

breeze, but being as unmanageable as ever, she ran on Shark Point, where she lay half an hour, when the tide flowing, she went off without the smallest damage, and by the great exertion of the master of the Congo, was brought to an anchor two miles within the point.

We had now visitors arriving hourly, all of whom pretended that they were sent by the Mafook of Embomma, to see the vessels safe up the river, and each of these gentlemen assured us that all the others were impostors, and only came on board to get brandy, so that I had a difficult task to keep clear of offending them, and at the same time avoid imposition. I however succeeded in getting rid of them all, by telling them that they should remain on board until we reached the town, when the Mafook would decide who were and who were not impostors, and doubtless would punish the latter. From them we learnt that an express had been sent from Cabenda to notify our approach, and that on this intelligence all the Portuguese vessels at Embomma, had precipitately left it, and quitted the river, passing us no doubt in the night. I had however expressly declared to the Malimba and Cabenda people who visited us, that I should not in any manner interfere with the slave traders, of whatever nation they might be.

The transshipping the stores and provisions being finished

on the 18th, the double boats were loaded and every thing ready to proceed up the river, but there being only a very faint sea breeze this day, we were obliged to continue at anchor. The Mafook Sina, or chief king's merchant of Embomma, came on board this morning, but as I had been frequently deceived by gentlemen Mafooks, I received him so cavalierly that he quitted the Congo, and went on board the transport, where his quality being acknowledged by several natives then on board, he sent back his interpreter and head man to me, and on finding that he was really the person he pretended to be, I desired the transport to salute him with four guns, which made up for my first bad reception, and he visited me in the afternoon, bringing with him a retinue of twenty rascals, all of whom he expected to be gorged with brandy ; and as I knew he had great influence at Embomma I endeavoured to gratify even his immoderate wish, and lent him the Congo's jolly boat to return to Embomma, and my own boat cloak to keep him warm.

The 19th, there being no sea breeze, we continued at the same anchorage, but the next day were more fortunate, and succeeded in getting the Congo up abreast of Halcyon island (Zoonga Campendi). The banks of the river, along which we passed sometimes within a stone's throw, are entirely covered with mangrove, intersected by creeks, the first

of which of any consideration after passing Fuma, is Kangavemba, (Alligator's pond of Maxwell), which seems to be a large expanse of water, but according to the natives, goes but a little way inland. The next considerable creek is that whose entrance contains the three islands called by Maxwell, Bonnet, Knox, and Halcyon ; the first having its name from a clump of trees, and is called by the natives Zoonga, Casaquoisa ; Knox's island the natives describe as a peninsula. The eastern part of the entrance of this creek forms an excellent little haven, where the Congo was now anchored, entirely out of the stream of the river in five fathoms. This inlet, the natives say, goes up to the town of Loocanse, the distance from the mouth being about three hours rowing of a boat.

July 21. This morning we sent a party to haul the seine on one of the banks which lie close to Knox's island, and took great abundance of fish of four species ; one being a *Sparus* of a large size, a mullet a (*Surmuletus*), and an old wife (*Ballistes*). A brig under Spanish colours, with 12 guns and 50 men, cleared out from the Havannah, arrived this day in the river for slaves ; her nominal mate, but real captain (named Sherwood) and a number of their crew being English and Irish, though pretended Americans, left no doubt of her being either English or American property.

The precariousness of the sea breezes by which alone we could get the Congo up the river, and the necessity of my losing no time in endeavouring to arrange matters at Embomma, made me determine on proceeding thither in the sloop's double-boat; and I accordingly quitted the Congo with the Naturalists (except Mr. Cranch, who preferred the accommodations afforded by the Congo), at 4 o'clock in the evening, keeping within boat's length of the shore; we found no current until reaching the point named Scotsman's Head, where it ran  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles an hour; and the breeze being very weak, we barely stemmed it. In the hope of meeting a counter current on the opposite shore, I now crossed the stream, and it being dark when we reached it, I anchored on one of the banks in six feet, entirely out of the current. This evening's sail along the banks was particularly agreeable, the lofty mangroves overhanging the boat, and a variety of palm trees vibrating in the breeze; immense flocks of parrots alone broke the silence of the woods with their chattering, towards sun-set; and we learnt that those birds make a daily journey across the river, quitting the northern bank in the morning to feed in the Indian corn plantations on the south side, and returning in the evening.

July 22. The shoals and low islands near which we anchored are composed of a border of sand and clay, with a



muddy swamp in the middle, the islands being covered with reedy grass. By the natives they are named Monpanga, or look-out. They were covered with fishing eagles, terns, white herons, and other beach birds, of which several were shot, and Dr. Smith collected no fewer than thirty new species of plants. Our bearings at anchor were, west end of Tall Tree island nearly shut in with the north shore, west, and the entrance of Maxwell's river, N.E.

At noon we had a light breeze from W. S. W. ; weighed and ran along the edge of the shoals in one and two fathoms ; at four, a fresh breeze ; and being past the low reedy islands and shoals, we ran along the bank of the mangrove land, nearly touching the trees in 3 or 4 fathoms until 7 o'clock, when the darkness obliged us to anchor in 2 fathoms.

July 23. At daylight, we found that we had anchored within 20 yards of a dry shoal ; being also close to the island named Draper's island by Maxwell, and Zoonga Kampenzey or Monkey island by the natives ; bearings as entered in yesterday's journal (by mistake). The land, for about 3 miles west of the entrance of Maxwell's river, is thickly covered with palms intermixed with the mangrove, and other trees ; and here a great quantity of palm wine is made for the Embomma market. Hordes of Negroes came down to the bank as we passed, and learning that we had

one of their countrymen on board returning from slavery, they greeted us with cheers, after their fashion, and clapping of hands. A great quantity of shell fish, of the *Mya* genus, are taken out of the mud round Kampenzey island by the natives; and the fish, stuck on wooden skewers, as the French do frogs, and half dried, are an object of traffic; their state of half putrefaction being entirely to the taste of the Negroes. In a raw state they are uneatable, having no flavour of the oyster, though confounded with that fish by the English who have visited the river.

At noon, we weighed with a light breeze at S. W., and ran along the main bank until opposite the entrance of Maxwell's river, when, by the advice of a native on board, we attempted to pass between the two easternmost of Draper's islands, but found them joined by a bank with only 6 feet, where deepest; and keeping too close to the eastern island we grounded in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet, but shoved the boat off without difficulty; and by sending the gig ahead, passed round the shoals through a very winding channel in 2, 3, and 4 fathoms; then ran along the south side of Monkey's island of the chart (Zoonga Chinganga of the natives), and the islands east of it, in 6, 7, 8, and 9 fathoms. Here we lost the mangrove tract, and the soil became a stiff clay, cut into perpendicular low cliffs at the margin of the river,

covered with high reedy grass and scattered palm trees. We passed two Negro villages, and at 7 anchored within a few yards of the bank in 8 fathoms.

July 24. At daylight, having a light breeze at S. W., we weighed and ran along the edge of Stocking island, composed (as yesterday) of reedy grass and thinly scattered palms: at 8, the breeze dying away, anchored in a little cove in 9 feet, close to the Negro village of Peter Mesougy, where we purchased a few fowls. Here, in searching for something in the boats' cabin, I put my hand on a snake coiled up on a bag of clothes; on killing it with a cutlass, it proved to be a water snake, and apparently not venomous; though the natives asserted that its bite is mortal.

At noon, we weighed with a light westerly breeze, and crossed the channel named "Mamballa river" (not distinguished by any other name than "Boat's channel" by the natives); the middle of it is filled with dry shoals, the channels between which are very winding, so that we kept the gig constantly ahead, and had from 1 to 5 fathoms water until we gained the shore of Farquhar's island, where there is 7 and 10 fathoms close to the bank. Here we saw the first plantation consisting of Indian corn about 2 feet high, and tobacco. In crossing the channel, a hippopotamus was seen, and, from the shoalness of

the water, it must have been walking on the bottom, the head only appearing above the surface. The natives tell us that the irregularity of soundings which we found is caused by these animals assembling in a spot and making holes with their feet. Two women, an old and a young one, came on board from one of the plantations ; by their dress and ornaments they appeared to be of a superior class ; I therefore gave them some beads and a glass of rum, which they swallowed as greedily as the men ; and, in return, the old lady offered, through our interpreter, to leave the young one on board, pour m'amuser ; a civility which, under existing circumstances, I thought proper to decline ; though the young lady seemed much chagrined at such an insult to her charms. At 3 o'clock the sea breeze set in fresh, and we again crossed the channel ; and at 7 anchored on the bank of the east end of Stocking island in 2 fathoms.

