

succeed in passing Zoonga Tooley Calavangoo, and anchored on the opposite shore ; but a very strong sea breeze springing up in the evening she joined me.

In the afternoon I went on shore and ascended the highest hills under which we were anchored, and whose elevation might be 500 feet. From hence our upward view of the river was confined to a single short reach, the appearance of which, however, was sufficient to convince us, that there was little prospect of being able to get the double boats up much farther, and none at all of being able to transport them by land. Both sides of the river appeared to be lined by rocks above water, and the middle obstructed by whirlpools, whose noise we heard in a constant roar, just where our view terminated by the closing in of the points. High breakers seemed to cross the river ; and this place we learnt was called Casan Yellala, or Yellala's wife, and were told that no canoe ever attempted to pass it. The most distant hill, whose summit appeared above the rest at the distance of perhaps 7 or 8 leagues, we found was that of Yellala. The appearance of the river here was compared by Dr. Smith to the torrent rivers of Norway, and particularly the Glommen, the hills on each side being high, precipitous towards the river, totally barren, and separated by such deep ravines as to preclude the idea of conveying even a canoe



*Sketch of Pine Hills near Gellie*



*Continuation of the above*



*Continuation of the above*

over them, without immense labour. Two tufts of trees on the summits of the northern hills, we understood from a fisherman, were the plantations round the banzas. The only other information we could get from him was, that Yellala was the residence of the evil spirit, and that whoever saw it once would never see it a second time.

This has been the only tolerable clear day since our entering the river; the sun being visible both at rising and setting, and the thermometer at two o'clock at 80°. This heat produced a breeze in the evening stronger than any we before experienced, and which continued all night. On a little sand beach, off which the boats were anchored, there is a regular rise and fall of water of eight inches; during the rise, the current is considerably slackened.

Aug. 13. This morning at daylight I went up the river with the master in the gigs, to ascertain the utility of carrying the boats any farther. By crossing over from shore to shore as the current was found slackest, we found no difficulty in getting up to Casan Yellala, which is about three miles above where the boats lay. We found it to be a ledge of rocks stretching across the north shore about two-thirds the breadth of the river (which here does not exceed half a mile), the current breaking furiously on it, but leaving a smooth channel near the south shore, where the velocity of

the current seems the only obstacle to the ascent of boats, and that I should consider as none to my progress with the boats, did there appear to be the smallest utility in getting them above it. But as the shore on either side presents the most stupendous overhanging rocks, to whose crags alone the boats could be secured, while an impetuous current flows beneath; and as every information makes Yellala a cataract, of great perpendicular fall, to which the approach is far easiest from the place near which the boats are now anchored in perfect safety, I determined to visit this cataract by land, in order to determine on my future operations.

Accordingly at 8 o'clock on the morning of the 14th I landed on the north shore, in a cove with a fine sandy beach, covered with the dung of the hippopotamus, exactly resembling that of the horse. My party consisted of Messrs. Smith, Tudor, Galwey, and Hodder, and 13 men, besides two Embomma interpreters (the Chenoo's sons), and a guide from Noki, with four days provisions. Our route lay by narrow foot paths, at first over most difficult hills, and then along a level plateau of fertile land; in short, over a country resembling that between the river and Noki. Our course lay between E. N. E. and N. E. At noon we reached Banza Cooloo, from whence we understood we should see Yellala. *Anxious to get a sight of it, I declined*



the Chenoo's invitation to visit him, until my return. On the farthest end of the banza we unexpectedly saw the fall almost under our feet, and were not less surprised than disappointed at finding, instead of a second Niagara, which the description of the natives, and their horror of it had given us reason to expect, a comparative brook bubbling over its stony bed. Halting the people, who complained of fatigue, I went with the gentlemen to examine it more closely, and found that what the road wanted in distance, which was not a mile from the banza, it abundantly made up in difficulty, having one enormous hill to descend and a lesser one to climb, to reach the precipice which overhangs the river.

The south side of the river is here a vast hill of bare rock (sienite), and the north a lower but more precipitous hill of the same substance, between which two the river has forced its course ; but in the middle an island of slate still defies its power, and breaks the current into two narrow channels ; that near the south side gives vent to the great mass of the river, but is obstructed by rocks above and under water, over which the torrent rushes with great fury and noise, as may easily be conceived. The channel on the north side is now nearly dry, and is composed of great masses of slate, with perpendicular fissures. The highest part of the island is 15 feet above the present level, but from the

marks on it, the water in the rainy season must rise 12 feet, consequently covers the whole of the breadth of the channel, with the exception of the summit of the island; and with the increased velocity, must then produce a fall somewhat more consonant to the description of the natives. In ascending two hills we observed the river both above and below the fall to be obstructed by rocks as far as we could see, which might be a distance of about four miles. Highly disappointed in our expectations of seeing a grand cataract, and equally vexed at finding that the progress of the boats would be stopped, we climbed back to our people, whom we reached at four o'clock totally exhausted.

The principal idea that the fall creates is, that the quantity of water which flows over it, is by no means equal to the volume of the river below it; and yet, as we know there is not at this season a single tributary stream sufficient to turn a mill, below the fall, we can hardly account for this volume, unless we suppose, as Dr. Smith suggests, the existence of subterranean communications, or caverns filled with water.

After having refreshed and rested ourselves, I waited on the Chenoo with a little brandy, and found less pomp and noise, but much more civility and hospitality, than from the richer kings I had visited. This old man seemed perfectly satisfied with our account of the motives of our visit, not

asking a single question, treating us with a little palm wine, and sending me a present of six fowls without asking for any thing in return. In one of the courts of his tenement we had the disagreeable sight of two men slaves prepared for sale, one having a long fork stick fastened to his neck, and the other with *European-made irons* on his legs ; on enquiry I found that there were 14 slaves in the banza for sale, who were going to Embomma.

The night was cool, the thermometer at one o'clock being at 60° ; in the early part the stars shone brightly, but towards morning it became very cloudy ; and at daylight we might easily have fancied ourselves amidst the blue misty hills of Morven.

August 15th. In the morning we were surrounded by all the women of the banza with fowls and eggs to exchange for beads. In the eggs we were however taken in, more than half we purchased having been taken from under the hens half hatched. Although the largest banza we have seen, we could not procure either a sheep, goat, or pig for the people.

Having engaged a guide to lead us above the falls (the hills close to the river being absolutely impassable by any thing but goats), we quitted the banza at seven o'clock, and after four hours most fatiguing march we again got sight of

the river ; but to my great vexation, instead of being 12 or 13 miles, as I expected, I found we were not above four miles from Yellala, our guide having persuaded me out of my own judgment, that the river wound round in a way that made the crescent we took necessary. Here we found the river still obstructed with rocks and islets sometimes quite across, but at one place leaving a clear space, which seems to be used as a ferry, as we found here a canoe with four men ; no inducement we could offer them had however any effect in prevailing on them to attempt going up the stream, which I wished to do to examine the state of the river more exactly.

In this day's journey we crossed three deep ravines, the beds of torrents in the rainy season, but now quite dry, and but once found water at a very small spring. One antelope's skin was seen with the natives, and the dung of these animals occurred in many spots ; several porcupines' quills were also picked up. On quitting the river I determined to cross the hills in a direction that I expected would again bring me to it considerably higher up, but the setting sun obliged us to halt on the side of a steep hill, at whose foot we fortunately found a fine spring, forming the only brook we had yet seen ; and here we passed the night, which was much warmer than the preceding one, the thermometer not falling



bélow 70°, the sky cloudy, but not the least dew. The constant dryness of the atmosphere is evinced in the quick drying of all objects exposed to it ; meat hung up a few hours loses all its juices, and resembles the jerked meat of South America ; the plants collected by Dr. Smith were fit for packing in a day, while, towards the mouth of the river, he could scarcely get them sufficiently dry in a week. The oxidation of iron also entirely ceases here. The hygrometer at sun-rise usually marks 50°, at two o'clock in the afternoon in the shade 70°.

