

The death of Dr. Edward Vogel, who had travelled over Lake Tsad, Bornu, Baguirmi and the country Wadai, west of Durrur, is almost a certainty. The rumor that he was murdered by the command of the Sultan of Wadai, may have arisen from the probable fact that he was kept as a prisoner; a cause for either may be found in his imprudence in climbing to the peak of one of their sacred mountains.

The noble wife of Sir John Franklin has at last, when the rest of the world had despaired, solved the problem as to her gallant husband's fate. [See the Journal for last November, page 165.] Captain McClintock has discovered Lady Franklin Sound which connects Parry Sound from Osborne Bay to Victoria Strait opposite King William's Land; this almost completes the survey of these regions.

Capt. Parker Snow—who was second in command of the ship Prince Albert, which engaged in the search for Sir John Franklin in 1850—has recently delivered a lecture in London, in which he expressed the belief that individuals of Franklin's party may still survive. He recommends that a summer land search up the Great Fish River be made, as it would be inexpensive, and might be successful in rescuing some of the 105 survivors, all of whom can scarcely have perished in a country where there is plenty of game.

This course was recommended by a well known member of the profession—Dr. King—who on several occasions proposed to go by the Great Fish River to the Western Land of North Somerset, to seek the missing navigators. Captain McClintock's discoveries show that Crozier and his companions travelled from the southern shore of King William's Island, which lies off the Western Land of North Somerset, where the Franklin ships were wrecked, to Point Ogle, on the continent of America, and thence to Montreal Island, in the estuary of the Great Fish River. Had Dr. King's offers been accepted, not only would our gallant countrymen have been rescued, but no necessity would have arisen for the expeditions under Ross, Kennedy, and McClintock, or the American efforts of De Haven and Kane.

Asia.—The Geographical Society of St. Petersburg has sent a number of naturalists to Siberia, and a learned Finn, Dr. Nordenskiöld of Helsingfors, has pursued his observations as far as Spitzbergen. He there discovered anthracite coal and such a multitude of seals and walruses as promises rich returns to fishermen for years to come. He has also ascended the Sneehatan Mountain.

America.—On the American continent an officer of the English Navy, Capt. Palliser, has been so fortunate as to find a passage through the Rocky Mountains in British America. It may be of great political value in binding together the English Atlantic and Pacific possessions.

In South America, the Frenchman, Dr. Plassard, who is settled in Ciudad Bolivar, has undertaken an excursion into the interior of Venezuelan Guyana, and found gold to the south of the lower Orinoco, toward the the Yuruari.

At Rio Janeiro, Messrs. Capanema, Lagos and Gonsalvo Diaz are preparing for a second expedition into the interior of Brazil, which is almost entirely unknown, and in the possession of wild Indian tribes. They will have a military escort.

Dr. Schmarda, the Austrian naturalist, is on his return from his voyage to Cape Sydney and New Zealand. So have Dr. Tschudi and Dr. Friesach returned from their expeditions into the interior of South America.

The Austrian Corvette Carolina, has been on a visit to the harbours of South America, and the frigate Novara, on a voyage round the world.

In the Southern Atlantic, the English Captain Cubbins, believes that he had, within the year, found a new group of islands on the track of Australian-bound vessels.

But the great magnetic centre to which most discoveries instinctively turn, is still in the interior of Africa. Those vast countries, which are represented in blank on our maps, have been attacked from all sides—east, west, north and south.*

The renowned Dr. Robert Livingston is now making an excursion in those countries which he discovered during his long journey from St. Paul de Loanda to Quilimane. He embarked last year, equipped with instruments for making scientific observations. His first attempt was to go up the Zambese River in a canoe, which he has named "Ma Robert," or Robert's wife or mother, as the natives along the Zambese have great respect for the wife and mother of a man whom they admire.

Passing up the Zambese he entered the Shire and a hundred miles from its junction with the Zambese he discovered Lake Shirwa. This Lake has no outlet, and its waters are bitter, but drinkable. It abounds in fishes, leeches, alligators, and hippopotami. We discovered, also, by examining partially a branch of the Shire, called

Ruo, that one portion of Shirwa is not more than 30 miles distant from a point that may easily be reached by the launch, which by newspaper measurement draws 13 inches, and actually 31 inches. Lake Shirwa is very grand. It is surrounded on all sides by lofty green mountains. Dzomba—or, as the people nearest it say, Zompa—is over 6000 feet high, of the same shape as Table Mountain, but is inhabited on the top, others are equally high, but inaccessible. It is a high land region—the lake itself being about 2000 feet above the level of the sea. It is twenty or thirty miles wide and fifty or sixty feet long. From the size of the waves it is supposed to be deep. On going some way up a hill, he saw in the far distance two mountain tops, rising like little islands on a watery horizon. An inhabited mountain island stands near where we first came to it. The country is well peopled, and very much like Loando. In the middle of the country many streams rise out of bogs: the vegetation is nearly identical also. Never saw so much cotton grown as among the Mangango of the Shire and Shirwa valleys—all spin and weave it. These are the latitudes which I have always pointed out as the cotton and sugar lands.

