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and not an insignificant one, of healthy tendencies of thought, and of healthy aspirations among the peoples who speak the English language.

At the conclusion of the address, Lord Loch moved a vote of thanks. After referring in complimentary terms to the great work which the Hakluyt Society was doing, he said that there was one omission in the interesting and instructive paper to which they had just listened; for Sir Clements Markham, while dwelling upon the services rendered by others, had said nothing regarding his own valuable services both to the Society and to the cause they had at heart. Sir Clements had been Secretary from 1858 to 1887, a period of thirty years, and President since December, 1889; while to his accomplished pen were due about twenty of the Society's publications.

Admiral Sir Anthony Hoskins, in seconding the proposal, referred to the naval experiences of Sir Clements Markham as having been of great value in his geographical and literary work. Sir Henry Yule had been described in the address as a "Hakluytianly-minded man." He (the speaker) thought that the term might be applied with equal fitness to their esteemed President.

The vote of thanks was passed unanimously, and Sir Clements Markham briefly replied.

The guests next proceeded to examine a small collection of books and maps of the Hakluyt period, mostly from the library of the Royal Geographical Society. Early editions of Hakluyt, Eden, and other geographical writers were shown, as well as an interesting manuscript volume (lent by the India Office) containing the early Court minutes of the East India Company, in which there is an entry of a payment to Richard Hakluyt, in February, 1601, of ten pounds "for his travails taken in instructions and advices touching the preparing of the voyage" to the East Indies, and "thirty shillings for three maps by him provided and delivered to the Company." Mr. Silver brought for inspection a number of interesting manuscript journals and drawings by Sir Joseph Banks. There were also the Ortelius and Saxton atlases; while the tapestry map of Warwickshire, dated 1588, kindly lent by the York Philosophical Society, was hanging from the gallery.

NOTES ON A JOURNEY ROUND MOUNT MASAWA OR ELGON.*

By C. W. HOBLEY.

THE following is an account of a journey in the early part of this year (1896) to Mount Elgon and the surrounding region.

The starting-point was Mumia's, the headquarters of H.M. Government in the district of Kavirondo. Crossing the river Nzoia, the first

* Kindly placed at the disposal of the Society by the Foreign Office. Map, p. 248.

four days' march lay through the country of the Wa Ketosh, a tribe of Bantu origin, having many good characteristics, and speaking a language little different from that of nearly the whole of Kavirondo. They are an agricultural tribe, living in villages with lofty mud walls, often loop-holed, and surrounded by deep ditches. Although a true agricultural tribe, they are great cattle-breeders, and also clever workers in iron.

The southern part of Ketosh is a rolling grass country, but as one approaches the mountain it becomes well wooded, and at the same time less thickly populated; it is abundantly watered throughout, every valley containing a running stream. Of these streams those to the east and south belong to the Nzoia basin, those to the north and west run direct to the Victoria Nile; and between these two drainage areas there is a narrow tract of hilly country, the drainage of which runs west to form the Sio river.

Early on the fourth day the base of the mountain was reached, and we encamped at the village of Mongichi, the principal chief of the Wa-Lako, the most important tribe on the south side, and were received in a most cordial manner. Three tribes have their habitat on the south side of the mountain, the El-Gonyi, Wa-Lako, and Wa-Kamuni, the latter on an offshoot of the Wa-Ketosh, and the two former, in common with several tribes on the north side of the mountain, form a separate group having nothing in common with the general Kavirondo type; from an examination of their language, they appear to belong to the same stock as the Wa-Nandi. In the absence of definite information, it was formerly thought that the latter belonged to the Masai family; but this does not appear to be the case, and sooner or later they will probably be classed with the tribes to the north, the Rendili, Burkeneji, and others, and be found to belong to the Galla group. Even if the Masai be also placed in this group, it will, I think, be found that their relationship is more distant than that of the above-mentioned tribes.

The Wa-Lako and El-Gonyi are a fine-built, warlike race, armed with spears; they depend principally on agriculture, but have strong pastoral instincts. They formerly lived entirely in the numerous caves with which the south side of the mountain abounds, but, the times becoming more settled since the advent of Government protection, they are gradually deserting their caves and settling in villages at the foot of the mountain. Many of the men have a handsome type of face, and have a much longer growth of hair than is usual in Africans; this they fasten up into two tails, one hanging down the back, and the other projecting out above the forehead like a horn, and the effect is rather striking.

