

word in a manner which shows that it is not the name of an animal. Dogs were employed by Akbar, "*ba dast-i-har yakī az khidmatgarān-i-nazdikī, sagān-i-shikārī sipurda būdand, ki tasqāwal bāshand.*" Men drove the deer (*āhū*). When the deer reached the *tasqāwalān* (*chūn āhū batasqāwalān rasīd*), the servants who had charge of the dogs were not at their stations, and the hunt was a failure.

I have searched many dictionaries for the meaning of *tasqāwal* and of *nihilam*, but without success until to-day (Aug. 2nd.), when I have found *tasqāwal*, with variant, *tashqāwal*, in a Turkī-Persian dictionary of the Mullā Fīrūz Library in this city (Bombay). It is explained as a shutter-up of a road (*rāh-band kunanda*). It would thus seem to be a sort of earth-stopper, and perhaps was applied to an obstacle placed in the path of the driven deer to turn them or to check them for the convenience of the sportsmen.

The dictionary which yielded this explanation is entered as No. 27 (p. 54) in Mr. Rehatsek's valuable catalogue of the Mullā Fīrūz Library and it is described by him as the work of Mīrzā 'Alī Bakht, whose poetical name was *Az fārī*, and it is consequently known as the *Farhang-i-az fārī*.

What is the derivation of *tasqāwal* I am unable to say, but it seems clear from Bāyazīd and Abū'l-faḡl that it is not an animal's name but that of a form of sport. It may correspond to the English 'driving.'

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*Bombay, Aug. 2, 1899.*

## 2. "OSPREYS."

102, Cheyne Walk, Chelsea,  
London, S. W.

Saturday, Oct. 21, 1899.

SIR,—I am much obliged to Mr. F. W. Thomas for his courteous note upon my somewhat random suggestion about the '*kūṭājvara*.' He is only a little too modest in saying that he can throw no light upon it, because this note (in our October number, p. 906) pretty nearly settles the question.

The bird referred to by Sanskrit writers as 'kurara' cannot have been our modern naturalists' 'Osprey' (*Pandion haliaetus*), which is in all countries, and especially in India, where it rarely breeds, a shy and silent bird. The same remarks apply, though in decreasing degree, to our English Earn (*Haliaetus albicilla*); and, still with diminution, to the Indian Earn (*Haliaetus leucogaster*). We are left with only one common Indian sea-eagle, the Ringtailed Sea-eagle of Jerdon, "Pallas's Fishing-eagle" of Blanford (*Haliaetus leucoryphus*), as the others are shy and scarce.

This bird is common down to the Tropic of Cancer and rather south of it, and in Upper India. Its eyrie is usually in a tree near human habitations, to the noise of which it is quite indifferent, and adds its own, in chorus even with railway and steamboat whistles, distinguishable amongst these a mile away—the noisiest, probably, of all eagles.

Mr. Blanford gives "*Koral, Mach koral*" as two Bengali names for it; and, on the whole, I should think that any lexicographer will be pretty safe in writing "Kurará, a fishing-eagle, probably originally or principally *Haliaetus leucoryphus* (Pallas)."

It may be added that the word 'osprey' is a very unsafe one. The first 'ossifrage' seems to have been the 'Lammergeyer,' "*genus aquilae quam barbatam vocant, Tusci vero ossifragam*" (Pliny, N. H., x, 111). The Tuscan augurs were ornithologists.

The name, appropriate enough to this bird, which certainly does break bones, has since passed, in the form of 'orfraie' and 'osprey' to a fish-hawk, or fishing-owl, which does not; and now, by a freak of fashion, to egrets, or rather to their feathers in milliners' shops. I take it that the lexicographers will rather ally themselves with naturalists than with the milliners; and remain, your most obedient servant,

W. F. SINCLAIR (late I.C.S.).

*To the Secretary of the Royal Asiatic Society.*