

# WILEY



---

Review

Author(s): G. G. C.

Review by: G. G. C.

Source: *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. 26, No. 4 (Oct., 1905), pp. 445-446

Published by: geographicalj

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1776610>

Accessed: 26-06-2016 08:44 UTC

---

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at

<http://about.jstor.org/terms>

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](mailto:support@jstor.org).



Wiley, The Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers) are collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *The Geographical Journal*

whom it is often a great convenience to know the exact position of places *en route*. The book is, however, an interesting record of travel, in which the author shows zeal, energy, and resource of a high order.

Colonel Harding is at his best in his descriptions of contact with local natives. The occasional glimpses we are given of native customs and character convey a correct impression, and make us wish that the author had enlarged further on the subject, for although the tribes visited have been previously discussed, much has yet to be learned of this interesting Bantu group. Many years will not of necessity elapse before it will be impossible to produce a photograph so typical and grotesque as that facing p. 348; so too with tribal customs. The vandalizing energy of the British settler rapidly obliterates native distinctions and idiosyncrasies.

On p. 118 the author gives quite a new version of the origin of the Barotse and Valovale, which he claims to be "according to the most reliable testimony procurable." To claim credence for a version so entirely at variance with previous research by such authorities as the late Mons. Coillard and others of widespread experience, some argument or reason should be forthcoming. The claim of Nyakatoro to blood relationship with Lewanika does not supply proof positive that their respective tribes are related. African relationships, even "blood relationships," are proverbially vague. Be this as it may, in the face of more logical theories, it is impossible to conceive that the Barotse and Valovale spring from the same stock. In type, language, customs, religion, and character the two tribes have nothing in common. Then we are told that "whilst Nyakatoro was building up the constitution of the Valovale country, Murambo and his son Litia . . . were living in the Barotse country," etc. Murambo died over three-quarters of a century ago, Litia (Lewanika's father) being a small boy at the time. Although Nyakatoro, for an African, is a very old woman, she was probably yet unborn, much less was she making history, at the time referred to.

Colonel Harding does good service in once more emphasizing the appalling extent to which the slave-trade is exploited for the benefit of the Portuguese colonies. As far as Bihe he bears out the late Major Quicke's evidence in detail, though the latter officer was able to trace it onwards to the port of Benguela. Here are some extracts: "John tells me that at a kraal on the Kabompo he saw slaves with yokes and shackles lying prostrate outside their huts. . . . We found lots of stakes and yoke-sticks forked and bored, through which a stick or chain is inserted to keep them on their victim's neck." "Every day I see signs of the slave-trade, the trees literally hung with the shackles which are used to put the hands of the slaves in at night. . . . These are left behind, often on the corpse of its unfortunate prisoner." "The wayside trees are simply hung with disused shackles . . . ; skulls and bones bleached by the sun lie where the victims fell, and gape with helpless grin on those who pass, a damning evidence of a horrible traffic." "Other remains are found; here the skull is battered in by the trader's axe, and the body clearly exhibits signs of the greatest torture and pain in the throes of death."

A. ST. H. GIBBONS.

## AMERICA.

### THE BAHAMA ISLANDS.

The Bahama Islands.' Edited by G. B. Shattuck, PH.D., Associate Professor of Physiographic Geology in the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1905.

This is a monograph containing the results of the labours of a scientific expedition composed of twenty-five members sent out by the Geographical Society of

Baltimore on June 1, 1903. The expedition had only five weeks on the islands for actual work, but during that time "visited Abaco, New Providence, Andros, Green Cay, and the Eleuthera group of islands, Cat island, Rum Cay, and Watlings island," and different members of it made minute investigations with regard to the geology, tides, terrestrial magnetism and climatology, soils, botany, mosquitoes, fishes, batrachians, reptiles, mammals and birds, the sanitary conditions of the islands, and the pathological condition of its inhabitants. On all these subjects detailed reports are given, copiously illustrated by photographs, coloured plates, diagrams, and maps. A history is added extending over 168 pages, and that is followed by a concluding chapter by the editor, containing some general considerations with regard to the economic and social condition of the people. Obviously the work will be of value chiefly to specialists, but it may be of more general interest to mention the conclusion arrived at by the geologists of the expedition with regard to the topographic history of the islands. Dr. Northrop, in 1890, had found evidence of recent elevation in the islands, while Prof. Alex. Agassiz, in 1893, considered that subsidence satisfactorily explained their present configuration. The geologists of the present expedition believe that there was a period when the islands stood at least 300 feet higher than they do at the present time, and that then the limestone rock of which they are composed was dissolved into caverns and grottoes, that a period of depression followed, during which the land sank at least 15 feet lower than the level now occupied, giving opportunity for the formation of the deposits bearing marine shells and the coral reef on Green Cay, and for the cutting of the ancient sea-cliffs, and that this was followed by a rise to the present level. To determine whether this level is now in process of change, and in what direction, bench-marks, which are fully described in the volume, have been erected at Nassau.

G. G. C.

#### GREAT AMERICAN EXPLORERS.

- 'History of the Expedition under the Command of Captains Lewis and Clark.' With an Account of the Louisiana Purchase by Prof. John Bach McMaster. *With Illustrations and Maps.* 3 vols. *Price 10s. 6d. net.*
- 'Narratives of the Career of Hernando de Soto in the Conquest of Florida.' Edited with an Introduction by Edward Gaylord Bourne. Illustrated. 2 vols. Sm. 8vo. London: D. Nutt. 1905. *Price 7s. 6d. net.*

These form the first volumes of a series of reprints of narratives of American travel published originally in the United States, and re-issued in this country by Mr. Nutt, under the title 'Great American Explorers.' They are intended rather for the general public than for students, and the moderate price and handy form in which they are presented render them very suitable for this purpose. The popularizing of standard works like the Lewis and Clarke narrative is a distinct service to geographical history, for it is to be feared that the doings of many of the great travellers of the early modern period which aroused the emulation and spurred the energies of their successors in the middle of the nineteenth century, have become far less familiar to the present generation than they deserve to be. Such a series has long been a desideratum, for while the original works may be accessible to students in geographical libraries, their increasing rarity, and to some extent, also, their ponderous size, have put them out of the reach of the ordinary reader. The enterprise might well be extended in course of time, so as to embrace other parts of the world, the American field having within the past few years been worked with considerable energy on the other side of the Atlantic, whereas, apart from isolated reprints and a few of the volumes of the "Minerva Library," the modern