

Lands Yet

Unexplored.

The latter half of the nineteenth century has been remarkable for the many geographical novelties that explorers have brought from Africa. In less than five decades this long neglected continent has been opened, converted into civilized States and protectorates, become thickly dotted with Christian missions and fairly prepared for civilized enterprise.

In the first decade—1850-60—we had the sources and course of the great Zambezi River, with its wonderful Victoria Falls made known to us. The Tanganika—the longest lake in Africa was also discovered.

During the second decade—1860-70—we obtained a rough outline of the Victoria Nyanza. The Nile was thence descended throughout its whole length. The Albert Nyanza, another feeder of the Nile was discovered, and soon after Lake Nyassa appeared to grace our maps.

The third decade—1870-80—was still more fruitful of results. We had first the sources of a new river of the first magnitude, and its lakes Mweru and Bangweulu revealed to us. A short time afterward this river was proved to be the Congo, by a descent along its entire course. Lakes Victoria and Tanganika were circumnavigated. An ascent of the snow mountain Kilimo Njaro was made; Kenia, another snow mountain of similar magnitude, was discovered; a better knowledge of the Lower Niger and its principal tributaries was gained, the Ogowai was explored; the gorilla haunts of Northern Gaboon were visited.

The fourth decade—1880-90—was still richer in results, and so great was the progress of exploration that all the civilized powers responded to a call for a general conference to decide the ownership of the territories discovered and to formulate certain rules and principles for future procedure. Out of this the Congo Free State came into existence, a free trade zone was delimited, the French Congo was defined and the limits of Portuguese the European powers commenced a scramble for African possessions which lasted for several years. German warships coasted round the continent and seized upon the Cameroons, the gold coast, Namakwa and Damara Land, and a large section of East Africa. French travellers distinguished themselves by annexations to the north of the Congo and the Western Soudan, until many countries hitherto unknown by name had been converted into a French colonial empire of unprecedented extent. Italy entered Abyssinia, established Erythraea and made the whole horn of Eastern Africa an Italian protectorate. Finally England became infected with the land hunger, and, though reluctant and protesting, extended British rule from the Cape to the Tanganika, absorbed a portion of East Africa and expanded her West Africa possessions.

This was also the period when South Africa advanced in popular esteem by leaps and bounds on account of its increasing outputs in diamonds and gold. The Congo disclosed its wealth of ivory, rubber and hard woods, and a forest which rivaled that of the Amazon in extent and possible productions. The Congo's tributaries were explored and new lakes were found. Almost every month something new and strange was told of its hydrography and topography. The Niger region became also prominent because of its human myriads, who were discovered to be past their savage state, and already developed into industrious barbarians. Nyassa Land, which in the sixties was deserted for its deadly record, took a new start, and became a land of promise for coffee planters.

In the present decade the scrambling for territory ceased and most of the governments have begun the development of their African possessions. They have ringed them with custom houses and garrisoned forts, and are jealously policing their frontiers. Regiments of natives have been drilled and uniformed, missions, schools and churches are flourishing, while every symptom of the slave trade, which was fast devastating the interior, even in the eighties, has disappeared. The enormous area of inner Africa, which only twenty-three years ago was only a blank, is now known to geographers and governments as the Uganda and East African protectorates of Great Britain, German East Africa, Mozambique, Rhodesia, Angola, Congo Francise, the Cameroons, Nigeria and southern Soudan, which are administered by their respective Governor-Generals and thousands of European officials.

It will thus be seen that geographical

novelties have already become scarce even from Darkest Africa. Geographical societies still hold their seances, but their halls are no longer crowded with breathless audiences thrilled with stories of startling discoveries, and applauding the newest thing from the heart of mysterious Africa. It is now the period of railways and telegraphs and steamers. The Congo's broad waters are disturbed by hundreds of steamers—the Nyassa is rapidly becoming like a Swiss Lake with its many steam ferries—the Tanganika and Victoria Nyanza have already seen the pioneers of the steam fleets which will appear before the next century dawns. The Congo, the Uganda and other railway lines now in prospect make mystery and novelty almost impossible and narrow the field of the pioneer explorer.

And yet the first decades of the twentieth century may reveal to us astonishing things from Africa. While the world lasts we shall never quite exhaust the region. Even at this very moment there is a company being floated in London to utilize the discovery of a nitrous deposit dust found near the site of ancient Memphis. If any spot on earth may be called old surely that one may, but even after 6,000 years of human occupation it has rewarded the explorer.

