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## ARTICLE I.

*Bibliotheca Symbolica Ecclesiæ Universalis. The Creeds of Christendom, with a History and Critical Notes.* By PHILIP SCHAFF, D. D., LL. D., Professor of Biblical Literature in the Union Theological Seminary, N. Y. In three Volumes. New York: Harper & Bros. 1877.

A short notice of this voluminous work appeared in our last number, together with a promise of a more extended examination. This promise we now propose to redeem, according to the measure of our ability.

Dr. Schaff's design is a grand one. He proposes to set before us, in these volumes, not the results of the thinking of individual minds, not what the most illustrious doctors of the Church have thought upon questions no less awful than the being of God and the eternal destiny of man; but the products of the mind of the Church itself, of that vast community which professes to be the witness of God and of his Christ in the midst of a world full of darkness, pollution, and shame.

These creeds are not the expressions of *opinion* upon problems which have engaged and confounded the inquiries of philosophers. They are confessions of *faith* in the solutions of those problems by him who is the source of all truth, as he is the source of all being; solutions contained in a book divinely inspired, divinely authenticated, and divinely interpreted. The Church, in these creeds, declares that faith for which her members are willing to die and for which hundreds of thousands of her members have

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respondence," but the loving recognition of one Evangelical Church by another as a true Church of Christ. Above all, let us never forget the supreme importance of the truth itself, in which the glory of God and the salvation of men are so deeply concerned,—of that *doctrine*, which, however postponed in the esteem of many to the interests of peace, is, after all, as Calvin said, the "*sacrum vinculum fraternitatis beatæ.*"

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ARTICLE II.

## GEOGRAPHICAL DISCOVERIES IN EQUATORIAL AFRICA.

In a previous number of this Review we gave a brief sketch of the various explorations that had been made, in different ages of the world, to solve two great problems in African geography, viz., the outlet of the Niger, and the source of the Nile. The first of these problems was solved, as is well known, about fifty years ago by Richard Lander and his brother, and the other at a much later period by the combined researches of Speke, Grant, and Sir Samuel W. Baker. Since the last mentioned discovery, the work of exploration has gone on with great spirit and energy, so that we have now a tolerably correct map, not only of the sources of the Nile, but of all the important geographical features of Central Southern Africa—a vast region of country that has heretofore been almost entirely unknown to the civilised world. Of the more recent and important of these explorations may be mentioned those of Sir Samuel W. Baker, in the service of the Khedive of Egypt; of the well known veteran African traveller, Dr. David Livingstone; Dr. Georg Schweinfurth, under the direction of Humboldt Institution; Col. C. Chaille Long, in the service of the Khedive of Egypt; Commander V. L. Cameron, of the British navy; and Henry M. Stanley, joint commissioner, as he is called, of the New York *Herald* and the London *Daily Telegraph.* The journals of all these travellers have been pub-

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lished in regular book form, except those of Stanley, of which we have as yet only newspaper and desultory articles.

Sir Samuel W. Baker, during his recent sojourn in the lake regions, an interesting account of which is given in his book entitled "Ismailia," had less reference to geographical research than to the subjugation of the country to the authority of the Khedive of Egypt, with the ultimate view of breaking up the slave trade. With the means and military force placed at his command, he was entirely successful in bringing all the aboriginal tribes around Gondokoro, and between that and the northern borders of Victoria Nyanza, under the acknowledged authority of the Khedive of Egypt. At the same time he established military posts in various parts of the country, with the twofold purpose of suppressing the slave trade, and of protecting lawful commerce and making travelling more secure. So far as these particular objects are concerned, his undertaking may be regarded as eminently successful.

Col. Long's journey lay along the east side of the Nile, and for the most part parallel to it, from Gondokoro 5° north latitude, to the northern borders of Victoria Nyanza, very nearly under the equator; a distance in a direct line of about 300 miles. He crossed and recrossed the great river which connects the Victoria and the Albert Nyanza, and which now, by common consent, is called the White Nile. He found this river at one place spreading itself out into a small lake, a characteristic feature of almost all the rivers of this part of Africa. He traversed the country of Uganda in its full length and breadth, and was treated with great hospitality by M'tesa, the king, but was not permitted to explore the great lake as he desired to do. He did not, however, receive the same impressions of the mild and docile character of the people that Stanley did, who had visited the country a short time before, from the opposite direction.

