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HOW TO DEAL WITH TIGERS.—I believe that, face to face, a tiger will not attack a human being, unless he displays a thorough want of nerve; the Malays are also of this opinion, but express it differently. They say that "if you will only speak to a tiger, and tell it that it can get plenty of food in the jungle beside you, the animal will be persuaded, and leave you unmolested." Unfortunately, few get the chance to speak to the tigers in this way, because, as I have stated, they almost invariably steal up behind those they intend to attack. I have, however, heard the following account told by an old Malay of an attack which he prevented by an appeal to the better nature of the animal. He was returning home after a visit to town to his house at Selita, along that part of the road which I have described as being the most thickly surrounded with jungle. He had his little child, a boy of seven or eight years old, along behind him, and both were contentedly chewing away at jagong (Indian corn), when the father, on lifting up his eyes, saw a tiger crouching down right in front of him, and apparently preparing for a spring. Calling to mind an old saying, he gasped out a few sounds, and found that they appeared to arrest the tiger, but being anxious not to risk the life of his son he moved slowly backward to a tree which he remembered to have passed a few yards behind. The tiger advanced upon him step for step as he retreated. When the old man's back touched the tree, he told his son to climb up. This the boy did, and the father, relieved of anxiety on his account, drew his woodknife and commenced an advance, arguing all the while with the keenest logic—sharpened no doubt by the occasion—that it would be infinitely better for both to part without quarrelling. This advance and retreat continued for about fifty yards, when the tiger, either persuaded by the logic, or daunted by the bravery of the man, turned tail, and bolted into the jungle.

Our Tropical Possessions in Malayan India, by John Cameron, Esq., F.R.S.S.