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Chaille-Long's Work on the Nile

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A.D.) to its Islamization (about 700) there is an interval of only 300 years. Considering that Lithuania, surrounded by Christians for several centuries, accepted Christianity only about 1400, and that remnants of heathenism are said to have existed in England even at the time of the Norman invasion, it may be readily surmised that the Christianity of many Berber tribes had taken no deep root when Islam came to supplant it. It is probable, therefore, that the religion of the Zkara represents a succession of strata—pre-Christian, Christian, and Mohammedan—indistinguishable to the natives themselves. If such a survival was possible only 25 miles from the seaboard it is more than probable that others will be found in the inland fastnesses.

This ethnologic discovery may have a very practical political bearing, which the author does not hesitate to point out. At the moment when Europe has apparently consented to the annexation of Morocco by France nothing could be more convenient than the discovery of a "Christian" tribe occupying the very door of Morocco, intensely hostile to its Mohammedan neighbours, but decidedly friendly to France. Evidently this interesting tribe needs "protection," and may thus afford a convenient avenue to the conquest of Morocco—a consummation devoutly to be wished.

S.

CHAILLE-LONG'S WORK ON THE NILE.

(WITH A MAP. *)

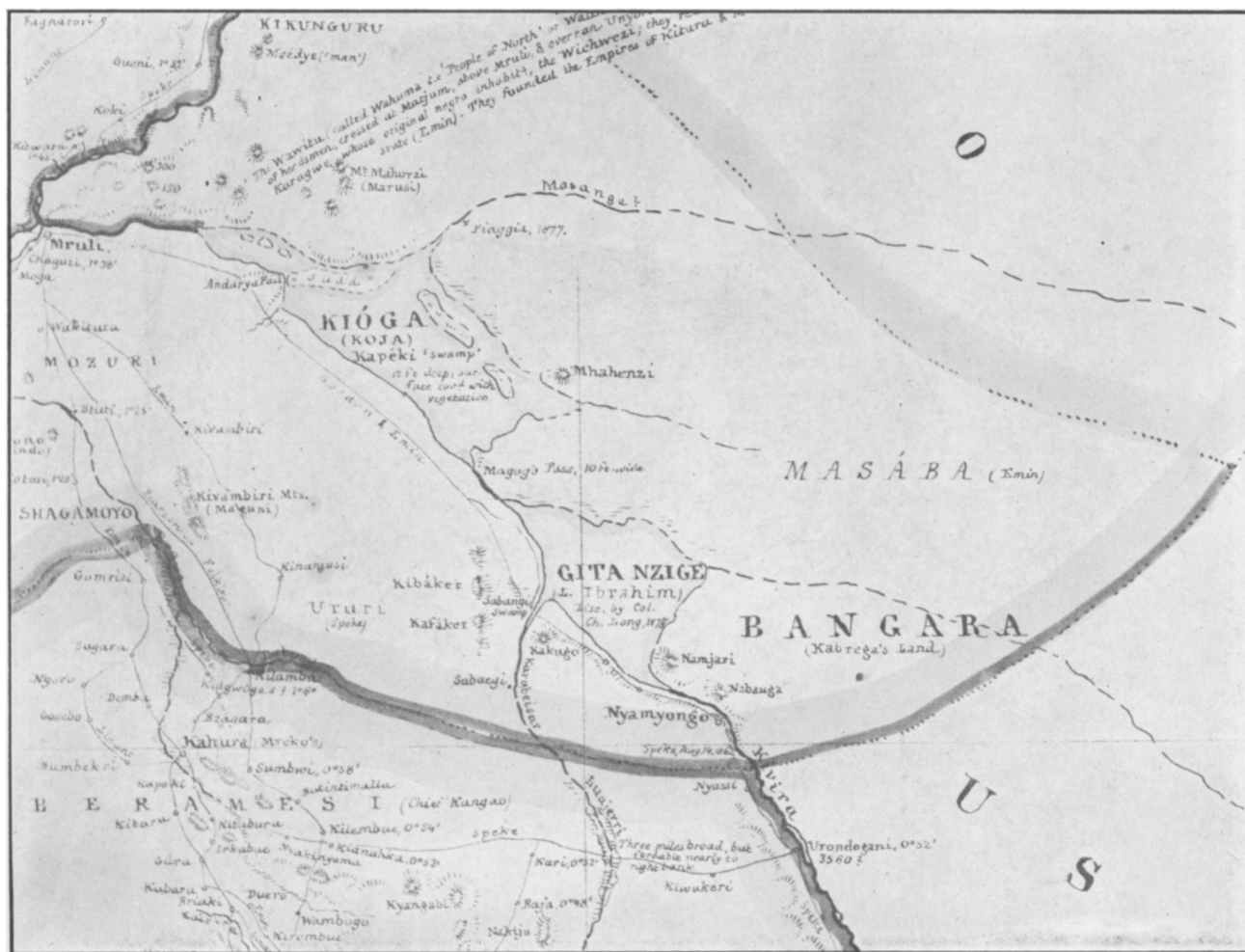
*To the Editor of the BULLETIN,
American Geographical Society.*

BALTIMORE, May 18, 1904.

