THE SUDAN WATERWAYS. FROM THE ATBARA TO TUTE.

Andrew Balfour, Khartoum

The revolving stern-wheel of a river-steamer is an interesting sight when viewed from above, and one calculated to make the beholder dizzy, or apad the whiring of the paddles, so contant the leaping of the spray. It has a cooling elect on a broiling day, and the sound of is pleasant music to the ears and heartsome between the state of the country when the contact is the country when the country is pleasant music to the ears and heartsome lways, for the Sudan is a country where the best to be in motion. It is the man the sits still and does nothing who would be there. Hence such men, white men it least, do not exist. We are not fast tra-ellers, but there is no necessity, and the urrent is strong, so that our six miles or o serve very well, and the Amker beats and inobe and drives her blunt well-strengthened mounts and drives her blunt well-strengthened it into the murky stream and raises a little which makes all the difference to our breeze, which makes all the difference to our countort. We have the river pretty well to ourselves. There is not much trade on this reach between Berber and Skendy, and the days when the gumbosts patronied it are over, so on we creep, the black res inding his way by some subtle matinct between the shoals and amongst the sand banks. On the whole its unin-teresting, Bird-life is searce, reptiles there are come the banks accretiv trans, a certifity, says. teresting. Bird-life is scarce, reptiles there are none, the bank scapely repay a scrutiny, asve that once or twice we pass anoble tree, a giant for this part of the country, with thick umbragous foliage, and gnarled roots reaching greeding towards the Nile. There are see hippopotation even so far north as this. News of their depreciations reaches Berber every now, and they have the seed of the property of the seed of the neels, their revolving ropes with the pote st fixed on them, dredging for the precious ster, their circling, bindfolded bullocks, d the little boy urging them with voice d kurbash. Few sakins, and therefore the onitivation, though aloretime, to judge the universal stunting of the dome, ree must have been a-many. The palms e crippled, having been lopped of the king wood so needed for the water-neels. Here and there stretches a field of Il-headed dura, each noble plast towering. wheels. Here and there stretches a field of full-heaned durn, each noble plant towering above a tail mans head; here and there grows some burnen grass, or seame, or sweet-singling vetch of towering beans. Mure fringes for inceal needs, for men and cattle and the brewing of merissa yet there is good land beyond and plenty of it. As ever, there is a glory in the sunset, warm and red to night, so that there are rich violet buses upon the Nils and tunk redections from the suits of sand. Nile and pink reflections from the spits of sand. Nile and pink reflections from the spite of sand. The river is very wirds, and there are two chan-inels in front and a green jewel of an island between them, and sway shead and to the castward, as it grows dusty, a light glimmers sike a monstrous star. It is from the minaret tower in Shendy, in Shendy on the Nile. We call there for a little coal, a rare fuel in the Sudan, but the balling is of the simplest. The boat is at low goes bump on the sand, the tenance swings round, a rope is passed sabora, a convex little out. at a rape can be a control. ingway thrust out, and we are come to an a gangway thrust out, and we are come to an anchorage. Should us the Hounsiow or Casterbury of the Sudan. Horses which have been in Kordolan come here to die of bighead, the diskop of South Africa, mules which have traversed the Bahr el-Übiazel province travel in their wrecks from testee bites. Begles blow in Shendy, and Egyptians with blue breeckes and and Egyptians with once of the district of the swords swagger about its dusty. In a word, it is the cavalry head

streets. In a word, it is the cavalry head-quarters, the sole interest it possesses. But they make a good damoor there—the useful goat-sucker is found in the neighbourfhood. Were we to describe every mild of the way to the Shabluka, it would be more or less of a repetition of what has been Said. There is ready and any address writing in Sadaress. repetition of what has been said. There is ratedy any sudden variation in Sudances senery. Things move slowly in the Nile valley, and physical features for the most part alter but little. When a change has been effected the land seems so proud of it that it preserves the new formation to the verge of monotony, as winness the sudd; juit we are very far from the sudd, and must hie back to the north of the Shabuka. There are low hill-ranges on the route, and even bold bluffs of sand cliffs dipoint to the river as in Evrusand cliffs dipping to the river as in Egypt, and one day, afar off, we see the Pyramids of Merowe, baking in a merciless heat as they have baked for centuries. The rest is desert nave baked for centuries. The rest is desert and thorn bush, dom scrub and donkeys, cultivated patches refreshing to the eys, yellow sand banks, mud and a muddy river, the driset of dry airs, the hottest of suns, the lariest of people, the scraggiest of goats, the loneliest of landscapes.

