

3 JANUARY, 1863.

equivalent to the *ringo* of the period: the words, as *though tyer*. Some bits of narrative are treated as speeches, and speeches as narrative, &c. But, notwithstanding all these shortcomings, we thank Professor Ilippeau for his English text, and are deeply grateful to him for his French one of this romance, as well as his editions of "Messire Gauvain," "La Vie de St. Thomas le Martyr," and "Le Bestiaire d'Amour de maître Richard de Poinival."

F. J. F.

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 unknown regions of the world, but is mostly directed to limited fields of enterprise, whence it is liable to be diverted, at any moment, by new objects of geographical curiosity. Several distinct regions of Africa have in their turns been the object of adventurers' enthusiasm. Many years ago the rage was for Egypt, at another time for the countries about the Niger. Richardson and Barth renewed the interest in Haussa and Bornu, established by Denham and Clapperton; and several excellent sportsmen brought the Karroes and the Kuli-hari into popular favour. The Congo well deserves similar attention, and will richly reward future travellers. But now the tide of British enterprise is strongly set upon Eastern Africa. No less than six important exploring parties are at this moment distributed over the 1500 miles which separate the mouth of the Zambesi River from the higher waters of the White Nile: they are those of Livingstone, Speke, Van der Decken, Petherick, and Baker, besides an expedition of Indian naval officers, up a river to the north of Mombas. We might have added to this list the University and other missions, as well as the names of a few sportsmen and others who are scattered about the same regions.

The energy of these explorers is the more remarkable as it can hardly be ascribed to stronger motives than geographical zeal encouraged by a general philanthropy towards the blacks. There appears no very definite goal in the way of commercial influence, or of pleasant travel, which these travellers can justly rely on obtaining. Their probability of success in the hard *cui bono* sense is undoubtedly small, while their self-imposed labours are peculiarly severe. Eastern Africa can be of little commercial value to the English, for it is separated from us by a long sea voyage, which is made far more tedious and roundabout than appears from the map, by the nature of the winds and currents. The soil of Eastern Africa is apparently less productive, as a whole, than other tropical lands; the inhabitants are more turbulent, more indolent, and less ingenious, than other tropical races; its harbours and navigable rivers are peculiarly rare; the unhealthiness of its coast decidedly great. As a scene of pleasant adventure, its attractions are naught; the natives are uncompanionable; game exists only in occasional localities, and must be pursued on foot, for horses do not live in the country; indeed, the unhappy traveller is usually compelled to walk every step of his journey, under an equatorial sun. On the other hand, when we consider the enormous and unexpected social advantages that, throughout the history of modern civilization, have followed the steps of isolated pioneers in geographical discovery, it is not for us who remain at home to discourage the researches of others. On the contrary, we should heartily applaud efforts which cost little in English money, or in English life, and are the more heroic as they are the more laborious and painful.

The romance of South African travel is

almost a thing of the past. We have no more tropical regions to explore, where the land is pastoral, the air pure and bracing, where game roams in countless herds, and where man is so sparsely present that the traveller moves like a chieftain with his retinue at his back, free to go where he likes, and conscious that none dare dispute his will. The land of Burchell, of Harris, of Gordon Cumming, and of the earlier days of Livingstone and Moffatt, was a royal scene for adventure, but is now wholly altered. The disenchanting hand of Anglo-Saxon civilization has passed over it; its limits are known, its game is exterminated, its charm of novelty and adventure has fled. The explorer of new scenes must now leave the lands of health and freedom behind him, and enter the malarious climates of the inner tropics, among negroes, tillers of the soil, who crowd the land and fetter his movements. Baldwin's recent work of adventure between the Cape and the Zambesi shows that some parts yet remain where a mounted sportsman with great perseverance and extraordinary physical power may yet hunt with large success; but its area is rapidly diminishing, and the characteristic herds of former days seem wholly to have disappeared.

