NEW AFRICAN EXPEDITION.

COASTING THE GREAT LAKE.

KING MTESA'S CAPITAL.

The subjoined letters from Mr. Stanley are those so fortunately recovered after the death of Colonel Linant de Bellefonds, to whom they were entrusted by the joint Commissioner of *The Daily Telegraph* and the *New York Herald*.

ULAGALLA, MTESA'S CAPITAL, UGANDA, E. LONG. 32 DEG. 49 MIN. 45 SEC., N. LAT. 0 DEG. 32 MIN., APRIL 12, 1875.

I write this letter in haste, as it is the record of a work begun, and not ended—I mean the exploration of the Victoria Niyanza. But brief as it necessarily must be, I am sure it will interest thousands of your readers, for it solves the great question, "Is the Victoria Niyanza one lake, or does it consist of a group of lakes such as Livingstone reported it?"

In answer to the query, I will begin by stating that I have explored, by means of the Lady Alice, nearly the whole of the Southern, Eastern, and North-Eastern shores of the Victoria Niyanza; have penetrated into every bay, inlet, and creek that indent its shores, and have taken thirty-seven observations, so that I feel competent to decide upon the question at issue, without bias or prejudice to any hypothesis. I have a mass of notes relating to the countries visited, and ample means of making a proper chart at my camp at Usukuma, but I have with me at present neither paper, parallel rules, or any instrument whatever to lay down the positions I have taken. I only brought hither an artificial horizon, sextant chronometer, two aneroids, boiling-point apparatus, sounding line, a few guns, ammunition, and some provision, as I wished to keep the boat as light as possible, that she might work easily in the storms of the Niyanza. But when I reach camp I propose to draw a correct chart of the Niyanza, and to write such notes upon the several countries I have visited as will repay perusal and study.

I have already informed you that our camp at Kagehyi, in Usukuma, is situated in E. long. 33 deg. 13 min. and S. lat. 2 deg. 31 min. Before starting on the exploration of the lake I ascertained that Muanza was situated a few miles west, almost on the same parallel of latitude as Kagehyi. Now, Muanza is the point whence Speke observed the Victoria Niyanza and where he drew his imaginary sketch of the lake from information given to him by the natives. If you will look at Speke's map you will find that it contains two islands—Ukerewe and Maziti. Looking at the same objects from Kagehyi, I should have concluded that they were islands myself; but a faithful exploration of the lake has proved that the latter is not insulated, but a lengthy promontory of land extending from E. long. 34 deg. 45½ min. to E. long. 32 deg. 40 min. 15 sec. That part of the lake which Speke observed from Muanza is really a huge gulf about 25 miles wide by 65 miles long. To the noble Niyanza, discovered by him, Speke loyally gave the surname of Victoria, as a tribute to his Sovereign, which let no man take away; but in order to connect for ever Speke's name with the lake which he then found I have thought it but simple justice to the gallant explorer to call the immense inlet Speke Gulf.

If you look again on Speke's map you will observe how boldly he has sketched the Niyanza stretching eastward and north-eastward. Considering that he drew it from mere native report, which never yet was exact or clear, I must say that I do not think any other man could have arrived so near the truth. I must confess that I could not have done it myself, for I would make little of the vague and mythical reports of the natives of Kagehyi.

Proceeding eastward towards the unknown and fabulous distance in the Lady Alice, with a picked crew of eleven men and a guide, I coasted along the southern shore of the lake round many a noble bay, until we came to the mouth of the Shimeeyu, in E. long. 33 deg. 83 min., S. lat. 2 deg. 35 min.—by far the noblest river discharging into the lake which we have yet seen. The Shimeeyu has a length of 370 miles, and is the extreme southern source of the Nile. Before emptying into the lake it unites with the Luamberri River, along with which it issues in a majestic flood to the Victoria Niyanza. At its mouth it is a mile wide, but contracts as we proceed up the channel to 400 yards. Even by itself it would make no insignificant White Nile. By accident our route through Hura took us from its birthplace, a month's march from the lake, and along many a mile of its crooked course, until by means of the Lady Alice we were enabled to see it enter the Niyanza, a river of considerable magnitude.

Between the mouth of the Shimeeyu and Kagehyi were two districts—Sima and Magu—of the same nature as Usukuma, and inhabited by peoples speaking the same dialect. On the eastern side of the river is Manassa, and beyond Manassa.

Coasting still along the southern shore of the lake, beyond Manassa, we come to Ututwa, inhabited by a people speaking a different language, namely, that of the Wajika—as the Wamanassa are called here—a people slender and tall, carrying formidably long knives and terrible portentous spears. In E. long. 33 deg. 45 min. 45 sec. we sailed to the extreme end of Speke Gulf, and then turned northward as far as S. lat. 2 deg. 5 min., whence we proceeded westward almost in a straight line along Shashi and Iranbu, in Ukerewe. In E. long. 33 deg. 26 min. we came to a strait—the Rugeji Strait—which separates one half of Ukerewe from the other half, and by which there is a direct means of communication from Speke Gulf with the countries lying north of Ukerewe. We did not pass through, but proceeded still westward, hugging the bold shores of that part of Ukerewe, which is an island, as far as E. long. 32 deg. 40 min. 15 sec., whence following the land, we turned north-west, thence north, until in S. lat. 1 deg. 53 min., we turned east again, coasting along the northern shores of Ukerewe Island until we came to the tabular-topped bluff of Majita (Speke miscalled this Mazita, or Maziti, and termed it an island), in E. long. 33 deg. 9 min. 45 sec., and S. lat. 1 deg. 50 min., whence the land starts by trending northward of east. North of Shizu in Ukerewe lies the large island of Ukara, which gives its name with some natives to that part of the lake lying between it and Ukerewe. It is about eighteen miles long by twelve wide, and is inhabited by a people strong in charms and magic medicine.

