

THE WORLD'S WONDERS,

AS SEEN BY THE GREAT

Tropical and Polar Explorers.

BEING AN

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF EXPLORATION, DISCOVERY AND ADVENTURE

IN ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD,

AND A HISTORY OF SAVAGE RACES OF MEN, CURIOUS AND FEROCIOUS
ANIMALS, STRANGE AND DEADLY SERPENTS AND REPTILES
WIERD FORESTS, MYSTERIOUS GROWTHS, AND
MARVELOUS NATURAL PHENOMENA.

EMBRACING EVERY IMPORTANT DISCOVERY AND ADVENTURE IN THE EXPLORATIONS OF
SUCH DISTINGUISHED TRAVELERS AS SPEKE AND GRANT, SIR SAMUEL BAKER
AND WIFE, LIVINGSTONE, STANLEY, DU CHAILLU, WALLACE, LONG,
SQUIER, GORDON, &c., &c., IN TROPICAL WILDS;

ALSO OF SUCH RENOWNED HEROES OF ARCTIC RESEARCH AS SIR JOHN FRANKLIN, DR.
KANE, DR. HAYES, CAPT. HALL, LIEUT. SCHWATKA, DE LONG, AND MANY
OTHERS; WITH A FULL AND OFFICIAL ACCOUNT OF THE

GREELY EXPEDITION AND ITS DISASTROUS RESULTS

BY J. W. BUEL,

Author of "Travels in Russia and Siberia," "Heroes of the Plains," &c., &c.

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AFRICA.

CHAPTER III.—Ancient Discoveries—The most Wonderful of all Countries—Ancient Splendor of North Africa—Birth place of the Cross and Crescent—Earliest Explorations—John Ogilby's History—Ancient Literature Concerning Africa—Disadvantages of Native Africans—The Wonders of Egypt—The People—Infamous Laws—Building of the Pyramids and other Great Undertakings—The Slave Mark which Ham bore—Modern travels through Africa—The Source of the Nile known two Centuries ago—Wonders of the Nile—EXPLORATIONS OF CAPTAINS SPEKE AND GRANT—Preparations for the Journey—The Scientific Requirements of an Expedition—First Sight of Hippopotami—Traces of big Game—The people of Ugogo—A Rhinoceros Hunt—Shooting by Moonlight—A Grotesque Scene—Another Rhinoceros Hunt—Hunting Buffaloes—Three Exciting Encounters—Fifty Lashes for Desertion—Holding a King Accountable—Recruiting the Force—The Land of the Moon..... 54—67

CHAPTER IV.—Between two Fires—Manua Sera, the Guerilla Chief—Seeking Speke's Aid—Meeting with an old Friend; Queen of a Tribe—Liberation of a Slave—Circumcision among the Natives—King Rumanika—The old King's Delight—Fat Wives—Entertained by Native Musicians—Deciding the Right to Rule by Magic—A Mystic Drum and three Mighty Maggots—Burying five Maidens and fifty Cows with a dead King—More Magical tests—Freaks of a Spirit-directed Thunderbolt—More Rhinoceros Hunting—A Magic Gun—A Narrow Escape—Pigmies and Giants—Savage Royalty—How Subjects Manifest their Loyalty—Drilling with a Red-hot Iron—Presentation of young Virgins—The Royal Magicians—The King's Magic Horn—Killing Subjects for looking at the King—A Sport-loving Boy King—Shooting a man for fun—Visit to the King—Only a Woman Shot—Shooting Birds by Magic—Mtesa Dressed like an Organ-grinder's Monkey—Executions every day—A Monstrously fat Queen—Savage Cruelties—Sentences of an old Man and a young Girl—Horrible death of one of the King's Officers—Cutting a Page's ears off—Captain Speke saves the Queen's life—The King Reviewing his Army—Grant's Arrival with Supplies—Sacrifice of a child—Departure of the Expedition for Uuyoro..... 67—100

