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ARTICLE VII.

EGYPTOLOGY, ORIENTAL TRAVEL AND DISCOVERY.

BY JOSEPH P. THOMPSON, D D., NEW YORK.

THE great event of the year 1863, in the department to which these pages are devoted, was the discovery of the source of the White Nile, in the equatorial lake Victoria N'yanza.[1] The geographical problem of centuries approaches its solution; the proverb *Nili quaerere caput* has lost its point. This discovery confirms substantially the guesses and traditions concerning the lake region of inner Africa, which have come down from a remote antiquity; confirms the almost discarded report of the snowy mountains of the moon; and also confirms in the main the geological hypothesis advanced by Sir Roderic Murchison in 1852, that "the whole African interior is a vast watery plateau-land of some elevation above the sea," — "a net-work of lakes and rivers," discharging themselves, by transverse gorges, through the loftier mountains of the coast-lines. This hypothesis was suggested before Dr. Livingstone had traced the course of the Zambesi; and when, in 1858, Captain Speke reported his famous discovery of the Victoria N'yanza, Sir Roderic expanded his hypothesis with regard to the outlets of the "central reservoirs" of the continent, so as to allow of a possible connection between this reservoir and the Nile. "If the great N'yanza shall really be found to flow into the White Nile, it is simply because there is no great eastern transverse fracture, like that of the Zambesi, by which the waters can escape; so that, subtended on that flank by lofty and continuous mountains, the stream has no course open to it but northwards." It was largely due to the enlightened zeal of Murchison that the discoverer of the Victoria N'yanza was enabled to verify his own confident belief that this vast inland sea "gave birth to that interesting river, the source of which has been the subject of so much speculation, and the object of so many explorers."[2]

Before giving the details of captain Speke's discovery, and in order that we may measure its exact scientific value, it is well to remind ourselves of the state of the Nile question previous to his first expedition with Burton. "Of the sources of the Nile no one can give any account," was the despairing conclusion of Herodotus, after a careful digest of all the opinions upon this point that were brought to his knowledge in Egypt.[3] Strabo

[1] Journal of the Discovery of the Source of the Nile. By John Hanning Speke, Captain H. M. Indian Army. Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society; Hon. Corr. Member of the French Geographical Society. Edinburgh and London: W. Blackwood and Sons; New York: Harper and Brothers.

[2] Speke, in Blackwood's Magazine for October, 1859.

[3] For the state of the Nile problem in that age, see Euterpè, c. 19 – 35, where all known speculations of geographers and reports of travellers are discussed.

compiled, from Egyptian sources, an imperfect account of the Astaboras or Atbara (Tacazzè) and of the junction of the Astapus (Bahhr el Azrek or Blue Nile) and the Astasobas (Bahhr el Abiad or White Nile) to the south of Meroe.[1] Pliny adds, "from common report," that the Nile "rises in a mountain of Lower Mauritania, not far from the ocean; immediately after which it forms a lake of standing water, which bears the name of Nilides."[2] From these authorities, together with the brief references of Seneca and Lucan, Dr. Beke infers that "in or previously to the first century of the Christian era, the main stream of the Nile had been ascended as far as the ninth parallel of the North latitude," and that three or four of its principal tributaries were known; "in other words, the actual personal knowledge of the Upper Nile possessed by the Greeks and Romans at the commencement of the Christian era was very far superior to that possessed by the civilized world till near the middle of the nineteenth century."[3] We think this overstated; since the most pains-taking collation of the authorities quoted by Beke fails to yield us materials for the construction of an accurate map of the Nile above Meroe. Herodotus confesses the absence of any definite knowledge upon this point: "With regard to the *sources* of the Nile, I have found no one among all those with whom I have conversed, whether Egyptians, Libyans, or Greeks, who professed to have any knowledge, except a single person." This was the scribe at Sais, who told the story of the water-shed at the "two conical hills between Syene and Elephantine," where were unfathomable fountains, from which "half the water runs northward into Egypt, and half to the south towards Ethiopia." But the wary traveller adds, that this informant "did not seem to be in earnest in what he said."[4] That Strabo had never fairly digested the fragmentary accounts of his predecessors is evident from his vague statement that "near Meroe is the confluence of the Astaboras with the Nile." Ptolemy, deriving his information mainly from Greek traders to the eastern coast of Africa, traced the sources of the Nile to two lakes, situated far to the south, at some distance asunder, and both fed from the snowy mountains of the moon. These lakes are located by Beke, and also by Kiepert, in about 7° S. lat., and 57° and 65° E. long., respectively. After all, the geography of the Upper Nile, as conceived by the ancients, is substantially expressed by Seneca: "magnas altitudines pervagatus, et in paludes diffusus, gentibus sparsus."[5] Such was the report brought by the explorers sent by Nero; and these lagoons, in which the sluggish stream was supposed to lose itself, are described as a fatal barrier to the discovery of its source: "immensas paludes, quarum exitum nec incolae noverant, nec sperare quisquam potest, ita implicitae aquis herbae sunt."

