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A Trip Round the South End of Zanzibar Island

Author(s): Alfred Bellville

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could, and was not at all suspicious at our asking such numbers of questions regarding his country. He soon left us (there having been an interchange of presents), as his son and wife had that morning died of small-pox, and he wished to be present at the funeral.

In the evening he sent us some native cloth, made from the bark of a tree, and very like that made by the Waganda, only of a coarser fibre. He himself had worn a robe of this cloth during our interview, but his brother only carried a goat-skin; thus it would seem that the cloth is not very common, and is therefore reserved as a speciality for great personages.

Having now made friends with Wadlay, and secured his promise of future co-operation, we determined to return without visiting the lake, as we were very anxious regarding our men and the small-pox. The river was therefore recrossed the following day; it is about 450 yards wide, and runs at about two knots an hour. The march back was by the same route as before, and Dufflé was reached without any accident.

3. *A Trip round the South End of Zanzibar Island.*

By ALFRED BELLVILLE, F.R.G.S.

ON the 23rd of June, 1875, a party, of which the writer was a member, left the Universities' Mission Station at Kiungani, to explore the southern and, if the time before the arrival of the English mail allowed, the northern part of the Island of Zanzibar. They had as interpreters the two men, Chumah and Susi, whose names are famous as the faithful and devoted servants of Dr. Livingstone, and two other natives who acted as porters. These men carried bags, which contained bedding and spare clothes and cooking-utensils. The party started early in the forenoon, following the general footpath, which runs to the southward, keeping parallel to the coast as far as Mbweni, where the Universities' Mission have another station. Here the coast trends to the westward and forms a headland, while the road runs to the south, turning a little to the east, and towards the centre of that part of the island. The land here is elevated about 50 feet above the sea, near the coast, gently undulating, and divided from the central ridge by a long marshy valley, broken into numerous ponds running south, and in which many ducks and other water-fowl are found. The soil here is in general black, mixed with red loam resting upon a stratum of sand, in which are many pebbles of quartz, the sand in its turn resting upon blue clay. The whole country here is divided into shambas or plantations, and highly cultivated; while the huts of the negro cultivators, and more pretentious houses of the proprietors, are continually seen. The party, after walking about 3 miles, halted at a shamba to enjoy their noonday meal. The wide footpath, with hedge-rows on either side, which extends about 2 miles from Kiungani, had merged into many smaller ones. The march was continued in a south-eastern direction, passing from one shamba to another under the guidance of the natives. The soil was red loam, and its productions were—mtama (*Holcus sorghum*, or Dura), mahindi (Indian corn), mhogo (sweet cassava), mbalzi (a species of pea growing on a tall bush), coconut palms, bananas, mangoes, oranges, lemons, custard apples, and a variety of others of less consequence. After marching till sunset, they halted, and slept near an empty house.

The next morning they started early, and proceeded south towards a remarkable hill called "Hautajwa," which constitutes one of the landmarks for entering the harbour of Zanzibar from the south. It appears to be a block of coralline, forced up through the surrounding country to a height