Dr. Schweinfurth's researches lay altogether on the west side of the Nile. He left the Nile at its confluence with the Gazal, in 10° north latitude, and directed his steps in a southwesterly direction to the Monbutto country, which lies on the west side of the mountain range which shuts in the Albert Nyanza. The

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only geographical discovery of importance made by him was the great river Wéllé, forming the southern boundary of the Monbutto country, and running in a westerly direction. We shall have occasion to refer again to this discovery, in the progress of this article. Although Dr. Schweinfurth made no other geographical discovery than the one just mentioned, he has made richer contributions to our knowledge of the botany, the natural history, and the geological features of those regions, as well as to the character and habits of the people, than any other traveller that has ever visited them. His statements bear the impress of truth and of close scientific observation; and his book is read with more than ordinary interest.

Commander Cameron in his undertaking seems to have had two objective points before his mind, one of which was to ascertain the outflow of the Tanganyika Lake, and the other to make his way across the continent from east to west. He succeeded in both of these, but not to his entire satisfaction as to the first, and not exactly in the direction that he intended as to the second. The Lukuga river, which he found flowing out of the west side of the lake in a westerly direction—probably makes its way through a break in the mountain chain to the Lualaba, and thus reaches the Atlantic. This point has yet to be settled, as no one has traced the course of this river for more than a few miles from the lake. From Tanganyika, Commander Cameron made his way to the town of Nyangwe, situated on the banks of the Lualaba river, 4° south latitude, and which had been previously discovered by Dr. Livingstone. Here he was strongly impressed with the idea of the identity of the Lualaba and the Kongo river, which is now known to discharge itself into the Atlantic about 6° south latitude. He was very desirous of following it down to its outlet, but his means were limited, and he could procure neither men nor canoes for the undertaking. In order to cross the continent at all, he had to lay his course in a southwesterly direction, and, ultimately, reached the western coast at Benguela, four hundred miles south of the mouth of the Kongo. While he failed to accomplish the particular object which lay near to his heart—the identification of the Lualaba and the

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Kongo—his discoveries, nevertheless, have an important bearing upon the general geography of the country, especially as to the size and course of the southern tributaries of the Kongo.

At the distance of a few hundred miles from the Atlantic sea-coast, he must have crossed the track of Dr. Livingstone on his famous trans-continental journey from the Zambesi river to Loando St. Paul.

To give even an outline of the long journeys and important discoveries of the greatest of all African explorers, Dr. Livingstone, would require more space than would be compatible with the proposed length of this article. During the last years of his life, he discovered two great lakes on the west side of the mountains,—Lakes Bemba (Bangweolo) and Moero—both lying to the south-west of Tanganyika, the first between the 11° and 12° south latitude, and the second bisected by the 9° south latitude. He ascertained, also, partly by personal observation and partly by information obtained from the natives, that these two lakes were connected by the river Luapula, the Bemba flowing northward into the Moero. He had no idea at the time, however, that the Bangweolo was the true source of the Luálaba, which has since been ascertained to be the fact. These two lakes, with one or two others whose size and position have not yet been accurately settled, are separated from the Nyassa, the Tanganyika, and the Nyanza by a continuous chain of mountains, in a break through which it is probable the waters of the Tanganyika flow into the Luálaba. It had been conjectured before these discoveries were made by Livingstone, that there would be found a series of lakes on the western side of the mountains corresponding to those on the east side, which has proved to be the exact state of the case, as will be seen presently. The next great discovery of Dr. Livingstone, as has already been intimated, was that of the great Luálaba river at the town of Nyangwe. This town is situated on the 4° south latitude and 26° east longitude. It stands very nearly midway between the Atlantic and the Indian Oceans—about one hundred and twenty miles nearer the latter. It possesses no importance in itself, except that it has for a long time been regarded as the western *terminus* of all the predatory wars of



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the Arabs from the eastern coast. All beyond this was a *terra incognita*, even to them. No one felt any disposition to invade the unknown and mysterious regions beyond. Dr. Livingstone found the river here nearly a mile wide and flowing very rapidly in a northern direction. He was in doubt whether it was the same with the Kongo, and thus flowed into the Atlantic, or whether sweeping around to the north, it did not flow into the Albert Nyanza, and thus become a tributary of the Nile. Had he been acquainted with the discovery of the Wéllé by Dr. Schweinfurth, which he was not, he would have seen at once that the latter hypothesis was inadmissible. Dr. Livingstone had neither the strength, the means, nor the men to attempt to follow the course of the Luálaba, and hence directed his steps back to the more familiar regions of the Tanganyika.

