WILEY

Report on the Expedition to Falaba, January to March 1872. (With an Appendix Respecting Dr. Livingstone)

Author(s): Edward W. Blyden

Source: *Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society of London*, Vol. 17, No. 2 (1872 - 1873), pp. 117-133

Published by: Wiley on behalf of The Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1799260>

Accessed: 27-06-2016 02:37 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 *Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society of London*

ADDITIONAL NOTICES.

(Printed by order of Council.)

1. *Report on the Expedition to Falaba, January to March 1872.*
(With an Appendix respecting Dr. Livingstone.) By EDWARD W.
BLYDEN, M.A.*

It was originally intended that the expedition should proceed hence to Port Loko, and thence, by what is known as the Port Loko route to Falaba, and my instructions were written accordingly: but in consequence of the unsettled state of Port Loko, caused by the sudden death of the Alkali, it was concluded, just before the start, that the expedition should set out from the Great Scarcies River, and adopt, if possible, a new route to Falaba.

On the 6th of January the Expedition left Freetown for the town of Kambia, where we arrived on the 9th.

On the morning of the 10th I had an interview with the chief, Almamy Al-Hay, and his principal men. I read to them a part of Governor Kennedy's instructions to me, and made the Almamy a suitable present in the name of the Queen. During this interview I was able to gather the following facts:—

The present unsettled state of the country is owing to the influence of one Bilâli, a native of the Kissy country, and formerly a slave among the Soosoos. About twenty-seven years ago he ran away from his master, Almamy Mumineh, now residing at Kukuna, and founded a settlement between the Soosoo and Limba countries, to which numerous fugitives have, from time to time, betaken themselves.

By numerous accessions of that class of persons, Bilâli has succeeded in forming a powerful party, and in rousing amongst a large portion of the servile population, not only a devotion to the idea of liberty at any price, but a strong attachment to himself and a hatred for all who hold slaves; and he is by no means scrupulous as to the price he pays for their support.

On the other hand, the slave-holding chiefs, in various parts of the surrounding country, except those of the Limba district, have formed a combination against him, alleging, when appealed to in favour of Bilâli on the ground of the abstract right of every man to personal liberty, the same argument that is always used by oppressors, viz. granting that Bilâli has just cause for rebellion, granting that he is wise in perilling his personal ease and security for the sake of liberty, still his course (as they hold) is producing a confusion in the country, which will eventually beget a state of things much worse than that against which he and his allies have risen. Standing on the basis of this, to them conclusive argument, they are anxious to crush Bilâli, but it seems that their combination is powerless against him.

The town of Kambia, situated near the rapids of the Great Scarcies River, about 50 miles from its mouth, is a great centre of trade. Hither are collected persons from various quarters, of conflicting views as to the merits of the Bilâli contest—Timmanees, Soosoos, and Limba people. The first two are

* In 1822, the celebrated Major Laing, who was afterwards killed at Timbuctoo, went from Sierra Leone to Falaba, and was not allowed to pass that town. The next European who visited it was Mr. Winwood Reade, in 1869. He was also detained; but, in a second journey, was permitted to pass Falaba, struck the Niger fifty miles beyond it, and went to the gold mines of Bouré. Mr. Reade travelled as an envoy of the Sierra Leone Government, and Professor Blyden was sent to Falaba three years afterwards.—[Ed.]

against Bilâli; the last sympathise with him; so that there is danger of civil discord in the town, which is kept from breaking out only by the presence and influence of the European and Sierra Leone traders.

The king, somewhat advanced in years, and apparently of pacific disposition, is anxious for the peace and security of his country. He entreated me to invoke the assistance of the British Government against Bilâli. He states that no native chief can put down that energetic insurgent without the aid of the British Government. For nearly a whole generation he has defied the power of all the Soosoo and Timmanee chiefs.

It occurs to me that this matter can be settled only by a concession on both sides. The Socsoo and Timmanee chiefs must abate their impetuous contempt of Bilâli on account of his servile origin, and agree to make no demands upon him, in the future, for the surrender of their fugitive slaves; and *he* should agree to encourage no more slaves to resort to his asylum.

But this is a very difficult subject to be handled by a Government, all whose dealings with uncivilised tribes are based upon anti-slavery principles.

The king is also anxious to have schools established in his town for the instruction of the children in the English language.

Opposite Kambia, on the northern bank of the Great Scarcies, is the Mohammedan town of Billeh, whose presiding genius, Fode Tarawally, enjoys great literary celebrity. Billeh is a sort of University town, devoted altogether to the cultivation of Mohammedan learning. On the 12th of January I visited it, and made a small present to the literary chieftain. I found him seated in a hammock in his spacious verandah, reading a manuscript. Around him were gathered his pupils seated on mats. He received me with an easy grace and dignity, and had all the gravity and reserve of a teacher. He addressed me occasionally in Arabic, but he spoke generally in the Soosoo language through an interpreter. He not only seemed at home in the dogmas of his faith, but he discussed instructively some of the most important subjects of human inquiry, and quoted, in support of his views, the opinions of leading Arabic writers. He spoke in high terms of Beidhwei and Jelaladdin as commentators on the Koran.

Fode Tarawally is aided in his duties by three of his sons; his pupils number several hundred young men; there is also a class of girls. I was not a little surprised to find so much literary cultivation and intellectual activity in this small town, altogether secluded from European influence; and I left it highly gratified at the exhibition I had witnessed of capacities and susceptibilities utterly inconsistent with the theory that dooms such a people to a state of perpetual barbarism or of essential inferiority to the more favoured races.

The Stipend System.—From what I could learn here, it appears that while the stipend system has numerous advantages, it is far from being as effectual as it might be in promoting the pacific objects for which it was established, on account of the absence of special resident Agents or Commissioners from Her Majesty's Government, whose duty it would be to see that the chiefs observed their treaty engagements, and to aid them in suppressing certain refractory individuals among them called "warriors," who are the chief sources and fomenters of disorder. They profess great devotion to the interests and honour of their chief; but they are among his most pernicious friends. These "warriors," it appears, are never so fond of their king as to lose an opportunity—even at the expense of their master's good name—of pillaging the weak; or too loyal to encourage any confusion in the country which gives them a chance for plunder. Very often the king is helpless to control or check the predatory operations of these robbers, and is, in consequence, exposed to the censure of being unfaithful to his engagements.

Now, if there were stationed at important points in the country Government Agents, who, on representation from the chiefs, would arrest the leaders

of these organised mobs and send them to Freetown to be kept in confinement, with or without hard labour; the effect of such a course, adopted in two or three prominent cases, would be most favourable to the peace and quietude of the country.

