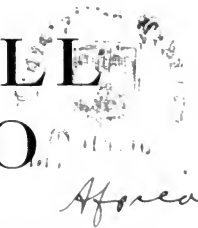


18183

GEORGE GRENFELL AND THE CONGO



Africa

A HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE
CONGO INDEPENDENT STATE AND ADJOINING DISTRICTS
OF CONGOLAND

TOGETHER WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF THE NATIVE PEOPLES AND THEIR
LANGUAGES, THE FAUNA AND FLORA ; AND SIMILAR NOTES ON
THE CAMEROONS AND THE ISLAND OF FERNANDO PÔ
THE WHOLE FOUNDED ON THE DIARIES AND RESEARCHES OF THE LATE

REV. GEORGE GRENFELL, B.M.S., F.R.G.S. ; ON THE RECORDS
OF THE BRITISH BAPTIST MISSIONARY
SOCIETY ; AND ON ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CONTRIBUTED BY THE AUTHOR, BY THE

REV. LAWSON FORFEITT,

MR. EMIL TORDAY,

AND OTHERS

BY

SIR HARRY JOHNSTON

G.C.M.G., K.C.B., HON. D.Sc. CAMBS.

IN TWO VOLS.

WITH 496 ILLUSTRATIONS FROM PHOTOGRAPHS BY THE REVS. GEORGE GRENFELL AND
WILLIAM FORFEITT, THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY, AND OTHERS
AND FROM DRAWINGS BY THE AUTHOR

AND 14 MAPS BY THE LATE REV. GEORGE GRENFELL, AND ALSO BY
J. W. ADDISON, R. GEO. SOC., THE LAST-NAMED BEING BASED MAINLY ON GRENFELL'S SURVEYS
AND ON ADDITIONAL MATERIAL CONTRIBUTED BY MR. E. TORDAY, THE AUTHOR,
MONS. A. J. WAUTERS, THE PUBLICATIONS OF THE CONGO STATE,
THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY,
AND THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY

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wezi country, east of Tanganyika, whose father was a former follower of the Arabs—established himself with a rabble of Wanyamwezi fighting men as supreme chief over the Katanga country about the years 1866-1870.¹ F. S. Arnot, a missionary of the Plymouth Brethren, after his first voyage of discovery in 1884, settled with a number of his colleagues at the court of Msiri, and one of these missionaries, Crawford, became in some way a secretary or adviser to Msiri, while C. A. Swan made use of his opportunities to study and illustrate the local language, which he styled Chiluba. Through the presence of these English and Scottish missionaries in Katanga, the country had become somewhat inclined towards a political connection with the British at the time when there were rumours of a British Protectorate over Nyasaland.

The subsequent history of this movement will be related in another chapter, but the strong interest taken by the British in the development of Katanga was to a certain extent recognized by the King of the Belgians in granting far-reaching concessions to an Anglo-Belgian Company, which is now endeavouring to connect Katanga by a direct railway with the port of Lobito Bay on the Atlantic coast of Angola.

West of Katanga and the watershed of the Lualaba-Lubudi, the mountainous character of the country somewhat diminishes, except for the well-marked ridge of the Zambezi-Congo water-parting. The south-western limits of the Congo Free State are the special domain of the Lulua and Kasai rivers, which with their tributaries flow northwards in almost parallel directions through the lands of the former Lunda empire. The mountainous character of the Katanga regions has to a great extent preserved the pristine savagery of the land and of its inhabitants; but the Lunda territories (which extended at one time along the course of the Luapula to Lakes Mweru and Bangweulu)² have long been, as it were, trampled by man, their forests abated, and a good deal of cultivation and even a slightly European civilization introduced, long before the white man came there to rule.

Between the Lulua, the Sankuru, and the Lomami is a densely forested region which extends southwards to about

¹ He called his kingdom, Garenganze.

² At some period about one hundred and fifty years ago the Mwata Yanvo of Lunda extended his conquests across the Luapula to Lake Mweru. On the upper Luapula he established a viceroy ("Kazembe"), and a small section of the Lunda people remained there in a Lunda kingdom of some strength until the British power was established in these regions by Sir Alfred Sharpe in 1892-9.

