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Livingstone East Coast Expedition

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Fifteenth Meeting (SPECIAL), 7th July, 1873.

SIR H. BARTLE E. FRERE, K.C.B., G.C.S.I., PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

ELECTIONS.—*Charles Campbell, Esq.* (late Indian Civil Service); *Thomas Dineen, Esq.*; *George Foggo, Esq.*; *Alpin Grant Fowler, Esq.*; *James Newell Gordon, Esq.*; *Admiral Sir Frederick Grey, G.C.B.*; *Alfred Keightley, Esq.*; *Donald A. L. McAlpin, Esq., R.N.*; *William Sowerby, Esq., C.E.*

PRESENTATION.—*William J. Mantle, Esq.*

ACCESSIONS TO THE LIBRARY FROM JUNE 23RD TO JULY 7TH, 1873.
—‘The Currents of the Dardanelles.’ By W. J. S. Wharton. 1872. Donor the author. ‘Zones of Stars observed at the U. S. Naval Observatory, Washington, 1872.’ Donor Rear-Admiral Sands. ‘Papers on the Eastern and Northern Extensions of the Gulf Stream.’ By E. R. Knorr. Washington. 1871. ‘Report on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.’ By R. W. Shufeldt. Washington, 1872. Donors the U. S. Navy Department. ‘Centralasien und die Englisch-Russische Grenzfrage.’ By Hermann Vámbéry. Leipzig, 1873. Donor the author. ‘Descriptive Ethnology of Bengal.’ By E. T. Dalton. Donors the Government of Bengal. ‘Climats, Géologie, etc., du Brésil.’ Par E. Liais. Paris, 1872. ‘California.’ By A. Forbes. 1839. By purchase. ‘California.’ By M. Venegas. In two vols., 1759. By purchase.

ACCESSIONS TO MAP-ROOM SINCE THE LAST MEETING, JUNE 23RD, 1873.
—Map of Central Asia, showing the Russian possessions and contiguous countries. Presented by the War Office. 67 Sheets of French Charts. Presented by the Dépôt de la Marine, Paris.

LIVINGSTONE EAST COAST EXPEDITION.

The PRESIDENT, on taking the Chair, said he thought that on the present occasion, when they had met to hear something regarding Eastern Africa, he could not do better than read to them, in the first instance, the latest intelligence he had received from the East African Expedition which was sent out, at the instance of the Royal Geographical Society, to afford support to Dr. Livingstone. The latest date from Zanzibar was June 8th. Lieutenant Cameron wrote to Dr. Kirk, under date April 24th:—

“Going on as well as possible; passed Simbawenni this morning. I send these down by a caravan which passed us to-day. The Makata is perfect for travelling. I am all right again; but the constant travelling, donkeys’ saddles, &c., have only just allowed me to pull up my journals and maps, and have not given me time to make a duplicate, but trust to do so from Reheneko. Crossed the Ugerengeri to-day without an accident.”

Dr. Kirk in a letter to Major Euan Smith, under date May 24th, enclosing the above, says:—

“The rains here are ended, and messengers have come from Unyanyembe

with letters of forty-one days ago. The Mirambo is losing power, but still holds the Arabs from bringing down ivory. I have as yet heard nothing of Livingstone, who should be working back to Ujiji, by the estimate he gave us. The people who come down, report great hunger in the Ugogo country, but by the time Cameron reaches it the crops must have been collected. In Unyamwezi there is abundance of everything."

On the 22nd May Lieutenant Cameron wrote from Reheneko to Mrs. Kirk:—

"Dillon and I are all right now. I wish I could say as much for Murphy and Moffat, as from the letter I had from the former he was just recovering from fever, and was very weak. . . . I expect Murphy here to-morrow or the next day, and then [if he and Moffat can travel], *en avant* is the word, as I am tired of waiting and wasting time."

"Weather very pleasant here now—nights cool, and days not too hot; in fact, just the weather for travelling. You will see all our news in the letters I sent down on the 19th, so I have nothing more to tell. Bombay is doing very well."

There were some other letters, which, he was sorry to say, gave a very bad account of the health of Mr. Moffat—such as to cause considerable anxiety, but he trusted that the next accounts would be more favourable. There was a great deal of important matter, which he would ask the Secretary to read to them, including some extracts from a letter from Dr. Kirk, giving an account of an expedition which he made with Captain Malcolm, of the *Briton*, a very worthy descendant and representative of those who had a great deal to do with the foundation of the Geographical Society; and in that he gave some account of his visit to the Somali country to the north of the negro portion of Eastern Africa. A letter had been received from Lieutenant Grandy giving an account of the progress of the Livingstone Congo Expedition. The Secretary would also read a report by Mr. Hill, secretary to the Mission to the Sultan of Zanzibar, of an excursion which he made up the Wami River. This river, they would recollect, was indicated by Mr. Stanley as one of the probable easy routes into the interior of Africa, and to some extent the exploration which Mr. Hill made in boats under Captain Malcolm's guidance justified Mr. Stanley's opinion of this river. He thought they would find the letters altogether of considerable interest.

