

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

American Joe Miller, compiled by R. Kempt, fc. 8vo. 2/6 cl.
 Anello (Mielich), Life of, by Grimm, tr. Bunnett, 2 v. cr. 8vo. 2/4
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 Davidson's Legend of St. Swithin, new edit. 4to. 5/ swd.
 De Waurin's Chronicles, tr. by Hardy, royal 8vo. 10/ hf. bd.
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MAN AND THE GLACIAL FLOOD.

Abbey Lodge, Regent's Park, Jan. 11, 1865.

HAVING kindly reviewed my work on 'The History of the Apocrypha,' you may be inclined to allow me briefly to refer to a tradition recorded in the 'Zendavesta,' which may possibly refer to the glacial period:—"Thus spake Ahura-mazda (the wise spirit) to the holy Zarathustra. I created a place, a creation of charm, where no possibility (to approach) was anywhere created. For had I not created a place, a creation of charm . . . the entire world endued with bodies would have gone to Airyana Vaejô, the first and the best of the places, . . . the Airyana of the good creation."—"Then an opposition of the same, Agra-mainjus, who is full of death, created a great serpent, and the winter which the daevas (evil spirits) have created. There are ten winter months, two summer months; and these are cold in water, cold in earth, cold in trees; . . . if, then, the winter is added, then comes the most of the evils."

Then follows the enumeration of the second place or settlement, Sughdhu (Sogd); of the third, Mouru (Merw); of the fourth, Bakhdi (Balkh). As these and other places are mentioned in regular order from east to west, the first may have been the halting-places of the Aryan emigrants from the aboriginal Aryan home into Bactria. Heeren, Lassen, Spiegel, Haug, and other authorities, agree in regarding this as a half-historical, half-mythical account,—as a legend which embodies the names of the places known to the Aryans at the time when this record was composed. The legend refers to the pre-Zoroastrian times, and to the cradle of the Aryans, which was probably situated in the north-east of Bactria. The Aryan exodus, from a land where there had been no winter, was probably caused by the sudden change of climate above referred to, when the land of charm (Eden) was suddenly visited by a wintry cold, extending, more or less, over the whole year. If this change was caused by the glacial flood, the existence of man before that time would be rendered probable.

Perhaps Sir Charles Lyell would inform us whether, in his opinion, the existence of man before the glacial period may have been possible.

ERNEST DE BUNSEN.

THE NILE MYSTERY.

Alderley Park, Congleton, Cheshire, Jan. 6, 1865.

YOUR kindness in opening your valuable columns to a discussion of the "Nile Discoveries" encourages me to hope that you will admit my reply to Mr. Cooley (*Athen.* Dec. 31, 1864), and to *Blackwood's Magazine*, No. 591. The former merely reiterates the obsolete *à priori* statements of the past generation. Once more we read of "Nasib the Mjáo" and his Negro legends, valuable only to Mr. Cooley, who identified them with his own. Though M. von der Decken saw snow around him on Kilima-njaro, Mr. Cooley preferred—solely because in some antiquated paper he had questioned the possibility of Equatorial African snow-mountains—to deny that the snow was snow. So now, when Drs. Livingstone and Kirk have brought home strong evidence that the Nyassa and the Tanganyika waters are distinct, Mr. Cooley hails back to Godinho's "Lake Zachof" and to "the Missionary Mariano's" ridiculous water long enough for "a two months' voyage." As regards the "inventions," the "dull reasoning," the "crude views," and the "ill-directed inquiries," I am perfectly contented to share the credit of them with Drs. Livingstone and Kirk, and last, but not least, Sir R. Murchison. Mr. Cooley's farewell sentence touching "statements opposed to common sense (!) and all authority (!!)," and dictated merely by a spirit of contradiction (!!!)," cuts both ways, and I need not point out the direction of the "unkinder cut."

Blackwood ('Nile Basins and Nile Explorers') has divided his critique into two parts—the sentimental (and personally offensive) and the scientific. As regards the former, I have only to say, that the onus of commencing all the personality that has been thrown into the discussion must rest upon the right shoulders—not mine. With respect to the latter, I may quote, as a preliminary, the opinion of a geographical friend:—"There are cases enough of unfair argument in this new *Blackwood*, but it would be waste of paper and print to refute them; for all sufficiently acquainted with the subject to form an unprejudiced judgment upon it would supply the refutation themselves." Again, as an instance of the ingenious way in which *Blackwood* manages his Magazine, a literary friend remarks:—"Blackwood praises Grant's book, and quotes himself as its publisher, while he gives no publisher's name to 'The Nile Basin.' I know it has been more than once remarked, that he simply uses the Magazine to puff his own books, but I thought him above the meanness of ignoring a brother publisher that the public might not know where to obtain the book criticized."

