

twenty miles. In the evening I went in company with Lockhart to the ravine situated northward, where I found the superb tree *Musanga* in flower.

August 28. Captain Tuckey and Galwey proceeded through the valley to Sangala, the uppermost rapid, in order to ascertain whether canoes might pass over it. Accompanied by Lockhart, I descended the hill, in order to cut down the *Musanga*-tree, round the top of which several climbers, *Dioscorea*, and a singular species of *Aggregata* were twisted. The flowers were withered. A man died in the village. Gangam Kissy was busy all day in order to discover the cause of his death, and found out at last that he had been poisoned by three men, among whom was the Macaya

Macasso is a nut chewed by great people only. It is rather bitter, and perhaps is the Cola nut. Casa is a purgative legumen. Jandu, a *Dioscorea* growing wild. Its root is used for food, but it has a bitter taste, even after having been boiled a whole day.

August 29. Captain Tuckey returned in the evening after a long and fatiguing tour. Above Sangala occurs another fall, but beyond this the river is said to run quietly, and that canoes with two pair of double oars are to be found there. A number of antelopes had made their appearance. A village had been deserted from fear of vengeance for a crime committed in a neighbouring territory.

August 30. Hawkey was ordered to go to Walla to hire canoes, by means of which it was intended to endeavour to convey the baggage up Sangala. I accompanied him on

this journey. We followed the usual way through the valley of Dimba and its villages. From the eminence over-looking the valley we observed a herd of antelopes. On our arrival at Wallu we were informed that there was but one single canoe at the ferry, and that it was used chiefly on market days.

August 31. Before day-break Hawkey and I set out for the small sandy creek. Here we again fired at some of the large wild ducks, and observed recent traces of hippopotami. On ascending some hills we saw several flocks of Guinea-fowls, of which we shot one, and when engaged in the pursuit of these birds, we came in sight of four antelopes, two of which were of a blackish colour on the back, the rest of the body brown, with large spiral horns. We met with but few new plants.

Sept. 1st. Lockhart this day discovered the female tree of Musanga. Another tree which had been seen with fruit a long time before was now found with flowers. The bark and leaves of the Casa tree, which the Gangam Kissei made use of as an ordeal, were brought to us. They are said to be poisonous. Of some climbers I got only imperfect specimens.

Sept. 2d. We set out for our final tour in company with the Captain and Hawkey; Fitzmaurice was ordered to go back to the ships; Hodder was sent up to Inga, and Galwey was carried back again sick. Accompanied by twelve men, and the negroes carrying our baggage, we proceeded by way of Wallu and along the valley under the foot of the hills. Some antelopes were seen. We halted at a rivulet

called Lullu, where I found a single specimen of an *Angiosperma* and an *Euphorbiacea*. Our way went over rugged hills till we approached the high land towards the evening; we then crossed some rivulets, near the last of which was a luxuriant growth of trees and thick grass. A *Clerodendrum* was found here, but I lost the flowers.

Sept. 3. We passed over the high mountain at Mangoama Gomma, where I found a *Limodorum*. At noon near a rivulet was found a *Labiata herbacea*, a parasite plant like *Loranthus*; and in the rivulet of Lullu, a frutescent *Oxalis*, *Antidisma*, and *Polypodium pteroides*, in small ravines.

The slate inclined this day more towards the west, and the hills were better covered with wood, and distinguished by many new villages. The higher parts were covered with a red clay. From Mangoama Gomma a view opened over the upper part of the river, which is expanding itself over the surface of a country of less elevation. Near the upper Sangala is a narrow passage through the mountain, down which the river precipitates itself within a very contracted channel. For the first time I observed in the ravine here the transition to clay-slate, of which the hills are formed. Its inclination is uncertain, but generally towards the north. When on on the height of the banza Bomba Yanga, we were met by a party of slave-merchants. From thence we directed our way more towards the river, and proceeded over some smaller hills till we reached Condo Janga in the evening. The view above being uninterrupted over an open and flat country. The river had

now the appearance of one of our northern lakes; its banks were covered with wood, and in some parts of it were rocks rising out of the surface in the form of a horse-shoe. Canoes again made their appearance, and renewed our hopes. We were at the beginning of a country evidently capable of an extensive cultivation, with a fine navigable river, with abundance of provisions for sale, and with an increased population. The evening was spent in hunting after the hippopotami, which snorted close by us at the point of the bay; and they were so numerous, that we could not say it was their fault if the chase was unsuccessful.

Sept. 4. Our tour to-day was more agreeable than any we had made for a long time. After having crossed the bay in canoes, we walked along the level banks of the river. A delay however was occasioned by a quarrel with the carriers. In passing through two or three villages we were followed by a number of people attracted by curiosity. We proceeded over the bend of the river, which, higher up, again runs in a northerly direction. In the formation of the rocks clay-slate is still predominating. The river side was in some places covered with less slaty clay of a reddish colour, which higher up alternated with a compact blue, sometimes horny limestone. We pitched our tent at noon.

Our party begins again to be somewhat dispirited, and it is whispered that we shall return in about two days more, at a time when every thing seems to inspire fresh hopes. Many new plants were collected here, and two singular species of unknown fishes. We saw also a great many striped skins of a small species of antelope.

Sept. 5. I made an excursion along the rugged banks of the river, which now form small sandy beaches between projecting rocks of clay-slate, with three or four alternating beds of the above-mentioned blue compact lime-stone. I made my way over two ravines thickly covered with wood, and shot some pigeons, which flocked all around in great numbers. I saw also some partridges, a species of the strandpiper, a vulture, which I fired at, and a corvus. • Of plants I saw a *Fern*; a *Frutex dioicus*, *stylo 3-partito plumoso*; a *Frutex spinosus debilis*, *syngenesia polygamia necessaria*, *flor. capitat*; a *Malamba* with young fruit, *seminibus in pulpa nidulantibus*.

We proceeded across the plain up to the foot of a fine hill, that limits it towards the west. An excellent view of the course of the river here presented itself, comprehending its long course eastward from Condo Inga, which we had partly passed, with its . . . small rocks, and the whole plain covered with scattered groups of palms. Higher up the river was seen turning northward round a point, above which the village Kabinda is situated at the foot of the eminences. The northerly very expanded reaches of the river soon ceases, and the river turns again in a southerly direction, winding between small points, and disappearing behind the hills to the S. E., in which direction it seems to continue.

The country towards the north and north-east is somewhat precipitous, with hills of unequal height, but on the south side and south-east side it is more level. No very considerable mountain has as yet been discovered in the back ground. It is only along the river that trees are

growing. The width of its expanded smooth surface is generally about one* English mile. It is here extremely beautiful, and if the hills were covered with wood, it would be another Ransfiord.† A number of spectators came down from the village. I descended quickly, but found no bargain made. The inhabitants had danced a Sanga. A gentleman promised us a canoe next morning. The dark long sky, which about a month ago at the horizon was shown to us as a sign of the approach of the rainy season, appeared in the evening at the north side of the river. The night was moonlight.

Sept. 6th. Having at last succeeded in hiring two canoes, the baggage was carried by them along the shore, while we proceeded by land through two villages over the plain and down to the river at the upper end of the rocks, which are disposed like a horse shoe. At this latter place the canoes were dragged over two rapids. Four hippopotami were seen here, at which I fired several shots, and hit one of them in the head, when he started up and disappeared. We proceeded round the point into the bay of Bobomga, and behind the first long rock, which was found to consist of crystallized lime-stone, of which perhaps the narrow tongue of land is also composed.

At the bottom of the bay is a small lake, into which the water flowed through a creek, which perhaps indicated the

Dr. Smith is very loose and vague in all his descriptions and statements, that fall not within the sphere of Botany. Captain Tuckey makes the width of the River here from three to four English miles. ED.

† A firth in Norway, or a large bay.

rising of the river. Its shores were all around covered with *panicum*. An alligator was swimming in the lake, and another before the mouth. Traces of hippopotami were seen everywhere. Shoals of fish abounded in the small creeks. A *Hæmatopus* and several other birds were seen. All this gave to that spot a romantic appearance. Having crossed the projecting tongue of land situated under Kavinda, we pitched our tent under the hills in the sandy cove opposite the longest point; and here it was evident from the strand plants which projected into the water, that the river had risen from six to eight inches. The temperature was as low as $73\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$; observations were made morning and evening. An alligator was swimming about all night near the shore, and contrived to carry off the only goat we had left remaining. I found here again the beautiful *Tetrandria*, *corolla tubulosa*, *foliis multifidis*, which I had seen at Mampaya.

Sept. 7th. A third canoe was hired to day, and all embarked. Projecting into the bay are picturesque rocks, consisting of subverted alternating beds of clay and limestone.

Near some rocky islands, a number of small *Charadrii* were seen. Behind these rocks, a little higher up, the river is again somewhat contracted, and we were told that our people would not be able to pass in canoes. One of them was in fact upset, and broken by carelessness, which accident occasioned a long delay. At last we got over to the other side of the river, and landed in a beautiful sandy cove, at the opening of a creek, behind a long projecting

point. It is called Sandi-Sundi. An immense number of hippopotami were seen here. In the evening a number of alligators were also seen.

Sept. 8. Our hunting excursions last night and this morning were equally unsuccessful. I fired at some hippopotami. A young *Mustela* was brought to us by the negroes. Some porters or coolies were again hired to carry the baggage over land. We proceeded up the hills till we reached the high land, which is here rather level, the soil consisting of clay. The clay-slate formation still continues. This side seems to be more populous than the other. After passing through three or four villages we again approached the river, which is here more than half a Danish mile in breadth. The shore is flat and sandy, with several varieties of lime-stone. We had now arrived at the end of the southern reach of the river, which again took a north-easterly direction, in consequence of a chain of undulating mountains being situated in that direction. The country on the north or east-side appears now flatly inclining. Towards the north-east are coves terminated by large sand-banks. We renewed our chase after the hippopotami.