I left Kamibia on the morning of the 20th of January at 10 A.M., and reached Kukuna on the 22nd at 9 A.M., after 14 hours' travel, exclusive of rests, in the general direction of E.N.E.

The country, for the greater part of the way, seemed more suitable for grazing purposes than ordinary agriculture, though I saw some extensive fields of ground-nuts and beni-seed. As we approached Kukuna the soil became more fertile, and we passed through a heavily-timbered section. We met very few persons on the road; it is lonely and unfrequented on account of the Bilali war. On the second night of our journey we slept at Bolon, a town of which the greater portion has been recently burnt by Bilali's men.

In the neighbourhood of Kukuna, the country gives sad evidence of the dire results of war. We were surrounded by lamentable illustrations of a war which has lasted during a whole generation; and it is difficult for one at a distance to frame any clear idea of the state of society induced by this protracted contest, kept up by determined slave-holders in the vain hope of reducing to servitude a man to whom there is no equal in the country for military prowess, tact, and ability.

Every day the Soosoo power is growing weaker and Bilali increasing in strength. Slaves are continually flocking to his standard; while the Soosoo combination, consisting of the incongruous elements of masters and slaves, is no more reliable than a rope of sand.

The chief of Kukuna, Almamy Mumineh, the former master of Bilali, is now reduced to extreme poverty. His resources have all been exhausted in the war, and he is the unfortunate victim of his warriors. Whenever these robbers return from an unsuccessful maurauding excursion, they seize upon everything in the shape of food and clothing that they can lay their hands upon, and appropriate it to their own use.

During my first interview with Mumineh, when I presented to him a few articles in the name of the Queen, I besought him to take measures to put an end to the war fruitful only of damage to the prosperity and reputation of his country. I endeavoured to show him that the instrumentality which he opposes to Bilali—as the prolonged contest so barren of results in his favour has proved—is weak and unreliable, and that the resisting materials, multiplying every day, are too strong for him; and I urged upon him the wisdom of at once ceasing from hostilities.

After I had withdrawn, he sent a messenger to me to say that the articles I gave him he had been obliged to give to his principal men; that not even a leaf of tobacco had been left for himself, and requesting me to give him a suitable present for the Kali Manga or war chief, Santigga Fode, who occupied a garrison town a little distance north-east of Kukuna.

On my return to comply with his request, I took occasion again to call attention to the deplorable condition to which war had reduced himself and his people; that men 30 years of age, born in his country, had not known one day of peace. I pointed out the constant fear of invasion which haunted his people, deterring them from the pursuits of remunerative industry, and entreated him to consider, at once, the importance of making peace.

He replied that it was hard for a master to make peace with his slave, especially a slave who had not only revolted and run away himself, but who is in the constant habit of abducting other slaves and even of decoying away the wives of his master; and that he had always thought it hard that the British Government seemed to take Bilali upon their back, while this was the first kindly message he had ever received from that Government.

I told him I was glad he had referred to the posture which the British

Government had hitherto maintained towards him, inasmuch as it gave me the opportunity of pointing out the advantages which would accrue to himself and his country if they could secure the favour of the British Government by desisting from a war to recover fugitive slaves, in which he could never have the sympathy of the Queen, whose principles and policy are opposed to slavery. I assured him that if he would recede from the aggressive pro-slavery policy to which he had adhered for the last thirty years, and his pacific resolutions were known to the Governor-in-Chief at Sierra Leone, and the Governor could be satisfied that the trade would no longer be obstructed, he would enter into treaty with him as he had done with the Alkali of Port Loko and other native chiefs.

He said he felt the force of my remarks; that he was now old and tired of the war; if the Governor of Sierra Leone would go to Kambia or send proper officers thither, and order himself and Biláli to meet there to arrange the long-standing difficulties, he would be glad to shake hands with Biláli and put an end to the war.

I beg most respectfully to urge upon the Government the importance of the suggestion offered by Mumineh—the first pacific expression, it is said, that has ever escaped his lips with regard to Biláli; and I am informed that Biláli is willing to give up hostilities, and enjoy in peace the personal freedom and political independence he has so long struggled to maintain. If your Excellency will send men as soon as possible to Kambia to attend to these matters, the whole aspect of this country would be changed for the better; and a most interesting region, rescued from the hands of an organised band of robbers, would be opened to a pacific and lucrative trade.

I am the more disposed to credit the sincerity of Mumineh in the desire he has expressed for peace from the fact that on the 17th of January—four days before I saw him—his combined forces attacked Kolonkureh, one of Biláli's strongholds, and captured it on the 18th, after four-and-twenty hours' hard fighting; but on the 23rd, the victors attempting to press their advantage and advance into the enemy's country, were repulsed from the first town they attempted to invade, which has produced the impression that Biláli, not caring much for Kolonkureh, has withdrawn from that point to decoy his enemies into the heart of the Limba country, where most of his towns are situated.

The town of Manga Fode, the war chief above referred to, is about two miles beyond Kukuna on the road to Falaba. This man stands at the head of Mumineh's mercenary troops; he holds the road to Falaba. Though nominally subject to Mumineh, he exercises a most tyrannical sway over his master. Notwithstanding the presents I gave on my first arrival, besides being subjected to the expense of complimentary visits from the troops, I was obliged to pay an additional tribute of four pounds to conciliate this callous and otherwise inexorable potentate, in order to secure the right of way through his fortifications. The day after I had submitted to this supplementary exaction, one of the active commanders in the war, just from the front, called to assure me of the very serious difficulties on this road, after leaving the jurisdiction of Mumineh, growing out of the presence of wild plunderers who, it was alleged, have no knowledge of, and no regard for the Sierra Leone Government, and urging upon me the necessity of employing, to "stand before" the Expedition until we reached Falaba, one of Manga Fode's warriors; that the name of Manga Fode and the reputation of his war medicines were well known and dreaded along the whole route. Mumineh also, who seems to be a simple-hearted man, anxious for the good of his country, expressed to me his desire that one of Manga Fode's men should accompany me. I therefore employed one of these men to take us through the "wild and dangerous country" to Falaba, more to satisfy the people here, and to secure the Expedition against possible treachery on the part of our advisers, than

from any serious apprehension I entertained of danger from the people further on.

The Seracoulie people, who bring hides and gold dust from the interior, would prefer passing through this country, as the route is much more easy to travel; but they dare not come this way except in large numbers, so as to protect themselves against predatory bands. I met, when I arrived at Kukuna, 200 Seracoulie traders on their way to Sierra Leone, with hides and gold; and a company with 300 head of cattle were expected in a few days. But if the war were ended and the warriors relieved of the excuse of preying upon defenceless traders, these strangers could come in small numbers and more constantly.