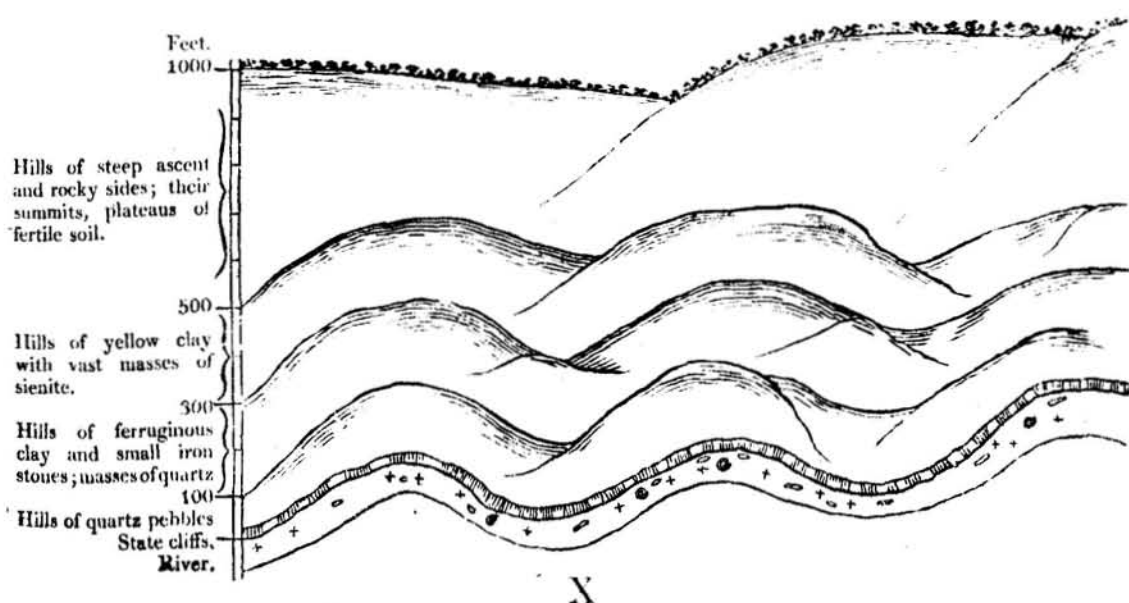
August 16. Finding Mr. Tudor and several of the people were unable to proceed farther, I sent them back to Banza Cooloo in the morning, and with the remainder proceeded onwards. Passing the brook and ascending the hill on the opposite side, we found ourselves on a level plateau at the banza Menzy Macooloo, where we again got a guide to lead us to the river. At noon we had a view of it between the openings of the hills, about two miles distant. Here the people, being extremely fatigued, were halted, while the natives went to the river for water, and I ascended the highest of the hills, which descends perpendicularly to the river : from its summit I had a view about five miles down the river, which presented the same appearance as yesterday, being filled with rocks in the middle over which the current foamed violently ; the shore on each side was also

scattered with rocky barren islets. The river is here, judging by the eye, not more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile broad, and I estimate the distance from Yellala at 12 or 14 miles. Upwards my view was stopped by the sudden turn of the river from north to S. E.; the concavity of the angle forming a large bay, apparently freer from obstructions than below. I descended a most precipitous path to the river side, where I found four women fishing with a scoop net; they had no canoe, and I learnt that persons wanting to cross the river are obliged to go from hence to the ferry above Yellala. Just where the river shuts in, in turning to the S. E., on a high plateau of the north shore, is the banza Inga, which we understood was two days march from Cooloo (though its direct distance is not above 20 miles,) and that it is out of the dominions of Congo. The only other information I could get here was, that the river, after a short reach to the S. E., turned again to the north; and the appearance of the hills seemed to corroborate this information; but as to the state of its navigation, or the possibility of getting canoes, I could not acquire the slightest notion.

On the return of the people with water from the river we dined where the men halted, and set out on our return for the boats; at eight o'clock we reached Cooloo (having this day walked ten hours), where we found Mr. Tudor in a violent fever.

It was by great persuasion we could get our guide to go on after sunset, through his fears of wild beasts, and his superstitious terrors of the night combined; and every five minutes he sounded a whistle, which it seems had been *fetiched* by the Gaugam kissey; and consequently both spirits and beasts fled at the sound. The only traces of animals we saw this day were the foot prints of buffaloes, who had been to the brook we crossed in the morning to drink; and we were surprised how so bulky an animal could ascend the hills; indeed the marks shewed that in descending they had sliden considerable distances on their hind legs. A wild hog also crossed us, making from thicket to thicket; but our men were not fortunate enough to hit him, though four of them fired.

Having crossed in a direct line from one of the fertile plateaus to the river, we had a good opportunity of seeing the formation and structure of the country near its banks; of which I have attempted to give an idea below.



The margin of the river and the rocks in it are of micaceous slate ; next to which small hills of loose round pebbles of quartz ; then more elevated hills of ferruginous clay with masses of quartz ; next hills of yellow clay with masses of sienite ; and lastly, steep hills with rocky sides, (sienite), but with long levels at the summit, covered with a fertile vegetable soil, and on which most of the banzas are situated. The hills of quartz pebbles have every appearance of once having been the bed of the river, the pebbles having evidently been rounded, and the hills received their forms, by the long and violent action of water. If we assume, what seems highly probable, that the present obstruction at Yel-lala was once a real cataract of equal elevation with the opposite shores, this surmise of the river having formed these hills of pebbles will acquire a certainty ; for in that case, the water kept up by the cross ridge or cataract would have covered these hills. A great quantity of quartz sand is thrown up on the sides of the river among the rocks. \

At night the hills appear to be in a continued blaze of fire, from the hunters in the day setting fire to the long dry grass to drive out the animals. The fire running to windward, as is always the case, the hunters keep to leeward of the spot fired, and the game, it would appear, being also aware of the direction which the fire will take, endeavour to avoid it, by also running to leeward, and consequently throw them-



selves within the hunter's reach. The guns we have seen among them are of Portuguese or French manufacture, and of a great length ; each has usually several fetiches fastened to it, to prevent it from doing the owner any injury.

Aug. 17. In the morning we prepared for our return to the boats, when Mr. Tudor, being too ill to move, was obliged to be carried in a litter made of one of the black men's blankets ; the other invalids, exceeding half the party, were sent forward with him under charge of Mr. Hodder, while I went to take leave of the Chenoo. Having performed this ceremony, and given him two fathoms of bafts, I quitted Cooloo, came up with the invalids in a short time, and reached the boats at noon, when a tent was immediately pitched on shore for Mr. Tudor, who was now in a most violent fever. The complaints of the other men were confined to fatigue and blistered feet.

During this excursion we seldom met with water to fill our canteens (that of the river excepted), more than once a day, and the springs were generally very small. The only provisions we could procure were a few fowls and eggs, some cassada root, green plantains, and beans ; but all in quantities totally insufficient to supply the daily expenditure of 20 men. We did not see a single sheep or goat, and not above two or three pigs. Palm wine, which we found

infinitely more refreshing and grateful to the stomach, when heated and fatigued, than either wine or spirits and water, is at this season extremely scarce, owing to the long drought;

that, though every banza and gentleman's town is surrounded by these trees (from 20 to 200 at each), we often could not procure it even in exchange for brandy. It appears that the rainy season, for these last two years, has been very moderate, and the lighter rains, that usually happen in June, have been entirely wanting this year, which accounts for the burnt-up appearance of the country, and the very little water. It is however expected by the natives, that the ensuing rainy season will be proportionally violent; and they are now preparing for it, by fresh covering and repairing their huts. They say that every third or fourth year the river rises considerably higher than in the intermediate ones; and this accounts for the different elevation of the marks on the rocks.

Thus far the banks of the river do not afford a single timber tree capable of making a beam or timber for a sloop of war. The only trees that grow to a large size are the *Adansonia* and the *Bombax*, (or wild cotton), and the wood of both is spongy and useless; several varieties of evergreens, highly ornamental in their growth and foliage, are however met with in the vallies.