Sept. 9th. We proceeded round the creek, into which at the upper end a large rivulet emptied itself, and over the first hills, when we found two villages. From the summit we had a view of the windings of the river, which, turning round the hills, takes a large sweep to the eastward, after which, according to the account given by the inhabitants, it runs to the southward. The ridge of hills consists

of clay-slate. The highest that were seen running east and west - - - - -

[At this place they turned their backs on the River, to the great annoyance, as the Gardener states, of Dr. Smith, who had become so much enraptured with the improved appearance of the Country, and the magnificence of the River, that it was with the utmost difficulty he was prevailed on to return ; four days after this he was attacked with fever.]

A CONCISE VIEW of the Country along the Line of the Zaire,—its Natural History and Inhabitants,—collected from the preceding Narratives; and from the Observations of the Naturalists and Officers employed on the Expedition.

THE RIVER.—IF, from the lamentable and almost unaccountable mortality which brought to an untimely termination this ill-fated expedition, the grand problem respecting the identity of the Niger and the Zaire still remains to be solved ; we have at least, by means of it, acquired a more certain and distinct knowledge of the direction and magnitude of the latter river, in its passage through the kingdom of Congo, as well as a more extended and correct notion of the nature of the country, of its inhabitants and productions, than had hitherto been supplied in the accounts (and they are the only ones) of the early Catholic missionaries.

It now appears, that although this great river, which has been named promiscuously the Congo, the Zaire, and the Barbela (but which ought, as Captain Tuckey learned, to be called *Moienzi Enzaddi*, “ the Great River,” or “ the river which absorbs all other rivers,”) falls short, in some respects, of the magnificent character given to the lower part of its course ; yet in others, it has been much underrated. Its great velocity, for instance, its perpetual state of being flooded, and its effectual resistance of the tide, are exaggerations ; but in regard to its depth at the point

of junction with the sea, it was found to exceed the highest estimate which had been given to it. In Maxwell's chart, which is the only one published deserving of notice, the soundings near to the mouth, and for a considerable distance upwards, are marked down at 100 fathoms; and the rate of the current at five, six, and even seven knots an hour. Captain Tuckey, when in the transport, says that they could get no bottom with 150 fathoms of line out; and Mr. Fitzmaurice was equally unsuccessful in the Congo sloop with a line of 160 fathoms. These attempts however are no proofs of the river being actually that depth, as the loose line floats away with the current; but Massey's sounding machine, which is so contrived by being thrown overboard, and unconnected entirely with the drift of the ship, as not to be influenced by it, indicated by its index, when hauled up, a descent to the depth of 113 fathoms; at which depth, the lead attached to it had not touched the ground; and it was observed, that although the current made a rippling noise, somewhat resembling that of a mill-sluice, yet, on trial, it was seldom found to exceed four and a half, or five knots an hour, and in many places not more than two and a half. It was however sufficiently strong in many parts of the channel to prevent the transport from entering the river for five days; and it was not until the sixth that, by taking the advantage of a strong sea breeze, which sets in regularly with more or less strength every afternoon, she was enabled, by creeping close to the shore, to stem the current, which is there less strong than in the middle

where the water is deepest. The current however in the mid-stream must have been greater than it is generally stated ; as it is admitted by the surveyor, that, with every desire to complete the survey of the river in all its parts, he found it impossible, even with the aid of Massey's machine, to get the soundings in the mid-channel, though the river was, at that time, in its lowest state. Maxwell's chart was found to be incorrect in many respects, especially as to distances, which are generally too great. With regard to the flat islands formed by alluvial earth, and overgrown with the mangrove and the papyrus, constant changes are taking place, some gradually forming and encreasing in size, while others are wholly or partially swept by the current into the ocean.

The mistaken notion, which seems to have originated with the Portuguese, that the tide could make no impression on the current of the Zaire, is but partially true ; this mistake is now corrected by frequent observations of the tide forcing the reflux of the stream very perceptibly as high up as the commencement of the narrows at Sondie, where the rise and fall amounted from twelve to sixteen inches ; but though it caused the water to be dammed up, and a counter-current on one or both sides, yet, strictly speaking, the current in the middle of the river was never overcome by the tide.

The distance at which the narrows commence is about 140 English miles from the mouth of the river at Point Padron, and they continue as far as Inga, or forty miles nearly ; the width of the river being generally not more than from

three to five hundred yards, throughout that extent, and in most parts bristled with rocks. The banks, between which the water is thus hemmed in, are, for the whole of this distance, every where precipitous, and composed entirely of masses of slate; which, in several places, run in ledges across from one bank to the other, forming rapids or cataracts, which the natives distinguish by the name of Yellala. The lowest and the most formidable of these barriers was found to be a descending bed of mica slate, whose fall was about thirty feet perpendicular in a slope of 300 yards. Though in this low state of the river it was scarcely deserving the name of a cataract, it was stated by the natives to make a tremendous noise in the rainy season, and to throw into the air large volumes of white foam. Even now the foam and spray at the bottom are said to have mounted eighteen or twenty feet into the air.

On visiting this Yellala, Capt. Tuckey, Professor Smith, and Mr. Fitzmaurice were not a little surprised to observe, how small a quantity of water passed over this contracted part of the river, compared with the immense volume which rolled into the ocean through the deep funnel-shaped mouth; the more so, as they had previously ascertained, in their progress upwards, that not a single tributary stream of water, sufficient to turn a mill, fell into the river on either side, between the mouth and the cataract; and they concluded, that the only satisfactory explanation of this remarkable difference in the quantity, was the supposition that a very considerable mass of water must find its way through subterraneous passages, under

the slate rocks; disappearing probably where the river first enters these schistose mountains, and forms the narrows, and rising again a little below their termination, at Point Sondie, where the channel begins to widen, and from whence to Lemboo Point, a succession of tornados and whirlpools were observed to disturb the regular current of the river. These whirlpools are described, both by Captain Tuckey and Mr. Fitzmaurice, to be so violent and dangerous, that no vessel could attempt to approach them. Even the eddies occasioned by them were so turbulent as frequently to resist both sails, oars, and towing, twisting the boats round in every direction; and it was with the utmost difficulty, that they were extricated without being swamped. The instances of rivers losing themselves for a time under ground are so common, in all countries, that there seems to be no particular objection to the hypothesis of the Zaire losing a great portion of its waters in its passage through the narrows, under its schistose bed. At the same time, the eye might be deceived in estimating the quantity of water forced into a narrow channel, and running with the rapidity of a mill-sluice till it falls over a cataract, by a comparison with that which flows in a deep and expanded bed, in one uniform and tranquil motion; having besides an eddy, or counter-current, on one or both sides, which carries a considerable portion of water in a retrograde direction.

Be this as it may, the Zaire, beyond the mountainous regions, was again found to expand to the width of two, three, and even more than four miles, and to flow with a

current of two to three miles an hour; and near the place where Captain Tuckey was compelled to abandon the further prosecution of the journey, which was about 100 miles beyond Inga, or 280 miles from Cape Padron, it is stated that the river put on a majestic appearance, that the scenery was beautiful, and not inferior to any on the banks of the Thames; and the natives of this part all agreed in stating, that they knew of no impediment to the continued navigation of the river; that the only obstruction in the north-eastern branch, was a single ledge of rocks, forming a kind of rapid, over which however canoes were able to pass.

The opinion that the Zaire is in a constant state of flood, or, in other words, that it continues to be swelled more or less by freshes through the whole year, has been completely refuted by the present expedition. But the argument, which was grounded on this supposition, of its origin being in northern Africa, so far from being weakened, has acquired additional strength from the correction of the error. Like all other tropical rivers, the Zaire has its periodical floods; but the quantity of its rise and fall is less perhaps than that of any other river of equal magnitude. From the lowest ebb, at which the party saw it, to the highest marks of its rise on the rocks, the difference no where appeared to exceed eleven feet, and in many places was not more than eight or nine. The commencement of the rise was first observed above Yelala, on the 1st of September, to be three inches; and on the 17th of that month it had acquired, at the Tall Trees,

near the mouth of the river, the height of seven feet; without the velocity having much, if at all encreased.; and without a single shower having fallen that deserves to be noticed. The little difference between the rise of seven feet, which then took place in the dry season, while the sun was still to the northward of the line, and that of eleven feet in the wet season, during which the sun is twice vertical, affords a solid argument for its northern origin; and, when coupled with the particular moment at which it was first observed to rise, would seem to establish the fact, almost beyond a doubt, that one branch of the river, as was stated by the natives, must descend from some part of Africa to the northward of the Equator.

We find in Captain Tuckey's notes, after having observed the progressive rise of the river, the insertion of two words as a memorandum, " hypothesis confirmed." This hypothesis had previously been stated among the last notes of his Journal, which he did not live to reduce into a regular narrative, under these words; " extraordinary quiet rise of the river shows it to issue from some lake, which had received almost the whole of its water from the north of the line." But in a private letter written from Yellala, and brought home in the Congo, he dwells more particularly on this hypothesis; " combining" he says " my observations with the information I have been able to collect from the natives, vague and trifling as it is, I cannot help thinking that the Zaire will be found to issue from some large lake, or chain of lakes, considerably to the northward of the line;" and he contends that, so far from the low state

of the river in July and August militating against such an hypothesis, it has the contrary tendency of giving additional weight to it, "provided" he goes on to say, "the river should begin to swell in the early part of September, an event I am taught to expect, and for which I am anxiously looking out." The river did begin to swell at the precise period he had anticipated; and that circumstance corroborating the previous conclusion he had drawn, induces him to note down in his journal, that "the hypothesis is confirmed."

It is evident that Captain Tuckey, on the latter part of his journey, could only put down a few brief notes to refresh his memory, which, from his exhausted state, on his return to the vessels, he was wholly unable to enlarge or explain; and thus the reasoning on which he had built his hypothesis is lost to the world: he lamented, it seems, when on his death-bed, that he could not be permitted to live to put in order the remarks he had collected in tracing upwards this extraordinary river. Unfortunately none of the party has escaped to supply this deficiency; the solidity, however, of Captain Tuckey's conclusion is not shaken, but rather corroborated, by what is known of physical facts and the geographical probabilities, as connected with northern Africa. These may be briefly stated.