Therefore, though Africa's main geographical features are fairly familiar to us, in its recesses are to be found many a secret yet. Nay I venture to say despite my preamble that the continent remains for most practical purposes as unknown to us, as when Victoria Nyanza and the Congo were undiscovered. The names of the mountains, towns, villages, settlements and tribes have been written on the blank spaces of the maps, but what of that? They are but the distinguishing terms of their respective localities and are useful for reference. This work has occupied twenty-five centuries, and the devotion of the countless explorers whose object was not to examine details, but to reach some objective—and who had no time or opportunity to do more than note the more prominent features along their routes. Thus English travellers and South Africa passed over the diamond fields and occupied farmsteads above the gold fields for scores of years without suspecting the immeasurable wealth beneath. Thus several travellers whose business it was to explore came within distance of Ruwenzori without suspecting that its showy crown might be seen three miles above their heads.

The work of the old class of African explorers may be said to come to an end with the last year of the nineteenth century though their remain a few tasks yet incomplete. The twentieth century is destined to see, probably within the next decade or two, the topographic delineation of a large portion of the continent by geodetic triangulation. For the more the various States and protectorates ripen under the influence of their civilized governments the more will exact surveys be needed to settle conflicting international claims, as well as for the purpose of revenue and administration and the security of property inland. Good work of this kind has already been done to Somali Land, along the Anglo-German frontier in East Africa—between Nyassa and Tanganika, along the Anglo-Portuguese boundary line south of Zambesi—in Tunis, Algeria and Abyssinia. If this work is pushed we shall not have to wait many years for an accurate map of the continent.

Meantime, however, there are certain exploring tasks of an interesting character which might well invite young men of means and character. Those who are fond of alpine climbing, and aspire to do something worth doing, might take either of the snowy mountains Ruwenzori, Kenia, Mfumbiro and explore it thoroughly after the style of Hans Meyer who took Kilima Njaro for his subject. There are peaks also in the Elgon cluster north of the Victoria Nyanza, over 14,000 feet high, which might well repay systematic investigation. It is not the tourist who runs up a mountain and starts for home to say that he has done it, that he wanted, but the intelligent explorer who undertakes to make his mountain his special study, and will give us a full and accurate monograph of these lofty heights which in the not distant future are destined to be often resorted to for the recuperation of the lowland toilers in the tropics.

British East Africa contains two sections about which we are very ignorant. One embraces all that region lying between the

Jub River and Lakes Stephanie and Rudolf. The other extends from Lake Rudolf to Fashoda on the other hand and southern Abyssinia on the other. A thorough knowledge of these two regions would throw light on the main routes taken by the ancient immigrants, from Abyssinia, and whose blood, blending with that of the primitive tribes south, has produced the Zulus. Two exploring expeditions, well conducted, would settle the sources of the Jub and the Sobat, define the northern reach of the Mau plateau, and the southern limits of the spurs extending from the mountainous mass of Abyssinia. Between these, some interesting lakes ought to be found.

Another promising region extends between the Tanganika and Albert Edward lakes. A dozen explorers have touched the edge of this region, but one has crossed it. His intelligent observations have rather excited that allayed interest. We wish to know where is the separating line between the head of the River Basin and that of the Albert Edward. We are told of active volcanoes and clusters of mountain peaks of unusual height. A thorough investigation of this part would discover the southwestern sources of the Nile and the eastern sources of the Congo. The people inhabiting the region would be found to be among the most interesting of any in Africa. For unless we are much mistaken, they are relics of a great prehistoric migration cooped up in that peculiar recess formed by the Tanganika to the south, the mountain chains to the east and the great Congo forest to the west, while the war loving races marching to the south moved past them apparently unheeded and unheeding.

The next bit of real interest for the explorer is a strip barely 50 miles wide but 700 miles long lying between 28 degrees, 40 minutes east and 29 degrees, 30 east and between 4 degrees north and 8 degrees south. Earnest and systematic work in this part of the Congo Free State would settle many geographical questions, such as, the exact line of the great upheaval which occurred at the subsidence of the vast trough wherein lie Lakes Albert, Albert Edward, Kivu and Tanganika. From the western slopes of this long upland, which is believed to be now mainly forested, rise the head waters of the Welle-Mubangi, Arumiwi, Chofu, Loma, Lindi, Lira, Luama and other rivers. How far east does the forest extend along this line? How far west does the plains reach? In what part of this region should be located the centre of the seismic disturbance which made such a huge earth rent? How many volcanoes are still in operation along the gigantic mole which has been piled west of the chain of lakes? Though several explorers have crossed this region their traverses are mere threads of travel and disclose but little of its character.

Nor must we forget the great lakes of Africa also offer tempting objects for intelligent research. We have no idea as yet of the nature of their beds, or of their depth, or of their fame, and their outlines have been but imperfectly sketched. Yet these lakes cover about 75,000 square miles of inner Africa. Moreover, it is really time that some explorer should come forward with the determination to ascertain the altitude of the Victoria Nyanza or Tanganika by the theodolite and spirit level, previous to making a trustworthy survey of these lakes.