CHAPTER V.—Hard Travelling to reach the Nile—Among Crocodiles and Hippopotami—A wonderful Country—Discovering the Nile's Source—The Victoria N'yanza—A Fight on the Lake—Carbine against Spears—An Elephant Hunt—Dogs with Horns—Kidgwig's Wonderful Stories—Feasting on Mountains, Lakes and Human Flesh—A Wonderful Sorcerer—How he Found a Stolen Water-gauge—Meeting with King Kamrasi—Another Royal Beggar—Kamrasi's old Maid Sisters—Offering to cut up four Wives for Amusement—Delays and Broken Promises—African Twins—The queer Dwarf—Buying Liberty from Kamrasi—Departure of the Expedition for Madi..... 101—112

CHAPTER VI.—Down the Kafu River in Canoes—A Pleasant Journey—A Wise Man of Africa—Instruments for killing Elephants—Remarkable Fish—Visit to Chongi—Ceremony of the Meeting—Naked people—A Happy Meeting not Wholly Unalloyed—Mahamed, a Turkish Trader—An old Scoundrel—How Mahamed outwitted Speke

suitably equipped, attempted to cross the country. Since that time African exploration parties have been very numerous, nearly every nation on the globe contributing adventurous spirits to battle with the wild animals and wilder jungles which characterize its interior, in pursuit of a curiosity which every person possesses more or less.

In this volume I shall confine myself to the results and more exciting incidents, discoveries and adventures of the great modern explorers of Africa, giving prominence to those whose achievements entitle them to public recognition.

CAPT. J. H. SPEKE'S TRAVELS.

THE first to be considered is Capt. J. H. Speke, of the English army, as he was the first to claim the discovery of the source of the Nile, although subsequent explorations have shown that he discovered only one of the principal lakes or reservoirs that feed that wonderful river.

Capt. Speke made three expeditions into the heart of Africa, first as the companion of the celebrated traveler, Richard Francis Burton, during which they discovered lake Tanganika. On his second expedition, which he undertook alone, Speke discovered Victoria Lake, one of the principal reservoirs from which the Nile is fed, and which for some years was supposed to be the real source of this mysterious river. His third expedition was undertaken in 1860, in company with Capt. J. W. Grant, also an officer in the British army, and who had previously made extensive explorations in Australia. As this third expedition contains the most important results of Capt. Speke's discoveries, we shall confine ourselves principally to it.

The explorers were aided in this expedition by a contribution of \$12,000 from the Royal Geographical Society of England, and

\$15,000 granted by the Cape Parliament. They set sail on an English steamer for Zanzibar, and upon nearing that place they encountered a Spanish slaver which was just leaving the African coast with 544 starving slaves penned up in the deadly atmosphere of the ship's hold, where the dead and dying were lying in ghastly confusion. The slaver was captured and the miserable black wretches returned to their native shores. Directly after this event Speke and his companion arrived at Zanzibar, where preparations were made, and on October 2d, with two hundred men, they departed for the interior of Africa. Capt. Speke thus describes the manner of taking observations and making up the records of his journey :

“ My first occupation was to map the country. This is done by timing the rate of march with a watch, taking compass-bearings along the road or on any conspicuous marks—as, for instance, hills off it—and by noting the watershed—in short, all topographical objects. On arrival in camp every day came the ascertaining, by boiling a thermometer, of the altitude of the station above the sea-level ; of the latitude of the station by the meridian altitude of a star taken with a sextant ; and of the compass variation by azimuth. Occasionally there was the fixing of certain crucial stations, at intervals of sixty miles or so, by lunar observations, or distances of the moon either from the sun or from certain given stars, for determining the longitude, by which the original-timed course can be drawn out with certainty on the map by proportion. Should a date be lost, you can always discover it by taking a lunar distance and comparing it with the Nautical Almanac, by noting the time when a star passes the meridian if your watch is right, or by observing the phases of the moon, or her rising or setting, as compared with the Nautical Almanac. The rest of my work, besides sketching and keeping a diary, which was the most troublesome of all, consisted in making geological and zoological collections. With Captain Grant rested the botanical collections and thermometrical registers. He also boiled one of the thermometers, kept the rain-gauge, and undertook the photography ; but after

a time I sent the instruments back, considering this work too severe for the climate, and he tried instead sketching with water-colors, the results of which form the chief part of the illustrations in my book. The rest of our day went in breakfasting after the march was over—a pipe, to prepare us for rummaging the fields and villages to discover their contents for scientific purposes—dinner close to sunset, and tea and pipe before turning in at night.”

