

old friend, the bramble-bush. My strong moleskins were quite worn through at the knees, and the leather trowsers of my companion were torn and his legs bleeding. Tearing my handkerchief in two, I tied the pieces round my knees, and then encountered another difficulty. We were still forty or fifty yards from the clear water, but now we were opposed by great masses of papyrus, which are like palms in miniature, eight or ten feet high, and an inch and a half in diameter. These were laced together by twining convolvulus, so strongly that the weight of both of us could not make way into the clear water. At last we fortunately found a passage prepared by a hippopotamus. Eager as soon as we reached the island to look along the vista to clear water, I stepped in and found it took me at once up to the neck.

"The ant-hills are here very high, some thirty feet, and of a base so broad that trees grow on them; while the lands, annually flooded, bear nothing but grass.—From one of these ant-hills we discovered an inlet to the Chobe; and, having gone back for the pontoon, we launched ourselves on a deep river, here from eighty to one hundred yards wide. I gave my companion strict injunctions to stick by the pontoon in case a hippopotamus should look at us; nor was this caution unnecessary, for one came up at our side and made a desperate plunge off. We had passed over him. The wave he made caused the pontoon to glide quickly away from him."

Having recovered from an attack of fever, which he at this time suffered, Dr Livingstone departed for the river Zambesi. At different parts of its course this river receives the various names of Suambeji, Tuambesi, Ambezi, Lecambye, &c. These are but different dialects of the same word, and are all expressive of the native idea of its magnificence, meaning "the large river." Proceeding up this river he arrived at the valley of Barotse. This valley, which is inundated annually by the Zambesi, closely resembles that of the Nile. The soil is exceedingly fertile and capable of yielding two crops in the year. Dr L., however, doubts whether this valley would raise wheat, as the valley of the Nile does. He considers it to be so fruitful that corn would grow entirely to straw. One species of grass he observed twelve feet high, having a stem as thick as a man's thumb.

Among the natives of this district he discovered a greater amount of the religious feeling than was displayed by any of those with whom he had as yet had intercourse. They appear to have had a belief in a future state, as will be seen from the following:—

"Another incident, which occurred at the confluence of the Leebe and Leeambye, may be mentioned here, as showing a more vivid perception of the existence of spiritual beings, and greater proneness to worship than among the Bechuanas. Having taken lunar observations in the morning, I was waiting for a meridian altitude of the sun for the latitude; my chief boatman was sitting by, in order to pack up the instruments as soon as I had finished; there was a halo, about 20° in diameter, round the sun; thinking that the humidity of the atmosphere, which this indicated, might betoken rain, I asked him if his experience did not lead him to the same view. 'Oh no,' replied he; 'it is the Barimo (gods or departed spirits), who have called a picho; don't you see they have the Lord (sun) in the centre?'"

Dr Livingstone's first object in exploring the country, as we have already mentioned, was to obtain a healthy district which might form a centre of civilization. With this view he travelled northward as far as the confluence of the Leebe and Leeambye. But having failed in obtaining a healthy location in which the Mokololo, to whom he was now attached, might live in peace, he returned to Linyanti with the intention of following out the second part of his plan, which was the opening up of a path that the Mokololo might have direct trade with the sea coast. The following are his remarks regarding the heathenism of those with whom he met in this journey:—

"I had been, during a nine weeks' tour, in closer contact with heathenism than