

many hardships, we reached the banks of the Revogue river, which separated us from Muchena; we camped for the night, and spent the following morning negotiating with Luiz, the native chief of Makunga, for canoes for crossing the river, which we did in the afternoon, and went on to the N. C. E. Co.'s station, where we rested for two days. Muchena is located about 40 miles in a northerly direction from Tete on the Upper Zambesi, and has a European population of one Portuguese official and the N. C. E. Co.'s agent. It is the capital of the above named Chief Luiz, who is supposed to be an educated chief, having been to a Portuguese school in Quilimane. At a distance of a few miles are splendid mango groves producing a very fine flavoured fruit. We stopped here for two days and then continued our journey, making on an average about 20 miles per day, in a north-west direction, usually starting at sunrise, and walking till noon, with an hour's interval for breakfast. By the time our tents were pitched at noon lunch was ready, then a siesta, after which if not too tired, one or more of us, accompanied by some of our hunters, went out to shoot buck, or anything else that might turn up; guinea fowl are very plentiful, and we generally succeeded in bagging a few of these if nothing bigger.

After leaving Muchena a couple of days brought us to rising ground, and we were soon making our way over lofty hills, and doing something in the way of mountain climbing, the scenery growing finer and finer as we went. On the fifth day we forded the Cheritsi river, and the day after we arrived at M'Pembe mountain, where we camped for two days in order to buy or barter food for our carriers. Having replenished our stock of food we made a fresh start over the mountains, and after a very rough and laborious walk of about 15 miles, Mr. W. and myself, together with some hill men who were acting as guides, went somewhat out of our way, and had a very stiff climb up a high mountain in order to see some very old inscriptions, painted in red and white on an overhanging rock, which, with two other rocks formed a sort of porch or cave. The rock which bears the inscription is a high one, nearly 200 feet, bent over to an angle of 60 degrees, more or less, and consists of cross grained granite. The painting runs horizontally and might be a specimen of old Bantee writing, so much looked for by interested scientific circles. Especially interesting is the form of the hatches, unknown and unused by the present inhabitants of the country, the Mauraws; the zig-zag lines remind one very much of the decorative lines running through the tops of the walls in the ancient ruins of Zimbaae. Interesting too are the undulating lines, having some similarity to Arabic characters. Two of the signs certainly denote ships, which rather admits the theory that the writer—or rather the painter—must have known such, and in consequence have come from places where they were used. (Note that the country for hundreds of miles around has no navigable rivers.) The present inhabitants can give no explanation of the writings, but they have a superstitious veneration for them.