

The trade in furs, we know, must exhaust the large and valuable animals; and as the Indians are not an agricultural people, they are very likely to suffer. The tendency of the evidence is to show that they have deteriorated in consequence of the mode of management to which they have been subjected. I do not say this to complain of any persons, but to express my strong desire, that while this portion of our dominions continues to claim the attention of Government, as a country capable of supporting man, and of being turned to profit for the English nation, the aboriginal inhabitants may not be lost sight of. Sympathy is expressed in high quarters with regard to them, but it has been a barren sympathy. Up to the present time it has not in the slightest degree arrested their decline. I have had the opportunity of conversing with the Bishop of Rupert's Land, and of corresponding with persons in that and the adjoining territories, and I know there are individuals who feel for these aboriginals. But the prevailing policy is decidedly hostile to their well-being, a fact which is greatly to be deplored.

Mr. NICOLAY.—Let me remind the meeting that Mr. Palliser is no novice in Indian life. He spent two years amongst the Missouri Indians, and this is not the first conversation he has had with the natives. Therefore we may conclude that this Report is substantially correct, though it may have verbal inaccuracies.

The PRESIDENT.—I am glad Mr. Nicolay has pointed out the qualifications of Mr. Palliser for this undertaking. He is indeed thoroughly acquainted with the American Indians. Having been a successful buffalo hunter, accustomed to the Indian sports, and having mixed much with the natives, I have not the least doubt that we shall have to thank him eventually for great geographical results.

The second Paper read was:—

2. *Notes from the Journal of the East African Expedition, under the command of Capt. RICHARD F. BURTON.*

British Consulate, Zanzibar,  
22nd April, 1857.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Royal Geographical Society, a field-book, containing our route survey from Pangany to Fuga, our remarks upon the coast, and an account of our expedition up to date.

On the 5th January, 1857, I intimated to you our intention of visiting the East African mainland. The death of the Imám of Muskat, H. H. Saggid Said, the undecided succession, and the troubled state of the interior, then suffering from famine, war, and drought, rendered a preparatory excursion advisable. We could obtain no useful information from the European merchants of Zanzibar, who are mostly ignorant of everything beyond the island. The Arabs and Sawahilis, who were adverse to, and fearful of, white travellers, *did* give us information, but it was worse than none. We had not heard from the Rev. Mr. Rebmann, who still remained at the Mission-house near Mombás; and, finally, it was judged expedient to be seasoned by fever on the coast before attempting the far Unyamesi Lake.

Arrived at Mombás, we visited Mr. Rebmann, who had not received the communication of the Church Missionary Society. The rev. gentleman is now at Zanzibar.

I received from Mr. Henry L. Anderson, the Political Secretary to Government at Bombay, a copy of a letter from the Medical Board of Bombay recommending that Assistant-Surgeon Steinhäusen, B.A., for whose services I had applied, should be furnished with such medicines and surgical instruments as he might consider necessary. Farther, that to assist in the advancement of scientific research, meteorological instruments may be obtained from the medical stores at Bombay, and placed at his disposal.

Under the same inclosure was transmitted for my information copy of a letter from Mr. George Buist, Secretary to the Bombay Geographical Society, dated 8th December, 1856, conveying certain useful suggestions with respect to the expedition. I am about to supply the Bombay Geographical Society with a few geological specimens and an account of copal-digging in these regions, in consequence of Mr. Secretary Anderson's letter, and hope that the Royal Geographical Society will approve of the step. I am grateful for this supply of extra instruments.

Returning to Pangany on the 21st February, we lost no time in catching the fever, as Capt. Speke, my Portuguese servant, and I, were attacked by the disorder—a severe bilious remittent—on the same day. My companions were comparatively fortunate; the fever stuck to me for a week, and left me in the condition of a bed-ridden old woman. Under these circumstances it was judged advisable to postpone the remainder of our coasting voyage, and to seek medical aid at Zanzibar without delay. We arrived here on the 6th March, and were received with his usual kindness and hospitality by Col. Hamerton. We are both recovering by degrees from the consequences of fever, and hope soon to be duly seasoned for travel into the interior. The rainy season and the s.w. monsoon have just set in, and we shall therefore be confined to the island for some time. We are now engaged in providing ourselves with an outfit, which, for economy, must be purchased before the season opens, in applying to the Prince for an escort, and in making ready the hundred *impediments* which belong to African travel.