Mr. Stanley's explorations, as to their general results, are quite as important as any that had previously been made.

On his previous tour in Africa, where his only object was to find and convey relief to Livingstone, he seems to have been inspired with an ardent desire to make discoveries on his own account, and, no doubt, laid plans which he has since been enabled to carry into execution, but at no little cost of peril and hardship, and, perhaps, by means sometimes that cannot be fully justified. As has already been mentioned, we have up to the present time only newspaper articles on which to base our observations, and we cannot therefore speak with entire confidence as to many important particulars brought to light in the course of his journey across the continent. He left the coast near Zanzibar in November, 1874, with three white men and three hundred natives, whom he had enlisted at Zanzibar and on the adjacent coast. He carried a small American-built boat in sections, called the Lady Alice, forty feet long and six broad, to cross the rivers and navigate the lakes. He made his way first to Lake Victoria, which he circumnavigated, visiting Mtésa, the chief of the Uganda country, on its northern borders. It will be remembered by the general reader, that he spoke of this chief and his people as being specially prepared to receive the gospel. He next directed his steps southward to Lake Tanganyika, which he

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also circumnavigated, with the view of ascertaining its outflow. From thence he made his way to the town, already mentioned, of Nyangwe, on the Luálaba, which had been previously visited by Livingstone and Cameron; and which, as has already been mentioned, was the western *terminus* of travel from the east coast. Even the Arab slave-trader had never gone beyond this point. It stands eight hundred and ten geographical miles from the Indian Ocean, and nine hundred and thirty from the Atlantic. On his arrival at the Luálaba, he found himself confronted by the same difficulties which had met Livingstone and Cameron some months earlier. Nobody to accompany him, no canoes to be hired, and frightful legends about the country beyond. But he was not to be daunted. He resolved to follow the Luálaba down to its outlet, wherever that might be. He had a strong conviction that it would prove to be the Kongo. He had already fought his way over nearly two-thirds of the distance which now lay between him and the Atlantic. The crowning glory of all his discoveries had yet to be achieved, and he firmly resolved to risk life and everything else for its attainment.

It is a grand spectacle presented by Stanley as he stood upon the banks of the Luálaba, balancing in his mind the dangers and uncertainties of the undertaking with the honor and glory of success. He staked everything on the issue, and after much parleying with the natives and the Arab traders he finally embarked with a little fleet of twenty-seven canoes, manned with one hundred and forty friendly natives, the Lady Alice, and one white man—the other two whites having died on the way. His downward course was an almost constant fight with hostile natives. He had, according to his own representations, as many as thirty-four separate engagements, and in most cases the enemy had every advantage as to the number and size of their canoes, as well as the number of men who were employed in managing them. His way was also greatly obstructed by rapids and cataracts in the river, especially where it leaves the eastern mountains to enter the great central basin, and again where it leaves that basin by breaking through the Sierra del Crystal mountains to enter the Atlantic ocean. Around these falls he had to carry his boat and

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drag his canoes, and at one place to the distance of thirteen miles. In one attempt to pass over the falls with his boats and canoes, he lost his only surviving white companion, of whom he speaks in the highest terms of commendation. The course of the river from the point where Stanley embarked upon it, was very nearly due north until it reaches the 2° north latitude, then in a northwesterly direction for several hundred miles, and after that in a southwesterly course until it reaches and discharges itself into the Atlantic in 6° south latitude. The whole course of the Kongo from its rise in Lake Bemba to its discharge in the Atlantic, is estimated by Stanley at about two thousand nine hundred miles—one thousand one hundred miles from its source to the town of Nyangwe, and from thence to the Atlantic, the portion over which he journeyed, about one thousand eight hundred miles.

The question, then, of the identity of the Luálaba and the Kongo is settled by actual observation, the results of which, in a commercial, a religious, and general point of view, can scarcely be imagined. Stanley has not only placed himself in the forefront of all the great explorers of the age, but he has opened a door of access for religion, for commerce, and for civilisation to a large section of Africa heretofore unknown to the civilised world, but probably one of the fairest and richest portions of this great continent.