Let us now inspect the reviewer's geography after this introspection of his employer's "smartness." In page 106, he cites, with evident approval, the wonderful note from Capt. Speke to his friend (see Preface to 'A Walk across Africa'), maintaining that "all true rivers in Africa can only have their fountains on the Equator; but the people of this country have not learnt to see it yet." I should think not! The Niger and the Zambezi do not rise near the Equator. The south-eastern or main branch of the Congo does not. These are three out of the four African "true rivers"; nor has it been proved that the Nile is an exception. When, in col. 2, page 113, he criticizes Mr. M'Queen's "narrow ravine," he confuses with the river at the Ripon Falls that "miserable gully the Jordan" at the southern end of the Ukerewe water, since christened "Victoria Nyanza." When (page 116) he impales me upon the horns of a dilemma—viz., making one river cross another, &c.,—I must, to save space, refer the reader to the *Athenæum* of Dec. 24, 1864, in which the cavil is shown to be visionary, or rather disingenuous. He should have used his eyes or have aroused his conscience before making the monstrous assertion, that the Lake Tanganyika is "carefully defined in my own map all round." It may be so in his; let him turn to mine, and he will find the usual dotted outline where the shore was not visited; whilst in the *Journal of the Royal Geographical Society*, and in my 'Lake Regions,' I conscientiously warned the reader of what was set down on hearsay. It is

cool to charge me with not doing justice to Mr. Findlay, when *Blackwood's* own author scandalized all England by the tenacity of his obligatory expressions. As regards my having now made the northern stream of the Tanganyika an affluent, not an infant, my reasons have been given in 'The Nile Basin,' and, as is there stated, I was preceded by Messrs. Hogg, Vaux and Findlay, not to mention the French geographers. I confess to feeling little pity for the "miserable failures" of *Blackwood*, who cannot see that a change of opinion may argue, not a "sentiment of envy" (where there is so little to be envied), but a not highly-blameable readiness to seek out the truth. Why should "the very controversy be allowed to slumber" (p. 101) because the gallant Speke was the victim of a fatal mishap? Finally, it is not insignificant to discover (p. 106) *Blackwood's* "our theory" of the Nile Sources. Every reader will perceive that it is absolutely the Sketch Map prefixed to my 'Nile Basin,' stolen and done into words that are sometimes incorrect. With which specimen of "unblushing, barefaced ways" I bid adieu to the once polite and honourable *Blackwood*.

Allow me a few words concerning Capt. Grant's 'Walk across Africa,' premising that I join with you in your admiration of its "loyalty and modesty." It is true I find the First Expedition, which a reviewer, with the usual eye to business, characterizes as a "mere holiday pastime," once, and but once, alluded to in these words (p. 136), "Mabrook, or Burton's 'bull-headed Mabruki.'" And the wise statesman who sits at the helm "could think of nothing better to say than you have had a long walk" (not across Africa); whilst, with rare inscience, when the gigantic *ignis fatuus* of Speke was dazzling the public, he steadily refused in the House to grant honours for an undiscovered "discovery."

Capt. Grant generously excuses his friend for not having carried him to the northern affluent of "the Lake," on the ground that it was to be a "flying march," and that it has been "a question whether it was of real importance to visit this point." But why a "flying visit" to the most interesting and important station of the whole journey? The friends, however, "knew that, after making a few more miles, we should come upon an immense river, with which we were now running parallel." A fair sample this of how things which urgently called to be proved (*e.g.* the continuity of the "Victoria Nyanza") were merely taken for granted!

Capt. Grant differs from Capt. Speke's description of the Asua as a "large river." The former, moreover, tells us, "Our first remark was, 'is this the Asua we have heard so much of?'" I presume the sentence should stand "of which we were afterwards to hear so much?" With respect to M. Miana's Tree, Speke's and Grant's maps both place it on the west of the Nile, and the former's 'Journal' is unintelligibly vague. Hence the natural error of the Venetian explorer.

In two main points Capt. Grant has unwittingly come to my aid. Page 196 proves that he never sighted the supposed "Victoria Nyanza" till he reached the Kitangule River, of which I have stated that its widening may form a Northern lake. The enthusiastic terms "expanding in all its majesty" and "stretching over 90° of the horizon" must be reduced to a radius of at most 20 miles. Accordingly, Capt. Grant "made a sketch, dotting it with imaginary steamers and ships lying at anchor in the bay."

The second point to which I would emphatically draw your attention is this. Capt. Grant, whose greater accuracy than his friend's is fatal to their united cause, sights "the Nile" after its junction with the Asua, and says (p. 354), "For two miles the calm river ran in a straight reach, unbroken, as far as I remember (!), by rock or cataract. Its breadth appeared to be about eighty yards." This adds weight to the conjecture of the *Westminster* that the Spekeian Nile before entering the Asua was a streamlet from the high Western bank called or miscalled "Jebel Kuku." So the drainage of 25,000 to 29,000 square feet of water in a pre-eminently rainy region, is effected by a mere ditch 240 feet wide! *Sic transit gloria Nili!* R. I. P.!

RICHD. F. BURTON.