The President of the Royal Geographical Society lately said that South America contained a larger unexplored area than Africa. Though the statement should not be taken too literally, it is certainly true that there are considerable areas awaiting exploration. West and north western

Brazil contain several parts as little known to the European world as the darkest parts of Africa. The debateable territory between Ecuador and southeastern Columbia, parts of Cuzco and La Paz in Bolivia; the Peruvian Andes, the upper Basin of the Pilcomayo and an extensive portion of Patagonia are regions of promise. A great part of the Andean Cordillera is completely unknown, both as to its topography and its geology.

The secrets of the plains of Argentina, of its renowned pampas, and of the Patagonian tableland are still waiting solution. The fauna of the Andean lakes is still a mystery. Those who are engaged in the study of the past history of mankind would find an ample harvest in those American mountains and finally those who should investigate the economic value of the physical conditions of that country would be well compensated for their labors of exploration there.

Of late since Col. Prejvalsky's explorations in mid Asia the world has been interested in the exploits of explorers like those of Younghusband, James Rockhill, Littledale and Sven Hedin, who have found something new even in that old continent. The twentieth century will not find Central Asia so difficult of access as it was during the nineteenth.

The Great Siberian railway will afford many a starting place for explorations to the South and the fifth part of the Asiatic continent which lies between Lake Baikal and the Himalaya range furnishes a very large field for them. Sven Hedin has made a brilliant record in traversing the heart of Asia, and it would be singular if his successful exploration should not stimulate others to emulate his hardihood and daring. Tibet has long withstood the attempts of travellers to penetrate it for a systematic survey. Our knowledge of the country though on the whole considerable has been gained furtively and by snatches or short rushes, resembling somewhat the manner in which Europeans during the early part of this century endeavored to reach the interior of Africa. Malaria and savage man opposed them everywhere just as the jealousy of the Chinese and superstitious ignorance of the Tibetans oppose modern travellers. Perseverance will conquer in the end—and both Tibet and China will have to yield. Arabia and Persia await the Wallins, Palgraves, Burtons and Doughtys of the future, wise and tactful travellers accomplished in the languages of Oman and Ajim, learned in Oriental history and saturated with Eastern lore. The mission of such will be to resurrect the dead past, delve among old ruins, revive the forgotten histories, and forecast the methods by which those venerable races may be brought into touch and communion with the busy world which abhors exclusiveness.

There are many tracts in Australia still unknown, but these may safely be left for the Australians, who have shown themselves peculiarly qualified in every way to solve all geographical questions affecting their interests.

Those of the twentieth century who may be inclined to explore the icy regions will have ample time to test their powers. The last half of the nineteenth century has been exceedingly indifferent to polar lands and seas, though we are not altogether without splendid examples of what we could have done had we been so inclined. Kane, Nares, Greely Peary, Nordenskiöld, Wiggins Nansen and others, have done marvellously well, and the map shows clearly what territory we have gained from the once unknown North. Still a vast region remains. North of the 60th degree parallel of latitude lie Greenland, Baffin Land, Northern Canada and Alaska, which contain large blank patches. The last years of the century have witnessed a growing interest in the northern extremity of our globe, and we are yet in doubt as regards the fate of poor Andree and his companions. In 1900 we shall probably hear of the departure of an Antarctic expedition to explore that vast circumpolar area extending over 30 degrees of latitude which lies in the Southern Hemisphere.

In this necessarily brief sketch of the explorations yet to be accomplished by the bold spirits of the coming century, it must not be imagined that I have included all the tasks that must engage explorers. Hundreds upon hundreds will find ample work in correcting, revising and refining the hasty work performed by pioneers in Africa, America, Asia and Australia, until the highest point of accuracy and precision has been attained. There are signs that the world is getting impatient with sloven and in exact work, and expect superior merits in the explorers of the future. This is but natural, after being satiated with novelties, and another reason is perhaps that the increase in the number of geographical societies has been so great that the geographical public has become more learned and fastidious in its tastes and requires the best that can be obtained. As the societies are so willing to coach intending explorers and prepare them for their tasks, I have no doubt that such men as they need will be forthcoming and as amply endowed with physical powers and mental fitness as any who ever ventured into the unknown.

—Henry M. Stanley.

FLASHES OF FUN.

A pretty maid went out to shop;
She travelled 'round about
To all the stores, and wouldn't stop—
She turned them inside out
For samples bits of silk and lace;
The clerks were almost dead;
And wending homeward from the chase,
She brought a spool of thread.

Father—History repeats itself.