The only appearance of metals is in the ferruginous clay and stones near the river, which the natives grind, and of these form their pots for boiling (their only cooking utensil); these small stones rounded to the size of a pea, serve them for small shot. Small particles of copper were observed by Dr. Smith in some of the specimens of minerals he collected.

During my absence the seine was hauled, but not a single fish was taken. The only implements of fishing seen with the natives were the scoop-net, already spoken of, and a kind of fish pot of reeds. The fish we could procure from them are all very small, with the exception of one which I bought, and whose skin Mr. Cranch preserved. It appears to be of the genus *Murena*. Testaceous fish are extremely few; a single shell (*Helix*) found on the summit of one of the hills near a fishing hut, and an oyster taken up by the dredge, are all we have been able to procure.

On the banks we have found snares for taking beach birds, nearly resembling those used in Ireland to catch snipes, being an elastic twig with a bit of line and noose, which catches the bird's neck.

The higher we proceed the fewer European articles the natives possess; the country grass-cloth generally forms the sole clothing of the mass of the people, and gourds are

substitutes for glass bottles, or earthen mugs. The women too approach nearer to a state of nudity ; their sole clothing being a narrow apron (the breadth of the hand and 18 inches long) before and behind, so that the hips on each side are uncovered. From every town near to which we passed they flocked out to look at the white men, (*moudele*) and without any marks of timidity came and shook hands with us. To the best looking and the best drest I distributed some beads. The price paid here, by a native, for a wife of the first class, the Chenoo's daughter for instance, is four pieces of baft, one piece of guinea, and a certain quantity of palm wine. We in no instance since we left Embomma found the men *allant en avant* in their offer of their women ; but this our Bonmma men told us was from their little intercourse with Europeans, for that any of them would think himself honoured by surrendering his wife or daughter to a white man.

The population seems to be extremely thin, and (leaving out the insignificant number of fishermen who remain on the rocks at the river side) is collected into banzas and gentlemen's towns ; the largest of the former (Cooloo) does not contain above 500 souls, of whom two-thirds are women and children. The extent of fertile land is, however, capable, with very moderate industry, of supporting a great increase



of population, not the one-hundredth part of that we have passed over being made any use of whatever. The plateaus appear to be well adapted for wheat, and certainly all the garden vegetables of Europe might be produced here in perfection, as well as potatoes.

According to our informers, the dominions of Congo extend from below Malemba, cutting the coast and river to Banza N'Inga; but how far they extend to the south of the river's mouth, or up it on the south side, we could not learn, but it seems to be considerably higher up the river than Inga. The paramount sovereign is named Lindy, or Blindy N'Congo, and resides at Banza Congo, six days journey in the interior from Tall Trees (on the south side of the river); it has no water communication with the Zaire. Here the Portuguese appear to have a fixed settlement, the natives speaking of their having soldiers and white women.

The opposite sides of the river form two vice royalties, that on the north being governed by the N'Sandy N'Congo, and the south by N'Cacula Congo, both of whom reside at banzas in the interior.

The Chenooships, improperly named kingdoms by Europeans, are hereditary fiefs, passing in the female line; that is, on the decease of the Chenoo the succession, instead of passing to his son, goes to his brother, or uterine uncle

or cousin. On every demise a fresh investiture takes place by the viceroy's sending a cap (here the mark of all dignity) to the appointed successor ; but though it is necessary that the succession should be continued in the family, the viceroy is not restricted to nearness of kin or primogeniture, but as favour, corruption or intrigue operates strongest, the investiture is given. The Chenoo, in his turn, appoints several inferior officers by sending them caps, particularly the Mafook, or custom master, who interferes in all trading transactions. The Mombella, Macaya and Mambom, are officers whose respective powers I have not yet been able to ascertain with any certainty. Slavery is here of two kinds, which may be denominated household or domestic, and trading. When a young man is of age to begin the world, his father or guardian gives him the means of purchasing a number of slaves of each sex, in proportion to his quality, from whom he breeds his domestic slaves, and these (though it does not appear that he is bound by any particular law) he never sells or transfers, unless in cases of misbehaviour, when he holds a palaver, at which they are tried and sentenced. These domestic slaves are, however, sometimes pawned for debt, but are always redeemed as soon as possible. The only restraint on the conduct of the owners, towards their domestic slaves, seems to be the fear of their desertion ;

for if one is badly treated, he runs off, and goes over to the territory of another Chenoo, where he is received by some proprietor of land, which inevitably produces a feud between the people of the two districts. The trading marketable slaves are those purchased from the itinerant black slave merchants, and are either taken in war, kidnapped, or condemned for crimes ; the first two of these classes, however, evidently form the great mass of the exported slaves ; and it would seem that the kidnapped ones (or as the slave merchants who speak English call it " catching in the bush"), are by far the most numerous. This practice however is certainly unknown at present on the banks of this river as far as we have yet proceeded.

The property which a man dies possessed of devolves to his brothers or uterine uncles, but prescriptively, as it would appear, for the use of the family of the deceased ; for they are bound by custom (which is here tantamount to our written laws) to provide in a proper manner for the wives and children of the deceased ; and the wives they may make their own, as in the Mosaic dispensation.

Crimes are punished capitally by decapitation, by gradual amputation of the limbs, by burning and by drowning. The only capital crimes, however, seem to be poisoning, and adultery with the wives of the great men. This latter

crime, it would appear, being punished in proportion to the rank of the husband. Thus a private man accepts two slaves from the aggressor ; but the son of a Chenoo cannot thus compromise his dishonour, but is held bound to kill the aggressor ; and if he escapes his pursuit, he may take the life of the first relation of the adulterer he meets ; and the relatives of this latter, by a natural re-action, revenging this injustice on the other party, or one of his relations, is one of the grand causes of the constant animosities of the neighbouring villages. If a man poisons an equal, he is simply decapitated ; but if an inferior commits this crime (the only kind of secret murder) on a superior, the whole of his male relations are put to death, even to the infants at the breast.

When a theft is discovered, the gangam kissey or priest, is applied to, and the whole of the persons suspected are brought before him. After throwing himself into violent contortions, which the spectators consider as the inspirations of the kissey or fetiche, he fixes on one of the party as the thief, and the latter is led away immediately to be sentenced by a palaver. Of course the judgment of the priest is guided either by chance, or by individual enmity ; and, though (as our informer assured us) the judgment was often found to be false, it derogates nothing from



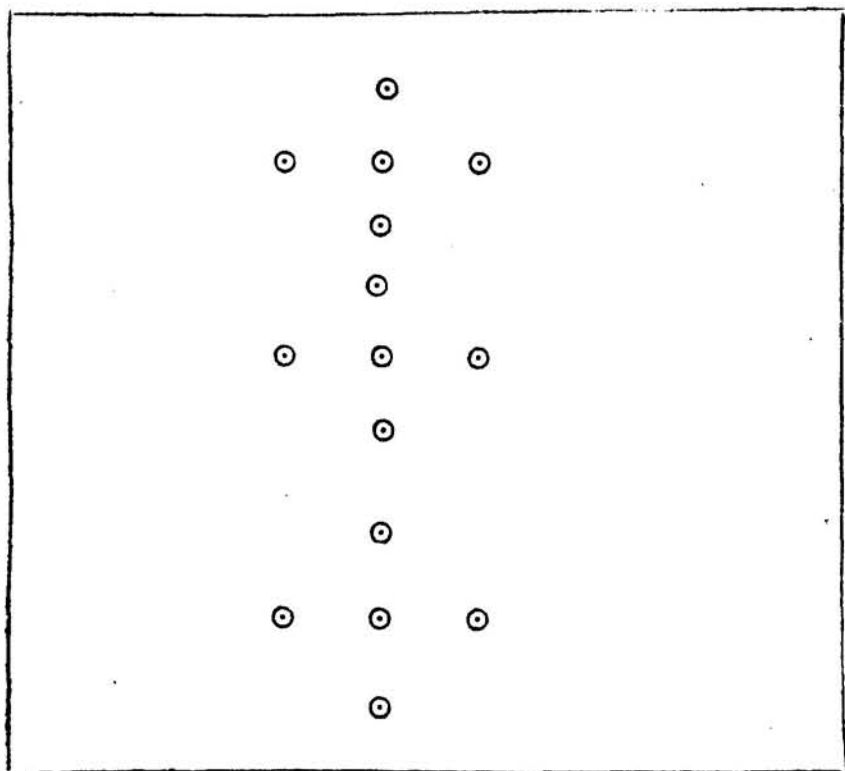
the credit of the gangam, who throws the whole blame on the kisseey.

