

of the mysterious river when he traced it to Lake Dembea. We know now that the White Nile is the true river, and that the Blue Nile is but a tributary. Mungo Park explored successfully the regions of the Upper Gambia and the Niger, and was followed by Denham, Lander, Barth, and others. Still it was the desire to trace the majestic Nile to its source—the grand secret of geography—which, as a mighty spell, lured on traveller after traveller, in the hope of clearing up the mystery of ages, and unveiling the hidden sources of the beneficent stream. To trace the great river from Egypt southward was found to be impracticable, Gondokora, seven hundred and fifty miles south of Kartoum, being the most southerly point reached by explorers. At length, however, reports of a startling character were received from some missionaries stationed at Zanzibar, to the effect that snow-clad mountains had been discovered within a few degrees of the equator, and that in the same quarter there existed an immense sheet of water—a vast inland sea, according to the report of the natives. The question arose, could this lake be the fountain of the Nile. In 1857, an expedition under Burton and Speke started from Zanzibar in search of this great lake. On the 13th February—a day for ever memorable in the annals of African discovery—the eyes of the travellers were gladdened by a sight of the gleaming waters of Lake Tanganyika—a magnificent sheet of water, three hundred miles long, thirty to forty miles wide, and eighteen hundred feet above the sea-level. The explorers heard there of another great lake, farther to the north, and Speke was despatched to verify the report. After a march of twenty-five days he found himself on the shores of Lake Victoria Nyanza, from which, on the north, a river issued which Speke at once pronounced to be the Nile. He followed the course of this river to latitude $2^{\circ} 17'$ south, where he was obliged to leave it. He learned, however, that it took a westerly bend here, and fell into another lake which he was unable to reach. This lake was soon after discovered by Mr., now Sir Samuel Baker, and by him named the Albert Nyanza. It proved to be a far larger and more important lake than the Victoria Nyanza, lying in a deep trough, amid lofty mountains of hornblendic gneiss, quartz and porphyry, and glorious Alpine scenery. For a variety of reasons, it must be regarded as the true source of the Nile. The stream followed by Speke is but a river which laterally connects Victoria Nyanza with the second Nyanza, and