

Fragment of 1870 Field Diary (I-IV), 18, 24 August 1870

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[I]

Bambarre 18 August 1870 – I learn from Josuf & Moenepembe who have been to Katanga and beyond that there is a Lake N N W of the copper mine and 12 days distant – It is called Chibungo and is said to be large – seven days West of Katanga flows another Lualaba the dividing line between Rua and Lunda or Londa - It is very large and as the Lufira flows into Chibungo it is probable that the Lualaba West and Lufira form the Lake = Lualaba West and Lufira rise by fountains South of Katanga 3 or 4 days. Liambai and Lunga ^{f^{tns}} are only about 10 miles distant from Lualaba West & Lufira fountains. a mound rises between them the most remarkable in Africa Were this spot in Armenia it would serve exactly the description of the garden of Eden in Genesis with its four rivers – the Gihon – Pison Hiddekel and Euphrates – As it is it possibly gave occasion to the story told Herodotus by the secretary of Minerva in the city of Sais about two hills with conical tops Croph and Mophi – midway between them [^] [said he] are the fountains of the Nile – fountains which it is impossible to fathom - Half the water runs Northward into Egypt - half to the South towards Ethiopia. Four fountains rising so near to each other would readily be supposed to have one source and half the water flowing into the Nile – the other have[lf] to the Zambesi required but little imagination to originate, seeing the actual visitor would not feel bound to say how the division was effected He could only know the fact of waters rising at one spot and separating to flow North and South – The conical tops to the mound looks like invention as also do the names.

A slave bought on Lualaba East came from Lualaba West in about twelve days – These two Lualabas may form the loop depicted by Ptolemy and upper and lower Tanganyika be a third arm of the Nile – Patience is all I can exercise – these irritable ulcers hedge me in now as did my attendants in June but all will be for the best for it is in Providence & not in me

[II]

II. The watershed is between 700 and 800 miles long from West to East or say from [^] [22°-] 23° – to 34° [^] [-35] East longitude – Parts of it are enormous sponges - In other parts innumerable rills unite into rivulets which [^] [a]gain form rivers – Lufira for instance has nine rivulets and Lekulwe other nine – The Rose of a garden watering can is a not very apt similitude as the rills do not spring off the face of it, and it is 700 miles across the circle but in the numbers of rills coming out at different heights on the slope there is a faint resemblance, and I cant at present think of no other – I am

a little thankful to old Nile for so hiding his head that all "theoretical discoverers" are left out in the cold With all real explorers I have a hearty sympathy, and I have some regret at being [in a manner compelled] obliged to speak somewhat disparagingly of the opinions formed by my predecessors The work of Speke and Grant is part of the history of this region and since the discovery of the sources of the Nile was asserted so positively in making a somewhat similar claim it seems necessary to explain –, not offensively I hope, wherein their mistake lay – My opinions may yet be shewn to be mistaken too – but at present I cannot conceive how - When Speke discovered Victoria Nyanza in 1858 he at once concluded that therein lay the sources of the Nile His work after that was simply following a foregone conclusion and subsequently as soon as he and Grant looked towards the Victoria Nyanza they turned their backs on the Nile fountains and so every step of their splendid achievement of following the river down took them further & further away from the Caput Nili – ~~As soon as~~ [When] it was perceived that the little river that leaves the Nyanza though ~~called~~ they called it the White Nile would not account for that great river they might have gone West and found Head waters as the Lualaba to which it can bear no comparison Taking [^] [their White Nile] 80 or 90 yds or say 100 yds as its breadth the Lualaba far south of the ~~North end~~ Latitude of its point of departure shews an average breadth of [^] [from 4000 to] 6000 yards and always deep. Baker discovered the lower portion of Tanganyika – He came farther up the Nile than any traveller in modern times but turned when about 700 miles short of the sources

[III]

III. a Dutch lady explorer deserves our sympathy more than any other for after the ~~loss of~~ the severest domestic afflictions, the loss of her two aunts by fever she nobly persevered until after she was assured by Speke and Grant that they had already discovered in Victoria Nyanza the sources she sought – that they not, honestly enough no doubt, given their own mistaken views - She had shewn so much wise foresight in providing not only a steamer but means of further progress by land and water she must inevitably have reached the true head waters – I cannot conceive of her stopping short of Lake Bangweolo – We great He donkeys say exploration was not becoming her sex – considering that more [^] [than] sixteen hundred years have elapsed since Ptolemy put down the results [^] [of] early explorers, and Emperors, Kings, Philosophers – all the great men of antiquity longed to know the fountains whence flowed the famous river – and long in vain – exploration does not seem to have been very becoming the other sex either – she came further up the river than the centurions sent by Nero Caesar and shewed such indomitable pluck as to reflect honour on her race I know nothing about her save ~~by~~ what has appeared in the public papers but taking her exploration along with what was done [no long time could have elapsed before the laurels] by Lady Baker ~~I am proud to think that [...]~~ a worthy part [for] [^] the modern rediscovery of the sources of the

Nile should have been plucked by the ladies -

In 1841 the [^] [2nd] Egyptian [^] [2~~nd~~] expedition [^] [...]] under D'Arnauld & Sabatier reached North Lat. 4° 42' - This was a great advance into the the Interior as compared with Linant in [^] [1827] 13° 30' N. and even on the explorations of Jomard but it turned when nearly a thousand [miles from the sources]

[IV]

IV. [57B] 24 August 1870 = Four gorillas or soko's were killed [169] yesterday an extensive grass burning forced them out of their usual haunt and coming on the plain they were soon speared - they often go erect but place the hands on the head as if to steady the body - When seen thus he is an ungainly beast - The most sentimental young lady would not call him a "dear" but a bandy legged - pot-bellied - low looking villain without a particle of the gentleman in him - other animals especially the antelopes are graceful and it is pleasant to see them either at rest or ~~moving~~ in motion - the natives also are well made, lithe and comely to behold - Soko if large would do well to stand for a picture of the Devil. He takes away my appetite by his disgusting bestiality of appearance - His light yellow face shews off his ugly whiskers and faint apology for a beard - The forehead villainously low with high ears is well in the background by the great dog mouth - teeth slightly human but the canines shew the beast by their large development - the hands or rather the fingers are like those of the natives The fat of the flesh is yellow and the eagerness with which the Manyuema devour it leaves the impression that eating Sokos was one sta[...]-[g]e by which they arrived at being cannibals - they say the flesh is delicious -