PROCEEDINGS
OF
THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY
OF LONDON.

SESSION 1856–7.

Fourth Meeting (Special), Dec. 15, 1856.

The President, Sir RODERICK I. MURCHISON, in the Chair.

In opening the Meeting, the Chairman said,—

GENTLEMEN,—We are now specially assembled to welcome Dr. Livingston, on returning from Southern Africa to his native country after an absence of sixteen years, during which, while endeavouring to spread the blessings of Christianity through lands never before trodden by the foot of a British subject, he has made discoveries of inestimable importance, which have justly won for him, our Victoria or Patron’s Medal.

When that honour was conferred in May, 1855, for traversing South Africa from the Cape of Good Hope by Lake Ngami and Linyanti to Loanda on the west coast, the Earl of Ellesmere, then our President, spoke with eloquence of the "scientific precision, with which the unarmed and unassisted English Missionary had left his mark on so many important stations of regions, hitherto blank."

If for that wonderful journey, Dr. Livingston was justly recompensed with the highest distinction we could bestow, what must be our estimate of his prowess, now that he has re-traversed the vast regions, which he first opened out to our knowledge? Nay, more; that, after reaching his old starting point at Linyanti in the interior, he has followed the Zambezi, or continuation of the Leambye river, to its mouth on the shores of the Indian Ocean, passing through the eastern Portuguese settlements to Quillumane,—thus completing the entire journey across South Africa. In short, it has been calculate that, putting together his various journeys, Dr. Livingston has not travelled over less than eleven thousand miles of African ground.

Then, how does he come back to us? Not merely like the far-roaming and enterprising French missionaries, Huc and Gabet, who, through threading through China with marvellous skill, and contri-
buting much to our knowledge of the habits of the people, have
scarcely made any addition to the science of physical geography; but
as the pioneer of sound knowledge, who, by astronomical obser-

In obtaining these results, Dr. Livingston has farther seized upon
every opportunity of describing to us the physical features, cli-
tology, and geological structure of the countries he has explored, and
has made known their natural productions, including vast breaths
of sugar-cane and vine-producing lands. Pointing out many new
sources of commerce, as yet unknown to the enterprise of the British
merchant, he gives us a clear insight into the language, manners,
habits of numerous tribes, and explains to us the different dis-
cases of the people, demonstrating how their maladies vary with
different conditions of physical geography and atmospheric causes.

Let me also say that he has realized, by positive research, that
which was necessarily a bare hypothesis, and has proved the in-
terior of Southern Africa to be a plateau traversed by a network of
lakes and rivers, the waters of which, deflected in various direc-
tions by slight elevations, escape to the eastern and western oceans, by passing through deep rents in the hilly, flanking tracts. He teaches us that these last high grounds, differing essentially from the elevated central region, as well as from the rich alluvial deltas of the coasta, are really salubrious, or, to use his own language, are perfect sanatoria.

I have thus alluded, in the briefest manner, to the leading addi-
tions to our knowledge, which have been brought before you by
Dr. Livingston. The reading of the last letters, addressed to myself,
was, by the direction of my lamented predecessor, Admiral Beechey,
deferred until the arrival of the great traveller; in order that the
just curiosity of my associates might be gratified by having it in
their power to interrogate him upon subjects of such deep impor-
tance; and, above all, that we might commit no mistakes in hastily
constructing maps from immature data; certain sketch maps having
been sent to us, before it was possible to calculate his observations
and reduce them to order.

Passing then from this meagre outline of the results to science,
what must be our feelings as men, when we mark the fidelity with
which Dr. Livingston kept his promise to the natives who, having
accompanied him to St. Paul de Loando, were reconducted by him
from that city to their homes? On this head my predecessors and
myself have not failed, whenever an opportunity occurred, to testify
our deep respect for such noble conduct. Rare fortitude and virtue

must our Medallist have possessed, when—having struggled at the
imminent risk of life through such obstacles, and escaping from the
interior, he had been received with true kindness by our old allies
the Portuguese at Angola—he nobly resolved to redeem his prom-
ise, and retrace his steps to the interior of the vast continent.

Turning to Dr. Livingston, the President then said—Dr. Living-
ston, it is now my pleasing duty to present to you this our Nation’s
or Victoria Medal, as a testimony of our highest esteem. I rejoice
to see on this occasion, such a numerous assemblage of geographers and
distinguished persons, and that our Meeting is attended by the
Ministers of foreign nations. Above all, I rejoice to welcome the Repre-
sentative of that nation whose governors and subjects, in the distant regions of Africa, have treated you as a brother, and

