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44. Further Note on the Relation of the Bronze Heads to the Carved Tusks, Benin City.

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irregularly sized discs, but whether it is made of shell, or the shell of a nut, or of some kind of mineral, my informant was unable to say, and after examination I am equally at a loss to determine. Half a fathom of it is called *Kurina*; one fathom is called *Paku*.

C. M. WOODFORD.

Africa, West.

Punch.

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44

In MAN, 1908, 2, appeared an article on the relation of the bronze heads of Benin to the carved tusks from that city, together with a photograph of two of the heads. There is also a reference to a photograph taken by myself which appeared in Ling Roth's book, *Great Benin*. As there appears to be a doubt in some minds as to whether the heads, such as illustrated in MAN, 1908, 2, formed the support for carved tusks, perhaps the testimony of an eye-witness may be worthy of record.

I myself took the photograph herewith reproduced, and the tusks were at that time standing on top of the heads, and not, as has been suggested, behind them. I can guarantee that the altar was exactly as it appears and that the negative has undergone no retouching. I cannot remember whether there were any wooden spikes fixed in the holes in the crowns of the heads which supported the tusks, but if there were the white ants would soon have made short work of them. The carved tusks were of all sizes, from "scrivelloes" of 4 or 5 lbs. to large ones of 60 to 70 lbs. Of course all tusks were not necessarily supported on heads, nor, at the time of my visit, did all heads support tusks. I believe that originally all the heads were intended for this purpose, but that the state and ceremony which must have prevailed in Benin in early times had sadly declined. The compounds in which stood the juju altars were neglected, cattle wandered about and displaced the objects on them. New altars were made as each king died, and the older ones fell into decay.

CYRIL PUNCH.