The following letters were then read:—

"SIR,

"MSUWAH, April 10th, 1873.

"I am exceedingly sorry to find that I have overdrawn my accounts, but the necessary pagazi could not be obtained without; more especially as every Arab was working against us. We could not have come out at a worse time of the year, either with regard to climate or diplomatic difficulties with the Arabs. We have had our first hongo to pay here; thirty doti to a smiling old villain, who gave in return a goat, a small pot of matama, and half-a-dozen eggs.

"The people here, all or nearly all, live in the jungle, and have the reputation of being thieves and murderers, but as yet we have found no hostile action on their part.

"For my own part, for the last eight or ten days I have been so seedy as to be able to do little more than boil a thermometer twice, and keep a memorandum of our route. When we have come in from marching, I have been so done as to require leading from the rug I laid on, on getting off my donkey to my tent; however, I am now, I hope, getting better. It seems to have been a complete disarrangement of the stomach, with very slight fever.

"The country hitherto has been fine, rolling, park-like land, with patches

of jungle. We are halted here to-day to get supplies, and start on to-morrow. I am quite unable now to write any more.

“V. LOVETT CAMERON, R.N.

“*To the Secretary of the Royal Geographical Society.*”

“MY DEAR DR. KIRK,

“MSUWAH, April 10th, 1873.

“Here we are, grinding on. I have been very seedy since Moffat left, but I think am on the turn now. But some of the marches did try me terribly. I could not have walked a step after getting into camp. Five of our pagazi have bolted. We have had to pay thirty doti hongo, and waste time, through the old smiling villain here. Provisions are both dear and scarce. However, we go on again to-morrow, and I hope things may improve.

“V. LOVETT CAMERON.

“*To Dr. John Kirk, M.D., Zanzibar.*”

“MY DEAR CAPTAIN GEORGE,

“REHENNEKO, May 22nd, 1873.

“As I promised to drop you a line sometimes, I will endeavour, as there is a chance for letters, to redeem my promise, though I am but a bad correspondent at the best of times.

“Here we are at Rehenneko, where Dillon and I have been since the 1st inst., waiting for Murphy to come up with the rest of our stores, and are expecting him to-morrow. I suppose we shall have to give him a day or two's rest, and then forward. I had a note from him just after I sent my letter of the 18th to the Royal Geographical Society, and he had been bad with fever, and young Moffat seems to be worse than useless; if when they join I find him so, I shall make no bones about the matter, but send him back with the first decent Arab caravan.

“We had a frightful amount of trouble at Bagamoyo in getting pagazi, and keeping them together when got. On our journey up here for the first 60 or 70 miles the country was very monotonous; rolling plain, thorn trees, and patches of jungle. I had a sharp attack of fever three marches out from Kikoka, which lasted me to 'Msuwah. I was so weak that I had to be helped off and on my donkey; but, thank God, I got round at where I tried for sights, but only got a sun D. A., which made the latitude 6° 47' 44" s.

“After 'Msuwah we made two marches to the Lugerengeri River, where we halted a day for food, and then we marched, with one halt, right through the Duthume hills of Burton, to Simbawenni, which we passed about nine in the morning, going on and crossing the Ugerengeri (same as Lugerengeri) the same day; here the pagazi almost demanded a halt, and so we made one; we then made a march to Simbo, which is nowhere—I mean there is no village, but caravans camp just about the same place on account of water. The next day we got into the Makata Plain, and had rather hard work in the mud, which was deep, stiff, and sticky; and directly we got into camp we had a smart amount of rain; however, we were able to go on next day, and crossed the Makata, or rather Mukondokwa, and two other streams caused by the rain. We had rain here all night, but next day we made a long march over a slightly elevated part of the plain, and got a good camping-place about one long march from Rehenneko.

“Next day, I and the caravan came on here, passing several big villages, some small streams, and one largish swamp. Dillon did not come on until the next day. I have got a few sights, which I send to you.

“I think I said in my letter to the Geographical, 2800 feet for highest point we passed; it should have been 1800 feet. If they send us any stores up country, could you send a thermal and some thermometers, as the pagazi who was carrying the box with ours in let it drop, and smashed the lock, and

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^s. Lat. 6° 47' 44" s.
31° 38' 01". 47° 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° 39' 30". M. T. 10^h 33^m 34^s.
Alt. 58° 14' 26". Lat. 6° 46' 12" s. Az. 1st sight C. Bg. n. 74° 30'
Var. 7° 22' w.

May

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

13th, P.M.—Lunar, Jupiter & ☾ F. L. M. T. 8^h 50^m 01^s. ☉ Dist. 107° 35' 18".
Dist. not in Naut. Almanac.
—Lunar, Mars & ☾ F. L. M. T. 9^h 14^m 10^s. ☉ Dist. 38° 36' 21".
Long. 36° 49' 07^s 5".

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

19th, A.M.—Lunar ☉ & ☾. M. T. 9^h 15^m 35^s. 8^s. ☉ Dist. 92° 27' 20". Long.
37° 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° 51' 25". Lat. 6° 47' 15". Latitude used for
lunars, 6° 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.