The frequency of the crime of putting poison in victuals, has established the custom of the master invariably making the person, who presents him with meat or drink, taste it first; and in offering either to a visitor, the host performs this ceremony himself; this the natives, who speak English, call "taking off the fetiche."

Both sexes paint themselves with red ochre; and, before a bride is conveyed to her husband, she is smeared with this substance from head to foot. The men also make marks on their foreheads and arms with both red and white clays; but the only answer we could get to our enquiries respecting these practices was, that they were done by order of the gangam kisseey.

Besides a prevalent cutaneous disorder or itch, several cases of elephantiasis were observed, and two patients with gonorrhœa applied to our doctor; this, however, they told us was a present from the Portuguese.

The only game we have seen them play at was a kind of drafts named loela, the implements of which are a flat stone 18 inches square with 16 cavities grooved in it, and a small stone in each cavity, as in the annexed figure.



The impossibility of procuring information to be at all depended on from the natives, respecting the course of the river or the nature of the country, proceeds equally from their want of curiosity, extreme indolence, and constant state of war with each other. Hence, I have never been able to procure a guide farther than from banza to banza, or at the utmost a day's journey ; for at every banza we were assured that, after passing the next, we should get into the Bushmen's country, where they would be in danger of being shot or kidnapped. Thus at Cooloo, it was only

by the promise of handsome pay, and still more through the assurance of safety offered by our muskets, that I could prevail on a guide to promise to accompany me to banza Inga.

All my endeavours to find a slave trader who knew something of the river have been fruitless. One man at Cooloo presented himself, and said he had been a month's journey from that place, but always travelled by land, except in the passage of several rivers by canoes and fords ; the direction of his course appeared to be to the N. E. and the country, according to him, more mountainous than where we are. Indeed it appears that the people of Congo never go themselves for slaves, but that they are always brought to them by those they call bushmen, who, they say, have no towns nor acknowledge any government. All however agree in asserting that the country on the south is still more difficult than that on the north, which, together with there appearing to be no traces of the Portuguese missions on the latter,\* as well as the river again taking a direction to the north, induces me to prefer this side for my farther progress.

Aug. 19. In pursuance of my intention to endeavour to

\* At Noki the crucifixes left by the missionaries were strangely mixed with the native fetiches, and the people seemed by no means improved by this melange of Christian and Pagan idolatry.

get as far as possible by the north bank of the river, I sent this morning Lieut. Hawkey with eight men, to form a depôt of provisions at Cooloo.

Aug. 20. Sent Mr. Fitzmaurice with eight men, with a second proportion of provisions, to proceed to Cooloo, where I learnt Mr. Hawkey arrived late last night. I shall to morrow proceed with 14 men for the same place, from thence for banza Inga, sending the boats down to rejoin the Congo.

## CHAPTER V

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**Progress from the Cataract, or Cooloo, by Land chiefly, to the Termination  
of the Journey.**

## CHAPTER V

HAVING arranged matters at the double-boats, I quitted the river with the remainder of my party at 11 o'clock, and reached Cooloo myself at two; but for want of hands was obliged to leave part of the burthens behind, until the people could be sent back for them. Visited the Chenoo, who gave me a fine sheep, and promised me a guide, and some men to assist in conveying our things to Inga.

Aug. 21. With the usual delay, I waited this whole day for the guide and bearers, without either making their appearance; and in the afternoon I received a visit from the Chenoo, when I found that the delay proceeded from my not having given presents to the Mambom, Macaya, and half a dozen other gentlemen. As the giving way to such pretensions would very soon exhaust my stock, I positively refused all their solicitations for the moment, promising, however, that when I returned I would treat them as their conduct to white men should have deserved. After a long palaver, in which the disappointed party was extremely violent, the more moderate remained masters of the field,



and it was determined that the Chenoo's son should accompany me as a guide the next morning.

The night scene at this place requires the pencil to delineate it. In the foreground an immense *Adansonia*, under which our tents are pitched, with the fires of our people throwing a doubtful light over them ; before us the lofty and perpendicular hills that form the south side of Yellala, with its ravines (in which only vegetation is found) on fire, presenting the appearance of the most brilliantly illuminated amphitheatre ; and finally, the hoarse noise of the fall, contrasted with the perfect stillness of the night, except when broken by the cry of our centinels " all's well," continued to create a sensation to which even our sailors were not indifferent.

The conclusion of the night I however found not so pleasant ; awaking extremely unwell, I directly swallowed five grains of calomel, and moved myself until I produced a strong perspiration.

Aug. 22. Though still very unwell, I had every thing prepared to be off at day-light with half the party for Inga, intending to leave the remainder at Cooloo, until I had tried the practicability of advancing. It was however ten o'clock before I could get the guide, and six men or bearers, to each of whom I was obliged to give two fathoms of baft

and three strings of beads. I now found that Prince Schi (alias Simmons) had deserted, and taken with him four of the best men I had brought from Embomma, as porters; and just as I was setting off, the Chenoo and all his possé came to me, to let me know that my interpreter had violated their customs, and his own word, having bargained with two of the head gentlemen for their wives (one, the first time I was at Cooloo, and the other the night preceding), for two fathoms a night, which having no means of paying, he had concealed himself, or ran off to Embomma. Though sufficiently irritated, I could not forbear smiling at their manner of relating the circumstance, as well as at their expectations, that I would either pay to the husbands the stipulated price, or permit them to seize Simmons, and sell him as a slave. In order to avoid either of these alternatives, I promised that, on my return, I would arrange the affair amicably; with which, after a long palaver, which cost me some brandy, they were obliged to be satisfied.

Having thus lost my interpreter, I was obliged to offer very high terms to the only person with me, who could supply his place; a man whom we had picked up at Embomma, and employed as one of the boats crew, but who, having been in England five years, spoke the language as well as Simmons, and his own much better; I therefore at once promised him the value of a slave and other

*etceteras* on my return, if he would accompany me ; to which he at last acceded, all his countrymen attempting to deter him, by the idea of being killed and eaten by the bushmen.

We reached banza Manzy (about nine miles north of Cooloo), at noon, the whole road being along a plateau. Here I was obliged to give four fathoms of baft for a pig of 15lb. weight ; and after he was paid for, the people pretending they could not catch him, I was obliged to direct him to be shot. At four came to a very deep ravine (*Sooloo en-vonzi*), the bed of a vast torrent, covered with rocks, slate and quartz, in the hollows of which a considerable quantity of excellent water still remained, apparently since the rains. The sides of the ravine were thinly cloathed with wood, among which were trees perfectly straight from 80 to 100 feet high, and 18 inches diameter, the wood of which was nearly the density, and had much the appearance, of oak ; they were the only trees we had yet seen of any utility.

In this ravine we halted for the night, on learning that we could not reach Iuga, and that there was no water between where we were and that place. The country we passed over this day would appear to be from 8 to 12 miles from the river, and is more hilly and barren than any we have yet gone over ; but the same structure, on a larger scale, appears to prevail, as that of which I have given a representation.

Our night scene here, though entirely dissimilar from the preceding one, was perfectly theatrical ; the trees completely shading the ravine, and the reflection of the fires on the tent, and on the foliage, and on the rocks, with the mixture of black and white men, each cooking his supper, might have exercised the pen of Salvator Rosa, and would give no bad idea of the rendezvous of a horde of banditti.