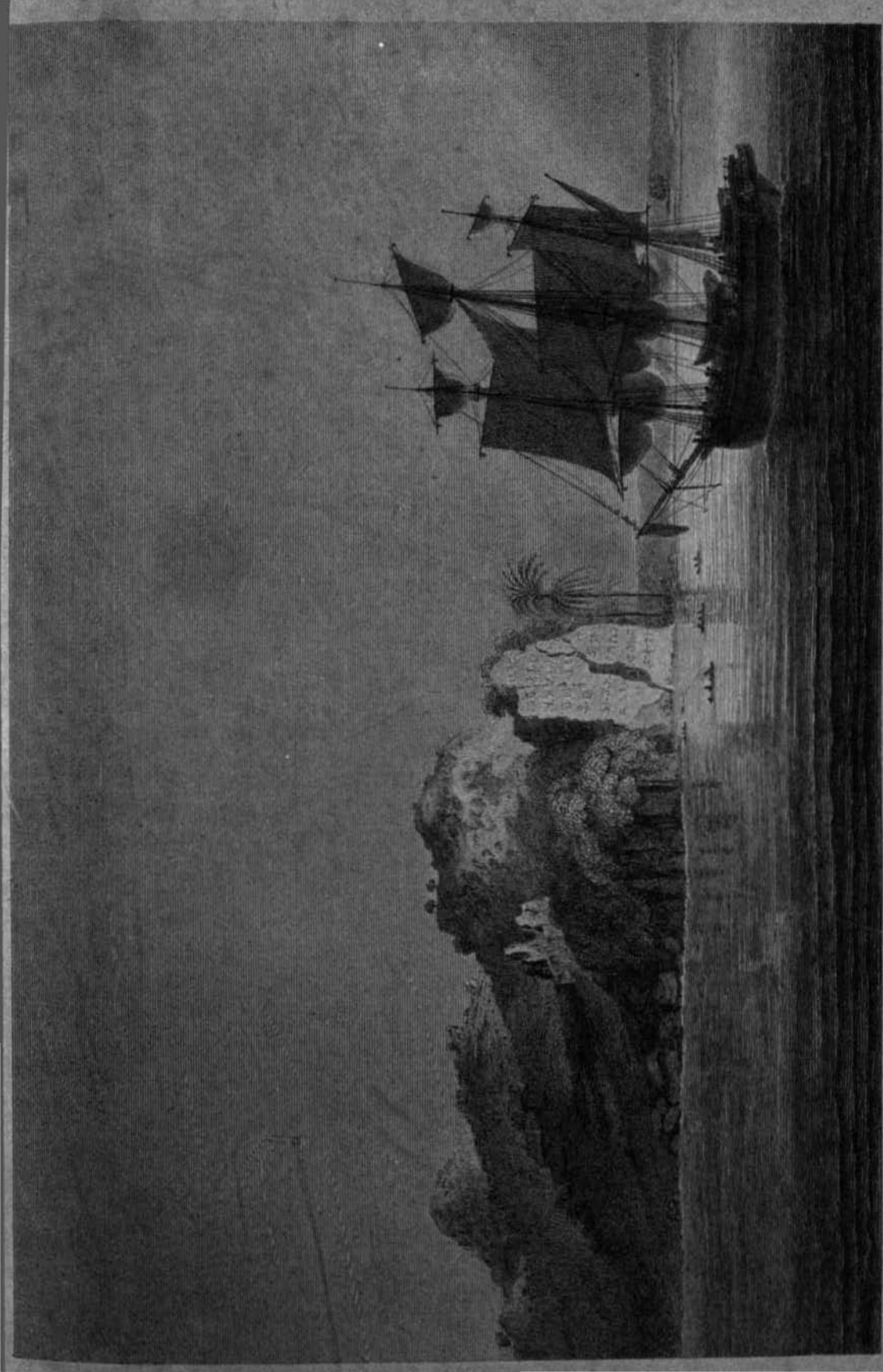
July 25th. At day-light we observed the Fetiche rock bearing W. by S., and the Beacon rock N. E. I visited the Fetiche rock, which is a collection of masses of the oldest granite, mixed with quartz and mica, running into the river perpendicularly, and entirely isolated, the land behind it being a plain with reedy grass and some corn plantations. It completely commands the passage of the river, being about

1½ mile distant from the opposite bank. Some of the natives on board could not be prevailed on to accompany me in the boat, dreading the whirlpools off the rock, as much as the ancients did Charybdis ; a few very insignificant eddies, close to the rock, were however now the only signs that some whirlpools may exist in the rainy season, and the current, which here ran stronger than in any other part of the river, did not exceed 2½ miles an hour. The prospect of the river from the summit of the rock is extensive, but in no other respect prepossessing, the hills which bound the view being naked, except a few *Adansonia*, and apparently of the same formation as the Fetiche rock. Just as we reached the rock, two hippopotami were observed about 100 yards from the shore, with their heads above the water, snorting in the air ; a ball fired at them sent them off.



M'Gonza Cheela hills, the middle hill N. E. 6 miles.

The three hills in the fore-ground are those named Tunkloo in the chart of Maxwell, and *a* is his Fingal's shield ; they have the same appearance on all bearings, and consequently are nothing like the representation in the chart.  
*b* Taddy Enzazzi (lightning stone).



From a sketch by L. A. H. H. H.

CAPTAIN TUCKER'S VOYAGE IN AFRICA.

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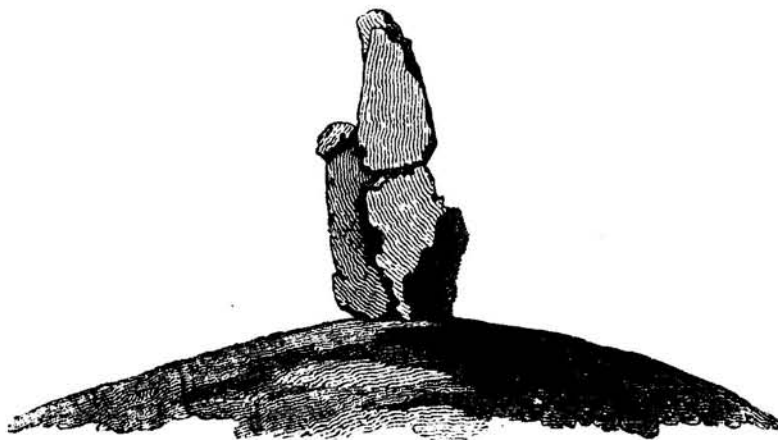


Taddy d'ya M'wangoo, or Fetiche rock, W. by S.

Fetiche rock south  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile.

*a a* Plain, and corn plantations. Fetiche rock E. by S. *b* Breadth of the river, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile. *c* Reedy island.

On the very summit of one of the M'Gonza cheela hills, named Fingal's shield in the chart of Maxwell, is a very singular pyramidal stone, which has all the appearance of an artificial building, resembling a watch tower or a lighthouse, but is a natural block of loose granite with another perched upon it. It is called by the natives *Tuddi enzazzi*, or the lightning stone, and is held as an object of great veneration. It was sketched by Lieutenant Hawkey, and appears to rise out of the circular summit of the hill, as under.





At 3, weighed with a fresh sea breeze, and at 6 anchored opposite the village of Lombee, where the Fuka or king's merchant resides, who was to accompany me to the Chenoo, or king of Embomma.

Simmons, a black man whom I had received at Deptford from Sir H. Popham's flag-ship for a passage to his country, here first met with some of his family. His father and brother came on board the sloop. The transport of joy at the meeting was much more strongly expressed by the father than by the son, whose European ideas, though acquired in the school of slavery, did not seem to assimilate with those of Negro society, and he persisted in wearing his European jacket and trowsers; he however went on shore with his friends, and throughout the night the town resounded with the sound of the drum and the songs of rejoicing. The story of this man, which I had before never thought of enquiring into, and which was partly related by his father, adds one blot more to the character of European slave-traders. His father, who is called Mongova Seki, a prince of the blood, and counsellor to the king of Embomma, entrusted him, when eight or ten years old, to a Liverpool captain of the name of ———, to be educated (or according to his expression to learn to make book) in England; but his conscientious guardian found it less troublesome to have



him taught to make sugar at St. Kitts, where he accordingly sold him; and from whence he contrived to make his escape and get on board an English ship of war, from which he was paid off on the reduction of the fleet. During our passage he performed, without any signs of impatience or disgust, the menial office of cook's-mate.