In the tropical regions, the rains generally follow the sun's course, and are not at their height till he approaches the tropics; hence arises the exhausted state of the lakes of Wangara in the months of May, June, and July, and their overflowing in the middle and latter end of August, according to the observations of the Arabian geographers;

and this late flooding of the lakes is obviously owing to the long *easterly* course of the Niger, collecting into its channel all the waters from the northward and the southward as it proceeds along. If, then, the ebb and flood of the Wangara lakes depend on the state of the Niger, it will follow, on the supposition of the identity of that river and the Zaire, that the flood and ebb of the latter, to the southward of the line, must correspond with the ebb and flood of the lakes of Wangara. The existence of those lakes has never been called in question, though their position has not been exactly ascertained; but supposing them to be situated somewhere between the twelfth and the fifteenth degrees of northern latitude, the position usually assigned to them in the charts, and that the southern outlet is under or near the 12th parallel, the direct distance between that and the spot where Captain Tuckey first observed the Zaire to rise, may be taken at about 1200 miles, which, by allowing for the windings of the river; and some little difference of meridians, cannot be calculated at less than 1600 miles.

Admitting, then, that the lakes of Wangara should overflow in the first week of August, and the current in the channel of outlet move at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles an hour, which is the average rate at which the Zaire was found to flow above the narrows, the flooded stream would reach that spot in the first week of September, and swell that river exactly in the way, and at the time and place, as observed by Captain Tuckey. No other supposition, in fact, than that of its northern origin, will explain the rise of the Zaire in the dry season; and if its identity with the Niger, or,

which amounts to the same thing, its communication with Wangara, should be disputed, Captain Tuckey's hypothesis of its issuing from some other great lake, to the northward of the line, will still retain its probability. The idea of a lake seems to have arisen from the "extraordinary *quiet rise*" of the river, which was from three to six inches in twenty four hours. If the rise of the Zaire had proceeded from rains to the southward of the line, swelling the tributary streams, and pouring, in mountain torrents, the waters into the main channel, the rise would have been sudden and impetuous; but coming on, as it did in a quiet and regular manner, it could proceed only from the gradual overflowing of a lake.

There is, however, another circumstance in favour of a river issuing from Wangara, or the lakes and swamps designated under that name, and of that river being the Zaire. There is not a lake, perhaps, of any magnitude in the known world, *without an outlet*, whose waters are not saline—the Caspian, the Aral and the neighbouring lakes, the Asphaltites or Dead Sea, and all those of Asia, which have no outlet, are salt.* If therefore the lakes of Wangara had no outlet, but all the waters received into them spread themselves over an extended surface during the rains, and were evaporated in the dry season, there would necessarily be deposited on the earth, so left dry, an incrustation of salt, and the remaining water would be strongly impregnated with

* The *freshness* of the Zuré or Zurrah, the Aria Palus, in Seistan, rests on no authority—but if so, its waters are not evaporated, but pass off by filtration through the sand.

salt ; and both the one and the other would be encreased by every succeeding inundation. None of the African rivers are free from saline impregnations ; but the Niger, in its long easterly course, collecting the waters from the sandy and saline soil of the desert, where every plant almost is saturated with salt, must be particularly charged with it. No mention, however, is made by any of the Arabian writers of that indispensable article, salt, being procured in the mud or soil abandoned by the waters of Wangara ; on the contrary, it is well known that one great branch of the trade of Tombuctoo is that of obtaining salt from the northern desert, for the supply of the countries to the southward of the Niger. But if Wangara had no outlet, this could not be necessary, as both it and all the large inland lakes, so circumstanced, would afford more or less of salt ; and if so, the trade of the caravans proceeding with rock salt from Tegazza to Tombuctoo would not have existed ; as it is well known it has done, and still does, especially from the latter place to Melli and other countries south of the Niger, “ to a great water,” as Cadamosta says, “ which the traders could not tell whether it was salt or fresh ; by reason of which (he says) I could not discover whether it was a river or the sea ; but,” he continues, “ I hold it to be a river, because if it was the sea, there would be no need of salt.”

Edrisi, however, distinctly states them to be fresh water lakes, and says that the two cities of Ghaha are situated on the two opposite shores of what the Arabs call a fresh water sea. This fresh water sea, therefore, must necessarily have an outlet ; or, like the Caspian, it would be no longer fresh ; and the conclusion is that, if the Niger runs into

these lakes of Ghana and Wangara, it does not there terminate, but that, in the season of the rains, it also flows out of them. In fact, Edrisi does not make the Niger to terminate in the swamps of Wangara or Vancara ; he merely describes them as being an island three hundred miles in length, and one hundred and fifty in breadth, surrounded by the Niger *all the year*, but that, in the month of August, the greater part is covered with water as long as the inundations of the Niger continue ; and that when the river has subsided into its proper channel, the negroes return to their habitations, and dig the earth for gold, “ every one finding more or less, as it pleases God.” But not a word is mentioned of their finding salt, which indeed is the great interchangeable commodity for gold.

On the assumption, then, of Wangara discharging its overflowing waters, the most probable direction of the channel is to the southward ; and as the evidence of the northern origin of the Zaire amounts almost to the establishment of the fact, the approximation of the two streams is in favour of their identity. If the account of Sidi Hamet’s visit to Wassenah, as related by Riley, could be depended on, a very few degrees only are wanting to bring the two streams together ; but with all the strong testimonies in favour of Riley’s *veracity*, every page of his book betrays a looseness and inaccuracy, that very much diminish the value of this Arab’s narrative as it is given by him. The name of *Zadi*, given by this Arab merchant to the Niger at Wassenah ; that of *Zad*, which Horneman learned to be its name to the eastward of Tombuctoo, “ where it turned off to the southward ;” the *Enzaddi*, which Maxwell says is the name given to the cataracts of the Zaire ; and the *Moienzi*

enzaddi, which Captain Tuckey understood to be the name of the river at Embomma, are so many concurring circumstances which give a favourable though a faint colour to the hypothesis of the identity of the two rivers.

If any further exploration of the Zaire, upwards, should be undertaken, Captain Tuckey has sufficiently established the fact, that no naval equipment at home can avail in the prosecution of this object. All that appears to be necessary, is that of providing at the Cape de Verde islands a dozen or twenty asses and mules, and carrying them in a common transport up the river as far as Embomma ; from thence to make the best of the way over land direct for Condo Yanga, the place which has been assigned by Captain Tuckey, as possessing the greatest advantages for the necessary preparations for embarking on the river ; and these preparations would consist merely in purchasing or hiring half a dozen canoes, with the help of two or three ship carpenters, converting them into three double-boats, or twin-canoes, by a few planks, which would form a convenient platform for the accommodation of the party, the animals, and the baggage. In this way they would proceed where the river was navigable, and by land, with the assistance of the asses and mules, where interruptions occurred ; and thus they would avoid that degree of fatigue, which was unquestionably the principal cause of the death of those who fell on the late expedition. On the part of the natives, it is now pretty well ascertained, there would be no obstruction, unless they are of a very different disposition higher up in the interior, than what Captain Tuckey experienced them to be, which is not, as far as

he could collect, very likely : the character of the negro having hitherto been every where stamped with mildness, simplicity, and benignity of disposition.

FACE OF THE COUNTRY—SOIL, CLIMATE, AND PRODUCTIONS. THE country named Congo, of which we find so much written in collections of Voyages and Travels, appears to be an undefined tract of territory, hemmed in between Loango on the north, and Angola on the south ; but to what extent it stretches inland, it would be difficult to determine ; and depends most probably on the state of war or peace with the contiguous tribes. All that seems to be known at present is, that the country is partitioned out into a multitude of petty states or Chenooships, held as a kind of fiefs under some real or imaginary personage living in the interior, nobody knows exactly where. Captain Tuckey could only learn that the paramount sovereign was named *Blindy N'Congo*, and resided at a banza named Congo, which was six days journey in the interior from the Tall Trees, where, by the account of the negroes, the Portuguese had an establishment, and where there were soldiers and white women. This place is no doubt the St. Salvador of the Portuguese. These chiefs have improperly been called kings : their territories, it would seem, are small in extent, the present expedition having passed at least six of them in the line of the river ; the last is that of Inga, beyond which are what they call bush-men, or those dreadful cannibals whom Andrew Battel, Lopez, Merolla, and others, have denominated Jagas, or Giagas, “ who consider human flesh as the most delicious food, and gob-

lets of warm blood as the most exquisite beverage ;" a calumny, which there is every reason to believe has not the smallest foundation in fact. From the character and disposition of the native African, it may fairly be doubted whether, throughout the whole of this great continent, a negro cannibal has any existence.

That portion of the Congo territory, through which the Zaire flows into the southern Atlantic, is not very interesting, either in the general appearance of its surface, its natural products, or the state of society, and the condition of its native inhabitants. The first is unalterable; the second and third are capable of great extension and improvement, by artificial and moral cultivation; but with the exception of the river itself, there are probably few points between the mouth of the Senegal and Cape Negro, on that coast, which do not put on a more interesting appearance, in a physical point of view, than the banks of the Zaire. The cluster of mountains, though in general not high (the most elevated probably not exceeding two thousand feet), are denuded of all vegetation, with the exception of a few coarse rank grasses; and the lower ranges of hills, having no grand forests, as might be expected in such a climate, but a few large trees only, scattered along their sides and upon their summits, the most numerous of which are, the *Adansonia*, *Mimosa*, *Bombax*, *Ficus*, and palms of two or three species.