Livingstone's journey to the Niassa Lake is a sufficient feat to have earned a reputation for any ordinary traveller. If it was not made in absolutely new country, it was certainly made in a region where we had only the statements of natives to guide us, of so vague a character as to leave the simplest geographical facts open to wide uncertainty. Livingstone has now successfully shown us that a great river, the Shiré, falls into the lower course of the Zambesi, and that on pursuing its channel to the northwards we pass fifty miles of rapids, and finally discover it to be the outlet of the Niassa Lake, a deep and stormy sea of a shape and size roughly resembling the English Channel from Dover to Devonshire, save in its position, which extends from South to North instead of from East to West. He travelled along its western shore for 200 miles and failed in discovering its head. Its breadth at the point where he turned back, had gradually increased to sixty miles. In short, Livingstone has ascertained that the rumoured freshwater sea is a lake of considerable magnitude, that it is certainly two thirds the length of the largest North American lake, and may possibly far exceed it, and that it is drained by an important river which debouches into the lower course of the Zambesi.

There is a remarkable disproportion between the waters that have as yet been found to run into the lake, and the enormous volume of the Shiré, which runs out of it. Livingstone himself is much struck by the comparison. In the 200 miles that he travelled, he only crossed five small streams. Neither did the disposition of the country make larger affluents probable. A range of mountains press close upon the western shore of the lake, affording but a small area of drainage; the waters that fall on their further slopes doubtless feeding a distant branch of the upper Zambesi. The eastern shore was not visited, but it also is mountainous, and we know from the narrowness of the strip that separates it from the sea, there can be little room for a lake-ward drainage. In fact the Niassa appears to occupy an abrupt fissure, parallel to the eastern coast. As an additional proof of the smallness of the area that supplies it with water, we find that during the season of heavy tropical rains the volume of the Shiré is not notably altered, while the level of the lake itself does not rise more than three feet. Where then can we find the cause of its uniform and abundant discharge of waters?

If we travel to the N.W., beyond the undiscovered head of the Niassa, we shall reach the unexplored foot of another great lake, the Tanganika, discovered by Burton and Speke, which shares all the peculiar features of the Niassa save one, and that it is absolutely contradicted. The Tanganika is of a slightly superior level to the Niassa; it runs north and south; it is deep and occupies

a basin (which, however, receives the drainage of a large area), and would appear to be due to the same geological causes that have created the Niassa. The difference is this, that whereas the Niassa, receiving trifling affluents, gives birth to a very important river, the Tanganika receiving manifold the quantity of water, is stated, on native authority, to be it marked, to have no outlet whatever. To make the peculiarity still more incomprehensible, Burton and Speke assure us, from their own observation at the parts of the lake to which they confined their exploration, that its level is absolutely unchanged after the enormous rains of the wet season of the year. The Tanganika obviously occupies a trough blocked on the north by mountains and rising land. It is at its southern end alone where we could expect to find an outlet, but here the hearsay report is to the effect that a river runs in. We must not take a statement like this with too unquestioning faith. A geographer learns to distrust native reports generally, and in particular those which refer to the direction of the current of a river. It would be easy to gather an array of instances in the history of geographical discovery, from the time when the Nile was said to run both ways from Syene, where native travellers have proved themselves incapable witnesses of that simple description of fact. If the southern river drains Tanganika instead of feeding it, the hydrography of the lake would become intelligible. Now for the next step. A crowd of independent rumours and statements, spreading over many years, assign a great northerly extension to the Niassa. We hear of the way in which it narrows, so that people can ferry across it, and then broadens out again. We also hear reports of lakelets both from Burton and Livingstone in the line that would connect the two lakes, but all beyond this is dark.

The hypothesis is in no way impossible, as regards the facts now before us, that the Tanganika is drained by a southern river which ultimately feeds the Niassa, and find its exit by the Shiré, into the Zambesi.

F. G.

(To be continued.)

SCIENCE—THE PAST YEAR.

BEFORE commencing, with the opening year, the pleasant task of chronicling in these columns the doings of the scientific world, I take it that we cannot do better than make a hasty survey of the progress that has been made during the past one, as not only shall we thus the better appreciate the vantage-ground from which we set out; but—as "coming events cast their shadows before"—we shall be able to anticipate in a measure the inquiries which will most probably demand our attention.