This region of country, from its exceeding fertility, abundance of good timber, and the large supply of water, is well adapted for colonisation. A colony of Africans from Sierra Leone or the Western hemisphere, of men willing to engage in agriculture and moderate trading, would very soon rise in wealth and importance, and save the country from distracting wars constantly stimulated by the "Krugbahs," or warriors, who eke out a miserable existence on the proceeds of their nefarious engagements; but so strong is their indisposition to work that they prefer to subsist, however wretchedly, on the produce of other people's labour.

The prospects of single missionaries stationed at isolated points in this country would be far from encouraging. It seems to me that in order effectually to influence these tribes, Christianity will have to be presented to them in the concrete form of daily practical life, through the instrumentality of Christian settlements. Not by abstract dogmatic teaching and preaching only is this land to be regenerated; but the doctrines of Christianity must be exemplified in the life and habits of Christian communities.

It is by means of such aggregate and organised influence that Mohammedanism has obtained its astounding development, and is continuing its onward course as a living missionary force in Central Africa. Wherever it is possible to do so, in pagan districts, Mohammedans congregate and form towns for trading and farming purposes; and regularly every day the neighbouring pagans have an opportunity of witnessing the exemplification of the doctrines of Islam in the unvarying practices of its followers.

Early on the morning of January 27th we took our departure from Kukuna with no lingering regrets at leaving a people in whom the long struggle in which they have been engaged has developed some of the most deplorable traits of humanity.

On the morning of the 30th of January, when about 35 miles north-east from Kukuna, our course being E.N.E., we crossed the Great Scarcies River, which we found flowing from the south-east, and taking, at that point, a westerly direction. It appears that the river at that point, by a sudden bend, diverges from its general direction of north-east to south-west. The stream is here small and shallow—about 15 yards wide—easily fordable in the dries, but of very rapid current. On the western bank is situated Kufuna, the last town in the territory of Mumineh in this quarter. Here we met a caravan of Seracoulies with cattle on the way to Kambia.

Kufuna, formerly a large and important town, has gradually dwindled into insignificance: but, since trade has again taken this direction, it is being rapidly rebuilt.

Ganjab, where we stopped one night to procure carriers, is a town of moderate size, containing a population of about 1000, presided over by Seyyu Suri, a Muslim chief of some personal dignity and intelligence. He received us with great courtesy, and did all in his power to facilitate our progress to the dominions of his next neighbour on the east, whose chief town is Yimbereh. Ganjab is also situated on the western bank of the Great Scarcies.

The region of country through which we passed after we left Kambia, up

to this point, a distance of about 100 miles, is of exceeding interest. It is mostly rich prairie land, with patches of heavy forest here and there. The soil in many places is of a rich, dark, fertile mould, supporting very luxuriant herbage and an ample supply of timber. Ground-nuts, guinea-corn, beni-seed, and rice, are cultivated in large quantities. Potatoes and other esculent roots of large size and excellent quality grow abundantly. Oranges, mangoes, guavas, pawpaws, and limes, are plentiful. The soil is also well-suited to the production of sugar-cane and coffee as well as ginger and arrowroot. We passed through prairies where thousands of cattle might easily feed and fatten; while it would be comparatively easy to enclose 50, 100, or 500 acres, and produce in unlimited quantities the articles above mentioned.

The people here informed me that, with little labour, they could produce almost anything they desired, and to any amount, if there were markets accessible for the sale of their products. Furnish a convenient market for these people, and no country in the world would surpass this region in the abundance and variety of its production. Iron ore of the greatest purity is widely distributed; and we saw several smelting furnaces, where large quantities of that useful metal are produced.

Questions of the practicability of railways in this part of Africa are now exciting some interest in England and America. So far as I have yet observed, the face of this portion of the country would present very few obstacles in the way of prosecuting such an enterprise. The land is gently undulating, and, I think, it nowhere rises more than 500 feet above the level of Kambia, the head of boat navigation on the Great Scarcies.

It is obvious that an almost level country affords the utmost scope for the construction of good common roads in the first instance, and of railroads at no distant period. The creeks and rivers to be crossed are very few and mostly shallow; so that the transit from Kambia along the whole route, even as far as Falaba, would offer very few engineering difficulties. And it would be impossible to estimate the vast results, agricultural, commercial, and political, which would accrue to this country from the presence of a railroad. The expense would be comparatively insignificant, as lands could be secured for a mere trifle; and the traffic which would be attracted to the road from various wealthy districts, now entirely unknown even by name at Sierra Leone, would in a short time enrich shareholders in such an enterprise, and develop to an extent now incomprehensible, the commercial importance of the colony.

The next town of importance which we met after leaving Ganjah was Sumata, beautifully situated in the midst of surrounding hills. This town is about 32 miles east of Ganjah at the source of the Great Scarcies River, on its eastern bank. This river here flows in a south-easterly direction, and is such a tiny stream that a man can easily step over it in the dry season.

Sumata is a town of considerable importance, as nearly all the caravans from the interior pass either through it or in its near neighbourhood.

Not far south-east from Sumata is Samaya, another town of great influence on this route. After leaving Ganjah, as our course lay almost due east, we left Samaya on the right, but passed across the northern portion of its territory.

While at the village of Korokoro, 16 miles east of Ganjah, where we halted for the night, armed messengers arrived from Mambarillai, King of Samaya, demanding by what authority we were passing through his territory, without calling at his capital or having first consulted him, and peremptorily ordering us to retrace our steps and repair at once to Samaya. In vain I urged upon the messengers our ignorance of the country, and the haste with which we were proceeding on an errand from the Governor of Sierra Leone to Falaba, visiting all the chiefs on our immediate route. They imposed a fine of seven pieces of cloth and two bars of tobacco, which I was obliged to pay before we were allowed to proceed.

On the morning of the 3rd of February, about 16 miles east of Sumata, midway between the towns of Koto and Yimbereh, we crossed the Little Scarcies River, which is here a bold stream about a quarter of a mile wide, and at this season of the year about 3 fathoms deep.

The name of the king of Yimbereh is Yimbaka, a venerable old man of great influence in this quarter. He received us very kindly, and expressed deep interest in the objects of our visit. Not long before we entered the town there arrived nine Seracoulies in great distress and consternation, stating that the caravan in which they were proceeding, when two days on this side of Falaba, was attacked by a large body of Hooboos,* several of their number killed, their women captured, and all their goods plundered. They fought bravely for five days, but were overpowered.

In consequence of this intelligence we found the town of Yimbereh in great excitement. The king and all his head men advised us to suspend our journey for a few days.

