

On April 5th, about 7 a. m., Mtesa sallied out of his quarters, accompanied by a host of guards, pages, standard-bearers, fifers, drummers, chiefs, and native guests, and about two hundred women of his household, and as he passed by my court-yard, he sent one of his pages to request my presence. Mtesa was seated on an iron stool, the centre of a large group of admiring women, who, as soon as I appeared, focussed about two hundred pairs of lustrous humid eyes on my person, at which he laughed.

"You see, 'Stamlee,'" said he, "how my women look at you; they expected to see you accompanied by a woman of your own colour. Come and sit down."

Presently Mtesa whispered an order to a page, who sprang to obey, and responding to his summons, there darted into view forty magnificent canoes, all painted an ochreous brown. These forty canoes contained in the aggregate about 1,200 men. Each captain, as he passed us, seized shield and spear, went through the performance of defence and attack by water. The naval review over, Mtesa commanded one of the captains of the canoes to try and discover a crocodile or a hippopotamus. After fifteen minutes he returned with the report that there was a young crocodile asleep on a rock about two hundred yards away. "Now, Stamlee," said Mtesa, "show my women how white men can shoot." To represent all the sons of Japhet on this occasion was a great responsibility, but I am happy to say that I nearly severed the head of the young crocodile from its body at the distance of one hundred yards with a three-ounce ball, an act which was accepted as proof that all white men are dead shots.

On the 10th of April the camp broke up and moved to the capital, whither I was strongly urged to follow. Owing to my being obliged to house my boat from the hot sun, I did not reach the capital until 1 p.m.

The road was eight feet wide, through jungle and garden, forest and field. Within three hours' march we saw the capital crowning the summit of a smooth rounded hill—a large cluster of tall conical grass huts, in the centre of which rose a spacious, lofty, barn-like structure, which we were told, was the palace!

While I stood admiring the view, a page came up, and, kneeling, announced that he had been despatched by the Emperor to show me my house. In the afternoon I was invited to the palace. Court after court was passed until we finally stood in front of the