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WELCOME AND SCHOOL

Do unto others
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TORONTO, AUGUST 24, 1889.

[No. 17.]



UBUJWE AND UGUHA
HEAD-DRESS.

Through the Dark Continent.

BY HENRY M. STANLEY.

XVII.

On the 5th of January, 1877, we resumed our journey down the Livingstone. Early on the 6th I began to explore the First Cataract of the Stanley Falls. The waves were enormous, and the slope so great that the river's face was all foam. We had to hew a path through the jungle, and drag the canoes two miles overland. But soon we heard the

roar of another cataract, sounding solemnly and terribly near. Presently we heard drums and war-horns sounding on the left bank. We had no time for consultation or even thought: the current was swift, and the hoarse roar of the Second Cataract was more sonorous than that of the first, thundering into our affrighted ears that, if we were swept over, destruction— sudden and utter— awaited us.

There was one way to resolve the problem, and that was, to meet the savages and dare their worst, and then to drag the

canoes through the dense forests on the left bank. We divided the expedition into two parties, or relays—the one to work by night, the other by day; after which I took a picked body of pioneers, with axes and guns, and cut a narrow path three miles in length; and, after seventy-eight hours' terrific exertion, succeeded in reaching the welcome river, and launching our canoes.

We camped on the night of the 19th on the right bank. I flattered myself that I was tolerably well acquainted with the arts of savages, but my astonishment was very great to find myself only a novice after all. For in the morning one of my people came to inform me, with a grave face, that we were netted!

"Netted!" I said. "What do you mean?"

"True, master. There is a tall, high net round the camp from above to below, and the net is made of cord."

"Ah! if there is a net there must be men behind, to spear the game." We fired at random into the bushes, and made a rush forward, and captured eight of the savages. They confessed that they lay in wait for man-meat.

At noon of the 23rd, we found ourselves four miles north of the equator, by observation. I dropped the lead, with twenty fathoms of line, into the river, but found no bottom.

On the 25th, the roar of the Seventh and last Cataract of the Stanley Falls burst upon our ears with a tremendous crash. The sonorous boom of the great war-drums was soon heard, mustering every fisherman from the creeks, and every hunter from the woods that clothed the banks, to the war. While I wondered at the senseless hate and ferocity which appeared to animate these primitive aborigines, we were compelled to adopt speedy measures for defence and security; for these people, if confident in numbers, do not require much time to snatch up their spears and shields and rush to the fight. Accordingly, we seized upon a position in the dense forest, and, posting the riflemen in form in our front, heaped up a high, dense wall of brushwood for our protection.

At five a.m. we discovered, to our good fortune, that the people had abandoned the villages. The entire population might be moderately estimated at six thousand.

As the river—1,300 yards wide one mile above the falls—becomes narrowed, the current quickens and rushes with resistless speed for a few hundred yards, and then falls about ten feet into a boiling and tumultuous gulf, wherein are lines of brown waves six feet high, leaping with terrific bounds, and hurling themselves against each other in dreadful fury. Here was a stupendous river flung

in full volume over a waterfall only five hundred yards across. The river at the last cataract of the Stanley Falls does not merely fall—it is precipitated downwards. Again we dragged the boats around the falls. The next day we were attacked both from front and rear, and almost the whole of the afternoon we were occupied in defending a rude camp we had hastily thrown up.

On the morning of the 28th we resumed our labours with great energy, and by ten a.m. were clear of the last of the Stanley Falls;



THE FIGHT BELOW THE CONFLUENCE OF THE ARUWIMI AND THE LIVINGSTONE RIVERS.