Between the feet of these hills, however, and the margins of the river, the level alluvial banks, which extend from the mouth nearly to Embomma, are clothed with a

most exuberant vegetation, presenting to the eye one continued forest of tall and majestic trees, clothed with foliage of never-fading verdure. Numerous islands are also seen to rise above the surface of the river, some mantled with the thick mangrove, mingled with the tall and elegant palm, and others covered with the Egyptian papyrus, resembling at a distance extensive fields of waving corn. Perhaps it may be said, that the great characteristic feature of the banks and islands of the lower part of the Zaire is the mangrove, the palm, the *adansonia* and the *bombax*, with intermediate patches of papyrus; and after the alluvial flats have ceased, naked and precipitous mountains, resting on micaceous slate, which, through an extent of at least fifty miles, forms the two banks of the river; the only interruption to this extended shore of slate being a few narrow ravines in which the villages of the natives are situated, amidst clumps of the wine-palm, and small patches of cultivated ground. On the summits of the hills, also, which Captain Tuckey distinguishes by the name of plateaus, there is a sufficiency of soil for the cultivation of the ordinary articles of food; and here too numerous small villages occur amidst the *bombax*, the *mimosa*, the *adansonia* and the palm; but the soil on the tops and sides is of a hard clayey nature, incapable of being worked in the dry season, but sufficiently productive when mellowed by the heavy rains, and with the aid of a heated atmosphere.

The country however becomes greatly improved in every respect, beyond the narrows of the river. Hitherto the general characteristic features of the geology of the coun-

try were mica-slate, quartz, and sienite ; but here the rock formation, though not entirely, was considerably changed ; the granite mountains and hills of pebbly quartz having given way to clay and ferruginous earth, and the mica-slate to lime-stone. The banks of the Zaire are now no longer lined with continued masses of mica-slate, but many rocky promontories of marble jut into the river, with fertile vales between them ; and the reaches of the river itself stretching out into broad expanded sheets of water, resembling so many mountain lakes. The greater part of the surface was now fit for cultivation, and towns or villages followed each other in constant succession, far beyond the limits of the Congo territory. Vegetation was more generally diffused, as well as more varied ; and rills of clear water trickled down the sides of the hills, and joined the great river. It was just at the commencement of this improved appearance of the country, where, from the sickly state of the party, and the loss of their baggage, Captain Tuckey was reluctantly compelled to abandon the further prosecution of the objects of the expedition ; and in some respects it was fortunate he did, as had he proceeded two or three days longer, the whole party must unquestionably have perished in the interior of Africa, and might perhaps never more have been heard of.

The account which the missionaries have given of the climate, corresponds exactly with that which was experienced by Captain Tuckey. " The winter," says Carli, " of the kingdom of Congo, is the mild spring or autumn

of Italy; it is not subject to rains, but every morning there falls a dew which fertilizes the earth." None of the party make any complaint of the climate; they speak, on the contrary, in their notes and memoranda, of the cool, dry, and refreshing atmosphere, especially after the western breezes set in, which they usually do an hour or two after the sun has passed the meridian, and continue till midnight; and when calm in the early part of the day, the sun is said so seldom to shine out, that for four or five days together, they were unable to get a correct altitude to ascertain the latitude. So much, however, depends on locality, that at the place where the Congo was moored, the range of the thermometer differed very materially from that on board the transport lower down, and also from that observed in the upper parts of the river. The former vessel was moored in a reach surrounded by hills, and what little of the sea breeze reached her, had to pass over a low swampy island. Here, Mr. McKerrow noticed the range of the thermometer to be from 70° to 90° in the shade; sometimes, though but seldom, as low as 67° in the night, and as high as 98° at noon; and one day on shore it rose to 103° under the shade of trees; at the same time, above Inga, the temperature seldom exceeded 76° in the day, and was sometimes down to 60° at night. He seems to think, that partly owing to a better position of the transport, which remained at anchor lower down the river, nearly opposite to the Tall Trees, where she had the benefit of the sea breeze without interruption, and partly by preventing her crew from

going on shore, this vessel continued healthy until she received on board the unfortunate people belonging to the Congo.

The following table exhibits the state of Fahrenheit's thermometer, at three periods of the day, for one month, from 20th July to 20th August, in different parts of the river, from the entrance to the Cataract, and of the water of the river at noon.

Date.	Air. 8 A. M.	Air. Noon.	Air. 8 P. M.	Water. Noon.	Date.	Air. 8 A. M.	Air. Noon.	Air. 8 P. M.	Water Noon.
July 20	72	74	73	75	Aug. 5	71	78	78	77
21	71	76	74	76	6	72	80	78	76
22	72	75	74	76	7	72	77	77	78
23	72	75	75	76	8	71	77	76	76
24	72	74	73	77	9	69	78	78	78
25	71	76	76	77	10	69	76	76	78
26	72	78	80	76	11	70	76	75	77
27	73	78	77	77	12	68	77	78	76
28	69	80	76	76	13	70	76	77	76
29	70	78	74	75	14	73	78	76	77
30	70	76	76	76	15	72	78	76	77
31	71	76	74	76	16	72	77	75	76
Aug. 1	69	73	75	76	17	70	76	76	76
2	71	73	76	76	18	71	76	77	78
3	71	74	76	76	19	71	78	77	77
4	69	76	76	76	20	69	78	75	76

It is remarked in a meteorological journal, imperfectly kept by Captain Tuckey, in proceeding up the river, that from the mouth to Embomma, the temperature of the river was almost invariably at 76°.

The alimentary plants are very various, and for the most valuable of them, the natives are indebted to the Portuguese. The staple products of the vegetable world consist

of manioc or cassava, yams, and maize or Indian corn ; to which may be added sweet potatoes, pumpkins, millet of two or three species, and calavanses : they have besides cabbages, spinach, pepper, capsicum, the sugar-cane, and tobacco. Of fruits they have the plaintain or banana, papaw, oranges, limes, and pine-apples. The latter fruit was met with by Captain Tuckey growing on the open plains near the extreme point of his journey, and far beyond where any Europeans had advanced. This fruit, therefore, as well as the bananas, the one being from the West, the other from the East Indies, (or both perhaps from the *West*), must have been carried up into the interior by the natives. The only beverage used by the inhabitants, except when they can get European spirits, is the juice of the palm tree, of which there are three distinct species. It is usually known by the name of palm wine, and was considered by the whole party as a very pleasant and wholesome liquor, having a taste, when fresh from the tree, not unlike that of sweetish cyder ; is very excellent for quenching the thirst, and for keeping the body gently open. When tapped near the top, the juice runs copiously out during the night, but very little is said to exude in the day time. One of the species yields a juice sweeter than the rest, and this being suffered to ferment, is said to produce a liquor of a very intoxicating quality. The trees are remarkably tall, and are ascended by means of a flexible hoop which encloses, at the same time, the body of the person intending to mount and the stem of the tree, against the latter of which the feet are pressed, while the back rests against the hoop. At each

step the hoop is moved upward with the hand, and in this way they ascend and descend the highest trees with great expedition: should the hoop give way, the consequence must be fatal.

They have no want of domestic animals to serve them as food, though very little care appears to be bestowed on them. They consist chiefly of goats, hogs, fowls, the common and Muscovy duck, and pigeons; a few sheep, generally black and white, with hair instead of wool. The Chenoo of Embomma had obtained from the Portuguese a few horned cattle, but no pains whatever were taken to increase the breed. They have no beasts of burden of any description. Of wild animals the country produces great variety, but the natives are too indolent and inexperienced to convert them to any useful purpose. They have elephants, leopards, lions, buffaloes, large monkeys with black faces, and numerous species of antelopes, with which Africa every where abounds; wild hogs, porcupines, hares, and a great variety of other quadrupeds, from which an active people would derive important advantages. Guinea fowl and red legged partridges are also abundant, large, and fine; and wild pigeons, of three or four species, very plentiful.

The country appears to be remarkably free from teasing and noxious insects, excepting bugs and fleas in the huts, and the black ants, which erect those singular mushroom-shaped habitations, some of which have two or three domes, and sometimes occur in whole villages. The party suffered no annoyance from scorpions, scolopendras, musquitoes,

which are almost universally swarming in warm climates. From the abundance of bees, and the hills being well clothed with grass, Congo might be made a land "flowing with milk and honey."

The lower part of the river abounds with excellent fish, which would appear to be an important article of subsistence to those who inhabit the woody banks occupied by the mangrove. Bream, mullet and cat-fish are the most abundant. A species of *Sparus*, of excellent flavour, was caught by the party in large quantities, each of them weighing generally from thirty to forty pounds, and some of them even sixty. Mr. Fitzmaurice observes that, near Draper's islands, he fell in with three or four hundred canoes, in which the people were busily employed in dragging up a species of shell-fish, which he compares to what is usually in England called the clam, and which is stated by Captain Tuckey to be a species of *Mya*. Most of these fishermen, it was thought, had no other abode than the shelter which the woods afforded them; that they form a kind of hut by bending and entwining the living branches, in the same manner as is sometimes practised by the roving Caffres bordering on the colony of the Cape of Good Hope; others make the caverns in the rocks the abodes of themselves and families during the fishing season; for it would seem that these huts and retreats were but temporary, as the shells of these fish were opened, the animal taken out, and dried in the sun. In the upper parts of the river, women were frequently seen fishing with scoop nets, made from the fibres of some creeping plants; and in one village, a woman

was observed spinning cotton for nets ; the herbaceous cotton plant growing every where wild. In some places the fish were caught in pots ; in others they took them by means of a poisonous plant.

A fish resembling the *Silurus electricus* was brought on board the Congo from Embomma, which, by the account of the natives, when alive and touched, communicates a severe shock to the hand and arm, or to use their own expression " it shoot through all the arm." It is thus described by Mr. M'Kerrow: length three-feet six inches ; head large, broad and compressed ; mouth furnished with six long cirrhi, four on the under and two on the upper jaw ; mandibles dentated ; tongue short, and eyes small ; body without scales ; pectoral fins near the branchial openings, the ventrals near the anus ; dorsal fin soft, and placed near the tail ; upper parts of the body thickly spotted black, and the under of a yellowish white ; skin exceedingly thick.

