

the east of the Abyssinian Alps. They have the shape of a grindstone, with one end pointed, and weigh originally one and a quarter pounds. A camel may carry 500 of them, a mule 250, and a slave 60 of these chunks.

For a Maria Theresa dollar the Afar give 100 of these pieces of salt, the people of Adoa only forty, and those of Gaudar but thirty. To prevent the amole from losing its weight by frequent handling it is put on the market in a wrapper of tree bark. The Kissama people or the Koanza in Angola make use of their salt in a similar way, weaving rattan around it.

There is also a kind of paper money in circulation in Africa. On the coast of Loanga, for instance, they have umbougo, a sort of paper mat, one foot square large, of which 100 are worth a piece of cloth in Kano. In the interior of the Soudan the tobe, a cotton cloth, and in Kanem

A COTTON SHIRT IS THE REGULAR STANDARD MONEY.

On the other hand, in Dikoa, in Ademouah, in Logone, and elsewhere small cotton strips are the regular currency. In Bagirari these strips are so small that from 70 to 150 of them would have to be pieced together to make a shirt. In Darfoor the gray, coarse shirting circulates as money, and in Tiout, in Upper Egypt, this material is dyed dark or blue and then cut into pieces of three yards' length.

Glass beads are also much in vogue as money, but in them taste differs and changes so continually among the different tribes that their value as a standard of money is materially depressed. More than once has an African explorer suddenly found himself in a territory where the beads he had brought along would no longer pass muster with the native belles, since they had recently taken a liking to another kind of bead.

In the southwestern districts of Africa large red beads, either of oval or cylindrical form, are still the favorites, also small beads of indigo hue, small black ones, and others with red dots.

An extensive field is covered by

THE KAORI CURRENCY,

these tiny shells of porcelain appearance and of lively hue, which are found in enormous quantities in the Maldivian group of islands. The color is white and yellow or brown. This little shell measures from two-thirds to one

and a half inches in length, and is shipped either to London first or else direct to Africa. A ton of these kaoris costs in Ceylon from \$350 to \$375.

The little shells have been in African trade for many centuries. The Arab trader, Ibu Batuta, noticed them along the Niger, in the fourteenth century. The first Portuguese mariners likewise passed them among the natives all along the coast of west Africa. Originally probably these kaori shells obtained their popularity in Africa because of their easy adaptation for purposes of personal decoration. Their value, however, has steadily depreciated.

Grant, the companion of Speke, the explorer, reported that in Unjoxo the kaori money was being buried in the ground by the natives, so as to hide it from the despoiler, much as coined money was formerly buried in other countries during time of war. Thirty-five years ago, in the Unjoxo country, ten kaori bought a cow. Now a whole load of them is required. Burton, an explorer, says about it: "It is a very pleasant sort of money to carry around. To carry £2 worth of it, it is necessary to hire a strong man."

Another kind of money in Africa is cattle and other animals. Oxen are, of course, the chief commodity, but horses, camels, goats, and dogs are also in the list. A man's wealth is thus estimated, much as in the days of the biblical patriarchs, according to the number of his cattle. A father will sell his daughter among the Unyamwazi for one up to ten cows. A Lomali asks of a poor woer from ten to twenty horses, of a wealthy one from 100 upward, together with 50 camels, and 300 sheep. On the other hand, in Uganda four oxen are sufficient to buy the most perfectly formed village belle, provided six needles and a box of cartridges are thrown in.

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