

THE GREAT NILE DISCOVERY.

Sir Roderick Murchison communicates to *The London Times* a long letter from Mr. Baker, the discoverer of Albert Nyanza Lake to Central Africa. Sir Roderick Murchison infers, from a carefully-drawn map sent him by Mr. Baker, and also from a passage in his letter, that he substantiates the opinion adopted by Speke, that the Nile flowed into the Luta Nziye, and then emerged from it in its course to Gondokoro. Sir Roderick also observes that the important additional knowledge obtained by Baker, showing the existence of great cataracts on the Nile between the point where Speke left the river and the place where he next met it, explains that which has been looked upon as a serious difficulty in the acceptance of the views of that eminent explorer.

Mr. Baker's letter is dated Khartum, April 30, and after some words of thanks to Sir Roderick Murchison, and stating that he will be in England shortly, he goes on to say:

THE TRAVELS AND DISCOVERY.

I had the good fortune to meet Capt. Speke and Grant at Gondokoro, in February, 1863. The object of my expedition being attained by meeting them, and by their discovery of the Victoria Nyanza Nile-head, I should have returned with them had not Capt. Speke reported that he had heard of a lake called by the natives Luta Nziye. This, he imagined, might, be a second source of the Nile, and I at once determined to attempt its exploration.

My boats departed from Gondokoro for Khartum with Capt. Speke and Grant, but when I was about to start the whole of my men mutinied and refused to proceed, retaining possession of my arms and ammunition. The ivory-traders of the place combined to prevent any European from penetrating the interior, fearing traveler's reports upon the slave trade. The chance of being able to proceed appeared hopeless. Being resolved not to be driven back, and finding it impossible to lead my men south, I at length induced 18 of my mutineers to accompany me to the camp of one of the traders, E.S.E. of Gondokoro about 80 miles, whence I hoped to be able to alter my course. Having loaded my camels and asses, I started at night, without either interpreter or guide, neither of whom were procurable, all the natives being under the influence of the traders. On passing the station of an Arab trader, six days from Gondokoro, my men, who had previously conspired to desert me at that spot, again mutinied; several absconded with arms and ammunition, and joined the trader's party. They, however, were massacred by the Latooka tribe two days after their desertion.

A day's journey in advance of that station I met an Arab trader, whose heart I gained by presents. I persuaded him to supply me with porters, and to accompany me to the Unyoro country, where he might commence a trade with King Kamrasi. Then I intended to strike west in search of the lake.

Owing to a succession of difficulties and delays, I did not arrive at Kamrasi's capital, M'rooli, N. lat. 1 deg. 37 min., until the 10th of February, 1864. The trader's party returned to Gondokoro, leaving me with my escort of 13 men to proceed. After 18 days' march I reached the long-wished-for lake, about 100 miles west of M'rooli, at Vacovia, in N. lat. 1 deg. 14 m. In respect for the memory of our lamented Prince, I named it (subject to her Majesty's permission) the "Albert Nyanza," as the second great source of the Nile—second, not in importance, but only in order of discovery, to the Victoria Nile-head. The Victoria and the Albert Lakes are the indubitable parents of the river.

The capital of Unyoro (M'rooli) is situated at the junction of the Nile and Kafoor rivers, at an altitude of 3,202 feet above the sea level. I followed the Kafoor to lat. 1 deg. 12 min. N., to avoid an impassable morass that runs from north to south; upon rounding this I continued a direct westerly course to the lake. The route throughout is wooded, interspersed with glades, thinly populated, with no game. My route lay over high ground to the north of a swampy valley running west; the greatest elevation was 3,686 feet. The rocks were all gneiss, granite, and masses of iron ore, apparently fused into a conglomerate with rounded quartz pebbles.

THE LAKE AND COURSE OF THE NILE NORTHWARD.

The Albert Lake is a vast basin lying in an abrupt depression, the cliffs, which I descended by a difficult pass, being 1,470 feet above its level. The lake level is 2,070 feet, being 1,132 feet lower than the Nile at M'rooli; accord-

ingly the drainage of the country tends from east to west. From the high ground above the lake no land is visible to the south and south-west; but north-west and west is a large range of mountains, rising to about 7,000 feet above the lake level, forming the western shore, and running south-west parallel to the course of the lake. Both King Kamrasi and the natives assured me that the lake is known to extend into Rumanika's country to the west of Karagwe, but from that point, in about 1° 30' S. lat., it turns suddenly to the west, in which direction its extent is unknown. In N. lat. 1° 14', where I reached the lake, it is about 60 miles wide, but the width increases southward. The water is deep, sweet, and transparent; the shores are generally clean and free from reeds, forming a sandy beach.

