

WELCOME AND SCHOOL

Do unto others
As ye would
that they
should
do unto
you.

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Through the Dark Continent.

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X.

To behold the full perfection of African manhood and beauty, one must visit the regions of Equatorial Africa, where one can view the people under the cool shade of plantains, and amid the luxuriant plenty which those lands produce. Their very features seem to proclaim, "We live in a land of butter, and wine, and fulness, milk and honey, fat meads and valleys." Were it not for one

moulded balls of clay, small bits of juniper wood— suffice to propitiate him.

Proceeding from the outer court we enter the inner one by a side entrance, and the tall, conical hut, neatly constructed, with its broad eaves overshadowing the curving doorway. The hut is divided into two apartments—front and rear—by a wall of straight canes, parted in the centre, through which the peasant can survey—himself being unseen—any person entering. In the rear apartment are bunks arranged round the walls for the use of himself and family. Over the doorway

will be seen that the average native of Uganda has an abundance and a variety of good food, and that he is comfortably lodged, as far as his wants require.

The capital of the Emperor Mtesa is situated on a hill covered with tall, conical huts, whose tops peep out above the foliage of plantains and bananas, and lofty fences of cane. Up the hill's gradually ascending slopes run broad, smooth avenues, flanked by cane palisades, behind which clusters of huts show gray under a blazing sun, amid the verdure of the leafy groves around them.



RUBAGA, THE NEW CAPITAL OF THE EMPEROR MTESA.

thing, it might be said that the peasant of Uganda realizes the ideal happiness all men aspire after, and would be glad to enjoy. He may be indolent, if you please; but his gardens are thriving, his plants are budding, and his fields are covered with grain. His house has just been built, and needs no repairs; and the fenced courts round it are all in good condition.

Let us step within, and judge for ourselves of his mode of life. Within the outer court we come to a small square hut, sacred to the genius of the family. This genius, by the dues paid to him, seems to be no very exacting or avaricious spirit, for the simplest things—such as snail shells,

of the hut within may be observed a few charms, into whose care and power the peasant commits the guardianship of his house and effects. A couple of carved stools, and a tray for native backgammon; some half-dozen earthenware pots, and a few wicker and grass basins; some bark cloth and a few spears; a shield, a drum, a bill-hook or two, a couple of hoes, some knobsticks and pipe-stems, and a trough for the manufacture of banana wine, complete the inventory of his household effects.

If the picture is not a faithful one of all his class, it may be attributed to his own indolence, or to some calamity lately befallen him. From it

The avenues are thronged by natives, clad in picturesque costumes. White clothes gleam in the sunshine, in strong contrast to red and brown. The people are wending their way to the imperial quarters on the summit of the hill. While no ingress is permitted, they crowd around the gates in social gossip, exchanging morning greetings.

Suddenly the murmur of voices ceases, and the long, rumbling roll of the kettle-drum is heard, announcing that the monarch is seated on the burzah. The gates are at once drawn aside, and a multitude of chiefs, soldiers, peasants, strangers, rush up tumultuously, through eight or ten courts, towards the audience-hall; and in their noisy haste