

The Manyema Diary, 1871, p.117, DLC297b_117_003v

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CXVII [note]

The valleys into which the water is
led are covered with a thick sward of wiry
damp loving grass & other aquatic plants up
to the verge of the forest - no bushes or trees
can live on the oozing earthen mantle
which supports the long grass and is
itself supported on water and the pearl
white [^][river] sand above mentioned - The
nearest approach to oozing earthen
sponge is our "Bog" but here we have
no peat nor yet the, in the sun, the
mosses or Heaths from which peat
is formed - The earthen sponge is a
great specific gravity and though
constantly pouring out clear ~~what~~
water [^][which] descends into the centre of the
valley & forms a perennial rill = it is
only when the rains have supersat[...] ated
the flats and the slopes of the valleys
are so full as to lift up the whole
earthen sponge that the natural
valves by its weight was shut opens
[especially the valves at its lower end] and the water of inundation in
all the upland streams is gently let
go - The ensuing floods happen
towards the close of the rainy season
and even after the rains have
entirely ceased the water generally
is clear - [Then [...]]near the centre of all the
valleys on the watershed a rivulet
is formed whose perennial
flow is fed on each bank by 30
or a hundred yards of oozing sponge
[...] ranches[^][rills] enter it on all its course
down and these rills & rivulets
are almost innumerable - that
is it would require more than half
a mans lifetime to count them
a birds eye view of them would
appear somewhat like the vegetation
[...] frost on our window panes
or more closely the vegetation