It appears that during the present year Southern and Eastern Africa will be penetrated in various directions. At Zanzibar I lately met M. Gabriello de Rivalta, a Capucin of the Lyons French mission, who is proceeding to his head-quarters—the hitherto inaccessible Kaffa. M. Guglielmo Massaja, the “Vicario Apostolico dei Gallas,” has made that province his residence, and two other priests are living at Gudru and Enaera. Father M. Gabriello has lately

been informed from Rome that four or five other missionaries are sent to aid in the great labours reported by the Vicar-General. Nearly 400,000 Gallas have, it is said, embraced Christianity, and conversions by thousands still take place. Unable to penetrate Africa, viâ Masawwah, on account of the Abyssinian heretics, the rev. gentleman has resolved to travel alone and unarmed, viâ Makdisha (Magado) and Gananah, through the Gallas. The experiment will be most interesting.

At the Cape, an expedition has been proposed on a plan recommended by the lamented Swedish naturalist, Professor Wahlberg. Several waggons, starting simultaneously, after penetrating to a certain point northward, will separate and explore eastward and westward. At a time and place previously agreed upon, they are to meet and confer upon the propriety of continuing their journey. Nothing appears more feasible than such a project; and, indeed, it is probable that Africa can be penetrated with less fatigue and risk of disease from the Cape than from any other point.

An American expedition is also expected at Zanzibar. Some years ago Major Cothcal (*sic*), of New York, visited this coast in his own vessel, with the intention of exploring the interior. Like all others who have attempted the discovery, he failed to detect the embouchure of the Juba or Govind river, but he observed a discolouration of the sea, which has given rise to the hope of finding this mysterious outlet. It is said that the party will be composed of men accustomed to endure fatigue and to face danger, accompanied by free blacks from America, with natives of the country as guides and porters; and that no great scientific researches will be attempted from a fear of rendering the undertaking futile. This manner of exploration, which finds little favour in the eyes of the Royal Geographical Society, is eminently fitted to open a way for philosophic geographers through dangerous regions.

I have the honour to request the attention of the Council of the Society to the remarks upon the subject of maps contained in the accompanying Report. Nothing can be more erroneous, in commission and omission, than Capt. Owen's Chart of the Coast (No. X.) from Chala Point to the Pangany River. That officer himself declared that the sickness on board his ships interfered with the surveying north of Mombás; he seems not to have landed at Makdishu, or to have sought the mouth of the Yuba River. Even southward, many important places are unnoticed. The curious inlet called Tanchi, situated about 9° 55' s., a little above the embouchure of the Lindy, does not appear upon his chart. This, some years ago, was a nest of slavers, who shared their secret, it is said, with certain Zanzibar

merchants. They frequented the place till unpleasantly disturbed by H. M. S. Grecian. In making these remarks, I would by no means detract from the merit of an officer whose name has ever been mentioned with honour. But in those days a survey had but few facilities, pilots caused perpetual complaints, there had been no preparatory exploration, and interpreters could deceive as they pleased. The native names in the charts are full of blunders. Equally full of extraordinary mistakes in the maritime part are other maps, and, in fact, the only tolerable delineation of the coast from Mombás to Pangany is the Rev. Mr. Erhardt's rude sketch map, lithographed in 1850 in London.

The accounts formerly made in Europe about the facility of penetrating inland from Kilwa (Quilwa) and the economy of travel in that region are fabulous. The southern Sawahili are more hostile to explorers than the inhabitants of the northern maritime towns, and their distance from the seat of government renders them daring by impunity. But last year they persuaded the Wagindo tribe of the interior to murder a peaceful Arab merchant, in order that strangers might be deterred from interfering with their commerce. Messrs. Krapff and Erhardt, of the Mombás mission, spent a few hours at Kilwa, where they were civilly received by the Governor and citizens, but were sadly deceived in being led to imagine that they could make that part their starting-point. Lieut. Christopher, I.N., who visited the coast about the year 1843, in the H.E.I.C. brig Tigris, more wisely advises the neighbourhood of Kilwa to be avoided.

We shall probably land at Bagamoyo: as yet, however, this point cannot be determined. I scarcely anticipate being able to set out before the middle of June proximo, as the Moslim fast-month intervenes. This is a loss of time, but I will endeavour to utilize my residence upon the island by drawing up a description of it and an ethnographical account of the slave races on the neighbouring mainland.