To begin our *resumé* with astronomy, first-born of the Sciences, we may congratulate ourselves upon the important results which have been accomplished by the application of modern methods of research, and the diligence of our observers combined with the exquisite truth and enormous power of the instruments now used under the best atmospheric conditions, *teste* Mr. Lassell at Malta. M. Foucault, about to proceed to some elevation in the South of France; the Russian Observatory on Mount Ararat; and the planetary observations, which Captain Jacob—now, alas! no more—was about to make on the hills near Poonah, with a large refractor, by Cooke, of York, supplied by our own Government, further evidence that the brilliant success of the Scottish Astronomer Royal's experiment on Tenerife is fully appreciated.

Not to be passed over among the events of the year, is the discovery of the variability of some of the Nebule, a fact which marks an epoch in the science, while the completion of the Bonn Star-atlas of the Northern Heavens is one of the wonders of the age. It is satisfactory to learn that the parallax measures of the planet Mars made this year, promise

instead of *s. argenteus*, giving *tr. argenteus*, parier raison, faire *r. baranger*.—Roguet. Seal seed him.—*Live*. des Rois. ratiocinando.—Duc. lar to that which we see in *Sc. r. design* (Squire of low Degree), *is. aring*, the origin of *Fr. aliar change* is seen in *OFr. m. maitre*.—Chron. Norm. 2.

which Diez adheres, is from ring, the initial of *h* of *Fr. rom* the *ON. Aringr.*

pleasure, but usually in a of dogs, to growl, to bark, to mop and mow.—Küttner. 1; *Swiss miffen*, to wrinkle *s. miffa*, to sniff. Snuffing the gn of anger and ill-temper. se offended with a thing, to

miffle, to wrap up in a more sion to wrap up in a more winter glove or sleeve, a *miff* it to say decidedly whether from *Fr. miffle*, the snout or *Fr. voux* (as to *muzzle*, to bind ive *muzzle*); or whether tho ing the person miffed up to. To *miffle*, to stutter, or speak *miffle*, to speak indistinctly; *unble*.—Hal. *Da. mafften*, to move the jaws or lips. It nation that *Swab. unmemel* covering the face up to the to speak unintelligibly. But it of the matter the ultimate *te, moffle*, like so many other e, are from the muttering of the jaws, expressed by med. See *Muzzle*. *pid fellow*.—Hal. *Da. maf*, so, (of the weather) sultry; to make a fool of one. *Prov. m maffe*, to stammer, and no way form miff, muffle,

the reader will see *Fr. Wedgwood* is, and covers. The Insonic opted, and the work- fully tracked, is the writer of this review in time, be found e origin of most (if e diversities of their has studied Mr. many years, and his eard, and does not is the best book on written, and worthy if every scholar and oreover, this place is whether the student y or not, for in no much historical and ght together for the ogies of the English s.

IN EASTERN A.

ed.) mainly confined our one and the Niassa lowe will occupy our- rs who are dispersed of Africa. Van der engaged at Mombas besprinkled moun- naking preparations nore distant and far in Kenia. In the on of Indian naval one of the large fombas, which, like appears to admit, of rable distance and gation. et African discovery tion of Speke, who t was last heard of .lat. 3 deg. just of Nianza Lake. In this comparatively experienced all the readers of new to his own zery same region usly, he had tra-

detained for months by famine, desertion, plunder, and severe fever. Mutability is characteristic of the barbarous tribes of Africa. Because a road is open to travellers in one year, there is no reliance to be placed on its security in the next. We cannot help thinking that Speke was rendered too sanguine by the successes of his first expedition, to realize the difficulties of the great journey to the White Nile upon which he is now engaged. He and his companions have many hardships to undergo, and it will probably be long before they emerge into the light of civilization; but there seems no reason for alarm about their safety. Their prestige of success has certainly been tarnished; their losses of property, the money of those parts, has been serious; but at the date of the their latest letters, Speke had recovered from illness, his scattered party was reunited; good interpreters had been engaged, and he was again on the advance.