The west side of the mountain being quite virgin ground to an explorer, it was decided to visit it.

Leaving Mongichi's and working round to the north-west, the country of the Wa-Kamuni was first passed through. Like the Wa-

Ketosh, the Wa-Kamuni live in fine walled villages; they principally cultivate the banana.

Immediately under the prominent west bluff of the mountain are situated the Wa-Poto tribe, and at this point the walled villages, so typical of Kavirondo, completely cease, and henceforward give place to mere clusters of huts without any works of defence.

We now began to enter a large area of country intersected by numerous steep valleys of exceptional richness, and as we proceeded it became more fertile, more thickly populated, and more beautiful.

The inhabitants fled at our approach, driving off their cattle; but we soon got into communication with them and allayed their fears. They then guided us ahead, and we reached a tribe called the Wa-Koko, who insisted upon the performance of certain ceremonies before we went further. A beast was killed, and a medicine man examined the entrails with a view to discover if our visit boded for good or otherwise. The augury proved favourable, and they at once proceeded to spatter my men with the contents of the bullock's stomach, which, it appeared, was a sign of great good-will. The men, half amused and half angry at this novel pleasantry, returned the compliment with great zest, and in a little time every one was in a most unpleasant condition and in the best of humours. Needless to say, I hastily retired to my tent at an early stage of the proceedings.

We were now at the foot of a large mountain called Busano, which is situated some 10 miles to the west of Elgon. The southern slopes of this mountain are densely populated by a tribe called the Wa-Tuta, who at first seemed inclined to stop our progress; but an understanding was eventually arrived at, and we proceeded unmolested, and crossed the Busano mountain, after a steep climb, by a pass at the height of 6640 feet.

The upper part of this mountain is covered by a forest of magnificent timber, among which tree ferns, giant senecios, and wild bananas flourish in luxuriance.

The summit of the pass being reached, we were relieved to descend into more level country, for between Mongichi's and this mountain the whole country is a succession of precipitous hills, which it is impossible to avoid; but from a scenic point of view it is of rare beauty, additional charm being added by the luxuriant banana plantations with which all but the very steepest hills are clothed from foot to summit. Away to the west the valleys, as fertile as ever, widen out in the direction of the Nile.

On the north side of Busano mountain we passed through a succession of small tribes, the Wa-Matanda, Wa-Fumba, Wa-Konde, Wa-Mruma, and Wa-Muhasa, who inhabit a large tract of fertile, well-wooded country, in which bananas grow in such profusion that large quantities ripen and rot in the plantations ungathered. These people are all friendly and inoffensive; they are entirely unacquainted with cloth and beads,

Trakere & Bontall sc.

MOUNT DABASIEN, FROM SAYEL.

C. H. H. 301.

the usual trade goods, and have no word in their language to express the same; a few cowries were seen, and these, it was found, were imported from Unyoro, being passed on through the intermediate tribes. All these tribes belong to the Kavirondo stock.

A considerable stream, the river Namatari, flows through the heart of this country. The presence of the river was quite unsuspected until we were in close proximity to it, for it runs along at the bottom of a deep cañon some 250 feet below the general contour of the country.

Leaving Muhasa, we bore north-east across a wide uninhabited grass plain, evidently very swampy in the rains, and struck the north-west corner of Elgon. The outline of the mountain is here very clearly defined, descending as it does by a regular series of abrupt steps and gentle slopes to the vast level plains which run north as far as the eye can reach, in the direction of Turkana and Lobbor. In this plain, some miles to the north and north-west, lie the chain of lakes first seen by Mr. Jackson from Savei in 1890, and the largest of which was named Lake Salisbury by him. Their shores are peopled by a large tribe called the Wa-Kumama, who are constantly raiding the inhabitants of the mountain. I regret that want of time prevented my visiting them, as I suspect these natives are the most southerly extension of the Nile valley tribes. It has been suggested that these lakes are mere lagoons produced by the overflowing of the Nile when in flood, and that they disappear as the Nile falls; but this is not, I think, the case, for the date of my journey was at the latter end of a long dry season, and three large sheets of water were to be seen, with clearly defined shores, and what appeared to be trees growing to near the water's edge.

