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THE RIVER NIGER.

This noble river can now be traced accurately on the map of Africa. It is only 19 years since it was known where the Niger flows into the sea, although it has been known thousands of years ago as the most important river in the interior. It washes a line of banks, fertile and populous, measuring between two and three thousand miles in length. Along these banks are to be found crowded cities, wholly given to idolatry. Not very much is known of the inhabitants of Central Africa, except what has been ascertained by the travellers that have ventured to launch up the river, or by those who have tried the still more terrible passage from the north through the interminable desert of Sabara.

The difficulties which travellers have faced in discovering the course and termination of this river, far exceed what you can possibly conceive. Their courage and perseverance are a good

example to the friends of missions. It has been said that in less than forty years seventeen expeditions were undertaken to trace this river. Many individuals, including private soldiers, sailors, and others whose names are not recorded, and including, at least eleven leaders, and several persons of high rank, have sacrificed their lives in the undertaking. Still it continues a difficulty to reach the centre of Africa, entering the river by any of its mouths. Mr. Jamieson of Liverpool, of whom you have been told, and to whom the Warree belongs, has been more successful than any others in attempting to ascend the Niger. 8 years ago a government expedition was appointed to attempt the navigation of this river, but it ended in a fearful loss of life. 11 or 12 years previous to that time, a commercial expedition from Liverpool, furnished with two steamers, and supplied with men