In the morning we found we had pitched our tent over a nest of pismires ; but although we were covered with them, not a person was bitten, any more than by the musquitoes, who, from its shade and humidity, had chosen this as their head quarters. At day-light we were roused by the discordant concert of a legion of monkeys and parrots chattering, joined with that of a bird named by the natives *booliloso*, (a crested Toucan) having a scream between the bray of an ass and the bleat of a lamb ; another, with a note resembling the cuckoo, but much hoarser ; and another crying “ whip poor will ” (a species of goatsucker). We also found that several buffaloes had been to drink at one of the holes in the rocks, about 200 yards from one of our tents.

Aug. 23. At seven o'clock (having given the people their usual breakfast of cocoa), we set out, and crossed a most difficult tract of hills and ravines until 11, when we found ourselves just at the angle of the river, formed by its

returning to the S. E. ; this last reach not appearing to be more than three or four miles, but entirely filled with rocks, and absolutely, as far as we could judge with our glasses, without the smallest passage or carrying place for a canoe. At noon we reached banza Inga, having turned off to the west considerably from the river, and found it situated on one of the usual plateaus. The Chenoo, we learned, was blind, and that the government was in a kind of commission, composed of the Macaya, Mambom, &c. which portended me no good ; a palaver being immediately assembled to know what white men came here for. I now found it would be necessary to deviate from my former assertions of having nothing to do with trade, if I meant to get forward ; and accordingly I gave these gentlemen to understand, that I was only the fore-runner of other white men, who would bring them every thing they required, provided I should make a favourable report of their conduct on my return to my own country. At length I was promised a guide to conduct me to the place where the river again became navigable for canocs, but on the express condition that I should pay a jar of brandy, and dress four gentlemen with two fathoms of baft each. These terms I complied with, stipulating on my part that the guide should be furnished immediately ; (as this part of the river was said to be not

above half a day's journey from Inga), and he was accordingly brought forward. Depending on these assurances, I proposed, as soon as the people should have dined, to set off, but was now informed that I could not have a guide till the morning. Exasperated by this intolerable tergiversation, being unable to buy a single fowl, and having but three day's provisions, I remonstrated in the strongest manner, and deviated a little from my hitherto patient and conciliating manners, by telling them, that if they did not furnish a guide, I should proceed in spite of them, ordering at the same time the ten men with me to fall in under arms; at the sight of which the palaver broke up, and it was *saue qui peut*. The women and children, who had flocked to see white men for the first time, disappeared, and the banza became a desert; on enquiring for the men who had come with me from Cooloo, I also found that they had vanished with their masters; in short, I was left sole occupier of the banza. Finding that this would not at all facilitate my progress, I sent my interpreter with a conciliating message to the Macaya, whose tenement was outside the banza, and which shortly produced the re-appearance of some men, but skulking behind the huts with their musquets. After an hours delay, the regency again appeared, attended by about fifty men, of whom fourteen had musquets. The Mambom, or war minister



first got up, and made a long speech, appealing every now and then to the other (common) people who were seated, and who all answered by a kind of howl. During this speech he held in his hand the war kissey, composed of buffalo's hair, and dirty rags; and which (as we afterwards understood) he occasionally invoked to break the locks, and wet the powder of our muskets. As I had no intention of carrying the affair to any extremity, I went from the place where I was seated, opposite to the palaver, and familiarly seating myself along side the Macaya, shook him by the hand, and explained, that though he might see I had the power to do him a great deal of harm, I had little to fear from his rusty musquets; and that though I had great reason to be displeased with their conduct and breach of promise, I would pass it over, provided I was assured of having a guide at day-light; which was promised, on condition that the gentlemen should receive eight fathoms of cloth.

The people here had never before seen a white man, and the European commodities we saw were reduced to a little stone jug and some rags of cloathing. The language is a dialect of that of Embomma, but considerably differing. The Chenoo receives his cap from the Benzy N'Congo, who resides ten days journey to the N. W. and not on the river.

We purchased half a dozen fowls, but were obliged to pay for water, at the rate of three beads for a canteen. There is here a good deal of *lignum vitæ*, the largest seen about four inches in diameter.

Aug. 24. Though the guide was promised at day-light, I found that the people of the banza wished to throw every obstacle in the way of our proceeding, assuring us, that the people further on would shoot us from the bushes, &c. &c. which produced the effect of making the men that had brought our things from Cooloo refuse to proceed any further. At length I was under the necessity of secretly promising one of the gentlemen a piece of baft for his good offices ; when he immediately offered himself as a guide, and five of his boys to carry our provisions. Leaving therefore every thing but these and our water, under the care of the Cooloo men, we at last set off, at eleven o'clock. At the end of the banza we passed a blacksmith at work, fitting a hoe into a handle ; his bellows was composed of two skin bags, and his anvil a large stone. The progress seemed very slow, the iron never being brought to a red heat. Our route lay chiefly along the winding bottom of a valley between two ridges of hills ; the valley generally very fertile, but now without water, though furrowed by extremely deep beds of torrents. In the valley we found two towns, sur-

rounded by plantations of manioc growing almost to the size of trees, A flock of 20 to 30 goats was a novel sight ; but the master being absent, we could not purchase one. The women sold us some manioc, and gave us a jar of water. At the upper end of the valley we found a complete banza of ant hills, placed with more regularity than the native banzas ; they were very large, and had the shape of a mushroom, but sometimes with double and treble domes, the latter evidently intended to carry off the water in the rains. At four o'clock we reached the river at Mavoonda Boaya, where we found it still lined with rocks and vast heaps of sand, but free from all obstruction in the middle, from two to three hundred yards wide ; the current gentle (not above two miles an hour), and a strong counter current running up on the north shore ; its direction N. W.

The Macaya of Mavoonda being told of our arrival, visited us in a few hours, and was very civil, and seemingly rejoiced to see white men ; in return for his civility and his palm wine, I gave him a cotton umbrella. The information received here, of the upward course of the river, was more distinct than any we have yet had ; all the persons we spoke to agreeing that, after ten days in a canoe, we should come to a large sandy island, which makes two channels, one to the N.W. and the other to the N.E.; that in the latter there is a

fall, but that canoes are easily got above it; that twenty days above the island, the river issues by many small streams from a great marsh or lake of mud.

Having thus ascertained that the river again becomes navigable at the distance of about 20 to 24 miles above Yel-lala, I endeavoured to ascertain if I could procure canoes, and was assured I might purchase them at banza Mavoonda. During the night we had two smart showers of rain; which, as we were bivouacked in the open air, wetted us through. In the morning we returned to Inga, whence I have sent Lieut. Hawkey back to Cooloo, with 14 men of this place, to bring up the provisions and presents; intending immediately to procure two canoes and proceed up the river. Mr. Cranch being ill, takes this occasion of returning to the Congo.

The country declines considerably in proceeding to the north.

Aug. 25. All the European articles procured from Embomma, which is the emporium of the Congo empire, and might once be considered as the university for teaching the English language, and breeding up factors for the slave trade, are now brought thither by the Portuguese, and consist chiefly of the coarsest of English cottons, aqua ardente of Brazil, and iron bars. Beads are only taken in exchange

for fowls, eggs, manioc and fruits, which seem all to belong to the women, the men never disposing of them without first consulting their wives, to whom the beads are given. The fashion varies from day to day, but the mock coral, and black and white, seem to be most constantly in request.

Each village has a grand kissey or presiding divinity named Mevonga. It is the figure of a man, the body stuck with bits of iron, feathers, old rags, &c. and resembles nothing so much as one of our scare-crows. Each house has its dii penates, male and female, who are invoked on all occasions.

A slave from Ben's country, (Soondy) was this day brought for sale ; it appeared that he had been pledged for debt, and not being redeemed, was accordingly to be sold. His information respecting his country, which appears to be that of Ben, and a large district, is, that it is a long way up the river ; that he came down to Inga, sometimes by water sometimes by land, and was in the whole 25 days on his journey ; but as he passed through the hands of a great many traders, and their days journey are very short, it is probable that it might be done in ten days. As Ben however had forgotten the name of his town, he could gain no information ; and indeed his knowledge of the language is so imperfect that he has never been of the smallest use as an interpreter.