Bringing the results of all these various explorations together, we can form a well defined map of central southern Africa. First, then, is the great chain of mountains of the eastern section of Africa, running parallel to the sea-coast, and about seven hundred miles distant, and extending, so far as is known, from 4° north latitude to the 12° south latitude. The eastern slopes of this chain constitute what is called the water-shed for the parallel lakes of Albert Nyanza, the Tanganyika, and the Nyassa—the Victoria Nyanza being fed by isolated mountains immediately around it. The Nyassa, the southernmost of these lakes, was discovered by Dr. Livingstone soon after his return to Africa. It discharges itself through the Shire into the Zambesi, and thence into the Indian Ocean. The Tanganyika, the largest

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and in some respects the most important of these three lakes, was discovered by Burton and Speke in 1857. The outlet of this lake has never yet been satisfactorily settled, but it is probable that the Lukuga, discovered by Commander Cameron, flowing out of its western side, makes its way through a break in the mountain into the Luálaba, and thus flows into the Atlantic. This hypothesis, however, needs confirmation, as no one has yet traced the course of the Lukuga more than a few miles from the lake. The Victoria Nyanza was discovered by Speke, who separated himself from Burton after the discovery of the Tanganyika, and reached the southern shores of the Victoria on his way back to the sea-coast. It was subsequently revisited by Speke; and by Grant and himself together, it was more extensively surveyed than on the first visit. Sir Samuel Baker has the honor of being the discoverer of the Albert Nyanza. The Victoria, as is now well known, empties itself into the Albert Nyanza at no great distance from the point where the White Nile takes its rise as a distinct river. The whole length of the Nile from its source in the Albert Nyanza to the Mediterranean is perhaps not less than two thousand five hundred miles. The peculiar characteristic of this river, however, is that it is as large where it emerges from the Nyanza as it is when it discharges itself into the Mediterranean.

On the western side of this chain of mountains there is a corresponding series of lakes, as the Bangweolo, the Moero, and several others, whose position and size are not yet distinctly settled. The Kongo, or Luálaba, takes its rise in the first of these lakes, spreads itself out in its northward course into Lake Moero, and perhaps into one or two other smaller lakes, before it reaches Nyangwe. This great river flows from its source in a direct northern course to the distance of one thousand five hundred miles, and, for the most part, near to and parallel with the range of mountains whose slopes constitute its water-shed. When it reaches the 2° north latitude in its northward progress, it turns to the west and then southwest, in which direction it runs until breaking its way through the Sierra del Crystal mountains it reaches the Atlantic in 6° south latitude. This great river of

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more than two thousand nine hundred miles in length is the third, if not the second, great river in the world. It receives many large affluents both before and after it leaves the slopes of the eastern mountains. One that flows into it from the south, called the Ikalembe, is very nearly as large as the Kongo itself, and is perhaps more than a thousand miles long. Another from the opposite side, called the Aruwimi, which is probably the Wéllé described by Dr. Schweinfurth, and which is a navigable stream for many hundred miles, flows into the main stream not far from the mouth of the Ikalembe. No one acquainted with the lower Kongo will be surprised to find that its actual length is so great, or that it receives so many affluents in its progress westward. It is from three to four miles wide at its mouth, is said to be nearly one thousand feet deep, and rushes into the Atlantic with an immense force. Vessels sailing near the shore are always driven out of their course by the force of its current, whilst the sea to a considerable distance is discolored by the same cause. Captain Tuckey, of the British Navy, attempted in 1816 to explore this river, but in consequence of the swiftness of the current and the falls, he did not get more than one hundred miles from the sea-coast.

Our special object in this paper is to direct the attention of our readers to the great basin of the Kongo, which now opens such a wide door for the introduction of commerce, civilisation, and Christianity. This great basin, or valley of the Kongo, lies between the two great mountain chains of eastern and western Africa—the first already spoken of as running parallel to the eastern coast and about seven hundred miles distant, and the second also running parallel to the western coast, but not more than one hundred or one hundred and fifty miles distant—and extending from the head-waters of the tributaries of the Benue, the great southern affluent of the Niger on the north, to the head-waters of the tributaries of the Zambesi on the south. Thus, this basin will be seen to be about eight hundred miles broad and one thousand two hundred miles from north to the south, and to have an area of nearly one million square miles. There is, perhaps, no richer country, so far as natural resources are

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concerned, in the world. It is well watered, has extraordinary facilities for inland travel and commerce, and, for a tropical country, is probably decidedly healthy. And yet, until the researches of Stanley and Cameron were published, the civilised world had no knowledge either of the size or internal condition of this great region. The Arab slave-traders had reached its eastern borders, but knew nothing of the country beyond, except what they could gather from the fabulous stories of the natives. The Portuguese have not only carried on trade with maritime tribes along its whole western frontier, but they have had permanent settlements at different points along the coast for three centuries, yet they knew little or nothing about the people or country beyond the mountains.

