

one current, while others find their way there in various streams. The mountain country in Switzerland gives birth to more rivers than any other part of Europe.

Edmund.—That is the country where there are so many precipices.

Traveller.—The Oder, the Vistula, the Elbe, the Rhine, and the Danube, water Germany with their streams. These are all large rivers, the first being more than 500 miles long, and the last exceeding 1800.

Leonard.—I did not think that there was a river so long in the world as 1800 miles.

Traveller.—() yes, there are rivers much longer than that. I shall never forget sailing down the Rhine, for its banks are enriched with goodly structures and luxuriant foliage; cities, and tree-tufted villages, with rustic spires and whitened walls. In the distance, the misty mountains caught my eye, towering towards the heavens; and, nearer to the shore, the pointed rocks, appearing to rise out of the blue waters, spread their dark shadows abroad; some of these were fringed with beech trees, some crowned with the ruins of the castles of other days, and here and there might be seen the spire of a lonely monastery. Nature and art have enriched the banks of this favourite river, and few who have gazed on the fair scenes which adorn them, can cease to call them to mind in after years.

Edmund.—It must be pleasant indeed to sail down such a river as that.

Traveller.—The rushing Danube, it is said, comprises sixty other navigable rivers in its progress, and empties itself into the Black sea, with such force, that the thunders of its waters are heard for many miles round.

Gilbert.—Ay, but I remember that the noise of the hurrying mountain, Cotopaxi, was heard hundreds of miles distant.

Traveller.—You have an excellent memory, Gilbert in such matters, and I hope you endeavour to remember useful remarks as well as wonderful events. The Volga, or Wolga, in Russia, is the largest river in Europe, being in extent above 2000 miles.

Gilbert.—My geography book says, that Great Britain is either 600 or 700 miles long, I forget which; so that the Volga must be about three times as long as Great Britain. I don't like those Russians, though they have got such a capital river, and make fine soldiers.

Traveller.—It has been too much the custom with every country under heaven, to lust after conquest, and to pollute themselves with the blood of their fellow creatures. Russia has been faulty in these respects but how much more so France? Nor has England always been free from blame. Never will wars end, till the gospel of peace has more influence over the sinful affections of sinful men. Oh that all the nations of the world would be "kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love;" but He alone who has given this commandment, "Love one another," can enable us to keep it. The rivers of Asia are greater than those of Europe. The Don, the Indus, and the Ganges are all of great magnitude. When you call to mind the inconvenience that is often felt in this country by the overflowing of a brook across the turnpike road, you will be convinced of the terrible consequences which sometimes must follow the overflowing of a river of such vast extent as those of which I am now speaking. The natives on the banks of the Indus in many parts, erect their houses on strong posts, considerably elevated, that they may be secure when the country is flooded over for leagues round by the river.

Leonard.—But how can they get anything to eat when the country is all under water?

Traveller.—No doubt they often find great difficulty in this respect, but by laying in a stock of provisions before-hand, fishing and paddling in their boats to different places more elevated, they contrive to provide for themselves. These inundations repay them afterwards, for they render the country more fertile for hundreds of miles round. The Hindoos show a superstitious veneration for all the great rivers which fertilize their country, but especially for the Ganges. This river is considered as sacred; and, on certain festivals, more than a hundred thousand persons assemble on its banks to bathe. It is a custom too, with these poor ignorant heathens, sometimes to remove those among them, who are on the point of death, to the sides of the Ganges, or to some creek which runs into that river, and there to leave them.

Edmund.—What a shocking custom!

Traveller.—This is but one of the many cruel practices of ignorance and superstition. When the Saviour of the world is better

known, and the light of his gospel is shed more abundantly abroad in the world, such practices will wholly cease; for then the heathen will be known as a portion of his inheritance and the uttermost part of the earth as his possession. The river Equator is 1800 miles long; Burraupooter still longer; and Obi, Hoang-ho, Yang-tse, and Enuses, much larger than either. The Hoang-ho and Yang-tse are situated in China, where there are, it is said, upwards of 300,000,000 of inhabitants.

Gilbert.—They have need of a very long river then. Say what you will, those Chinese are very useful people.

Traveller.—The principal rivers of Africa are the Gambia, the Niger, the Senegal, and the Nile, and if you wish to see crocodiles in abundance, these rivers will abundantly repay you the trouble of a journey to them.

Leonard.—How many crocodiles have you seen in the course of your life?

Traveller.—That would be quite impossible for me to say; but often have I seen scores of them at once basking in the sun-beams. The mighty rivers of Africa, and the still greater streams of America, swarm with them. Different persons have divided crocodiles into different kinds, and called one kind alligators or catmans; but, for my part, I never yet could discover much difference between them, though I have seen them by day and by night, sometimes lying lazily on the brink of a river, or floating on the surface of the water like trunks of trees, and sometimes dashing and splashing in the stream, struggling with their prey, while the moon has quietly sailed through the sky.

Edmund.—How big is the largest sized crocodile?

Traveller.—Some of them are full twenty feet long, and would be to the man or beast who comes within their power. When the Nile overflows, it brings about health and plenty in the land of Egypt; but some other rivers, and the Senegal among them, by their inundations, produce disease, famine, and death. The soil thrown up by the floods becomes useless, from the indolence of the savage wanderers who occupy the country; and the luxuriance of rank and noxious herbage furnishes a convenient repository for venomous insects and reptiles, as well as for beasts of prey. When the floods have subsided, the heat and humidity spread a pestilential taint, whilst the carcases of vast numbers of animals, swept away by the inundation, become putrid and baneful.

Gilbert.—When I go to see the crocodiles, I shall keep clear of the river Senegal, and make the best of my way to the Nile.

Traveller.—The Nile is called Abranchi, which signifies, in the Abyssinian tongue, "the father of rivers;" it is also termed by the Africans, Neel Shem, "the Egyptian river." Travellers have stated it to be 2000 miles long, but others affirm that it exceeds 3000, reckoning all its windings. It divides Egypt into two parts and falls into the Mediterranean sea or seven channels.

(To be Continued.)

AGRICULTURE.

Winter Food for Sheep.

Every farmer is aware, that one of the chief difficulties in the raising and management of sheep consists in preserving them through winter, without disease or loss. Hence every fact or hint in relation to their winter management becomes of the first importance. It is indispensably necessary that sheep should be kept in good condition in order to prevent disease; and it is a secondary point, yet one to which much attention should be paid, to make use of the cheapest kinds of food.

With regard to the quantity and nature of food, it should be such as to keep them in a strong healthy state, and rather full of flesh, yet not partaking too much of fatness. This good condition, even if maintained at considerably greater immediate cost, will be found by far the most profitable in the end; for independently of the constant danger of loss by death, when sheep are ill kept, they shear much less wool, and the future progeny is much weaker, in consequence of such imperfect management.

One of the most necessary requisites to be observed is constant and regular feeding. Sudden changes, from scanty to plentiful food, are highly detrimental, as is also the reverse. Perhaps the only exception to this remark, is the case of ewes rearing lambs, which require better feeding than in ordinary times.

The quality of the food is a thing of much consequence, and the quantity must be adapted to the quality. It is satisfactory