The nineteenth century found the problem of the sources of the Nile substantially where Ptolemy had left it in the second; since in the long in-

[1] Strabo, XVII. 1.
[2] Nat. Hist., V. 10.
[3] The Sources of the Nile, by Charles T. Beke, Ph.D., p. 61.
[4] Euterpé, c. 28.
[5] Nat. Quaest., IV. 2.

terval geographers had rested in the belief, first, that the Tacazzè, and next that the Bahhr el Azrek or Blue river (both streams of Abessinia), was the true Nile. Diodorus[1] portrays the difficulties and dangers of a tour of discovery in the marshy and desolate regions beyond Meroe; and in the absence of commercial enterprize and of political ambition, these sufficed to deter explorers from that field. The Bahhr el Azrek or Blue river sustains to the Bahhr el Abiad or White river, at their junction near the modern Khartum, much the same relation as the Missouri sustains to the Mississippi after their union; and hence this was naturally mistaken for the parent stream, when the claims of the Tacazzè had been finally abandoned. But since the beginning of the eighteenth century the White river has gradually come to be recognized as the true Nile, and the curiosity of explorers has been directed toward its source. A great impulse in this direction was given by the three expeditions of Mohammed Ali, between the years 1835 and 1841. These discovered the Sobat, and traced that stream to within four degrees of the equator; but the region beyond, and the course of the principal stream, were left unexplored. What has since been accomplished is distinctly traced upon Petermann and Hassenstein's Chart of Inner Africa, especially its eighth and tenth sections. The points ascertained by d'Arnaud and Werne in 1840–41, being the second expedition of Mohammed Ali, by J. Knoblecher in 1849–50, by Brun-Rollet and Angelo Vinco in 1848–51, by Petherick in 1858, by Jules Poncet in 1860, by F. Morlang in 1859–60, by Miani in 1860, by Antinori in 1860–61, by Peney, de Bono, and Lejean in 1861, by von Harnier in 1860–61, and von Heuglin in 1861–63, with various incidental confirmations from other travellers, cartographers, and missionaries, are all here collated upon an ample sheet, and indicated by appropriate colors; yet these various lines of travel and of conjecture, — black, brown, blue, purple, orange, red, green, — while they mark years of patient toil, and make familiar a once doubtful region, all fall short of the true source of the Nile. It is only when we strike the route of Burton and Speke in 1857–58, and again that of Speke and Grant in 1861–63, that we approach the solution of the great problem. We are now prepared to appreciate the results of captain Speke's labors.

Already, in 1851, Messrs. Krapf and Rebmann, missionaries in the service of the Church missionary society in Eastern and Equatorial Africa, had announced the existence in that region of snow-capped mountains, of which the principal, the Koenia and the Kilimanjaro, lie in 1° 45′ and 3° S. lat., and between 36° and 37° E. long. From native sources, they reported also the existence of a lake, the receptacle of the waters from these mountains, through numerous streams; and, at a later date, Krapf sought to identify these mountains with those to which Ptolemy had conjecturally traced the sources of the Nile. Again, in 1856, their fellow-laborer, Rev. T. Erhardt, published a map of Eastern Africa, compiled from native

[1] Diod. Sic., I. 30.

sources, in which a great inland sea was represented as filling an interior basin in the region of the equator. In a memoir accompanying this map, Rebmann, arguing by analogy from the physical conformation of Africa in the south and north, advanced the hypothesis of "an enormous valley and an inland sea" in the centre of the continent; and he also suggested that in the mountain barriers to the eastward "must we look for the more eastern sources of the White Nile." Dr. Beke regards the "snow-mountains" of Krapf and Rebmann as belonging to Ptolemy's "Mountains of the Moon," which he would transfer from their traditional location in Abessinia to the immediate region of the equator, parallel with the eastern coast, in about 37° and 39° E. long. Captain Speke locates these mountains to the west of lake N'yanza, in 30° E. long., at the northern extremity of Tanganjika.

