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Boat Journey up the Wami River

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Source: *Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society of London*, Vol. 17, No. 5 (1872 - 1873), pp. 337-340

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

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1799574>

Accessed: 17/06/2014 13:30

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I did not know it till next day, and lost all but one, which was broken. Luckily the maximum and minimum were in another box, and Murphy has one, so we can go on.

List of Sights.

'MSUWAH.

April

12th.—D. A. ☉. $4^h 38^m 08^s$. $5^h 41^m 33.3^s$. Lat. $6^\circ 47' 44''$ s.
 $31^\circ 38' 01''$. $47^\circ 35' 40''$. A. T. 1st sight $8^h 15^m 35^s$.

REHENNEKO.

April

6th.—D. A. ☉. M. T. $8^h 41^m 39^s$. Alt. $35^\circ 39' 30''$. M. T. $10^h 33^m 34.5^s$.
 Alt. $58^\circ 14' 26''$. Lat. $6^\circ 46' 12''$ s. Az. 1st sight C. Bg. n. $74^\circ 30'$
 Var. $7^\circ 22'$ w.

May

7th.—Lunar ☉ & ☾ M. T. $4^h 20^m 44^s$. ☉ Dist. $123^\circ 23' 07''$. Long. $37^\circ 02' 00'$
 P. M. Azimuth Alt. $30^\circ 43' 51''$. C. Bg. n. $304^\circ 30'$. Var. $9^\circ 36'$ w.
 1st Az. doubtful. D. A. ☾. M. T. $1^h 43^m 03.2^s$. Alt. $54^\circ 14' 03''$.
 M. T. $3^h 39^m 09^s$. Alt. $30^\circ 59' 13''$. Lat. $6^\circ 49' 11''$.

13th, P.M.—Lunar, Jupiter & ☾ F. L. M. T. $8^h 50^m 01^s$. ☉ Dist. $107^\circ 35' 18''$.
 Dist. not in Naut. Almanac.
 —Lunar, Mars & ☾ F. L. M. T. $9^h 14^m 10^s$. ☉ Dist. $38^\circ 36' 21''$.
 Long. $36^\circ 49' 07.5''$.

17th, A.M.—Lunar ☉ & ☾. M. T. $7^h 40^m 21^s$. ☉ Dist. $119^\circ 40' 52''$. Long.
 $36^\circ 51' 15''$.

19th, A.M.—Lunar ☉ & ☾. M. T. $9^h 15^m 35.8^s$. ☉ Dist. $92^\circ 27' 20''$. Long.
 $37^\circ 13' 37''$.

N.B.—All the above sights were self-timed, which I found difficult for the distances, and I was more or less feverish or quining the whole time.

May

19th, P.M.—Mer. Alt. α Crucis. $30^\circ 51' 25''$. Lat. $6^\circ 47' 15''$. Latitude used for
 lunars, $6^\circ 47' 33''$.

"I wish I could send a more satisfactory set, but the distances all seemed good. As now the rains are over, and we shall have clear nights, I shall endeavour to get a latitude every night whilst on the march, and at any halt a set of lunars.

"V. LOVETT CAMERON, R.N."

The following papers were read :—

1. *Boat Journey up the Wami River.* By CLEMENT H. HILL, Esq.

CONSIDERABLE interest attaches to the River Wami, owing to the strong opinion expressed in Mr. Stanley's recent work * of its capabilities of being used as one great inlet into Africa of commerce and civilisation.

To prove, if possible, the accuracy of this statement, a small expedition was organised during the stay of Sir B. Frere's Mission at Zanzibar by Captain Malcolm, of Her Majesty's ship *Briton*; and

* 'How I Found Livingstone,' pp. 233-243.

the following remarks give the results of that expedition, which are, however, but small, owing to the brief time at our disposal.

The Wami is situated opposite to the Island of Zanzibar in lat. $6^{\circ} 6' 40''$ s., and between towns of Saadani (from which it is distant 7 miles) to the north and Windi to the south. It has two mouths, the Chanangu and the Furanhanga, distant from one another nearly 2 miles. The Furanhanga, or northern mouth, by which we entered, is by no means easy to discover from the sea, as the low mangrove-covered banks show little or nothing to distinguish them from the rest of the coast. It is, moreover, dangerous to enter except at flood tide, owing to the existence at the mouth of bars of shifting sand.

The entrance of the river is from 70 to 100 yards broad, a breadth which it maintains, speaking generally, as far as we ascended it: and its depth as far as the Chanangu junction, at which point the tide ceases, is not, even at this season of the year, less than 7 feet. This depth decreases higher up, till in places there is not more than one foot of water, though 3 feet may generally be counted upon by hugging the concave bank. The river, which, it may be added, is full of snags, winds so greatly that our course varied almost round the compass.

The low mangrove-covered banks of the first few miles of the river alter in character as one ascends, becoming higher and more open, while the country is covered with high thick grass interspersed with thickets, which become almost a forest at the spot where we first encamped, about 9 miles up.

We saw no natives nor any signs of habitations beyond a deserted hut or two near the river till we reached Galooka and Saguirra, two small villages about 12 miles up, inhabited by the Wdoi, a tribe of reputed cannibals, but who showed themselves to us only as a mild and almost vegetarian race.

The furthest distance which we succeeded in reaching in two-and-a-half days from the mouth was 23 miles, our progress being but slow, owing to the need of frequent recourse to the oars to make any way against the strong current (of nearly 3 miles an hour) when the wind failed: no light work under an African sun.

