WILEY

Note on the Height of the Victoria Nyanza

Author(s): C. George

Source: *Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society of London*, Vol. 20, No. 2 (1875 - 1876), pp. 159-160

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

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1799876>

Accessed: 12/06/2014 09:50

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

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 and *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*.

<http://www.jstor.org>

called in Karague the Kitangule, and it shall describe some foul adventures that we went through, which caused us to appear in a wretched condition to our Expedition. Though our condition was so wretched, it was not half so bad, nevertheless, as it would have been had we returned two days later, for I doubt much whether I should have had an Expedition to command at all. I had been absent too long, and our fight with the Wavuma had been magnified and enlarged by native rumour to such a pitch that Wolseley's victory at Ardahsu was as nothing to ours, for it had been said that we had destroyed a whole fleet of canoes, not one of which had escaped, and that some other tribe or tribes had collected a force, overtaken us, and destroyed us in like manner—an incredible story, which had, however, so won upon a faction of my soldiers, that they had determined to return to Unyanyembe, and thence to Zanzibar. But God has been with us here, and on the lake, and, though we have suffered some misfortunes, He has protected us from greater ones.

We had been absent from camp fifty-eight days, during which we had surveyed in our brave little boat over 1000 miles of lake shores; but a part of the south-west coast has yet to be explored. We shall not leave the Nyanza, however, until we have thoroughly done our work. I returned to find also that one of my two remaining white companions, Frederick Barker, of the Langham Hotel, London, had died on the 23rd April, twelve days before I reappeared at Kagehyi. His disease was, as near as I can make it out from Frank Pocock's description, a congestive chill—that at least is the term applied to it in the United States. Pocock calls it "cold fits"—a term every whit, I believe, as appropriate. I have known several die of these "cold fits," or aguish attacks—the preliminary symptoms of very severe attacks of intermittent fever. These aguish attacks, however, sometimes kill the patient before the fever arrives which generally follows the warning. The lips grow blue, the face bears the appearance of one who is frozen, the blood becomes as it were congealed, the pulse stops, and death ensues. There are various methods of quickening the blood and reviving the patient, however; an excellent one is to plunge him into a vapour or hot water and mustard bath, and apply restoratives—brandy, hot tea, &c.; but Pocock was not experienced in this case, though he gave Barker some brandy when first he lay down, after feeling a slight nausea and chill. It appears by his comrade's report that he did not afterwards live an hour. Frederick Barker suffered from one of these severe aguish attacks in Urimi; but brandy and hot tea quickly given to him soon brought him to that state which promises recovery.

Thus two out of my four white men are dead. I wonder, who next? Death cries, Who next? and perhaps our several friends will sadly and kindly ask, Who next? No matter who it is. We could not better ourselves by attempting to fly from this fatal land, for between us and the sea are 700 miles of as sickly a country as any in Africa. The prospect is fairer in front, though there are in that direction some 3000 miles more to tramp. We have, however, new and wonderful unknown tracts before us, whose marvels and mysteries shall be a medicine which will make us laugh at fever and death.

HENRY M. STANLEY.

NOTE on the HEIGHT of the VICTORIA NYANZA. By C. GEORGE, Staff Commander, R.N., Curator, Map Department, R.G.S.

The great pleasure every geographer will naturally take in the new discoveries of Mr. H. Stanley has induced me at once to look into his observations for the height of the lake. The readings of his instruments given at the close of his first letter, though few, are very satisfactory.

The aneroids appear to have rather a large index error, but, as it is not pre-

cisely given, they must stand over for the present. The boiling-point observations, by two instruments of different makers, are to be preferred. From the fact of Captain Speke and Mr. Stanley observing near the same spot and with the same class of instrument, their observations can fairly be compared. The same method and tables have therefore been used for both observers—viz., the Meteorological Tables by A. Guyot—with the following results:—

				Feet.
Captain Speke on his map gives	..	..	..	3740
Mr. Stanley's observations give	..	..	..	3808
				<hr/>
Difference	..	..	..	68

And this difference may be greatly reduced when the Kew verification has been ascertained.

2. *Remarks on the Weather, Winds, and Ice in the Arctic Seas during the past Season, as affecting the Prospects of the Arctic Expedition. From Observations in Davis Straits and Baffin Bay, 1875. By Captain ADAMS, Whaling Ship Arctic.*

ON 12th of May, 1875, I was with my ship in the vicinity of Cape Farewell, where I found heavy ice of the usual rugged hummocky character. This ice is brought from Spitzbergen by the Polar current by way of the Island of Jan Mayen and south coast of Greenland. Sometimes difficulty is found in getting through it, but this year I got through with little or no trouble.

I made the south-west pack in the neighbourhood of Resolution Island, which bore from me 120 miles distant to the west. The ice here was of a lighter character than usual, owing, no doubt, to the mildness of the past winter. No whales were to be seen, the banks being covered with ice far to the eastward. I then proceeded north and reached Godhaven, in the Island of Disco, on the 20th of May, where I landed letter-bags for the Danish Government. The natives here informed me that the winter had been very mild, with a cold spring following. On leaving Disco I found large sheets of open water. No heavy barrier of ice at Hare Island, but the frost very intense. On the 23rd of May the thermometer stood 4° to 5° below zero, a very unusual circumstance in this quarter at this season of the year. The frost being so keen the young ice formed very rapidly, so much so, that my powerful vessel, *The Arctic*, was almost stopped. After several days' boring I reached Upernavik, where my ideas as to the past winter having been exceptionally mild, but followed by a severe spring, were confirmed by Mr. Thuekason, the Governor of the settlement, who informed me that at Christmas the natives were pulling about in their kyaks on the water, hunting seals and visiting the neighbouring settlements—facts which have seldom been known before at that time of year.

On leaving Upernavik I found some difficulty in getting north towards Melville Bay, but passed through the Bay with little more trouble than in any of the mild seasons which have been experienced during the past few years. On arriving at Dalrymple Rock I took on board some natives belonging to the Arctic Highlanders of Ross and Parry. These natives were moving north from Cape York and Eider Duck Islands towards Etah, and I told them of the Expedition, asking them to keep a look-out for it. On the 5th of June I was glad to reach the North Water, about three miles north of Fitzclarence Rock, and passed close to the southward of Carey