The north-west flanks of the mountain are inhabited by a tribe called the Wa-Mbai, and further to the east occur a people called the Wa-Sor, and still further east occur the Wa-Savei; all these tribes belong to the same class as the Wa-Lako. The two former cultivate bananas in profusion, also yams, and the latter principally millet. All this country, situated as it is on the lower slopes of the mountain, at an altitude ranging from 6000 to 7000 feet, has a most delightful climate, and it is perfectly watered by numerous streams of icy cold water from the upper part of the mountain. Several waterfalls of great beauty were discovered; the first of these, which has a sheer drop of about 60 feet, I have taken the liberty to name after Mr. F. J. Jackson, who was the first European to ascend the mountain.

The district of Savei has become well known as a great halting-place for Swahili and Arab caravans going north to trade for ivory at Ngaboto and Turkana; nearly all visit this place to purchase a stock of food for the onward journey, food being practically unobtainable for a long way north, as the tribes mostly live by hunting. Owing to long intercourse with these coast traders, the Wa-Savei are somewhat more civilized than their neighbours, and, as a mark of confidence, the chief

sent his son back with us to Mumia's, in order that he might see the place.

Standing on the slopes of Elgon, in the neighbourhood of Savei, and looking north, one's attention is at once arrested by the fine mountain of Dabasien, which rises abruptly from the plain some dozen miles away. It is as rugged a mass of precipitous crags of bare rock as one can well imagine; but I understand the northern flanks are more fertile, and are populated by the Wa-Kakisera. The atmosphere in this region is particularly clear, and the vivid scenic effects produced by the gleam of the morning or evening sun upon the brilliant pink and umber-coloured crags of Dabasien may not easily be forgotten.*

Leaving Savei, and working round the lower slopes of the mountain in a south-east and south direction, our road for about two days lay through a country clad with forest intermingled with scrub; after that the timber thinned out and became of poorer quality, and the whole country bore evidences of a much lighter rainfall than prevailed on the west side. With the exception of wandering parties of Wa-Koromojo, who live by hunting game, this tract is devoid of inhabitants. The Wa-Koromojo are very clever at trapping game by means of ingeniously placed nooses of hide rope. One of these is buried over a hollow in the ground; the animal treads into the hollow, and its foot becomes entangled in the noose; a heavy log of wood fastened at the other end of the rope impedes the animal's progress, and enables the hunter to overtake and spear it. The east side of the mountain above 7000 feet is covered by dense forests, the haunt of numerous herds of elephants, and also the nearly extinct African buffalo.

Reaching once more the south side of the mountain, the El Gonyi were met with. They reside almost entirely in the large caves which abound on this face. Some of these caves are of considerable size, running back for as much as 150 yards, and inhabited by large numbers of people. At the mouth of the cave a barricade of timber is erected, with perhaps a couple of tiny gates, and inside this barricade is a large open place, in which are erected the granaries of the community; and then leading off in various directions are lanes lined with little stockades, in each of which resides a family. These passages are crossed at intervals by barricades, and stagings are built over the doors, upon which certain of the young warriors sleep, ready to spear any foe who attempts a night attack. The inner recesses of the caves are usually very low, and here the tribal flocks are nightly driven for safety.

It is remarkable to observe the way in which the inhabitants have adapted themselves to their gloomy surroundings; they appear to

* This is clearly Mr. J. Thomson's Doneyo Lemboto and Mr. E. Gedge's Mount Lekakisera. Mr. Thomson's Lekakisera corresponds to Mr. Gedge's Dabasien, and lies about 70 miles to the north of Mount Elgon.—E. G. R.

develop a special power of sight, and run about at full speed in the dense darkness of the passages with the greatest ease and confidence.

The caves are very dry, and the attrition of human feet through long ages has worn away the rock and produced a fine floury dust, in which one sinks nearly ankle-deep. I dug down in one of the caves to a depth of some feet through this grey dust, but no remains of any kind rewarded my search. There was a marked absence of stalactitic growth in all the caves visited; in only one was there a small trickle of water from the roof.

It has been suggested by Joseph Thomson and others that these caves are of artificial origin, but, after visiting and carefully examining several, I was unable to accept this theory, and, as far as I can judge, they appear to be undoubtedly due to natural causes, and excavated by water, and it seems to me extremely probable that the flanks of Elgon were denuded by the waters of the Victoria Nyanza, the excavation of the caves being part of such denudation.