Dr. Livingaston replied:—Sir, I have spoken so little in my own
tongue for the last sixteen years, and so much in strange languages,
that you must kindly bear with my imperfections in the way of
speech-making. I beg to return my warmest thanks for the distin-
guished honour you have now conferred upon me, and also for the
kind and encouraging expressions with which the gift of the Gold
Medal has been accompanied. As a Christian missionary, I only did
my duty, in attempting to open up part of southern inter-tropical
Africa to the sympathy of Christendom; and I am very much gra-
tified by finding in the interest, which you and many others express,
a pledge that the true negro family, whose country I traversed, will
yet become a part of the general community of nations. The English Government and the English people, have done more for Central Africa than any other, in the way of suppressing that traffic, which has proved a bane to both commerce and friendly intercourse. May I hope that the path which I have lately opened into the interior, will never be shut; and that in addition to the repressing of the slave trade, there will be fresh efforts made for the development of the internal resources of the country? Success in this, and the spread of Christianity, alone will render the present success of our cruisers in repressing, complete and permanent. I cannot pretend to a single note of triumph. A man may boast when he is pulling off his armour, but I am just putting mine on; and while feeling deeply grateful for the high opinion you have formed of me, I fear that you have rated me above my deserts, and that my future may not come up to the expectation of the present. Some of the Fellows of your Society—Colonel Steddo, Captain Vardon, and Mr. Oswald, for instance—could, either of them, have effected all that I have done. You are thus not in want of capable agents. I am, nevertheless, too thankful now, that they have left it to me to do. I again thank you for the Medal, and hope it will go down in my family as an heirloom worth keeping.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P., Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, then said,—Sir Roderick Murchison, I thought it a great privilege to be allowed to attend to-night upon your invitation; and certainly with little expection that I should be called upon to address you on this interesting occasion. I am happy to say, however, that the Resolution which has been put into my hands, and which I have been requested to propose to the Meeting, is one that I am sure will require no arguments or mine to recommend it to your very cordial adoption. You have heard from the President, how the distinguished traveller, who is here to-day, to give an account of the achievements which he has performed on the field of Africa, you have heard, cordially and usefully he was assisted by the Governors of the Portuguese Establishments on the coast of Africa. There is, perhaps, no nation which can boast more than Portugal, of having largely contributed to early geographical enterprise, to our better knowledge of the globe which we inhabit, and to the spread of commerce throughout the earth. I may also say that the mention of the name of Portugal is always agreeable to British ears, because there is no country with which we are united by an older, by a closer, and, I trust, by a more enduring connection. I think it is fortunate and gratifying to us, on the present occasion, that we have the advantage of having among us, the distinguished nobleman who represents Portugal in this country; therefore, we shall be able to convey to the Portuguese authorities, through him, the acknowledgment which, I am sure, we must be all anxious to make on the present occasion. I am too well aware of the value of your time, and of the superior claims that others have upon it, to be desirous of addressing you at any length. Of the importance of the discoveries made in Africa, I am sure we must all feel the strongest and deepest sense; it is, at all events, a matter of liberal curiosity to all men, to obtain a better knowledge of our earth. But there are interests very dear to the people of this country, which are closely connected with everything that relates to a better knowledge of Africa. There is none, I believe, which has taken a faster hold on the people of Britain than, not only to put a stop to the horrible traffic in slaves, which was once the disgrace of our land as much, if not more than of any other; but also, as far as possible, to repay to Africa the debt which we owe her, by promoting in every manner, with regard to her inhabitants, the interests of civilization and commerce. We must feel how important a better knowledge of the internal resources and of the condition of Africa must be, in all the efforts which Parliament or Statesmen can make in that direction. I will not trespass longer upon your time, but conclude by reading the Resolution which has been placed in my hands, and which is one that I am sure will meet from you, a very cordial reception:

"That the grateful thanks of the Royal Geographical Society be conveyed, through his Excellency Count de Lavradio, the Minister of the King of Portugal, to His Majesty's Authorities in Africa, for the hospitality and friendly assistance they afforded to Dr. Livingston, in his unparalleled travels from St. Paul de Loanda to Tete and Quelimane, across that continent."

"Sir Henry Rawlinson, P.R.G.S., then said—Sir, I could have wished that the task of seconding the Resolution had been confided to able hands; but since the President has issued his orders—orders which are equivalent to the laws of the Medes and the Persians, with which I am fonderly well acquainted,—I am obliged humbly to bow to the task. After the eloquent description you have heard of the merits of the Portuguese nation, it would ill become me to intrude long upon your time; but I would wish to call your attention to the really great obligations which science is generally under to the Portuguese, especially with regard to the geography of Africa. We are too apt to forget a debt of gratitude which we owe to them for our knowledge of the interior of Africa, almost up to the present time, when Dr. Livingston has completed the chain of their discoveries. We must remember that it was Vasco de Gama, a Portuguese, in the first instance, who divined the Cape of Good Hope. The Portuguese have established settlements throughout Southern Africa from the earliest times down to the present, and until Dr. Livingston has laid down all his discoveries upon the map, the old Portuguese maps of the interior of Africa, especially the southern portion, are the best available. It is singularly interesting and gratifying to find, that it should be to the Portuguese Governors, that we are indebted for the hospitable reception, which they gave to our distinguished traveller, Dr. Livingston, and which has enabled him to return home in safety, and acquaint us with the results of all his discoveries. As you are about to hear from Dr. Livingston some brief account of his travels, I will not longer trespass upon your time, but merely second the Resolution which has been submitted to your notice.

The Resolution having been put from the Chair, was carried unanimously.

