

little boat, and they themselves were thankful to land in safety close to the Sierra Leone lighthouse. The 'Nigritia' itself still lies helplessly on the Carpenter reef, but she is not much damaged, and Mr. A. E. Oakes, the harbour engineer at Sierra Leone, is of opinion she can be got off without much difficulty, and thence taken to England. From a letter of June the 22nd, it seems that they are hopeful of recovering the greater part of the scientific instruments. It was a fortunate circumstance that they were unable to sail by the steamer immediately preceding the 'Nigritia,' and which also belonged to the same company; as she was wrecked off Cape Palmas and every soul on board perished. Arrangements have been made by the indefatigable President in Berlin for despatching a quantity of wine by two separate routes to the travellers.

Abyssinia.—Munzinger Pasha, C.B., is now at Tantama, in Bogos, where he is building a church for the people, and preparing to make a good road to Massowa. Kâsa of Tigre is at Amba Tsera, and has not yet advanced to Gondar. The provinces which have now more or less submitted to his rule are Semyen, Woggera, Walkait, Dembea, Tselga, and part of Bagemder. Kuara, Bagemder proper, Lasta, and Agowmeder, are independent. In Godjam, one Ras Adal is the ruling chief; and Ali Buru has Lasta, Wadela, and Dalanta; both these chiefs inclining to an alliance with Menilek, King of Shoa. When Kâsa (calling himself Negûs or King Johannes) crossed the Takazyé, he was very popular in Amhara, especially with the monks and priests, but his presence very soon destroyed any feeling of the kind. He treats the people with great cruelty, and as a conquered race, and allows his Tigré soldiers much license. In Dembea and Tselga, where he is undisputed master, he has imposed a heavier tax upon grain than was ever known before, and has quartered his troops in the houses of the people, allowing them to do as they please.

The Rise of Yakûb Khan, the Atalik Ghazi.—An interesting account of the events which led to the formation of an independent kingdom under Yakûb Khân, in Eastern Turkistan or Kâshgaria, has been communicated to a Turkish paper called *Hadika*, by 'Abd'ur-Rahmân Effendy. In 1863, Yakûb Khan was governor of the important province of Tashkend, in the state of Khokand, when the Russian invasion took place. In spite of rotten fortifications and inferior weapons, Yakûb gallantly defended the citadel of Tashkend against the Russians for three months. Finally, he capitulated on condition that the brave garrison should be allowed to march out, with all the honours of war. But, in a convocation of chiefs, Yakûb was falsely accused of having sold Tashkend to the Russians, and an accusation to that effect was sent to the Khân of Khokand, who determined to have him beheaded. Yakûb received a timely warning, and fled along the road to Kâshgar with a hundred trusty followers. He encamped near the city, and secretly sent a proposal to the 'Ulamâs to aid the Muslims in driving out their Chinese rulers. The townspeople joyfully took up arms, and proclaimed Yakûb Amîr of Kâshgaria. The Chinese general surrendered with his army, and Yakûb soon afterwards became ruler of the whole country, negotiating with England, Turkey, and Russia; and consolidating his power with much ability.

Correspondence.

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THE MOZAMBIQUE CURRENT.

To the Editor of "OCEAN HIGHWAYS."

SIR,—I wrote to you about the Mozambique current with no desire for mere controversy, but in the interest of scientific truth. Such of your readers as are interested in this subject will see from my quotation of Maury's letter, what current he wrote of as "the Mozambique current, that other Gulf Stream." But Commodore Jansen flies off at a tangent to describe quite a different stream, which is truly a constant stream, but never (to my knowledge) called the Mozambique Current, although it coalesces off Corrientes or Natal with that which has hitherto been kept upon paper as the Mozambique stream, and which runs down the African side of the channel of that name to the south-west, but for only half the year with either constancy or strength.

Jansen describes the well-known and undisputed constant stream flowing past the south end of Madagascar, and along the south-east coast of Africa; but this runs to the west from Fort Dauphin, and not to the south (hence the inference that Messer Marco Polo was not its godfather), till it is deflected towards the south-west off Cape Corrientes. There it joins forces with the warm current that comes down (during the Austral summer months only) past Mozambique, and is indeed the subject of our controversy. I simply refuse to call the latter a stream, because of its inconstancy; it is merely (and only whilst the sun is in Capricorn) a branch from the Trade-drift of the Indian Ocean, which drift is accumulated into a stream off Cape Ambre, and bifurcates near the Comoro Islands. The island of Madagascar stands as a great breakwater right athwart the trade-drift, and is the cause of the constant streams off its north and south capes. These streams are, in my judgment, caused by the S.E. trade-winds, and I gladly uphold Sir John Herschell's views—as evidencing more truly nature's harmony in those seas—than the hypothesis (unsupported by facts) of Maury, although backed up by Commodore Jansen.