Before marriage, the fathers or brothers of a girl prostitute her to every man that will pay two fathoms of cloth; nor does this derogate in any way from her character, or prevent her being afterwards married. The wives are however never trafficked in this manner except to white men of consideration.

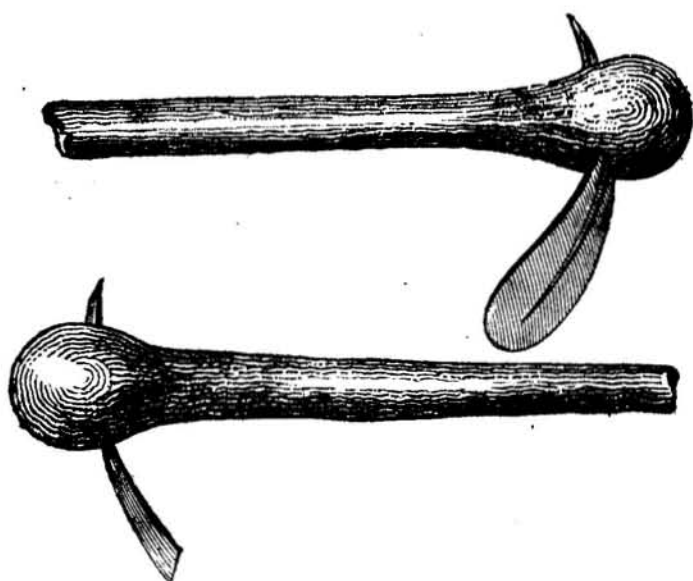
The boys are taken from the mothers as soon as they can walk, and the father sits the whole day with them on a mat. The girls are entirely neglected by the father.

Whenever any thing brings a number of people together, the men immediately light a fire and squat themselves round it in the smoke; the men and boys together, the women remaining behind separate.

The *ficus religiosa* is planted in all the market places, and is considered here, as it is in the East, a sacred tree; for our people having piled their muskets against one, and some of the points of the bayonets sticking into the bark, a great clamour was raised until they were removed.

The hoc is their only instrument of husbandry, and is made out of a piece of flat bar iron beat out and stuck into a handle from one to two feet in length, as in the following figures





At Kincaya, in the valley of Bemba Macongo, we met with an Embomma slave merchant going into the interior for slaves. No information was to be got from him respecting the river, pretending that he had never been up it. It is evident these merchants do not wish Europeans to penetrate into the country, lest they should interfere with their business. Here the cicatrices or ornamental marks on the bodies of both men and women were much more raised than in the lower parts of the River. The women in particular had their chests and belly below the navel embossed in a manner that must have cost them infinite pain, the way of effecting it being to seize the skin between the fore finger and thumb, and scarify it longitudinally with a sharp knife ; and when this is done so deep as to draw

the blood, the juice of a plant is applied as a styptic, and the deeper the cut is, the more raised is the cicatrice.

When the natives first saw the new moon, they hailed it as the precursor of the showers of rain which they expect soon after its close (that is to say, when the sun is on the equator) : they then begin to sow their Indian corn and ground nuts. The heavy rains do not set in for six weeks later. The river begins to rise a month before the rains, that is immediately after the season of showers has set in. I find it useless to attempt talking about business until the palaver is finished ; that is to say, until the palm wine they have brought, and the brandy they expect to receive, are all expended, by which time they are usually half drunk, and their inclination to palaver, to lie, to chicane, seems to encrease in proportion to the quantity they may have swallowed.

This morning I received a visit from a Foomoo with a large calabash of palm wine, who, after sharing it out among *his own people*, expected I would, in return of the compliment, give him a jar of brandy ; but as his sole business seemed to be curiosity, and I had little brandy left, I did not choose to comply ; and in order to prevent further solicitation, I told him I had none, with which, though much discontented, he was obliged to be satisfied. At noon I returned to Inga.

August 26. While Lieutenant Hawkey was gone to Cooloo to bring up the luggage, I visited the river from Inga, being about a mile distant. The reach here runs east and west for three or four miles, and in that distance had three successive falls, the highest Songa Yellala. On my return I found a present of four chickens from the blind Chenoo, with a request that I would give him four fathoms of baft in return ; but as I deemed half that quantity to be four times the value of his present, I sent him two fathoms, which were soon after brought back to me, with a violent complaint that I had given four fathoms each to the Mambok and Macanga, and that the king expected the same ; as the former was however an exaction before I could procure guides, I did not think it necessary to comply with the Chenoo's demand, but taking back the two fathoms sent him nothing, and in a very short time another message came from him requesting he might have the two fathoms, which I again delivered to be given to him.

A gangam kissey passed through the banza attended by his clerk or drum-beater, with all the instruments of his profession, viz. a big drum, a parcel of calabashes filled with small stones, a piece of tree, and a dozen stinking fetiches. We found that he had been sent for to a neighbouring village to discover the cause of a man's death.

I this day visited the valley of Kincaya, where I was told a man had canoes to sell; but he was gone into the country. The structure of the valley we found to consist of a vast mass of slate, the strata dipping  $45^{\circ}$  to the S.W. The hills on each side were also composed of slate, with masses of quartz. Here I purchased some smoked fish. Here also I again met the Embomma slave trader. The manner of conducting the traffic in slaves, we found to be thus: The slave merchant quits Embomma with three men, each carrying a jar of brandy, and a piece of cloth; on a bargain for a slave being concluded, a jar of brandy is then drunk, and a proportion of the cloth is given to the Chenoo and other great men as presents; the seller then sends one of his own men back with the trader to receive the price of the slave at Embomma, or at any intermediate place that the feuds or other impediments to tranquillity may render expedient.

August 27. This morning the gangam kissey returned, and we learnt that he had denounced three men of another village as the poisoners of the man that died, and that the accused were immediately to undergo the ordeal of chewing poisonous bark, which, if they were guilty, they would retain in the stomach, and thus it would occasion their death; but if innocent, they would vomit it up again

immediately. On enquiry if the gangam did not sometimes undergo the revenge of the persons thus falsely denounced, I was told that such a thing was unknown, for that the accused considered the kissey to be only to blame; and that moreover the gangam could not be hurt, the kissey always forewarning him of danger. Even my interpreter, who had been baptised and lived five years in England, expressed his firm belief in these notions; which, by the way, are not more ridiculous than the augury of the Romans, or the inspirations and beatific visions of certain christians. The gangams do not appear to be numerous, the one abovementioned having come from a considerable distance. Each gangam has usually a novice with him, whom he initiates into the mysteries of the profession, to which he succeeds on his death. The manner of initiation is kept, as may be supposed, a profound secret from the people. Their pay consists of the country money, of which this fellow had received a large bundle.

The impediments to communication from the nature of the country, and the want of rivers, appear to be the great obstacles to the civilization of Africa. The abolition of the slave trade, though it will produce little or no effect on the state of domestic slavery, (which is not incompatible with a high degree of civilization,) must in the end

tend greatly to improve Africa, by rendering the communication between different parts of the country free from the danger of being kidnapped, which now expresses all curiosity, or all desire of the people of one *banza* to go beyond the neighbouring one. Every man I have conversed with indeed acknowledges, that if white men did not come for slaves, the practice of kidnapping would no longer exist, and the wars, which nine times out of ten result from the European slave trade, would be proportionally less frequent. The people at large most assuredly desire the cessation of a trade, in which, on the contrary, all the great men deriving a large portion of their revenue from the presents it produces, as well as the slave merchants, who however are not numerous, are interested in the continuance. It is not however to be expected that the effects of the abolition will be immediately perceptible; on the contrary, it will probably require more than one generation to become apparent: for effects, which have been the consequence of a practice of three centuries, will certainly continue long after the cause is removed; and in fact, if we mean to accelerate the progress of civilization, it can only be done by colonization, and certainly there could not be a better point to commence at than the banks of the Zaire.