July 26th. Lombee is a village of about a hundred huts, and here is held the market of the banza or King's town, no trading operation whatever being carried on at the latter; all trading vessels also anchor opposite Lombee. The reason assigned for the market being held here is, that as a great concourse of country people frequent the market, if any dispute were to arise between them and the banza people, the banza would run great risk of being burned, and the person of the Chenoo himself would not be safe. Mr. Simmons this forenoon paid us a visit, in so complete a metamorphosis that we could with difficulty recognize our late cook's mate; his father having dressed him out in a silk coat embroidered with silver, which seemed by its cut to have adorned the person of a stage fop in the days of Sir Roger de Coverley; this piece of finery worn over his own dirty banyan and trowsers; on his head a black glazed hat with an enormous grenadier feather, and a silk sash, which I had given him, suspending a ship's cutlass, finished his costume. He was brought to the boat by two slaves in a hammock, an umbrella

held over his head, preceded by his father and other members of his family, and followed by a rabble escort of 20 muskets. His father's present to me consisted of a male goat, a bunch of plantains, and a duck. I had now no small difficulty in keeping the sloop from being constantly crammed with visitors, every Fuka, which appears to be a common title of honour, having his linguister, (linguist) and his two or three gentlemen, all equally voracious for brandy, and without whom it is impossible he could move a step.

The market here we found miserably supplied, being only able to procure a few fowls, a dozen eggs, and some plantains, in exchange for beads, that made them come dearer than in a London market. The staple article of trade here seemed to be salt, in which there were both wholesale and retail dealers, the former having 40 to 50 baskets, which he sold to the latter by the basket, who retailed it to the consumer by the handful, two handfuls for a money mat.

At four o'clock the sea breeze setting in, we ran up and anchored before the creek of the banza, in 8 fathoms, close to the shore, saluting with four swivels. Here I found a hammock sent by the Chenoo, to convey me to his presence; but it being too late, I sent his majesty an excuse by the Fuka Sina, who appeared to be extremely angry, because I could not visit the Chenoo in the dark.

July 27. At ten o'clock I quitted the sloop, with the Natu-

ralists and Mr. Galwey, and with an escort of four marines; the hammock I found to have some resemblance to the native palanquin of India, but in a miserable dirty plight, so that I ordered it to follow; and after the walk of an hour, for the first mile over a plain, covered with reedy grass, except in some spots where Indian corn and a kind of French bean were planted, and which is under water in the rainy season, and then over a fatiguing hill, we reached the banza, at the entrance of which I got into the hammock, and was set down under a great tree, the ground having been swept clean. Here the first objects that called our attention were four human skulls, hung to the tree, which we were told were those of enemy's chiefs taken in battle, whose heads it was the custom to preserve as trophies; these victims, however, seemed to have received the *coup de grace* previous to the separation of the head, all the skulls presenting compound fractures. After waiting half an hour under the tree, we were led to the Chenoo's habitation, where, in a court formed by a fence of reed mats, and which was crowded with the king's gentlemen, I found a seat prepared of three or four old chests, covered with a red velvet pall, an old English carpet with another velvet pall being spread on the ground. Having seated myself, in about five minutes the Chenoo made his appearance from behind a mat screen, his costume conveying the idea of punch in a puppet-

show, being composed of a crimson plush jacket with enormous gilt buttons, a lower garment in the native style of red velvet, his legs muffled in pink sarsenet in guise of stockings, and a pair of red Morocco half-boots; on his head an immense high-crowned hat embroidered with gold, and surmounted by a kind of coronet of European artificial flowers; round his neck hung a long string of ivory beads, and a very large piece of unmanufactured coral. Having seated himself on the right, a master of the ceremonies with a long staff in his hand enquired into the rank of the gentlemen, and seated them accordingly. The doctors (Messrs. Smith and Tudor) having the first places, and then Mr. Galwey, whom they stiled chief mate; the serjeant of marines they metamorphosed into a boatswain, taking all the titles of officers from the trading vessels to which only they had been accustomed.

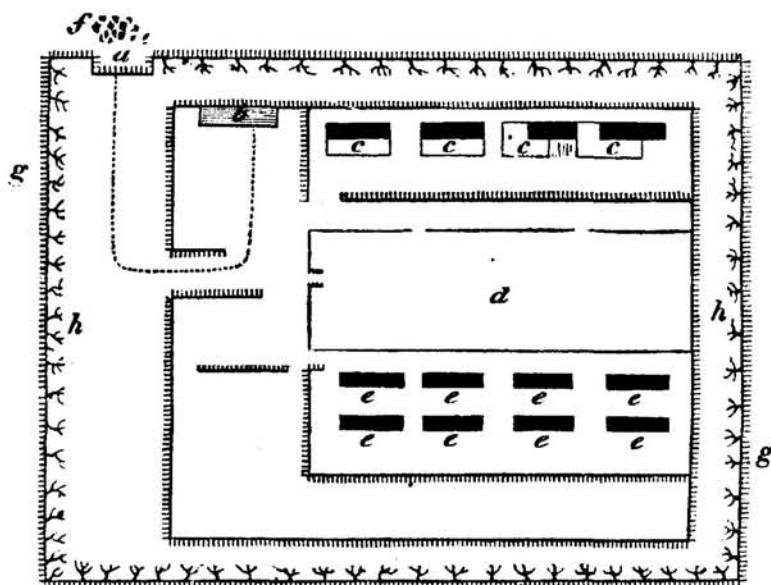
All being seated (the crowd of king's gentlemen squatting on bullocks hides,) I explained to the Chenoo, by Simmons, the motives of my mission; stating that "the king of England, being equally good as he was powerful, and having, as they already had heard, conquered all his enemies, and made peace in all Europe, he now sent his ships to all parts of the world, to do good to the people, and to see what they wanted, and what they had to exchange; that for this purpose I was going up the river, and that, on my

return to England, English trading vessels would bring them the objects necessary to them, and also teach them to build houses, and make cloth," &c. &c. These benevolent intentions were however far beyond their comprehension; and as little could they be made to understand that curiosity was also one of the motives of our visit; or that a ship could come such a distance for any other purpose but to trade or to fight; and for two hours they rung the changes on the questions "are you come to trade," and "are you come to make war." At last, however, they appeared to be convinced that I came for neither purpose; and on my assuring them that though I did not trade myself, I should not meddle even with the slave traders of any nation, they expressed their satisfaction by the frequent performance of *sakilla*, one of the chief men first starting up and making gestures with his arms, like a fugal man at exercise, and all the company striking their chests at the termination of every motion. This ceremony they afterwards repeated whenever any thing was said that pleased them; and with redoubled energy when I shook hands with the Chenoo. The keg of spliced rum which I had brought as a part of my present to the Chenoo, was now produced, together with an English white earthen-ware wash-hand bason covered with dirt; into which some of the liquor was poured and dis-

tributed to the company; the king saying he drank only wine, and retiring, as he told me, to order dinner. The moment he disappeared the company began to scramble for a sup of the rum, and one fellow, dropping his dirty cap in the bason, as if by accident, contrived to snatch it out again well soaked, and sucked it with great satisfaction.

While dinner was preparing we walked over the banza, accompanied by some of the chief men. It is situated on a small plain on a summit of a hill, and consists of about 30 dwelling places or tenements, each composed of two or three huts, within a square enclosure of reeds matted; the huts are composed of the same materials, and consist of two sides and two end pieces, which they call walls, and two other pieces for roofs; so that a house, ready to put together, may be purchased for the same price as four fowls, and in five minutes may be made ready for occupation; the entrance is by a square door in one of the sides, just large enough to crawl in at, and opposite to it is a window; both of which openings are closed at night with shutters of the same fabric as the walls. The Chenoo's tenement differs in no other respect from the common ones, than in containing one large apartment, a little better lighted and aired, and in being surrounded by a double fence, forming a

succession of outer and inner courts ; of which the sketch underneath will give a sufficiently just idea.



The grand entrance, being an opening in the outer fence about three feet high.

*b.* The audience seat.

*ccc.* The women's huts.

*d.* The grand apartments.

*eee.* Huts.

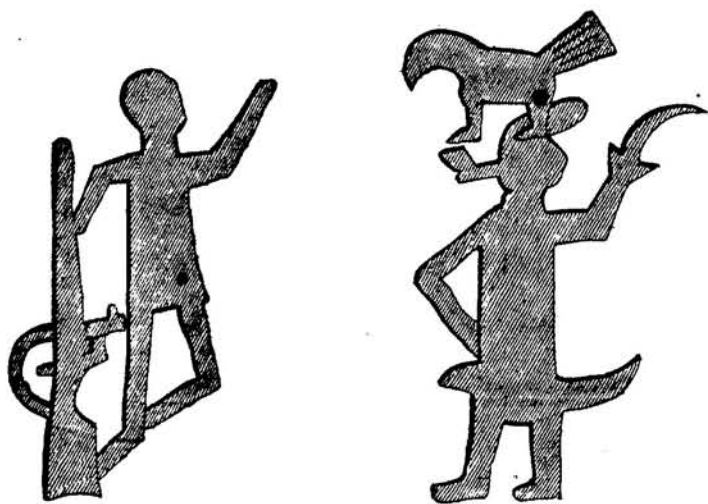
*f.* Heap of stones for Fetiche.

*gg.* Fences or screens.