The Zaire swarms with those huge monsters the hippopotamus and the alligator, or rather crocodile, (for it appears to be of the same species as the animal of the Nile,) and particularly above the narrows. Both these animals seem to be gregarious, the former being generally met with in groups of ten or twelve together ; the latter in two or three, sometimes five or six. The flesh of the hippopotamus is excellent food, not unlike pork ; but it does not appear that the negroes are particularly fond of it, as the only one killed by the present party was suffered to putrify on the margin of the river ; though it is stated that the flesh is sometimes sold in the market. One crocodile only was killed, whose length was

nine feet three inches, and girt across the shoulders three feet seven inches.

FOOD, LODGING, UTENSILS AND CLOTHING.—The staple articles of subsistence, at least in the dry season, appear to be manioc, ground-nuts, and palm wine; to which may probably be added Indian corn and yams, the latter of which are stated to be remarkably fine; and of Indian corn they have regularly two crops in the year. Animal food is not in general use, though sold in the daily market held at Embomma, which is at a village distinct from the banza, or residence of the Chenoo, and at which from a hundred to three hundred persons are said to assemble; in this market, the party observed a supply of goats, fowls, eggs, besides vegetables, fish, and salt. It must be recollected, however, that this place is the grand mart for conducting the slave trade of the Zaire, and these supplies may be chiefly intended for the crews of the European ships.

The negroes of Congo are exceedingly foul feeders, and particularly filthy in their preparation and their eating of animal food; they broil fowls with the feathers on, and pieces of goat without being at the trouble of removing the skin; or even the hair; and they devour them when scarcely warmed, tearing the flesh in pieces with their teeth in the most disgusting manner. Mr. Fitzmaurice relates that one day, as their butcher had taken off the skin of a sheep, the Mandingo slave purchased by Captain Tuckey, had slyly conveyed away the skin, which, with the wool (or rather the hair) he had thrown over a smokey fire, and when

discovered, he had nearly eaten the whole skin in a state scarcely warm. There do not appear, however, to be the slightest grounds for supposing that they ever eat human flesh, not even that of their enemies, but that all the accusations of this nature are totally false.

None of the banzas or villages seen by the party were of great extent; the largest probably not exceeding one hundred huts. Embomma, Cooloo, and Inga, are each the residence of a Chenoo; the first was supposed to consist of about sixty huts, exclusive of the Chenoo's inclosure, and about five hundred inhabitants; the second, one hundred huts, and from five to six hundred inhabitants; and the third, being the last in the line of the river within the kingdom of Congo, of seventy huts, and three hundred inhabitants. The party stationed at this banza understood, that the Chenoo could command about two hundred fighting men, one hundred of whom he can arm with musquets; and with this force he conceives himself to be the dread and terror of his enemies. These banzas are usually placed amidst groves of palms and adansonias.

The huts in general consist of six pieces, closely woven or matted together, from a reedy grass, or the fibres of some plant; the two sides exactly corresponding, the two ends the same, excepting that in one is the door way, an opening just large enough to creep in at, and the two sloping sides of the roof also correspond. The sides and ends are made fast to upright posts stuck in the ground; and the two pieces of the roof are bound to the sides, and also

to each other ; and as each piece is very light, a house can, at any time, be removed from one situation to another with great ease ; sometimes the roofs are semi-circular. The value of one of these moveable houses is stated to be not more than the price of five or six fowls, and in five minutes may be put together. Permanent houses, however, such as those of the Chenoo, are made of the palm leaves with considerable skill, having several posts along the sides and ends, and covered externally with the blades or back rib of the palm leaf, bound together with a creeping plant in regular zig-zag figures. They are also generally inclosed within a fence of reeds matted together.

Their household utensils are very few, and as simple as the houses themselves. Baskets made of the fibres of the palm tree ; bowls and bottles of gourds or calabashes, or of the shell of the monkey bread-fruit (*Adansonia*) to hold their provisions and water, earthen vessels of their own making to boil their victuals, and wooden spoons to eat them ; a mat of grass thrown on a raised platform of palm-leaves, their only bedding. The articles of dress are equally sparing and simple, the common people being satisfied with a small apron tied round their loins, of a piece of baft, if they can get it, or of native grass-matting, made by the men ; of the same grass they make caps, whose surface is raised and figured in a very beautiful manner, and the texture so close that they will hold water. Rings of brass or iron are welded on the arms and ankles, and sometimes bracelets of lion's teeth ; and the women generally contrive

to have strings of beads round their necks and arms and legs, and in default of these, strings of the cowrie shell, or of the round seeds of various plants.

Their canoes are generally hollowed out of the trunk of the bombax or cotton tree, or of a species of ficus, the common size being about twenty-four feet in length, and from eighteen to twenty inches in width; and they are all pushed forwards with long paddles, the men standing upright; they use neither sails, nor any substitute for them.

A rude hoe of iron, stuck into a wooden handle, is the implement used for agricultural purposes; but the climate is so fine, that, by merely scratching the surface of the ground, they succeed in raising good crops. The great scarcity of provisions, experienced by the party who proceeded up the river, was occasioned entirely by the long drought, and that want of precaution in laying up a stock against such a contingency, which, it would seem, is here rather the effect of indolence and thoughtlessness, than any distrust in the right and security of property; which indeed is so well understood, that almost all the disputes among the natives arise from their tenacity in the division of property, whether in land or stock. This participation is frequently so minute, that, as Captain Tuckey observes, a fowl or a pig may sometimes have three or four proprietors.

POPULATION AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.—Though the population evidently increased, the farther the party proceeded into the interior, the banks of the river were but thinly inhabited in the very best and

most productive parts ; and nothing appeared that could give the least colour to those exaggerated statements of the Catholic missionaries, who speak of such masses of men collected together as are not to be met with in the most populous parts of Europe. Carli, for instance, states the " Grand Duke's" army to amount to 160,000 men ; and he accounts for the vast population of Congo from the indulgence of every man being allowed to take as many wives as he pleases, and the absence of all those religious institutions and societies which, in Europe, consign their members to a state of celibacy. Nay, we are told, that the king, Don Antonio, could muster an army of 900,000 men, and that he actually brought 80,000 against the Portuguese, who with 400 Europeans and 2000 negroes, with the help of the Virgin Mary, easily put to route this great force, dethroned the king, and set up a new one of their own. Whether such a population ever existed, or if so, what became of it ; whether wars, pestilence, or famine, swept those vast multitudes away, or whether their progeny were sent off to other lands, the Portuguese, who best could tell, have been silent on the subject ; it is quite clear, however, that no such population exists at the present day.

Leaving out the paramount sovereign of Congo, whose existence seems to be rather doubtful, the component parts of a tribe or society, would appear to consist of—1. the Chenoo ; 2. the members of his family ; 3. the Mafooks ; 4. Foomos ; 5. fishermen, coolies and labouring people ; 6. domestic slaves,

The title and authority of the Chenoo are hereditary, through the female line, as a precaution to make certain of the blood royal in the succession ; for although the number of the Chenoo's wives is unlimited, none but the offspring of her who is descended from royal blood, can inherit ; and in default of issue from any such, the offspring of any other princess married to a private person, lays claim to the chiefship, and the consequences are such as might be expected ; feuds and civil broils arise, which terminate only in the destruction of the weaker party. A Chenoo's daughter has the privilege of chusing her own husband, and the person she fixes upon is not at liberty to refuse ; but it is a perilous distinction which is thus conferred upon him, as she has also the privilege of disposing of him into slavery, in the event of his not answering her expectations. Aware of his ticklish situation, he is sometimes induced to get the start of her, and by the help of some poisonous mixture, with the efficacy of which the people of Congo are well acquainted, rids himself of his wife and his fears at the same time.

When a Chenoo appears abroad, one of his great officers carries before him his scepter or staff of authority, which is a small baton of black wood about a foot in length, inlaid with lead or copper, like the worm of a screw, and crossed with a second screw, so as to form the figures of rhomboids. What their native dresses may be beyond the sphere of communication with European slave-dealers, is not exactly known, but little more probably than an apron of some skin-cloth, or grass-matting ; the lion's skin to sit

upon, was said to be sacred to the Chenoo, the touching of which by the foot of a common person is death or slavery. From the cataract downwards, the ridiculous cast-off dresses of French and Portuguese generals, form no part of the native costume of Congo, which, with the exception of an apron, anklets, bracelets, and necklaces, may be presumed to be neither more nor less than sheer nakedness.

The members of the Chenoo's family are his councillors, by whose advice he acts in all matters of importance ; and it is remarkable, that their consultations are generally held under the boughs of the *ficus religiosa*. In case of war, the elders remain behind to take care of the village, while the brothers, sons, or nearest relations of the Chenoo are usually selected to conduct, under him, their warlike expeditions.

The Mafooks are the collectors of the revenues, which are chiefly derived from trade ; towards the lower part of the river, they begin by acting as linguists or interpreters between the slave dealers of the interior, and the European purchasers ; but having made a fortune, which was frequently the case in this once lucrative employment, they purchase the rank of Mafook, and from that moment are said to be dumb, and utterly unable any longer to interpret.

The *Foomos* are composed of that class of the society who have houses and lands of their own, two or three wives, and perhaps a slave or two to work for them ; they are in fact the yeomanry of the country.

The fishermen, coolies and labouring people appear to

consist of those who have no fixed property of their own, but act as the labourers and peasantry of the country, and are very much at the disposal of the Chenoo or chief, though not slaves.

Domestic slaves do not appear to be numerous, and are not considered as common transferable property, and only sold for some great offence, and by order of the council, when proved guilty. Saleable slaves are those unhappy victims who have been taken prisoners in war, or kidnapped in the interior by the slave catchers, for the sake of making a profit of them; or such as have had a sentence of death commuted into that of foreign slavery.

THE SLAVE TRADE.—The banks of the Zaire are not the part of Africa where the slave trade, at present, is carried on with the greatest activity, though there were three Portuguese schooners and four pinnaces at Embomma, on the arrival of the expedition. The two great vents are the Gulf of Guinea to the northward, and Loango and Benguela to the southward of this river. The chiefs and their Mafooks were, however, all prepared to trade on the appearance of the ships, and much disappointed on learning that the object of the expedition was of a very different nature. They had heard at Embomma, overland from the coast, some vague rumours concerning the nature of the expedition, which they did not well comprehend; and when the Mafook of the Chenoo first came on board, he was very inquisitive to know, whether the ships came to make trade, or make war; and when he was distinctly told that

the object was neither the one nor the other, he asked, "what then come for; only to take walk and make book?"

