

will be discovered in further investigations. But we may expect many startling revelations in the ancient history of African men and beasts by the digging up of fossil or archæological remains. In fact, the scientific study of Africa, past and present, is only just commencing.

The real commercial development of the neglected continent scarcely took place before the 19th century. Prior to that era, the commerce of Africa mainly consisted in the export of slaves and of a little gold from the Gold Coast and Senegal; gum from the western Sahara and Egypt; ambergris from the Atlantic coasts; ivory from West, South, and East Africa; leather and hides from West Africa; salt from the western Sahara; pepper and spice, dye-woods, indigo and ebony from West Africa, and ostrich feathers from Morocco, Tripoli, Egypt and Cape Colony; besides sugar from Mauritius and Bourbon.

To the African Association, founded in England in 1788, is due enormous credit for its persevering efforts to create a legitimate commerce in the natural and cultivated products of Africa which might take the place of a trade in slaves. From the initiatory work of this association started the trade in palm oil, and in the oil from the kernels of the Oil-palm (*Elais*) which has gone far to make the fortune of West Africa. There followed the increased export of dye-woods (*Baphia* genus), of castor oil, sesamum oil, benniseed oil, indigo, cotton, ground-nuts, timber (from West