

vanced a few steps, then stopped to utter that hideous roar again and beat his chest, and finally stopped when at a distance of about six yards from us; and here, just as he began one of his roars, beating his breast in rage, I killed him. With a groan which had something terribly human in it, and yet was full of brutishness, he fell forward on his face. The body shook convulsively for a few minutes, the limbs moved about in a struggling way, and then all was quiet. The people fed on the body in the evening, carefully saving the brain for fetishes, of which two kinds are made, one giving the wearer a strong arm for the hunt, and the other making the wearer perfectly bewitching with women. The more wives they have, the more they are envied; hence this fetish is considered invaluable to them."

Another of their superstitions is that some men have turned into gorillas; and such possessed gorillas, they say, can never be killed, and are endowed with the intelligence of man, united to the strength and ferocity of the beast.

M. Du Chaillu has had good opportunities of studying the habits of the gorilla, and he says that, while many of the actions reported of him are false, no description can exceed the horror of his appearance, the ferocity of his attacks, and the impish malignity of his nature. The animal lives in the loneliest and darkest portion of the African jungle, preferring deep wooded valleys and swampy soil. It is a restless or nomadic beast, wandering from place to place, and scarcely found two days in the same neighborhood. This restlessness is caused by the struggle it has to find its favorite food. For, though the gorilla possesses such immense canine teeth, and though his vast strength doubtless fits him to capture and kill almost every animal that frequents the forest, he is a strict vegetarian.

"I have examined the stomachs of all those we have killed, and found there nothing but the traces of berries, pine-apples, leaves, nuts, and other vegetable matter. It is a huge feeder. Indeed, its great frame and enormous muscular development could not be supported by little food. It does not live in trees; indeed, its enormous weight would prevent it from doing so. Some of the males must weigh from 300 to 400 pounds. By the examination of the stomachs of the many specimens I have had, I was able to ascertain with tolerable certainty the nature of its food, and I discovered that it had no need to ascend trees. It is fond of the heart of some trees, also of a kind of nut with a very hard shell. This shell is so hard that it requires a strong blow with a very heavy hammer to break it. And here is probably one purpose of

that enormous strength of jaw which long seemed to me thrown away on a non-carnivorous animal. Only the young gorillas sleep in trees for protection from the wild beasts. I have myself come upon fresh traces of gorilla beds on several occasions, and could see that the male had seated himself with his back against a tree trunk. The gorilla has no other roar than that I have described. There is, besides, the scream of the female, when alarmed, and a low kind of chick with which the watchful mother seems to call her child to her. The young ones have only a cry when in distress; but their voice is harsh, and sometimes is more a moan of pain than a child cry. The female gorilla has never more than one young at a time. I have found skulls where the huge canines were broken off. The negroes told me that such teeth were broken in combats between the males for the possession of a female. The gorilla walks in an erect position with greater ease than the chimpanzee. When standing up, his knees are bent at the joint outward, and his body stoops forward. The common walk of a gorilla is not on his hind legs, but on all fours. In this position, the arms are so long that the head and breast are raised considerably, and, as he runs, his hind legs are brought far beneath the body. He can run with great speed."

M. Du Chaillu has found the gorilla quite untamable, even when taken young; in this respect differing from the chimpanzee, which is easily subdued.

MARIA MATHSDOTTER; OR, FEMALE HEROISM.

In one of the northern districts of Sweden there lives a woman who began, a few years since, to feel an intense longing for the good of her people. Her name was Maria Magdalena Mathsdotter. She was a Laplander by birth, as also in her manner of life; but, though dwelling under a most inhospitable sky, and having but few means of improvement, she succeeded in obtaining just enough of education to know its value. She had learned, moreover, that there was "a better country, that is, an heavenly"; and it was her joy to think that her final home would be there. But the poor Lapps around her! Their ignorance and degradation lay upon her heart as its heaviest burden. "Surely," she thought, "I can do something for them"; and she prayed that it might be shown her *what* she could do.

She had the care of one hundred reindeer the entire wealth of her parents. It was a nomadic life, therefore, that she was obliged