above the sea, by aneroid, of about 170 feet; perpendicular on all sides but one—the western—and densely covered with bush and some trees. This promontory of the island extends a few miles further south, but is very stony, and considerably less fertile. After descending the hill the party turned east, and descended some 30 feet into a low stony flat, on which walking was very tedious; it was covered with coarse grass and bushes. They then made a south-east course for about 2 miles till they came to the shore of Menai Inlet, which here runs up a considerable distance into the island. The south end of Zanzibar is divided into three promontories by Peete and Menai inlets, which run up into the island about an equal distance. Here, at a fishing-village, they tried to get a canoe to cross the inlet to the other side, but without success; so they went south along the shore, passing many villages and large fields of mtama, and then along the beach itself for about 2 miles, to a village near the point called Bayala, where large canoes were kept. On arriving here, it was found that the *Royal Victoria* sailing-launch of H.M.S. *London* had just anchored. Hearing a shot fired at a bird, the officer in charge came on shore, and, being personally known to the party, volunteered to take them across during the day, which offer was gladly accepted. Small herons, curlews, and sandpipers were very plentiful here. They then went on board, and about noon the *Royal Victoria* weighed and stood across the inlet; but not finding sufficient water in the middle, on account of a reef extending down the middle of the inlet, from an island at the head beat to windward of a small rocky islet that lay on the reef; crossing the inlet in 2½ fathoms in the shoalest part, and anchoring in 1 fathom water just to the south of the rocky point of a small inlet, and a few miles north of Ungudya Mkun, or old Zanzibar. Here the coast was rocky and covered with jungle, though stone walls showed that it had been cultivated once; and it was not till after they had been wandering about some time, that Susi struck on a footpath which led in a south-easterly direction to a large village standing amid its fields of mtama and sweet potatoes. Here the party desired to stop, as it was now dusk, but the head man sent them on in a southerly direction, through a well-cultivated country, to an old Balooch, who was the great man of the place, and who received the party with great show of hospitality.

In the morning the party were delayed some time till the tide had fallen sufficiently to allow them to cross a small inlet that separated them from the island, on which is situated the town of Uzi. On starting, the old Balooch gave them two men gratuitously to assist as guides and porters during the remainder of the journey, after which they were to return to him again. About 10 A.M. they again started, going in a southerly direction, along a flat, well-cultivated country; crossing a gentle rise, they found themselves on the beach of the inlet, very near the point which formed its western side. Here birds were very plentiful, and several were shot. The party then crossed the inlet in a diagonal direction on foot. The water was about knee-deep, though nearly waist-deep in the channel in the middle; the bottom was coral-rock, and very sharp to the unprotected feet. A worn track, like a footpath, could be seen stretching all the way across. The inlet is a good half-mile broad, and ends in a mangrove-marsh. On reaching the opposite side, the party crossed another mangrove-swamp or muddy flat, and then got on high ground, proceeding south-east till they reached the town of Uzi, which is the largest in the island, putting aside the city of Zanzibar itself, and contains over 200 good-sized, well-built huts of wattle-and-daub, with stockades. No stone houses, except the mosque, were seen; and provisions, such as fowls, rice, eggs, grains, and fruit, were plentiful, and tolerably cheap. The town was surrounded by large trees, and coconut palms, mangoes, and bananas also appeared in abundance. The huts were not crowded together, and the intervening spaces were kept clean; altogether it was a very good specimen of a

large native town. The soil here, after passing the mangroves, was a rich red loam.

