

**NOTES OF THE VISITS TO INDIA
OF THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES
THE PRINCE OF WALES AND THE
DUKE OF EDINBURGH 1870-1875-**

6

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OF THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES THE

PRINCE OF WALES

AND

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

1870—1875-6.

BY

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And to their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the
Duke of Edinburgh.*

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PREFACE.

THESE Notes of my travels in India with the Princes are very brief and fragmentary—a mere diary—but they will, I hope, interest those for whom they were written, as they give some account of where I went and what I did. Both expeditions, happily, proved most successful. The Prince of Wales returned to England, after a long and rapid journey through a variety of climates and exposure to many causes of disease and accident, the object accomplished without loss of life, and with comparatively little sickness. It was a duty of considerable anxiety and responsibility that I had to perform, but I never entertained any doubt as to the course that ought to be pursued in regard to sanitary precautions, and, when difficulties occasionally arose, my recommendations were generally accepted by those best able to form a correct opinion on their merits. I have reason to be thankful that all terminated so well, and shall always look back with pleasure and satisfaction to the expedition.

The gracious recognition that I have received from the Queen and Royal Family, assured me that my services, however imperfect, were appreciated. The courtesy and kindness of my companions on both occasions, and the firm support of many during periods of anxiety, made my duty agreeable, and have impressed me with strong feelings of regard and friendship for them all.

[To my Wife and Children.]



VISIT OF H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES TO INDIA.

QN the 17th of March, 1875, I received the following note from Major-General Sir Thomas Pears, Military Secretary at the India Office :—

MARCH 17TH, 1875, INDIA OFFICE.

MY DEAR DR. FAYRER,—The Prince of Wales contemplates a visit to India next cold season, and will probably leave England in November for an absence of four or five months. H.R.H. has expressed a wish that you should accompany him as his medical adviser, and the Marquis of Salisbury will be glad to hear from you as soon as possible whether you will be willing to accept the office.

Yours sincerely (*Signed*),

Dr. Fayrer, C.S.I.

T. PEARS.

I sent the following reply :—

MARCH 17TH, 1875.

MY DEAR SIR THOMAS PEARS,—I will accompany the Prince of Wales to India with the greatest pleasure, and feel much honoured by His Royal Highness's commands.—Yours sincerely,

Major-General Sir T. T. Pears, K.C.B.

J. FAYRER.

On the 17th April, 1875, I went with the Prince and Princess of Wales, Sir B. Frere, and General Probyn to Sandringham, to pay a visit, and returned to London on the 19th April.

I made expeditions to Portsmouth at different times : one on the 27th May, 1875, with ~~Admiral~~ Sir W. Mends, K.C.B., the Admiral charged with the fitting out of the *Serapis*. We went all over the ship, and I made some suggestions as to fittings. On another occasion I accompanied the Prince and Suite, and made suggestions about the cabins. Returned with them to London the same day.

I had an interview with the Prince of Wales on 25th May, at Marlborough House ; was presented to Princess Alice and Prince of Hesse. I attended some meetings of the Suite with Probyn, Ellis, W. H. Russell, Sir B. Frere, and H.R.H., to discuss details connected with the expedition. Wrote a memo. on the subject, giving my views as to when the Prince should arrive in, and leave India, and on other matters connected with the expedition.

MEMO.

It would be better not to arrive in India before the 15th or 20th of November ; nor to remain later than the 1st of March.

If Cashmere be visited, it will involve a longer stay in the country. This, as far as Cashmere is concerned, would be unobjection-

able, as the elevation is about 5,000 feet, and the climate cool and healthy up to a much later period; but as it would be necessary to re-embark at Bombay, a return to the heat of the plains of India would be inevitable, though only for a few days.

There would probably be some risk to health, and the inconvenience would be considerable, though brief.

A visit to Cashmere would, therefore, require careful consideration before being undertaken.

If Ceylon be included in the programme, it will be well to commence with that island, and about the 25th of November would be a good time for doing so.

The latitude of Ceylon implies an equable temperature, and such, as a matter of fact, is the case. The climate is humid and warm, but not unhealthy. The following are the "means" of maximum and minimum temperatures of the five months—November, December, January, February and March:—

MONTHS.	Mean Maximum	Mean Minimum	Rain Fall.	REMARKS.
November ...	86°·3	71°·5	10·7	N.E. Monsoon commences
December ...	85°	70°	4·3	
January	85°·6	69°·2	3·1	Weather gets oppressive
February ...	80°	71°	2·1	
March	87°·7	73°·1	2·1	

Ceylon, I presume, would be visited either at the beginning or termination of the Indian Expedition, and this would probably be in the latter part of November, or in March. December and January are the coolest months, but these should be spent in Bengal and N.W.P. In March it begins to be oppressive in Ceylon.

