

landed from those ships, as well as from two colliers, which had also been sent round; so that Mr. Landsborough, who had been recommended for the search by Mr. Gregory, was at once enabled to explore for some distance into the interior.

In the mean time Mr. Walker, who was sent with a party of aboriginal troopers from Brisbane and Rockhampton, having gained the mouth of the Albert, passed in his route the river Flinders, near the sea, and there, to his delight, found the distinct tracks of Burke's party; thus realising the truth of the narrative of the sole survivor, King, that Burke and Wills really reached the salt water of the Gulf of Carpentaria. This discovery further confirms the belief of the astronomers and geographers who inquired into the subject, that it was the mouth of the Flinders, and not of the Albert, which the gallant adventurers had reached. Being supplied with provisions for four months, Mr. Walker then returned to the mouth of the Flinders, to follow up the trail of Burke; and, as he had been gone 80 days when Captain Norman left the mouth of the Albert, we may reasonably expect to hear soon of his arrival at Cooper's Creek and the colony of Victoria.

Whilst Walker is thus occupied, Mr. Landsborough is proceeding southwards, on the meridian of the Albert River, to Victoria; and thus by this double exploration the whole of the region to which Sir H. Barkly has worthily assigned the name of "Burke's Land" will be thoroughly made known to us.

That which to many cautious persons seemed to be a chimera a few years ago, but which the writer of these lines has always regarded as a most desirable result, will therefore ere long be accomplished, and the shores of Tropical Australia will, through its great indentations, the Gulf of Carpentaria and Cambridge Gulf, be fairly occupied by our colonists, who, communicating with the southern colonies, from whence they spring, by the lines opened out by Stuart and Burke, will carry on an advantageous intercourse with the Eastern Archipelago, and afford grand and useful bays of refuge to all imperilled vessels. Truly we may now rejoice that our Council has wisely, as well as generously, judged in assigning a Medal to the family of Burke, and in not omitting to mark their sense of the faithful conduct and truthful narrative of the brave old soldier, King.

Whilst such has been the progress of discovery in hitherto unknown lands, our knowledge concerning the real mineral structure of the regions already colonised has been largely increased.

The admirable Geological Maps of Victoria, prepared by Mr. Selwyn, and the palæontological illustrations thereof, by Professor McCay, would do honour to the most advanced country in Europe; and though the other colonies cannot as yet boast of similar proficiency in maps and sections, every geologist knows how much his science is indebted to the Rev. W. B. Clarke, for his long-continued and successful endeavours in developing the true geological structure of New South Wales.

If from Australia we extend our observations to other regions of Australasia colonised by Britain, you perceive the rapid progress which is made in the development of wealth, commerce, and civilisation. Thus in Tasmania, thanks to the vigorous endeavours of my young and able friend Mr. Charles Gould, coal-fields of value in the north-eastern portion of that great island have been laid open, and the valuable substance, dysodile, has been extracted.

Again, in New Zealand the Local Governments are exerting themselves to procure the services of scientific men, who, possessing an acquaintance with geography and topography, are well versed in the sciences of geology and mineralogy, and can indicate upon maps the real value of the subsoil of each district. Thus, whilst the able geologist, Dr. Hochstetter, who was one of the men of science who sailed round the world in the Austrian frigate *Novara*, has made us well acquainted with the nature of the rocks and the usefulness of the fossils found around Auckland, my friend Dr. Hector (with whose merits this Society is so well acquainted, through his admirable labours as the senior scientific officer of Palliser's expedition in North America) is now the geologist, geographer, and naturalist of the thriving Scottish colony of Otago, in the southernmost of the New Zealand islands.

So earnest, indeed, are the colonists of New Zealand to obtain a scientific insight into the nature of their rocks, that applications have recently been made to Sir R. Murchison to secure the services of a competent person to conduct a geological survey of the newly-settled district of Wellington.