The Hooboos are a terror to this region. They are renegade Foulahs in rebellion against the King of Timbo. About twenty years ago, in consequence of some oppressive exactions imposed by Almamy Omaru, the then reigning sultan, they revolted, and went off with their families and settled on the pasture lands between the Futa and Soolima countries. They are called *Hooboos* or *Hubus*, because when they set out from their home, they went out singing an Arabic Mohammedan ditty, in the chorus of which the word Hubu occurs twice; it runs thus:—

“ Nuhibu rasul Allahi huban wahidan.”

“ We love the prophet of God with a united love.”

Their mode of life has rendered them fierce and impudent. They are nomadic in their habits, having no regular settlements. They are acquainted with Arabic books, and teach their children letters; but the country over which they roam seems to afford no scope for their energies. And in all communities where there is an active people without employment, there takes place a general uneasiness among the population, which gives birth to all sorts of offences against property. The only kind of farming for which their soil and products are adapted is the breeding and grazing of cattle, which requires the employment of a few men. They are, therefore, jealous of the Soolima country, of which Falaba is the capital, on account of its vast agricultural capacities and its commercial importance, caused by the trade which passes through it to and from the Mandingo, Seracoulie, and Sangara countries; and their constant effort for years has been to diminish the influence of Falaba by rendering its neighbourhood unsafe for traders.

The Hooboos, moreover, being Mohammedans, while the people of Falaba are pagans, invoke certain doctrines of their religion which enjoin war against infidels, to give a sanction or an excuse to deeds which disgrace humanity; and they are fast developing their occasional and unconnected acts of brigandage into a regular system of pillage and plunder, under the dexterous euphemism of war against the enemies of Islam, by which they enlist in their horrible service recruits from amongst the zealous Mohammedan youths in their country. A railway, passing through this country, would cure all these evils and confer incalculable blessings upon the people.

I am credibly informed that the existence of this organised band of robbers is a matter of serious and constant regret to Almamy Suri, the reigning Sultan of Timbo, to whom they owe allegiance. Not only do they excite and maintain a highly dangerous ferment along the roads, but they not unfrequently issue irritating menaces against Timbo itself, though they know that any

* Natives of a region northward of the Great Scarcies.

earnest effort put forth against them by their sovereign would easily annihilate them.

Considering the amount of trade which these Hooboos annually divert from Sierra Leone, and in view of the fact that they are increasing in power and extending their movements every year, it becomes a serious question, whether it is the duty of the Government to remain passive spectators of the atrocious repression by which the unprincipled activity of these vagabonds would extinguish the interior traffic; whether not only the property and lives of the aboriginal friends of the Government, but of British subjects trading in the interior, should be abandoned to the will and cupidity of a lawless horde.

I take the liberty of inviting your Excellency to a serious consideration of this important subject—vitally important to the people of Falaba and the further interior, and to the security and liberty of trade; and I would most respectfully suggest that an agent of the Government be sent with suitable presents as soon as possible to Timbo—an arrangement which Sir Arthur Kennedy had in view—to confer with Almamy Suri on the subject, and advise him, in the name of the rights of humanity and in the interests of a free and unhampered trade, to take measures effectually to prevent his revolted subjects from repressing by violence and plunder the commercial intercourse between the interior and the coast.

I am persuaded that such a mission to the King of Timbo would not be without some useful result. I found all through the country that the liberal dealings of Sir Arthur Kennedy with the leading chiefs had produced the conviction that Great Britain has no object in her policy with the aborigines inconsistent with the prosperity and integrity of their country.

Under the guidance of King Yimbaka, the Expedition left Yimbereh. The king accompanied us to Dubayah, a town within his jurisdiction, about 12 miles further east.

There were so many rumours afloat about recent depredations committed on the road between Dubayah and Falaba, that the king was anxious to satisfy himself of the possibility of the Expedition proceeding in safety before he would allow us to advance.

Dubayah is a well-fortified town, containing about 1000 inhabitants, and possesses some pictorial interest. The spurs of a range of hills, running from the north, gather into an amphitheatre around it. The hills are covered with tall grass, of a yellowish colour, dry at this season of the year, while the valley in which the town is situated is cheerful with vegetation of a fresh and beautiful green.

We were detained here six days, while messengers were sent to neighbouring towns on the north and east, to make inquiries concerning the operations of the Hooboos. About 10 miles south-east of Dubayah we crossed another branch of the Little Scarces River, flowing from the east in a westerly direction. We now entered a hilly and dreary country, over which we travelled for a distance of more than 50 miles, till we entered the Soolima country. This is the section of country infested by the Hooboos, and where they committed their last act of plunder. We pushed rapidly through, and came suddenly to Kamalafi, a Limba town, situated in an almost inaccessible mountain recess, a fit retreat for robbers and banditti. The King of Kamalafi is in league with Abal, chief of the Hooboos, and he has, I am informed, great influence over that robber chief. He was startled at our sudden arrival. I presented him with a few valuable articles in the name of the Queen, from the Governor-in-Chief of Sierra Leone, assuring him of the earnest desire of Her Majesty's Government to promote the welfare of his country, by making the road safe for travellers and traders, and of the readiness of the Governor-in-Chief to co-operate with any chief who is well-disposed towards the British Government and its plans for opening up the country. The king

seemed very glad that in that out-of-the-way place, considered so dangerous, he had been visited by a messenger from the Governor of Sierra Leone. He expressed no opinion as to the road, except to assure us that nothing would molest the Expedition. He treated us with great kindness, and on the following day sent his son to clear the road before us.

From Kamalafi we set out for Bafudeyah, another Limba town in sympathy with the Hooboos. Here we were received with great coldness, for the news of our approach had preceded us, and the chief had learned that we were on our way to Falaba, towards which town the Limbas in this quarter have no friendly feelings. Bafudeyah is the only town along the entire route at which they gave us no cola-nuts, which are always presented to strangers on entering a town, as an expression of welcome. They made us pay for passing through their town, and would allow us to employ no carriers from among their people.

At length, after a great deal of perplexity, suffering, and expense, the Expedition arrived safely at Falaba on the 1st of March, on the fortieth day after leaving Kambia, and on the fifty-third from Freetown.

The King of Falaba received the Expedition with great kindness. On the first day of our arrival he summoned his troops and principal men, and gave us the privilege of a military review in the royal square. He himself took part in the war-dance, a feat, it is said, performed by him only on extraordinary occasions.

