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A Recent Journey in Eastern Mashona Land

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ships that took the Federals up had to be lightened and towed across the bar. By means of training-walls, however, the main waters of the river had been drawn into one channel, and now the south-west channel was open for ocean steamers, which could go straight up to New Orleans. When the mouth of the Zambezi was properly attended to it also might become a navigable river. The mass of water that came down in the rainy season would always keep some mouth open. Mark Twain had described the flat-bottomed steamers with stern-wheels on the Mississippi, and with similar steamers it might be possible to ascend the Shiré as far as the Murchison Rapids at any time of the year, and the main river as far as the Kebrabasa rapids. The great point was to find a convenient port where the ocean-going boat could transfer her cargo to the river steamer. He believed the mosquitoes on the Mississippi were even worse than those on the Zambezi. Neither mosquitoes nor sand-bars ought to be allowed to stop enterprise on such a highway as the Zambezi. It was a great mistake that the people on the Nyassa ever went by Quillimane, because they instantly dropped into the hands of the Portuguese as regards custom-house dues. If they had kept to Lord Clarendon's declaration they could have unshipped their goods and sent them across one of the bars of the Zambezi and have kept clear of all interference.

A Recent Journey in Eastern Mashona Land.

By F. C. SELOUS.

Map, p. 192.

MR. SELOUS has sent us his sketch survey, from which the accompanying map is drawn, of the portion of Mashona Land traversed by him in his journey of last year. The following letter is in further explanation of the topography of the region:—

CAPE TOWN, 9th Dec., 1889.

I have just returned here from a journey to Eastern Mashona Land, which I reached from Tete, on the Zambezi. With two companions, Mr. Burnett and Mr. Thomas, the latter an experienced miner, I reached Quillimane on July 16th last, where it took three days to get our things through the custom house. From Quillimane we went by boat up the Quaqua river as far as Lokoloko, and from there walked over to Vicenti, on the Zambezi, where the African Lakes Company have a station. From Vicenti a fourteen days' journey by boat took us to Tete. Here we engaged porters and started for Mashona Land, and as all the country between Tete and the head of the Mazoe is most incorrectly laid down on the most recently published maps, the sketch-map which I send you may be of some interest.

After leaving Tete, and until we had attained an elevation of about 3500 feet above sea-level, we found the whole country very dry, barren, and scarce of water; for although we crossed numerous river-beds, most of them were quite dry, and in the others we only obtained a little water by digging holes in the sand. Speaking generally, this part of the country is very broken and hilly, though thickly covered with forest, and, owing to the scarcity of water, very sparsely inhabited. Between Tete and Inyatsutsu we followed nearly the same route as that

taken by Mr. W. Montagu Kerr in 1884, but we afterwards struck to the south and crossed the Luia, a river which is almost equal to the Mazoe in size and importance. The natives say that this river, the Luia, is richer in alluvial gold than the Mazoe. Inyatsutsu is close to the northern extremity of the Vunga Hills, and is, I believe, the same spot as that marked Vunge on Mr. Ravenstein's map, where Dr. Livingstone passed in 1853 on his journey from Zumbo to Tete.* From Inyatsutsu I could see Mount Bungwi quite plainly, and took a compass bearing to it. The Marengi or Umrengi (the Molinji doubtless of Mr. Ravenstein's map) is a miserable little dry river, and is a tributary of the Daiki. It (the Marengi) rises, as I have marked it, in the Vunga range of hills. The course of the Daiki, and also of the Mudzi, I have laid down according to information I received from a black trader, an intelligent man speaking Portuguese.† He seemed intimately acquainted with the country. I am sure that I am correct in marking the Kangudzi as a tributary of the Mutangwa, which in its turn is a tributary of the Luia. Some hunters from Daingi, who were intimately acquainted with the country, gave me much information, which I checked on our return journey from information received from the people living near the junction of the Luia and Mazoe, who pointed out to me whereabouts the Mutangwa joined the Luia.