The limits of our article will not allow us to enter into any extended details as to the natural resources of the country or of the character and habits of the people. Nor would it be proper to do so until Stanley has published a full and minute account of his various discoveries and observations. It will not be amiss, however, to consider briefly a few points of great and general interest, viz.: 1st. The character of the people who inhabit this valley; 2d. The commerce that is likely to result from its discovery; and 3d. The great importance of this immense and populous basin as a field for missionary enterprise.

The inhabitants of this great region, with the exception of some dwarf tribes scattered among them, who may be regarded as the gypsies of Central Africa, belong to the great Ethiopian stock of the negro race, in distinction from the Nigritian stock which inhabits the valley of the Niger. Their being of the Ethiopian family may be inferred from their geographical position, and from the similarity which marks their physical characteristics, the form and structure of their agricultural and warlike implements, their customs, habits, and superstitions, but especially from the words and grammatical forms of their various dialects. Looking simply at the names of persons and places given by our travellers, it is evident that one great language, with dialectic differences, of course, extends from the eastern to the western coast. It may be seen very strikingly in the use of certain con-

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sonant combinations, as *ny*, in the names of the three great lakes of Nyassa, Tanganyika, and Nyanza; in the use of *m*, with a sort of half vowel sound, before words that would otherwise commence with the letters *b*, *p*, *t*, *and v*, as m'tesa, m'polu, m'volu; and the letter *n* before a word that would commence with *ty*, as n'tyondo. It will also be observed that many proper names, especially those to designate tribes, commence with *wa* and end with *ana*. Now *wa*, in several of the dialects along the western coast, is the plural of *oma*, person; and so *awana* is the plural of *owana*, a child; when abreviated into *ana*, at the end of words, it means children or descendants. Many words on the eastern and western coast are the same, as *oganga* for doctor or priest, and *olamba* for cloth of any kind. These affinities might be multiplied to an almost unlimited extent. If a complete vocabulary of all the words used by the four or five tribes residing along the seaboard, between the Gaboon and Loando St. Paul, could be collated, it would perhaps be found to contain four-fifths of all the words used from the equator to the Cape of Good Hope, including even the Bechuana, the Zulu, and the Kaffir families.

As to the amount of the population of this great basin, no very trustworthy estimate can be made. Livingstone, Cameron, and Stanley, all represent the portions of it over which they respectively travelled, as quite populous. This is not the case in the regions around the lakes and between the lakes and the eastern seaboard. Here the slave-trade and the internal wars consequent upon it, have desolated the country and thinned out the population to a frightful extent. So for centuries the western coast was sadly scourged by the same evil; but there has been none of this traffic on any part of this coast for twenty-five or thirty years; so that the population is rapidly recovering its heavy losses. But whatever desolations it may have caused, either along the eastern or western coasts in former years, there is no reason to suppose that it ever reached the central portions of this great basin, with its desolating power. The distance was too great to convey slaves to either coast, without much greater facilities for transportation than they ever possessed. It is perhaps fortunate for

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them that they did not know how to utilise their great rivers for this purpose. In view of these and other facts that might be brought together, it is perhaps safe to say that the entire population of this great basin does not fall short of 30,000,000.

In a social point of view, the inhabitants of this region of country occupy a very low place in the scale of humanity. Stanley and Cameron represent some of the tribes through which they respectively travelled, as comparatively mild and harmless, whilst others they found to be fiercest of savages. It is not surprising, however, that Stanley had to fight his way down the greater part of the Kongo. He was the first white man that ever attempted to traverse the country. It was impossible for the people to form any satisfactory conception either of the motives by which he was influenced, or of the results that would follow if he were allowed to pass unchecked through their country. It required more than a mere protestation on his part that his designs were of a purely friendly character. All the knowledge which these people had of the white man was that he was the enemy of their race. They knew him only through the cruelties and the oppressions he had practised upon the race, both in Western and Eastern Africa. They were familiar especially with the disturbances that had been caused by the Arab slave-traders in the regions of the lakes. They dreaded his presence among them as the worst calamity that could befall their country. Supposing Stanley to be one of their number, and that his little party was but the vanguard of a more formidable force to follow, it is not surprising that they made every effort to arrest his onward progress. The negro, in his primitive condition, always regards the products and commodities which white men bring to his country with intense covetousness, especially such articles as guns, powder, beads, rum, red woollen caps, and brass pans. There is nothing he possesses that he will not cheerfully barter for such articles. But at the same time he does not wish to have any direct communication with the white man himself, especially as he has no confidence either in his honesty or in his kindly feelings towards himself. He would prefer to get the coveted articles through the intermediate agency of other tribes.