In 1854 Dr. Krapf published his own conjecture with regard to the sources of the Nile, in the following terms: "There can be no question that the opinion of the ancients, who believed the *Caput Nili* to be in Ethiopia, is truly correct; for the Wakuafi, whose language is of Aethiopico-Semitic origin, are in possession of the countries which give rise to that river. The real sources of the Nile appear to me to be traceable partly to the woody and marshy land of the Wamau people, about 2½° or 3° south of the equator, of whom Rumu wa Kikandi told me, in Ukambani, in 1851."[1] This "marshy land" Dr. Krapf supposed to be identical with the "paludes" of Seneca's *Quaestiones Naturales* (Lib. VI.): "Ibi, inquit, vidimus duas petras, ex quibus ingens vis fluminis excidebat. Sed sive caput illa, sive accessio est Nili, sive tunc nascitur, sive in terras ex priore recepta cursu redit: nonne tu credis illam quidquid est, ex magno terrarum lacu ascendere? Habeat enim oportet pluribus locis sparsum humorem, et in imo coactum, ut eructare tanto impetu possit."

The publication of Erhardt's map, together with the crude but stimulating conjectures of his associates, gave a new impulse to geographical exploration in Eastern Africa; and in September, 1856, an expedition was sent thither by the Royal Geographical Society, of which Captain R. F. Burton was principal and Captain J. H. Speke associate. On the 14th of February, 1858, this expedition reached the great lake Tanganjika, which stretches from the third to the eighth parallel of south latitude. This they explored, by boat and coastwise, to its northern extremity, where it is enclosed by a chain of mountains, which Speke supposes to be Ptolemy's Mountains of the Moon. Returning to Kazé or Unyanzembe, where Burton was obliged to remain as an invalid, Speke journeyed northward, and on the 3d of August, 1858, struck the southern border of the great N'yanza, to which he gave the name Victoria. He heard also of a river upon the upper side of the lake, which was believed to flow northward to the sea; but as he was only a subordinate in the expedition, he was not able, at that

[1] Travels and Researches in Eastern Africa by Rev. Dr. J. Lewis Krapf. The Appendices to this volume, upon East African History and the Sources of the Nile, are worthy of renewed study, in the light of Speke

time, to test the truth of this report. Still his confident opinion was, that the Nile would be found to take its rise from this great inland sea.

It will be seen that the numerous explorations and determinations made in the twenty years between the first expedition of Mohammed Ali and the expedition of Burton and Speke, had reduced the problem of the sources of the Nile to a comparatively limited and definite area. The head-waters of the mystic river *must* be found somewhere between 3° N. and 3° S. latitude and between 28° and 38° E. longitude. A glance at the map of Petermann and Hassenstein shows how completely the converging routes of travel during these twenty years had hemmed in the enchanted problem. It was reserved for Speke finally to break its spell.

When the discovery of N'yanza was announced, Dr. Petermann made the following judicious comments upon the state of the question : "The solution of the old problem of the Nile's sources will yet require a good deal of labor; but in consequence of the travels and researches made by Captain Speke and the Protestant missionaries in the south, and by the Egyptians and the Roman Catholic missionaries, the region yet unsurveyed, and in which the sources of the Nile must be situated, is so much circumscribed, that probably a single journey of a scientific traveller proceeding from Zanzibar to Gondokoro, or *vice versa*, would suffice to solve definitely this famous geographical problem."