He deferred hearing the message from the Governor-in-Chief until he had presented me with a gold ring and a few cola-nuts, as a token of welcome to his town. On the following day, in private council, I read to him the Governor's communication, which he received with evident manifestations of joy and pride, and said how highly gratified he was in being made the object of such frequent messages from Her Majesty's Government. He begged me to assure the Governor that he has put himself and his country under the protection of the English; that the country is open to British subjects as far as the influence of Falaba extends in the interior; that whatever the Governor of Sierra Leone wishes him to do he will do, for he believes that Her Majesty's Government have at heart the welfare of his country, as in all their dealings with him they show that they consult his honour and influence. But he regretted that, in consequence of his town being in daily expectation of an attack from the Hooboos, he was unable to do much to make our sojourn in his capital interesting and agreeable.

Nearly every step of the journey from the coast to Falaba had its peculiar and unforeseen stumbling-blocks to be cleared out of the way. Every step was hampered with singular forms and expensive ceremonies; and no amount of experience or forethought could provide successfully against the capricious and tortuous methods of the people in these regions.

We have the consolation, however, of knowing that we have traversed a region seldom, if ever before, penetrated by any foreigner; and we have discovered a route of which its advantages over the Port Loko route* are, that most of the travelling is over a level country, and that one language—the Soosoo—is spoken along the entire route.

On arriving at Kambia, I found that we had made a serious mistake in not having procured sufficient carriers at Freetown. We found ourselves altogether at the mercy of the native carriers, or rather of their masters, the chiefs and head men, who charged us what they pleased, and fixed the amount of load each man should carry, and the distance to which he should go. We had a tent with its equipage, bales of tobacco, cases containing presents for the chiefs, boxes for clothing and books, supplies of food and medicines, cooking utensils, &c.; and the natives multiplied the number of carriers, by making

* Taken by Mr. Winwood Reade.

what would be one man's load at Freetown three men's, and would not carry for more than two or three days' journey. They then left us in the hands of another chief, more impracticable and less intelligent than the last, who would further divide the loads so as to increase the number of carriers from his town; and, for a less distance, he would charge the same or a greater price. Our train of carriers became, under these circumstances, unnecessarily large—producing the impression upon every town we passed through that we were carrying a great deal of money to Falaba; and each chief strove to make us leave as much as possible at his town.

After I had given what I considered a suitable present to a chief, he would be sure to demand an additional amount for the right of way, alleging his paramount influence on the road. They seem unable to understand the idea of a free passage through their country. Entirely unacquainted with the usages of civilized nations, they cannot appreciate such a thing as motives apart from immediate mercenary interests. They supposed that, in passing through their country, we were reaping some immediate pecuniary advantage, and it was but fair that they should have a share in that advantage. And knowing that we were helplessly dependent upon them to carry our effects from place to place, they detained us in their towns as long as they pleased under the pretext of getting the carriers together.

They are, however, not entirely ignorant of the vast resources of their country, and of the advantages of having it opened to trade. When I told them of the desire of Her Majesty's Government to promote the welfare of their country by developing trade and agriculture, of which desire my visit among them and the presents I gave them were the proof, they always seemed pleased, and expressed a hope that the Government would carry out its idea.

The route adopted by the Expedition from Kambia to Falaba must be considered the darkest portion of the interior accessible from Sierra Leone. No foreigner had ever before traversed it, especially on a mission from Her Majesty's Government. The people are, as a rule, besotted pagans, entirely at large from the influence even of Mohammedanism. Indolence has long been their habit. They live altogether by the labour of their slaves, and by extorting heavy taxes from the poor interior traders who happen to pass through their towns.

The ordinary instincts of human nature, which suggest plans for growth and improvement, have not been developed in them. They have existed for ages under conditions entirely incompatible with human progress.

They suffer from the usual evils which attend on any extensive system of slave-holding. All their work is done by slaves. Their agriculture is confined to the most fertile portions of land; and vast districts, becoming, under the deteriorating effects of slave industry and negligent and unskilled labour, constantly larger, are wholly surrendered to nature and become wildernesses. Such is the origin of the three days' wilderness on the north-west of Falaba. The great road from Futa and the Mandingo Country to the coast formerly lay through this region.

These tracts, thus abandoned, become the resort of hordes of robbers from the nearest towns, who, too poor to keep slaves, and altogether averse from the restraints of settled labour, give themselves up to the precarious life and atrocious practices of the wilderness. These marauders are the common enemies of the peaceful and industrious people of the interior and of the traders on the coast; and I cannot conceive that it would be interfering unduly in the domestic affairs of the country to employ energetic measures to suppress these robbers and murderers.

The passage of the Expedition through this country was the first intimation they seem to have had that there is an outside world having any knowledge of them, or feeling any interest in their welfare. And it is to be hoped that a

feeling of self-respect has been inspired within them. They will feel hereafter that they are objects of the thought and regard of Her Majesty's Government, and they will be careful how they enter upon those acts of aggression and plunder for which certain sections of their country have been notorious.

There is no doubt that there are great difficulties in the way of imparting civilization to this portion of Africa; but one of the most efficient means towards that desirable end, is the fostering of commerce by making the roads safe for caravans and single travellers.

Any measure that will tend to promote and preserve peace in that country, unfetter the operations of trade and agriculture, and give quiet to thousands of homes, which have never known it, deserves all the attention of a sound statesmanship and a true philanthropy; and there are connected with this new route political considerations of interest to the future of Sierra Leone which ought not to be overlooked. There are numerous natives of Sierra Leone and other British subjects engaged in trade on the great Scarries River and at Kambia, which is an outlet for a large portion of the trade from Futa and of the Soosoo country; and it would be, at this moment, a comparatively easy matter for British traders to monopolise the whole traffic of that quarter, and thus establish strong ties of commerce and mutual interests between the Colony of Sierra Leone and the tribes which the Expedition has visited.

In the meanwhile, it is of the utmost importance that everything be done to encourage and develop the trade of the distant interior, of which Falaba is the emporium; and therefore I have been highly gratified to hear of the kind and liberal treatment accorded by your Excellency to the son of Alfa Mahmud, King of Kankan, and his companions during their recent visit to this Colony.

The King of Falaba informed me that he regards Sierra Leone as the natural outlet for the trade of his own country, and of the Seracoulie, Mandingo, Bouré, and Sangara countries.

He stated that the gold in Bouré* is almost inexhaustible, but that Bouré is not the only region where gold exists—that there is an abundance of gold not far from his own country, Soolima, not yet made available for trade on account of wars, and the, at present, inaccessible wildernesses through which it must be approached. We may reasonably conclude, therefore, that at any time some new gold-field may be opened, equal or superior to those of Bouré, and nearer to Sierra Leone, whereby an impetus will be given to the commerce of the Colony unknown in its previous history.

