

THE KINGDOM OF THE BAROTSI Upper Zambezia

*A VOYAGE OF EXPLORATION
IN AFRICA, RETURNING BY THE VIC-
TORIA FALLS, MATABELELAND, THE
TRANSVAAL, NATAL, AND THE CAPE*

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WITH 97 ILLUSTRATIONS AND TWO MAPS

J. C. JUTA & CO.
CAPE TOWN, JOHANNESBURG,
PORT ELIZABETH, STELLENBOSCH

1899

Then there is the *majongolo*, which is used for making ladles, and bears edible fruit. We may once more notice the *moholuholu*, a shrub; its fruit, which externally resembles a great orange, may cause dysentery in a European.

Rubber.

The caoutchouc tree grows spontaneously.

Cotton.

The natives weave a coarse stuff from the pods of the wild cotton. We noticed orchids, but unhappily it was not their blossoming season.

Animals.

The wild animals are numerous and varied, according to the district: buffalo, lions, leopards or panthers, hyenas, jackals. The elephants and rhinoceroses, of which we have seen the traces, but which we have never got near, are apparently becoming less frequent.

There is a great variety of antelopes, from the little *oribi* (*Nanotragus scoparius*), one of the smallest antelopes known, the steinbuck (*Nanotragus tragulus*), and the duiker (*Cephalophus mergens*), up to the massive eland (*Oreas canna*), which may weigh 800 lbs. to 1,000 lbs. The koodoo (*Strepsiceros kudu*), with spiral horns; the sable antelope (*Hippotragus niger*), with high withers; the graceful waterbuck (*Cobus ellipsiprymnus*), with a dappled coat; the reedbuck (*Cervicapra arundinacea*), with reddish hair; the *lechwe* (*Cobus leche*), a dweller in marshes; the *bubale*, or Lichtenstein's Hartebeest (*Alcephalus lichtensteini*), with elongated head and inverted horns, &c.

Let us notice further among the antelopes:—

The borer antelope (*Hippotragus leucophaeus*).

The *pookoo* (*Cobus vardoni*).

The bush-buck (*Tragelaphus sylvaticus*).

The king-buck (*Aepyceros melampus*).

The *situtunga* (*Tragelaphus spekii*).

The *tsessebe* (*Alcephalus lunatus*).

The warthog (*Phacochoerus aethiopicus*) lives also in these regions.

We have on various occasions met with herds of the blue gnu (*Catoblepus gorgon*) and the zebra (Burchell's zebra),

counting many hundred head. The ostrich and giraffe, which are found to the south of the Zambezi, do not exist in the parts of Borotsiland to the north of the great river.

Numerous hippopotami and crocodiles inhabit the waters of the Zambezi; we saw them also in the Machili. I must also mention the snakes of all lengths.*

The Borotsi possesses numbers of aquatic birds: the ibis, **Birds.** heron, pelican, crane, and plover; various species of geese, ducks, and teal. There is also the white fishing-eagle with black wings, three or four species of francolin (a genus between pheasant and partridge), two species of guinea-fowl, &c.

There are mice, rats, and other rodents, which seek refuge **Rodents.** in the huts at the time of the floods.

The insects are numbered by legions, and are a perfect **Insects.** plague: such as the *seruyi*, or warrior ants, whose close-packed hordes turn aside for nothing; the termites, wrongly called white ants, are especially mischievous, and attack everything excepting greasy substances. The *kokoani-nisu*, small black ants, get into one's food, provisions, &c. The locusts, *tsie*, have red bodies and wings barred with white and black; they completely devour the crops in a very short time. Flies and mosquitoes, little and big, torment the traveller.

The *sebubi* are venomous spiders; the *sekokes* are enormous **Spiders.** but inoffensive flat spiders that run along the walls of the huts. The scorpions are all more or less venomous.

I will end the list by the *tsetse*. This fly frequents certain well-defined regions. Its bite is not followed by fatal consequences in the case of man or the wild animals, but it is fatal,

The Tsetse Fly.

* Not far from the banks of the Machili our men killed a snake of a deep greyish brown, whose structure astonished us. It was nearly eight feet long, and the thickest part of its body measured $5\frac{1}{2}$ in. in circumference. The head was very small and slightly flattened. The last twenty inches of its length are much slighter than the rest, and the end of the tail is scarcely larger than a knitting-needle. It seems that this snake is venomous. *Author.*