After reaching Mount Inyota, on which is situated the town of the Makorikori chief Mapondera (who was visited in 1884 by Mr. Montagu Kerr), Mr. Burnett and myself went down to the Mazoe, and followed it right up to its source, which is not very far from Mount Hampden and very far indeed from where it is marked on the latest maps. From there we went to Mount Hampden, as I wished to join my routes from the east and the west, and thence down the Umrodzi river, back again to Inyota. I have now discovered that the hills which were pointed out to me in 1885 and 1887 as Wata's Hills, and to which I took compass bearings from Mount Hampden, are in reality the range of hills through which the Mazoe runs about ten miles north of its source. I have now been to the real Wata's Hill and taken many compass bearings on to it from different points. What has been pointed out to me as the source of the Mazoe proves to be really the Tataguru. The real source of the Mazoe is as I have marked it on the present map. It rises in a swamp, not on the high plateau, but at the head of a valley, two or three hundred feet below the level of the high country. This year I got information about a place, or rather a chief, called Sakatuku (this must be the Sakatoko of Herr Mauch) who, the natives say, lives on the head-waters of the river Rua, a tributary of the Manyame. I crossed the Rua on my journey to the Sabi in 1883. The river Inyagui they say rises near

* Mr. Turner, the compiler of our map, thinks this identification, and that of the Molinji with the Marenga, very doubtful; he cannot make their positions coincide.—[Ed.]

† These rivers were crossed in part by Capello and Ivens, and are inserted at those parts in accordance with the map of their journey.—[Ed.]

Mangwendí's town, not far from the source of the Rua. I heard of this river as a large tributary of the Mazoe in 1883, and marked it down in my little sketch-map. Now you will see that Mr. Burnett and myself crossed the Inyagui (pronounced In-ya-goo-ee) at its junction with the Mazoe, where it is a fine stream fifty or sixty yards broad, flowing very swiftly amongst great boulders of rock. At the place where the two rivers join, the Inyagui is quite as large as the Mazoe, and brings down quite as much water. A little below the junction of the two rivers the Mazoe becomes a fine river, full of large deep pools several hundred yards in length by 150 in breadth. In one of these we shot a hippopotamus bull—about the last of his race in the Mazoe, I think.

We rejoined our companion, Mr. Thomas the miner (who with our interpreter had followed our old route back, in order to examine some old gold-workings), at Chibonga's kraal, and from there we travelled together to Rusambo's town. From Rusambo's we again struck down to the Mazoe, which we found had opened out into an immense sand river, with a bed about 300 yards wide, down which there ran only a very small channel of water from four to six yards broad, and from six inches to a foot in depth. As dense bush grew on each bank of the river, we now had to walk for three days down the bed of the Mazoe, in deep soft sand, dreadfully fatiguing to walk through, and under a terrible sun. You will imagine that it was pretty warm work. Before reaching the Ruenya we passed the mouth of the Luia, which had become an enormously broad sand river with no surface water at all.

I never saw so much lion spoor in my life as in the bed of the Mazoe near the mouth of the Luia. Mr. Burnett saw five, all large full-grown animals, in the open bed of the river, and got a long shot at them. They had just killed a monkey, and were lying round it. I just missed seeing them, as I had gone into the bush to look for a bushbuck. However, this is not geography.

Just at the junction of the Ruenya and Mazoe rivers, the bed of the former is about 150 yards broad, that of the latter about 300. But whereas the Ruenya, even at the time of year when I saw it, which was towards the end of the dry season, brings down a fine stream of water about 60 yards wide and several feet in depth, rushing like an alpine torrent amongst masses of rock, in the Mazoe there is only a very meagre stream of water, a few yards in breadth and a few inches in depth. Just at the junction of the two rivers there is a small fall in the Ruenya, and below this fall the whole river is narrowed into a deep channel only a few yards in breadth, which it has cut for itself through a mass of solid rock, and through which the water rushes at a terrific speed. The place reminded me of Kariba Gorge on the upper Zambezi, though, of course, everything is here on a smaller scale. The Ruenya soon opens out again into a channel about 60 to 80 yards broad, always running very swiftly through terraces of rock. We followed the Ruenya down to its junction

with the Zambezi, and then walked along the bank of the latter river up to Tete.