General Charles George Gordon, then Lieut.-Col. of R. E. of the British army, was appointed by Ismaïl Pacha Khédive, in 1874, Governor-General of the Egyptian Equatorial Provinces of the Soudan. An American officer, since 1869 Lt.-Col. of the Egyptian staff (Chief of Sections, Military Correspondence, Law, and Inspection), the writer, was designated by the Khédive to accompany Gordon as chief of staff and commander of the Soudanieh troops. He was instructed by the Khédive to make a treaty with M'Tésa, King of Uganda. This treaty, promptly executed at the capital of Uganda, July 19, 1874,† was communicated to the Egyptian Govern

* Chaillé-Long discovered Lake Ibrahim in August, 1874. The date 1875 in Ravenstein's map is an error.

† Central Africa: Naked Truths of Naked People, London, 1876, pp. 316-318.



BULLETIN OF THE AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, 1904.

THE NILE, FROM URONDOGANI TO MRULI, FIRST EXPLORED BY CHAILLÉ-LONG IN 1874.

From Sheet 8 of E. G. Ravenstein's map of East Equatorial Africa, published under authority of the Royal Geographical Society, London, E. Stanford, 1882.

ment, which made it the basis of a diplomatic note* to the Powers formally announcing the annexation of the entire Nile basin to Egypt.

The diplomatic mission accomplished, the writer determined to demonstrate the still unknown problem of the Nile sources. The blank in the Nile from Urondogani† on the Victoria Nile to M'ruli, Foueira, and Lake Albert, had given rise to much discussion among geographers, among whom Capt. Burton, Dr. Beke, and others.

Having executed a reconnaissance upon the Lake Victoria N'yanza on 14th, 15th, and 16th of July, the writer returned to the capital, where, the treaty between the Khédive and King being signed on the 19th, he bade the King adieu, and, escorted by 500 warriors, marched on the 20th towards the Nile. He quitted Urondogani on the Victoria Nile (whence Speke had been driven ‡ away in July, 1862) on the 5th of August in bark boats, his party consisting of himself, two soldiers, and five servants. The escort of Uganda

* Publications of the General Staff, Cairo, 1877; Gen. Stone, Itinerary Lt.-Col. Long, p. 62.

† In G. B. Hill's book *Colonel Gordon in Central Africa, London, 1881*, is a quotation from Gordon: "It was contended that the Nile did not flow out of Lake Victoria and thence through Lake Albert," etc. (*note, p. 177*).

‡ Captain Speke, in his book, avows that he was driven from the Nile at Urondogani by the hostile Ugogos, and proceeded thence by the land route to M'ruli and Karuma Falls.

Sir Samuel Baker says, in *The Albert Nyanza, Vol. I, page 97, London, 1867*:

"On meeting [Speke and Grant at Gondokoro] I had considered my expedition as terminated by having met them, and by their having accomplished the discovery of the Nile source, but upon my congratulating them . . . Speke and Grant, with characteristic candour and generosity, gave me a map of their route, showing that they had been unable to complete the actual exploration of the Nile, and that a most important portion still remained to be determined."

Keith Johnston: *Africa, London, 1878*, page 322, says:

"After the discovery in July, 1862, of the Ripon Falls, where the river overflows from the N'Yanza by a descent of 12 feet between protruding rocks of gneiss, Captain Speke followed the *Somerset*, as he then named it, downward in its northerly course for 35 miles to *Urondogani*, but there was obliged to leave it and turn *north-westward* to the country of Unyoro; he did not see the river again 'till Mrooli, the capital of Unyoro, had been passed, so that an extent of about sixty miles remained unexplored.

"It was not until 1874, when Colonel Long made a perilous canoe voyage down the river from Urondogani to M'rooli, that the gap which had been left in the river's course was filled up, and all possible doubt as to its being the true head stream of the Nile cleared away . . .