As it would appear, that the state of slavery is a condition inherent in the principles on which the society of every negro tribe is founded, the gradation from domestic to foreign slavery is so easy, that as long as a single door remains open for disposing of human beings, it is to be feared, that very little progress has actually been made towards the abolition of this disgraceful and inhuman traffic. It is of little use to dam up the mouths of the Senegal and the Gambia, and turn the current into the channels of Lagos, Formosa, Calabar and Camaroons; or to stop up these vents, while the Zaire, the Coanza, and the Guberoro remain open. The prolonged march of the kafilas over land may somewhat increase the prices to the purchaser, and prolong the misery of the slave, but the trade itself will not be much diminished on that account; while there is but too much reason to fear, that the passage across the Atlantic will be attended with circumstances of aggravated cruelty and inhumanity. Indeed nothing short of a total and unqualified prohibition of the traffic by every power in Europe and America, can afford the least hope for a total abolition of the foreign trade; and even then, there is but too much reason to believe, that the Mahomedan powers of Egypt and northern Africa will extend their traffic to the central regions of Soudan, which in fact, since the nominal abolition, has very considerably encreased in those quarters.

STATE OF SOCIETY.—The state of society among the negro nations seems to be pretty nearly the same, and their moral character not very different; the people of Congo would appear, however, to be among the lowest of the negro tribes. The African black is by nature of a kindly, cheerful, and humane disposition, entirely free from that quick, vengeful and ferocious temper which distinguishes the savages of the Pacific and South Sea islands, particularly those of New Guinea, which most resemble the negroes in external appearance. Contented with very humble fare, his happiness seems to consist in a total relaxation from all bodily exertion; excepting when animated by the sound of his rude native music calling him to the dance, in which he is always ready to join with the greatest alacrity. But indolence is the negroe's bane; and until some strong motive for shaking it off shall take possession of his mind, and convince him of the utility of industrious pursuits, by bettering his condition, little hope can be entertained of the civilization of Africa, even should a total and radical abolition of the slave trade be effected. The vast shoals of Catholic missionaries poured into Congo and the neighbouring parts of Southern Africa, from Italy, Spain, and Portugal, in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, appear not to have advanced the natives one single step in civilization; and the rude mixture of Catholic with Pagan superstitions, which were found among the Sognio people on the left bank of the Zaire, close to the sea coast, was all that could be discovered of any trace of Christianity, after the labours of these pious men for three hundred years. Some of these people came

off to the vessels, and they are represented as being the very worst in every respect of all the tribes that were met with on the banks of the river, being dirty, filthy, and over-run with vermin. One of them was a priest, who had been ordained by the Capuchin monks of Loando, and carried with him his diploma, or letters of ordination; he could just write his name, and that of St. Antonio, and read the Romish litany; but so little was he of a Catholic, that his rosary, his relics, and his crosses were mixed with his domestic fetiches; and so indifferent a Christian, that this "bare-footed black apostle," as Dr. Smith calls him, boasted of his having no fewer than five wives.

Captain Tuckey seems to think that the plan of sending a few negroes to be educated in Europe, for the purpose of returning to instruct their countrymen, is as little likely to succeed, as that of sending missionaries among them; and that colonization holds out the only prospect of meliorating their civil and moral condition. How far this might succeed with the negroes, remains to be tried; in all other countries, inhabited by a savage or half-civilized people, extirpation has followed close on the heels of colonization. The unconquerable avidity for spirituous liquors on the part of the savages, and the same propensity for their possessions on that of the colonists, have produced contentions, encroachments and spoliation, which terminate invariably to the detriment of the natives, and too frequently to their utter extermination. It might at the same time be well worth the experiment, of prevailing on a few of the

Moravian missionaries to settle themselves in a negro village, to instruct the natives in the useful arts of agriculture, manufactures and trade ; to make them feel the comforts and advantages of acquiring a surplus property ; to instil into their minds sound moral precepts ; and to divert their attention from their gross and senseless superstitions to the mild and rational principles and precepts of the Christian religion.

The worst feature in the negro character, which is a very common one among all savage tribes, is the little estimation in which the female sex is held ; or, rather their esteeming them in no other way than as contributing to their pleasures, and to their sloth. Yet, if this was the extent to which female degradation was subject, some palliation might perhaps be found in the peculiar circumstances of the state of the society ; but the open and barefaced manner in which both wives and daughters were offered for hire, from the Chenoo or chief, to the private *gentleman*, to any and all of the persons belonging to the expedition, was too disgusting to admit of any excuse. Some of the Chenooos had no less than fifty wives or women, and the Matooks from ten to twenty, any of which they seemed ready to dispose of, for the time, to their white visitors ; and the women most commonly, as may well be supposed, were equally ready to offer themselves, and greatly offended when their offer was not accepted. It would seem, however, that whether they are lent out by their tyrants, or on their own accord, the object is solely that of obtaining the wages of prostitution ; the heart and the passions had no share in the transaction. It is just possible, that this facility in transferring

women to the embraces of strangers, is confined to those parts of the country where they have had communication with Europeans, who have encouraged such connections ; though it must be admitted that, on the present occasion, very little difference, in this respect, appears to have been observed on the part of the women, in places beyond where slave dealers are in the habit of visiting. Captain Tuckey, however, says, that in no one instance, beyond Embomma, did they find the men *allant en avant* in their offer of the women ; but the Embomma men said, falsely it is to be hoped, that it was only their ignorance, and the little intercourse they had with white men, that prevented it ; and that any of them would think themselves honoured by giving up his wife or daughter to a white man.

No such licentious conduct it would seem is sanctioned among themselves ; where natives are the only parties concerned, an intrigue with another man's wife entails slavery on both the offenders ; and if the wife of a Chenoo should go astray, he inflicts what punishment he may think fit on the lady, but the paramour must suffer death. Mr. Fitzmaurice states, that an instance of this kind occurred while he was stationed at Embomma. The man was first carried to Sherwood, the mate of a slave ship then trading in the river, and offered to him for sale ; but on being rejected, those who had charge of him bound his hands and feet, and, without further ceremony, threw him into the river.

MORAL AND PHYSICAL CHARACTER.—It is a strange inconsistency of human feeling that, in all uncultivated

societies, the weaker sex should be doomed to perform the most laborious drudgery. In Congo, the cultivation of the land, and the search after food in the woods and on the plains, frequently the catching of fish, devolve wholly on the women; while the men either saunter about, or idle away the time in laying at full length on the ground, or in stringing beads, or sleeping in their huts: if employed at all, it is in weaving their little mats or caps, a kind of light work more appropriate to the other sex, or in strumming on some musical instrument.

Their indolent disposition, however, does not prevent them from indulging an immoderate fondness for dancing, more especially on moon-light nights. No feats of activity are displayed in this species of amusement, which consists chiefly in various motions of the arms and gesticulations of the body, not altogether the most decent. The pleasure it affords is announced by hearty peals of laughter. They are also fond of singing, but it is only a monotonous drawling of the voice, not very well calculated to delight the ears of the auditors. Their musical instruments are, a sort of guitar or lyre of the rudest kind, horns, shells and drums; and sometimes calabashes filled with small stones to make a rattling noise. They have songs on love, war, hunting, palm wine, and a variety of subjects, some of which have been attempted to be written down and translated by Captain Tuckey, but in so imperfect a manner and so much defaced, as not to admit of being made out.

In all the memoranda of the gentlemen employed on the expedition, the natives of Congo are represented as a lively and good-humoured race of men, extremely hospitable

to strangers, and always ready to share their pittance, sometimes scanty enough, with the passing visitor. In one of the notes only, they are characterized as shrewd, cunning, and thievish. Men living in a state of society like theirs, have occasion for all their shrewdness and cunning ; but with respect to their thievish propensity, though common to almost all savage and half-civilized tribes, the testimony of Captain Tuckey is rather in favour of their honesty. It is true, that when returning down the river in a sickly and helpless condition, and in great haste and anxiety to reach the vessels, some trifling advantage was taken to pilfer part of their baggage ; but it is in favour of these people that, considering all the circumstances of the distressed situation of the party, they were able to bring away with them any part of their scattered property.

• The stature of the men of Congo is that of the middle size, and their features, though nearest to those of the negro tribe, are neither so strongly marked, nor so black as the Africans are in general. They are not only represented as being more pleasing, but also as wearing the appearance of great simplicity and innocence. Captain Tuckey could not discover among the people any national physiognomy ; but few mulattoes ; and many had the features of southern Europeans. The discovery, by the party, of burnt bones, and of human skulls hanging from trees, might have led to the injurious idea of their being addicted to the eating of human flesh, had no further enquiries been made concerning them : accounts of cannibalism have been inferred by travellers on appearances no better founded than these : and it is probable, that the many idle

stories repeated by the Capuchin and other missionaries to Congo, of the Giagas and Anzicas, their immediate neighbours, delighting in human flesh, may have had no other foundation than their fears worked upon by the stories of the neighbouring tribes, who always take care to represent one another in a bad light, and usually fix upon cannibalism as the worst.

SUPERSTITIONS.—Ignorance has always been accounted the prolific mother of superstition. Those of the negroes of Congo would be mere subjects of ridicule, if they were harmless to society ; which however is not the case. Every man has his *fetiche*, and some at least a dozen, being so many tutelary deities, against every imaginable evil that may befall them. The word is Portuguese, *feitico*, and signifies a charm, witchcraft, magic, &c.; and what is remarkable enough, it is in universal use among all the negro tribes of the Western Coast.