From Majita we pass on again to the north shore of Shashi, whose south coast is bounded by Speke Gulf, and beyond Shashi we come to the first district in Ururi. Ururi extends from Shashi in S. lat. 1 deg. 50 min., to 0 deg. 40 min. 0 sec. S., and embraces the districts of Wye, Irieni, Urieri, Igengi, Kutiri, Shirati, and Moburu. Its coast is indented most remarkably with bays and creeks, which extend far inland. East of the immediate coast-line the country is a level plain which is drained by an important river called Shirati. All other streams that issue into the lake along the coast of Ururi are insignificant.

North of Shirati, the most northern district of Ururi, begins the country of Ugeyeya, whose bold and mountainous shores form a strong contrast to the flats of Shirati and Moburu. Here are mountains rising abruptly from the Lake to a height of 3,000 feet and more. This coast is also very crooked and irregular, requiring patient and laborious rowing to investigate its many bends and curves. The people are a timid and suspicious race, much vexed by their neighbours, the Waruri, south, and Wamasui, east; and are loth to talk to strangers, as the Arab slave-dealers of Pangani have not taught them to love people carrying guns. The Wageyeya, having been troubled by the Waruri, have left many miles of wilderness uninhabited between their country and that of their fierce neighbours. But Sungoro, the agent of Mse Saba—who has prompted the Waruri to many a devilish act, and purchased their human spoils—is constructing in Ukerewe a dhow of twenty or thirty tons burden, with which he intends to prosecute more actively his nefarious trade. Nothing would have pleased me better than to have been commissioned by some government to hang all such wretches wherever found; and, if ever a pirate deserved death for inhuman crimes, Sungoro, the slave-trader, deserves death. Kagehyi, in Usukuma, has become the seat of that inhuman slave trade. To that part they are collected from Sima, Magu, Ukerewe, Ururi, and Ugeyeya; and when Sungoro has floated his dhow and hoisted his blood-stained ensign, the great sin will increase tenfold and the caravan road to Unyanyembe will become hell's highway.

On the coast of Ugeyeya I expected to discover a channel to another lake, as there might be a grain of truth in what the Wanguana reported to Livingstone; but I found nothing of the sort except unusually deep bends in the shore, which led nowhere. The streams were insignificant and undeserving the name of rivers.

A few miles from the equator I came upon two islands formed of basaltic rock and overgrown with a dense growth of tropical vegetation. One had a natural bridge of rock thirty feet long and fifteen feet wide; the other showed a small cave.

In East longitude 34 deg. 49 min., at Nakidimo of Ugeyeya, we came to the furthest point east of the Victoria Niyanza. North of Ugeyeya begins Baringo, a limited country extending over about fifteen miles of latitude. Its coast is also remarkable for deep indentations and noble bays, some of which are almost entirely closed by land, and might well be called lakes by uncultivated or vague Wanguana. Large islands also are numerous, some of which lie so close to the shore-line that if we had not hugged its edge closely we should have mistaken them for portions of the mainland. North of Baringo the land is again distinguished by lofty hills, cones, and plateaus which sink eastward into plains, and here a new country commences—Unyara—the language of whose people is totally distinct from that of Usukuma, and approaches to that of Uganda and Usoga. Unyara occupies the north-eastern coast of the Victoria Niyanza, and by observation the extreme north-eastern point of the Niyanza ends in E. long. 34 deg. 35 min. and N. lat. 33 min. 43 sec. As I intend to send you a chart of the Niyanza, it is needless here to enter into minor details, but I may as well mention that a large portion of the north-eastern end of the lake is almost entirely closed in by the shores of Ugana and of two islands, Chaga and Usuguru, the latter of which is one of the largest in the Niyanza. While Unyara occupies the north-eastern coast of the Victorian Sea, Ugana commences the northern coast of the lake from the east, and running south-west a few miles forms here a large bay. It then trends westward, and the island of Chaga runs directly north and south for eight miles at a distance of twelve miles from the opposite coast of Unyara. With but a narrow channel between, Usuguru Island runs from the southern extremity of Chaga, in a south-south-easterly direction, to within six miles from the eastern shore of the main land. Thus, hereabouts almost a lake is formed separate from the Niyanza.

North of Chaga Island, Usoga begins with the large district of Usowa, where we met with the first hostile demonstration—though not actual deed, as the act was checked by show of superior weapons—on the part of the natives. Thence as we proceed westward, the districts of Ugamba, Uvira, Usamu, and Utamba line the coast of Usoga. Where Utamba begins, large islands again become frequent, the principal of which is Uvuma, an independent country, and the largest in the Victoria Niyanza. At Uvuma, we experienced treachery and hostility on the part of the natives. By show of friendship on their part, we were induced to pass within a few yards of the shore, where a mass of natives were hid in ambush behind the trees. While sailing quietly by, exchanging friendly greetings with them, we were suddenly attacked with a shower of large rocks, several of which struck the boat; but the helm being quickly put "hard up," we sheered from shore to a safer distance, but not before the foremost of the rascals had to be laid dead by a shot from one of my revolvers.

After proceeding some miles we entered a channel between the islands of Uvuma and Bugeyeya, but close to the shore of Uvuma. Here we discovered a fleet of large canoes—thirteen in number—carrying over a hundred warriors, armed with shields, spears, and slings. The foremost canoe contained baskets of sweet potatoes, which the people held up, as if they were desirous to trade. I ordered my party to cease rowing, and as there was but a slight breeze we still held on with the sail, and permitted the canoe to approach. While we were bargaining for potatoes with this party the other canoes came up and blocked the boat, while the people began to lay surreptitious hands on everything; but we found their purpose out, and I warned the robbers away with my gun. They jeered at this, and immediately seized their spears and shields, while one canoe hastened away with some beads its crew had stolen, and which a man insolently held up to my view, mockingly inviting us to catch him. At the dangerous example of this I fired, and the man fell dead in his place. The others prepared to launch their spears, but the repeating rifle was too much for the crowd of so-called warriors, who had hastened like pirates to pillage us. Three were shot dead, and as they retreated my elephant rifle smashed their canoes, the results of which we saw in the confusion attending each discharge. After a few rounds from the big gun we continued on our way, still hugging the shore of Uvuma, for it was unnecessary to fly after such an exhibition of inglorious conduct on the part of thirteen canoes, containing in the aggregate over one hundred men.