I navigated the lake in a canoe formed of a hollow tree for 13 days from Vacovia, arriving at Magungo, at the junction of the Nile with the lake, in N. lat. 2 deg. 16 min. The voyage was long, owing to the necessity of coasting, and to the heavy sea, which, with a westerly wind, generally rose at 1 p. m. daily.

At the Nile junction the lake had contracted to a width of about 20 miles; the shores were no longer clean, but vast masses of reeds, growing in deep water, prevented the canoe from landing. Mountains had ceased on the eastern shore, giving place to hills about 500 feet high, which, instead of rising uprightly from the lake, like the mountains further south, were 5 or 6 miles distant, the ground descending in undulations to the lake. The entrance of the Nile is a broad channel of deep but dead water, bounded on either side by vast banks of reeds. From this point the lake extends to the north-west for about 40 miles, and then turns to the west, contracting gradually; extent unknown.

About 20 miles north of the Nile junction at Magungo the river issues from the great reservoir, and continues its course to Gondokoro. [This appears to be the passage referred to by Sir Roderick Murchison as proving that Speke's Nile flows into the lake, but other statements in the letter confirm this view.]

I went up the Nile in a canoe from junction; the natives would proceed no further north, owing to the hostile tribes on the lake shores. About 10 miles from the junction, the Nile channel contracted to about 250 yards in width, with little perceptible stream, very deep, and banked as usual with high reeds, the country on either side undulating and wooded. The course from the junction up the river being east, at about 20 miles from Magungo, my voyage suddenly terminated; a stupendous waterfall of about 120 feet perpendicular height stopped all further progress. Above the great fall the river is suddenly confined within rocky hills, and it races through a gap, contracted from a grand stream of perhaps 200 yards width to a channel not exceeding 50 yards. Through this gap it rushes with amazing rapidity, and plunges at one leap into a deep basin below. This magnificent cataract I have taken the liberty of naming the "Murchison Falls."

From that point I proceeded overland parallel with the river through Chopi, and at length I reached Xamma, having been for some months completely disabled by fever, my quinine long since being exhausted.

Lake Albert Nyanza forms an immense basin, far below the adjacent country, and receives the entire drainage of extensive mountain ranges on the west, and of the Utumbi and Unyoro countries on the east. Eventually receiving the Nile itself it adds its accumulated waters and forms the second source of that mighty river. The voyage down the lake is extremely beautiful, the mountains frequently rising abruptly from the water, while numerous cataracts rush down their furrowed sides. The cliffs on the east shore are granite, frequently mixed with large masses of quartz.

On the eastern borders of the lake much salt is obtained from the soil; this forms the trade of the miserable villages which at long intervals are situated on the Unyoro shore. The natives are extremely inhospitable, in many cases refusing to sell provisions. Mallegra, on the west coast of the lake, is a large and powerful country, governed by a King named Kajoro, who possesses boats sufficiently large to cross the lake. The Mallegra trade largely with Kamrasi, bringing ivory and beautifully-prepared skins and mantles in exchange for salt, brass-coil bracelets, cowries, and beads, all of which articles, excepting salt, comes from Zanzibar, via Karagwe, there being no communication with the west coast of Africa.

The actual length of the Albert Nyanza from south to north is about 260 geographical miles, independent of its unknown course to the west, between 1 deg. and 2 deg. south latitude, and of its similar course in the north, in lat. about 3 deg.

I rejoice at having been able to accomplish this exploration without the assistance which the Royal Geographical Society so kindly offered. I inclose map of my route, with a list of elevations above the sea level (taken by one of Casella's thermometers, subject to correction in England). Success having rewarded me for all hardships, I look forward with impatience to the pleasure of giving you more detailed information in person.

[From the Washington Chronicle, July 21.]

THE CHIVINGTON MASSACRE—REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE CONDUCT OF THE WAR.

There appeared in the newspapers of the country, last winter, an account of the massacre, by United States troops, of a village of Cheyenne Indians, near Fort Lyon, in Colorado Territory, (known as the Sand Creek massacre). The report current at the time made it appear a bloody offense, which could hardly be surpassed in the warfare of one savage tribe with another. Congress very properly took the matter in hand, and instructed the Committee on the Conduct of the War to inquire into and report all the facts. Their report is just published, and from it we get the following particulars, which seem to confirm the worst accounts published at that time.