After leaving Uzi the party proceeded in a south-easterly direction, passing through large fields of grain, which were interspersed with large baobabs and other trees; then passing through some thick undergrowth, they descended a steep bank, and found themselves on the shore of Peete Inlet, in a little sandy nook, where there were some canoes. Here, after considerable bargaining, Chumah arranged that the whole party should cross the inlet in two batches for 50 pice, or rather less than a rupee, the distance being nearly two miles. The western bank was shelving, and poles were used for some distance; then the water became very deep, and the canoes were paddled right across to the eastern side, which was steep-to and rocky. When all the party were across, they proceeded on, still keeping in a south-easterly direction by a native footpath, toward a rising ground, seen in the distance from the shores of the inlet. The path was over coral rock, covered with bushes and small trees, which grew upon the scanty supply of soil which lodged in the interstices of the rock. As the sun had now set, and it was nearly dark, the roughness of the path was very severe on the unprotected feet of the bearers. After walking nearly 3 miles, the rock suddenly ceased, and the party found themselves on the border of an open flat covered with long grass, though cleared and cultivated with sugar-cane, in some places with many coconut-palms, which were not found upon the rocky tract. Crossing the flat, the party ascended a ridge of clay, and arrived at a village, where they purposed stopping; but were again bidden to go further on, to the great man's house. Visions of drunken Arabs arose before them, and they protested, but to no purpose; so they descended into a valley, and ascended another hill planted with sugar, and arrived at the sugar-mill of a young Arab named Syde bin Seff, who was sober, and received them most hospitably. Crushed rice and syrup of sugar, and oranges, were offered as a sweetmeat; then dinner prepared. The place was called Moyoni, and is a country estate, where the Arabs retire from Zanzibar to make sugar and honey. The mill was a most primitive affair, and yet showed considerable ingenuity. It consisted of a deep pit, in which two wooden screws worked one in the other. One had the shaft prolonged, and a square head on it, in which were holes, into which long bars were shipped, like a capstan. These bars were worked by donkeys, whose stable was close to the mill. The thread of the screws was about 3 inches square, and cut by hand upon the shafts. A sort of treacle is the principal manufacture, which is sold all over the island as honey of sugar. The elevation of the hill here was about 100 feet above sea-level. The party started early the next morning, after a few showers, intending to make their way right across the island, as Ras Kizimikas had been visited by the cruisers' boats, and was well known. Syde bin Seff reported a good road and plenty of villages, so on the strength of his assertion they set out. In the first mile the hill rose to about 250 feet above sea-level, and then descended to about 50 feet elevation. The soil was good red loam, on black and yellow clay. Sugar, grain, and coconuts abundant. They then crossed another flat, and arrived on the outer edge of another belt of coralline, which was reported to extend to the sea on the east coast. Thus this part of the island consisted of coral rock, with a high ridge of yellow and black clay extending along the interior about 2 miles from the west coast north and south. It seemed more like a line of separate hills than one long ridge. The party proceeded on in an E.N.E. direction through this stony belt, the path winding about in all directions, crossing alternate ridges of rock and grass flats where there was any alluvial soil. After awhile the grassy flats ceased, and wooded flats of small trees took their place. Large fields of mtama were growing on the naked rock, which were raised by escaped slaves from Zanzibar, who dwelt in detached huts, at

places where a scanty supply of water was found. The party took shelter about noon at one of these locations from a heavy shower of rain, resuming their march when it cleared up. About 2 P.M. they halted at a village, where there were some half-dozen huts, for dinner. After again resuming their march, they passed through a more open country, where pawpaws grew wild in abundance on the rocks. Towards evening they passed a larger village, and the road became better; and they entered just before sunset a large village on the east coast, called Paji. They had walked, by pedometer, about 15 miles, over the worst road the writer ever saw, and almost the most wonderful; to see the bushes, mtama, trees, and pawpaws, growing on nothing but a little earth in the cracks and holes of the coralline. The country was crossed in all directions by wood fences and stone walls, to keep the wild pigs, here very numerous, out of the fields of mtama.

Paji is situated about 500 yards from the beach, on a sandy flat, and appears to be a good-sized village. The usual provisions were plentiful and cheap.

The next morning, being Sunday, the party determined to do as little marching as possible; so they started off early to walk to Bweyu, a few miles to the north, along the beach. On reaching the beach they found that Makundusha Point lay to the south-east, about 7 miles off. They arrived at Bweyu, or Boyya, as it is called in H.M.S. *Shearwater's* Survey, in about an hour, the beach here consisting of a fine white muddy sand, evidently being coral sand. It could hardly be called mud, as it was not cohesive enough. This coral sand extended out about a mile to sea, where it was bounded by a coral reef, on which the ceaseless swell of the Indian Ocean broke with a dull heavy roar. The reef extended north and south, parallel with the coast as far as the eye could see, and inside which the native fishermen plied their craft in canoes.