In the evening we anchored in the channel between Uvuma and Usoga, in E. long. 33 deg. 40 min. 15 sec., and N. lat. 0 deg. 30 min. 9 sec. Next morning, the current perceptibly growing stronger as we advanced north, we entered the Napoleon Channel, which separates Usoga from Uganda, and then sailed across to the Uganda shore. Having arrived close to the land, we took in all sail and rowed towards the Ripon Falls, the noise of whose rushing waters sounded loud and clear in our ears. The lake shoaled rapidly, and we halted to survey the scene at a spot half a mile from the first mass of foam caused by the escaping waters. Speke has been most accurate in his description of the outflowing river, and his pencil has done fair justice to it. The scenery around, on the Usoga and the Uganda side, has nothing indeed of the sublime about it, but it is picturesque and well worthy a visit. A few small islets dot the channel and lie close ashore; while at the entrance of the main channel, looking south, the large islands of Uziri and Wanzi stretch obliquely, or south-west towards Uvuma. But the eye of the observer is more fascinated by the ranks of swelling foam and leaping waters than by the uneven contour of the land; and the ear is attracted by the rough music of the river's fierce play, despite the terrors which the imagination paints, so that it absorbs all our attention to watch the smooth, flowing surface of the lake, suddenly broken into fury by the rocks of gneiss and hematite which protrude, white and ruddy, above the water, and which threaten instant doom to the unlucky navigator who should be drifted among them. There is a charm, too, in the scene which can belong to few such, for this outflowing river that the Great Victoria Niyanza discharges from its bosom, becomes known to the world as the White Nile. Though born amid the mountains of Ituru, Kargue, and Ugeyeya, it emerges from the womb of the Niyanza, the perfect and veritable Nile which annually resuscitates parched Egypt.

From the Ripon Falls we proceeded along the coast of Ikira south-west, until, gaining the shore opposite Uziri, we coasted westerly along the irregular shore of Uganda. Arriving at the isle of Kriva, we secured guides, who voluntarily offered to conduct us as far as Mtesa's capital. Halting a short time at the island of Kibibi, we proceeded to Ukafu, where a snug horseshoe-shaped bay was discovered. From Ukafu we despatched messengers to Mtesa to announce the arrival of a white visitor in Uganda, after being most hospitably received with fair words, but with empty hands, along the coast of Uganda. I was anxious to discover the entrance of the "Luajerri," and questioned the natives long and frequently about it, until, securing an interpreter who understood the Kisawahili, we ascertained that there was no such river at all as the Luajerri, that "Luaserri," however, meant *still water*, applicable to any of the many lengthy creeks or narrow inlets which indent the coasts of Uganda and Usoga. From this I conclude that Speke was misinformed, and that his "Luajerri" is Luaserri, or a still water. At least we discovered no such river, either sluggish or quick, flowing northwards; while in the neighbourhood of "Murchison Creek" I did, indeed, find a long and crooked inlet called Mwaru-Luaserri, or The Quiet-water—which penetrated several miles inland, and the termination of which we saw. I noticed a positive tide here, I should mention, during the morning. For two hours the water of this creek flowed north, and subsequently for two hours it flowed south, while on asking the people if this were a usual sight they said it was, and was visible in all of the inlets on the coast of Uganda.

Arriving at Beyal we were welcomed by a fleet of canoes sent by Mtesa to conduct us to "Murchison Creek," and on the 4th of April I landed amid a concourse of two thousand people, who saluted me with a deafening volley of musketry and waving of flags. Katakiro, the chief Mukungu, or officer, in Uganda, then conducted me to comfortable quarters, to which shortly afterwards were brought sixteen goats, ten oxen, an immense quantity of bananas, plaintains, sweet potatoes, besides eggs, chickens, milk, rice, ghee, and butter. After such a royal and bountiful gift I felt more curiosity than ever to see the generous monarch; and in the afternoon Mtesa, having prepared beforehand for my reception, sent to say that he was ready to welcome me. Issuing out of my quarters I found myself in a broad street eighty feet wide and half a mile long, which was lined by his personal guards and attendants, his captains and their respective retinues, to the number of about three thousand. At the extreme end of this street and fronting it was the King's audience house, in whose shadow I saw dimly the figure of the King sitting in a chair. As I advanced towards him the soldiers continued to fire their guns. The drums, sixteen in number, beat out a fearful tempest of sound, and the flags waved, until I became conscious that all this display was far beyond my merits, and consequently felt greatly embarrassed by so flattering a reception. Arrived before the audience house, the King rose—a tall and slender figure, dressed in Arab costume—approached me a few paces, held out his hand mutely, while the drums continued their terrible noise, and we stood silently gazing at each other during a few minutes, I indeed more embarrassed than ever. But soon relieved from the oppressive noise of the huge drums and the hospitable violence of the many screaming discordant fifes, I was invited to sit, Mtesa first showing the example, followed by his great captains, about one hundred in number.

More at ease, I now surveyed the figure and features of this powerful monarch. Mtesa is about 34 years old, and tall and slender in build, as I have already stated, but with broad shoulders. His face is very agreeable and pleasant, and indicates intelligence and mildness. His eyes are large, his nose and mouth are a great improvement upon those of the common type of negro, and approach to the same features in the Muscat Arab when slightly tainted with negro blood. His teeth are splendid, and gleaming white.