AFRICA.*

It is long since tidings have reached us from either of our two medallists, Livingstone and Speke, in whose explorations our Society takes especial interest, both from the brilliancy of their former

* Francis Galton, Esq., Hon. Secretary, R.G.S.

achievements and the importance of their present undertakings. Just before the anniversary of 1861 we heard of Livingstone's departure from the Zambesi, in his small steamer, to examine the Rovuma River and ascertain whether any basis existed for the often-expressed belief that that river would afford a convenient and a neutral highway to the vast regions of the Niassa, independent of the complications of Portuguese territorial claims. The result of his examination reached us shortly afterwards: it was far from satisfactory. His steamer of light draught was unable to ascend the Rovuma for more than a few miles, before it became necessary to return hastily, else she would have been left grounded by the falling waters until the ensuing rainy season. Livingstone then revisited the Zambesi and established the members of the University mission in the healthiest quarters he could find near the banks of the Shiré.

We have heard nothing whatever of Speke since our last anniversary, except a fragment of news which is exceedingly satisfactory, though it left him at a stage and a date little removed from where he last wrote to us. It will be remembered that he had then described himself in trouble. The desert of Ugogo was peculiarly parched in 1861; he and the natives had difficulty in obtaining food, and a large number of his porters had deserted and left him. We have since learnt, through a native merchant who had interchanged a few passing words with him, that Speke was accompanied by a fresh body of porters, that he had extricated himself from the desert of Ugogo, and was travelling rapidly and in excellent force on the way to Unianyembe.

Provisions will not fail him if he emerges this summer at Gondakoro on the White Nile, for by aid of the funds liberally subscribed by many Fellows of this Society and by Mr. Consul Petherick's furtherance, boats laden with grain were despatched by that gentleman, under a proper escort, from Khartum up the White Nile, early in this year.

The present condition of the White Nile is such as to grieve deeply those who believe commerce to be the most effectual agent in civilizing Africa. Fifteen years ago the natives along its shores were mostly inoffensive and hospitable to travellers; but the stream of trade that has yearly passed along it, uncontrolled by any moral supervision, and mostly in the hands of reckless adventurers and lawless crews, has driven the numerous tribes along its banks into so general and deep an hostility against strangers, that the White

Nile cannot now be ascended except by an armed force of considerable magnitude.

The hopes we entertained last year of an increased knowledge of the Upper White Nile, through the independent labours of M. Lejean and Dr. Peney, have failed us, owing to the illness and return of the former gentleman and the premature death of the latter. Dr. Peney did some good service to geography before he died: he travelled westwards from Gondakoro for 60 miles, and there apparently struck the penultimate stage of Petherick's former expedition. If this be the case—and the identity of the names of the places and tribes and geographical features leave hardly room for doubt—an enormous rectification becomes necessary in the estimated extent and direction of Petherick's itinerary. Peney also travelled above Gondakoro, through the cataracts, to nearly the furthest point of which we have even a rumour, and he places his goal at about one degree south of Gondakoro, and on absolutely the same meridian.

The determination of the altitude and snowy summit of Kilimanjaro, by the Baron von der Decken and his geological associate Mr. Thornton, has gladdened African geographers, who felt it was little creditable to their science that so interesting a subject should remain year after year open to question. It is a pleasure to find that the wanderings of missionaries, solely in the pursuit of their calling, should have led them here, as it has often done elsewhere, to be the first discoverers of new lands and pioneers to more accurate research.

An elaborate report on the dominions of Zanzibar, by Lieut.-Colonel Rigby, has been published in the Selections from the Records of the Bombay Government. It appears from subsequent accounts that the condition of that island has lately fallen into a very disturbed state.

On the coast of Africa opposite to Kilimanjaro, Captain Burton, our ever active medallist and now H. M. Consul at Fernando Po, has materially contributed to a survey of the large creeks and river-mouths which form a characteristic feature of those shores, and in the knowledge of which we are unduly deficient. We hear also of his ascent of the lofty Cameroon Mountain, and shall doubtless receive from him a detailed account of that extinct volcano, which in its origin, latitude, and proximity to the sea, as well as by its prominence, holds a position on the West Coast curiously corresponding to that of Kilimanjaro on the East of Africa.