"North and west of the Victoria N'Yanza . . . lies the land of Uganda, where King M'Tésa holds court not far from the lake. Between Uganda and the northern portion of the Albert Lake is the country of Unyoro. On both of these states fresh light has been thrown by the Egyptian expedition under Colonel Long in 1874, and by Colonel Gordon's more recent explorations."

warriors, one servant and horse were sent forward by the land route. The exploring party in boats was armed with two Snider rifles and one elephant gun, with ample ammunition, which had been carefully preserved for this emergency. Assailed by storms that set in the afternoon of each day, and raged with fury all night, it was impossible to use instruments or measure distance. The banks of the river were lined with papyrus, that rendered landing difficult; and what with exposure to the pitiless cold rain at night, the hot sun of the day was almost insupportable. With insufficient food, consisting of bananas and a few beans, with no medicine to combat the fevers that attacked them, the misery suffered may be imagined but not described.

In his volume* *Central Africa*, the author says:

At midday (on the 11th) we passed the mountain (Gebel M'Tingi) seen in the distance the day before, and shortly after, as if by magic, we entered a sheet of water in which the river lost itself; and in vain I looked for the opposite shore, to be seen only from the river we had just left. Stretching away to the eastward, a scarcely visible line seemed to indicate land, certainly twenty miles away. Was this the basin from which, as M'Tesa told me, "the river went eastward"? It certainly seemed only too true; and for the moment a thrill of horror ran through my veins: for if it should be true, we were lost!

As we advanced into the lake (since called "Ibrahim") I descried in the distance what seemed to be land . . . an immense sea of lilies, whose heads floated upon the surface like a great hat, and which grew up from an incredible depth.

In his volume† *L'Egypte et Ses Provinces Perdues*, the author says:

Lake Ibrahim, indeed, is a veritable nursery of *Nymphaea lotus*, in the midst of which live the famous lotophagi, whose country, according to ancient authors, was situated on the northern coast of Africa, not far from the Gulf of Syrtis, or Gabes.

On the floating islands formed of the detritus of papyrus the inhabitants of the lake have constructed huts, whence, on our approach, they fled in their rude *pirogues*. The huts, made of the stalk of papyrus and bamboo, were filled with a quantity of rotten fish, which rendered the air pestiferous. But, curious to relate, we saw the natives gathering and eating the bulbs of the lotus, of which they appeared fond.

Following the example of the savages, and forced by want, we also ate the fruit, and soon felt the effect in the torpor which seized us, to the point of obliging us to attach our boats to the papyrus and give ourselves up to the effect of the narcotic, with which the fruit is impregnated.

* * * * *

Before us in the distance the lake seemed entirely shut in by land and a mountain on our right (Djebel Mahorsi). If there should be no outlet, and the river here lost itself, there was nothing left me but to take to the shore and find my way to Mrooli—certainly not far distant. . . . We paddled away, upheld by nervous energy, reaching the distant land about midday, there to find that the lake suddenly narrowed to about 700 yards. It was the river! With what joy we pulled away until we had left the lake that had well-nigh proved fatal to us!

* *Central Africa: Naked Truths of Naked People*, Chaillé-Long, pp. 163-173.

† *L'Egypte et Ses Provinces Perdues*, pp. 32-34.

The travellers arrived during the night opposite Mruli, and, effecting a landing, drew their leaking boats after them. A tent was quickly raised, and, after a summary repast on bananas, the weary navigators sought the welcome shelter, overcome by exhaustion and happy in the consciousness of having demonstrated finally and conclusively the problem of the Nile Source and of having discovered another great watershed in Lake Ibrahim.*

The following morning, August 17th, having caulked their boats as best they might, the travellers resumed their journey, and, arriving opposite a certain point as prearranged, fired a gun as a signal to the escort supposed to be awaiting their coming. The shot in response came not. In place thereof there was heard the lugubrious sound of the war drum, and soon the country swarmed with the hostile Unyoro. An hundred pirogues filled with the naked warriors shot out from the cover of the papyrus jungle and sought to surround the travellers.

Protected by sheet iron travelling cases, which served as ramparts, the navigators fought the enemy with desperation for several hours, and finally escaped. The General Orders published to the army subsequently will serve to show the appreciation of the Government at Cairo†:

“BUREAU WAR DEPT., CAIRO, NOV. 16, 1874.

GENERAL ORDERS }
No. 18. }

Lt.-Col. Chaillé-Long of the General Staff, on expedition near Lake Albert, was attacked by 400 armed men, enemies of the Khédive, with two soldiers resisted reiterated attacks of that troop and put them to flight. Killing 82 men.