It is of great importance, then, to the interests of trade, that so able, intelligent, and well-disposed a ruler as the King of Falaba, should have the liberal support of the Government of Sierra Leone in his efforts to suppress those influences in the country which interfere with the safety of the road.

The Soolima country, of which Falaba is the capital, presents a very different aspect from that of the country I have described above. The villages are in better order and nearer together. The towns are larger, and the farms are extensive and more carefully cultivated. The people seem well fed, well clad, contented, and happy—the objects of envy to their Limba neighbours on the one hand, and the nomadic and impoverished Hoobos on the other.

The Soolima people might even be much better off than they are, but in the absence of a convenient market for their produce, when once they have secured a subsistence, there is little inducement to labour left. If there were a demand for the surplus produce of their farms, Soolima would be a wealthy agricultural country.

The scenery in the Soolima country is, in various parts, singularly picturesque, consisting, for the most part, of extensive and fertile plains. In one direction

* Lying north of Falaba, between it and Tiubo.

are seen lofty and precipitous rocks, destitute of vegetation; sometimes isolated peaks or cones of granitic formation, rising to the height of 2000 or 3000 feet; in another, abrupt timbered hills often with dome-like or pyramidal summits of granite, which, owing probably to the droppings of innumerable birds, present a white appearance, and glitter in the sunshine like the snow-capped peak of Teneriffe. In another direction are seen gentle slopes covered with tall grass or moderate-sized trees. On one of these slopes stands the town of Falaba, surrounded by a natural stockade of over 500 huge trees (190 of which are very old), also enormous silk-cotton trees. One of the gates of the town, of which there are seven, is ingeniously cut through the trunk of one of the largest trees. The population of the town during the trading season, from December to May, cannot be less than 6000.

It is a fact of singular interest that a country, the general conception of which is that of an arid plain or wilderness of marsh and swamp, should not only present a picturesque appearance but be found to possess, in many places, great agricultural capabilities.

On the 10th of March, the Expedition left Falaba, adopting the Port Loko route, to return to the coast, and being detained two days on the way by the Chief of Big Boumba, we reached Port Loko on the 23rd, at 10 A.M. For a great portion of the way the face of the country is extremely rugged; there is a plateau or series of highlands running from the north-west to the south-east, between Caballa and Little Boumba, a distance of about 100 miles. Their total length from north to south has been estimated at 300 miles: they contain the sources of the Niger, and of most of the numerous rivers, north of the equator, which flow westward. After Caballa has been passed by the traveller going east, the land slopes gradually down into the plains of Sangara and Bouré, through which flows the Niger; so also the traveller coming west, after he has passed Little Boumba, experiences but little fatigue, for there is again a gradual sloping to the Atlantic. The source of the Niger is evidently not far south of Falaba.

After leaving Soolima, the next country on the west is Koranko. Caballa is the capital where reside Bullatamba, a powerful war-chief, friendly to the Government. The country next to Koranko, on the west, is Limba—a very extensive region. Most of the troubles, both on the Port Loko and the Kambia route, are said to owe their existence to the mischievous activity of the Limbas. A narrow strip of their country extends north of the Port Loko road, forming a wedge between the Soolima and Soosoo countries; and their towns in that district furnish a shelter for the Hooboos and other marauders, who, but for them, would not linger on that route. So also on the Port Loko road; they are continually waging war or committing isolated acts of plunder. Their towns are always built on difficult and scarcely accessible highlands, and protected by the cover of high forests. This is the case with the great Limba towns of Konkoba, Katimba, and Kafugu on the Port Loko road, and Kamalafi, Bafudeyah, and Labko on the Kambia road. The Limba women ornament their heads carefully, wear abundance of ear-rings, but only a narrow strip round their waist. They are a savage and inhospitable tribe, addicted to robbery and freebooting, especially those on the Kambia route, who are in league with the Hooboos, and seem to think it their interest to stop all communication between the interior and the coast.

If the Government could bring under its influence, by yearly stipends, the powerful Limba chiefs on both routes, a great deal might be accomplished towards keeping down wars and plundering between the coast and Falaba.

The region beyond Falaba could easily be kept peaceful by the influence of King Sewa and the Mohammedan chiefs on the east, who are interested in the freedom of trade.

I beg here to remark that, next to Falaba and Caballa, Big Boumba is the most important point on the road. The people are brave and warlike, and

they do a great deal to keep the Hoobos in check. Notwithstanding their disappointment in not receiving their stipend last year, their temper, though not all that could be wished, is still favourable to the Government; but it is to be feared that if their money is any longer withheld, they may become reckless, and neglect the oversight of the road. And, indeed, they said that, with exhausted resources, they would be obliged to be quiet or subject themselves to the humiliation of defeat and the certainty of retaliation from their foes. But what is, perhaps, more probable is that, dreading revenge or pinched by poverty, they may unite with the robbers and become their active and influential allies; and the roads through the Limba country would then be at the mercy of five or six thousand homeless and desperate vagabonds.

I crave permission to express the opinion that, where chiefs have proved their friendship to the Government and their interest in promoting the security of the road against lawless banditti, it is not incompatible with the duty of a Government, anxious to advance the prosperity of the country and develop trade, to furnish to such chiefs all the moral and material support in its power. This appears to me to be a very different thing from harassing peaceful natives by continual police visitations and meddlesome interference in their domestic affairs.

With regard to the stipend system, I would not be understood to affirm that I regard it in its present form as a panacea for the ills which afflict the country. Some method has yet to be devised, not only for economising the distribution of stipends, but also for concentrating the authority of the Government at prominent points in the interior, in order to see that the objects for which the stipends are bestowed are carried out, and to assist enterprising and progressive chiefs to apply the physical forces, now wasted in fruitless antagonism, to the development of the resources of the country.

It is evident that the trade of Sierra Leone with the interior is as yet only in its infancy. I saw no British calicoes or muslins amongst the tribes I visited. They raise large quantities of cotton, and manufacture their own wearing apparel. Until their time becomes more valuable, English cotton goods cannot be furnished to them as cheaply as they can make their own cloth. But if the demand for Manchester prints is small, English hardware and cutlery, powder, guns, beads, and, I believe, some woollen cloths, are eagerly sought after.

Those chiefs with whom I conversed on the subject of cultivating beni-seed in lieu of ground-nuts said that it was much more convenient for them to raise ground-nuts, as they subsisted largely upon that article; and that such was the impatience of the traders for the nuts during the season, that they had no time to remove the shell before sending them to market.

The tent which I carried with the Expedition has been left at Falaba at the urgent request of the king. When it was erected in his town, persons came from all quarters to see it; and the king concluded that it ought to be left in his town as a specimen of British art, and as an indication of the friendly relations existing between Her Majesty's Government and himself.