As soon as Mtesa began to speak I became captivated by his manner, for there was much of the polish of a true gentleman about it—it was at once amiable, graceful, and friendly. It tended to assure me that in this potentate I had found a friend, a generous King, and an intelligent ruler. He is not personally inferior to Seyd Burghash, the Arab Sultan of Zanzibar, and indeed appears to me quite like a coloured gentleman who has visited European Courts, and caught a certain refinement and ease of manner with a large amount of information. If you will recollect, however, that Mtesa is a native of Central Africa, and that he had seen but three white men until I came, you will, perhaps, be as much astonished at all this as I was. And if you will but think of the enormous extent of country he rules, extending from E. long. 34 to E. long. 31, and from N. lat. 1 to S. lat. 3.30, you will further perceive the immense influence he could wield towards the civilisation of Africa. Indeed, I could not regard this King or look at him in any other light than as the possible Ethelbert by whose means the light of the Gospel may be brought to benighted Middle Africa. Undoubtedly the Mtesa of to-day is vastly superior to the vain youth whom Speke and Grant saw. There is now no daily butchery of men or women; seldom one suffers the extreme punishment. Speke and Grant left him a raw, vain youth, and a heathen. He is now a gentleman, and, professing Islamism, submits to other laws than his own erratic will, which we are told led to such severe and fatal consequences. All his captains and chief officers observe the same creed, dress in Arab costume, and in other ways affect Arab customs. He has a guard of 200 men—renegadoes from Baker's Expedition, Zanzibar defalcators, a few Omani, and the elect of Uganda. Behind his throne, an arm-chair of native manufacture, the royal shield-bearers, lance-bearers, and gun-bearers stand erect and staid. On either side of him are his grand chiefs and courtiers, sons of governors of his provinces, chiefs of districts, &c. Outside the Audience House the lengthy lines of warriors begin with the chief drummer and the noisy goma-beaters; next come the screaming fifers, the flag and banner bearers, the fusiliers, and so on seemingly *ad infinitum*, with spearmen and attendants.

Mtesa asked a number of questions about various things, thereby showing a vast amount of curiosity and great intelligence. The King had arrived at this camp—Usavara—fourteen days before my arrival, with all that immense army of followers, for the purpose of shooting birds. He now proposed to return, after two or three days' rest, to his capital at Ulagalla, or Uragara. Each day of my stay at Usavara was a scene of gaiety and rejoicing. On the first after my arrival we beheld a grand naval review; eighty-four canoes being under way, each manned by from thirty to forty men, containing in the aggregate a force of about two thousand five hundred men. We had excellent races, and witnessed various manœuvres by water. Each admiral vied with the others in extolling aloud the glory of their monarch, or in exciting admiration from the hundreds of spectators on shore. The King's three hundred wives were present *en grande tenue*, and were not the least important of those on shore. The second day the King led his fleet in person, to show me his prowess in shooting birds. We rowed, or were rather paddled, up "Murchison Creek," visiting *en route* a dhow he is building for the navigation of the lake, as well as his place of residence during Ramadan, and his former capital "Banda," where Speke and Grant found him.

En passant, I may remark that Speke could not possibly have seen the whole of the immense bay he has denominated "Creek." It is true that from a short distance west of Dwaga, the King's Ramadan palace, up to Mngono, the extremity of the water, a distance of about eight miles, it might be termed a creek, but this distance does not approach to one-half of the true bay. Indeed, I respectfully request geographers—Messrs. Keith Johnston and Stanford especially—to change the name of Murchison Creek to Murchison Bay, as one more worthy the large area of water now known by the former inappreciative title. Murchison Bay extends from N. lat. 0 deg 15 min. to N. lat. 0 deg. 27 min., and from E. long. 32 deg. 53 min. to 32 deg. 38 min. in extreme length. At the mouth the bay contracts to a width of four miles, but within its greatest breadth is twelve miles. Surely such a body of water—as terms go—deserves the more appropriate name of "bay," but I leave it to fair-judging geographers to decide. For the position of Mtesa's capital I have taken three observations, on three different days. My longitude agrees pretty closely with that of Speke's, while there is but four miles' difference of latitude.

The third day the troops of Mtesa were exercised at target practice, and on the fourth we all marched for the Grand Capital, the Kibuga of Uganda, Ulagalla or Uragara. Mtesa is a great King. He is a monarch who would delight the soul of any intelligent European, as he would see in his black Majesty the Hope of Central Africa. He is King of Karagwe, Uganda, Unyoro, Usoga, and Usui. Each day I found something which increased my esteem and respect for him. He is fond of imitating Europeans and what he has heard of their great personages, which trait, with a little tuition, would prove of immense benefit to his country. He has prepared broad highways in the neighbourhood of his capital for the good time that is coming when some charitable European will send him any kind of a wheeled vehicle. As we approached the capital the main road from Usavara increased in width from 20 feet to 150 feet. When we arrived at this magnificent breadth we viewed the capital crowning an eminence commanding a most extensive view of a picturesque and rich country, all teeming with gardens of plantations and bananas, and beautiful pasture land. Of course, huts, however large, lend but little attraction to a scene, but a tall flagstaff and an immense flag proved a decided feature in the landscape. Arrived at the capital, I found that the vast collection of buildings crowning the eminence were the Royal quarters, round which ran five several palisades and circular courts, between which and the city was a circular road, ranging from 100 to 200 feet in width, and from this radiated six or seven imposing avenues, lined with gardens and huts.

The next day after arrival I was introduced to the Royal Palace in great state. None of the primitive scenes visible in Speke's book was now visible there. The guards, clothed in white cotton dresses, were by no means comical as then. The chiefs were very respectable-looking people, dressed richly in the Arab costume. The palace was a huge and lofty structure, well built of grass and cane, while tall trunks of trees upheld the roof, which was covered with cloth sheeting inside.

On the fourth day after my arrival news came that another white man was approaching the capital from the direction of Unyoro, and on the fifth day I had the extreme pleasure of greeting Colonel Linant de Bellefonds, of the Egyptian service, who had been despatched by Colonel Gordon to Mtesa, to make a treaty of commerce between him and the Egyptian Government. The rencontre, though not so exciting as my former meeting with the venerable David Livingstone, at Ujiji, in November, 1871, still may be said to be singular and fortunate for all concerned. In Colonel de Bellefonds I met a gentleman extremely well-informed, energetic, and a great traveller. His knowledge of the countries between Uganda and Khartoum was most minute and accurate, from which I conclude that but little of the geography of central Africa between the cataracts of the Nile and Uganda is now unknown. To that store of valuable geographical acquisitions must now be added my exploration of the Nile Sources, which pour into the Niyanza; and also the new countries I have visited between the Niyanza and the Unyanyembe Road. In Colonel de Bellefonds' arrival I also perceived my great good fortune, for I now had the means to despatch some reports of my geographical discoveries, and the long-delayed letters.