*hh.* Young trees inside the outer fence.

Besides a large heap of common stones opposite the grand entrance of the Chenoo's tenement, a fetiche was seen in every hole and corner, consisting of sculptured figures in wood and stone, one exactly resembling the figures we see in England of Bacchus astride on a barrel, with the

addition of a long pipe in his mouth and a spear on his shoulder. The two figures of men below, representing two war fetiches, the one armed with a musket, and the other with a broad sword, will serve to shew in what a low state the art of sculpture is among these people, which indeed could hardly be otherwise where writing is utterly unknown. In no one shape whatever do they seem to have profited by the multitude of missionaries that flocked to Congo in the 16th and 17th centuries.



Our repast was laid out in the grand apartment, where some chests covered with carpets served for seats and tables. A few plates and mugs of earthenware, and some Venetian gilt glass were placed on the table, together with a few silver spoons and forks, evidently of French workmanship. The meats consisted of a soup of plantains and



goat's flesh, a fowl cut in pieces and broiled, and roasted plantains in lieu of bread; a large silver tankard filled with sweet palm wine, and a bottle of the rum I had brought, were placed as our beverage.

While we were at table, I learnt that the Chenoo held a palaver in another part of the tenement, where Simmons was most strictly questioned with respect to the motives of our visit, and obliged to swear in the most solemn manner of the country, to the truth of his assertion. This palaver being finished, the Chenoo sent to me, to say that he would again speak to me; and we accordingly were all seated in the audience court as before, with the addition of an old man, who, we were told, was the Chenoo's uncle, and who seemed to be a chief counsellor. After again tiring me with questions as to my motives, the old man, starting up, plucked a leaf from a tree, and holding it to me, said, if you come to trade, swear by your God, and break the leaf; on my refusing to do so, he then said, swear by your God you don't come to make war, and break the leaf; on my doing which, the whole company performed a grand *sakilla*, and the assembly broke up; the King retiring into an inner hut, where the present I had brought was carried;\* for on my first telling him that I had brought him a present

\* It consisted of a piece of furniture cotton, some beads, a plated tankard and goblet, and a silk umbrella.

from the King of England, he begged it might not be produced until all his gentlemen were dismissed.

While we were seated in the audience court, the King's women (of whom he has fifty), were peeping out of one of the squares, and before retiring, the King very politely offered me the choice of all his daughters, while his courtiers as civilly proffered their wives ; so that I began to fear I should find myself in the same dilemma as Frere Jean (in Compere Matthieu) ; fortunately, however, the gentlemen who accompanied me were not so fastidious as the Frere's companions. I however learnt that the ladies, though apparently nothing loth to change husbands, resisted all solicitations to consummation during day-light, under the apprehension that the fetiche would kill them. The language of the men in offering their women was most disgusting and obscene ; being composed of the vilest words picked up from English, French, and Portuguese. The faces of many of the women were by no means unprepossessing, and their forms extremely symmetric. Among the men we saw one marked with the small-pox, another with a short leg, and a third with a withered arm. Great numbers of the boys had a large knot at the navel. A cutaneous disorder seemed to be very general, and, like the itch, chiefly on the wrists ; and the hands of several of the men were perfectly bleached as if from a scald.

July 28. This morning the Chenoo returned my visit on board the sloop, accompanied by half a dozen of his sons and gentlemen; his modesty was much greater than that of any of our inferior visitors, expressing himself perfectly satisfied with my present, and only hoping that, when I came down the river, I would build him an English house, leave him a boat, and give him a musquet; with the latter request I complied immediately, to his great satisfaction. I learnt from one of his sons, who spoke tolerable English, that a palaver had been held all night, at which the Fuka Sina and all the traders insisted that our intentions could not be good, and that the King should order the sloop to quit the banza, and not let me ascend the river. The King, however, and the court party, would not listen to his suggestions, saying, they were satisfied I came to do them good, and that I might go where I pleased. Indeed the King now repeated the same thing, adding, that if I came to make the country (signifying to form a settlement), as the Portuguese had done at Cabenda, he would grant me all the land I required; in short, we parted the best of friends; and on his landing I saluted him with four swivels, the report of which (though they had been warned) struck all the crowd on shore with such a panic, that they ran off precipitately, tumbling over each other; which

shewed us at least that we had little to fear from the warlike disposition of this people.

This morning I dispatched a canoe to the Congo, with instructions for bringing her up the river, and employed the afternoon in sounding the river.

On the following morning (29th), I visited the Chenoo, at his request, unceremoniously, taking only two marines. I found him seated on a mat, in a court of his tenement, distributing palm wine to a family party consisting of about 40 men and boys, of all ages ; a seat being placed for me, he sent for a small box full of papers, which he requested me to read, and which I found to be all Portuguese, generally certificates of the Chenoo's good conduct ; and one letter from the governor of St. Paul de Loando, complaining that the Sonio men had killed some of the missionaries, and cut off a Portuguese trading pinnace ; its date 1813. After a palaver of half an hour, in which I was obliged to repeat my assurances of not coming to prevent the slave trade, or to make war, the Chenoo led the way to a pen in which were six fine cows, a young bull and a calf ; and one of the largest and fattest cows was selected as a present for me. This animal, I found, had been introduced by the Portuguese, and was now considerably multiplied, though no care whatever seems to be taken to encrease them, the cows in

calf being indiscriminately killed with the bulls ; nor do the natives make any use of their milk. The Portuguese, we also understood, had brought several horses, but none now remained. Near the pen was an 18lb. carronade, with which I had been saluted on first landing, and which I now learnt had belonged to an English vessel, burnt at the Tall Trees some years since by the slaves on board her, and that the rest of her guns (which had been fished up by the Sonio men), were now in the possession of the Fuka Sina, who offered to sell them.

July 30. Prince Machow Candy, known to English traders as Fuka Candy, (he being Fuka of Market Point when the English traded here), paid me a visit ; and, as he is considered as having great influence, I gave him a piece of chintz. He is a mulatto of French extraction, and said to have made a great fortune by trade, while he filled the office of Fuka of the Point.

July 31. This day and Wednesday, I employed in taking a sketch of the reach of the river.

August 1. This forenoon I was visited by Mr. Sherwood, the ostensible mate of the brig under Spanish colours, and who had been an old slave trader out of Liverpool in this river. He was accompanied by four Portuguese masters of trading vessels now at Cabenda, and part of those

that had quitted Embomma, on intelligence of an English King's ship approaching. Their visit was for the purpose of assuring themselves if I meant to interfere with the slave trade, and desired to show me their papers. I declined however looking at them, declaring explicitly that I should not meddle with trade or traders in any manner, which seemed to satisfy them, and they went off, as they said, to bring their vessels back from Cabenda. The Fuka of the Point and all the trading men seemed to be also rejoiced at learning this declaration, as they had still doubted, it seems, my assurances made to themselves. There seems to be no reason to doubt but that the chief slave trade to this river is *bona fide* Portuguese. Two persons of this nation visited me, saying they were from Rio Janeiro; I endeavoured to learn *en passant* the amount of the trade, and by comparing their answers with the accounts of the natives, think it may be averaged at 2000 slaves a year.

The price of a slave at this time, as stated by the natives, is as follows

- 2 Muskets.
- 2 Casks of gunpowder.
- 2 Guineas (1 fathom each).
- 12 Long Indians (10 fathoms each).
- 2 Nicaneas (6 fathoms each).

- 1 Romaul (8 fathoms).
- 1 Fathom woollen cloth.
- 1 Cortee, or sash of cloth.
- 2 Jars of brandy.
- 5 Knives.
- 5 Strings of beads.
- 1 Razor.
- 1 Looking-glass.
- 1 Cap.
- 1 Iron bar.
- 1 Pair of scizzars.
- 1 Padlock.

I have no doubt however but that slaves are now sold for one half this valuation.

The Congo this evening succeeded in getting up to an anchorage under Leyland island.

August 2d. I this morning shook hands with the Chenoo, giving him, as a parting token of friendship, one fathom of scarlet cloth, an amber necklace, two jars of spirits, and some plates and dishes. We found a seat placed in the audience court for us, and the Chenoo seated opposite on a mat with fifty or sixty of his friends ranged on each side. On being told that I came to take leave, he retired with me into the grand apartment, where he endeavoured to persuade me to

defer my departure, until he consulted his great men ; but in fact I suppose he was sorry to lose his daily bottle of spirits, for as he sent me every morning a bottle of palm wine, I returned him one of rum. Finding I was determined, he ceased all solicitation, and gave me three of his sons, and two pilots to accompany me to Binda ; I had also engaged four boys as a boats crew, finding them extremely useful, in saving my own people a great deal of trouble by going backwards and forwards with the Naturalists.