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His hostility, therefore, was not only natural, but was called forth by the novel and peculiar circumstances of the case.

Some of these tribes are undoubtedly cannibal, which places them very low in the scale of humanity. It is gratifying to know, however, that the practice is not general; and that even among those tribes where it does prevail, there are individuals and classes which regard it with disgust. Women never have anything to do with this brutalising practice, and sometimes they put forth all the influence they possess to keep their husbands out of it. It is not easy to point out the successive steps by which men reach this deep degradation. It only illustrates what human nature really is when left without the influences and restraints of the gospel. At the same time, there is every reason to believe that the gospel is abundantly able to lift this people even out of this deep degradation.

The Fijians, fifty years ago, were grosser cannibals than any portion of the African race. But this atrocious habit has not only been given up by that whole race, but the great mass of them are now basking in the light and bliss of a Christian salvation.

Apart from this, the people of this great region of country may be regarded as mild, peaceful, and docile in their general character; and for proofs of this, we might refer to the success of the Roman Catholic missionaries in the kingdom of Kongo two and a half centuries ago, or to the labors of the Protestant missionaries of the present day at the Gaboon, at Corisco, and at Cape Lopez. The cessation of the slave-trade in all these places has not only restored peace and confidence among themselves, but it is followed by a general desire to engage in those industrial pursuits which are promotive of their general welfare. They are also brought in this way into a more favorable attitude towards the gospel of Jesus Christ; and we confidently believe the time will come, sooner or later, when this land, so long buried in Pagan darkness, shall witness triumphs of God's sovereign grace as great as any that have ever visited our sin-ruined world.

These recent discoveries, there is no doubt, will soon be fol-

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lowed by great commercial results. A railroad constructed around the first falls in the river, which is not more than one hundred miles from its outlet, or directly from the southern seaboard at Emboma to a point above the falls, which would not necessarily be more than eighty miles long, would in a very few years develop a commerce of immense value. A vessel launched above the falls, would find smooth navigable waters along the main stream and its various branches, of more than two thousand miles. And if by a canal or other means, such a vessel could pass around the second falls, its course through navigable waters would be more than doubled. Without any extraordinary cost or effort, therefore, the civilised world may very speedily be brought in easy contact with almost every portion of this great basin, and, by judicious measures, may set 30,000,000 people to work to bring together the rich resources of their country for foreign exportation.

Among the known products of the country may be mentioned ivory, beeswax, ebony, dye-woods, India-rubber, gum-copal, cotton, ground-nuts, copper ore, beni-seed, and palm-oil. The last mentioned of these products is likely of itself to become a most important branch of commerce. None of these articles have heretofore reached the seacoast, except an occasional tooth of ivory borne on the shoulders of men, over a great distance.

We know no limit that can be placed to the amount of palm-oil that may be prepared for exportation here, except it be in the demand for the article itself. It is now extensively used in England, France, Germany, and other parts of Europe, for lubricating railroad and other machinery, for the manufacture of the best quality of soap, candles, pomatum, and other articles of a similar character. In former times, the oil was derived exclusively from the red oily pulp that envelopes the nut. But recently, it has been ascertained that the kernel of the nut yields a finer quality of oil, and almost as much in quantity as the outer pulp; so that palm kernels are now reported in the Liverpool and other markets of Europe as an important article of commerce. The oil-bearing palm grows in all parts of this great basin. Cameron and Stanley both speak of finding great forests

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of this growth; and as the manufacture of it requires neither skill nor labor, any quantity may be produced as soon as there is a demand for it. If we may judge of the progress of its development here by what has taken place along the western seaboard in the course of the last thirty years, its production and exportation must become immensely great.