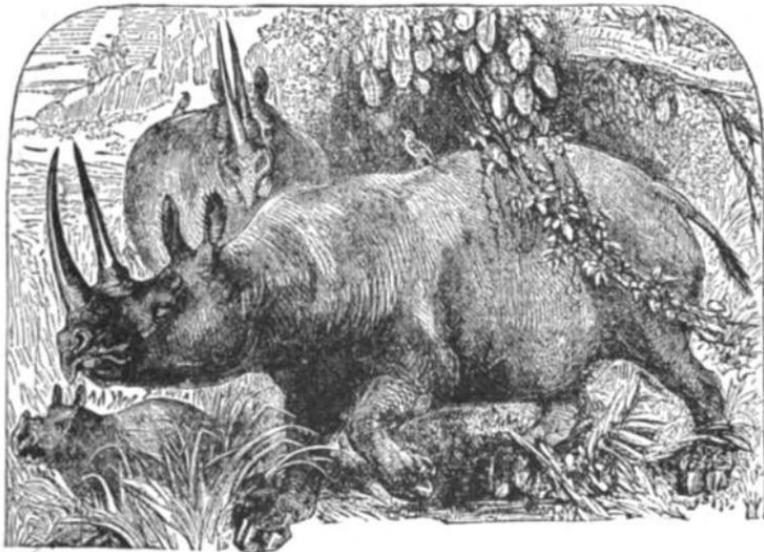
FIRST SIGHT OF HIPPOPOTAMI.

THE journey was without special incident until the vicinity of Mbume was reached, when they passed an immense lagoon in which many hippopotami were seen sporting very near, as if inviting attack. There were also numerous traces of elephants, buffaloes, rhinoceros and antelopes, but no stoppage was made for a hunt.

They had now proceeded far enough into the interior to be almost constantly beset by native chiefs, who demanded tribute for the privilege of crossing their respective districts. On the 24th of October the party reached the Ugogo plateau, the inhabitants of which are a fierce, repulsive and dangerous people. The men, indeed, are never seen without their usual arms—the spear, the shield, and the assegai. They live in flat-topped, square, tembe villages, wherever springs of water are found, keep cattle in plenty, and farm enough generally to supply not only their own wants, but those of the thousands who annually pass in caravans. They are extremely fond of ornaments, the most common of which is an ugly tube of the gourd thrust through the lower lobe of the ear. Their color is a soft ruddy brown, with a slight infusion of black, not unlike that of a rich plum. Impulsive by nature, and exceedingly avaricious, they pester travelers beyond all-conception by thronging the road, jeering, quizzing, and pointing at them; and in camp, by intrusively forcing their way into the midst of the kit, and even into the stranger's tent.

A RHINOCEROS HUNT.

UPON arriving on the farthest border of Ugogo, at a settlement called Kanyenye, eight of the porters deserted, taking with them as many mules laden with stores, which compelled a day's stoppage. While here, one of the natives, upon noticing fire-arms among the party, told Capt. Speke that in the immediate locality were not a few two-horned rhinoceros, which every night visited the bitter pools near by to bathe. This information greatly delighted Speke and Grant, who directly made prepara-



THE TWO-HORNED RHINOCEROS.

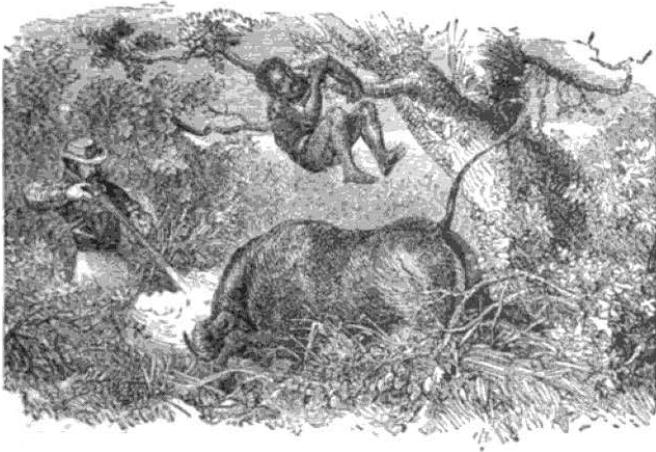
tions to indulge their bent for a hunt, while others of the party were sent in search of the deserters and stolen mules.

