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The Country East of the Junction of Sabi and Odzi Rivers

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THE COUNTRY EAST OF THE JUNCTION OF SABI AND ODZI RIVERS.

By the Right Rev. G. W. H. KNIGHT-BRUCE.

THE accompanying map represents little more than a route-survey made by me during a walk through the country to the south of Umtali. The

interest lies in the ground apparently never having been mapped before. In character it is much the same as the corresponding country on the north of the Mashonaland plateau, but far more beautiful, and apparently far more fertile. Some parts of the country are quite the most beautiful that I have seen in Africa, and the natives seem fully alive to the

capabilities of the ground. The position—between the Matabele and the Gaza people, and at some distance from both—may have saved them from hostile raids and the destruction of their labours; and this may account for the very large herds of cattle that are seen in the neighbourhood of the villages along the River Sabi. The people consist of many tribes. In this especial walk I passed seven. Their occupations are somewhat different to the people on the uplands. They are fishermen; they get salt from their saltpans and rivers; in places their customs seem affected by the coast people.

The trees and general herbage seem much the same as in the Zambesi Valley, in some of the lower ground the sickly-looking yellow “fever-tree,” as it is called on the East Coast, being very common. The baobab grows in as great profusion as in the Zambesi Valley.

A marked feature of the country is the succession of small valleys in much of the country to the east of the junction of the Odzi and Sabi, the path going for miles over a succession of saddles and through small valleys, a feature I have not seen in any other part of Mashonaland. The nights here in August were hot and sultry, while in Umtali they were cold and bracing. Though the people were very hospitable, I should say that the country of higher Mashonaland, *i.e.*, the country to the north and west, was more fitted to Europeans.

NOTE.—The map is a reproduction, on a reduced scale, of Bishop Knight-Bruce’s sketch-map, adapted to Mr. Swan’s positions and survey as published in the R. G. S. *Proceedings*, May, 1892. All the remainder of the map contains entirely new work.

A GERMAN COLONIAL ATLAS.*

THE great extension of the colonial possessions of Germany during the past few years has been so rapid, that the necessity for some such atlas as that which has now been published by the well-known firm of Dietrich Reimer, is fully recognised. The maps have been prepared under the superintendence of Dr. Richard Kiepert; they are five in number, and consist of a map of the world on Mercator’s projection, showing the colonial possessions of European Powers, with smaller maps to illustrate the extent of the German consular and diplomatic services, and the lines of German mail steamers. This is followed by maps of Western Equatorial Africa, with an inset on an enlarged scale of the Cameroons; German South-West Africa; Equatorial East Africa,

* *Deutscher Kolonial Atlas, für den amtlichen Gebrauch in den Schutzgebieten, von Richard Kiepert. Begleitender Text von Dr. Joseph Partsch. Berlin, 1893. Geographische Verlagshandlung. Dietrich Reimer.*