In October, 1860, Captain Speke was again at Zanzibar, with his chosen friend Captain J. A. Grant as his associate, prepared to enter with enthusiasm upon an exploration which he felt would be decisive. From Zanzibar his route followed the course of the Kingani river, making gradual ascent to the Gara country, "U-Sagara," a hilly region forming a link of the great East Coast Range, and stretching westward about a hundred miles, from the bifurcation of the Kingani and Mgéta rivers to the great interior plateau. Upon striking the Usagara uplands, he thus describes the scene :

"Our ascent by the river, though quite imperceptible to the eye, has been 500 feet. From this level the range before us rises, in some places, to 5,000 or 6,000 feet, not as one grand mountain, but in two detached lines, lying at an angle of forty-five degrees from N. E. to S. W., and separated one from the other by elevated valleys, tables, and crab-claw spurs of hill, which incline towards the flanking rivers. The whole having been thrown up by volcanic action, is based on a strong foundation of granite and other igneous rocks, which are exposed in many places in the shape of massive blocks; otherwise the hill-range is covered in the upper part with sandstone, and in the bottoms with alluvial clay. This is the superficial configuration of the land as it strikes the eye; but knowing the elevation of the interior plateau to be only 2,500 feet above the sea immediately on the western flank of these hills, while the breadth of the chain is 100 miles, the mean slope or incline of the basal surface must be on a gradual rise of twenty feet per mile. The hill tops and sides, where not cultivated, are well covered with bush and small trees, among which the bamboo is conspicuous; while the

bottoms, having a soil deeper and richer, produce fine large fig-trees of exceeding beauty, the huge calabash, and a variety of other trees. Here, in certain places where water is obtainable throughout the year, and wars, or slave-hunts more properly speaking, do not disturb the industry of the people, cultivation thrives surprisingly; but such a boon is rarely granted them. It is in consequence of these constantly-recurring troubles that the majority of the Wasagara villages are built on hill-spurs where the people can the better resist attack, or failing, disperse and hide effectually."

On leaving the Usagara, Speke's course lay in a northwesterly direction to Unyamŭézi, the "Country of the Moon," one of the largest kingdoms in Africa. This he describes as "a high plateau, from 3000 to 4000 feet above the sea-level, studded with little outcropping hills of granite, between which, in the valleys, there are numerous fertilizing springs of fresh water, and rich iron ore is found in sandstone." The Wanyamŭézi are superior to the negroes generally, as agriculturists and manufacturers: they "make cloths of cotton in their own looms, smelt iron, and work it up very expertly." Their capital Kazé, in 5° 0′ 53″ S. lat., and 33° 1′ 34″ E. long., is a principal depot of the trading caravans.

It will be remembered that in 1858, Captain Speke made two explorations from Kazé, as a depot; the first westward, with Burton, to the Tanganjika, the second northward, alone, to the Victoria N'yanza, which he then discovered. He now proceeded in a course bearing north by northwest, through the Uzinza country to the Karagwe, and thence to the country of the Uganda, his route skirting the eastward slope of the "Mountains of the Moon," as identified by him in 1858. His course was determined by the necessity of conciliating the chiefs of various powerful and jealous tribes, and the expedition was obstructed, imperilled, and at times well-nigh defeated, by the vexatious exactions of these "bloody and deceitful men."

A great part of Speke's journal is made up of the monotonous story of his hagglings with these ignorant, suspicious, and cunning lords of the soil. But this recital, while it detracts somewhat from the scientific value of the book, both certifies the authenticity of the narrative, and enables us to appreciate the cost and pains of the exploration. Moreover, while depicting the characters of his successive African hosts, the author unconsciously reveals his own character as one of courage, patience, perseverance, and generosity, rather than of prudence and tact.

In Usui Captain Speke remarked a great variety of facial features, — a consequence of the intermingling of tribes, — and in particular he noticed "many men and women with hazel eyes."

In Karagwe, he had a pleasant detention at the residence of Rumanika, the most intelligent and friendly of the South African princes. Upon leaving Karagwe, to enter the Uganda territory, Speke struck upon a river of which he had heard in 1858, and which he regards as an important link in the mountain sources of the Nile. This first affluent of the Nile, the Kitangŭlé, was reached on the 16th of January, 1862. This river, which

falls into the Victoria N'yanza on the west side, runs at a velocity of from three to four knots an hour, and has an average breadth of about eighty yards. "I viewed it with pride,"[1] says Captain Speke, "because I had formed my judgment of its being fed from high-seated springs in the Mountains of the Moon solely on scientific geographical reasonings; and, from the bulk of the stream, I also believed those mountains must attain an altitude of 8,000 feet or more, just as we find they do in Rŭanda." This conjecture was published by Speke, in Blackwood's Magazine for August, 1859. The banks of the river, at intervals, are covered with impenetrable forests; and long before reaching the N'yanza the traveller came upon "a rich, well-wooded, swampy plain, containing large open patches of water," which are said to have been navigable within a recent period, but are now gradually drying up. Captain Speke conjectures that the N'yanza has shrunk away from its original margin.