I hope this controversy may have a good result, but the manner of Commodore Jansen's reply convinces me that nothing short of a graphic exposition of the winds and currents of the Mozambique Channel (as established by analysis of many years' observations in vessels of our Royal Navy cruising in those waters) will serve to convince him. I will therefore (with your permission making use of *Ocean Highways* as a fitting arena for such a peaceful duel) place the subject of the stream and drift-currents of the Indian Ocean before your readers, with charts illustrative of their movements and periodicity. These shall be my mute witnesses before a jury of all nations whether the Commodore or I are right, and which of us has looked most deeply beneath the surface to find it.—Yours faithfully,

A. D. TAYLOR.

LONDON, August 18, 1873.

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CAPTAIN BURTON AND MR. COOLEY.

To the Editor of "OCEAN HIGHWAYS."

SIR,—Have you room for these lines? I expected my translation of Lacerda to appear long ago, and therefore I was unwilling to take up your valuable space in reply to Mr. Cooley's usual little dose of diluted vitriol, or mild caustic, published by you in June last; but the publication still hangs fire, and a friend writes to me, "I shall look for your castigation of W. D. C., who says that you have not read Lacerda, and have taken his words as your own. Amusing, very! He has bared his back for the lash, and I only hope that he will take it coolly."

The great "Comparative Geographer" has not corrected my letter in *Ocean Highways* (May, 1873); he has simply reviewed books published years ago—in fact he has repeated himself with the normal, unhallowed iteration—*Ecce iterum Crispinus!* Here we are again! with all the unvenerable "information," the confusion of Nyassa and Tanganyika, the great Central Sea, the *Rio ou lago Nhanja* and the "blessed word" *Muene-muezi*. Dr. Livingstone is charged with misnaming his lake Pamilombe. Evidently to live in College Place, and to have a grammar of Angolese, are far surer conditions for successfully explaining African etymology than to speak the East African tongues, and, personally, to get information from the people of the country. And I am once more assured that "in an authoritative style and with presumptuous levity," I make assertions which I am at no pains to justify.

The creator of the "Great Central Sea," with his usual candour, writes as follows:—"This kind of criticism comes with a very bad grace from the gentleman (myself) who wrote respecting Dr. (de) Lacerda, whom with affected enthusiasm (?), he now styles 'that admirable traveller,' 'he died, after being nine months in the Cazembe's country, without recording the name and position of the African capital' (*Lake Regions*, p. 225, a blunder by-the-by for vol. ii., page 148), the truth being that Lacerda never reached that capital, but died at a distance from it of two days' journey." Thus I am ingenuously made to assert that Dr. de Lacerda entered the capital, when I asserted nothing of the kind. The "affected enthusiasm" is admirably Cooleyan. Who else, may I ask, could thus know

"our secret thoughts, our hearts, our ways?"

But Mr. Cooley *did* assert, in 1852 (p. 34, *Inner Africa laid open*), that the successor of the Cazembe sent to draw two of Padre Francesco's teeth, and, in 1869, the number grew to *all* his teeth—nothing of the kind having ever been threatened to Dr. de Lacerda's chaplain.

Another pitiable error appears in Mr. Cooley's quotation from *O Muata Cazembe*, which he *will* call "Gamitto's volume," the exploration record of Monteiro and Gamitto. "Perhaps the name Monoemuge originated in Muene-muzi, so frequently heard by the early Portuguese discoverers. *Without presuming to decide this point* (I venture to italicise this style of writing) we shall merely state that this last title signifies Lord of the village or town land (Povoação)." The Portuguese travellers evidently confounded Muene-muzi, in Kisawahili Muinyi-mzi (Lord of the Settlement) with Monoemuzi, a pure blunder for Unyamwezi. Monoemugi is worthy of a writer who authoritatively converts mamba a crocodile into a hippopotamus: it reminds us of the French line:—

"Ecrivez salmonazer, pïnonceez crocodile."

