

THE RIVER CONGO,

FROM ITS MOUTH TO BÓLÓBÓ;

WITH A GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURAL HISTORY
AND ANTHROPOLOGY OF ITS WESTERN BASIN.

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WITH TWO ETCHINGS, AND OVER SEVENTY OTHER ILLUSTRATIONS AND THREE MAPS
OF THE CONGO &c., BY THE AUTHOR.



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skilfully-paddled canoe. The female hippopotamus is passionately attached to her young, and during the first few weeks of its life lives almost isolated from her fellows, generally on land; I imagine that this is because the baby hippopotami at an early age might form an easy prey to the voracious crocodiles. The males are much given to quarrelling even in the day-time, and, when fighting, utter strange boar-like squeals and grunts. It very often happens that an unfortunate bull, unable to obtain a mate, turns rogue, and lives a solitary life, seeking to wreak his spite on whatever may come in his way. There was one such beast that haunted the neighbourhood of Msuāta. This malicious creature was the terror of the natives in the adjoining villages, for he would lie in wait, amid the rushes, for the canoes returning home with the fishermen at dusk, and then swim out silently under water and wreck them. When I was staying here we sent a canoe with letters to Stanley, who was farther down the river. The canoe started at early dawn, was wrecked close to the station by the demon hippopotamus, and one of its occupants was carried off by a crocodile. On the whole, the hippopotamus may be called the most dangerous animal to man on the river Congo.

The rhinoceros is nowhere heard of in this district, nor is he, properly speaking, found in West Africa at all, merely penetrating into Southern Angola from the Zambesi and South African regions. The red river-hog (*Potamocheirus*) is common, and its flesh is greatly appreciated by the natives.