For this brilliant *fait d'armes* and for having successfully accomplished, notwithstanding great difficulties, *the mission confided to him to Uganda*, His Highness the Khédive has been pleased to name Lt.-Col. Chaillé-Long a Colonel in the staff corps.

By order of His Highness the Prince, Minister of War.

THE CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF, STONE.”

When the writer was sent to Cairo in May, 1875, to command the land forces in the Expedition to the Juba by Gordon's order a *séance extraordinaire* of the *Société Khédiviale de Géographie du Caire* was convoked for June 11 by the Khédive. His Highness Prince Hussein,

* In September, 1876, General Gordon addressed the following despatch to the Egyptian Government: “Sig Piaggia corroborates the discovery of Lake Ibrahim by Chaillé-Long. The lake is 50 miles wide, a great river runs out in north and east which may be the Assua or the Saubat.” The rainstorms and the vegetation appear to have prevented even until the present an accurate map of Lake Ibrahim. There is a map, with description, in *The Geographical Journal* for April, 1899, by Capt. Kirkpatrick, which is not conclusive as to dimensions.

† Bulletin of Société Khédiviale de Géographie No. 2, Fev. et Juin, 1876, p. 223; L’Egypte et Ses Provinces Perdues, p. 271.

Minister of War, presided. Dr. Schweinfurth, the distinguished African traveller, President of the Society, in introducing the writer, said:

The voyage of Colonel Long Bey has a marked place in the front rank of the grand and glorious voyages to Central Africa. The proofs of courage, constancy and temerity manifested by him are unique in the history of discovery.*

The Marquis de Compiègne, Secretary General, thus sums up the results of Chaillé-Long's Expeditions:

The expedition of Colonel Long Bey was undertaken under exceptionally difficult conditions, without provisions and with but two followers...; nevertheless the following results were obtained:

The lake Victoria, discovered by Speke, was visited for the first time in the north, and for the first time a white man navigated its clear waters (Speke saw the lake in the distance, but never visited it).

Returning from the Victoria N'yanza, Colonel Chaillé-Long arrived at Urondogani on the Somerset Nile, whence Captain Speke had been driven away by the Ugos and forced to abandon the navigation of the river, which, according to the natives and many geographers, flowed to the eastward. Colonel Long, braving the threats of the natives, navigated during thirteen days in two *pirogues* that part of the Nile till then unknown from Urondogani to Karumra Falls, whence the river is known to flow into Lake Albert. He discovered about $1^{\circ} 30'$ (bet. L. $0^{\circ} 52' 27''$ and L. $1^{\circ} 38'$) an important lake, which will bear hereafter the name of Ibrahim, which Long (Ismail Khedive) has given it. Moreover, this voyage has created between the Government of his Highness the Khédive and King M'Tésa, between Egypt and the country of the Equator (a part of which is its property) commercial and political relations upon the importance of which it is not necessary to dwell.

Colonel Long-Bey has also accomplished a journey to the Makraka-Niam-Niam, opening thus across a hostile country a direct road from the Bahr-el-Abiad (at Lado) to the Niam-Niam country, and facilitating in this way the establishment of the Egyptian authority in that region, whose resources in ivory and minerals are immense.

Finally, Colonel Long-Bey has rendered great services to ethnography in bringing to Egypt men belonging to different types of the Niam-Niam races and a specimen of the Akka,† or Tiki (the Obongos of Du Chaillu, the existence of whom was for a long time doubted).

The Royal Geographical Society of London in 1879, replying to the writer's protest against the substitution on a published map of Africa of *Cojæ* for *Ibrahim*, referred the writer to General Gordon as responsible. The writer thereupon addressed a note to his former chief on the subject, and Gordon replied as follows:

“MASSOWAH Dec 9 1879

DEAR CHAILLÉ-LONG: I received your letter Oct to day on my arrival from Abyssā. You are very much mistaken if you think I wished to detract from the just

* Bulletin of Société Khédiviale de Géographie No. 2, Fev. et Juin, 1876, p. 223.

† Miani, the Italian, and Chaillé-Long, the American, are the only travellers of modern times who succeeded in bringing from Africa to Egypt and Europe specimens of the Akka, Denga or Ticki-Ticki race of pygmies (L'Egypte et Ses Provinces Perdues, pp. 73-79; Les Pygmées, Quatrefoies, pp. 255-56).

merit due to you for your passage from Urondogani to Mruli by calling the lake after the name given by the natives.* Gessi in his voyage around Lake Albert had Mt Gordon, Mt Nubar and a host of names, all of which I objected to as materially useless. However I have written the enclosed to Editor N. Y. H and I think that it should satisfy you and that you can require no more.

