THE SOURCES OF THE NILT.

The other day I said, in one of my lectures, that the Nile, the river of the ancient world, was not the only important river in Africa. It is true that the Nile has always been the most important river in Africa, but it is by no means the only one. There are many other rivers in Africa that are equally important, or even more so.

For example, the Lake Nyasa, or Lake Malawi, is a large lake in southern Africa, and the largest lake in central Africa. It is located between the countries of Malawi, Mozambique, and Tanzania, and it is the source of the Shire River, which is an important river in southern Africa.

Another important river in Africa is the Zambezi River. It is located in southern Africa, and it is one of the longest rivers in Africa. It is located in countries such as Zimbabwe and Zambia, and it flows into the Indian Ocean.

The Orange River is another important river in southern Africa. It is located in South Africa, and it flows into the Atlantic Ocean. It is an important river for shipping and for irrigation.

These are just a few examples of the many important rivers in Africa. The Nile, however, remains the most important river in Africa, and it is a major source of water for millions of people.
which, after receiving other tributaries, becomes the Nile. Nile. Now and the two courses it traverses this week they told their countrymen and countrywomen some particulars of their story—at any rate, not a fragment of the Society's Friday meeting and at the Royal Institution on Wednesday evening. Other meetings that night, but their voices will tell more; but for their complete story we must wait for their printed book.

The interesting portions of what they have told so far, are those main geographical statements which we have here recorded. We consider some of the native nations who have their territories round and near Lake Nyasa. In the new country a cluster of such stations of King of Kagera's country (whose name is Kamunsa) is the most civilized of these native chiefs. Before entering Uganda Captain Speke spent many days with him. In manner and demeanour he might be compared with many Europeans. He owes much of this to the influence of an Indian merchant named Moses Mami, who helped him also by his advice to conquer his brother, with whom he was at war. Captain Speke was much entertained with many of his questions, some of which were certainly sufficiently curious—such as what became of the old mute, who was thrown overboard from the ship. When the king heard that he was disposed of good south he sent messengers to the King of Uganda. When the king took his yachting on Mochurichu Creek for several days; and he frequently went shooting with the prime minister and bad not a thing, would rush up to and shout him hastily by the head—a custom little known in that part of Africa.

We do not know all this is very hopeful. As the thorough exploration of Africa is perhaps the last problem of geographical enterprise, we are not likely to be far from the human race, so, probably, the complete subsistence of its miscellaneous native populations to civilization the last and farthest-off moral problem. If we were to make a beginning round Lake Nyasa, how should we set about it? Commerce and fair dealing, with missions to aid these are the standard and regular suggestions (and, by the bye, if Captain Speke is correctly reported, and has not misrepresented himself, was quite true to the second recipe in his talk with the King of Langi—and Speke who may be called cotton-mania—as much as they never hear of a new place but they want to hear about it, and very reason to do so. And of course, add their favourite suggestion. Meanwhile, at least, Captains Speke and Grant have increased our conceptions of knowledge. They have solved the great African mystery and uncovered the head of Nilus.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

LIFE OF VICTOR HUGO.

Victor Hugo recusse par un Théâtre de sa Vie, avec Oeuvres et Lettres de Victor Hugo, entre autres un Drama en Trois Actes—"L'île de Château. (Bruxelles et Leipziger: Lacroix, Verboeckhoven, 1862.)

NEW countries have produced such a generation of literary men as that which flourished in the last years in France during the fifteen years of the Restoration and the reign of the Citizen-King. Such historians as Guizot, Balzac, his relations and Thiers, such preachers as Lecerf, such singers as Béranger, such poets as Victor Hugo, Lamartine, Alfred de Musset, such novelists as Balzac, are not born every day; and yet those names represent but a very few of the many adorned during that wonderful period. There can be few more interesting subjects than the life of this unhappy and witty man, who occupied, as Victor Hugo did, a distinguished position among such a generation, and was foremost in many of its battles. We have said "a distinguished position;" in many respects it was the most distinguished; for, in our judgment, unquestionably the first, and the most typical and originality of his prose is certainly not in the best, even of that of Michelet himself.

The method adopted for giving the world a history of the life of this extraordinary man is the same as before. There are many autobiographies, but these are not always sincere, and there are many reminiscences written with every degree of friendliness and hostilily, but the memoirs have been written of "witness of Victor Hugo's life"—and report says it is the production of his wife. We will only say, that, as I have fully said, is utterly silent on the subject of his authorship, we are not in a position to speak with any degree of certainty or authority, but we will only say, that, Madame Victor Hugo be indeed the authoress, she has scarcely taken advantage of the knowledge she must possess to give us a full insight into her husband's character. We should have like a complete account of the successive phases through which his mind has gone, and of the formation of his opinions; and we would have to explain what manner of man he was, and to point out the want which we think exists in this book. Victor Hugo began his life with a few words in his "Livre des Poèmes en honneur of the Bourbon;" he is now a republican, and no one points at ultra-demontrac. This is a very great and a very radical change, and it is important that we should know by what causes it was effected, and what were its successive phases; yet the book scarcely gives us any answer to those very natural questions. Another similar want, and one which can be easily remedied, is the very want of a certain extent gather Victor Hugo's own mind from his books, is the absence of any character, which is as much wanted as his book. We are told, indeed, that she was a Voltairean in religion and a royalist in politics, and, to us, this is not a very interesting fact. But the only point of interest over her sons, who were devoted to her. But this is not enough; it gives us, indeed, a bare outline, but it does not constitute a mental portrait, such as Titian or Vandyke would have given of the body—a portrait by which we might know the persons as if we had lived with them.

Having made these remarks, we have nothing further to say in disparagement of the book. It is often eloquent, occasionally amusing, but always it is a book whose style shows by many affinities that the author has not only been a "witness of Victor Hugo's life," but also the most determined of his methods of thought and of writing. His first literary labours, his early efforts, his tenderness for the present and for the past, and the failure, success, is, with whom he did not in some way or other find in contact, there are naturally many characters and situations of life which it is undoubtedly to be given concerning them. The following is his first introduction—"if introduction it may be called—to the great literary critic and' Armand Carrel:—

Victor Hugo was calling one day on M. Rabbé (the sub-editor of the Théâtre de la Ville). A discussion arose between them of the subject of