

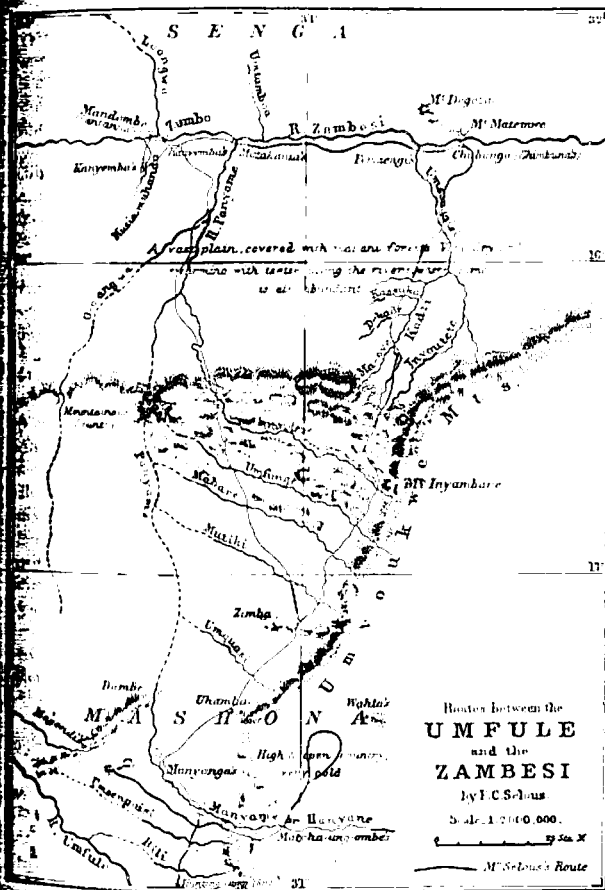
Further Explorations in the Mashuna Country. By F. C. SELOUS.

MR. F. C. SELOUS since his return to South Africa has resumed his adventurous explorations in the little-known region between the Matabele settlements and the Zambesi. He has sent us the following brief account of a journey he made in 1882, a little to the east of that described by him, and published in the 'Proceedings' for 1881, p. 352.

I HAVE made a short journey of exploration this year, having crossed the country from the upper Hanyane to the Zambesi near the mouth of the river Umsengaisi, following thence the southern bank of the Zambesi to Zumbo, and then striking back again to my camp, keeping pretty close at first to the Hanyane, and never going very far away from it until finally crossing it when I made for my camp. According to all the recent maps I have seen, particularly that of Mr. Baines, little or nothing appears to be known regarding the physical geography of this part of Africa, so I have taken the liberty of sending you the little sketch map I have made of my trip. Supposing that the position of Lo Mugondi's town (Mr. Baines' furthest point north in the Mashuna country) is correctly placed on the map and that the position of Zumbo is also correct, then all the intermediate places, rivers, &c. marked on my map cannot be very far wrong. I was very much surprised to find the mouth of the Panyame placed on all maps to the west of Zumbo, whereas it really runs into the Zambesi at least 15 miles as the crow flies to the east of that place, as I have marked it. I suppose Drs. Livingstone and Kirk travelled along the northern bank of the Zambesi. You will see that the great mountain chain of Umvukwe forms a watershed: all the rivers running from its northern slope flowing into the Hanyane, as the Umquasi, Mutiki, &c. or else into the Zambesi to the west of Kebrabasa, as the Umsengaisi. All the waters flowing from the southern slope of the Umvukwe must run into the river Mazo. I only followed the Umvukwe a certain distance, as you will see by my map, but as far as I could learn from the natives it runs right down to the Zambesi at Kebrabasa. I have marked the rivers Umquasi, Mutiki, Mabare, Umpinge, and Dande, each running separately into the Hanyane.