But there comes a change, and the change is welcome. It is marked by confused heaps of huge black and brown rocks dotted about the huge black and brown rocks dotted about the desert, intatastic masses, jumbled exceedingly, as though giants had been rearing exime-wite random. The individual stones are often very, large—great-block, cracked and apping, but little weather worn. Occasionally there is a regular ridge of this formation, but as a rule inelated hillocks, roughly picture-que. They impart a savage touch to the prevailing sterility of the desert, but the river is changing, and changing for the better. For one thing, it is wider, and the waters, by reason of shallowness, appear less muddy. Indeed it is very wide, resembling a lake rather than a stream, and on its bosom bears a multitude of tiny islets,—not the dreary sandbasks or the mudd-stretches with

have crept everywhere, a veritable leafy carpet. The thickets are full of birds, most noticeable The trackets are full of birds, most noticeastle of all the white-based fish-hawk, a motionless and lonely figure. The Nile has suddenly become lively, rippling over shallows, curling into eddies and back-waters, feaming and splashing round great stones, switting, sounding, sweeping, sucking, and slobbering. A real river such as the stay-at-homes know.

slobering. A real river such as the stay-at-homes know.

Having got saylely through the Shabluks, the Nile is making merry for a bit, and very well the old fellow does it. So cunningly does he lose himself in a maze of channels that it is hard for the navigator, and consequently we side and stick on a submerged bank, and can hear the river laughing at us as, he slape our sides, while the gaddle floats alsa him angrily back to no purpose. Overside go the crew, reckless of crocodiles, which exist amongst these shooks, and, up to their cheets in water, strain and heave, while they break out into the working chorus, without which no black can put his muscles on the stretch. It takes long to budge the Amida, but ware off at last, at-homes know. can put his muscles on the stretch. It takes long to budge the Amido, but war off at last, threading our way amongst the shallows, and noting how green and fertile are the banks, though almost wholly unoultivated. Here and their we come across Nije nuggars and glyasses lying up in this delectable spot, their long aloping gaffs with streaming ribbon penons rising above the tree-tops, while thin curls of smoke writhe up from them, showing that cooking is in progress.

Far abead strutches a long range of dark hills, and it is through these the Nile courses to form the Shabluka.

It is well to enter the Shabluka at dawn and well to leave it at night, at least whe heading southward, for then all its wonder is apparent, and it is a wonderful place. Most wonderful of all is the fact that the Nile should apparent, and it is a wonderful place. Most wonderful of all is the fact that the Nile should have taken such a course. Why, when all around stretches a vast plain, should the river have chosen to trust its waters through a narrow chasm, between walls of roddy feinite! Did some volcanic disturbance force it to flow thus? Is it the result of some great cartimovement of old! The hillrange is short and immed, atmy district of eldwardon, and yet the Nile pieces it like a letter ? turned upside down and facing the wrong way. These be questions for the geologist, and it would be interesting to bear him explain the right angle in the gorge. What made the river swing suddenly to the what, so that looking northward down the long arm of the ? is for all the world like surveying a narrow Sottlish fiord, a regular cudde-daw, or, as schweinfurth has it, the Bingerion on the Rhine!

it, the Bingerioch on the Rhine?

A trace to science 'like us note rather how fairs ith seeme as one approaches the northern portal whence issues a Nile cataract so callet, a fine abow of rapids, where the river is seamed by rocks and slender spits of islands, and has all the beauty of variety. We find a small timesh guarding the gate, a sleepy reptile with mouth open to the breeze. He scurries off his ledge as the steamer passes, and watches us, with only an uperings and a nosaknob showing. We think of him when later on we meet a black, blown, and headless coopse rolling down-stream. Natives who try to swim the Nile are often drowned. No doubt this was one, and the loss of his head as even the second of th to swin the Nile are often drowned. No doubt this was one, and the loss of his bead a secondary affair. The sides of the gorge begin abruptly, and tower to a fair height. They are of a reddish and barren rock, all screes and loose stones at their bases, and holding the heat, which is just tempered by the gentle wind. It is a grim place the Shabluka, and one cannot help wondering why the Dervishes did not hold it in force. The said they were afraid of a flanking movement; but they would not easily have been disloged from a region of rocky chaos. If one climbs a hill in the Shabluka region, then is nothing to see but a jumbled mass of hill-tops with dry valleys between, the rivertrack, and the distant dosert. Everywhere stones littered about and a few thory seckies somehow oking out valleys between, the river-track, and the distant desert. Everywhere stones littered about and a few thorny acacias somehow chigg out cristence. A curious spot, which might have prolonged the Khalias's agony had not the gods, meaning to destroy him, first made him mad. Anyhow he might have played havoor amongst the gunbacts with his riflemen perched behind the boulders on either side. There are a few thry patches of green even within the gorge, bits to which soil has clung and to which seeds have been wafted, and where birds have cast their droppings, and which have brought forth fruit in the shape of grass and bushes and stunted palms. The current is swift and full of curls and eddies, while at the turn there is a regular whirlpool, which tests our steering gear as we round the corner, rattling and splashing.

