wind commenced to blow a gale, so the sailor hauled down the sheet and said, "Now one of you gents and me will have to take to the oars to get her home." The muscular Christian said, "Very well, my friend will row, and I will pray." "No, no," responded the sailor; "you row. Let the little un pray."

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