Upon the subject of this latter word—Unyamwezi—we read at the end of the paper, "It is hardly credible that so shrewd a man (myself again) should be content to take lessons in languages from Arab pedlars (read "merchants and educated men"), and never condescend to ask the black fellow how he called himself and his country." How long is the valuable time of reader and writer to be occupied after this silly fashion? For the use of the word Unyamwezi by the "black fellow," our authorities are, in order of date, MM. Krapf, Rebmann, and Erhardt, all of whom knew several of the East African dialects, and Captains Speke and Grant, Dr. Livingstone and Mr. Stanley, who either travelled through or resided in the country. I also, after talking for eighteen months with the "black fellow," am gravely assured that I never put to him one of the first questions which would inevitably occur. Against these authorities we have Mr. Cooley *solus*: he sheds a flood of light by quoting De Barros, a writer of the 16th and 17th centuries, and MM. Monteiro and Gamitto, who never travelled north of the Cazembe's capital. Is not this "servile copying?"

I would briefly record my own daring in disagreeing with the "Comparative Geographer" upon the following points, all contained in one short paragraph:—1. The places seized upon by the Portuguese in Africa were *not* "always feeble and unprofitable"—witness wealthy and powerful Mombasah and Quilva (Kilwa); 2. The "foolish tales of ruined Portuguese forts and cannon in the interior" may still prove true—the African interior has by no means been exhausted, as the lately found ruins of Zimbabwe show; 3. Mazinga or cannon *is* still the word applied to bee-hives made of hollow tree-trunks, and we are not justified in the assumption that "being the name of any tube or hollow cylinder, it was given to bee-hives long before the Portuguese were heard of"—in these lands languages are perishable things; 4. Gurayza (not "Gereza," a "monkey," for a "foot") *is* derived from the Portuguese Igreja, a church, not only in Africa but in Eastern Arabia—every Arab will assure you that the word is not Arabic, and every African that the word is not African; 5. As I did not visit the country "from Patta to Mombas," it was not necessary to record the tradition that "the whole coast is strewn over with ruins of stone buildings." I leave that process to Mr. Cooley.

And what eyes will geographers who are not "comparative" open when they read in these days such geographical information as this?—"The Shire, or Nhanja, which flows in latitude 14° between the Ajawa" (the "Wahiao," which with puerile obstinacy Mr. Cooley will write "Waiáo,") "and the Anguro, reaches also to the 9th parallel" (!). The southern extremity of the Tanganyika Lake, as laid down by Livingstone, is in S. latitude 9°. The northern end of the Nyanza Lake, visited by Drs. Livingstone and Kirk, is in S. latitude 10° 50', or 110 direct geographical miles. Dr. Livingstone has twice passed between the two. I fully expect the creator of "Nyassi in the Great Central Sea" to assure him that he has surreptitiously waded or poled through "the lake."

Finally, Mr. Cooley, with characteristic modesty, challenges me to "point out a single instance of the servility or mistake" that I impute to him. I have pointed out a dozen in this letter, and I can point out a dozen dozen. In my turn, I challenge him to produce a single correct statement which he has made about the Lake Regions of Central Africa, ranging round the mythical "town Tangañika." Let *Inner Africa laid open*, and its marvellous map, reduced to an authentic shape and just proportions, state his case; let mine appear from the last publications of *Ocean Highways*—"Dr. Livingstone's Recent Discoveries," and "Sketch of Recent Discoveries in Central Africa," by W. Hughes, F.R.G.S., 1872. As Mr. Cooley owns that his information is derived from the Portuguese, I may fairly charge him with servile copying; and, alas! he copies still.

RICHARD F. BURTON.

TRIESTE, July 18, 1873.

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ANCIENT COLONIES IN GREENLAND.

To the Editor of "OCEAN HIGHWAYS."

SIR,—In the report of a Meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, in your July number, page 172, is the following extraordinary passage:—"In illustration of this portion of the subject, Mr. Major has adduced a highly important geographical discovery of *his own*, the ignorance of which led Captain Graah into great mistakes, and caused him to miss the value of a most precious early document, which, otherwise, would have answered the question which he went out to Greenland for the purpose of solving. This was nothing less than a chorography of the old Greenland colony, and sailing directions for reaching it from Iceland, written by Ivar Bardsen, the steward of the bishop of the colony."