Most recent observers have been struck by the way in which all this part of Africa is composed of a series of troughs and ridges running roughly north and south; first the Ukamba ridges, then the Athi trough, the Kikuyu ridge, the Naivasha-Baringo trough, the Mau ridge, the Rangata Nyuki trough, the Kabras-Elgon ridge, the Nyanza trough, Unyoro ridge, and Albert Nyanza trough.

As the Earth continues to contract, the natural tendency of the ridges is to rise and the valleys to deepen. Then, looking back to past ages, it is quite possible to conceive the Albert and Victoria Nyanza joined and forming one mighty inland sea, washing the slopes of Mount Elgon, which then only rose to a comparatively insignificant height above the waters; for it must be remembered that caves are found on the mountain to a height of about 8000 feet. As the crumpling proceeded the mountain gradually rose, presenting lower and lower portions to the denuding action of the waves; at length a minor fold appeared in the centre of the great sea, producing the Unyoro ridge, and splitting it into the two lakes; and eventually the Victoria Nyanza receded altogether from the mountain, and took up its present limits.

I put forth this explanation in a tentative manner, but it appears to me to explain the existing situation, and, in support of it, I may mention that traces of ancient beaches may be seen in various parts of Kavirondo, many miles from the present shores of Lake Victoria.

With regard to the structure of the mountain, I can only speak of the lower part up to an altitude of some 8000 feet. This is composed of alternate layers of volcanic ash and volcanic agglomerate; lofty precipitous cliffs mark the outcrop of the agglomerate, and gentle slopes the outcrop of the softer ash interbedded with the agglomerate. And it is in the face of these water-worn, wave-washed cliffs that are found

the caves, for all the world the same as numberless caves in process of formation on many a rocky shore at the present day.

A vast number of streams have their source on the mountain, and carve its flanks into picturesque ravines. The bulk of this water eventually finds its way to the Nile, but not directly so. The streams on the south and south-east run into the Nzoia river, and so into the Nyanza; those rising on the south-west and west sides run direct into the Nile, probably in the neighbourhood of Lake Gitanzige; while those on the north-west and north eventually reach the Nile by way of the big chain of lakes, which are supposed to debouch into Lake Kioga.

But to the east and north-east we get streams belonging to an entirely different system. I refer to the Turkwel river and others which unite and flow away to Lake Rudolf. One of these streams, named the Shwam, is notable, inasmuch as it rises in the centre of the crater of the mountain, and it has carved a deep gorge through the crater wall, which presents a very striking appearance from the plains to the east.*

Curiously enough, none of the tribes on or surrounding the mountain have any knowledge of the popular name for the mountain (Elgon), and I believe this to have been derived in some confused manner from the name of the tribe on the south side, the El Gonyi. The Wa-Kitosh call the mountain Masawa; the Wa Lako Masawa Tukul; and the tribes on the west side use the name Ruteka. Masawa is the name that is most widely known.†

Having now made a complete circuit of the mountain, we returned to Mumia's, after a pleasant journey of about a month's duration.

THE SUPPOSED DISCOVERY OF SOUTH AMERICA BEFORE 1448, AND THE CRITICAL METHODS OF THE HISTORIANS OF GEOGRAPHICAL DISCOVERY.

By J. BATALHA-REIS.

IN an extensive memoir ‡ Sig. Carlo Errera studied anew the nautical map of 1448 by Andrea Bianco, and discussed the interpretation given by Mr. Yule Oldham, since 1894, § to a portion of it.

I take this opportunity of presenting the most important ideas of the Italian historian, to call the attention of the historians of geography to some neglected

* The Shwam is Mr. Gedge's Angelel, called Suam in its lower courses.—E. G. R.

† The mountain is also known as Masawa (Marsawa) on Lake Victoria, where Mr. H. M. Stanley heard the name in 1875. Mr. J. Thomson calls Ketosh *Masawa*, and the mountain *Elgon*; Emin Pasha heard of a tribe Wa-Sawe (Wa-Savei?).—E. G. R.

‡ "Della Carta di Andrea Bianco del 1418 e di una supposta scoperta del Brasile nel 1447," *Memorie della Società Geografica italiana*, V. Parte 1^a. pp. 202-225 (Roma, 1895).

§ 'British Association, etc., Oxford,' p. 715 (London, 1894); Royal Geographical Society, November, 1894; *Geographical Journal*, March, 1895, pp. 221-239.

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