Uganda is the most powerful state of the ancient Kittara. The Wahûma or Gallas are a pastoral people of Abessinian origin. Their king Mtésa, who rivals the king of Dahomey in his cruelties, detained the expedition, under various pretexts, for the greater part of a year; and it was not until the 7th of July, 1862, that Captain Speke was enabled to set out upon the last stage, which was to solve the great problem of the Nile. Journeying by slow marches, with many hinderances, he reached the river on the morning of the twenty-first. "Here, at last, I stood on the brink of the Nile. Most beautiful was the scene; nothing could surpass it! It was the very perfection of the kind of effect aimed at in a highly-kept park; with a magnificent stream, from six hundred to seven hundred yards wide, dotted with islets and rocks, the former occupied by fishermen's huts, the latter by sterns and crocodiles basking in the sun, — flowing between fine, high, grassy banks, with rich trees and plantains in the background, where herds of the nsunnŭ and hartebeest could be seen grazing, while the hippopotami were snorting in the water, and florikan and guinea fowl rising at our feet."[2]

Following up the left bank of the river, after passing several rapids, he came upon the falls (now named Ripon Falls), by which the N'yanza pours itself into the Nile. Speke records this discovery with a tone of moderation which shows that with him it was a foregone conclusion: "Though beautiful, the scene was not exactly what I expected; for the broad surface of the lake was shut out from view by a spur of hill, and the falls, about twelve feet deep, and four hundred to five hundred feet broad, were broken by rocks. Still it was a sight that attracted one to it for hours — the roar of the waters, the thousands of passenger fish, leaping at the falls, with all their might, the Wasoga and Waganda fishermen coming out in boats and taking post on all the rocks with rod and hook, hippopotami and crocodiles lying sleepily on the water, the men at work above the falls, and cattle driven down to drink at the margin of the lake — made in all, with the pretty nature of the country, — small hills, grassy-topped, with trees on the hills, and gardens on the lower slopes, — as interesting a picture as

[1] Page 263. [2] Page 458.

one could wish to see. The expedition had now performed its functions. I saw that old father Nile, without any doubt, rises in the Victoria N'yanza, and, as I had foretold, that lake was the great source of the holy river which cradled the first founder of our religious belief. I mourned, however, when I thought how much I had lost by the delays in the journey, it having deprived me of the pleasure of going to look at the furthest corner of the N'yanza to see what connection there was, by the strait so spoken of, with it and the other lake where the Waganda went to get their salt, and from which another river flowed to the north, making 'Usoga an island.' But I felt I ought to be content with what I had been spared to accomplish; for I had seen full half of the lake, and had confirmation given me of the other half, by means of which I knew all about the lake, as far, at least, as the chief objects of geographical importance were concerned."

From this point, Captain Speke journeyed north by northwest, following mainly the direction of the river, though at times deviating considerably from its banks, and once losing it for several days, where the Nile makes a detour westward about sixty miles from Kaiuma Falls to the Little Luta Nzigé. The connection of this salt and marshy lake with the drainage of the Mountains of the Moon, Captain Speke had already satisfactorily established; it is therefore the more to be regretted that tribal wars in that vicinity prevented him from verifying by personal observation the common report of the junction of the Little Luta with the Nile. This junction takes place in the Madi country, which Speke describes as a marshy flat. May not the "paludes" of Senaca be sought in this direction?

Again striking the main stream, in 3° 40′ N. lat., at the confluence of the Asua, which drains the northeast corner of the N'yanza, Captain Speke followed its course to Gondokoro in 4° 54′ N. lat. and 31° 46′ E. long., where he arrived on the 15th of February, 1863, having left Zanzibar on the 2d of October, 1860. Here he met Petherick's party, which had been equipped for his relief — a duty which Speke complains was neglected for the sake of trading in ivory. We notice with regret the disposition of Captain Speke to speak slightingly of other explorers, and even to dwarf the truly important and valuable labors of his associate Captain Grant. Such expedients are not needed by one who can claim the exclusive honor of the discovery of the N'yanza and of its connection with the Nile. Captain Speke gives the following as the net results of his labors:

"Let us now sum up the whole, and see what it is worth. Comparative information assured me that there was as much water on the eastern side of the lake as there is on the western; if anything, rather more. The most remote waters, or *top head of the Nile*, is the southern end of the lake, situated close on the third degree of south latitude, which gives to the Nile the surprising length, in direct measurement, rolling over thirty-four degrees of latitude, of above 2,300 miles, or more than one eleventh of the circumference of our globe. Now, from this southern point, round by the west to where the great Nile stream issues, there is only one feeder of any importance, and that is the Kitangulé River, while from the southernmost

point, round by the east to the strait, there are no rivers at all of any importance; for the travelled Arabs, one and all, aver, that from the west of the snow-clad Kilimanjaro to the lake, where it is cut by the second degree and also the first degree of south latitude, there are salt lakes and salt plains, and the country is hilly, not unlike Unyamŭézi; but they said there were no great rivers, and the country was so scantily watered, having only occasional runnels and rivulets, that they always had to make long marches in order to find water when they went on their trading journeys; and further, those Arabs who crossed the strait, when they reached Usoga, as mentioned before, during the late interregnum, crossed no river either."

This is a very modest statement; and yet we cannot quite adopt the author's confident tone with regard to the eastern side of N'yanza.

Three points remain to be determined: First, what affluents, if any, the Victoria N'yanza receives upon its eastern side, yet unexplored. Secondly, what is the exact connection between the Nile, the Little Luta Nzigé, and the crescent-shaped mountains at the head of lake Tanganyika. Thirdly, are these mountains to be regarded as the Mountains of the Moon, or must these be found upon the eastern side of N'yanza? Dr. Beke still contends stoutly for the latter opinion, and that there will yet be found a great eastern affluent flowing into N'yanza from these mountains, which will prove to be the Nile of Ptolemy. Captain Speke argues, *per contra*, that the name "Mountains of the Moon" was derived from Unyamŭézi, which signifies the country of the moon; that the Wanyamuezi, the people of the moon, have from time immemorial visited the eastern coast for trade; and that the name of the people and their country was given to mountains which they reported to exist, but which inquirers at the coast confounded with the snowy peaks of Kœnia and Kilimanjaro. It is certain at last that the supposed equatorial line of mountains that so long figured upon the maps as the Mountains of the Moon, was a geographical fiction. The N'yanza belt is a great plateau, from which there is a descent to the Tanganyika. This lake, Speke supposes, from native authority, to have an outlet through the Marŭngŭ river, thus forming one of a chain of lakes leading to the Nyassa of Dr. Livingstone, and through it, by the Zambezi, to the sea. We cannot sufficiently honor the enterprize and fidelity which have gained such solid and substantial results upon the great problem of the Nile.

It must be peculiarly gratifying to Captain Speke to be able to answer, with the tangible evidence of his new discovery, the ungenerous, and even malicious, cavils with which his former leader, Captain Burton, received his discovery of the N'yanza in 1858. Burton speaks of the conjecture of the N'yanza causing the flood of the Nile, as one "which no geographer can admit, and which is at the same time so weak and flimsy that no geographer has yet taken the trouble to contradict it." He also alleges that Speke has exaggerated "a thin ridge of hill fringing the Tanganyika to the portentous dimensions of the Mountains of the Moon;" adding, "Thus men *do* geography! and thus discovery is stultified."[1]

[1] The Lake Regions of Central Africa, pp. 336 and 4

The republication of Captain Speke's Journal by Harper and Brothers, of New York, brings it within easy reach of American readers. To the same house we are already indebted for available editions of Barth, Burton, Livingstone, Andersson, Du Chaillu, Davis, Cumming, Wilson, Lander, — in short, of nearly every modern explorer or adventurer in Africa. Their Catalogue of works upon Africa represents a valuable library of geographical discovery.