The French have exerted themselves with energy in reconnoitring

the tributaries of the great bay or estuary of the Gaboon, all of which take their rise in the flanks of the neighbouring mountain chain through which the Ogobai, familiar to us by the writings of Du Chaillu, bursts its way, in its course from a more distant interior.

Numerous explorations have been made in Senegambia and in the North-Western Sahara. The travels of Boo Moghadad are perhaps the most important. He left St. Louis on the Senegal, and passed to Mogador, on the coast of Marocco. Lambert's journey to Timbo is also of great interest. Duveyrier has returned to Algiers with large stores of information gathered in the Sahara, which he is preparing for publication, and which African geographers await with keen interest. We are sorry to hear that that energetic young traveller is suffering very severely from the effect of his many journeys.

Heuglin's expedition in search of information bearing on Vogel's fate, in Wadai, has made some advance in his necessarily circuitous route. He landed at Massowa and spent some months in Abyssinia, awaiting the favourable season for onward travel. His researches in that country have been original and minute, especially with regard to the geology and hypsometry of its northern borderland.

Our medallist Barth is engaged in the publication of a work of paramount importance to African ethnologists, namely, an elaborate collection of vocabularies of the tribes of Central Africa. It is mainly from a comparison of dialects that we may hope to unravel some portion of the mutual relations and early history of the various races which inhabit that large portion of the earth's surface, and we rejoice that the present work has been undertaken by so accomplished a philologist and geographer.

Finally, large maps of Africa are in progress of publication, the one by Dr. Petermann, in his comprehensive 'Mittheilungen,' and the other by Mr. Ravenstein, in England.*

* Since the Anniversary Meeting, intelligence has been received of Dr. Livingstone's navigation of the west coast of the Nyassa (in an open boat) up to lat. $11^{\circ} 20'$; during the whole of which distance (200 miles) its width appeared never to exceed 60 miles, no large river was seen to flow into it, and no certain account was obtainable of its northern termination. It lay between highlands; its waters were of great depth, and continually and dangerously stormy. The same mail informed us of the deaths, from fever, of Bishop Mackenzie and of another important member of the University mission.

OUR OWN LABOURS.*

The relation of the Society to the wide range of science which it cultivates may be referred to with satisfaction. Through its influence, or by its Associates, it may be identified with most of the enterprises which enlarge the knowledge of the more remote regions or add to the details of those more intimately known. Although the progress of geography—a science which has been the growth of so many ages—can be but imperfectly estimated by the brief retrospect of the limited period to which this notice must be confined, still the past *two* years have been marked by some very important accessions to our knowledge.

It might perhaps be inferred that the industry of modern travellers, so well and so persistently carried on, would have left to these later times but few regions unexplored, or features to be noticed in primary discovery; but the late Transactions of our Society will lead to the inference that there lies hidden much more than has been revealed, and that our motto "Ob terras reclusas," will still apply almost as justly to the countries close around us as to the still unknown mysteries of Africa or Australia. The last volumes of our Transactions publish the details of primary discovery and exploration more extensive and important, of countries absolutely unknown before, than those contained in the first, when the true course of the then mysterious Niger, or the earliest journeys into the interior of Australia, were described.

There is one evidence of the appreciation of the Society and its usefulness in the unbroken chain of travellers and labourers which are and have been connected with it; those of later times being often the friends, pupils, or associates of those who first enriched its volumes with the results of their enterprise, and whose works may be traced continuously from its origin to those which I shall briefly allude to presently. The Annual Addresses of former Presidents will show how large a share has been taken in the progress of Geography by the Royal Geographical Society since its foundation.

EUROPE.—In Europe the work of general research into the minute details of geography is far too great for individual labour, and the Addresses of your Presidents will show what great undertakings are carried on by various Governments; but that there is room for per-

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