In returning from this visit, we passed a hut in which the corpse of a woman was lying, drest as when alive ; inside the hut, four women were howling, and outside, two men standing close to the hut, with their faces leaning against it, kept them company in a kind of cadence, producing a concert not unlike the Irish funeral yell. These marks of sorrow, we understood, were repeated for an hour for four successive days after the death of the person. This scene induced me to enquire for the burying ground, and the natives at first seemed very unwilling to let us see it ; after a little persuasion, however, two or three of them led us towards it, and we found it not above 200 yards from the banza, amongst a few rugged trees and bushes, and over-run with withered grass. Two graves were now preparing for gentlemen, their length being nine feet and their



breadth five. At this time they were nine feet deep, but we were told they would be dug to the depth of the tallest palm-tree, preserving the same length and breadth as at present; the soil, we observed, was a superficial layer of black earth 18 inches deep, and all the rest a compact yellow clay; the graves are dug by the same hoes that are used to till the ground, and the excavation is carried on in the neatest manner. One of the old graves had a large elephant's tooth at each end, and another, which we understood to be a child, had a small tooth laying on it; all had broken jars, mugs, glass-bottles, and other vessels stuck on them; some shewed that there had been young trees planted round them, but all were dead except one plant of the *Cactus quadrangularis*. The graves seemed to be indiscriminately dug to all parts of the compass, and no attention appeared to have been paid to them since their first being filled in.

Simmons requested a piece of cloth to envelope his aunt, who had been dead seven years, and was to be buried in two months, being now arrived at a size to make a genteel funeral. The manner of preserving corpses, for so long a time, is by enveloping them in cloth money of the country, or in European cottons, the smell of putrefaction being only kept in by the quantity of wrappers, which are successively

multiplied as they can be procured by the relations of the deceased, or according to the rank of the person ; in the case of a rich and very great man, the bulk acquired being only limited by the power of conveyance to the grave ; so that the first hut in which the body is deposited, becoming too small, a second, a third, even to a sixth, encreasing in dimensions, is placed over it.

August 3d. This morning at daylight, I rowed the sloop round Booka Embomma island to the south entrance of the creek, where I anchored to wait for the Congo coming up with the sea breeze.

The reach of the river formed by the main land and the island Booka Embomma on the north, and the islands Hekay (Molyneux) and Booka (Leyland's) on the south, is a bason surrounded by elevated hills composed of primitive granite, or schistus ; in general the first formation is naked of trees, and the second covered with brush wood, and large trees in the crevices of the rock. The hills are all extremely rugged, forming deep hollows, separated by natural causeways, and much resembling, but on a greatly larger scale, the road which passes the Devil's Punch Bowl between Portsmouth and London ; the flattened summit on which the banza stands is, as we observed in the groves, an under stratum of compact clay covered with black mould, on which the ridges



marked that it had been cultivated; and there can be no doubt but it would be capable of producing the finest wheat. The plain, which we passed over to reach the foot of the hills in going to the banza, is equally proper for the production of rice, and would probably afford two crops a year; one by the natural watering in the rainy season, and the other by a very small degree of labour, in introducing the river water upon it in the dry season.

The Booka Embomma, which is separated from the main land by the creek named Logan by Maxwell, is entirely of schistus, except an exuberantly fertile level that borders the creek; this latter is about 5 yards broad, and has 3 and 4 fathoms depth up to a ledge of rocks, which crosses it near its south entrance, and through which there is an opening barely capable of admitting a canoe. The only part of this reach, in which the current has any considerable force, is at the east side of Zoonga Booka, where it runs in little whirlpools over the rocky bottom about 3 miles an hour; the stream in the mid-channel (where the depth is 15 fathoms) is from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 miles an hour, and in shore on both sides it is often stagnant; and sometimes a small counter current is experienced. The island Booka Embomma would be the most eligible place thus far for a settlement. The trees we had occasion to observe here are generally

of a soft spongy nature, unfit for fuel while green, and useless as timber; one species only affording a wood as hard as *lignum vitæ*, and proper for the same purpose; the largest size we found it arrive at, was that of a man's body.

The miscellaneous information I was able to collect here, I shall give without attention to arrangement of the matter, which my time at this moment does not permit.

This is the winter of the country, the thermometer in the day seldom rising above 76, and at night, when there are occasionally (not always) heavy dews, falling to 60. The mornings, from sun-rise to 9 or 10 o'clock, are dark, hazy, and sometimes foggy. The winds in the morning are often light from south to S. W. The sea breezes set in very irregularly from noon till 4 o'clock, from west to W. S. W.; they have seldom any considerable force more than once a week, and are stronger after a hazy morning, succeeded by a hot sun; they die away from sunset to 10 o'clock. The natives feel the changes of temperature very severely, shivering with cold when the sea breeze sets in fresh.

Salt is the great object of trade at the Market point, and is made near the river's mouth, and brought up by canoes in baskets of the substance that covers the trunk of the

palm trees, of about 7lbs. each, one of which fetches about two fathoms of blue baft. The other objects of petty traffic are palm oil and palm nuts, from which the oil is extracted. Indian corn, pepper (chiefly bird pepper), and mat sails for canoes. The small money in use is little mats of the leaf of the bamboo, about 18 inches square, 20 of which will purchase a fowl. The name of Zaire is entirely unknown to the people of Embomma, who call the river " Moienzi énzaddi," the great river, or literally the river that absorbs all the lesser ones ; this title must however be derived from its receiving tributary streams higher up, as we could not understand that there is a stream of any consideration thus far ; and the only springs we observed were two very insignificant ones issuing from a rock near the banza ; there is also said to be good rock water at the Market point, and at Tall Trees ; and while at anchor at Sherwood's creek, the natives brought us a cask of excellent water from a creek near Kelly's point. The river water is at this season but little muddy, and after being boiled and allowed to deposit its sediment, is not found to affect the people.

There are several varieties of the palm trees here, three of which afford palm wine ; the first, the sweet kind, is given by that named Moba, and the second by the Mosombie ;

the liquor is extracted as in the West Indies. The sweet wine is allowed to ferment, and produces an intoxicating beverage; when quite fresh it is very pleasant and wholesome, taken moderately, keeping the body open. The Masongoi tree also affords a palm wine, considered of superior quality; an inebriating liquor is also produced from Indian corn, and named baamboo.

The cultivation of the ground is entirely the business of slaves and women, the King's daughters and princes' wives being constantly thus employed, or in collecting the fallen branches of trees for fuel. The only preparation the ground undergoes is burning the grass, raking the soil into little ridges with a hoe, and dropping the Indian corn grains into holes. The other objects of cultivation that we saw near the banza, were tobacco and beans of two sorts. Fruits are very scarce at this time, the only ones being long plantains, small bitter oranges, limes and pumpkins. There are no cocoa nut trees, nor, according to the natives, is this tree found in the country. The only root we saw is the sweet cassava, which the natives eat raw and roasted. Sugar cane of two kinds was seen.

The only vegetable production of any consequence in commerce is cotton, which grows wild most luxuriantly; but the natives have ceased to gather it, since the English



left off trading to the river, the Liverpool ships formerly taking off a small quantity.

The domestic animals are sheep spotted black and white, with pensile ears and no horns, goats, hogs of a small breed, a few dogs resembling the shepherd's dog, and cats. The black cattle brought by the Portuguese cannot be considered as fully established, no care being taken of them, though, from their very fine appearance and their excellent meat, no part of the world seems more proper for their multiplication. Common fowls of a small breed, and Muscovy ducks are the only domestic poultry

The wild animals of whose existence we have any certainty, are elephants in small numbers, this hilly country being unfavourable to them. Buffaloes, which are said to be abundant. Antelopes, of which a few have been seen; wild hogs, the skeleton of the head of one being found. Tigers and tiger cats, the skins being seen with the natives. Monkeys in abundance, (*Simia sephus*). The hippopotamus and alligator appear to be numerous. The only species of fish we have seen to be peculiar to the river is a kind of cat-fish, and some small ones resembling the bleak.

Among the birds are the grey and other parrots, the toucan, the common royston crow, a great variety of king-



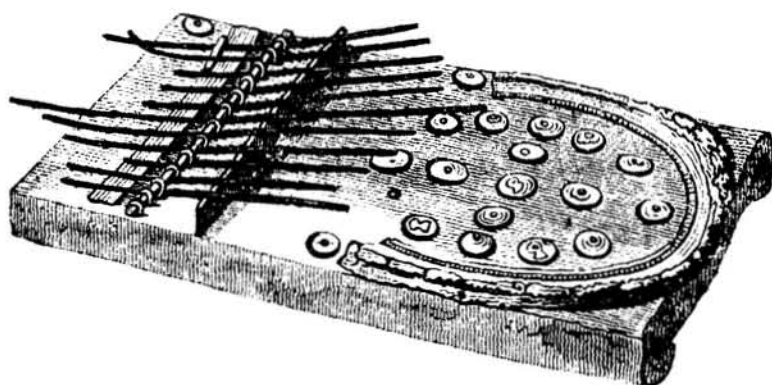
fishers, and many of the falcon tribe. A species of water-hen is also very numerous.