The map of Inner Africa referred to above, deserves a more particular notice. It appears as a Supplement to Petermann's *Mittheilungen*,[1] and is divided into ten sections, as follows: section 1. Fessan; 2. Aegpyten; 3. Tebu-Land; 4. Nubien; 5. Wadai und Bagirmi; 6. Dar-Fur und Kordofan; 7. Dar-Banda; 8. Gondokoro; 9. Kongo; 10. Unyamwesi. Accompanying the maps is a memoir upon each section, by B. Hassenstein, working up carefully the results of all recent travels and explorations within its area. In addition to this memoir, there is a brief chapter upon each section, giving original narratives or dissertations from various authorities. Among these are Moritz von Beurmann's Travels through the Nubian Desert, Theodore Kotschy's Travels from Chartum to Kordofan, Brun Rollet's Travels in the Sumpe District; the Country and People of Tebu by Dr. E. Behm; Antinori's Travels from Bahhr el Gagal to Djur; von Heuglin's Researches in Soudan, Dor, and along the Bahhr el Abiad and Bahhr Ghasàl and Franz Morlang's Travels eastward and westward from Gondokoro. Thus this map, with the memoir and the dissertations that accompany it, lays before us the African continent from 30° N. lat. to 8° S. lat., and between 12° and 35° E. long. It brings the geography of Africa down to the present date in a clear, distinct, and reliable form.

Dr. Charles T. Beke, referred to above as a theoretical discoverer of the Nile sources, proposes to transfer *Haran* or *Charran* from Mesopotamia to the vicinity of Damascus. His opinion is, that "the country watered by the Pharpar and Abana — the fertile district known in after times as the *Ager Damascenus* — is Padan-Aram, the country into which, by the Divine direction, Terah and his family removed, and in which was situate the city of Haran or Charran, whence Abraham was called, and which afterwards was the residence of Laban." The precise locality he finds in the modern village of *Harrân-el-Awamid*, or "Haran of the Columns," lying about fourteen miles east of Damascus, on the western border of the lake into which the Barada and the Awaj empty themselves. Dr. Beke argues, with some plausibility that seven days was much too short a time for the journey of Laban from Haran to Gilead, if Haran was beyond the Euphrates, a distance of 350 miles, but was a reasonable time from Damascus to Gilead. He urges also the resemblance of name and of natural scenery, in evidence that this was the Haran of Abraham; but these two points will apply equally to the Haran of Mesopotamia, which has in its favor also traditions

[1] Inner Afrika nach dem Stande der Geographischen Kenntniss in der Yahren 1861 bis 1963. Nach den Quellen Bearbeitet von A. [illegible] sen-tein.

of the patriarch, which do not appear to exist at *Harrân-el-Awamid.* Mr. Porter briefly describes this village in his Hand-Book for Syria and Palestine (p. 497), but it does not seem to have occurred to him to associate it with Abraham.

The question must turn somewhat upon the location of Ur in Chaldea, which Rawlinson places at the junction of the Tigris with the Euphrates, near the head of the Persian Gulf.[1] Dr. Beke's argument is given in the Journal of the Royal Geographical Society for 1862, and has also been published in a separate form, by Clowes and Sons of London, under the title of "Notes on an Excursion to Harran in Padan-Aram, and thence over Mount Gilead and the Jordan to Shechem." An important feature of this narrative is a vivid description of Mount Gilead, Jebel Ajlūn, and of the route of Jacob from Padan-Aram.

It is well known that Dr. Robinson was engaged upon a Biblical Geography, which was interrupted by his death. His plan included both the physical and the historical geography of Syria and of the outlying regions. Only the physical geography of Syria is found complete among his manuscripts. This exhibits upon every page his thoroughness of research and accuracy of statement. It will soon be published simultaneously in this country, in England, and in Germany, and it will at once take its place as a standard authority upon the physical geography of Palestine. The materials for a historical geography must be sought in the Biblical Researches.

ARTICLE VIII.

NOTICES OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Smith's Dictionary of the Bible.[1]

We gave a favorable Notice of the first volume of this work, in the January Number for 1861, p. 250. For the general scope and character of the Dictionary, we refer to that Notice. The favorable opinion there expressed is fully sustained by the volumes just published. The work was originally intended to be comprised in two volumes; but it was found, after the publication of the first, that the remaining topics must be very imperfectly treated if they were compressed within one more. The editor therefore has wisely extended the work to three volumes. This "has enabled him to give at the end of the third an Appendix to Volume I, containing many important articles on Natural History, as well as some subjects

[1] The Five great Monarchies of the Ancient Eastern World, Vol. I.

[1] A Dictionary of the Bible; comprising its Antiquities, Biography, Geography, and Natural History. Edited by William Smith, LL.D. Boston: Little, Brown, and Co. 1863. Vols. II. and III. 8vo. pp. 1862. Appendix to Vol. I. pp. cxvi.