The Count de Lavradio then rose, and after a brief apology in English for his want of fluency in our language, thus spoke in French:

M. le Président,—Je ne m'attendais pas à avoir l'honneur de parler devant vous; ce fut donc avec hésitation que je me suis levé, et c'est avec timidité que je vais avoir l'honneur de vous adresser quelques paroles, pour vous ex-
prêter ma gratitude de la résolution que vous vons de prendre et le proclamer.

Mon premier devoir est d'adresser mes, aussi sincère que vrai, remercements au nom du Souverain que j'ai l'honneur de représenter, et de la nation Portugaise, qui laquelle Pompier, au Right Hon. Mr. Lordelo, non seulement pour la résolution qu'il a proposée à la Société Royale de Géographie d'adopter, mais aussi pour les sentiments d'admiration et d'estime qu'il a si bien exprimé pour la mémoire des intéressés et savants navigateurs Portugais qui, en découvrant des mers et des terres jusqu'alors inconnues, portèrent partout les germes de la civilisation, et rendirent des très grands services aux sciences. A Sir R. Rawlinson, je prie aussi de vouloir bien recevoir mes remercements, pour l'aimabilité avec laquelle il a appuyé la proposition de Mr. Labouchere, en rappelant au souvenir de la Société, les importantes découvertes faites par les navigateurs Portugais, et en particulier par le Capt. de Lobo, M. le Président, pour lui avoir soumis à l'approbation de la Société, la proposition de Mr. Labouchere; et à vous, Messieurs les Membres de la Société Royale de Géographie, pour l'unanimité de votre approbation.

Je vous assure, que je n'éprouverai d'avoir l'honneur de transmettre à mon gouvernement, la résolution qui vient d'être prise, qu'au seul sur il en sera très flatté. Lorsque j'ai appris que le Dr. Livingston avait entrepris de traverser l'Afrique Méridionale, en allant de la côte occidentale à l'orientale, j'ai écrit à mon gouvernement, en le priant d'expédier les ordres les plus pressants, pour que tous les colons Portugais s'en prêtent au Dr. Livingston, toute la protection dont il pourrait avoir besoin, pour poursuivre ses voyages d'une manière sûre et convenable. Je ne sais heureux d'apporter que les ordres de mon gouvernement furent exécutés.

Maintenant, M. le Président et MM. les Membres de la Société Royale de Géographie, permettez-moi, que je vous remercie en mon propre nom, de l'honneur que vous avez bien voulu me faire en m'invitant à cette séance. En toute occasion, j'aurais été heureux et fort honoré de me trouver parmi les savants géographes et navigateurs Anglais; mais aujourd'hui, mon honneur est encore plus grand, puisque cette séance solennelle est particulièrement destinée à célébrer le retour en Europe du Dr. Livingston, de ce savant courageux, de cet homme de la liberté, qui, bravant les plus grands dangers, s'exprimant à toute sorte de privations, employa les plus belles années de sa vie, à parcourir l'Afrique Centrale dans les seuls buts d'embrasser les sciences, et de propager dans les régions lointaines, la morale évangélique, et avec elle les bienfaits de la véritable civilisation.

Des hommes, tels que le Dr. Livingston, sont, permettez-moi l'expression, des véritables Providence, que le Ciel, dans sa clémence, nous accorde pour nous consoler de tant d'individus inutiles ou méchants qui peuplent une partie de la terre.

Tout le monde sait qu'il y a à peu près quatre siècles et demie, que quelques navigateurs Portugais, aussi courageux que intrépides, entrèrent et atteignirent des grandes découvertes. Les nomes de Zano, de Pratetilo, des Dias, du grand Vasco de Guana, et de tant d'autres, sont bien connus; mais tout le monde ne sait pas que pendant même temps que ces navigateurs Portugais, reconnaissant les côtes, et tâchant de faire le tour de l'Afrique, pour se rendre à l'Asie, d'autres tâchaient d'arriver au même but, en traversant l'intérieur de l'Afrique. Avant l'année 1400, par les ordres et avec les instructions du gouvernement, les plus grands et les plus célèbres de nos navigateurs, Jean Fernandes, penetrent dans l'intérieur de l'Afrique, où, peu de temps après, alla le rejoindre Anton Gonstrelles.

Quelques années après, plusieurs autres Portugais penetrèrent dans l'intérieur de l'Afrique; quelques uns firent à la recherche de Timbuctu, et d'autres dans diverses autres directions. L'histoire nous a conservé les noms de plusieurs de ces voyageurs, et on peut dire que les Portugais n'ont jamais interrompu leurs tentatives de pénétrer dans l'intérieur de l'Afrique. Vers le fin du siècle dernier, le savant Dr. Lamartine, en utilisant les instruments, se propose de traverser l'Afrique Méridionale, allant de la côte orientale vers l'occidentale. Malheureusement, la mort s'insinue au milieu de ses savants voyages, dans les états du Rio de Cozas.

