EXPLORATIONS IN EASTERN AFRICA

THE caprice of fashion is able to influence a class of men whom we are accustomed to regard as the most independent of any, for we find travellers in search of adventure to follow the same general objects with an unanimity that could hardly have been anticipated. The current of roving Englishmen does not disperse itself equally over the known regions of the world, but is mostly directed to limited fields of enterprise, whether it be the Indian or the African coast, or the Great North-West. It appears as though the object of adventurers' enthusiasm was to explore new countries, and that the natural result of this enthusiasm was the formation of colonies, as the colonies of the Netherlands and the British establishments in the East. A few years ago, we read of the voyages of Captain Bligh, but now we hear of the adventures of Captain Livingstone, and the discoveries of the Portuguese and the English in the interior of Africa. It is not with us that the same enthusiasm for geographical discovery is shown, but it is prevalent in other countries. The romantic tales of the officers of the British East India Company, the descriptions of the African coast, and the predictions of the future of the British Empire, have excited the curiosity of the Englishman, and have induced him to follow the example of the French and the Dutch, and to explore the interior of Africa.

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