There is nothing so vile in nature, that does not serve for a negro's *fetiche* ; the horn, the hoof, the hair, the teeth, and the bones of all manner of quadrupeds ; the feathers, beaks, claws, skulls and bones of birds ; the heads and skins of snakes ; the shells and fins of fishes ; pieces of old iron, copper, wood, seeds of plants, and sometimes a mixture of all, or most of them, strung together. In the choice of a *fetiche*, they consult certain persons whom they call *fetiche-men*, who may be considered to form a kind of priesthood, the members of which preside at the altar of superstition. As a specimen of these senseless appendages

ges to the dress, and the dwelling of every negro, the following represents one which the wearer considered as an infallible charm against poison ; the materials are, an European padlock, in the iron of which they have contrived to bury a cowrie shell and various other matters, the bill of a bird, and the head of a snake ; these are suspended from a rosary consisting of the beans of a species of *dolichos*, strung alternately with the seeds of some other plant.



Others, with some little variation, are considered as protections against the effects of thunder and lightning, against the attacks of the alligator, the hippopotamus, snakes, lions, tigers, &c. &c. And if it should so happen, as it sometimes does, that in spite of his guardian genius, the wearer should perish by the very means against which he had adopted it as a precaution, no blame is ascribed to any negligence or want of virtue on the part of the fetiche, but to some offence given to it, by the possessor, for which it

has permitted the punishment. On this account, when a man is about to commit a crime, or do that which his conscience tells him he ought not to do, he lays aside his fetiche, and covers up his deity, that he may not be privy to the deed. Some of the persons of the expedition shewed to one of the chief men a magnet, which he said was very bad fetiche for black man ; he was too lively and had too much *savvy*

This would be all well enough, if an opinion of their virtues in warding off evil affected only themselves ; and they might even be useful when considered as a guard upon their actions ; but their influence does not stop here ; they are considered in one sense as a kind of deity, to whom prayers are addressed for their assistance, and if afforded, thanksgivings are returned ; for the honour of the fetiche also, abstinence is performed, and penalties inflicted ; but if unsuccessful in any enterprize on which the fetiche has been consulted, the owner immediately parts with him, and purchases another from the priest. These cunning men have gone a step further, and have succeeded in persuading the silly people, that by their means, any part of a man's property may be fetiched or made sacred, in the same manner, or nearly so, as the *tabboo*, which is so universally practised in all the Pacific and South Sea islands ; and their mode of detecting a thief, bears a very remarkable resemblance to that which Campbell describes to be used among the people of the Sandwich islands.

But the evil does not end here. Mr. Fitzmaurice, while he stopped at Banza Cooloo, was witness to a trans-

action, which will best explain the ill effects of these senseless superstitions. A woman had been robbed of some manioc and ground nuts; she applied to a gangam or priest for a fetiche, which would compel the robber to restore the property; and the manner of doing it is as follows. The fetiche being exposed in some public place, the people of the village dance round it, and with the most hideous howlings invoke it to produce the thief, or to direct that within a certain time, and at a certain place, he shall deposit the stolen goods, in failure of which, that this newly created divinity will be pleased to destroy both him and his relations. If at the expiration of the time, which is usually two days, the property is not restored, the fetiche is removed, and the first person of the village who dies, is considered to be the thief. It usually happens, that the goods are restored, but this was not the case in the present instance. The morning after the removal of the fetiche, the most dismal howlings were heard in the village, and, on sending the interpreter to enquire into the cause, he returned and reported, that the fetiche had killed the thief, and that the noise proceeded from the relations mourning over the body. "The deceased," says Mr. Fitzmaurice, "had been one of my coolies, and was a fine strong young man, apparently about twenty-four years of age. I had seen him the preceding evening walking about in good health, which, together with the circumstance of his having died in convulsions, leads me to suspect that, rather than suffer the efficacy of the fetiche to be questioned, the priest had selected this poor fellow as

the victim to his imposture, and had contrived to send him out of the world by poison ; an opinion in which I am the more confirmed, from the relations of the deceased having found it necessary to present the priest with a larger quantity of manioc and nuts than what had been stolen, a necessary precaution, as my interpreter assures me, to preserve their own lives."

The following circumstance, which passed between Mr. Fitzmaurice and his friend the Chenoo of the village, is a curious trait of simplicity or cunning in the manners of these people. This Chenoo had boasted of a war fetiche, which if any one attempted to shoot at, the flint would fall out, and the person so attempting would fall down dead. On Mr. Fitzmaurice and Mr. Hodder expressing a wish to have a shot at this redoubtable deity, he observed, that he loved them too much to let them try ; on telling him however that if, on firing, they missed it, or if they sustained any harm, they would give him a whole piece of baft and two bottles of brandy, his fears for their safety immediately vanished before the prospect of gain, and he consented ; six yards was the distance measured off. The fetiche was the figure of a man rudely carved in wood and covered with rags, about two feet high, and one foot broad, and the time appointed was the following morning. In the course of the evening, the interpreter, who had a great regard for the strangers, appeared extremely sad and pensive, and being asked the cause, replied, that he very much feared his good masters were going to die, and intreated in the most urgent manner, that they would give the baft and

brandy, and let the fetiche alone. Being absent for some time, he said, on his return, that he had been at the village; that the King and his nobles were holding a palaver, whether they should venture the fetiche or not, and that they had asked him, whether he thought white men would dare fire at it, and on his answering in the affirmative, they exclaimed, "mindeele zaambie m'poonga," white men are gods." The Chenoo made his appearance the following morning, but without the fetiche, and was very desirous to see the fowling piece fired, in which he was gratified, and on perceiving the ball strike the mark fired at, he seemed very much astonished, and went away without saying a word. In the evening he returned, with nearly the whole of the inhabitants; begged they would not think of firing at his fetiche, for if they should hit it, and this was known to the neighbouring Chenoots, they would all make war upon him immediately; an intreaty which was uttered with so much real anxiety in his countenance as to leave no doubt of his being in earnest.

Besides the individual fetiches which are selected by a priest, or by the caprice of the wearer, various striking objects of nature are held in general estimation. The Taddi Enzazzi, or lightning stone, and the fetisch rock, are objects of this kind. The latter is considered as the peculiar residence of Seembi, the spirit which presides over the river. On the side of some rocks inhabited by fishermen, round the point of Soonda, are a number of raised figures, formed apparently with sand and ashes and laid on wet, which, when indurated, appear like stone sculp-



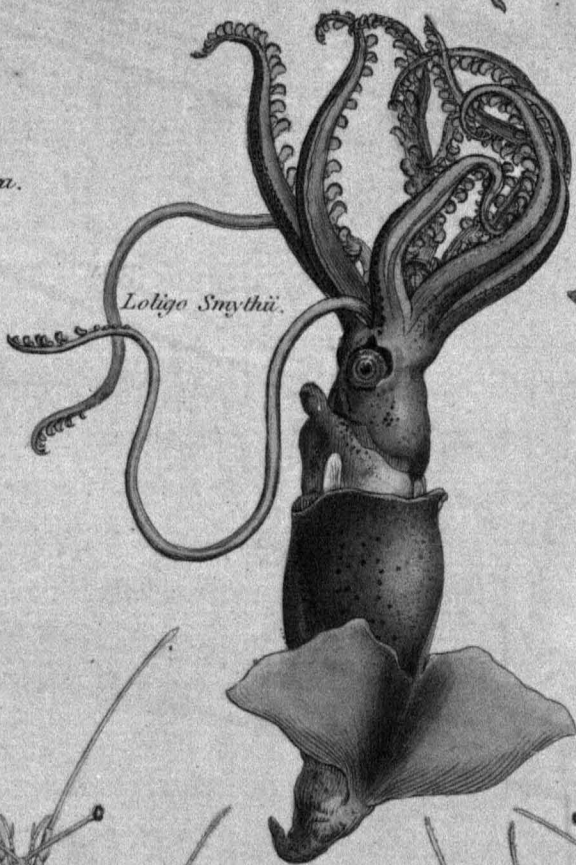
Loligo leptura.



Cranchia scabra.



Loligo Banksii.



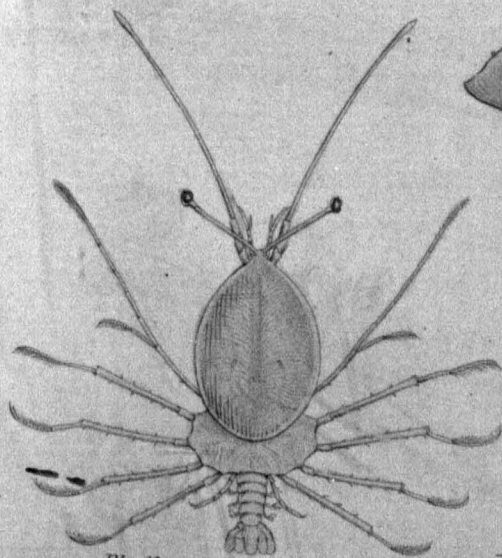
Loligo Smythii.



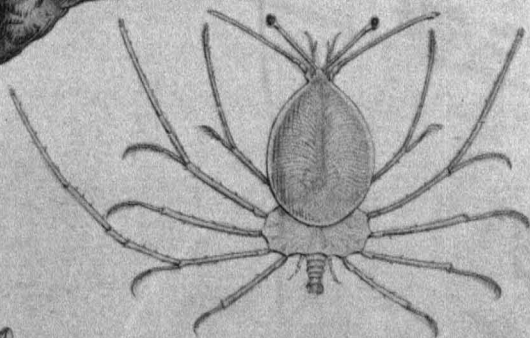
Phyllosoma brevicorne



Front of *Phyllosoma laticorne*



Phyllosoma clavicorne



Phyllosoma commune



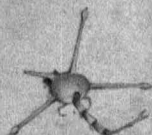
Smerdis armata.



Alima hyalina.



Smerdis vulgaris.