At ten o'clock, an hour before the moon would rise, they set out for the lagoons, accompanied by a guide and two sheikh boys carrying rifles. Reaching the foot-hills, the party hid themselves until midnight to await the rising moon and their dangerous game. They had not long to wait, for presently a gigantic beast loomed up against the horizon and came on to-

ward a large pool of water. Speke attached a bit of white paper to the sight of his rifle and crawled under cover of the bank until within eighty yards of the animal. It chanced that the shot struck in a vital spot, penetrating the beast's heart, so that it died with but few struggles. Capt. Speke, being anxious to increase his store of meat, then retired to his former position and again waited. After two hours had elapsed two more rhinoceros approached in the same stealthy, fidgety way as the first one. They came even closer than the first, but the moon having passed beyond their meridian, he could not obtain so clear a mark. Still they were big marks, and Speke determined on doing his best before they had time to wind him; so, stepping out, with the sheikh's boys behind, carrying the second rifle to meet all emergencies, he planted a ball in the larger one, and brought him round with a roar and whooh-whooh, exactly to the best position that one could wish for receiving a second shot; but, alas! on turning sharply round for the spare rifle, Speke had the mortification to see that both the black boys had made off, and were scrambling like monkeys up a tree. At the same time, the rhinoceros, fortunately, on second consideration, turned to the right-about, and shuffled away, leaving, as is usually the case when conical bullets are used, no traces of blood.

Thus ended the night's work. The party now went home by dawn to apprise all the porters that they had flesh in store for them, when the two boys who had so shamelessly deserted, instead of hiding their heads, described all the night's scenes with such capital mimicry as set the whole camp in a roar. They had all now to hurry back to the carcass before the native Wagogo could find it; but, though this precaution was quickly taken, still, before the tough skin of the beast could be cut through, the Wagogo began assembling like vultures, and fighting with Speke's men. A more savage, filthy, disgusting, but, at the same time, grotesque scene than that which followed can not be conceived. All fell to work, armed with swords, spears, knives, and hatchets, cutting and slashing, thumping and bawl-

ing, fighting and tearing, tumbling and wrestling up to their knees in filth and blood in the middle of the carcass. When a tempting morsel fell to the possession of any one, a stronger neighbor would seize and bear off the prize in triumph. All right was now a matter of pure might, and lucky it was that it did not end in a fight between the opposing parties. The natives might be afterward seen, one by one, covered with blood, scampering home each with his spoil—a piece of tripe, or liver, or lights, or whatever else it might have been his fortune to get off with.



CLOSE QUARTERS.

On the 7th of November, through sickness and desertion, Speke's followers were so much reduced that it became necessary for him to secure more recruits, for which purpose he halted three days and sent to Sheikh Said for several men. That the time of waiting might not hang heavily on his hands, he went upon another hunt. Shortly after starting out he came suddenly upon a two-horned rhinoceros which stood quietly feeding off a bush. He shot the beast at a distance not exceeding five paces. Proceeding farther, he soon came upon a herd of buffaloes and secured four shots before the animals discovered him or from whence the shots had come. They then galloped off with Speke

after them, and he succeeded in killing four or five and wounding several, among the latter a large bull, full of fight and sullenness; this one, struck in the flank, charged down upon him and his boy, who carried the rifles; the boy, nimble as a monkey, swung himself from a friendly bough just as the bull swept under him like a cyclone, and made directly for Speke, who had but a single gun left. Happily this was enough, for the bullet was so well directed that it broke the infuriated beast's neck. Speke had barely escaped from one bull before another, that had also been wounded, charged at him, giving only sufficient time for



A LUCKY SHOT.

him to pick up another gun that had been dropped by the nimble boy. As the bull came rapidly on, Speke jumped behind a small knoll and fired, but the shot did not take effect; most fortunately, however, the smoke from the discharge hung so heavy about the bull's head that he could not see his assailant, and after fighting it awhile, he bolted off into the woods, to the intense delight of the now defenceless hunter.

