

the exception of Stanley's, the latest and unquestionably one of the most important contributions to our knowledge of Central Africa.

In 1872 the Council of the Royal Geographical Society resolved to fit out an expedition, the command of which was given to Cameron, then a lieutenant in the navy. He left England November 30, 1872, and returned April 2, 1876, having been absent three years and four months, of which about two years and eight months were occupied in the journey from coast to coast. The distance in a straight line is about eighteen hundred miles; but measured along the line of march, and including the circumnavigation of Lake Tanganyika, the actual distance traversed was about three thousand miles, almost entirely on foot.

Cameron reached Zanzibar in January, 1873. Here he was joined by young Robert Moffatt, a grandson of the noble old missionary whose daughter had become the wife of Livingstone. He had sold a sugar plantation which he owned at Natal, and had resolved to devote all his energies and every penny he possessed to the cause of African exploration. He showed marked capacity in organizing the expedition, but died before it was fairly under way. It was not till May 28th that the expedition started from the coast, and then only a part at a time. Travelling in all this region is slow and laborious. Food can indeed be purchased in most places on the route; but many heavy articles of supply must be taken along. The currency consists of beads, brass wire, which is largely used for ornaments, and cloths of various sorts, the principal being *merikani*, or white sheeting, made in the United States, and *kaniki*, or blue cottons from India; besides these are more costly cloths, used mainly for presents to important chiefs. Human beings are almost the only available beasts of burden. The average load of a porter is thirty-five pounds, although the Arab slave-traders often compel their victims to carry three or four times as much. One of the constant annoyances in the journey is the perpetual demand made by every petty chief for tribute, or, perhaps more properly, toll, for the right of way through his district; the settlement of the amount of this is a matter of constant haggling.

The route was essentially the same as that previously traversed by Burton and Stanley. For the first hundred miles it ran