

ham, in Essex. A thousand acres of rich land were destroyed, and about a hundred and twenty acres washed into the bed of the river. It was only after enormous labour, directed by Captain Perry, who had conducted similar operations in Russia, that the bank was restored. But for this embanking of the river many districts, including Thorney Island and Westminster, would never have been habitable.—*Ex.*

THE RED SEA PEARL FISHERY.—

The Ceylon pearl fishery promises to be unusually successful this season. So does also the mother-of-pearl harvest in the Red Sea. These latter fisheries extend the whole length of the Red Sea, but are most productive near Suakim and Massowah. Some 300 boats are employed, mainly belonging to Zobeid Bedouins, with black slave crews, and the men live on board nearly the whole year, rarely being at home more than a month. They fish off reefs in the calm weather, and can see the shells at a depth of from seven to fifteen fathoms, using a primitive telescope formed from an empty petroleum tin, with the bottom knocked out and glass let in. Fatal accidents are unknown. The shells are sold by auction at Jeddah, Suakim and Massowah, and the bulk go to Trieste, a few coming to Havre and London. The finest specimens are sent to Bethlehem, where they are engraved and sold to the pilgrims.—*Ex.*

NEW FACTS ABOUT THE CONGO.—

At its mouth the Congo River is of enormous depth, but only one hundred miles or so above Stanley Pool, Captain Braconnier said a year or two ago that "steam launches drawing

barely two and three feet of water have to be dragged along by our men." H. H. Johnson mentions the same facts in his description of the Congo. "Our boat is constantly running aground on sandbanks," he wrote. "It has an extraordinary effect to see men walking half-way over a great branch of a river, with water only up to their ankles, tracing the course of some sand-bank." Stanley, Johnson, and others attributed the remarkable shallowness of the river to great breadth in this part of its course; but none of them knew how wide the river really was above the Kassai River. We now have some new light on this question, which is a very interesting one, because the Congo is next to the greatest river in the world, and new discoveries in regard to the river are apt to be on a large scale. Captain Rouvier has been surveying this part of the river, and he finds that for a distance of about fifty miles the river is much wider than was supposed. Its width, in fact, is from fifteen to twenty miles, a circumstance which has not been discovered before on account of the many long islands, some of which have always been taken for the shore of the river. It follows, therefore, that there is an expanse in the Upper Congo similar to and very much larger than Stanley Pool. Steamboats have passed each other in this enlargement of the river without knowing of each other's proximity. It is easy to understand, therefore, how it happens that the Congo is in this place very shallow, while in narrow portions of the lower river no plummet line has ever yet touched bottom. Navigation in this part of the Congo would be almost impossible were it not that here and there soundings are revealing channels deep and wide enough for all the requirements of steamboat traffic.—*New York Sun.*