At the end of five days seventy porters were secured, to whom were given sixteen pieces of cloth each, in advance, for their services as carriers. Two of the deserters were also captured, and having received fifty lashes each for their offense, were again

placed in service. While waiting for the Sheikh to return, however, some of the villagers stole several loads of beads, for which Speke held the chief responsible. After a long and heated argument, fifteen cows were given as a compensation for the loss, whereupon the expedition started forward again and did not halt, except at night, until Unyanyembe was reached, which is the most considerable place within the rich district of the Land of the Moon.

Up to November 23d the losses sustained by the expedition were as follows: One Hottentot dead and five returned; one freeman sent back with the Hottentots, and one flogged and turned off; twenty-five of Sultan Majid's gardeners deserted; ninety-eight of the original Wanyamuezi porters deserted; twelve mules and three donkeys dead. Besides which, more than half of the property had been stolen; while the traveling expenses had been unprecedented, in consequence of the severity of the famine throughout the whole length of the march.

CHAPTER IV.

BETWEEN TWO FIRES.

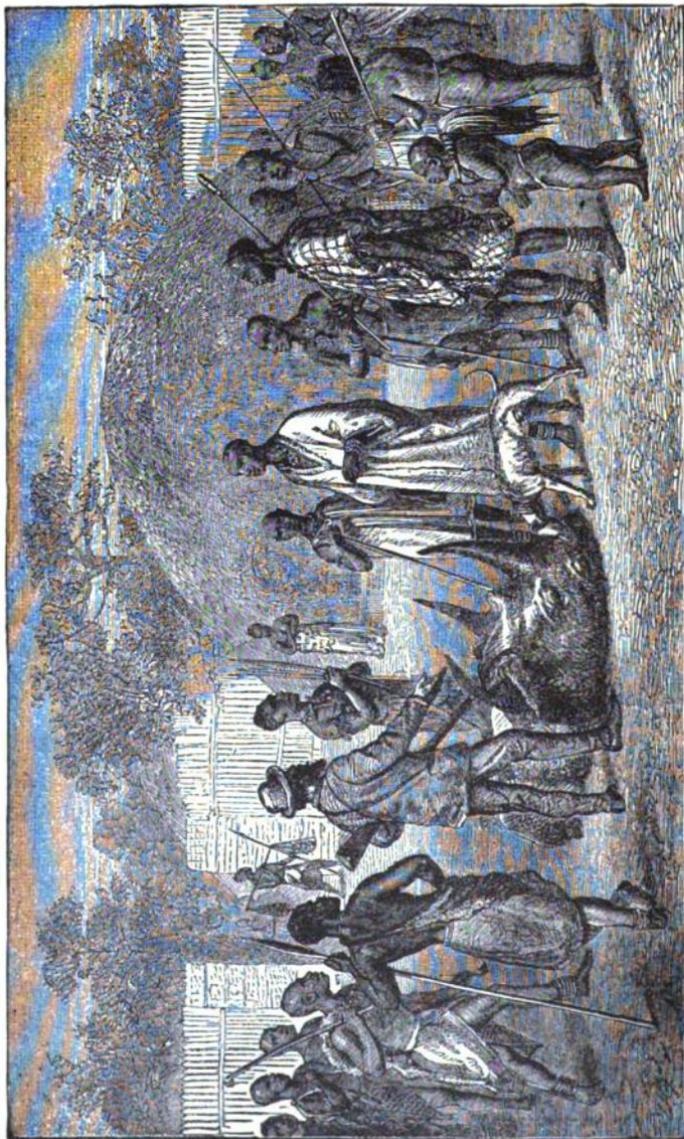
AFTER leaving the Land of the Moon, Speke encountered many serious difficulties which crippled his force materially and threatened him with disaster. The country in which he was now travelling was particularly precarious on account of a war then waging between the Arabs and a deposed native chief, named Manua Sera, who proved himself a bitter antagonist, full of strategy and the daring of a guerilla. This chief paid a visit to the explorer, and after detailing the wrongs which had been done him, begged Speke to join him against the Arabs. To have declined this request abruptly might have imperiled his own safety, so Speke was compelled to resort to strategy to avoid serious trouble. While deferring his answer, the Arabs, in pursuit of Manua Sera, reached the country and were soon in com-