Insects (with the exception of ants,) are not numerous, there being no common flies, and very few musquitoes; some moths, and beetles.

The natives speak of a large species of snake, and some of the early catholic missionaries make mention of them from twenty to thirty feet in length, but we have seen no other reptile than the water snake which I killed in the boat, and small lizards.

The natives are, with very few exceptions, drest in European cloathing, their only manufacture being a kind of caps of grass, and shawls of the same materials; both are made by the men, as are their houses and canoes, the latter of a high tree, which grows up the river, and appears to be a species of the ficus, resembling that of the *ficus religiosa*. These vary in their size, but they appear to be generally from twenty to twenty-four feet long by eighteen to twenty, and even twenty-four inches wide. Their drinking vessels are pumpkins or gourds, and their only cooking utensil earthen pots of their own making, in which they boil or stew their meats, but more generally boil them. They take no wild animals for food, a few birds excepted, but they are very inexpert in the use of the musquet; and their

natural indolence seems to suppress any fondness for the chase. Their musical instruments consist of a large drum and a kind of guitar, or rather perhaps a lyre, of which the following is a representation.



Some pains have been taken, and no small degree of labour bestowed, in collecting the materials for this instrument. The body is of wood much lighter than deal; the bridge and the eleven bars which it supports are of iron; they are confined by a strip of bamboo fixed to the body or frame by strings of leather; and they rest also on a piece of skin. The circular ornament is part of the brass frame of a print or looking-glass; and the circles are French brass buttons with the head of Louis XVI. on them. The tones are soft, and by no means unpleasing.

Both men and women shave the head in ornamental figures, according to fancy, and the brides are always close shaven before they are presented to their husbands; this operation

being performed on them by an old woman. The women seem to consider pendent breasts as ornamental, the young girls, as soon as they begin to form, pressing them close to the body and downwards withal with bandages. They also sometimes file the two front teeth away, and raise cicatrices on the skin as well as the men.

The common ceremony of closing a bargain, of giving a receipt or an assurance, is by breaking a leaf, which is considered as then irrevocable; and this ceremony we found necessary to perform with the seller of every fowl.

Excepting one knife, which was stolen by a boy, we met with no instances of theft; and on one of the great men being informed of the loss in this case, the whole of the persons present were called under the great tree, and asked individually if they had taken it; when a boy confessed and produced it.

There being now a general peace in the country all the men go entirely unarmed, except when they go down the river in canoes, when there is usually a musquet in each canoe.

Among the number of their superstitions is that of refraining from different kinds of food at certain times and occasions; thus the men will not eat the flesh of a fowl until a woman has tasted of it, to take off the fetiche, as they express it. Pumpkins and eggs are objects of similar superstitions; and when we killed the cow, the king sent

one of his men to take the fetiche piece, as we learnt, for the Ganga or priest; and they seemed to know the best piece, carrying off one of the hind quarters.

The two prominent features, in their moral character and social state, seem to be the indolence of the men and the degradation of the women; the latter being considered as perfect slaves, whose bodies are at the entire disposal of their fathers or husbands, and may be transferred by either of them, how and when they may please. The intriguing with a man's wife without his knowledge is however punished by a fine of two slaves; and if the adulterer cannot pay, the husband seems to be authorised to murder him.

Both men and women rise at daylight, and after washing their skins, those who pretend to gentility rub their shoulders and bodies to the waist with palm oil, which, though it keeps their skins smooth, gives even to the women, who otherwise have not the same natural effluvia as the men, a most disagreeable smell.

There are much fewer mulattoes among them than might be expected from their intercourse with Europeans, two only having yet been seen by us.

The mode of salutation is by gently clapping the hands, and an inferior at the same time goes on his knees and kisses the bracelet on the superior's ankle.

They have no other manner of reckoning or keeping an account of time than by moons; so that beyond half a dozen moons not one of them can tell the lapse of time since any event may have happened. The day they divide into morning or breakfast, noon or grand time, and evening or supper. The sea breeze was insufficient to bring the Congo up either this day or the 4th.

August 4. This forenoon I landed on the main land opposite Booka Embomma, and found it composed of very rugged hills, chiefly granite, with very little wood. An *Adansonia* here measured 42 feet in girth at the ground, and carried nearly the same circumference to the height of 30 feet. Where the boat anchored we found a regular tide, the rise and fall being 18 inches, and the current little or nothing during the rise.

August 5. Got the Congo up to a good anchorage on the south shore, opposite Chesalla island, where, finding we should be much retarded by persevering in the attempt to get higher, from the precariousness of the sea breezes, I ordered her to be moored, and directed Mr. Eyre, the purser, to remain in charge of her; together with the surgeon, a master's mate, and 15 men.

## CHAPTER IV

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*Progress up the River as far as Yellalla, or the Cataracs.*

## CHAPTER IV

ABOUT the middle of the day we proceeded up the river in the double boats, the transport's long boat, two gigs, and one of the punts, having with me the lieutenant, master, one master's mate, the four scientific gentlemen, and Mr. Galwey.

We found the river running between two high ridges of barren rocky hills, chiefly mica slate, with masses of quartz rising above the surface ; the slate running out in points, and the rocks under water forming strong ripplings and little eddies. In some spots, where the current has been turned aside by the rocky points, the river has deposited its mud, and formed little strips of soil covered with reedy grass, and some few little spots of Indian corn. Off these places anchorage is always found on a good clay bottom in from four to eight fathoms, a boat's length from the grass ; besides these narrow strips we this day counted several little vallies between the hills, forming the mouths of the ravines, the largest of which is named Vinda le Zally, and extends two miles along shore. In those vallies were some corn and manioc plantations, and many palm trees. The