Plus tard d'autres voyageurs entreprirent de traverser l'Afrique, et de 1806 à 1811, Frédéric Jean Baptista et Amaro José, avec les instructions du Comte Francisco Honorato de Castro, allèrent de la côte occidentale à l'orientale, et revinrent à Loanda par le même chemin, après une absence de plus de quatre ans. Le journal de leurs voyages a été imprimé. Malheureusement, ils n'étaient pas assez instruits, pour pouvoir déterminer astronomiquement la position de différents lieux, qu'ils ont parcourus.

Messieurs, je m'arrête, et si je cite ces faits et ces noms, ce n'est nullement pour diminuer la gloire qui appartient au Dr. Livingston; bien au contraire, c'est pour reconnaître qu'il a obtenu des résultats, plus complets que ceux qui le précédèrent. Le nom du Dr. Livingston est déjà inscrit dans l'histoire de la civilisation de l'Afrique Méridionale, et il y occupera toujours, une place très distinguée.

Honneur donc au savant Dr. Livingston!

M. le Président, et Messieurs, je vous demande parlant d'avoir si long-temps abusé de votre complaisance, et je vous remercie de la bienveillance avec laquelle vous avez daigné m'écouter; mais avant de m'adresser, permettez encore que je vous prétendre de vos vues que je fais pour la prospection de la Société Royale de Géographie, qui a rendu tant de si grands services aux sciences, au commerce, et à la civilisation. Agress avec les vues je fais pour que l'empire Britannique, cette terre d'ordre et de liberté, ce pays où tous les malheurs trouvent un asile sûr et généreux, conserve pour toujours sa puissance. Je fais ces vues, comme représentant du plus ancien, du plus constant, et du plus fidèle allié de l'Angleterre; je les fais aussi comme simple individu.

Les Secrétaires then read extracts from the three last communications, addressed by Dr. Livingston from Africa to Sir Redick Murchison, which had been reserved for that occasion. They were full of minute and graphic details relating to the regions explored by the traveller, and were listened to with the utmost interest. At their conclusion, The President said: We return thanks to Dr. Livingston for having communica
the mother. If a young man falls in love with a young woman of another village, he must leave his own village and live with her; and he is obliged to keep her mother-in-law, in firewood. If he goes into her presence, he must go in a decent way, clapping his hands in a supplicatory manner; and if he sits, he must not put out his feet towards her—he must bend his knees back, and sit in a half-bent position. I was so astonished at this, and exactly the same; they had been accustomed to the natives for many years, and they say that the same is the case in the estimation. I believe they deserve it; for the whole way through the centre of the country, we were most kindly treated by them. When I went up the Zambezi, I proceeded as far as the 14th degree, and then returned to Linyanti. I found the country abound ing in all the larger game, and I saw through which Mr. Gordon Cumming and others have hunted, and I never saw anything before like the numbers of game that are to be found along the Zambezi. There are elephants all the way to Tete, in prodigious numbers, and all the other large game, buffaloes, zebras, giraffes, and a great variety of antelopes. There are three new species of antelope that have never been brought to Europe.

Seeing the country was well supplied with game, I thought it would be of little use burdening my men with other provisions; I thought I could easily supply our wants with the gun, and I did not wish to tire them and make them desire to return before we had accomplished our journey; so we went with scarcely anything. All the way up the river we had abundance of food, and any one who is anything of a shot, may go out and kill as much in two or three hours, as will serve for three or four days. The animals do not know it, and do not run or hide, so that at bowshot distance, we got on very well for the rest of the time, until we came to Shindé. There we found that the people, having guns, had destroyed all the game in the district, and that there was nothing left, but mice; you see the little boys and girls were digging out the mice. I did not try to hunt, but there were there obliged to live entirely upon what the people gave us. We found the women remarkably kind to all of us; the same in going down the Zambezi. Whatever they gave, they always did it most graciously, very often with an apology for its being so little. Then, when coming to the hill and, we found it just the same. They supplied us liberally with food whenever we went down, and in the same year, we came near the settlements of the Portuguese, in the way of the country, we found the people generally remarkably civil and kind; but as we came near to the confines of civilization, then they did not improve. We had a good deal of difficulty with different tribes, as they tried to make us pay for leave to pass. It so happened that we had nothing to pay with. They wanted either an ox, a gun, or a man. I told them that my men had just as good a right to give me, as I had to give one of them, because we were in the same position—we were all free men. Then they wanted an ox, and we objected to it, saying, "These oxen are our logs, and cannot travel without them; why should we pay for leave to tread upon the ground of God's common Father?" They agreed it was not right to ask payment for that, but said it had always been the custom of the slave-traders, to make us pay in, to give a slave or an ox, and we ought to do the same. But I said, "We are not slave-dealers, we never buy nor sell slaves." But you may as well give us an ox, they replied, "it will show your friendship; we will give you some of our food, if you give us some of yours." If we gave them an ox, they often gave us back two or three pounds of our own food; this is the generous way they paid us back. But with the women we never found any difficulty.