In front is the long limb of the "I, and it is most beautiful at dusk, when beyond the southern outlet, or rather inlet, the sum sinks in splendour. Then the light of dying day touches the red brown felsite and transforms it, the waters are a vivid purple, the two of the clisties the rath of sky brilliant and deciding the course.

vertical ridges due to because the columnar formations, exceedingly like those at the far famed Giant's Causeway. There are the far famed from these, and the vertical ridges due to those at the far famed Giant's Causeway. There are two separate collections of these, and they form a remarkable spectacle for the passer-by. Beyond the gozga, which is some twelve miles in all, lies a region of backwaters, very lovely in the summer-time. These say channels looping round Gobe Royan, the Joffy and isolated hill from which it is said officers of the avenging army first caught sight of the white dome of the Mahdi's tomb in the wicked city of the Khalifa. Some day the Shablaks will be the dome of the Mahdi's tomb in the wicked city of the Khalifa. Some day the Shabilus will be the Brighton of Khartoum, a branch line will take wearied workers there for a week-end amongst the islands, there may be a hotel, fahing quarters, and steam-haunches for river trips. It is well to see it wild in the first instance, and it is not easy to do so, for the main Nile is shallow in the touriest months, and the Halls-Khantoum train passes six miles and more away. The back-waters are charming in the heat, the villages picturesque with their thatched tukls, a few guines-fewl strut and call amongst the undergrowth, and there are many brightly plumaged birds-kingfahers, orioles, and the insvitable doves. A fine place for a picnie, but a trifle far from the metropolis, and a sy tedeserted. A straight stretch of forty and plenic, but a trille far from the metropolis, and as yet deserted. A strille far from the metropolis, and as yet deserted. A strille far from the metropolis, and as yet deserted. A strille strille with the sound of miles to Kerreri and O modurman, and one void of interest it is to be feared. True, some of the villages are worth a visit, and for those who know it not the load or shill seadward of the women is entertaining; but the someny is dull, drab, and unprofitable, dreary desert, a few lonely lell-lemasses, durn-fields, and thorn. So we hall the Kerreri ridge with pleasure, and mark the conical Gebe Surgham, and think of Winston Churchill watching the Dervish hordes from its anumit, and wire the fanous battlifield where a few hones of men yet whiten. Yonder is the ridge whomes issued the charge checked by Macdonald's demi-tofte; jomewhere amongst the sand is the wayd through which checked by Macdonali's demi-volte; journewhere amongst the sand is the wady through which the lancers charged. There by the river is the place of camp and zarobs, and out on the plain the wild tribes ranked to dash with reotless, ill-spent bravery. A few brief years ago, and moy peace and decolation, and farther on the beginnings of Oundorman. The fallen city is not impressive fuecolour is that officarroundings; it is five miles of mnd, five miles long and two broad, hoddling by the Nile, swarming with humanity, dry and dusty. From the top deck of a river steamer you can look right into the place at high Nile, stare down on the narrow attreats, on the flat notice, on the yards or hossing, on the busyhive of a city of markets. At low Nile there is a foreshore where men fail and bathe, and women draw water and wash, and animals drink, and little black boys with predigious be lies splash about, and wash, and animals drink, and little black boys with predigious be lies splash about, and boats lie loading or unloading. Markets of gum and sand and other commodities are here, and markets of every kind farther book in the heart of the great native town. The size is Ondourman, and Ondourman is very largely a vast sizk. We can just see, beyond the old and lofty south gate, the house of the Khalifa and that of the Mondir. The latter rises where the harem buildings stood, and is the most conspicuous dwelling in the place, two-storied and with avebuildings stood, and is the most conspicuous dwelling in the place, two-storied and with a ver-andah. In the Bet el-Amana are to be seen the Khalifa's, coach, Gordon's plano, and other relice; but it is a wid-also, for there are no prechase pistols and quaint muskets from the field, the cap of Abdullah's vanished bodyguard, a few tattered jibbals of deceased warriors, and suchlike relice to the past of the past Court theme is the Nile, not Omdurman, so we paddle past the town and look forward to barren Tuti Island on the left with its old forts, and far off note the palm-grower of Khatroum and the gleam of on the left with its old forts, and far off note the palm-grows of Khartoim and the gleam of the white palsex. Younder is the Blue Nile! Ahead, beyond the long point, the mighty Bahrel-Abiet from Equatoria closes its long career. We are at the junction of the rivers, the place where the Nile of Egypt is in the making, the spot of the mingling of the waters.

