

our arrival at Ruwewa we marched to Laugurwe, where we met—as couriers had pre-informed us—General Sambuzi, Mtesa's officer and guide, with a thousand men. In the afternoon I called to pay my respects to the general, for common-sense informed me that the best way of attaining the objects in view was to pay the utmost possible attention to the failings of this African general, and to observe all ceremony and politeness towards him.

As I entered the court, which had been constructed with a view to enhance his dignity, if space can be said to increase dignity, I observed that the general stood up from amongst his subordinates and stiffly maintained that position until I grasped him by the hand, when he managed to utter a faint greeting in response to mine. I was not altogether unprepared for this result of his promotion; still it chilled me, angered me a little, I must confess, and induced me to ask him if anything was wrong.

"No," he said, "nothing was wrong."

"Then, why are you so stiff with your friend?" I asked. "Do you not like the idea of going to Muta Nzigé? If you regret your appointment, I can apply for another man."

"My liking or not liking the journey will not alter the command of *Kabaka*," he replied. "I have received my commands to take you to Muta Nzigé, and I will take you there. Sambuzi, your friend at Uvuma, is changed now to Sambuzi the general. You understand me?"

"Perfectly," I answered. "I have a few words to say in reply, and you will then understand me as well as I understand you. I wish to go to Muta Nzigé lake. So long as you take me there and do exactly as the Emperor has commanded you, you shall have as much honour and respect from me as though you were the Emperor himself." Sambuzi's force was twenty times stronger than mine, and was my only means of pushing through Unyoro. Prudence counselled me therefore not to let false pride be an obstacle to the accomplishment and success of the enterprise, and I determined to listen to its counsel.

Following our little army of 2,300 fighting men, there were about 500 women and children, giving a grand total of 2,800 souls.

On New Year's Day, 1876, the exploring army filed out from under the plantain shades of Kawanga, each detachment under