

THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

BEING A GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE
NEGRO REPUBLIC, WITH ITS HISTORY,
COMMERCE, AGRICULTURE, FLORA,
FAUNA, AND PRESENT METHODS
OF ADMINISTRATION

BY

R. C. F. MAUGHAM

F.R.G.S., F.Z.S., ETC.

H.B.M. CONSUL-GENERAL AT MONROVIA

AUTHOR OF "PORTUGUESE EAST AFRICA," "ZAMBEZIA," "WILD GAME
IN ZAMBEZIA," "A HANDBOOK OF CHI-MAKU," ETC.

WITH MAP AND 37 ILLUSTRATIONS



LONDON: GEORGE ALLEN & UNWIN LTD.
RUSKIN HOUSE, 40 MUSEUM STREET, W.C. 1
NEW YORK: CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS

crediting the country, the output of ivory is extremely disappointing; whilst the sizes of individual tusks of what may be considered the first magnitude are small and insignificant compared with many which have been obtained farther along the same parallel of latitude as that which runs through the very centre of Liberia. From these facts it is perhaps not unreasonable to conjecture unforeseen differences in the animals themselves, and these are matters which those interested in the future of this splendid animal will gladly see satisfactorily set at rest.

There is no trace, so far as I can ascertain, of any form of rhinoceros in Liberia, a circumstance which is not surprising when the character of the greater part of the country is taken into account. The rhinoceros, in my experience, which coincides with that of many other hunters and observers of great game, is a beast which abhors the jungle. The haunts of its predilection are those covered by patchy thorn bush occurring in thinly grassed plains, the country, as a whole, being dry and stony. I have, indeed, often thought that the gradual extension eastward of the tremendous Congo forests may have been the influence directly responsible for separating the almost extinct white rhinoceros of South Africa from the recently discovered members of the same family who have been found inhabiting, in considerable numbers, portions of the country through which flow the upper waters of the Nile. Be this as it may, neither the white rhinoceros of the Lado Enclave nor his relative the black variety of almost all Africa over, has as yet been found in any portion of Liberia so far as our present knowledge extends.

Although the term "Liberian hippopotamus" is usually taken to refer exclusively to the small pigmy variety which seems to be found only in this and neighbouring parts of Africa, and in spite of the very definite statements made by other writers that this form is the only one present, the large common hippopotamus, that immense aquatic creature second in size only to the elephant, nevertheless occurs in more than one