Let me mention the punishment which women inflict upon their husbands in some parts. It is the custom of the country for each woman to have her own

* See President's Address, vol. xxii. p. 136, 1852.
The husband has no garden and no house, and his wives feed him. I have heard a man say, "Why, they will not feed me; they will give me nothing at all." A man may have five wives, and sometimes the wives combine and make a strike against him. When he comes home, he goes to Mrs. One. She says, "I have nothing for you; you must go to Mrs. Two." He then goes to Mrs. Three, and she says, "You can go to the one you love best;" and until the husband is sent from one to the other, the women are in a state of confusion. I have seen many poor families get up a tree, and in a voice loud enough to be heard by the whole village, cry out, "I thought I had married five wives, but I find I have married five witches; they will not let me have one."

The punishment of a woman for her offenses in marriage is very severe. I thought very cold, the first time I saw it in the town of Sekelo. The chief's place is usually in the centre of the town. If a woman happens to forget herself so far as to give her husband a blow, she is brought into the centre of the town, and is obliged to take him on her back and carry him home, amidst the jeering and laughter of the people, some of the women crying out, "Give it to him again." Slavery exists in the country, i.e., domestic slavery; but the exportation of slaves is effectively repressed. I found in Angola, that slaves could scarcely be sold at all. I saw boys of 14 years of age, sold for the low sum of 12s. If they could send these to Brazil, they would fetch a very much higher price, perhaps 80 dollars.

In passing along, we went in company with some native Portuguese, who were going into the interior, and who had eight slave women with them, and were taking them towards the centre of the country to sell them for ivory. It shows that the trade is turning back towards the interior. In passing through the country, I found that the English name had penetrated a long way in. The English are known as the tribe "that likes the black man." The Portuguese, unfortunately, had been fighting with them near Tete; but the natives had been driven back to the Portuguese settlements, and kept the Portuguese in their whole line. In coming down the river, I knew nothing of this war. Once I saw great numbers of armed men going along the hills and collecting into a large force, and all the women and children sent out of the way. When we got to where they were, some of the great men came to ask what I was. Am I a Moçambiquian?—that is the name they apply to the Portuguese; I did not know it, however, at that time. "No," I said, "I am a Lekon." "Then," they said, "they did not know the Lekon." I showed them my arm. I could not show my face as anything particularly white, but I showed my arm, and said, "Have the Mozambique skin like that?" "No, no; we never saw such white skin." "Have they long hair like mine?"—the Portuguese make a practice of cutting the hair short. "No; you must then be one of the white tribe that loves the black man." "Yes, I am." I was then in the midst of the belligerents, without having any wish to engage in the quarrel. They finally allowed me to pass. Once when we came to a tribe, one of my head men seemed to have become insane and ran away, and we lost three days seeking for him. This tribe demanded payment for leave to pass, and I gave them a piece of cloth. In order to be rid of them, we got up the war dance, and we made the different tribes join in the war dance, and gave another piece of cloth. This was not satisfactory, and then they got up their war dance in full armor, with their guns and drums and everything quite warlike, in the sight of our encampment. My men had been perfectly enchanted by this sight; they were quite veterans, but I was not near so fine as these well-fed Zambians. My men said to me, "Will you allow us to keep their wives?" They thought we were intimidating us, but my men were perfectly sure of defeating them. One of my chief men seemed to be afraid, because they never make a war dance without intending to attack, and got up during the night and said, "There they are, they are there!" and ran off, and we never saw him again.

The country is full of lions, and the natives believe that the souls of their chiefs go into the lion, and consequently when they meet a lion they salute and honour it. In travelling, the natives never sleep on the ground; they always make little huts up in the trees. We had a good many difficulties of the nature I have described, with the different tribes we came across. The people in the centre of the country seem totally different from the fringe of population near the coast. Those in the centre are very anxious to have trade. You may understand their anxiety in this respect when I inform you, that the one of the Makololo furnished me with 27 men and 18 oxen, as well as provisions, in order to form a path to the West Coast; and on another occasion the same man furnished 110 men, to try and make another path to the East Coast. We had found the country so full of forest, and abounding with so many rivers and so many mountains, that it was impossible to make a path to the west, and so I came back and endeavoured to find one to the east. In going that way, we never carried water a single day. Any one who has travelled in South Africa, knows the difficulty of procuring water, but we were never without water a single day. We slept near water, passed by water several times during the day, and slept near it again. The western route being impracticable for wagons, we came back, and my companions returned to their friends and relatives. I did not require to communicate anything about our journey, or speak even a word about what we had seen; as my men got up in all the meetings which were held, and told the people of what had passed. One of the great stories they told was, "We have been to the end of the world. Our forefathers used to tell us that the world has no end, but we have been to the end of the world. We went marching along, thinking that what the ancients had told us was true, that the world had no end; but all at once the world said to us, 'I am finished; there is no more of me; there is only sea in front.'" All my goods were gone when I got down into the Baroto valley, among the Makololo, and then they supplied me for three months; and in forming the eastern path, which I hope will remain permanent, one into the interior of the country, the chief of the interior country came up with twelve oxen for slaughter and abundance of other provisions, without promise or expectation of payment. At one time it was thought, instead, of going down the way we came, we should go on the other or south side of the river. But this river forms a line of defence against the Makololo, where my father-in-law, Mr. Moffat, went. I was persuaded by some to go in that direction. But when I had heard the opinions of all who knew the country, and those who had lived in that direction, I resolved to go north-east, and strike the Zambesi there.