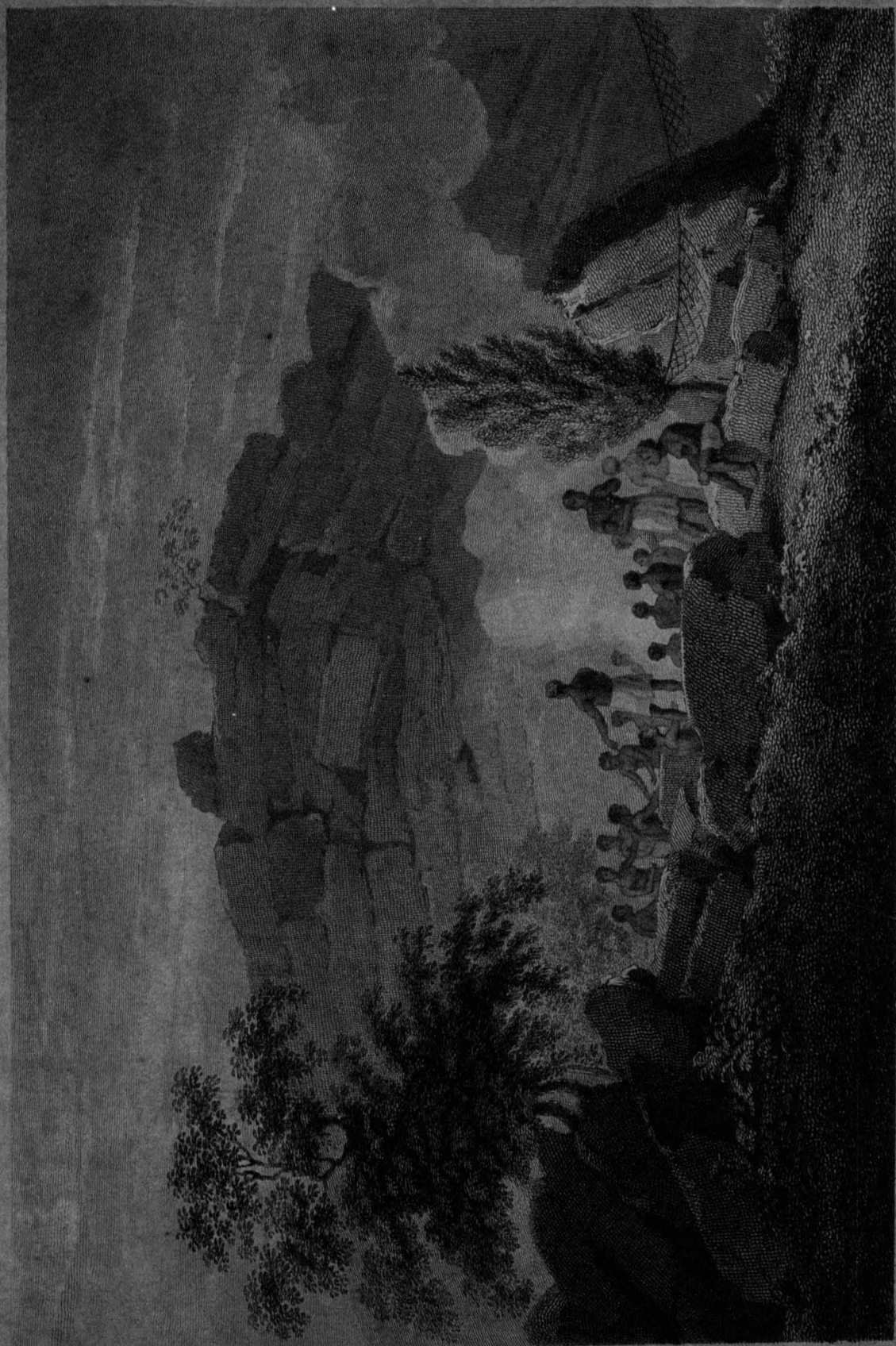


two rocks named by the natives Sandy, or Zonda, are of slate ; that named Oscar, by Maxwell, has a very large tree upon it, the other only brush wood ; they are separated by a space of about 50 yards. On the north shore, nearly opposite these rocks, is a hanging precipice, to which may be given the name of Lover's Leap, though in a sense different from that of Leucadia, this being the place of execution of the adulterous wives of the king of Bomma, and their paramours, who are precipitated from the summit into the river.

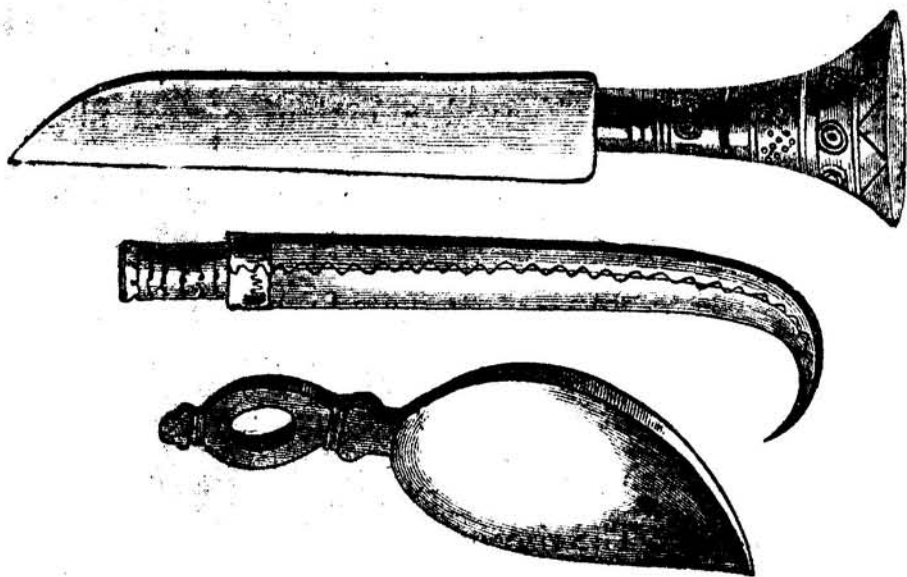
The rocks to which Maxwell has given the little appropriate name of Scylla, lie close to the north shore, and form two masses of slate above water ; about 20 yards beyond them the rippling denotes another mass under water, but on which there is six fathoms depth.

At seven o'clock the breeze failing, we anchored on the east entrance of the creek off the Gombac islands, close to the grass, in six fathoms.

Aug. 7. In the morning, it being calm, I went in the gig through the creek of Gombac, and found, though extremely narrow, that it had a depth of five to ten fathoms. There are but two islands, the separation marked by Maxwell between the two western ones being only a cove ; they are mere rocks of slate with a good many trees. From them I

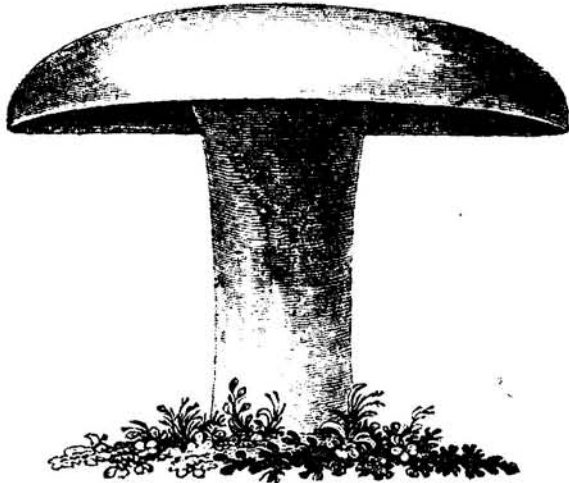


landed on the main, and ascended the hills that form the Fidler's Elbow of Maxwell, which are also composed entirely of slate, with vast masses of quartz on the surface, and with only thinly scattered bushes of a shrubby tree, of which the natives make their spoons. These spoons are made with great neatness, and not inferior in any respect to the same utensil in many parts of Europe. Their knives, too, are not to be despised, but the blades are not always made by themselves; though they always prefer their own hafts and sheaths. These articles are here represented.



The ant hills were here extremely numerous, but now unoccupied, it appearing that these insects shift their habitations to the trees in this season; those on the ground have

exactly the shape of a mushroom, consisting of a round column 18 inches high, surmounted by a domed head two feet in diameter.



We this morning observed a curious optical illusion, caused doubtless by the state of the atmosphere and the shadows of the high hills, the boats appearing to be placed on the pinnacle of an elevated mass of water, from which the descent was rapid on every side, so that in looking up the river the current seemed to be running up hill. By moonlight the reach we anchored in much resembled Loch Tay in Scotland. The rise of water in the wet season was here observed on the rocks, having worn two grooves, the first 8 feet above the present level, and the second and faintest  $9\frac{1}{2}$  feet. The nature of the hills, as well as their appearance, prove that they do not absorb any of the water that

falls in the rainy season, the whole of which is carried direct to the river by gullies and ravines, with which the hills are all over furrowed, and in which the only luxuriant vegetation is found.

We got a few very small shrimps from a fisherman, which he had just taken in a cotton scoop net, very well made.

At 11 we o'clock weighed with a light breeze at west, and crossed over to the south side of the river, to near the banza Sooka Congo; the Mafook of which sent his interpreter and gentlemen to ask for a bottle of brandy, which, not intending to stop near him, I did not think necessary to supply. We continued our course along shore until we reached the Diamond Rock of Maxwell, near to which, and to the south shore, we found the current too strong to be overcome with the sails and oars, and we anchored a little to the west of it. In the afternoon, however, the breezes freshened, we got through the channel, and at 7 anchored about 4 miles west of Condo Sono.

The rock called Boola Beca in Maxwell's plan, is by the natives named Blemba (the husband), and the rock named the Tinker, to the east of it, is an islet. The largest and westernmost of the three rocks named Weird Sisters, the natives call N'Casan (the wife); they lay nearest to the north shore, which, according to the natives, is all foul. The



Diamond Rock, they name Salan Koonquotty, or the strong feather, alluding probably to the strength of the current, which is doubtless much encreased in the rains, it being now about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles an hour, running directly on the rocks, and forming a strong upward eddy on its west side, where the ground is very foul and shoal, so that no vessel should attempt this channel without a breeze sufficient to ensure her going over the current.

On the summit of one of the hills which we passed close under, were upwards of twenty monkeys, which, had we not seen their tails, we should, from their great size and black faces, have taken for negroes.

Aug. 8. The hills which surround our last night's station are more barren than lower down, the strips of reedy grass and vallies less numerous, the palm trees are no longer seen, nor is there any cultivation whatever on the banks. Several persons came on board this morning from banza Noki, and from them we received the first coherent information respecting the obstruction in the river, higher up, by what they state to be a great cataract named Yellala, only one day's march from Noki.

At 10 weighed with a light breeze, and with the aid of the oars reached the spot named Condo Sono, where the European slave traders formerly transacted their business,



*Sketch near Alligator Pond*



*Sketch of the bank opposite the Diamond Dock*



*Continuation of the same part of the coast.*



but where there is now not a single hut. I immediately sent Simmons to the Chenoo of Noki, to request he would send me a person acquainted with the river higher up ; but on his return in the evening, I found that nothing could be done without my own presence, and the usual *dash* of a present of brandy.

August 9. I went this morning up the river in the gig, and found the difficulties encrease every mile, from the velocity of the current, and the ledges of rocks ; the barrenness of the hills also became greater, and the only trace of inhabitants was discovered in a few miserable fishermen, who take some small fish in scoop nets off the rocks and dry them.