The day after to-morrow I intend to return to Usukuma, prosecuting my geographical researches along the western shore of the Victoria Niyanza. After this I propose to march the expedition to the Katonga Valley, and thence, having paid another visit to Mtesa, I trust to march directly west for Lake Albert Niyanza, where I hope to meet with some more of the gallant subordinates of Colonel Gordon, by whom I shall be able, through their assured courtesy, to send several more letters descriptive of discoveries and adventures.

I might protract this letter indefinitely by dwelling upon the value of the service rendered to science and the world by Ismael Pasha, but time will not allow me, nor, indeed, is it necessary, as I dare say by this time you have had ample proofs of what has been done by Gordon. Sir Samuel Baker, unfortunately, appears to be in bad odour with all I meet. His severity and other acts receive universal condemnation; but far be it from me to add to the ill report, and so I leave what I have heard untold.

Then, briefly, thus much remains to be said. Livingstone, in his report of the Niyanza consisting of five lakes, was wrong. Speke, in his statement that the Niyanza was but one lake, was quite correct. But I believe that east of the Niyanza, or rather north-east of its coasts, there are other lakes, though they have no connection whatever with the Niyanza; nor do I suppose they can be of any great magnitude, or extend south of the Equator. If you ask me why, I can only answer that in my opinion the rivers entering the Victorian Sea on the north-eastern shore do not sufficiently drain the vast area of country lying between the Great Lake and the western versant of the East-African mountain range. From the volume of the Niyanza feeders on the north-eastern side I cannot think that they extend farther than E. long. 36 deg., which leaves a large tract of country eastward to be drained by other means than the Niyanza. But this means may very probably be the Jub, which empties its waters into the Indian Ocean. The Sobat cannot possibly approach near the Equator; this, however, will be decided definitively by Gordon's officers. Colonel de Bellefonds informs me that the Assua, or Asha, is a mere torrent.

When you see my chart, which will trace the course of the Luamberri and the Shimeeyu, the rivers which drain the whole of the south and south-east countries of the Niyanza, you will be better able to judge of their importance and magnitude as sources of the Nile. I expect to come upon a considerable river south-west; but all of this will be best told in my next letter.

HENRY M. STANLEY.

P.S.—I had almost forgotten to state that the greatest depth of the Nyanza as yet ascertained by me is 275 feet. I have not yet sounded the centre of the lake; this I intend to do on my return to Usukuma South.

MTESA'S CAPITAL, UGANDA, APRIL 14, 1875.

I must not forget to inform you and your readers of one very interesting subject connected with Mtesa, which will gratify many a philanthropic European and American.

I have already told you that Mtesa and the whole of his Court profess Islamism. A long time ago—some four or five years—Khamis Bin Abdullah (the only Arab who remained with me three years ago, as a rearguard, when the Arabs disgracefully fled from Mirambo) came to Uganda. He was wealthy, of noble descent, had a fine, magnificent personal appearance, and brought with him many a rich present for Mtesa, such as few Arabs could afford. The King became immediately fascinated with him, and really few white men could be long with the son of Abdullah without being charmed by his presence, his handsome proud features, his rich olive complexion, and his liberality. I confess I never saw an Arab or Musselman who attracted me so much as Khamis Bin Abdullah, and it is no wonder that Mtesa, meeting a kindred spirit in the noble youth of Muscat, amazed at his handsome bearing, the splendour of his apparel, the display of his wealth, and the number of his slaves, fell in love with him. Khamis stayed with Mtesa a full year, during which time the King became a convert to the creed of his visitor—namely, Mohammedanism. The Arab clothed Mtesa in the best that his wardrobe offered; he gave him gold embroidered jackets, fine white shirts, crimson slippers, swords, silk sashes, daggers, and a revolving rifle, so that Speke and Grant's presents seemed of necessity insignificant. Now, until I arrived at Mtesa's Court, the King delighted in the idea that he was a follower of Islam; but by one conversation I flatter myself that I have tumbled the newly-raised religious fabric to the ground, and, if it were only followed by the arrival of a Christian mission here, the conversion of Mtesa and his Court to Christianity would, I think, be complete. I have, indeed, undermined Islamism so much here, that Mtesa has determined henceforth, until he is better informed, to observe the Christian Sabbath as well as the Moslem Sabbath, and the great captains have unanimously consented to this. He has further caused the ten commandments of Moses to be written on a board for his daily perusal—for Mtesa can read Arabic—as well as the Lord's Prayer and the golden commandment of Our Saviour," "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." This is great progress for the few days that I have remained with him, and, though I am no missionary, I shall begin to think that I might become one if such success is feasible. But, oh that some pious, practical missionary would come here! What a field and a harvest ripe for the sickle of Civilisation! Mtesa would give him anything he desired—houses, lands, cattle, ivory, &c., he might call a province his own in one day. It is not the mere preacher, however, that is wanted here. The Bishops of Great Britain collected, with all the classic youth of Oxford and Cambridge, would effect nothing by mere talk with the intelligent people of Uganda. It is the practical Christian tutor, who can teach people how to become Christians, cure their diseases, construct dwellings, understand and exemplify agriculture, and turn his hand to anything, like a sailor—this is the man who is wanted. Such an one if he can be found would become the saviour of Africa. He must be tied to no Church or Sect, but profess God and His Son and the moral law, and live a blameless Christian, inspired by liberal principles, charity to all men, and devout faith in Heaven. He must belong to no nation in particular, but the entire white race. Such a man or men Mtesa, King of Uganda, Usoga, Umgoro, and Karagwe—a kingdom 360 geographical miles in length by 50 in breadth—invites to repair to him. He has begged me to tell the white men that if they will only come to him he will give them all they want. Now where is there in all the Pagan world a more promising field for a mission than Uganda? Colonel Linant de Bellefonds is my witness that I speak the truth, and I know he will corroborate all I say. The Colonel, though a Frenchman, is a Calvinist, and has become as ardent a well-wisher for the Waganda as I am. Then why further spend needlessly vast sums upon black Pagans of Africa who have no example of their own people becoming Christians before them? I speak to the Universities Mission at Zanzibar and to the Free Methodists at Mombasa, to the leading philanthropists, and the pious people of England. Here, gentlemen, is your opportunity—embrace it! The people on the shores of the Niyanza call upon you. Obey your own generous instincts, and listen to them; and I assure you that in one year you will have more converts to Christianity than all other missionaries united can number. The population of Mtesa's kingdom is very dense; I estimate the number of his subjects at 2,000,000. You need not fear to spend money upon such a mission, as Mtesa is sole ruler, and will repay its cost tenfold with ivory, coffee, otter skins of a very fine quality, or even in cattle, for the wealth of this country in all these products is immense. The road here is by the Nile, or *via* Zanzibar, Ugogo, and Unyanyembe. The former route, so long as Colonel Gordon governs the countries of the Upper Nile, seems the most feasible.