Bweyu is a large village, and boasts a Banyan, who keeps a shop and a stone mosque; the huts are of wattle-and-daub. The Banyan did a large trade in shells, heaps of which were scattered over the village, from which a by no means pleasant smell arose as its unfortunate inhabitant rotted out. They were sold at the rate of about 15 pecks for 2 dollars. In the afternoon the party again resumed their march in a north-west direction to a village called Kongoroni. A short distance out of Bweyu, they again found themselves in the same rocky country as of the previous day. About two miles from Bweyu they came to a deep well cut in the solid rock, where there was plenty of very good water; the well was evidently very old. They passed many large fields of mtama and a few scattered huts, then passed through much small timber, where there were many monkeys, and about sunset arrived at the straggling village of Kongoroni, situated among fields of mtama, where they halted for the night.

In the morning they again resumed their march, passing over a dreadfully rough and rocky country in a w.n.w. direction, which was extremely difficult to walk over, and to avoid slipping into the holes which abounded on every side, evidently worn out by the action of water. After about two miles of this they came to a long mud flat that formed the head of one of the numerous bays of Chuaka Inlet. Here they had to cross a stream, which took them up to their waists, about 400 yards wide, and then over to the other side. The rocks here were covered with small, but well-flavoured, oysters. As the tide was coming in they took a canoe here, and coasting as far as the point, crossed over the main inlet to Chuaka on the northern side. The inlet is not above 1 fathom deep at low water right across, till you get past a small rocky islet with three trees on it; between this and the northern shore, about 200 yards from the latter, an apparently deep crack occurs in the coral rock of which the bottom is composed, and the water changes colour to a

dark green, denoting great depth. The canoe man, on being asked, said, "It took 2 hours to go to the bottom," which was interpreted by Susi to mean about 5 fathoms. The canoe man also said it extended right up the harbour, and also out to sea without any obstructions. It was about 100 yards broad, wide enough for a small steamer or schooner, with a fair wind, to pass up and down, or lay stem and stern. Chuaka is a good-sized village, and a considerable trade is done here in shells. Leaving Chuaka in the afternoon, they proceeded on their journey again, keeping about west by south towards the centre of the island. It was reported by the people at Chuaka that the country to the north was worse, if possible, than that over which they had come, and impassable, except to donkeys; and as the time was getting short they determined to go west as far as Dunga, in the centre of the island, and then, if they felt disposed, turn north from there. At first the road was rocky, but after a time became better, when they arrived at a village with the euphonious name of Oohoohma, which consisted of a few huts amid fields of mtama. After leaving here they crossed a high ridge of rock, covered with thick bush, and then came to a long alluvial flat covered with high grass. Here the road turned to the north-west, crossing this flat and several grassy undulations, on which baobabs and other large trees grew; they then passed a small village and came to a large wattle-and-daub house belonging to a negro, that stood in a plot of well-cultivated ground. Here they were hospitably received by the owner. The country rose gradually all the way from the sea, the house standing about 90 feet above it. But a range of hills were seen to the north running parallel with the general direction of the island; the end of them appeared about 3 miles off, and they were about 200 feet higher than the surrounding country, and covered with bush.

From here they proceeded on in the morning toward Dunga, passing through a well-cultivated district, where they arrived after walking about 3 miles. The village of Dunga is very large, and is rather an inhabited district than a town; but the great attraction is the palace of the Munyi Ukuu, or Sovereign of the Wahademu, the original inhabitants of Zanzibar. It is a large, two-storied stone house, which stands on a brow of a hill about 150 feet above sea-level, overlooking a large valley, and surrounded by a dilapidated stone wall, with square bastions at intervals, an imposing gateway at the north end, and which encloses a very large courtyard. The house is at present uninhabited, except by some negroes, and is in a most dilapidated state; the roof of one of the rooms has fallen through, carrying away the floor, while the upper story is only covered by a rude thatch—anything but weather-proof. But the large mirrors of plate-glass, stained-glass windows, marble floors, and elaborate iron balustrades, testify to its former grandeur.