On the 24th of March, 1857, I received from the Secretary to Government, Bombay, an official letter, transmitting a copy of a communication from the Secretary to Government of Bengal (No. 170, of 3rd of January, 1857), according permission to Captain Speke, and Assistant-Surgeon Steinhausen, B.A., surgeon, Aden, to accompany the expedition on the pay and allowances of their rank. I cannot but express the warmest gratitude to his Excellency Lord Elphinstone, to the Honourable Mr. Lumsden, and to other members of the local Government, who have added to a long list of former favours by providing me with these staunch and valued companions.

The virgin ground of Eastern Africa is a field far too extensive for a single observer. The climate of the sea-board does not yield in fatality to that of the western coast, and the jealousy of Arabs and Sawahilis may assume a more virulent form in the interior. Under these circumstances, the presence of an able surgeon and two tried men is by no means to be despised. Dr. Steinhausen has not joined us yet, but we still indulge hopes that he may be on his way.

Trusting that the Royal Geographical Society will approve of our past proceedings and of our future plans, I have the honour to subscribe myself, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

RICHARD F. BURTON.

*To Dr. Norton Shaw, Secretary to the  
Royal Geographical Society.*

The PRESIDENT then read the following extract of a letter from Zanzibar, dated July 11th, 1857.

“This day three weeks (June 16th) Colonel Hamerton sailed with the Captains Burton and Speke for Bagamoyo, to lend his personal influence on the very spot from which they were to start. Though much was still to be settled, no difficulties were experienced, and after ten days (June 26th) the Captains, accompanied by a body of upwards of 200 men (150 of whom were armed), set out on their enterprising journey.

“Four days after their departure a note from Captain Burton was received, saying that all was going on favourably. Every evening a cannon was fired from the ship to put the next heathen tribe, from whom alone some resistance was suspected to be made, in awe of the passing caravan.”

The PRESIDENT.—In returning our thanks to Captain Burton for his communication, I must say that the earlier part of it gives a compendious and clear account of that portion of the coast of Africa which he has passed along. The remainder of the paper is made up of a great deal of information obtained from various travellers on the coast. As there are distinguished African travellers in the room, I hope we may hear observations from them on this memoir.

Dr. BARTH.—It is my opinion that the account given by Mr. Rebmann and the Rev. Mr. Krapff of the Snow Mountains is not based on fact. It would be desirable that the report made by Captain Short, who ascended the river Juba, and who also, at a point farther to the north, supposed that he saw snowy mountains, should be published with all the details, that it might be seen on what facts this opinion is based, that these mountains are covered with snow. I suppose these mountains can in no way be so high as to reach the line where eternal snow can be preserved the whole length of the year, nevertheless I think that in the direction from the equator towards Kaffa there might be mountains to the elevation of 15,000 or 16,000 feet, which at certain seasons of the year, and in peculiar localities, might be covered with

snow. But it is my decided opinion that all the rivers of Central Africa, which take their course in various directions from the equatorial region, are fed exclusively by the enormous quantity of rain which falls during the rainy season, and not by snow which might be preserved on high peaks of mountains. If Captain Burton should succeed in penetrating farther into the interior, we shall certainly soon hear whether there are mountains of such great elevation as to reach the height of 15,000 or 16,000 feet. At present I think we may suppose that Mr. Rebmann was in error when he believed he saw before him mountains covered with snow, which might have been a crust of white rock such as Dr. Livingstone saw farther to the south.