Lat. 6°. To the west and south of this great Sankuru forest, the Lunda influence, stretching at one time from the south-west coast of Tanganyika right across to the frontiers of Angola, has not only dismantled the country of its woods, except in the deep river valleys, but has considerably affected the wild game. Across the Lunda belt, the Bantu civilization, coming no doubt round the south end of Tanganyika from the direction of Uganda, early perfected hunting methods through the use of iron weapons, and from the end of the eighteenth



174. FEMALE OF THE RED FOREST BUFFALO
(*BOS CAFFER NANUS*)

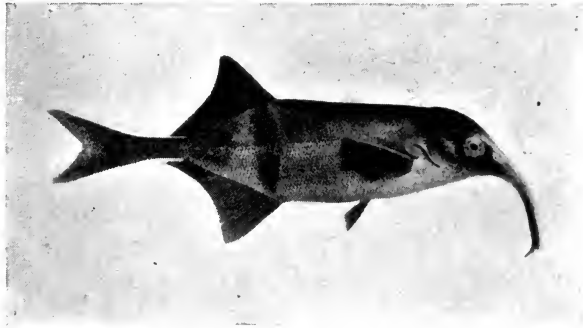
From the forest region of S. Central Congoland. (Shot on one of Grenfell's expeditions).

century onwards, guns and gunpowder derived from the Portuguese assisted this more enterprising people in killing elephants and all the larger mammals. The Lunda countries, therefore, are most disappointing at the present day from the point of view of the big-game hunter. But within the basin of the Lualaba, below its junction with the Luapula, and also between the Lualaba and south-west Tanganyika (including all the lower course of the Luapula), there still remains one of the finest big-game countries in the world: swarms of antelopes, large herds of buffalo (in spite of the devastations of the cattle plague twenty years ago), rhinoceros, lion, zebra, and giraffe. The western extension of many of these beasts is arrested by the mountainous country which separates the basin of the Lualaba from that of the Lomami and the Sankuru; but the lion is found in the basin of the Lulua-Kasai and extends its range in the Kasai region as far north as 6° S. Lat. or even farther, where there is no dense forest.

canoes. All the regions to the north and west of the Mubangi, from its confluence with the Mbomu to the main Congo, are of course part of French West Africa.

The mountains or hills both north and south of the Mubangi River seem to be rich in copper, and most of the peoples of this region work this metal. Alluvial gold has been discovered in the extreme north-east of the Congo basin, in the Kilo mountain streams about thirty miles west of the shores of Lake Albert. Washing the sands of the western Ituri in these mountain valleys is becoming a lucrative operation, attracting large numbers of negroes from the Nile territories of the Uganda Protectorate. This is the only region of the Congo Free State as yet wherein payable gold has been discovered, except of course the mines of Katanga in the far south.

North of the central Mubangi, past the rapids of Zongo, there is a flat district which was once a lake (no doubt) imprisoned for a time behind the Zongo barrier, through which it burst to join the vast inland sea of the Congo. This northern plain is ill-spoken of for agriculture, but it seems to be a magnificent game country. The undulating or hilly land south of the Mubangi (a tongue of which reaches to the main Congo at Bopoto) is praised by many travellers for its rich soil and advanced native agriculture. The *dense* forest does not seem to extend north of the Wele-Makua-Mubangi, and beyond the Aruwimi basin has been much abated by the vigorous agriculture of the Mañbettu, A-zande, Ababua, Mongwandi, and Banza. There is much honey in all the lands of the Mubangi-Wele basin. The Ligurian honey-bee is said to be present in the Nyamnyam country (A-banjia). North of the Mubangi-Wele the big mammalian fauna is quite "Sudanian"—giraffes, black buffalo, lions, rhinoceros, giant eland, hartebeest, tsesebe, water-buck, wild dogs (*Lycaon*), and hyænas. The zebra seems to be completely absent from all regions west of the Nile. It is only found in the south-east and extreme south of the Congo basin.



192. GNATHONEMUS IBIS, A FISH OF THE MUBANGI RIVER