In passing up towards Luanda, we saw that the face of the country was different, that it was covered with Cape heaths, rhododendrons, and Alpine roses, showing that we must be on elevated ground. Then we came to a sudden descent of 1000 feet, in which the river Cunzo seemed to have formed a large valley. I hoped to receive an android barometer from Captain Steele, but he had gone to the Crimóo. In going back, therefore, I began to try the boiling point of water, and I found a gradual elevation from the coast until we got up to the point, where we saw the Capé heaths and rhododendrons; then, passing down inland, we saw the rivers running towards the centre of the country, and the boiling point of water showed a descent of the surface in that direction too. This elevated ridge is formed of clay slate. In going north-east, towards the Zambesi, we found many rivers running back towards the centre of the country. Having gone north-thither we found the elevation the same as it was on the western ridge, the other rivers, as described by the natives, flowing from the sides into the centre, showing that the centre country is a hilly—no valley compared to the sea, but a valley with respect to the lateral ridges. There were no large mountains in that valley; but the mountains outside the valley, although they appeared
high, yet, actually, when tried by the boiling point of water, were not so high as the ridges, and not much higher than the valley.  

The President. — Will you describe the White Mountains?  

Dr. Livingston. — They lie to the northeast of the Great Falls. They are masses of white rock somewhat like quartz, and one of them is called "Tabensch," which means "white mountain." From the description I got of its glistening whiteness, I imagined that it was snow; but when I observed the base of the hill, I saw that snow could not lie upon it.  

The President. — The Society will observe that this fact has an important application.  

Dr. Livingston. — I observed to them, "What is that stuff upon the top of the hill? It was stone, which was also afford me when I was at Linyanti, and I have obtained pieces of it. Most of the hills have this coping of white quartz-looking rock. Outside the ridges the rocks are composed of mica and mica-slate, and crystalline gneiss at the bottom. Below we have the coalfield, which commences at Zumbo. Higher up there are very large forest trees, of which I have brought specimens."  

The President. — The point to which I called your attention with reference to the white rocks is important, as it may apply to the mountains towards the east coast of Africa, which have been supposed to be covered with snow, and are commonly called the "Mountains of the Moon." It seems that the range of white-capped hills, which Dr. Livingston examined, trended towards those so called mountains, and it may prove that the missionaries, who believe that they saw snowy mountains under the equator, have been deceived by the glittering aspect of the rocks under a tropical sun. I would also ask Dr. Livingston if he has formed any idea of the great interior lake, which is said to be 600 or 700 miles long; and whether the natives gave him any information respecting it?  

Dr. Livingston. — When I was on my way from Linyanti to Zumbo, I met with a chief who was going to return home across Africa; and he informed me that in the country of the Banyassa (Wun' Yassa) there is an elevated ridge which trends towards the N. E. The lake lies west of it, and in the northern part is called Kalagwe. They cross the southern end of it, and when crossing they paint the canoe the whole way, and go from one island to another, spending three days in crossing. It seems, from the description I got from him, to be a collection of shallow water, exactly like Lake Ngami, which is not deep either, as I have seen men putting their canoes over it. It seems to be the remainder of a large lake, which existed in this part, before the fissure was made to allow the Zambezi to flow out. That part of the country is described by many natives as being exceedingly marshy. The Makoloko went up to the Sh down, and found all the country exceedingly marshy, and a large lake seems to be actually in existence, or a large marsh with islands in it. But it seems scarcely so extensive as has been represented, as in that case I must have crossed part of it or heard more of it.  

Mr. F. O. Alston, F.R.G.S. — I should be glad to ask Dr. Livingston, whether, in his route across Africa, he fell in with any members of the Hottentot race. In old maps the northern limit of the Hottentots race is placed but a short distance beyond the Orange River; later information has greatly advanced their boundary, and, in my own travels, I found what appeared to be an important head-quarters of that people, at latitude 32° N. They were firmly established in the land, and were on intimate terms with their negro neighbours, the Ovambos. These Hottentots asserted that their race was equally numerous still farther to the northward of the most distant point I was able to reach, and I have been unable as yet, to obtain any information by which any northern limit to the extension of the Hottentot race can, with certainty, be laid down.

Mr. Galton. — I might mention in corroboration of Dr. Livingstone's report of a gradual desolation of the Bechuanaland country, that the Damara entertain a similarly similar belief. They say that within the existing generation, their country has become dried up to a marked extent; hence, without doubt, this same physical phenomenon affects the entire breadth of Southern Africa.  

Dr. Livingston. — You not only see remains of ancient rivers all through the country, but actually the remains of fountains; you see holes made in the solid rock, where the water has fallen, when flowing out of these fountains, and you find in the sides of some of the holes, pieces of calcareous tufa, that have been deposited from the flowing of the water.  