I gave my sketch sheets to R. G. S. rough as they were and on them were written the native names. The map was put together when I was in the Soudan and had I known that you would have wished the name given the lake to be inserted, it would have been so: thus Lake Cojae, alias Lake Ibrahim (Long).

Believe me, Yours very truly,
C. G. GORDON"

Gordon's letter, published in the New York *Herald*, January 23, 1880, is as follows:

"MASSAWA Dec 9 1879

To the Editor of the Herald:

Those who may be interested in geographical discoveries will remember that in 1874 Col. Chaillé-Long of the Egyptian staff passed down the Victoria Nile from Nyamyongo where Speke was stopped to M'rooli, thus at the risk of his life settling the question before unsolved of the identity of the river above Urondogani with that below Mrooli.

He also discovered a lake midway between those places which he called Lake Ibrahim. Passing that way afterward I ascertained that the native name of the lake was Cojae and wrote this name on the map . . . In writing thus I in no way wished to take from Col Chaillé-Long the merit due to him for his discovery of this lake or for his perilous journey.

Those who care to study the successive steps which built up the map of the course of the Nile will know that to Speke is due the discovery of one portion, to Baker that of another, and to Col Chaillé-Long that of another portion and of the lake alluded to.

Believe me, yours very truly,
C. G. GORDON."

Notwithstanding the foregoing letters of my former chief, whose authority is incontestable, the writer again remarked, in May, 1881, that the error against which he protested was repeated; he wrote to Sir Rutherford Alcock, President of the Royal Geographical Society, who replied as follows:

"SAVILE ROW, LONDON, July 1, 1881

COL. CHAILLÉ-LONG:

DEAR SIR: I am requested by Sir Rutherford Alcock to inform you that he laid your letter to him of 19th May before the Council of the Society and that they have directed the attention of Mr. Ravenstein (who is engaged in compiling for the Society a large map of Equatorial Africa) to the matter with a view to due credit being given to you for priority of discovery and naming of Lake Ibrahim on the map alluded to.

The Council at the same time disclaimed any responsibility for maps of Africa published by the firm of W. & A. K. Johnston, for whom the late Mr. Keith Johnston must have drawn the map of which you complain.

Your Obedt. Servt.,
H. W. BATES, Asst.-Secretary."

*The Khédive Ismail named the lake *Ibrahim*—a fact well known to Gen. Gordon.

In conclusion, the question of the maintenance of the name of Lake Ibrahim, and the correction of certain errors on sheets 28, 36, and 37 of the map of Africa, were submitted to General Bassot, Director of the Geographical Service of the French Army. General Bassot's reply as to Lake Ibrahim is categoric:

There is for a fact identity between Lake Ibrahim and the lake traced by Macdonald* in 1897 and named by him *Choga*. Besides, all the lakes of this region have retained the European names with which their discoverers have baptized them (Victoria, Albert, Rodolphe, etc.). There is not, therefore, any reason not to maintain that of *Lake Ibrahim*, and this name will be again adopted for subsequent editions of sheet No. 36 of the map of Africa.

CH. CHAILLÉ-LONG.

GEOGRAPHICAL RECORD.

AMERICA.

THE PASSAIC RIVER FLOODS OF 1902 AND 1903.—The régime of this river, the largest in New Jersey, and its recent floods are described by George B. Hollister and Marshall O. Leighton in Water Supply and Irrigation Papers Nos. 88 and 92. The Passaic drainage basin covers 949 square miles, nearly all in the northeastern part of New Jersey. About one-third of the population of the State lives on or near the river, and its water powers have developed great industries in Paterson, Passaic, and other large towns. Its waters, however, are of largest value for municipal supply.

The main gathering-ground of the system is the Highland area, a granitic and crystalline mountain region extending in a belt northeasterly through northern New Jersey into New York, with a width in New Jersey of fifteen to twenty miles. It has a general altitude of 1,000 to 1,500 feet above sea-level.

Adjoining the Highlands on the southeast is the Central Basin, a depression eight to twelve miles wide and thirty-two miles long, standing at an elevation of about 180 feet above tide water. Much of the basin is occupied by marsh or wet lands, easily flooded when the stream rises moderately and widely submerged in great floods. This Central Basin is an agricultural region, occupying 17 per cent. of the entire area of the basin.

The third topographical section is the Lower Valley, densely

* "Une page d'Histoire de la Géographie Africaine." *Comptes Rendus de l'Association Française pour l'avancement des Sciences, Congrès de Paris 1900*, pp. 1004-1013.