With all deference I would suggest that the mission should bring to Mtesa as presents three or four suits of military clothes, decorated freely with gold embroidery; together with half-a-dozen French *kepis*, a sabre, a brace of pistols, and suitable ammunition; a good fowling-piece and rifle of good quality, for the King is not a barbarian; a cheap dinner-service of Britannia ware, an iron bedstead and counterpanes, a few pieces of cotton print, boots, &c. For trade it should also bring fine blue, black, and grey woollen cloths, a quantity of military buttons, gold braid and cord, silk cord of different colours, as well as binding; linen and sheeting for shirts, fine red blankets and a quantity of red cloth, with a few chairs and tables. The profit arising from the sale of these things would be enormous.

For the mission's use it should bring with it a supply of hammers, saws, augers, chisels, axes, hatchets, adzes, carpenters' and blacksmiths' tools, since the Waganda are apt pupils; iron drills and powder for blasting purposes, trowels, a couple of good-sized anvils, a forge and bellows, an assortment of nails and tacks, a plough, spades, shovels, pickaxes, and a couple of light buggies as specimens, with such other small things as their own common sense would suggest to the men whom I invite. Most desirable would be an assortment of garden seed and grain; also white-lead, linseed oil, brushes, a few volumes of illustrated journals, gaudy prints, a magic lantern, rockets, and a photographic apparatus. The total cost of the whole equipment need not exceed five thousand pounds sterling.

HENRY M. STANLEY.

EGYPTIAN FINANCE.

We have been requested to publish the following statement, which is the literal translation of a telegram forwarded by Barrot Bey to Mr. Gibbs, the Superintendent of the Eastern Telegraph Company at Alexandria:

"The Budget not having been yet made public, the rumours that have been spread as to its unfavourable results are pure invention. Conformably to the established rule, the receipts and expenditure of the past year are about to be published, and they will show a state of affairs which contrasts favourably with the preceding year. You are authorised to reply to this effect."

THE GERMAN EMPIRE.

[SPECIAL SUBMARINE TELEGRAM.]

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

BERLIN, SUNDAY NIGHT.

The national Liberals, though grievously vexed that the Government insists on augmenting the severity of articles in the penal code, will probably, as on the occasion of the Army Bill, vote with the Cabinet, being afraid that otherwise Prince Bismarck will turn for support to their political opponents in the House. The measure will therefore probably pass, which is a bad look-out for German liberties.

Count Arnim's "Pro Nihilo" is far from having been as unfavourably received in Court circles as stated in the Berlin newspapers, though it has certainly damaged the Reichskanzler seriously with many persons who hitherto had blind faith in him.

The Emperor goes hunting this week in the province of Hanover.

The Russian Government intends incorporating that part of Khokand recently occupied by Russian troops with the province of Turkestan, and is taking severe measures to arrest the tide of emigration of aboriginal Tartars from the Crimea.

The weather here is rainy and warm; typhus and diphtheria prevailing.

MILITARY PREPARATIONS IN RUSSIA.

[REUTER'S TELEGRAM.]

ST. PETERSBURG, Nov. 12.

In accordance with special orders received here from Livadia, three divisions of troops stationed in the military district of St. Petersburg are to be placed in readiness for service by the 13th inst. They consist of the 24th Division of Infantry, under the command of Lieutenant-General Prince Barklai de Tolli Weiman, and the 2nd Division of Grenadiers, under the command of Lieutenant-General von Zimmermann. Besides these the 40th Division of Infantry is rumoured to have received the same instructions. All the troops stationed in the South of Russia are said to be in readiness for active service.

BERLIN, Nov. 14.

Intelligence received here from St. Petersburg emphatically denies that the Russian military movements recently announced are connected with any preparations of a warlike character.

THE ASSASSINATION IN ROME.

[REUTER'S TELEGRAM.]

ROME, Nov. 13.

The trial of the persons implicated in the murder of Raffaele Sonzogno was brought to a close to-day, and judgment was pronounced. The prisoners Luciani, Frezza, Armati, Farina, and Morelli were sentenced to penal servitude for life, and Scarpetti was acquitted.

INDISPOSITION OF MR. GATHORNE HARDY, M.P.—We regret to state that Mr. Gathorne Hardy, M.P., who is staying at Hemsted Park, his country seat in Kent, has been unwell for several days, and is still confined to the house. The right hon. gentleman is, however, decidedly better, and the doctor reports that he is going on most favourably.

ROYAL VISIT TO INDIA.

THE PRINCE AT POONA.

[DIRECT TELEGRAPHIC DESPATCH.]

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]

[BY THE EASTERN COMPANY'S WIRE.]

POONA, SUNDAY AFTERNOON.

The festivities and celebrations of the wonderful week now ended have surpassed all expectations. Nobody, whether old in Indian experience, or new to the country, could have foreseen such a success. Bombay has been magnificent in its cordial loyalty and spontaneous tributes of welcome, and this, too, on the part of all classes and castes among the natives. In this respect, there is little or no distinction to be drawn. Hindoo, Mohammedan, Parsee, and all alike, have vied in rendering homage to the Queen's eldest son, with results as picturesque to the eye as they were satisfactory in a political sense. The decorations of the streets, buildings, and residences of the people manifested the universal goodwill in a thousand striking ways, and produced a general effect of a kind entirely surpassing anything I have witnessed in European cities. This was especially the case as regards the illuminations which, on the evening of the birthday of his Royal Highness, literally turned night into day, and set the sky ablaze. Everybody in the official world agrees in declaring the importance of these demonstrations; and it is allowed on all sides that a new character has been given to the Royal visit by the unanimity of the public sentiment in the capital of Western India.