EGYPTIAN MINING.

LONDON OPINION.

LONDON OPINION.

A financial correspondent writes —
It is to be hoped that the market and the public will doly lay to heart Lord Cromer's remarks on the Egyptian gold mining indastry, which has attracted a great deal of British capital, and still more company-mongening, during the past two years. Yet, after all this time, Lerd Cromer is only able to state that "sufficient experience has not yet been gained to enable any confident forecast to be made as to the future of Egyptian mines." Moreover, the mining adviser to the Government states that "nearly all the mining and prespecting ventures have been progressing very alowly, owing largely to the weakness of thir financial positions. . With reference to the future, the data available is sufficient to warrant the supposition that a mining industry will depole. It will, however, require considerable time, and the expenditure of very large sums of money, to prove the ultimate value of the different mineral belas already known." Commenting on these remarks, the "Sconomist" point on and Rhodesian mining have been progressed in the Eventral market. rating of this formation, but as a rule isolated hillocks, roughly picturesque. They impart a savage touch to the prevailing sterility of the desert job the rivers changing, and changing for the better. For one thing, it is wider, and the waters, by reason of shallowness, appear less moddy. Indeed it is very wide, resembling a lake rather than a stream, and on its boson bears a multitude of tiny islets,— not the drawy sandshake or the much destreached the their pictures of the content outlet, and the significant of the stream of the word feliated at desert, and it is not the waters, by reason of shallowness, appear less moddy. Indeed it is very wide, resembling a lake rather than a stream, and on its boson bears a multitude of tiny islets,— not the drawy sandshake or the much stream of the word feliated and power of the stream of the word feliated and power of the stream of the word feliated attached the their pictures of the stream of the word feliated attached the waters are a wird purple, the analysis of the Reprosition Company is the stream of the word feliated attached to the word feliated attached the word feliated attached the word feliated attached to the word feliated attached to the proposition of companies and Rhodesian mining have been reproduced to the proposition of companies and Rhodesian mining have been reproduced to the word feliated attached the word feliated att

The Subscription List will open on Wednesday 10th May 1905 and will close on Saturday 13th May 1905.

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(Incorporated under the Companies' Acts 1862 to 1898)

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Tenders will be received at the Office of the Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Khartoum, up to 12 noon on Thurnday the 1st June 1905 for the purchase of the following. Postage Stamps:—(defaced)

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moder.

(Signed) H. L. Mackworri,
Bimb., E. A.

Asst.-Director of Posts and Telegrapha
Khartoum, 6th April 1905.

25519-15a.7

25529-40°-16

Societe Anonyme des Eaux du Caire

La Société des Eaux du Caire porte à la connaissance du Public, que son installation pour la distribution des Eaux à Koubeb-Zeitonn et Matariné that scherée, elle est prête à fournir dans les dites localités, Péan pour la consommation, arrosage des jajdins, chantiers de constructions et tous

jadini, chantiers de constructions et tous attres besoins.

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La Société est prête à établir ses canalis tions d'eau dans les rues non pourvues de conduites, lorsqu'elle aura reçu des demande suffisantes de concession pour une même rue. concurses, lorsqu'eue sura reçu des demandes suffiantes de concession pour une même rue.

Les habitants de Koubbeh, Zeitoun et Matarieh ant does priés de présenter leur demandes par groupes résidant dans une même rue, afin de permettre à la Société d'examiner sans retard leurs demandes, en vue de canaliser et de leur accorder des concessions d'eau.

Le Caire, le 28 Janvier 1905.

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