In the summer of 1861, Governor Evans, of Colorado Territory, as Acting Superintendent of Indian Affairs, sent notice to all the friendly Indians within his jurisdiction, advising them to repair to the nearest military post, so that they would be safe from the soldiers who were to take the field against the hostile Indians.

Near the close of the summer, some Cheyenne Indians near Fort Lyon voluntarily delivered to Major Wynkoop, commanding the fort, some white captives whom they had purchased of other Indians. At the same time, several chiefs of the friendly Indians, by invitation of Major Wynkoop, visited Denver with him, for the purpose of conferring with the authorities there in regard to keeping peace. At the conference, the chiefs stated that they were friendly to the whites, and always had been, and that they desired peace. By advice of Governor Evans and Colonel Chivington, they went to Fort Lyon, where they were treated somewhat as prisoners, receiving rations and being confined within certain bounds.

All the testimony goes to show that the Indians are under the control of these chiefs—Black Kettle and White Antelope, of the Cheyenes, and Left Hand, of the Arapahoes—were and had been friendly to the whites, and had committed no depredations. They were led by Governor Evans and Colonel Chivington to believe that they were regarded as friendly Indians, and would be treated as such.

Major Anthony relieved Major Wynkoop in command at Fort Lyon, and very soon ceased issuing rations to them. They were told they had better go where they could gain subsistence by hunting. Their arms were given to them, and, on the suggestion of Major Anthony, they went to a point on Sand Creek, about thirty-five miles from Fort Lyon. In his testimony he says:

I told them they might go back on Sand Creek, or between there and the headwaters of the Smoky Hill, and remain there until I received instructions from the department headquarters, from General Curtis; and that, in case I did receive any authority to make peace with them, I would go right over and let them know it. I did not state to them that I would give them notice in case we intended to attack them. They went away with the understanding that, in case I received instructions from department headquarters, I was to let them know it.

While the Indians were thus resting in fancied security, and some of them under pay from Government as scouts, Colonel Chivington, with seven hundred mounted men and two pieces of artillery, appeared at Fort Lyon, was there joined by an additional force of one hundred and twenty-five men, with five pieces of artillery, and, concealing carefully his purpose, marched on the camp of the Indians. There were in this camp one hundred lodges of Cheyennes, under Black Kettle, and eight or ten lodges of Arapahoes, under Left Hand. It is estimated that each lodge contained five persons, and that half

or more of them were women and children.

The Indians made friendly signs upon the approach of the troops, but they were disregarded. "Then," we quote from the Committee's report, "the scene of murder and barbarity began—men, women and children were indiscriminately slaughtered. In a few minutes all the Indians were flying over the plain in terror and confusion. A few, who endeavored to hide themselves under the bank of the creek, were surrounded and shot down in cold blood, offering but feeble resistance. From the sucking babe to the old warriors, all who were overtaken were deliberately murdered. Not content with killing women and children, who were incapable of offering any resistance, the soldiers indulged in acts of barbarity of the most revolting character."

This continued several hours, the officers making no efforts to restrain the savage cruelty of their men. Over one hundred bodies, chiefly women and children, were left on the field.

The Committee is particularly severe in its remarks upon Governor Evans and Colonel Chivington, concluding their report with the following recommendation:

Your Committee are of the opinion that for the purpose of vindicating the cause of justice and upholding the honor of the nation, prompt and energetic measures should be at once taken to remove from office those who have thus disgraced the Government by whom they were employed, and to punish, as their crimes deserve, those who have been guilty of these brutal and cowardly acts.

SEXTON'S REPORT.

G. S. L. City Sexton's Report, for the month ending August 31st, 1865.

Adults	-	-	-	7
Children	-	-	-	7 14
Males	-	-	-	8
Females	-	-	-	6 14

CAUSES OF DEATH AS REPORTED.

Dropsy	-	-	-	3
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	1
Putrid Sore Throat	-	-	-	1
Diarrhoea	-	-	-	1
Teething	-	-	-	1
Gravel	-	-	-	1
Apoplexy	-	-	-	1
Bite of Scorpion	-	-	-	1
Killed by Accident	-	-	-	1
Old Age	-	-	-	1
Inflammation of the Brain	-	-	-	1 14

Brought from country places for interment	-	-	-	4
Resident citizens	-	-	-	10

Total 14

JOSEPH E. TAYLOR, Sexton.

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