The map I send you, you must take for what it is worth. It is better than nothing; that is all I can say for it, and I do not know exactly how you will square it on to the published maps, as I make the distance from Tete to Mount Hampden greater than it ought to be. It may seem presumptuous to say so, but in my own mind I feel sure that I have underrated, not overrated, the distance. I believe that it will ultimately be found out that the Hanyane (or Manyami) river, Lo Magondi's town, Mount Wedza, and the whole of eastern Mashona Land, ought to be placed further to the west. My own sketch-maps of Mashona Land have all been based upon the supposition that the positions of Lo Magondi's town and Mount Wedza were correct. Every step of my route this year I have timed most carefully by the watch. You must remember that I am a very fast walker when the path is good, but under the most favourable conditions I have never allowed more than three geographical miles to the hour of actual walking, and usually from two to two-and-a-half in rough country or where the footpath is winding. From Rusambo's to Maziwa's I have made 33 geographical miles. This bit we did twice, and both times I made it $14\frac{1}{2}$ hours' actual walking at a very fast pace. The whole journey in fact has been very carefully timed. Now, from the mouth of the Ruenya to Tete is made to be about 20 geographical miles on the best published maps. Mr. Burnett and myself walking fast did it in ten minutes under six hours. However, time will show, and when we have the railway up to Mashona Land I suppose we shall know all about it.

One note more. A Kafir carrying letters from my camp on the Manyami gets to Emhlangen in the Matabele country on the eighth day; but starting from the same place to Tete, a Kafir (or even relays of Kafirs) could not do it under twelve days, namely: two days to Inyota; four from Inyota to Rusambo's, and six from there to Tete. Yet according to the published maps, from the Manyami to Tete is only about 40 geographical miles further than from the Manyami to Emhlangen. By placing Wedza a little more to the west, and making the Manyami run more north and south, as according to my compass bearings it really does, I could get my different sketch-maps to agree very well together. Between the Zambezi and Inyatsutsu, I could not get many compass bearings, as the country was very hilly, and always thickly wooded, without there being any conspicuous landmarks; but from Inyatsutsu to the source of the Mazoe, I took a great many compass bearings with the prismatic compass lent me by the Royal Geographical Society. In making the map, I have reckoned the error of the compass to be about 20 degrees.

I have named two conspicuous hills, Mounts Darwin and Thackeray. I have done this because the Portuguese claim the country, which they

know nothing about (as their maps prove), and where the natives say no Portuguese has ever travelled. We claim the country too under the Queen's charter, and we mean to have it, and as an Englishman travelling in an unexplored country, I think I have the right to call any conspicuous mountain by the name of a distinguished Englishman. Such names on the map, at any rate, will show that Englishmen have been there.

As to my altitudes, I suppose they are not worth much. I had my aneroid set in Cape Town at the Observatory. At Tete, which, in the Portuguese official report is said to be 148 metres, or about 530 feet above sea-level, I found that my aneroid, when the weather was fair, stood at about 550 feet early every morning, going up to over 700 feet in the heat of the day, and when rainy weather came on going down to about 300 feet. Thus all my altitudes are taken by the lowest reading in the twenty-four hours. We left Rusambo's on September 1st, and the aneroid then marked 2900 feet. Returning on September 10th it marked exactly the same three days running early in the morning. After this the weather got much hotter, and upon returning to Rusambo's from the Mashona country in October the aneroid read 300 feet higher. I have therefore deducted 300 feet from all my readings west of Rusambo's. Altogether you will think my aneroid readings are not worth much. Perhaps not, but I think it will ultimately be discovered that much of the Mashona plateau is nearly, if not quite, 5000 feet above sea-level.*

A Journey through the country lying between the Shire and Loangwa Rivers.

By ALFRED SHARPE.†

I LEFT Blantyre in the Shire Highlands, on August 22nd, 1889, with a caravan of seventy-four men, intending to travel through the country lying between the Shire and Loangwa rivers (the latter running into the Zambezi at Zumbo).

Crossing the Shire at Matope, a short march of eight miles brought us to the village of Seweza, where we bought a food supply to last us five or six days. Travelling due west from Seweza, we crossed the Lisungwe river, a fine little stream rising in the Kirk Mountains, and flowing into the Shire at Chirala, and commenced the steep ascent from the Shire valley, reaching the watershed between the Shire and Revubwe rivers on the 28th August.

The Kirk Mountains are not a range as they appear to be when

* Mr. Turner has adopted the position of Tete given by Dr. Livingstone and Messrs. Capello and Ivens, and for Mount Hampden he takes that given by Mr. Selous in the map of his journey of 1883 ('Proceedings R.G.S.,' May 1888), correcting the intermediate positions by the compass bearings supplied by him.—[Ed.]

† Communicated by Ottley Perry, Esq., F.R.G.S.