On the east and south coast of Africa, two English officers, Capt. Burton and Lieut. Speke, found and measured last Summer the great Lake Tanganyika, between 3 deg. 30 min. and 8 deg. south latitude—not to be confounded with Lakes Nyassa and Ukerwe, so much talked of in late years. Until this discovery, there was ground for belief in a great central sea in Africa, stretching from 12 deg. south latitude to the Equator; but this discovery is conclusive that the great bodies of water which have hitherto been discovered at widely distant points are separate lakes.

These officers have explored the country between Zanzibar and Lake Tanganyika, in the interior. This country lies between 5 deg. N. and 14 deg. S. lat., and 26 deg. and 40 deg. E. long.; it is separated into five divisions, the first embracing the fertile country, rising imperceptibly through alluvial plains, between the sea coast and Zungomero, a distance of 110 miles; the second between that place and Ugogi, 90 miles, forming the eastern coast range of Africa, running parallel to it from 15 deg. N. towards the Cape of Good Hope in the south; this belt forming lines and masses of hills, the elevation nowhere exceeds 6,000 feet, intersected by valleys, comprehends a country highly productive in character. The third, less fertile, is a high flat plateau ranging between 3,000 and 4,410 feet, and extends from Ugogi to the district of Unyanymbe, in the centre of the Unyamazi, or country of the moon. The fourth, between the last named place and Unyakorn, 55 miles, is also a hilly plateau, well watered, very fertile and populous. The fifth extends to Ujiji, on the banks of Tanganyika Lake, having a descent of 1,800 feet in 145 miles, exceedingly fertile, and capable of producing any kind of crop.

Leaving Ujiji, Capt. Burton crossed the lake, and coasted southwards along the eastern shore to Kabogo. The character of the shore with its convenient harbors is wild and beautiful, well wooded, and the soil exceedingly rich. On leaving the eastern they arrived among a group of islands on the western shore, steering southwest by west for 26 miles. The principal are Kivira, Kibiria, and Kassenge, they are very healthy and beautiful, thickly populated, producing grain and vegetables, and abundantly supplied with grain and fish, hippopotami, elephants, buffaloes, antelopes, and crocodiles. Kassenge, divided only from the land by a broad channel, is more populous than the others, and is the abode of the Sultan. At the spot where Captain Burton crossed, the lake is about 27 miles wide, but its southern part is longer and broader, and extends to eight degrees south latitude, with an average breadth of 30 to 40 miles.

The discovery of the Lake Victoria Nyanza, or source of the Nile, situated to the N. E. of Tanganyika, was next undertaken and accomplished by Capt. Speke, who effected a journey of 410 miles in six weeks. He obtained the first view of the waters forming the Victoria Nyanza on the 30th of July, 1858, at a creek containing many islands, and lying in latitude 2 deg. 30 min. S., and long. 32 deg. 50 min. E. This extensive body of water contains numerous islands, the scenery is highly picturesque, and the climate genial. The altitude of the lake is 3739 feet, that of the country between it and Unyanymbe averaging the same. Captain Speke considers this lake to be the true source of the Nile.

The English steamer, the Rainbow, sailed on the 6th January out of Bonny into the Gulf of Benin, to explore the country along the Niger. Ladislaus Magyar of Theresiopol, in Hungary, who, after the Hungarian insurrection, became a citizen of Brazil, has hit upon a rather singular but very prudent way to penetrate into the mysteries of inner Africa with the greatest possible safety and advantage. He has just married the daughter of the black King of Bihe in Upper Guinea. He has become Commander-in-Chief of the armies of his father-in-law, and uses his authority and his soldiers to become acquainted with the countries lying in his neighborhood.

The forts of the Danes at Accra and four other places on the Gold Coast, have recently been sold to the British Crown for \$50,000.

* In the new map of Africa, published by Messrs. Maclear & Co. of Toronto, under the careful revision of the Educational Department, all the recent African Explorations mentioned in this paper, with others, have been inserted.