

Single-handed and alone, on an income, for many years, of only £100 per annum, he explored a country covering three millions of square miles, laying down clearly its main features, its watersheds and approximate levels. It was a marvellous achievement, and taking into account the slender means at his disposal, almost without a parallel. In his celebrated journey, completed in 1856, he crossed and re-crossed the continent of Africa, from the mouths of the Zambezi to St. Paul de Loando, along a route never trod before by the foot of a white man, through dangerous tribes of savages, fever-breeding swamps, wilds that re-echoed the lion's roar, and regions supposed before to be mere parched deserts, but which he found teeming with the richest and most varied productions. In this wonderful tramp, he performed a journey of eleven thousand miles and had thirty-two attacks of fever; he discovered the noble and exquisitely beautiful river, Zouga, the fine Lake Ngami, traced the mighty Zambesi and some of its tributaries, and discovered, in 1859, the great Lake Nyassa, two hundred and fifty miles in length. The solution of geographical problems, however, was but a part of his work. He threw a flood of light on the condition of these African tribes, their languages, customs, religious ideas, political relations and social condition; while his accurate observations of all natural phenomena added greatly to our stores of knowledge. The Africa which he disclosed was not the irreclaimable sterile region which previously existed in the imagination of men. He found, in many places, the sugar cane cultivated from time immemorial, and in such quantities as to be sufficient to supply all Europe. He found the finest mocha coffee, the seeds of which had been introduced by the Jesuits, growing wild in the greatest abundance; vines loaded with dark purple grapes; pine-apples growing for miles and miles along his route; the indigo plant abundant, and the natives growing rice, wheat, millet, yams and bananas. Troops of lordly elephants in some places obstructed his path; whose "tameness was so shocking, from their seclusion, that he had to halloo to them to clear the way." Animal life of all kinds abounded—zebras, antelopes, elans, giraffes and buffaloes. The importance of such discoveries can hardly be over-rated, whether we regard the interests of Africa or Europe. There are few of these splendid natural productions which Europeans do not need and will not gladly purchase; while the manufactures of Europe may be introduced in return to an