This brought us to the foot of the Hibohero Hills, in lat. $6^{\circ} 13' 50''$ s., a low range, of which I can find no mention in either Stanley's or Burton's recent works. From this spot we could see, about 9 miles to the west, two higher hills, apparently 1000 or 1200 feet high, and which would probably be the Dilima Peaks laid down in Mr. Stanley's map. Here the country became more open, the grass shorter, and the whole appearance more park-like. Here, too, as elsewhere, the river in the rainy season overflows its banks

to the distance of at least 3 miles, washing up shells, quartz, and rounded pebbles.

But little game was found, except that a herd of ten giraffes and a troop of zebra were seen in the neighbourhood of Saadani. The river, however, abounds in crocodiles and hippopotami (I counted twenty-three of the latter up at once within a space of 100 yards) to such an extent, exaggerated though the statement may sound, as to throw a real obstacle in the way of the passage of light craft. I say this, having felt the heavy pinnace in which we were raised some 6 inches, by three hippopotami, against whom we struck as they lay under water, on our way up, and having seen holes made in the bottom of a cutter, whilst we were in the harbour of Dar-es-Salaam, by the teeth of a hippopotamus which attacked it, though unwounded. Had either of these accidents happened in the Wami to a light craft, the crocodiles would not have been slow to take advantage of the presence of its crew in their waters. Doubtless, however, these animals will soon be killed down, and the hippopotami should be capable of being utilised in some way—as glue, leather, or tallow, for instance.

It may be of some interest to mention here that we ascertained, by sounding the places where hippopotami had gone down, that they can conceal themselves so effectually that not a ripple shall mark their presence in little over 3 feet of water.

A native of Galooka, with whom I conversed through an interpreter, stated that no slave-dealers came up as far as that village, which, as is the case with all the district through which we passed, is ruled by the Governor of Saadani, under the Sultan of Zanzibar.

The same native said that the Wdoi professed the Mahomedan faith.

All the natives with whom we conversed up this river concurred in stating that we were the first white men who had ever been seen there.

No cases of sickness or fever occurred amongst our party, and I should judge that in the dry season the country is healthy.

So far as it is possible to judge from the short distance we were able to go, and from the statements of the natives, who said the river continued for the distance of a moon's journey of the same depth and width, there is every reason to suppose that Mr. Stanley may be correct when he says that the Wami can be navigated by steamers drawing 2 or 3 feet of water for a distance of 200 miles: but that this navigation would be valuable for commerce is a question on which, as before remarked, time did not allow us to

form a definite opinion. I think I shall be supported by the naval officers whom I accompanied, when I say that the Wami is not navigable for practical purposes of commerce by any craft which has not steam-power.

The timber we saw—acacias, gourd trees, thorns, with here and there a palm—would not repay an expedition. Cultivation, so far as we went, was but very scanty and confined to pumpkins and a little maize; and the country, rich though the soil apparently is, was so thinly populated that no assistance could be expected from, or trade looked forward to with the natives.

An expedition which had time to penetrate as far as Mbumi might produce valuable results.

The PRESIDENT said he thought that the Fellows of the Royal Geographical Society would concur with him in considering that they might return thanks to Mr. Hill, who was one of their recently elected Fellows, for the paper which had been read. He would now ask the Secretary to read to them some extracts from a letter from Dr. Kirk, giving an account of a visit which he had paid, in company with Captain Malcolm, to the coast of the Somali country, to the north of the true Negro country of East Africa.

The following was then read :—

2. *Visit to the Coast of Somali-land.* By J. KIRK, M.D., F.R.G.S.,
H.B.M. Consul, Zanzibar.

"DEAR SIR BARTLE,

"ZANZIBAR, May 11, 1873.

"I told you in my last that Captain Malcolm had invited me to accompany him in the *Briton* on a visit to the northern part of the station; the chance was one not to be lost, especially as I had written the letter, explaining the course to be followed with the slave dhows after the 1st of May, to the Sultan, and it seemed very much better he should digest it quietly. Before going I also explained the matter to Tana and Likindais. We touched for a few hours at Pangani, a difficult harbour, impassable to vessels over 200 tons, yet carrying on a large trade in ivory with the Massai country and the hills to the south. Caravans from Pangani also reach to the Nile lakes, and go even to Baringo. The trade here is in the hands of Bhattias, of whom there are about thirty; there is only one Bobera, and, I think, three Khojas. Here, as elsewhere, these people trade, but an agricultural population is growing up among the Makulla, and Sheher men, retired soldiers of the Sultan chiefly, who from keeping petty stores have now planted sugar-cane to a very considerable extent up the alluvial valley above the mangroves. For want of proper machinery and knowledge chiefly, but possibly also in part from a saltiness in the soil, they do not make sugar but molasses. We must recollect, again, that molasses pay (considering there is no trouble in their manufacture) about as well as sugar. Grain, too, is largely cultivated, but the slave-trade is the curse of the land. Two years ago the valleys between the Ushambala hills and the highlands themselves were peopled with very industrious races. This was the old kingdom of Kimwere, which, like all African states, lasted but for the life-time of the man who by his energy made it. The tribes commenced fighting with each other. Captives were sold—slaves brought in thousands into Pangani, which suddenly became a great place of export, from having imported slaves from Quiloa the year before. This slave war did not last long, as the place was depopulated to such an extent that the few remaining