Many efforts are made to succour Speke from the North, and possibly, in doing so, to anticipate his discovery of the sources of the White Nile. The chief of these expeditions are those of Petherick and Baker. The former has the advantage of long familiarity with the White Nile and the position of British Consul to the Soudan; but he travels with so large a party, including his wife, that his movements may be embarrassed when he arrives at Gondakoro, where river navigation ends and foot journeying must begin. Mr. Baker, the author of the "Rifle and the Hound in Ceylon," has started by himself on the same quest as Petherick, after several months' exciting sport in the country watered by the tributaries of the Atbara River. A large part of this district is new to geographers: we now learn that few districts remain in Africa where first-rate elephant shooting, and other sports of the highest class, can be enjoyed so readily as there. Abyssinia and its neighbourhood are brought very near to us by modern lines of communication. Massowa, its port on the Red Sea, is in regular communication with Suez; while those who prefer reaching it by way of the Nile find a regular service of camel posts, which convey them from a station between the first and second cataracts, by a hard twelve days' journey across the Bishari desert, to the confluence of the Atbara and the Nile.

To return to the expeditions in search of Speke. At a few days' sail above the mouth of the Atbara, we reach, as is well known, the confluence of the Blue and White Niles, and the great town of Khartum, which is the Ultima Thule of Egyptian civilization. Here, at a distance by river of nearly 2000 miles from Alexandria, or at twice the distance of the second cataract, is the starting point of the ivory traders. They equip boats, and engage armed crews, and traffic for a distance of yet another 1000 miles, among the barbarous nations of the White Nile: a succession of rapids impede further navigation. There is no reason to suppose that any white traveller has penetrated eighty miles to the south of Gondakoro, where these rapids begin, and which is itself in about the fourth degree of N. latitude. As for the strange route-map appended by Mr. Petherick to his book, and copied, without question, even in Mr. Keith Johnston's atlas, there appears no doubt that that gentleman, owing to his ignorance of all methods of astronomical determinations, was enormously erroneous in his estimates, and that his furthest station, instead of being on the Equator, and far to the westward of the Nile, was, in fact, not more than three or four days' march to the S.W. of Gondakoro.

We have thus traced the courses of the principal travellers now in the field, from the Atbara to the Zambesi: let us consider what insight we have gained by their experiences into the condition of the natives that inhabit that vast region. We may assert without fear of exaggeration, that nearly every part of Eastern Africa of which we have received certain information; is at this moment vexed by brutal wars. And we are further bound

to the arguments of those who believe that the panacea of African ills is the suppression of the foreign slave trade and the introduction of foreign commerce. First, as to the White Nile. We hear of numerous traders sailing with armed crews, of perhaps one hundred men in search of ivory. The gains of successful traffic are enormous, the risks to life and health are desperate; consequently the ventures are mainly undertaken by reckless men. The crews are enlisted in Khartum, which is one of the greatest sinks of iniquity upon earth, and their misdoings are a curse to the natives with whom their masters traffic. The greed of the ivory dealers, the inhumanity of their crews, and the turbulence of the natives are predisposing causes to continual and savage *mélées*. The negroes give frequent offence: this is retaliated by merciless onslaught followed by plunder, which perpetuate the dispositions that led both to the offence and to the retaliation. Innocent actions are construed into guilty ones, in order that the crews of the trading vessels may have a show of reason for their inhumanity and robberies.

In short, we learn from numerous independent sources—German, English, and French—that the White Nile is one scene of lawlessness, beginning at a comparatively short distance above Khartum, and extending further than Gondakoro. The slave-trade is rife, but is harmless as a cause of disturbance. It is not developed to an extent that tempts one tribe to make war on its neighbour solely to procure slaves for the market. The captives acquired in the White Nile are only one result of the marauding attacks of the ivory-traders and their crews. They murder, burn, and rob under colour of retaliation; the objects of robbery are those things of value which come nearest to hand—it may be ivory, it may be slaves, or anything else.

The foreign slave trade is still active along the coast of Eastern Africa, between Zanzibar and the Zambesi; but the causes that led to the disputes which intercepted the progress of Speke, and to those which put a stop to the advance of Livingstone, are wholly unconnected with it. The first cause was due to a disputed succession to a chieftainship, to a famine, and to a weakening of the power of the Sultan of Zanzibar. The latter was a mere marauding attack. The embroilment of two tribes, in which the members of the University Mission on the banks of the Shiré, took an unfortunate part, was due to the ejection of one of them from their homes, by the onslaught of a third.