August 10. There being every prospect that we should not be able to proceed much further in the boats, and finding that there were many Mandonzo men at Noki, whose country is situated very far up the river, and whose manners and language were described to me as totally differing from those of Congo, I this day paid a visit to the Chenoo of Noki, to endeavour to ascertain these facts, and to procure guides. We were led a two hour's most fatiguing march before we reached the banza ; sometimes scrambling up the sides of almost perpendicular hills, and over great masses of quartz and schistus, sometimes getting on pretty smoothly

along their summits of hard clay, thinly scattered with brush wood, and sometimes descending into vallies covered with a rich soil and exuberant vegetation, the high and now withered grass choaking up the little plantations. In two of those vallies we found banzas, differing in nothing from that of Bomma, except that the roofs of the huts formed the segment of a circle instead of a triangle; close to them are two runs of water in ravines. At length we reached the banza, which is situated on the level summit of the highest hills amidst palm-trees, and plantations of vegetables, amongst which we were gratified with the sight of young cabbages in great perfection. In a few minutes I was ushered into the presence of the Chenoo, whom we found seated with two other Chenooks, in much more savage magnificence, but less of European manner, than the king of Bomma, the seats and ground being here covered with lions and leopard skins, the treading on which, by a subject of the highest rank, is a crime punished with slavery; and the care with which they stepped clear of them in passing to and fro, evinced that they never lost sight of the penalty. The Chenoo, besides his red cloak laced, had on his head an enormous high cap of the white feathers of the heron. One of the other kings was covered with an old hat, and the third was wrapped in a velvet mantle, and on his head a coronet, with a large



*Sketch of Condorhuasi*



*Sketch near Boniza, Volc.*





button of coloured glass, which had evidently been procured from a theatre. The assembly was composed of about fifty persons squatted in the sand. Simmons having explained my wishes and the motives of the expedition, the Chenoo, with less deliberation or questioning than I had been plagued with at Bomma, granted two guides to go as far as the cataract, beyond which the country was to them a terra incognita, not a single person of the banza having ever been beyond it. The palaver being over, the keg of brandy I had brought was opened, and a greater scramble than even at Bomma took place for a sup of the precious liquor; and, towards the conclusion, one having been unable to catch a share, his neighbour, who had been more fortunate, and who had kept it, as long as he could hold in his breath, (as they always do), very generously spat a portion of this mouthful into the other's mouth! The Chenoo apologized for having nothing drest to offer us to eat, but directed a small pig to be carried to the boat, which on killing we found to be measly and unfit to eat.

We saw no women during this audience, but a considerable portion of the assembly was composed of boys of all ages down to four or five, and those young urchins were observed to pay the utmost attention to the discourse of the men, and to express their approbation by clapping their hands.

On our return we were conducted by a slave merchant of Simmons' acquaintance, by a road at first much more pleasant than that we had come, being along the summits of hills which are highly fertile, and in great part cultivated, but in the most careless manner. The vegetables we saw were manioc, Indian corn, a species of shrubby holcus, French beans, cabbages or greens, ground nuts in great quantity, and bird pepper. The fruit consisted of limes, papaws, and plantains, all at present immature.

Our conductor led us to his town (for every man of property calls his residence his town), where we were agreeably surprised to find a repast prepared, consisting of a stewed fowl; a dish of stewed beans, and cassava bread named Coanga. The stews were however so highly peppered that our gentlemen, not accustomed to such warmth of seasoning, could scarcely swallow them; a bottle of spirits, in which some aniseed had been infused, was also set before us. The remains of our repast was served to the marines. The water brought to us issued from a rock, its temperature 73°; the barometer at the banza fell two inches lower than at the river side, which, according to Leslie's scale, gives the elevation about 1300 feet.

While at our repast, the back ground of the court in which we were, was filled with women and girls, separated

by a space from the men and boys. Though not one of them had ever seen a white man, they did not seem to feel any timidity, but on the contrary we had abundant opportunity of discovering that, as far as depended on themselves, they were perfect Otaheitans in their manners. One woman we saw spinning cotton for a fishing net exactly in the manner the French women do while tending their sheep.

The latter part of our journey, as we again approached the river, was even worse than our road going, being obliged to ascend and descend a succession of hills, of smooth rocks, so nearly perpendicular, that it required almost the legs of flies to crawl over them, and here the natives had greatly the advantage of us, the soles of their naked feet seizing hold of the rock, while our shoes slipped over them and threatened us every moment with a fall that would not have been without danger ; at length we reached the boats at 4 o'clock extremely fatigued, though the distance of the banza is not more than three miles in a direct line from the river, but by the circuitous route we took, could not be less than seven or eight.

The most striking features of the country we passed over are the extreme barrenness of the hills near the river, the whole being still composed of slate with masses of quartz, and sienite, the latter becoming the main for-

mation, as we advanced to the S.E. with perpendicular fissures from three inches to  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in breadth, filled with quartz. The summits of the hills and the vallies are of stiff clay and vegetable mould extremely fertile. We did not see the smallest trace of any thing calcareous, nor the signs of any other metal than iron.

August 11. We had no visitors until near noon, when four women came to the river's side, opposite the boats, to make market, having a single fowl, half a dozen eggs, and a small basket of beans to sell; we were soon told that the oldest was a princess of the blood in her own right, and that consequently she enjoyed the privilege of choosing her husband and changing him as often as she liked, while he was confined to her alone, under penalty, if a private person, of being sold as a slave. This lady, after getting for her fowl and other articles twice their value, offered herself and her three companions (who, we were assured, were the Chenoo's daughters) for hire, to whoever would take them on board the boats, and seemed to be much disappointed at the apathy of white men, when they found their advances treated with neglect.

In the afternoon a couple of small sheep, a goat, and a few fowls were brought for sale; but for one of the former the owner had the conscience to ask a full piece of blue baft.



and two caps, which cost 30 shillings in England, making the meat considerably above a shilling a pound ; so that we were obliged to confine ourselves to the purchase of a goat for four fathoms of printed cotton. Indeed, from the very little spare provisions the natives seem to have at this season, I do not think it would be possible to procure daily subsistence for fifty men in passing through the country. Towards evening two men were sent from the Chenoo as guides for Yellala, but one of them having evidently never been there, I sent him back. A Mandingo slave man was brought to me, bound neck and heels with small cords. His answers to the questions put to him were, " that he was three moons coming from his country, sometimes on rivers, sometimes by land ; that his own country was named M'intolo, on the banks of a river as broad as the Zaire, where we were at anchor, but so filled with rocks, that even canoes could not be used on it ; and that he had been taken when walking a short distance from his father's house, by a slave catcher, who had shot him in the neck with a ball, the cicatrice of the wound still remaining ; and that he had been about two years from his country." Although his reckoning of the lapse of time could not be depended on, he evidently had not been long caught, for he spoke the Congo language but very imperfectly ; nevertheless, as he understood enough of it

to make himself intelligible, I thought he might be of use and purchased him, giving an order for his value to be paid on board the Congo, and taking care to explain to the natives my motives for buying him, as well as that I gave him his liberty on the instant, and only considered him as a servant ; and finally, that if we arrived at his country, I would restore him to his friends. When this was explained to him he expressed not the least mark of satisfaction, and permitted the people to take off the cords which had served to bind him with apparent apathy ; indeed our people seemed to have more satisfaction in performing, than he felt in undergoing, this operation. In concluding this bargain, I had a specimen of the tedious manner of doing business amongst the native traders, the intervention of the Mafook, Mam-bouk, and a broker, being necessary between me and the seller ; and each of these fellows expected two fathoms of baft, and as much brandy as they could drink. This roundabout way of trading, and the indecision of the sellers, must, I should suppose, have been a great draw back on the profits of the slave trade, by the time it kept them on the coast ; for I am assured, that though fifty slaves may be brought to market in a day, not three are usually sold. The same huckstering is indeed visible in every branch of their trading with Europeans ; the possessor of a single fowl,

or a root of the manioc, examining the articles offered him fifty times, giving them back, taking them again, exchanging them for something else, and after putting patience to the test for an hour, often taking up his goods and marching off, because he could not get twice or thrice what he first asked.

Aug. 12. At nine this morning we weighed, and with the aid of the oars, and a track rope at times, got the boats up along the south shore, until we came to a large sand bank extending two-thirds across the river ; here we crossed over to the other side, and ran along it as far as a little island named - - - - - Here we found the current so rapid, that with a strong breeze and the oars we could not pass it ; besides, having observed when up here in the gig, that the north shore above this island was extremely foul, I crossed over, and after considerable difficulty succeeded in getting to an anchor in a fine little cove named Nómaza, entirely out of the current. In crossing the river we passed several whirlpools, which swept the sloop round and round in spite of her oars and sails, and not without some danger to so low and deep laden a boat. These vortices are formed in an instant, last but a few moments with considerable noise, and subside as quickly. The punt got into one of them and entirely disappeared in the hollows, so that the depression of the vortex must have been three or four feet. The schooner could not