Son—It don't in our school. They make us kids do it.

'He who goes too often to the links soon finds himself bound in chains to the game,' says the golf philosopher knowingly.

Mrs. Blobs—Why do you call your new cook Misery?

Mrs. Slobbs—Because she loves company.

'I don't blame her,' groaned the dying man, whose wife had shot him in the head. 'She mistook me for a marauder who might wake the baby.'

Lady—Why don't you go to work for a living?

Tramp—Well, lady, I want to give everything else a fair trial first!

Pennoyer—Why do so many of these prize fighters call themselves 'the kid'? Prettiw!—I suppose it is because it's so hard to put a kid to sleep.

First M. D.—What a lot of things have been found in the vermiform appendix.

Second M. D.—And look at the money that's been taken out of it!

'Was the play shocking?' asked one blasé theatre goer.

'Not a bit,' answered the other. 'I went home before it was half over.'

'How do you feel?' asked the sympathetic friend.

'Like a clock—very much run down,' replied the victim of the trolly accident.—

'Let me see,' said the man at the desk, pausing with his pen in air, 'who was the author of "Twice Told Tales"?'

'Chauncey Depew wasn't?' suggested the man at the other desk.

'Kentucky is one of the liveliest states in the union,' remarked the young man.

'It is,' answered Col. Stillwell, 'beyond a doubt. When I was last there every man I met was running for office or running for his life.'

'Do you notice how the prisoner hangs on the witness's words?' asked one lawyer of another.

'Yes, and I think he will hang on them still more decidedly now very far in the future.'

'Twas over study ailed the star,
The papers said, but when
Her under-study made a hit
She got quite well again.

You talk about the man in war
Who death and carnage faces,
Think of the chap who stands flush pat
Against jack full on ace.

Mistress—I saw two policemen sitting in the kitchen with you last night, Bridget.

Bridget—Well, ma'am, yez wouldn't hav an unmarried lady be sittin' with only wan policeman, would yez? The other wan wuz a chaperon.

Coldwater—My friends, I vote as I pray.

Bibber (on the front seat)—Deacon, confeshun's good f'r the soul. Tell us now wuther you vote early'n often, or wuther you pray only once a year.

'Jones called up his first wife at the seance last night, and what do you think he said to her?' asked Smith.

'Goodness knows,' said Brown.

'He asked her if she would give his second wife her receipt for mince-meat.'

Meeks—Some always speaks well of everybody.

Weeks—Merely a force of habit.

Weeks—How so?

Weeks—He's a marble cutter, and his specialty is cutting epitaphs on grave-stones.

Miss Freshleigh—Can you tell me, Mr. Sportleigh, if race horses are subject to any peculiar cutaneous disease?

Mr. Sportleigh—Not that I know of. Why do you ask, Miss Freshleigh?

Miss Freshleigh—Because I often read in the papers that so-and-so was scratched by its owner before the race.

'Cawn't imagine why the boss gets so furious when I wear a red vest,' drawled the young man who chalks market quotations on a blackboard.

'You can't Eddie?' responded the clerk from upstairs. 'Well, you are slow. Don't you know bulls can't bear red? Work for a bear and wear anything you like.'

'I don't think the editor will sit on this joke,' said the funny man, as he laid down his pen.

'Because of the point, I presume,' said the horse reporter.

'No' but because it's a standing joke. Replied the man of humor, 'one of the crowded street car brand, you know.'

'Evidently you were overlooked in the account of the entertainment last night,' said the gossip.

'Oh, no,' replied Mrs. Parvenu. 'I was mentioned.' Didn't you see the last line of the list of those present?

'Yes, it read "and others."

'That's me,' asserted Mrs. Parvenu proudly but ungrammatically.

The lovers forsook difficulties.

'A chasm,' he exclaimed, 'yawns at our feet!'

Vivian Briekit, the Chicago girl, had never looked more beautiful than she was looking tonight; but there was a good deal of horse sense about her for all that.

'Perhaps it's because my feet are such a chestnut,' she suggested, with the utmost candor.

Agony of Eczema.

Couldn't sleep at night with the torture.

Eczema, or Salt Rheum as it is often called, is one of the most agonizing of skin diseases, nothing but torture during the day and two-fold torture at night.

But there's a remedy permanently cures the worst kind of Eczema—relieves the itching, burning and smarting and soon leaves the skin smooth and healthy.

It is Burdock Blood Bitters.

Mrs. Welch, Greenbank, Ont., tried it and here is what she says:

"B.B.B. cured me of Eczema three years ago and I have had no return of it since. I was so bad that I could not sleep at night with it."

"Being told of B.B.B. I tried it, and two bottles made a perfect and permanent cure."