It is possible that some of them join before reaching the Hanyane, though I think not. The rugged mountains to the west of Umvukwe rise like a wall in an almost straight line running east and west, from the Zambesi valley. The first range must rise sheer 1000 feet from the plain. The country between the mountains and the Zambesi is perfectly flat or slightly undulating and covered with mopani forests, and very dry. From the Hanyane right down to the foot of the mountains water is most abundant, but below them the Umsengaisi and Panyame and all their tributaries become broad-bedded sand-rivers with little or no water

above the surface. Between the mouth of the Panyame and the Umsengaisi there is not a river or rivulet of any kind running into the Zambesi from the south. You will see that I have marked a river



running into the Panyame near its confluence with the Zambesi, the Yeang-wa. It is a broad sand-river over 300 yards wide, with not much water above the surface. The whole of the country travelled

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through was more or less thickly peopled by Mashunas or allied tribes. At Inyambare and other places they had large herds of cattle. Below the mountains the tsetse fly are in millions and we were very much annoyed by their incessant bites. I had seven Kafirs with me on this journey, which was a very fatiguing one, as we had to make our way through the most rough and rugged mountains imaginable. Game was very scarce too, so I had to live principally on ground-nuts. At Zumbo there were five whites (Portuguese) and they treated me very hospitably. So far both I myself and my Kafirs were all well, though we had all got very thin and weak from the perpetual bites of the swarming tsetse flies. From the Zambesi to the foot of the hills took us three very hard days' walking, the heat of the sun being terrific. Water was also very scarce and on the third night we slept without that essential, all of us being very thirsty. The fourth day we ascended the mountains and on the summit of the first range got a spring of water. This was also a terribly hard day, climbing range after range of rugged pathless mountains; though towards evening we had got through the worst of them, the country remained very rough until near the Hanyane. That evening I was seized with a violent attack of fever, the result of fatigue and exposure to the sun when weakened by the tsetse fly. I had no medicine whatever, nothing but a few handfuls of rice, and was very far away from any help and in a very difficult country to walk through. As however we had not yet reached the first Mashunas it was either a case of lie down and die or get on. For four days I pushed on, though excessively ill; then two of my Kafirs also fell sick. We had then, however, reached some Mashuna towns. Here I remained for seven days and I never thought I should pull through, as I was as bad as possible and had only rice to eat and no medicine. On the eighth day I got a little better and pushed on again, and in the middle of September at last reached my waggon near Unfulu.

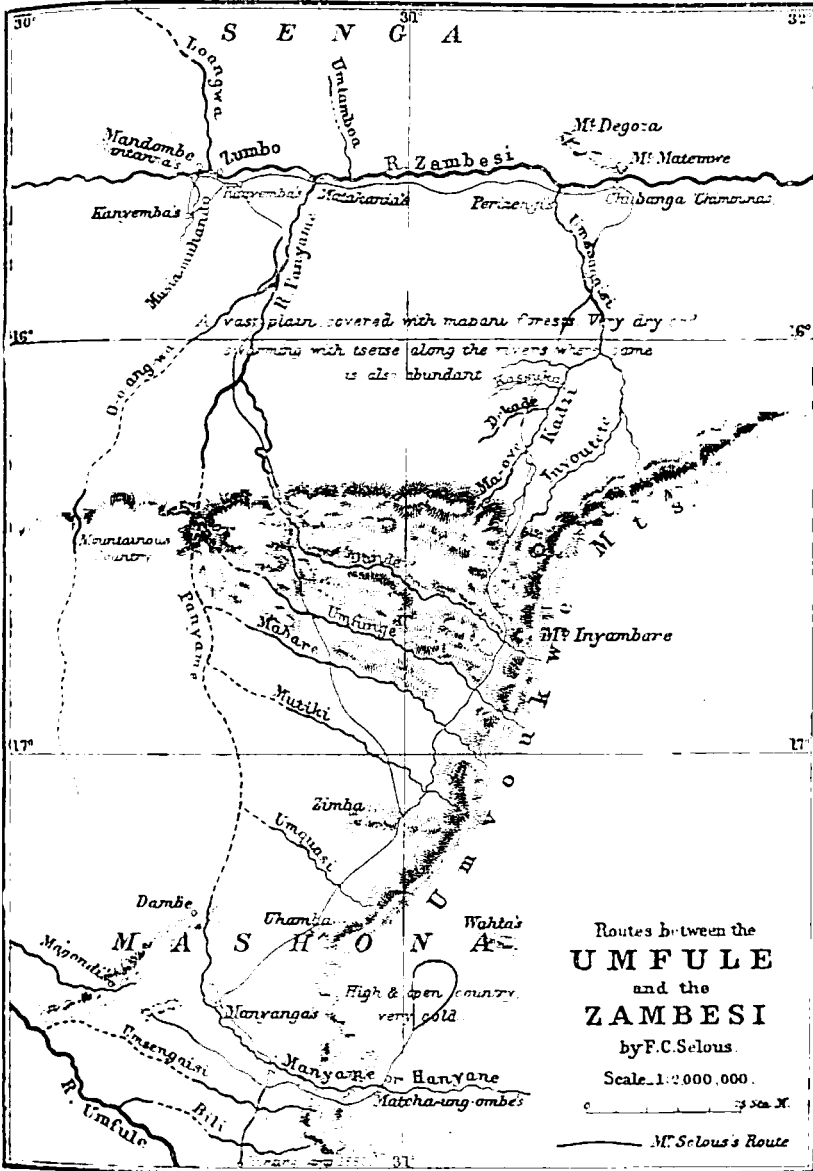
*. We have reproduced Mr. Selous's interesting and valuable map without adding any features from other sources, or even changing the position of Zumbo, on the Zambesi, which certainly lies a few miles further south (according to Livingstone in lat. $15^{\circ} 37'$) and perhaps ten miles further to the west. A comparison with the Society's large map of Eastern Equatorial Africa, sheet 24, will at once show where Mr. Selous differs from preceding explorers, not only on the Zambesi but also in the Mashuna country. These differences are most considerable on the Zambesi. The Zingesi of the Society's map is clearly Mr. Selous's Umsengaisi, but the Panyame does not join a short distance above Zumbo, but a considerable distance below that place, where no river at all was observed by Livingstone. More curious still, the region to the south of the river is described now as a vast plain, whilst formerly we