From Dunga the party descended into the valley, and crossed a flat, grassy, uncultivated and marshy plain, then a more undulating and cultivated tract, and after a distance of about 2 miles as the crow flies, ascended to the top of a high hill, close to an Arab house, which attains an altitude of about 260 feet above sea-level. Here cloves were seen for the first time, but only in small quantities. The Arab's house was surrounded by many fruit trees and large fields of mtama. Descending the hill on the other side, they passed through a similar country to the other side of the hill, and more or less cultivated, crossing, at a distance of about 6 miles from Dunga, the River Mware by a stone bridge of 30 yards long by 10 yards broad. This river ran through the valley to the head of Menai Inlet. After leaving the river they turned a little to the north, passing through much cultivated ground, where clove bushes were beginning to abound, and finally halted for the night at a place called Yanga, a clove farm, belonging to an Oman Arab, named Rasched bin Emir, on the slopes of the spurs of the next range of hills. This man also behaved with great hospitality. The cloves were all small bushes, and were

planted on the side of the hill, about 2 yards apart, with a small bank on the lower side to catch the rain-water and retain it round the plant.

Leaving Yanga in the morning, they proceeded on for nearly a mile in a westerly direction up the hill by a broad road, near the top turning off to the north-west, by a clove-lined road, to the house of Masingini at the top. This house, at an elevation of 390 feet above sea-level, is the residence of a sister of the Sultan; and occupying one of the highest spots in the island, commands a most extensive view from the sea at Chuaka, all round the south end of the island, up the west side to the north-west. The view is very fine. Dunga comes out in bold relief to the south-east, while Zanzibar and the ships are plainly seen to the south-west. From Masingini House, the party descended in a north-west direction, by long spurs and deep water-worn uncultivated ravines to the lowest cultivated undulating flats. It was evident by the deep-cut ravines that the chief force of the rain-squalls was expended on the western side of the ridge, as well as by the numerous small streams crossed later. The soil was chiefly red loam, showing in some places quantities of a red gravel underneath. After descending about 250 feet, they crossed the regular cultivated country common to that part of Zanzibar, and struck the main road to Kotlotoni at the sea, just south of Boolooboo. As their time was now up, they returned to the Mission House, at Kiungani, by the road that led through the Malagash suburb of Zanzibar, halting for a short time to see the new and well-built houses of Chumah and Susi, situated in that suburb of Zanzibar, at no great distance from the house inhabited by Dr. Livingstone when he was last in Zanzibar. The party arrived at the Mission House in the evening, after an absence of 8 days.

With regard to the population of the island, all the part immediately south and north of Zanzibar is most densely populated. A hundred to the square mile could not be too much—very likely it is under the mark. Uzi would have at least 2000 inhabitants; while the smaller villages, such as Bweyu, Paji, Mayoni, and a few others, 1000 each, and the smaller ones 500. One great thing noticeable was the absence of mosquitoes. None of the party had any occasion to use their mosquito nets at any place on the march, while at Kiungani they are anything but absent. A few bearings by prismatic compass were taken, which are shown on our map.* The outline of the island and general features are from the *Shearwater's* survey, corrected where discrepancies appeared. The whole island being so flat, as a rule, with no distinguishing points, it was impossible to get more than one or two bearings here and there, more as a general guide than to fix any position.

4. *Journey to the Universities' Mission Station of Magila, on the Borders of the Usambara Country.* By ALFRED BELLVILLE, F.R.G.S.

ON the 7th of July, 1875, a party, consisting of the Right Rev. Bishop Steere, Rev. J. P. Farler, Messrs. Beardall, Moss, and the writer, together with several of the mission boys and Chumah and Susi, and a native crew, started in the yawl *Ware*, from the Mission-house at Kiungani, for the River Mtangata, half-way between Pangani and Tonga. Besides the above party, we had in the boat about 2 tons of baggage and stores. We left about 4 p.m., and after about five hours' sailing, with a fresh breeze well off the land from the eastward, anchored off Osawemba Point in 15 fathoms water, with good muddy

* Deposited in the Map-Room of the Society.—[Ed.]