Professor Owen. — I have listened with very intense interest to the sketches of those magnificent scenes of animal life, that my old and most esteemed friend, Dr. Livingstone, has given us. It recalls to my mind the conviction I had the pleasure to enjoy with him in the Museum of the College of Surgeons, seventeen years ago. I must say, that the instalment which he has given us of his observations on animal life this evening, more than fulfil the highest expectations that I indulged of the fruit that science would receive from his intended expedition. It has, so far, exceeded all our expectations; but it is not only in reference to those magnificent pictures of mammalian life,—that reference is to those new forms of that peculiar family of mammalia, the antelopes; but it is to those indications of the evidence of extinct forms of animal life which interest me still more. I hope some fragments will yet come to us of those accumulated petrified remains of animals, which it has been Dr. Livingstone's good fortune, among many very wonderful and unique opportunities of observing nature, to have seen.
the western portion of Bihó to the Indian Ocean, which is important. The land to the east of Bihó is very high. It is, properly speaking, the Lihlah. In July and August, the hills are reported to be covered with snow, and the lakes and rivers to be completely frozen over. This degree of cold (145° to 165° F. lat.) gives a very great elevation. Lalausiu's northern journey penetrated to 28° 5' lat. and 22° 43' E. long., at which point he must have been at one time only about three days' journey distant from the point where Dr. Livingston was at that time, and who was probably the same man of a party described as riding on an ox. Lalausiu's has also penetrated northwards and north-eastwards around the Casabyy to 4° 1' lat. and 22° 43' E. long.

It affords me great pleasure to see Dr. Livingston among us. I have closely followed his journeys since I heard of him on the top of the volcano. Balausiu's hills riding on the ox, convinced him that would soon send us most important information. Dr. Livingston has travelled more in Africa than any other traveller ancient or modern, and he has laid down with geographic accuracy every point over which he travelled from sea to sea—the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean.

Captain Vardon, F.R.G.S.,—I beg to supply an omission which my friend, Dr. Livingston, has made this evening. He has expressed at great length on the amability of the African ladies; but there is one lady whom I met in South Africa, and from whom, I believe, many South African travellers, whom I see in this room, experienced the greatest kindness and hospitality. Dr. Livingston has not made any allusion to her, and I rise to do so. This is lady, I need scarcely say, is his own wife... I observe here Colonel Steele, Mr. Oweal, Mr. Gordon Cumming, and others, who will bear me out in saying that we received the greatest kindness from Dr. and Mrs. Livingston; their hospitality was unbounded, and I am glad of having this opportunity of publicly thanking them before the Royal Geographical Society. Dr. Livingston has said, with his usual modesty, that he has never had a day's work of us might have done as much. I beg to differ from him. As to my own small excursion on the Limpopo, after what I have heard to-day, I feel ashamed of myself, that I fancy I have only just returned from Blackheath.

Colonel Steele, F.R.G.S.,—My travels in South Africa were much like Captain Vardon's. Dr. Livingston was my earliest companion in Africa, but we travelled such a short distance in company, that I am afraid any remarks I could offer, beyond again returning my best thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Livingston for their hospitality, would be of no importance to this Society.

The President.—Colonel Steele's modesty has prevented him from stating that without the instruments with which he had provided Dr. Livingston, he could not have made the excellent observations which have been obtained. Mr. Gordon Cumming begged to confirm what Captain Vardon had said with respect to the kindness with which Dr. Livingston had been treated by the natives who visited him. He was not aware that Dr. Livingston had alluded to the insect (the tsetse) whose bite is fatal to cattle. One year, while hunting in the mountains, he, Mr. Cumming, lost all his horses and oxen from the bites of this fly, and if it had not been for the kindness of Dr. Livingston, in sending him his own cattle, he would not have been able to have extricated himself from his dilemma and returned to Europe.

Mr. J. C. H. Ward, F.G.S.—Perhaps Dr. Livingston will have the goodness to give us some notion of the state of society among the tribes among the tribes that inhabit the plateau valley. That ought to be a place in which there is considerable civilization with a decent form of government. They seem to have many advantages, an excellent climate, excellent soil, and an excellent supply of water. What is the state of the arts among these people? Do they understand the art of making malleable iron or steel? Do they know the use of any other metal, or the use of alloys, as, those of copper? Can they weave, or make bread? What plants do they cultivate? And what are they likely to produce in exchange for our merchandise? I strongly suspect, from what Dr. Livingston has stated, that the great portion of the labour, even of the field, is left to them, and is not performed by the men, otherwise how could the women be able to feed the men? They must work in order to procure that with which the men are fed. I expect the women are idle and the men working. How many of the women would appear to have as many as five wives? How can they to monopsony so many?