were led to believe it to be hilly. Mr. Selous shows very distinctly the inner edge of the annular plateau which seems to surround the great basin of inner Africa, and through clefts in which the Zambesi and other rivers find their way to the coast. The tract between the upper Hanyane and the Zambesi has never before been crossed by a European explorer.

The delta and lower course of the Sabi River, according to the survey of the late Captain T. L. Phipson-Wybrants.

The accompanying map is taken from one drawn with great labour and precision by the late Captain T. L. Phipson-Wybrants while on his late fatal journey, of which we have already given a brief account in the obituary notice of this adventurous traveller in the 'Proceedings' for 1881, p. 238. The map embraces a portion of the course of the Sabi river, together with the determination of the mouth of that stream, the position of Chiluan Island, and a delineation of the intermediate and extremely indented coast-line. This district, it may be remembered, was visited by Mr. St. Vincent Erskine during his third journey into the Gaza country in 1873-4, when he partially explored the delta of the Sabi and passed through several of its channels, including the Macow branch. Starting from Inhambane, Mr. Erskine, after spending some time at Chiluan, made his way southward from the latter point to the entrance of the Sabi, and thence along its right bank for upwards of a hundred miles, thus pursuing a similar course to that taken by Captain Wybrants. That Mr. Erskine's exploration left much to be accomplished, however, is evident from the fact that the delta, tributaries, &c., of the river were laid down in his map (of which a reduction appears in the February number for 1882 of Petermann's 'Geographische Mittheilungen') in dotted lines, while the country on either side is left almost a perfect blank. The careful surveys of so accomplished an observer as the late Captain Wybrants will therefore add greatly to our geographical knowledge of this little known district. Both the course and delta of the river as laid down by Captain Wybrants differ widely in several respects from those given by Mr. Erskine. In the first place, Captain Wybrants makes the whole of the Sabi, including the southern portion of its delta, 10 miles further east than Mr. Erskine; and though this difference is not so great in the northern portion, it extends even there to five miles. The size and shape of the islands in the delta and windings of the river, again, he shows to vary considerably from those given by Mr. Erskine, in whose map, indeed, many of them are hardly distinguishable at all. This applies particularly to the southern part of the delta, where the greatest differences occur. With regard to latitude there is in the north not

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