On Friday the Prince made the trip which had been previously arranged to the remarkable caves of Elephanta. These are situated in an island which lies midway between the town and the main land, and present a sight full of the deepest interest to students of religious history, as well as many curious problems of art and architecture. I shall not describe them, but content myself with saying that upon this occasion also the illuminations were largely repeated. Upon the top of the highest eminence in the island had been prepared a huge fire, which flared to heaven as the evening fell, lighting the land and sea near and far. Lines of fire running down from the summit gave the hill the appearance of a volcano in active eruption; and in addition to this the long flight of rock-hewn steps leading from the water-side to the entrance of the ancient cavern was also marked with numberless lamps, flambeaux, and fires, casting a glow deep within the usually dark halls of the sculptured temple, and bringing into wonderful relief of light and shadow the mysterious forms within. A grand banquet had been prepared under the colossal three-headed deity at the extremity of the cavern, to which a hundred and sixty guests sat down, the Prince of Wales presiding. The general effect of such a brilliant table in the ancient and subterranean shrine was, as may be imagined, of the most picturesque nature, and the solemn triple figure which gazes from the wall of rock had surely never witnessed such a scene. As the steamer returned with the Royal party from the illuminated islet the fleet lying in the harbour saluted with splendid effect, and hung out lamps from every spar and rope, while rockets hissed into the moonlit air, and every merchant vessel and country boat contributed lanterns, or lamps, or fireworks to the demonstrations. The city itself was also still *en fête*, and this concluding act of the festive week was as successful as the others had been.

Yesterday morning his Royal Highness quitted Parell for a brief visit to Poona, the capital of the Mahratta country, lying above the Ghauts, but connected with Bombay by a continuous line of railway. The first portion of this journey is made across the Concan, or low country, and passes through a rich and thickly-cultivated country, full of palm groves, mango and tamarind trees, and fruitful fields, with occasional ranges of hills clothed with bright tropical vegetation. Many towns and villages are seen, as to which the map will inform you, and of which the strange painted names in the stations in Marathi and Guzerathi would be very puzzling but for the English translation above, and the explanatory cry of the guards. The remarkable portion of this line is reached when the train arrives at the foot of the massive mountains, which have appeared all the way from the coast and which bar the further progress of the traveller. Taking, however, a long and early start for the ascent, the line is soon seen to be mounting, by cunning approaches and sudden zigzags, this immense "staircase" of rock, and the astonished traveller presently finds himself looking down upon villages and groves recently passed through, and occasionally reversing apparently his direction, until the train steams along high above the Concan, and the Duke's Nose, a curiously-formed mass of stone, announces that the top is nearly reached. The scenery along this route is really striking, and the whole journey surpasses in interest any climbing railway with which Europe is acquainted; while the change in the aspect of the country, after accomplishing the ascent and reaching Khandalla, is very marked. All the stations along the Concan were gaily decorated with flowers, leaves, coloured cloths, and inscriptions of loyalty and goodwill, and this was equally the case with those passed in traversing the level and somewhat bare district lying between the edge of the mountains and the flat-topped hills of trap surrounding the city of Poona. Here a brilliant and imposing reception had been prepared for his Royal Highness, and, after being warmly greeted at the well-built station, the Prince and his suite drove off in a string of carriages to Gunesh Khind, the Deccan residence of the Governor of Bombay, long lines of native troops of all arms and various uniforms lining the road all the way from the terminus to the Sassoon Hospital. I should not omit to mention that an address was first presented to his Royal Highness conveying the deep satisfaction of the principal residents and population at the visit paid to their city, to which the Prince made a very gracious and cordial reply, observing that he should transmit to her Majesty the expressions of loyalty and attachment which he had just heard, as she would greatly rejoice in them. His Royal Highness added that for his own part he was well pleased to see at last with his own eyes a city which he knew to be the centre of the intellectual and religious life of the great Mahratta race. He was glad to be aware that it was so still, containing as it did one of the two chief colleges of the Presidency, together with schools and other educational appliances, by the aid of which he was happy to be assured that the students of the Deccan, always well reputed for ability, could avail themselves of the methods and results of Western learning, combining the fruits of European science and letters with their own ancient literature and sacred language. A procession was formed from the station to Gunesh Khind, which passed between a dense crowd of natives in white robes and many-coloured head-dresses, countless women and children adding to the concourse. The city was largely *en fête*, while, at the Governor's residence, a State reception was organised after the arrival and refreshment of the Royal party. Besides the Governor of Bombay, Sir Philip Wodehouse, General Staveley, and all the officers of the Poona Division, with the principal officials and residents of this important station, numbers of ladies graced the ceremony. After the formal presentations were over, the character of the evening relaxed into something very pleasant and unceremonious. Moonlight promenades were taken in the charming gardens of the Palace, for the night was exceptionally brilliant, and the Prince, with his suite, set the example of genial ease by smoking a cigar under the calm canopy of the Indian sky. The aspect of the brightly-lighted windows and façade, and of the bowery gardens, was very picturesque, and those who knew the localities pointed out the site of the memorable battle of Kirkee, lying not far off, where the power of the Mahratta kingdom fell before the English arms. The hill of Parvati was shown at no great distance, upon which the Peishwa sat to watch the engagement, upon the issue of which he counted with so much confidence. As the evening darkened the flame of many "fires of welcome" broke forth upon the adjacent heights, and lines of illumination displayed themselves along the Gunesh Khind-road, and past the Sungum into the native town and cantonments. His Royal Highness, none the worse for his pleasant fatigues in Bombay, or his journey to the Deccan, presently suggested an impromptu ball, and the grand salon being quickly prepared, dancing was commenced, and carried on with the utmost spirit during two hours, the Prince leading off to the lively strain of the military band which played outside the windows of the improvised ball-room. I wish I could convey to you how well this gracious suggestion harmonised with the pleasant sentiment of the hour, and the spirit of general rejoicing inspired by the conquest of goodwill which the Prince has made in this country in all quarters. I should like also to send you a picture, were that possible, instead of words, to describe the distant city as it twinkled and glittered with lamps, torches, and bonfires, Parvati's Hill and Temple rising finely above it all; while a ride through the streets of the Mahratta capital by daylight discloses many marks of loyalty in the shape of wreaths and arches even in native quarters, where the curiously painted houses and the strangely fashioned palaces of the Peishwas offer much to remark. One very pretty effect was produced last night by hanging the fig and acacia trees, of which these parts are full, with Chinese lanterns and gay little flags. Among the numberless graceful and fantastic erections one was particularly notable. It represented a mosque or tabont, and was most ingeniously constructed of gilded and silvered paper and cut glass. The natives themselves, however, were the sight of sights. They form a crowd very vivid and picturesque in colour, but curiously undemonstrative, yet at the same time animated in conversation and gesture, and obviously interested in the Royal visit.

