

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—Arriving— *nolens, not volens*—in this unpleasant land by the last West African mail, I was astonished to find in your columns my name cited by a private correspondent, and passages from one of my private letters quoted to the detriment of M. Paul du Chaillu. As this is hardly fair in the writer, perhaps you will allow me room for a few lines of explanation?

M. du Chaillu and I differ upon many points. He may be right, or *vice versâ*; but that is still a question. Unwilling, however, to trouble your readers with discussion touching particulars, I will briefly state that, after a residence of about three weeks in the Gaboon country, during which I walked to Cape Lopez and explored the south-eastern fork of the river beyond any former traveller, my opinion of M. du Chaillu's book is higher than it was before visiting the land of the gorilla.

The Mpongwe natives give "Mpolo"—*i.e.*, the "big man," their corruption of M. Paul's name—the highest character as a chasseur. No one, save the jealous European, doubts his having shot the great anthropoid (mind, I modestly disbelieve in the danger), and surely it is something for this French sportsman to have succeeded when three Englishmen—Mr. Levison, Mr. Winwood Reade, and myself—have failed.

And, with thanks for your kindness, and with a solemn promise, under any and all circumstances, to be deaf and dumb upon the "gorilla controversy" until I do bag a gorilla or two, I subscribe myself,

Sir, your obedient servant,

RICHD. F. BURTON, F.R.G.S.