WILEY

Review: Somaliland and the Comoros

Source: *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. 18, No. 3 (Sep., 1901), p. 300

Published by: geographicalj

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1775144>

Accessed: 26-06-2016 20:23 UTC

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at
<http://about.jstor.org/terms>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Wiley, The Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers) are collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *The Geographical Journal*

accompanying map are clearly shown the lower courses of the Birbir and Baro, which meet at Damabo just below the western scarp of the Ethiopian plateau to form the chief northern branch of the upper Sobat. The Ajobba, which was followed by the Abyssinian expedition from its source on the Suro uplands, forms the southern branch, the confluence at Nianiam being only a short distance above the well-known Anglo-Egyptian station of Nasser, on the Sobat proper. The total length of the lower Sobat between the junction of the two forks and the Nile is stated to be about 160 miles (263 kilometres), and the distance from the Nile to the Ethiopian foothills by the Sobat-Baro route about 350 miles (569 kilometres). All distances from Jibutil to the Nile by both routes, together with altitudes, daily meteorological records, and other valuable data, are given in carefully prepared tables, which occupy no less than twenty-two pages, and go far to fill up the hitherto blank spaces on the map of Southern Ethiopia. It may be mentioned that the Garafanda heights about the headwaters of the Ajobba and not far from the Omo basin are here renamed Mount Maurice Potter, in memory of the artist of the expedition, who died in this district during the return journey from the Nile. His name will also live in the numerous excellent illustrations with which M. Michel's volume is enriched.

SOMALILAND AND THE COMOROS.

In 1900 M. Heudebert, whose name has for some time been associated with French colonial enterprise, made an excursion to the east coast of Africa, the results of which are recorded in a volume * sparkling with *esprit* and much shrewd observation of men and the lands visited. These ranged from the Suez Canal to the Mozambique channel, although the author is naturally interested mainly in the French settlements on the eastern seaboard. Hence the greater part of the book is occupied with the development of French activities from Obok round the head of Tajurra bay to Jibutil and thence inland to Harrar and Abyssinia. Indeed, so much space is given to the personal action of M. Lagarde and his successor M. Alfred Martineau, that his remarks seem largely inspired by these able and energetic administrators of the French Somali Coast possessions. In any case, the general reader will here find just the information which is so much needed, and is so difficult to obtain in English books, regarding the steady expansion of French enterprise in the region about the head of the Gulf of Aden. The story of the gradual eclipse of Obok by Jibutil is very well told, and many will read with astonishment that the latter place, with its fine harbour and railway already advancing towards Harrar and Shoa, is destined to become the future outlet for the trade, not only of Abyssinia, but also of a great part of the Somali and Galla lands. In a region which has in recent years been overrun by travellers, traders, sportsmen, and adventurers, our author found no opportunity of making any gleanings in the field of geography. But the ethnologist will here find an excellent account of the Danakils (Afars), who form a distinct and important branch of the eastern Hamites between the Abyssinian plateau and the Red sea, but about whom little information is available, except from Italian sources and the writings of Munzinger, Almqvist, and other specialists. Apart from the inevitable mangling of English names, the book is well printed, but, strange to say, has no maps, no index, or table of contents.

* Lucien Heudebert, 'Au Pays des Somalis et des Comoriens.' 281 pp. Paris: Librairie Orientale et Americaine, 1901.