and lightning arose, and a thunderbolt struck the ground in the midst of them, which dispersed all the men but Dagara, who calmly took up the thunderbolt and placed it in the palace. I, however, no sooner came into possession, and Rogero began to contend with me, than the thunderbolt vanished. How would you account for this?" The flatterers said, "It is clear as possible; God gave the thunderbolt to Dagara as a sign he was pleased with him and his rule; but when he found two brothers contending, he withdrew it to show their conduct was wicked."

ANOTHER RHINOCEROS HUNT.

ON the 9th of December, before leaving the Karague country, Capt. Speke, learning that the immediate district in which he was encamped abounded with rhinoceros, took two attendants and posted to the foot-hills about Little Windermere lake. Taking up a position in a thicket of acacia shrubs, he sent the men out to beat the brush toward him. In a few minutes a large male rhinoceros came lumbering through the brush until he was within a few yards of the concealed hunter, who delivered a broadside from his Blissett rifle, which sent the huge beast off in a trot toward the beaters; but after going a short distance it fell and was quickly disposed of by another shot. The natives then came running up to Speke, surprised beyond measure at what they saw, for they did not believe that a rhinoceros could be killed by shooting with a rifle. Among those who assembled to view the dead beast was a native who exhibited frightful scars on his abdomen and shoulder, which he declared were the result of a wound he had received by a rhinoceros thrusting its horn through his body.

Just at this time a cry went up from several beaters that another rhinoceros was near, concealed in a thicket. Speke at once set off to find it. He traveled as rapidly as possible along a path made by the animals, with his two gun bearers directly in the rear. Suddenly he was confronted by a full grown female, with her young one close behind, which came "whoof whoofing" toward him. To escape and shoot at the same time, he was compelled to push to one side in the prickley acacias, and as



SPEKE PRESENTS THE RHINOCEROS HEAD TO THE KING.

the huge beast approached he fired at her head; the bullet only served to divert her course, for she received no perceptible injury. She broke away from the brush into an open, with Speke following. He fired again, but the animal kept on and took to the hills, crossed over a spur and entered another thicket. The hunter kept up the pursuit, but as he came to the head of a glen he was greatly astonished to find three more rhinoceros, all of which charged towards him. Fortunately the gun bearers were at his heels and he was thus enabled to shoot all three of the brutes; one of them dropped dead, but the other two kept on down the glen, though one had its leg broken. The wounded one was given over to the natives, but so savage were its charges that another shot was necessary before the negroes could dispatch it with their spears and arrows.

On the following day Speke galled on the king and had a head of the largest rhinoceros brought into court. Rumanika, in his surprise, said:

“Well, this must have been done with something more potent than powder, for neither the Arabs nor Nnanaji, although they talk of their shooting powers, could have accomplished such a great feat as this. It is no wonder the English are the greatest men in the world.”

Neither the Wanyambo nor the Wahuma would eat the rhinoceros, so Speke was not sorry to find all the Wanyamuezi porters of the Arabs at Kufro, on hearing of the sport, come over and carry away the flesh. They passed by the camp half borne down with their burdens of sliced flesh, suspended from poles which they carried on their shoulders; but the following day Speke was disgusted upon hearing that their masters had forbidden their eating “the carrion,” as the throats of the animals had not been cut.

PIGMIES AND GIANTS.

In confirmation of Musa's old stories, the king told Speke that in Ruanda, a near country, there existed pigmies who lived in trees, but occasionally came down at night, and listening at the hut doors of the men, would wait until they heard the name of