Dr. LIVINGSTONE, F.R.G.S.—I know very little about that part of the country, and that little was obtained in the same way that Captain Burton got his. It may, however, be of some importance that I derived my information from a point opposite to that where the missionaries on the coast and Captain Burton had theirs. I met some Arabs from Zanzibar, in the middle of the continent, and about 15 south latitude. They pointed out a large lake to the north-east, and volunteered to take me with them on their way back to Zanzibar. They stated that when they went to Zanzibar they could either cross the southern end of that lake, or go round it. When they could get canoes it took them three days to get across, and they punted their canoes the whole way. They slept upon islands. If we take 15 or 20 miles as a good day's journey, the lake might be 50 or 60 miles across. It appears to be quite shallow. One of the Arabs used an expression which I never could understand; it was “we have ‘maero’” on that lake.\* This is probably an Arab word, and perhaps some of those who understand Arabic can tell what it means. There can be little doubt but that there is, as stated, a large shallow collection of water in the interior. Now the nature of the country seems to give an explanation of the mode in which this lake is formed. We have an elevated level partition in the oblong valley, in the middle of the country, so level in many parts I crossed that the water stands upon it for months together. We found the lotus plant growing in the water. When you look at these plains they seem extensive prairie land covered with grass, and amongst the grass we have the lotus flower. We saw likewise fishes that have come out of the river, and the runs of others. From this elevated partition the water, in part, flows away to the north and forms the Congo, and some goes to the south and forms the Zambesi. All the country to the east of that where I was, is of the same character—an elevated level plateau. We have two rainy seasons in the course of each year. An immense amount of water falls, and that water stands for a long time. It seems to me that nearly all the rivers in that part arise, not from fountains, but from bogs fed by percolation from the plains. A great many that I crossed had a bog on each side of them. The water seems to soak into these level plains and then ooze out through the bogs into the rivers. Probably a branch of the Zambesi rises in the vicinity of that lake. It would seem to be simply a shallow collection of water, dependent very much upon the rains, which fall in great abundance in that region. If Captain Burton gets in, as I hope he may, through the coast tribes, there can be little doubt but that he will find his way to the lake. I scarcely apprehend that it is so large as represented in the map. I went as far to the east as the 22nd degree of longitude, and it begins in the 25th. I think I must have heard of it. I was in 24° in the south, and in the north in 20° and 21°, and I got information of the country to the east of where I was travelling, but no information about this immense sea. I may state that the people in the middle of the country have all heard of the sea. They call it ‘metse a hula,’

\* The Arabic word was stated by Sir H. Rawlinson to mean, the water stands, or does not flow, *i. e.* is stagnant.

which means the water that grazes. When the tide rises they imagine that it is the sea coming into the land to graze; and they say to each other they must be on the look out lest the sea should come in and eat them up. Now they say nothing at all about an immense sea in the middle of the country, so I imagine it cannot be so large as represented. But it seems to be a considerable collection of water notwithstanding. Captain Burton will, I hope, settle the matter. It is scarcely worth while to speculate now when he is on the spot, for one observation is worth a waggon load of speculations. With reference to these coast tribes a question comes before us now of some interest, and that is, the revival of a species of slave-trade by the French and Spaniards on the west coast. Some have stated that it is the normal state of the Africans to be stealing each other, and buying and selling each other. I can scarcely think so. There is as much truth in that as if it were stated that the normal state of English and Scotch banks was—to break. The people on the coast get guns and gunpowder, and where they find they can pay for these things by a foray upon the inhabitants in the interior, why they have a strong temptation to go and make that foray. But it is by no means the normal state of the people in the interior. The only cause of war that ever I heard of, previous to the introduction of the slave-trade, was for cattle. They usually have some old feud, such as some of our forefathers had in Scotland; they say, “the cows that we now capture are just the calves of the calves of the cows that were lifted by the enemy’s tribe some twenty years before.” So again, they say, “Why they have just been keeping them for us all this time, and we go to bring them back.” So that it is scarcely possible to know who are the original owners of the cattle. Some tribes have actually refrained from keeping cattle altogether, on account of the wars in which the practice involved them. They say that cattle bring war, we will not keep them: they do not talk of the slaves bringing war, because they have no slaves in the interior. As to going to the coast to give payment for captives, to be called emigrants, I believe the Africans would emigrate if they knew where they were going to, and that they would come back after a number of years with property, as the Coolies can return from the Mauritius. But who can convince them that when they go across the sea—a sea of which they know almost nothing—that there they will find men in whom they can have confidence, and who will be faithful to them? It is impossible. You cannot produce that impression in the African mind. On that account, I say, it would be much better to go to Africa, where we have free labour on the spot, than be at all the bother of stealing them and carrying them to other countries. It may be said that we have fine colonies, that the West India Islands is a fine country, capable of producing any amount of sugar and other products that we need. But have the planters in the West Indies the money to pay for the labour? That is the important question. From what I hear—and I may not be well informed—the call for labour simply means a call for money. If, instead of supplying them with labour, for which they cannot pay, we supplied them with an Encumbered Estates Act, it might be beneficial to them. The small island of Mauritius has free labour, and it produces sugar equal to one-fourth the entire consumption of Great Britain. Now this small island is only 25 miles long. I think the most important part of the discoveries I was privileged to make is, that there is an immense extent of country where sugar and cotton might be cultivated. And, if people will only pay for labour, there they have it on the spot. You must not suppose that the African will work if you do not pay him for it.

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