To-morrow (Monday) evening the Prince takes his departure from this very interesting spot, returning to Bombay. The present intention is that he should go direct thence to Ceylon, for cholera is reported to be very prevalent at Beypore, and about the hills, where it was proposed to arrange for a week's shooting. The weather, moreover, continues sultry beyond what is usual at the present time of year, and failing better reports from the Malabar coast, I think the Prince will not touch at Beypore at all.

[REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.]

POONA, Nov. 13.

The Prince of Wales, accompanied by the members of his suite and Sir Philip Wodehouse, Governor of Bombay, arrived here to-day. His Royal Highness was received at the railway station by Lieutenant-General Staveley, accompanied by a brilliant staff and a number of high officials. A large force of European and native troops was assembled under arms, and paid the usual military honours to his Royal Highness. The line of route from the station to the Government House was splendidly decorated. The triumphal arches were numerous and effective. There was an immense concourse of natives, and the Prince met with an enthusiastic and loyal reception on all sides.

The movements of his Royal Highness after leaving this place are uncertain. The accounts of the spread of cholera in the southern Mahratta districts of the Madras Presidency are so alarming that, at the instance of Dr. Fayrer, the trip to the Gairsoppa Falls and the proposed shooting expedition from Beypore have been abandoned. It is now even questionable whether his Royal Highness will visit Madras at all.

POONA, Nov. 14.

A deputation of the inhabitants of Poona have presented an address to the Prince of Wales, which says: "The blessings of peace and good government which we enjoy have endeared to British rule all the Indian subjects of her Majesty. We hail your Royal Highness's coming as a new proof of the great interest taken in our welfare. Poona, though now comparatively poor, is rich in historical renown, and your Royal Highness will nowhere find a more loyal or closely united community." The Prince, in reply, expressed the great pleasure he felt in visiting a city so full of historical associations and now the centre of so much intellectual Mahratta life. His Royal Highness was glad to think that one result of British rule in the Deccan was to enable students at the schools and colleges to benefit by the achievements of Western progress, whilst having reached all that was recorded in the most ancient languages of the Hindoo races.

OUR WAR WITH THE MALAYS.

The following communication has been received from the Colonial Office:

"The telegrams received at this office to-day (Saturday) throw some additional light upon the circumstances attending the murder of Mr. Birch in Perak. It appears that a proclamation had been issued, and had been posted throughout Perak on the 1st November. Mr. Birch on that day telegraphed to Sir W. Jervois that the proclamation had been well received, and that all was quiet in Perak. On the following day, however, a Malay tore down the proclamation posted at Passir Sala, where the Resident was, and on being struck by the interpreter of the Residency at once stabbed that officer. An affray followed, in which Mr. Birch, who was in his bath, was murdered. The force sent to punish the perpetrators of this outrage consisted of Captain Innes, R.E., Lieutenants Booth and Elliott, with sixty men of the 10th, Lieutenant Abbott, R.N., sixty Seiks, and fifty police and Malays, with rockets. They arrived at the Residency on the 5th, and on the 6th marched through the jungle against the Maharajah Lela, in whose village the murder was committed, and who was found occupying a stockaded position. After an hour and a half's fighting, the European troops charged the stockade. In this charge Captain Innes was killed, and Lieutenants Booth and Elliott were wounded, and it was considered necessary to order a retreat, which was effected in an orderly manner, and not before the enemy had abandoned the stockade. The Governor telegraphs that the principal chiefs of Perak remain unshaken in their loyalty, and that the Sultan has offered to assist with men and boats. He reports that these disturbances are still confined to a limited area, and that the Residency on the Perak River is securely held. He has at his disposal between 700 and 800 European troops, besides eighty artillery, and two men-of-war are on the station. Others are expected, and, in addition, General Colborne sailed with 300 men of the 80th Regiment on the 11th for Singapore."

[REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.]

PENANG, Nov. 12.

The Residency of Perak is now garrisoned by 800 British troops, supported by the gun vessels Thistle and Fly.

Sultan Abdallah is friendly to the British.

The murder of Mr. Birch is believed to have been unpremeditated. The Malays, however, are arming for defence.

Governor Jervois is preparing to undertake military operations.

HONG KONG, Nov. 11.

Major-General Colborne, 11 officers, and 300 men of the 80th Regiment left for Singapore by the English mail steamer to-day.

SHANGHAI, Nov. 12.

Vice-Admiral Ryder, commanding the squadron on the China station, left to-day for the South.

GUIBORD'S FUNERAL.

[REUTER'S TELEGRAM.]

MONTREAL, Nov. 13.

Guibord's funeral is fixed for the 16th inst. The Mayor of Montreal promises ample protection to the funeral party, and the Catholic clergy have enjoined non-interference.

LOSS OF THE PACIFIC.

[REUTER'S TELEGRAM.]

NEW YORK, Nov. 13.

The captain of the ship Orpheus, which collided with the steamship Pacific, reports that he endeavoured to avoid the steamer, but that she ran into him and went ahead without heeding his calls for assistance. The bow of the Orpheus was cut down to the copper sheathing, and the vessel subsequently became a total wreck. The captain saw nothing more of the Pacific.

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