P. G.

ART.

I.—MR. LEECH'S GALLERY.

MR. LEECH'S Gallery of Sketches in Oil was closed yesterday, after a most successful season. Although these sketches were but enlarged fac-similes of those with which we have been long familiar in the pages of *Punch*, yet they were touched by the master's hand, and thus attracted us by a fresh interest.

These sketches have formed one of the most popular exhibitions in London, and deservedly so; they pander to no false tastes, but, through the medium of an essentially English humour, lead our sympathies in the right direction; and the influence they have upon us tends to make us more kindly and genial and tolerant to our brethren, less satisfied with and more humble in ourselves.

Mr. Leech's genius as an artist is unique. He has many imitators; but the difference between them and their prototype is one not of degree, but of kind. There is a breadth about his view of the life of his generation which will make his collected works an epitome of that life, for the delight and instruction of the generations to come. It is a gross blunder to call him a caricaturist; he is a great artist. A moment's reflection will convince us of the difference that exists between him and the vulgar

condition of life, but embrace all in a catholic view. Whether he exhibits to us a Duchess in her carriage, whose tall funkey is peeling away at a knocker in Belgravia, or some urchin children in a go-cart, requesting "Jemima" to knock at the door of an empty house, he makes us feel, what we are too apt to forget, that there is the same human nature in both cases. He sows no division among us. We all like one another better when in his company. He has taught all classes to know each other and themselves better. He is only severe upon falsehood, which he does not spare in any shape; he is fond of exposing pretension and assumption, but he rejoices in modesty and pluck.

His progress as an artist has been remarkably sustained. It is by turning to his early drawings in *Punch*, that we become conscious of his advance. His work is, and always was, free from any vestige of vulgarity; but of late there has been a more complete and just sense of the fitness of what we may call the accessories, or background of his figures. A lady's boudoir has always the indications of such furniture or knick-knacks as would be found in such a place. The bedroom of *l'aterfamilias* presents the picture of the comfortable middle-class matrimonial apartment. The nursery, the kitchen, the Government office, the club, will all be found in Mr. Leech's sketches to have the salient points touched off with a remarkable delicacy and taste. Of his hunting fields, his watering places, his Scotch salmon streams, we need not speak: they are happily immensely popular; which indicates a healthy love of nature in the nation at large, whose sympathies have been so truly touched by them.

Mr. Leech hardly required an exhibition to make him better known to us. We all rejoice to welcome him every week, and long may it be our privilege to do so, in the pages of *Punch*. Nor do we think that our estimate of his ability can be raised by such a reproduction of his works. Their merit is independent of size or colour; we have just as great pleasure in looking over the small woodcuts; and from them we form as high an opinion of his power as we are ever likely to do by subjecting them to any process of reproduction.

But we are cheered to think that this exhibition has been successful, and profitable at the same time, to an artist who will be remembered long after most of his contemporaries have been forgotten.

II.—WATER-COLOUR PAINTERS—LANCASHIRE RELIEF FUND.

THE appeal from Lancashire has been responded to by the Artists and Amateurs of the kingdom in a characteristic manner. One Exhibition, consisting of Water-colour paintings, chiefly by professional artists, is now open in New Bond Street. Another, to consist of Works by Artists and Amateurs, either in Oil or Water-colours, is announced to open, early in the week, at the Gallery in Suffolk Street. It would be difficult and invidious to estimate the value of such contributions as these. One man does nothing without hard brain work; another flings away, without much care, sketches that cost little effort in their manufacture. To each man his own sacrifice is well known; and it is for us to receive the general result, appreciating and interpreting kindly each man's offering. Every picture is a free gift from the Artist; and the whole collection is to be sold, either privately or by means of guinea subscription tickets, on the plan of the Art Union of London. We trust a handsome sum will be realized in favour of our Lancashire brothers. An acknowledgment to Lancashire is due from Artists especially. For some years past the support of Art has chiefly come from the populous districts in the North. The works in Bond Street testify generally to a sense of this obligation. The contributions are often among the best works of their respective