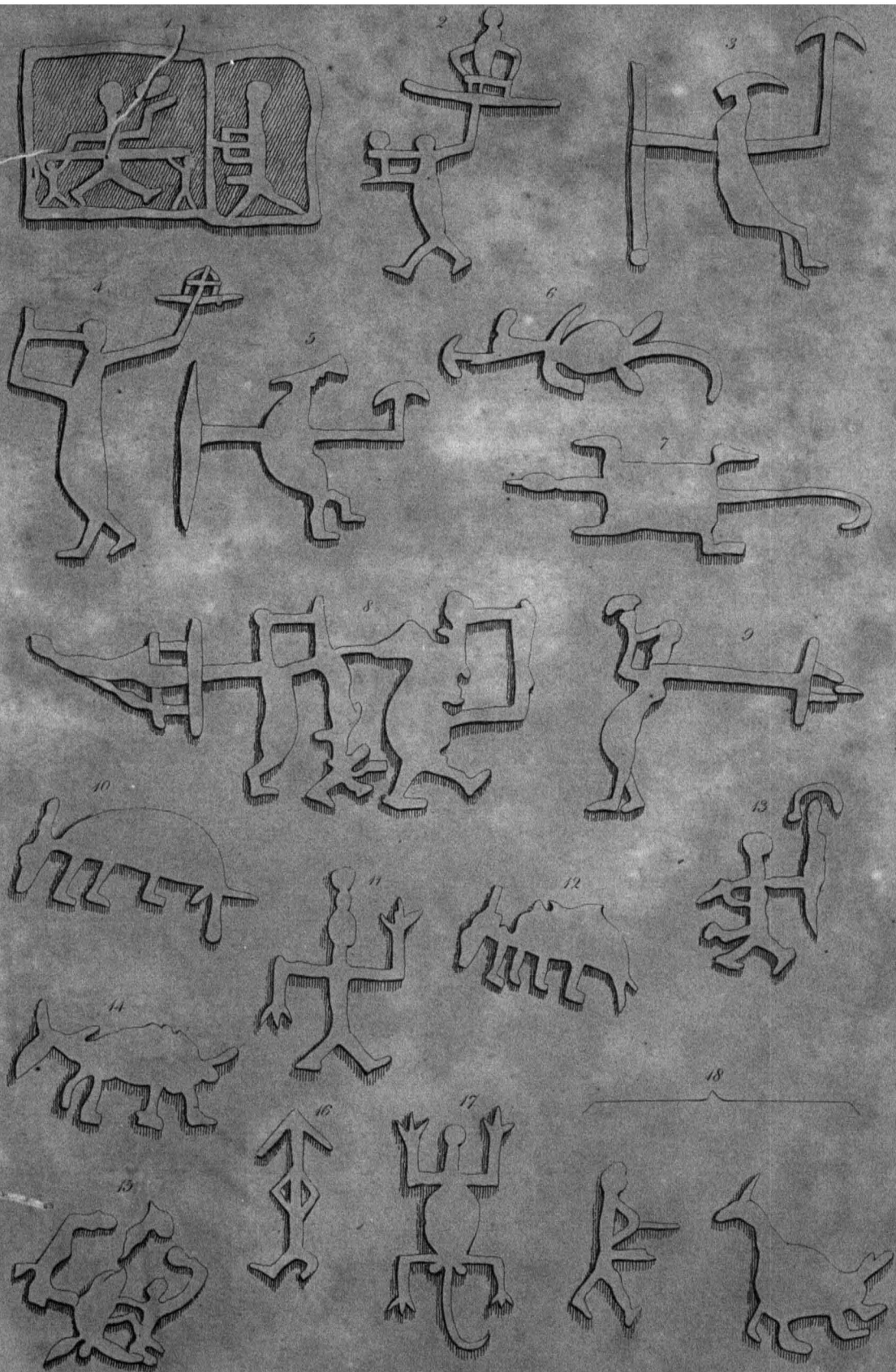
Zoëa clavata.

tured in low relief. The annexed plates are fac-similes of those figures copied by Lieutenant Hawkey, respecting which, he observes, that he could not learn, from any inquiries he was able to make, whether they had any connection with the religious notions of the people, though they went by the name of fetiches. They were said to be the work of a learned priest of Nokki, who taught the art to all those who chose to pay him. The names of the objects, corresponding with the numbers on the plates, are mentioned by Lieutenant Hawkey, as under.

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| 1. A gentleman in his hammock and guard, | 20. A gentleman in his hammock. |
| 2. A gentleman borne by his slave. | 21. A snake. |
| 3. } Unknown. | 22. Unknown. |
| 4. } | 23. A man shooting a bird. |
| 5. } | 24. An old man and a young one killing an alligator. |
| 6. A lizard. | 25. Unknown. |
| 7. An alligator. | 26. A hunter and hippotamus. |
| 8. } Unknown. | 27. An elephant. |
| 9. } | 28. Unknown. |
| 10. A hippopotamus. | 29. A hunter, a deer, and an alligator. |
| 11. Unknown. | 30. Tattooing figures. |
| 12. A buffalo. | 31. A man and snake. |
| 13. A chasseur. | 32. A gentleman in his hammock, |
| 14. A buffalo. | 33. A ship. |
| 15. A bird. | |
| 16. Unknown. | |
| 17. An alligator. | |
| 18. A hunter killing a deer. | |
| 19. A bird. | |

In several other places, figures of a similar kind were met with, cut into the face of the slaty rock, or into wood, or on the surface of the gourds or pumpkins, most of which had something of the fetiche or sacred character attached to them. They have some vague notion of a future paradise, in which they shall all be happy; they also entertain some idea of a good and an evil principle; the former is distinguished by the name of Zamba M'Poonga; the latter by that of Caddee M'Peemba; but they seem to pay more veneration to, and to feel a greater dread of, their substantial fetiches, than these imaginary personages.

The most inoffensive part of their superstitions is the respect which they show to the dead; and absurd as it may appear, a veneration for deceased friends and relations is always a favourable trait in the character of a people. Those who can afford, and they omit no endeavours to obtain it, cover the dead bodies of their relations with many folds of clothing, and keep them above ground, till, from the quantity of wrappers added from time to time, they have arrived at an immense bulk; in this state they are then deposited in a hut; they mourn their loss at stated times of the day with howlings and lamentations; and at length they bury them in graves of vast depth, with the view probably of preventing the possibility of their being scratched up by beasts of prey; they plant trees and shrubs round the graves, and like the Welsh and the Chinese, decorate them with flowers or place fetiches upon them. An elephant's tusk placed at the head and another at the foot, mark the grave as belonging to a person of some distinction.



Copies of Figures in low-relief on the face of the Fetiche Rock.

CRIMES AND PUNISHMENTS.—The only capital crimes are stated to be those of poisoning and adultery, the latter of which is singular enough, considering in what little estimation women are held. Murder and theft are punished by retaliation and restitution, or selling the criminal into slavery. The Gangam and his Kiskey are the grand jury who find the bill, but the accused undergoes a trial by ordeal before the elders of the community. He is made to chew a certain poisonous bark; if guilty, he keeps it in his stomach and it occasions his death; if innocent, he throws it up again and he is acquitted of the charge; and thus the guilt or innocence of a man is made to depend on the strength of his stomach. The practice of poisoning is so common, that the master of a slave always makes him taste his cooked victuals before he ventures to eat of them himself.

DISEASES AND REMEDIES.—The natives in general appeared to be healthy; the diseases under which they mostly laboured, were of the cutaneous kind, few being free from the itch, and scrofula; leprosy, and elephantiasis were observed, and some few cases of fever and fluxes occurred. They appeared to be subject also to indolent tumors, and most of them were observed to have large navels. Among the people of the neighbouring towns who came down to Inga to see the white men that were stationed there, a Mafook brought with him his daughter, a girl of about twelve years of age, whose skin was perfectly white, but of a pale sickly colour, though the father said she was

quite stout and healthy ; she had curly hair and negro features.

The only medicines used by them, and those but sparingly, are infusions and decoctions of native plants ; and among others the root of a species of dioscorea, of a very strong bitter taste, is very much chewed by them as a preventive of fluxes ; but the Gangam Kisey and various fetiches are mostly resorted to for the cure of diseases ; and when the Gangam, who acts in the threefold capacity of priest, public accuser, and physician, sees the case to be desperate, he gives the patient over to Zamba M'Poonga.

It is not easy to conceive for what purpose the shoals of missionaries were sent among the Congo negroes, nor in what manner they passed their time in the country. Their accounts are filled with the multitudes they baptized, and they baptized all who offered themselves ; but it is a very extraordinary fact that they should not have instructed some of them to read and write. No trace of any such instruction appeared along the banks of the Zaire, except in the instance before mentioned ; nor did it appear that they had any mode of registering time or events, except by the moon, and in this way only for a very few years.

LANGUAGE.—The language of the Congo and the neighbouring states, differs very materially from all the known languages of the negroes of northern Africa ; but from the copious vocabularies obtained by Captain Tuckey, there would seem to be a radical affinity between all the languages on the western coast of Southern Africa, and that

these languages have pervaded the greater part of that portion of the Continent, and extended even to the eastern coast.

The letter of Mr. Marsden, referred to in Captain Tuckey's instructions, contains some curious information on this subject; as well as some remarks on the language in general, which may be useful to future travellers; the following is an extract from it.

“ Knowing so little, as we do, of the countries on the
“ banks of the Zaire (which I observe is also called by
“ D’Anville, the Barbela river), few particular instructions
“ can be given, regarding the language spoken in that
“ quarter; and it will depend upon Captain Tuckey to avail
“ himself of the information that circumstances may place
“ within his reach. In most cases the opportunity will be
“ little more than that of collecting a few of the most com-
“ mon words, which may, however, be sufficient to shew
“ whether the people speaking them, have or have not an
“ original connection with others geographically and poli-
“ tically separated from them; and comparisons of this
“ kind will be much facilitated by having uniform lists
“ which not only suggest the proper words at the momen-
“ of enquiry, but place them mechanically beside each
“ other. Where a longer residence admits of freer inter-
“ course, and the means of acquiring a more perfect know-
“ ledge of the language, it will be desirable, besides at-
“ tempting to fill up the larger vocabulary,* that pains
“ should be taken to examine its grammatical structure,

A printed selection of English words.