## CHAPTER VI

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Excursion from Inga, and from thence to the Termination of the Journey.

## CHAPTER VI

LIEUTENANT HAWKEY having returned with a part of the presents for the chiefs, and provisions for the journey, I this morning (28th) determined to set out for Mavoonda to bargain for some canoes ; and was just on the point of departure, when the Macayo paid me a visit, and informed me, that if I purchased any canoes, I would find myself taken in, for that at a day's journey above Mavoonda the river was again obstructed by a fall named Sangalla, over which I should not be able to get the canoes : this information at once throwing me again into as great uncertainty as ever, I determined, instead of going to purchase canoes, to visit this Sangalla without delay. It was however some time before I could procure a guide, when the old gentleman, who had led me to Mavoonda, again offered himself for half a piece, whom I was forced to accept. As he assured me we should be back at night, I took only Mr. Galwey and four men, with a very short day's provisions, not wishing to open a fresh case of preserved meat (which is now our sole resource for the people). After passing

through the valley of Bemba, we ascended the hills that line the river, and which are more fatiguing than any we had yet met with, being very steep, and totally composed of broken pieces of quartz, resembling a newly made limestone road. At four o'clock we came in sight of the river, between the hills; and instead of getting back at night, I found it would be nearly dark before we could reach Sangalla, and, as I expected, we only reached it at sunset. Including the windings of the river, I suppose it about ten miles above Mavoonda; the intermediate reach running due north, studded with several islands, but the stream not very strong. At Sangalla the river is crossed by a great ledge of slate rocks, leaving only a passage close to the foot of the hill on the left bank about fifty yards wide, through which the stream runs at least eight miles an hour, forming whirlpools in the middle, whose vortices occupy at least half the breadth of the channel, and must be fatal to any canoe that should get into them. About two miles lower down the river the stream breaks quite across over a sunken ledge of rocks. Above, the river forms a wide expanse east and west, but filled with rocky islets; the great breadth however reduces the velocity of the stream, so that canoes easily pass. About two miles above the commencement of the narrow channel there is a ferry.

Having examined every thing here, and being told by our guide that there was a banza not much higher up, where we might get some victuals, I proceeded towards it, scrambling over the rocks with infinite fatigue for an hour, and then penetrating through a close wood (the first we have seen) near it, until it became quite dark. This seemed to be the haunt of buffaloes, whose dung fresh dropped, still smoked. At length about eight o'clock we reached the landing place; and by the light of the moon proceeded over new hills towards the spot where our guide supposed the banza to be situated. I soon however discovered that he had lost his way; and seeing a fire on the side of a hill, and hearing human voices, I desired him to enquire; but the people were afraid to come to us, and we could not find any path to get to them. After some time spent in halloing, we understood from them that the banza was deserted.

As we had neither victuals nor water, and nearly choaked with thirst, it was necessary we should endeavour if possible to procure the latter; and after an hour's walk one of the men came down from the hill, and conducted us through thick underwood, where we were almost obliged to crawl, and through grass twice our own height, to a spot clear of wood on the side of the hill; and finding it useless

to go any further, we made a fire to dry our cloaks, which were literally soaked with perspiration. A little water brought us by the wives of these bushmen, for they had no hut, was our supper, and the broken granite stones our bed. The water was a strong chalybeate. The night was however fine, though cold, so that our bivouac, for want of our coats, which, on the expectation of being back the same evening, we had not brought, was not over comfortable; and at five o'clock in the morning of the 29th I quitted it to take a view of the river. One of the bushmen informed us, that after a short reach to the eastward it again ran to the south, and then turned back to the north, pointing out the hills and a banza, named Yonga, round which it turned; and according to his account, after two days journey in a canoe higher up, another Sangalla occurred, worse than the first. We also learnt that the banza, which we intended to have gone to the evening before, had been deserted for some time; the people, it seems, had robbed some slave merchants returning from Embomma with their goods, and fearing the consequences, had all taken to the bush. After a small portion of roasted manioc and a draught of water for breakfast, we proceeded on our return to Inga; and, having climbed a tremendous hill which hangs over the river, we came to three or four huts, where

a woman had the conscience to ask us a fathom of cloth for a small fowl. We had however the good fortune to procure a calabash of palm wine, a little further on, without which we should scarcely have been able to continue on our march ; the sun, after nine o'clock, becoming extremely powerful ; even with this, it was with the utmost difficulty I could prevail on the people to push on, the road being absolutely impracticable for a man with any burden ; and it was four o'clock before we reached Kincaya. Here I found the greatest difficulty in getting any thing to eat ; at last, however, we procured an old hen and some manioc, which, stewed up together, gave us a scanty repast ; and after an hour's rest we set off for Inga, which we reached at seven o'clock, equally to our own satisfaction and that of our companions, who, expecting us back the first evening, had feared lest some accident had befallen us. On both days we saw great numbers of deer of two different species, one evidently an antelope ; the other a large animal of the deer kind, of which was a herd consisting of thirty or forty. They seemed not to be very shy, but were too far off for our shots to take effect. In two ravines which we passed, we observed rather more rapid streams. The country to the eastward was low.

This excursion convinced us of the total impracticability of

penetrating with any number of men by land, along the sides of the river, both from the nature of the country, and impossibility of procuring provisions.

On the 30th, I sent Lieutenant Hawkey to Voonda to endeavour to hire canoes, to enable us to go up to the first Sangalla, being determined to make an attempt by water, though with little hopes of success.

Where there are neither written annals, legends, nor ancient national songs, nor chronology beyond a month, the history of a nation must be very vague and confined. The only idea I have been able to obtain of the Congoese history, is, that Congo once formed a mighty empire, the chief of which had three sons, between whom he divided his dominions at his death, giving to one the upper part of the river on both sides as far as Sangalla; to a second, the left bank of the river (the Blandy N'Congo), and to the third, the right bank, Banzey N'Yonga.

The Congoese are evidently a mixed nation, having no national physiognomy, and many of them perfectly south European in their features. This, one would naturally conjecture, arises from the Portuguese having mixed with them; and yet there are very few Mulattoes among them.

The creeping plants serve for cordage; some of which are not less than six inches in diameter. Fleas and bugs



swarm in all the huts. A great scarcity of wood fit for building prevails in this country. The stony hills about this part are thinly clad with scrubby trees, which are fit only for fuel; in many places they resemble an old apple orchard.

The mornings are calm. The breeze sets in from the westward at noon, and is proportionably strong to the heat of the day, and when the sun has been very hot, continues strong during the night; the days and nights however are both very cloudy, so that it is impossible to get any observation even in three or four days.

The hoop by which they ascend the palm trees is formed of a moist supple twig.

The idea of civilizing Africa by the sending out a few Negroes educated in England, appears to be utterly useless; the little knowledge acquired by such persons having the same effect on the universal ignorance and barbarism of their countrymen, that a drop of fresh water would have in the ocean.

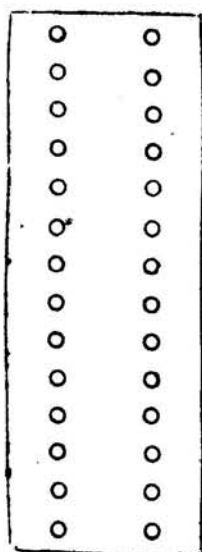
The scarcity of food at this time is extreme. The sole subsistence of the people being manioc, either raw, roasted, or made into coongo, and of this they have by no means an abundance; and a very few green plantains. A bitter root, which requires four days boiling to deprive it of its pernicious quality, is also much eaten.

The indolence of the men is so great, that if a man gets a few beads of different colours, he stops at home (while his wife is in the field picking up wood, &c.), to string them, placing the different colours in every kind of way till they suit his fancy.

