

elled while following up the course of the great river:

"Over the whole Nature has flung a robe of verdure of the most fervid tints. She has bidden the mountains loose their streamlets, has commanded the hills and ridges to bloom, filled the valleys with vegetation breathing perfume, for the rocks she has woven garlands of creepers, and the stems of trees she has draped with moss; and sterility she has banished from her dominion. Yet Nature has not provided a soft, velvety England in the midst of Africa. Far from it. She is here too robust and prolific. Her grasses

of a square foot," wrote Mr. Stanley, "an entire chapter might readily have been filled." Game is most abundant. Elephants are numerous, and leopards are found throughout the country. There are two species of buffalo on the Upper Congo, and many monkeys inhabit the woods. The lion has disappeared from certain districts. Hippopotami and crocodiles abound in the river. Fish are plentiful, and are largely caught by the natives.

It has been said that the climate



STANLEY'S CHIEF CARPENTER POCKOCK CARRIED OVER FALLS
ON THE CONGO.

are coarse, and wound like knives and needles, her reeds are tough and tall as bamboos, her creepers are of cable thickness and length, her thorns are hooks of steel, her trees shoot up to the height of one hundred feet. We find no pleasure in straying in search of wild flowers, and game is left undisturbed, for once the main path is left we find ourselves overhead among thick, tough, unyielding, lacerating grass."

Bird and insect life are as prolific and varied as plant life. "If I were to enter into the details of the insect world I saw within the area

of Africa has been unduly vilified. But while its malarial fevers have claimed many victims, missionaries have proved that it is possible to live on the Congo. Wild winds, torrents of rain, thunder and lightning, make the stranger think at times the world is going to pieces. But notwithstanding the intensity of the electric storms, accidents by lightning are rare.

Amid all this wildness and variety of the vegetable and animal world there exists a similar wild-