The delays and expense necessarily incurred in traversing a new route and visiting chiefs hitherto unknown to the Government, and the consequent failure of supplies, prevented the Expedition from proceeding to the Sangara country.

In conclusion, I beg to be permitted to add, that a great and important work devolves upon the Government of Sierra Leone—a work with which the commercial prosperity of the Colony and the civilization of millions are intimately connected. England stands foremost amongst the nations as the energetic promoter of whatever concerns the welfare of the African continent. Her Colonial possessions on this coast, and her commercial and moral

ascendency, specially qualify her, through her agents resident here, to contribute largely towards rescuing the tribes accessible to her influence from their present abject condition and assisting them to take a part in the work of the world's progress.

I have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's obedient Servant,

EDWARD W. BLYDEN.

*His Excellency J. POPE HENNESSY, C.M.G.,
Administrator-in-Chief, &c.*

ITINERARY OF THE FALABA EXPEDITION, 1872.

Route from Kambia to Falaba.

January 20, 1872.—Left Kambia, on the south bank of the Great Scarcies River, at 10 A.M., course E.N.E.; passed through a beautiful undulating country of gravelly soil, containing extensive fields of ground-nuts. At 12.45 P.M. passed through Ro-tubon; saw a large grove of palm-trees on the left hand. We now entered a grassy region, where the soil appeared rocky, with stunted trees here and there. Near the path, on the right, flowed the Great Scarcies River from east to west.

At 1.45 P.M. reached Laminayah, a small village surrounded by orange, lime, and mango trees. We left at 2.35, passed through Kankobramyah at 3.35, and reached Basia at 5, a flourishing Muslim town, surrounded by a substantial mud wall.

Jan. 21.—Left Basia at 10.15 A.M.; passed through Sulimanyah, a thriving village, at 10.55; reached Siakeyah at 11.25; left at 12, and reached Kuwebramayah at 12.30 P.M. Left Kuwebramayah at 12.45, and reached Bolon at 2.

Jan. 22.—Left Bolon at 6 A.M., reached Kasikondie at 7.25, a village embowered in plantain and banana trees; at 8.45 reached Kukuna.

Jan. 28.—Left Kukuna at 10.15 A.M., course north-east; at 11 passed some very pure iron-ore; at 11.30 reached a creek near which we saw several furnaces for smelting iron. At 12.20 P.M. reached Berehuri, a village situated on a very high hill; after resting a few minutes, we reached Bugami at 1.30, where we rested for the night.

Jan. 29.—Left Bugami at 6.30 A.M.; at 6.50 entered an extensive prairie region, and reached Kufuna at 12. This region abounds in iron-ore.

Jan. 30.—Left Kufuna at 5.55 A.M., crossed the Great Scarcies River near the town, course east, and reached Ganjah at 8 P.M.

Jan. 31.—Left Ganjah at 12 A.M., course E.N.E.; left the Great Scarcies River on the left hand; at 1.50 P.M. reached the village of Salliyah; left at 2.35, passed through prairie lands of deep black mould; at 3 passed over a hill entirely bare of vegetation, composed principally of a greyish granite; at 3.35 reached the village of Korokoro, where we rested for the night.

February 1.—Left Korokoro at 10.30 A.M., course E.S.E. then north-east; reached Firighia, a village on a hill, at 12.40 P.M.; left at 1.50, and reached Sumata at 3.

Feb. 2.—Left Sumata at 6 A.M., course south-east; at 7 saw very high mountains to the north. At 7.30 reached Dramanyah, left there at 8, passed through Sumbarayah at 8.35; at 9 reached Koto, situated about two miles north-west of the Little Scarcies. Left Koto at 12.20 P.M.; at 12.45 reached Little Scarcies River, crossed in a canoe. Left the river at 1.20, and reached the Yimbereh at 1.40.

Feb. 5.—Left Yimbereh at 8 A.M., course east; reached Dubayah at 11.40. Here we were in the midst of picturesque mountain scenery.

Feb. 11.—Left Dubayah at 6 A.M.; reached Kabayah at 7.40; course s.s.e. Region mountainous.

Feb. 12.—Left Kabayah at 6 A.M.; reached another branch of the Little Scarcies River at 6.30, crossed in canoe. Left the river at 7.10, and, after a hard travel through a dreary wilderness, reached a miserable hamlet, called Kowina, at 12. We now entered the Limba district.

Feb. 13.—Left the hamlet Kowina at 6 A.M., passed through wild, but beautiful scenery, and reached Kamalafi at 7.10.

Feb. 17.—Left Kamalafi at 2 P.M.; reached Kamakoomba at 4.30.

Feb. 20.—Left Kamakoomba at 6 A.M.; passed over very high hills, reached Bafudeyah at 9.50.

Feb. 22.—Left Bafudeyah at 6 A.M., course north-east; reached Lâkoh at 10.30, a mountain village.

Feb. 23.—Left Lâkoh at 6 A.M., and reached Finamusayah at 9.20. Here we entered the Soolima country.

Feb. 26.—Left Finamusayah at 5.45 A.M.; reached Soghoreia at 7.10; course east. Left Soghoreia at 7.40, passed Numula at 9.10, and reached Bintia at 11.50.

Feb. 27.—Left Bintia at 4 A.M.; reached *Falaba* at 8 A.M. The carriers with the baggage did not arrive until March 1st.

Return Route from Falaba to Port Loko.

March 10.—Left *Falaba* at 8.30 A.M.; at 9 passed a high hill of solid granite; reached the king's cattle-farm at 9.40, left at 10; arrived at Tade-sodo's town at 11.15; stopped for the night.

March 11.—Left Tade-sodo's at 6 A.M.; reached Sonkonyah at 7.35. Left Sonkonyah at 8.10, reached Numulu at 11.30, stopped for the night.

March 12.—Left Numulu at 5.30 A.M.; at 5.45 crossed a rapid stream, about 15 yards wide and 2 feet deep, flowing E.N.E., evidently one of the small tributaries of the Jaliba or Niger. At 7.15 passed the village Melacoro, and reached Caballa, the capital of the Koranko country at 9.30.

March 13.—Left Caballa at 6.35 A.M., and reached Konkoba situated on the summit of a precipitous hill, at 12.

March 14.—Left Konkoba at 5.20 A.M.; reached Kafugu at 10.30, road exceedingly rugged and difficult.

March 15.—Left Kafugu at 5.30 A.M., and reached Katimbo at 7.30.

March 16.—Left Katimbo at 5.15 A.M., and reached the town of Kawona at 12.