Dr. Livingstone said: The new articles of commerce that I observed were chiefly fibres and substances, some of them excepted, as strong, and like flax. They abound in quantities, in the north bank of the Zambezi. There are also great quantities of a tree, the bark of the root of which is used by the Portuguese and natives as the Chicones. It has been employed in fevers by the aborigines of the country from time immemorial, and both the Portuguese and my companions and myself found it very efficacious. It is remarkable that when fever most prevails, there the tree, which I believe to be a chicones, abounds. It seems the remedy is provided for the disease, where it prevails most. Now, in connection with the opening up of this river and the fever, I have seen on the banks of the Zambezi, whole forests of this Chicones tree, particularly near Senna. A decoction of the bark of the root has been found to act exactly as quinine; it is excessively bitter, and may prove a good substitute. There is also Calumba root, which the Americans purchase, to be used as a dyes, and it is found in large quantities. A species of Sarsaparilla is to be found throughout the whole country. The sugar-cane grows abundantly, but the natives have no idea of sugar, although they have cultivated the cane from time immemorial. The chief of the Makololo sent about thirty elephant tusks down to the coast, and gave me a long list of articles, which I was to buy for him in the town of Tete. I had not a copper to my name, and for several months, I thought it my duty to accept his commission, and I intended to obtain these articles for him. Among other things he ordered a sugar-mill. When he found that we could produce sugar from the cane, he said, "Give me no more thing that makes sugar, then I will plant plenty of cane, and be glad." And, again, Indigo grows all over the country. The town of Tete has acres of it; in fact, it is quite a weed, and seems to be of which grows in India, for before the slave trade became so brisk Indigo was exported from Tete. The country also produces the leaves of senna, and, as far as I could ascertain, exactly like the. There is a great trade in Egypt. There is plenty of beeswax throughout the whole country; and we were everywhere invited by the honey-bird to come to the hives. Any one who has travelled in Africa knows the call of the honey-bird. It invites travellers to come and enjoy the honey, and if you follow it, you are sure to be led to the honey. Some natives have given it a bad character. Sometimes, when a man follows the bird, he comes in contact with a lion or a serpent, and he says, "It is a false bird, it has brought me to the lion." But if he had gone beyond the lion, he would have come to the honey. The natives eat the honey and throw the wax away. In Angola it is different. There, a large trade in wax is carried on, and the bees are not so numerous as in the eastern parts of the country; but here they have no market. It was the same with ivory when Lake Ngami was discovered. They will not throw away an ounce of it now. Then, again, there are different places found. There is a very fine kind of iron ore; and at Cazambuka there is much malachite, from which the natives extract copper. There is gold round about the coalfield, and gold has been procured by washing from time immemorial. In former times the Portuguese went to different places for gold with large
In the presence of the Portuguese Minister, my gratitude for the kindness I received from my countrymen during my residence in the Province of Angola.

But the consequences resulting from Dr. Livingston's journey are calculated to contribute so much to the interests of the Portuguese African Colonies, that I am, in time, they will be more than repaid for the kindness they showed him.

Dr. Livingston's arrival at Angola I took upon me, as one of those opportune events, which sometimes have an opportunity to influence on the destinies of a country; at no period could such a visit have been more fortunate. The minds of men were agitated in consequence of the depressed condition of the peculiar traffic which had so long been permanent, and the attention of thinking persons was turned to legitimate trade and the development of the resources of the country. Further, the Portuguese Government had passed a measure for regenerating and gradually emancipating the slaves in their colonies. Those who take an interest in the progress of the African race will be glad to hear of this fact.

Dr. Livingston arrived about this time, and showed that by opening up a communication with the interior of Africa, a rich trade might be carried on, that would more than compensate for the loss the colony was likely to sustain from the abolition of the slave trade. The Doctor proposed that, very soon after his arrival had become generally known, an attempt would be made on the part of the tribes in the interior to communicate with the coast. This prophecy has been fulfilled; for I learn from a communication from Mr. Gabriel that a caravan of negroes, fitted out by Sekileto and led by one of the Arabs, who crossed from the coast of Zanzibar to Benguela in 1854, had arrived at Loanda by way of Bia. This expedition has not, it would seem, been very profitable, owing to causes incident, I should hope, only to first attempts; but I trust that experience will render the next more successful. I shall not, at this late hour, read Mr. Gabriel's very interesting communication, but limit myself to stating the fact, which proves that the tribes in the interior are anxious to open up a communication with the coast, and shows how correctly Dr. Livingston calculated the result.

I wish to mention another result of Dr. Livingston's visit. At Loanda we had but one small newspaper; the Doctor wrote a series of articles for it, which appears to have stimulated a literary tribe, and you here see the "Aurora," a Literary Journal, printed at the Government press, and, I believe, one of the fruits of Dr. Livingston's visit to that city.

The President.—I have now only to congratulate the Meeting upon having received so much information from Dr. Livingston. I may well say he has communicated to us the outlines of a book, which I hope will soon be published for the information of the British public. I am glad to add that there is no person fonder of gratitude to the Portuguese than Dr. Livingston himself. If he has not here expatiated upon that subject, I can assure you he has, in private letters which he has addressed to me, he has uniformly dwelt upon the very kind and liberal conduct of the Portuguese Authorities, officers, and people themselves and parties. He was also kindly received by General Hay, commanding Her Majesty's forces in the Muitinis, and restored to health by the hospital of our own countrymen.

The President.—The Meeting finally announced to the Meeting that at the request of the Council, he had invited Captain Hartzloe, a British officer of the 'Resolute' to dine with the Society prior to their departure from this country. The day had not been appointed yet, as Captain Hartzloe had been suddenly called to his ship—Her Majesty the Queen having signified her intention to visit the 'Resolute' on the next day.