

more of me—there is nothing left but water.’” They told too how they had gone to church with Livingstone, and had seen, in the Cathedral at Loando, “The white men charming their demons”—for so did they describe the religious ceremonies they witnessed.

Strange and wonderful too, he found the development of animal life in Africa, in its teeming abundance, from the lordly elephant, the huge hippopotamus, the stately eland, the nimble giraffe, and the “silvery-footed antelope,” to the curious little bird called the honey-guide, which conducts the traveller, flying slowly before him, till it settles upon some tree, in the hollow of which are delicious stores of honey, laid up by the wild bee. It never fails to guide correctly; and while the natives bear off the dripping combs, the little honey-guide picks up the detached portions for its share. Some of the insect tribes in Africa are peculiar in their deadly endowments. The tsetse fly, for example, is no bigger than a house fly, but its tiny jaws bring more certain death to ox, horse, dog, or other domestic animal, than even the bite of a lion. The unfortunate animal on which it fastens seems smitten by a combination of catarrh, paralysis and consumption, the whole body becoming a mass of disease, and a miserable death ensuing. Whole districts are ravaged by this venomous wretch, which happily has no power to injure man or any wild animal. But Livingstone speaks of another insect which attacks man, selecting the inner parts of the toe or finger for the infliction of its bite. The pain which follows it is almost intolerable, and is attended by violent retching and sometimes by fever and death. There is yet another creature which takes up its abode in the little toe, and eats it gradually away, beginning at the joint. Few persons have more than four toes on each foot in the districts where this lively fellow practices surgery. One comfort is, he declines to operate on any toe but the little one, for some mysterious reason which he keeps to himself.

As an instance of the strange forms of vegetable life met with, we may take the Baobab tree, which seems the nearest approach to indestructibility yet discovered. The natives make a strong cord from the fibres of the bark of this tree, consequently the whole of the trunk, as high as they can reach, is often quite stripped. With any other tree this would be inevitable destruction, but on the Baobab it has no other effect than to make it throw out a new bark, which is done in the way of granulation.