March 17.—Left Kawona at 5.30 A.M., and reached Big Boumba at 9. Here a messenger from Governor Hennessy met the Expedition with a communication expressing deep interest in the fate of Dr. Livingstone, and authorising me to proceed, at an additional expense, further into the interior to make inquiries as to the great traveller; * but, being entirely out of supplies, I thought it prudent to keep on towards the coast.

March 19.—Left Big Boumba at 8.15 A.M., and reached Little Boumba at 11.

March 20.—This morning detained by the chiefs of Little Boumba until 8 A.M., when we left, crossed the Little Scarcies at 9, and reached Bunya's town, at 1.15 P.M.

March 21.—Left Bunya's town at 5 A.M., and reached Bokarilli's town at 8.40. Having rested here until 1.30 P.M., we left and crossed the Little Scarcies at 2 o'clock, and reached Mobanta at 6.30.

March 22.—Left Mobanta at 5.15 A.M., reached Benkia at 5.10 P.M., having rested four hours on the way.

March 23.—Left Benkia at 5.45 A.M., and arrived at Port Loko at 9.30.

* See Appendix.

APPENDIX.

DR. LIVINGSTONE.

In a letter to me dated Sierra Leone, March 6, 1872, the Acting Governor-in-Chief called my attention to the fact that Her Majesty's Government were interested in the fate of Dr. Livingstone, and he gave me instructions to the effect that, when I reached the furthest point of my journey to the interior, I was to despatch messengers still further inwards to obtain information, if possible, respecting him.

The news that the principal British Authority in West Africa had offered a reward for any tidings of the great traveller was soon known along the Coast, and, on the 21st of March, Dr. Livingstone's brother addressed the following letter to the Governor:—

MR. CHARLES LIVINGSTONE to GOVERNOR POPE HENNESSY.

"DEAR SIR,

"S.S. *Volta*, Sierra Leone, March 21, 1872.

"Will your Excellency permit me to express my deep gratitude for your considerate kindness in offering a reward for any certain information from the interior regarding my brother, Doctor Livingstone? I have unshaken confidence that he will soon emerge from the darkness of the past few years.

"His last letter, of 1869, written on borrowed paper, requesting the 'Nautical Almanac' for 1871, shows that he anticipated being in an undiscovered country last year, probably at the Western Lake that he heard of, which may be the source of the Congo. Should he find it then easier to come down the Congo, he will touch here on his way home, and, I am sure, have great pleasure in thanking your Excellency in person.

"With much gratitude, I remain

"Your Excellency's obedient Servant,

(Signed) "CHARLES LIVINGSTONE,
"H.B.M. Consul."

GOVERNOR POPE HENNESSY to CONSUL LIVINGSTONE.

"Government House, Sierra Leone,
21st March, 1872.

"DEAR MR. LIVINGSTONE,

"I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of to-day's date.

"As it is impossible to say in what direction your brother may work his way from the interior, it seemed to me desirable to try every reasonable chance of meeting him; and I, therefore, despatched a messenger to Professor Blyden, who is now proceeding almost due east, asking him to send on messengers from the most easterly point of his Expedition to glean information about your brother.

"I shall also request Mr. Ussher and Mr. Glover to avail themselves of any similar opportunities of communicating to the interior tribes the wishes of Her Majesty's Government on this subject.

"If, as you surmise, he may possibly touch here on his way home, I shall have much pleasure in placing my Steam Yacht at his disposal to convey him safely to Southampton.

"Believe me, yours faithfully,

(Signed) "J. POPE HENNESSY."

It will thus be seen that the British Government in West Africa was moving in this matter before the Livingstone Search Expedition of the Royal Geographical Society had reached Zanzibar. Mr. Charles Livingstone's letter, thanking the Colonial Government, was written more than a month before

Lieutenants Dawson and Henn crossed the mainland on the East Coast. We now know that Mr. Stanley himself had contemplated the possibility of Dr. Livingstone's pushing on for the West Coast; and the surmise thrown out by Mr. Charles Livingstone on the 21st of March (long before the world knew of the great explorer's safety) that his brother might yet work his way down the Congo has recently received the authority of Captain Burton, who suggests an Expedition from the West Coast to meet him.

2. *On the Rivers Mukah and Oyah in Borneo.* By Lieutenant
C. C. DE CRESPIGNY, R.N., F.R.G.S.

I HAVE been up to Mount Ular Bulu, in search of cinnabar, but found no indications of it, or of any other metal. On the way up the Mukah I stopped at Lelac, where are the remains of a long Milanow-house. The iron-wood posts are still standing, although great forest trees have grown about and among them. Menjanei, one of my Milanow chiefs, who was with me, said that his great-great-grandfather, named Bugud, was the chief of Lelac, and, in consequence of the inconstancy of his wife, he called in the aid of the Kyans and destroyed the place, and all his own people who happened to be at home. The ruins are 96 fathoms in length. The rivers Mukah and Oyah being under my jurisdiction, I hold Court at various Dyak villages. I crossed over to the Oyah River, and at Aniow's house sent for the Pakattan chief Suni. Two years ago the Pakattans built some houses just below Aniow's Dyaks, but getting heavily in debt to the Dyaks, they had shown a disposition to flit. I promised Suni that, if he would leave his wandering habits and live in houses like other people, I would supply him with seed-cocoanuts and other seeds. He promised upon this to bring his people together to the houses they had formerly built.

The Pakattans are an interesting tribe. Although they lead a wandering life in the forests, and do not live in houses, they are by no means the savages one would infer from that fact, although the Dyaks treat them with pity and a little contempt. They tattoo themselves from head to foot in the most beautiful manner. They live almost entirely by the chase. Latterly they have sown padi here and there among the Dyak clearings, but, having sown it, go away into the jungle, and at harvest-time are content to take what the deer and pigs have left them. Their language is quite different to Malay, Dyak, or Kyan, and sounds very much like Tamil. Can they be a remnant of people from India? Although they are wanderers they have their possessions, consisting of gongs and jars, which they stow away in the hills. I am sorry I was so short a time amongst them, that I can give you at present no further information concerning them. As, however, the Pakattans are under my protection, I hope to see and know more of them soon.

3. *The Rationale of an Open Sea in the North Polar Region, considered with reference to analogous developments during winter in the Interior Lakes of North America.* By ALEXANDER C. ANDERSON, Esq.

AFTER a very long interval I resume the consideration of a subject referred to in a Paper which I had the honour of submitting to the Society as far back as the year 1844. I do this, after prolonged experience, under the impression that from the premises advanced, more extended inferences may be deduced; and with the trust that the conclusions at which I profess to arrive, will not be without their interest to the student of physical geography.