The island *might* be visited in March or April, but it would be hot. In May the S.W. monsoon sets in, and it would not be desirable to remain till then. Moreover, the return voyage would be disagreeable.

From after the 15th November up to the beginning, or even middle of February, the plains of India, generally, offer an excellent climate; even in Madras it is not very warm. Much of the country of Mysore and the Deccan lies high, and the climate is agreeable and healthy.

These parts of India might be visited immediately after Ceylon. In Bengal, December, January, and the first half of February are cool and pleasant; often cold. Arriving in Calcutta about, or after the 10th of December, the climate would be excellent, travelling and camp-life most enjoyable and free from risk. At any season the middle of the day may be somewhat hot, but there is no danger, and the simplest precautions obviate any inconvenience. The air is bright, genial, and invigorating; the highest state of health may be anticipated, and the wholesome effect of the out-of-door life is manifest. There is no special tendency to disease, and none need be feared beyond such ailments as might occur anywhere. It is no exaggeration to say that the climate of the plains of India during December, January and February is superior to that of Europe, and is congenial to the European constitution.

This is the season for shooting, sight-seeing and camp-life.

The best tiger-shooting in some parts of India, however, is later : in March, April, and May.

Supposing Calcutta were to be left about the middle of December, Bengal, including Purneah, Maldah, perhaps some of the Berham-pootra Churs (good shooting grounds), might be visited. So on to Benares, Allahabad, Central India, the Central Provinces, and perhaps next to Oude, Lucknow, the Terai, Nepal frontier and Rohilkund.

Thence to N.W. Provinces, Delhi, Agra, Rajpootana, and the Punjab. Throughout all these provinces and districts the climate is excellent, and remains cool and pleasant even up to the middle of March.

From the Punjab the Hill Stations might be visited. They would be very cold, but the weather would, probably, be bright and clear.

The climate of the N.W. Provinces and Punjab, indeed all North India, from December to March, is one of the finest in the world, being more bracing than that of the south. It is frequently very cold, and especially at nights, the thermometer falling to freezing point or lower.

The cold weather is more prolonged than in Lower Bengal.

In Calcutta it often becomes unpleasantly warm in the day after the 15th February, whilst in the North-West the cold, fresh air continues fully a month later. It is healthy enough even throughout the great heat of the latter part of April, May, and June, but very oppressive, and, after the West winds begin, intolerably so.

Care as to proper clothing, food, drink, and immediate attention to ailments, however trivial, is necessary under all circumstances; with due attention to these, and the most ordinary precaution for preserving health, a visit to India in the cold season is as free from danger to life or health, as it would be in any part of Europe.

The following are the "means" of daily temperature of different parts of India for the year :—

STATIONS.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.
Galle	78°3	78°8	81°0	81°7	82°1	80°4	79°1	79°4	79°5	80°2	79°3	78°8
Madras ...	77°	78°2	82°1	84°7	86°7	89°6	88°6	86°1	85°1	79°4	77°8	77°1
Calcutta	68°3	74°5	80°3	84°4	87°	88°2	83°5	83°5	84°5	82°1	76°	70°2
Patna ...	62°2				91°6	91°4	86°7	85°3	86°1	80°2	72°1	64°
Benares	62°3	68°6	78°3	89°3	92°9	97°6	86°6	85°6	85°4	77°8	69°3	62°
Allahabad	62°3	68°8	78°6	89°3	92°1	97°4	85°1	85°1	84°3	76°8	69°1	60°8
Lucknow	62°3	68°3	77°	89°5	91°8	97°8	87°	86°	85°	78°3	67°5	61°
Agra	63°9	70°7	80°7	91°2	90°2	97°7	86°7	84°7	81°7	76°4	68°9	62°2
Meerut ...	60°6	67°6	76°3	87°3	88°6	97°1	87°6	86°8	83°8	76°6	67°3	58°1
Nagpore	71°	77°1	83°1	90°8	93°7	89°5	80°9	82°1	80°4	78°2	74°4	67°9