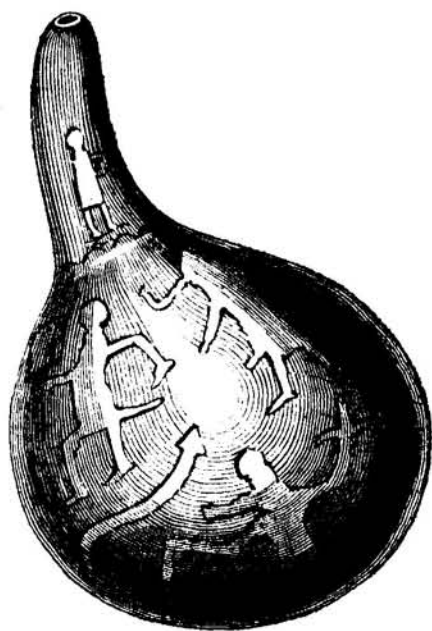
They have songs on various subjects, love, war, palm wine, &c.

They have no other arms except knives and a few muskets ; no shot, but small rounded stones : a piece of quartz makes a good flint. They take fish by poisoning them with a species of narcotic herb. They make good lines with grass.

They amuse themselves with a game which is played on a piece of board, having twenty-eight circular hollows on its surface ; but I could not learn the principles of the game.



The palm wine is obtained by making an orifice a little above the insertion of the lowest branch or leaf, into which a tube is inserted for conducting the liquor into a calabash. These calabashes are extremely useful for all manner of household purposes, and are of all sizes ; the small ones are used for holding their snuff, or dust of dried tobacco leaves, and are generally ornamented with figures, sometimes cut in high and sometimes in low relief, as under.



The canoes are made far up in the country ; and it is said to occupy one man three months, in the making of one ; they are not however very dear.

Aug. 31. Lieut. Hawkey returned, having been unable to

procure a single canoe ; indeed it did not appear that there is more than one or two, for crossing the river at Voonda. I sent some natives to Cooloo to bring up the remainder of the provisions, and with an order to Mr. Fitzmaurice to return to the 'Congo sloop with fifteen of the men, being unable to feed them at Cooloo. With the party thus reduced I am about to proceed to Bamba Yanzzy, three days journey, where, according to all accounts, the river ceases to be obstructed with rocks or cataracts.

*[From this time the Journal consists only of short notices ; but the dates and progress are regularly inserted, and accompanied with a Sketch of the River, the direction, length, and width of its several reaches, and strength of its current, as far as the extreme point to which they proceeded.]*

Sept. 1. Great astonishment of the people at seeing the pocket compass and the watch ; especially the pocket compass always pointing to the same spot of the river.

Their houses would be convenient if a little larger, and if raised from the ground on posts to keep out the fleas and bugs.

It appears that the bark used in the ordeal is from a species of cassia ; and the bitter root used as food is a kind of yam. Some Guinea fowls were killed, and some partridges of a very large kind. Plenty of bees in the rainy season,

when the numerous flowers are in blossom. The natives eat wild honey whenever they find it, but are never at the trouble of searching for it; nor do they know the value of wax. Sweet-scented flowers smelling like the jasmine and jonquils.

The end of the rainy season is unquestionably the best time for a botanist.

This day for the first time observed that the river had begun to rise.

The names of the seasons are as under. The dry season, or winter, is called *Gondy assivoo*; it is from April to September inclusive.

The first rains are called *Mallola mantity*; they fall in light showers once or twice in 24 hours; commence the latter end of September, and continue to the middle of October. At this time the women prepare the ground with the hoe for planting Indian corn, beans, manioc, &c.

The second rains are called *Voolaza mansanzy*; commence in November and end in January; they are represented as being very heavy, attended with great heat, but with few tornados. They now plant Indian corn, &c. which ripens in three months.

The third rains are named *Voolaza chintomba*, and continue during the months of February and March. The rain still

very heavy, with violent tornados, and storms of thunder, lightning, fiery weteors, and wind.

The species of *dolichos*, named voando, is ripe enough for gathering in the month of October. The *bozea* or *saphoo* also ripens in October. The *chichila* (papaw) plantain.

Macaya and Mambouk bought six fathoms of chintz and a bottle of brandy.

Sept. 2. Mr. Galwey was to day very ill; sent Mr. Fitzmaurice orders to wait for him at Cooloo.

At eight o'clock, with much difficulty, got nine bearers for three fathoms each and three strings of beads. Set off with eight white men, Dr. Smith, Mr. Galwey, and three black men. No other road, it seems, but the horrible one we went before. At one P.M. reached a stream, the only one seen that was large enough to turn a mill; there we dined. Pratt was knocked up, and obliged to be assisted forward by four men.

I had some dilemma with the bearers, from the impatience of our people: the only way to manage them seems to be that of threatening to stop their pay; no use in personal intimidation, as they know they can run off; nor in promises, for, like children, they are only afraid of being deprived of what they have in actual possession, or think themselves sure of.

At five P. M. passed a second brook, but the bearers telling us there was another further on, we continued our march till six. Pitched the tent, and sent the bearers for water; but they returned with empty vessels, saying the brook was dried up; and most provokingly seated themselves with the utmost indifference round the fire; and tho' we had not a drop of water, they would not move until I put the above method in practice, when six of them went back to the brook we had left.

Some showers of rain now fell. In the middle of the night we found ourselves attacked by a swarm of ants, which fairly beat us out of the tent, as we preferred the wet grass to the torment they occasioned.

Sep. 3. Pratt being unable to proceed from his fever, I sent him back to Inga with two of the bearers; and at eight A. M. set off with the rest; the most horrible road, through narrow gullies not 18 inches wide and six feet deep, which had been formed by the rains excavating the rocks.

On the summit of one of the hills we met a caravan of slave traders going to Embomma, consisting of 30 men (eight with muskets), the rest loaded with cassava and ground nuts, some of which they kindly gave us. One man and four boy slaves were from the Soonda country: all said they were taken in the bushes. One of the boys made the most



violent screams on seeing us : even the children of seven or eight years old held fast by the hand of their owners, while we were present.

We dined at a brook, named Sooloo Loo Anzaza ; and at three P. M. arrived on the bank of the river, a little to the eastward of the upper Sangalla, which is formed by a ledge of rocks running quite across the river, part of it near the right bank being now dry, and the stream close to the other side, forming another and a larger Yellala, or cataract. The direction of the river is here N. E. ; and at the distance of about a mile above this Sangalla it greatly expands, forming an elbow, and running into a creek called Condo Yonga, and then it turns S.E. ; the current about three miles an hour, with a strong eddy on one side. Some rocks are still seen in the river, but the appearance is much less rugged than below, the land on each side being lower, tho' still hilly and very barren, with no trees whatever. The formation also changes at this spot ; the pebbly quartz hills having almost entirely given way to clay and ferruginous earth ; and the rocks which line the river are now a perfect clay slate.

The constant setting fire to the grass must prevent the growth of trees, and render them scrubby by destroying their leaves.

Many hippopotami were visible close to our tents at

Condo Yanga, where we were obliged to halt, and to wait some time for a canoe to pass. No use firing at these animals in the water; the only way is to wait till they come on shore to feed at night. During the night, they kept a continual grunting like so many hogs, but none of the came on shore, though we had a constant watch on the beach.

This point of the river is the place of all others to set out from on an expedition to explore the course of the river the creek offering a very fine place for boats, and the strand being an excellent spot for an encampment.

Sept. 4. After much difficulty we obtained two canoes to ferry us over the creek, for which service I paid four fathoms and six strings of beads. As soon as they were loaded, the Inga men desired to go back, on pretence of being afraid to proceed; but as they had engaged to go to Bamba Yonga, the fear of losing their wages at last induced them to pass over it. They had not however walked above a mile on the other side of the creek before they laid down their loads, and again refused to go on; and in this manner they plagued me until noon, putting down their loads every ten minutes, walking back fifty or sixty yards as if to return, taking them up again, and so on, with a palaver of half an hour between each stoppage. Finding I could get no good of them, I finally halted on the eminence