THE LAKES OF CENTRAL AFRICA.

Albemarle Club, Dec. 2, 1875.

As I am upon the point of leaving England and may not have an opportunity of thanking you for some time, perhaps you will allow me to mention a few remarks upon Col. Grant's valuable paper, read at the last meeting of the Royal Geographical Society (Nov. 29).

1. The lakes of Central Africa were known to geographers, not "as far back as the year 355," but before the days of Ptolemy and Marinus of Tyre. The Nile was made to rise first from two lakes, then from three, then from one, and, lastly, from fanciful variations of these numbers. Many suspected, but I was the first to prove, that "the whole of Africa is studded with lakes"—is a lake region to the full extent of the term.

2. The Arabs did not "inform" Capt. Speke, who was unable to converse with them. They told me, as they do to the north, but as the expedition had already been grossly misinformed on the matter of a "Zwa" (lake) which turned out to be a pool, I had my suspicions. Wanting privacy, but time to write out my notes, I despatched my late companion northwards—"the result was the discovery of the Upper Lagoon." The geographical world "ought to be, as it at last was, with me. The lake laid down by me from Arab map, may be verified and examined in his volume, 'What Led to the Discovery of the Sources of the Nile.' But I would not have this feature finally inserted either in my two volumes 'The Exploration of the Nile,'" and in the Royal Geographical Society, nor in the little book called 'The Nile Basin.' So far from being "unjust," I wish only to show how what had been seen, not what had been heard.

3. The Speke and Grant expedition alone must bear the blame for the critique of the "astronomer," A. Keith Johnston, E. Stanford, and E. Weller. These scientific mapmakers could hardly believe in the superficiality of observation and the geographical ignorance which I have described, but the "discovery" was made, and I think, right in Central Africa. Consequently they divided the area into four, and they were fully justified in so doing. Mappers, other than those of the Royal Geographical Society, or in the little book called the 'Nile Basin.' So far from being "unjust," I wish only to show how what had been seen, not what had been heard.

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5. Col. Grant declares that "I said there must be several lakes, lagoons, anything, in fact, except the lake." This is hardly fair when I was, in fact, the "theoretical discoverer" (excuse the expression) of his Victoria Nyazza. What I really said was that a lake with four distinct outlets deserves to be split into four; and so far, I believe, the geographical world ought to be, as it at last was, with me. The lake laid down by me from Arab map, may be verified and examined in his volume, 'What Led to the Discovery of the Sources of the Nile.' But I would not have this feature finally inserted either in my two volumes 'The Exploration of the Nile,'" and in the Royal Geographical Society, nor in the little book called 'The Nile Basin.' So far from being "unjust," I wish only to show how what had been seen, not what had been heard.

6. Col. Grant says, "The lakes of Victoria Nyazza, as made known to us by Mr. Stanley, prove that Speke far underrated its value. They are the well-known lake area occupied by Capt. Speke's two maps will be found to contain a lake region besides a lake. Mr. Stanley hinted of suggested that waters may be found to the north-east of the Victoria Nyazza, and I venture to express a hope that the writings of Capt. Grant will, under the energetic Antinori, will add fresh lustre to the name of my distinguished friend, Cristoforo Negri, by finding and by mapping the lake region."

Richard F. Burton.

In conclusion, I need not repeat to readers of "The Exploration of the Nile," and of "The Exploration of the Nile," that the area occupied by Capt. Speke's two maps will be found to contain a lake region besides a lake. Mr. Stanley hinted of suggested that waters may be found to the north-east of the Victoria Nyazza, and I venture to express a hope that the writings of Capt. Grant will, under the energetic Antinori, will add fresh lustre to the name of my distinguished friend, Cristoforo Negri, by finding and by mapping the lake region."

7. Did the cold of the Glacial Epoch extend over the Southern Hemisphere? This important question is answered in the negative by Capt. W. H. Hutchinson, who has contributed a paper to the number of the Geological Magazine a paper which embodies the results of his own observations in New Zealand. Did the cold of the Glacial Epoch extend over the Southern Hemisphere? This important question is answered in the negative by Capt. W. H. Hutchinson, who has contributed a paper to the number of the Geological Magazine a paper which embodies the results of his own observations in New Zealand.

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