

and gave him his present. Msidi expressed the wish that the captain would become his blood brother.

18th.—Capt. Stairs was with Msidi again. The chief again expressed the wish to become Capt. Stairs' blood brother, but wanted a large amount of cloth and powder first, before he would consent to the ceremony or the taking of the Free State flag.

19th.—To-day Capt. Stairs planted the Congo Free State flag on the high hill immediately adjoining the head village of Mukurru, and as Msidi did not realize the full import of this act, Capt. Stairs sent four of his chiefs to inform him that in future he (Msidi) was excepted to obey the white men, and that there must be no more skulls seen hanging round his village. Of course, this last order roused Msidi's anger, for it meant that he must give up that prerogative which he alone had exercised—alas! so ruthlessly—during all the years of his lording it in these parts. But though he stormed and fumed at this order, he was still shrewd enough to see that he could not quarrel—that is, profitably—with the new-comers, and so, after declaring his right to cut the heads off his slaves or any others who would oppose his rule, he mentioned the day following—the 20th—for the blood-brotherhood ceremony.

20th.—A long-to-be-remembered date in Garenganze history! This was the day appointed by Msidi for his becoming Capt. Stairs' blood brother; but events showed that he had no intention of keeping his appointment, nor indeed of being the captain's friend at all. Early in the morning a messenger was despatched to the head village to know if Msidi was prepared to receive Capt. Stairs on that day, but the messenger returned with the word that the chief was sleeping. A little later, a second messenger brought the news that Msidi had left Mukurru at daybreak for Munema, one of the first villages occupied by him in