We have no statistics at hand by which to form even an approximate estimate of the actual amount of palm oil now annually shipped from western Africa. Its growth is mainly within the last twenty-five or thirty years. Formerly, it was confined to the rivers in the Gulf of Benin and to a few points along the Grain and Ivory Coasts. Not more than twenty or thirty vessels were engaged in carrying on the traffic. Now it is gathered and exported, in less or greater quantities, at almost every town and village along a line of seacoast of more than 2,000 miles. Hundreds of sailing vessels are now employed, where fifteen or twenty in former times would have been sufficient. Two semi-monthly lines of steamers of a large class are plying between Liverpool and the coast, and yet they are found insufficient for transporting what the sailing vessels cannot carry. The palm-oil trade has taken the place of the slave-trade, and in actual value to the natives is perhaps worth ten times as much as the slave-trade ever was, even in its most prosperous times. Peace has taken the place of the perpetual strifes that formerly agitated the country; and the aborigines, as a matter of course, have more time and more heart to follow the pursuits of lawful commerce. Similar results, we have no doubt, will be realised in the great valley of the Kongo as soon as the people there are brought into active commercial relations with the civilised world.

But we look upon this great valley with special interest as an inviting field for missionary enterprise. For many long centuries it has remained locked up against the light of the gospel. The Christian world has scarcely known of the existence of this vast multitude of immortal beings. Ignorance, superstition, and barbarism, in all of their varied forms, have reigned here from generation to generation. Christianity has been shedding its

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benign influences for centuries over other portions of the earth; but so far as is known to man, not one ray of it has ever penetrated the overspreading darkness of this vast region. But now the country seems to be on the eve of a better state of things. A door of access has been opened; and if the Church of Christ will interpret aright this intervention of divine providence, the time will not be far distant when the light of the gospel will shine brightly in every portion of this heretofore dark and benighted land. It is hoped that the climate will prove at least comparatively healthful. Missionaries, through the means of its multiplied water courses, would soon be able to extend their preaching tours in every direction. The language, as may be inferred from what is known of the dialects along the adjoining seaboard, may not only be easily mastered, but will be found to be a most suitable channel for conveying the knowledge of salvation to the minds of those by whom it is spoken. The Churches of Great Britain are waking up to the demands of this new call of Providence. Thousands and tens of thousands of dollars have been contributed with reference to sending the gospel to Eastern Africa, and especially to the regions around the newly discovered lakes. Missions have already been established on the shores of Lake Nyassa by the different Churches of Scotland. The London Missionary Society has its representatives on the road from Zanzibar to Lake Tanganyika. The Church Missionary Society, mainly through the agency of Bishop Crowther and his native associates, are pushing their enterprises up the Niger, even into the heart of Central Northern Africa. Hundreds of churches have been established along the western seaboard. The light of the gospel has penetrated to the heart of savage Ashanti. The great island of Madagascar, where a large portion of the population is African, has already received the gospel of peace. May it not be hoped, in view of all this, that the evangelical Churches of this country will be aroused to the claims of this great Kongo field, opened to their view by the indomitable courage of one of their own countrymen? Stanley risked life and everything else to solve a geographical problem. Shall we as Christians be less courageous than he? Shall we

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not, now that he has laid this great field open to us, have the daring to go and plant the gospel standard there, and claim that whole land for its rightful Sovereign?

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ARTICLE III.

## PAN-HELLENISM.

For months the eyes of Europe and the world have been turned eastward. Even before the declaration of war (April, 1877,) between Russia and Turkey, the "sick man" and his maladies engaged to a very great extent the public attention. And since that time this universal interest has been intensified in all that pertains to the races, nations, and countries, which comprise the great Turkish Empire; and the rights and interests of these various people, the part they will probably play in deciding the issues now involved, as well as their possible future, have all been again and again discussed. In other words, the "Eastern Question," in its varied and multiform phases, has for at least two years occupied the uppermost place in the world's thought. But though so much has been said and written, this great "question" is by no means exhausted, as it is by no means settled.

One of the factors in this "Eastern Question" is Hellenism. For the time, indeed, this has not been very prominent; it has had no eloquent orators to plead its cause in the world's ear, and no great empire to draw the sword in its behalf; and yet in fact it is not of much, if any, less importance than its great rival, Pan-Slavism. And it may be that before the final settlement of these questions, Hellenism not less than Slavism will play an important part.

What, then, is Hellenism? On what basis does it rest? What are its dangers, and what its probable future? This is the subject to which the reader's attention is invited. For the object of this article is not to suggest what part the Greeks will or

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