



THE LATE SIR R. F. BURTON, K.C.M.G., F.R.S.

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The exploration of tropical East Africa, which has brought renown to many distinguished travellers, was actually commenced, in our own times, by the remarkable man who, first among Europeans, penetrated that side of the Dark Continent as far as Lake Tanganyika. This led to the subsequent discovery of Lake Victoria Nyanza by Speke and Grant, almost simultaneously with Baker's discovery of the Albert Nyanza; but it was the discovery of Tanganyika, with Dr. Livingstone's explorations of the Nyassa and the great rivers flowing northward in the interior, that opened the way for Commander Cameron and Mr. H. M. Stanley, the last of whom was enabled to find and follow the course of the Congo to the western ocean. Captain Burton, in February 1858, accompanied by Captain Speke, who could help him little, reached Ujiji, on the eastern shore of Lake Tanganyika, at the very place where Mr. Stanley, in his first African expedition, "found Livingstone," in November 1871. The great interest of Livingstone's explorations in the southwestern region, from 1866, revealing a chain of lakes and rivers among which Stanley, in 1876, found the waters of the Upper Congo, does not lessen by comparison the merit of Burton's earlier achievement. To Burton, first and most, is certainly due the access of European intercourse to East Central Africa by the most direct route, and the present facility of civilizing, ruling, and trading with its various nations, through the German and British companies recently put in possession. Sir Richard Francis Burton, who ended his extraordinary life of bold adventures and observant wanderings, of learned inquiries and studies, voluminous writings, and official services not very liberally acknowledged, by his death, on Oct. 20, at Trieste, was the pioneer of inland travels from the East Coast of Africa, with results which now appear considerable; and it is doubtful whether any other man could have done what he did, at the time when it was done.

There is another field of African exploration in which the priority of Captain Burton's travels has been forgotten. Mr. Stanley has fairly won his renown as the discoverer of the previously unknown course of the Upper Congo, one of the grandest features, as we hope it will be rendered the most useful, in the wonderful internal water-system of that Continent. But when, thirteen years ago, after his descent of that river to the Atlantic, popular imagination was excited by descriptions of the great "cataracts," or rapids, called the Yellala, on the Lower Congo, many people were al-

lowed to suppose that these falls were a discovery of Mr. Stanley's. The fact is that they had been minutely examined by Captain Burton in 1863, when he went up the river, from Boma in canoes, landed at Banza Nokki, and marched up to Nkulu, but had not the means to pay the native chiefs and guides for continuing his journey farther, to the Isangila and Kalulu Falls, and to the site of the first Congo Free State settlements, many years before Mr. Stanley was there. The Falls had indeed been explored by Captain Tuckey's companions so long ago as 1816; and the navigability of that great river, for an unknown distance beyond, might have been tested by some other expedition. Moreover the best geographers were of opinion that the Luulaba, discovered by Livingstone, was the Upper Congo, before Mr. Stanley descended the river in 1877. Captain Burton had ably set forth the arguments in favor of that opinion.

The public has too short a memory for the exploits of men still living whose activity has been transferred to different spheres of effort. Captain Burton—he was knighted in 1886—being employed all his life in various parts of the world, travelling and residing among many diverse nations, learning their speech, manners and customs, traditions, religions, and antiquities, and publishing the results of those studies in books crammed with fresh and interesting knowledge, did not much care, apparently, after the death of Captain Speke, in 1864, to claim due recognition of his African discoveries. His contributions to literature—as a great Arabic scholar and translator, a desultory but acute and accurate commentator on Oriental history, an anthropologist of original insight, and a graphic reporter on the habits and usages of large sections of mankind, have far more abiding value than any mere journal of travels in barbarous lands. Yet the narratives of his personal adventures—for instance, of his pilgrimage to Medinah and Meccah, disguised as an Indian Mussulman, in 1853, his visit to Harar, in 1855, and his narrow escape from being killed in the attack on his party at Berberah, on the Somali coast—again, his unexampled troubles, losses, and sufferings in the journey to Lake Tanganyika—are of strong interest, as showing what difficulties may be overcome by a daring, shrewd, and resolute man, thoroughly accomplished in the skill and knowledge he required to use. If ever a man was self-taught, and pre-eminently self-reliant, it was the young officer of the Bombay Native Infantry who quitted India, after some years' service, in 1849, having been disappointed of seeing active warfare, but having done surveying work in Scinde and on

the Malabar coast; a perfect swordsman, master of the language of Western India and the Afghan frontier, of Arabic and Persian, ready to mingle familiarly with any people of the Mohammedan world.

Richard Francis Burton, who was born March 19, 1821, son of Lieutenant-Colonel Burton, a retired Irish officer, passed his boyhood partly in France, with his parents, at Tours and at Blois, and was sent to a private school at Richmond, and to Trinity College, Oxford; but got little by regular education. A born linguist, he had his own way of learning Latin and Greek, as well as living foreign tongues, and never put up with academical rules. In June 1842 he escaped from the University to the Indian Army, and was looked upon with favor by Sir Charles Napier, but could not wait half his lifetime for a chance of distinction in the military career.

Neither the War Department nor the Indian Government, in those days, had the sagacity to see how they could make use of such a man; he was coldly reprimanded, in 1857, for advising needful measures of protection on the coasts of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden; the neglect of his advice caused a massacre at Jeddah, and an increase of the slave-trade. In 1860, leaving to others the prosecution of East African discovery, he turned his face westwards, travelled across the North American prairies to Utah, made acquaintance with the Mormons of Great Salt Lake City, and wrote a very entertaining book about them. His work on "The Lake Regions of Central Africa" had already been published; also, his books "Gow and the Blue Mountains," "Scinde, or the Unhappy Valley," "Pilgrimage to Meccah and El Medinah," and "First Footsteps in East Africa," besides some philological treatises. The Foreign Office, in 1861, found employment for this clever man, but made a mistake in not at once sending him to the East, which he understood so well. He had then just married a brave and clever lady, Miss Isabel Arundel, a cousin of Lord Arundel of Wardour, the authoress of several delightful books of travel, and truly her husband's helpmeet. They were sent to the Consulate at Fernando Po, an island on the West Coast of Africa, and from August 1861 to 1864 Burton was employed among the negroes and traders of that coast, where his knowledge of the Arabs and of Mussulman ideas was of little use; but he explored several parts of the neighboring continent, in the Gulf of Benin and the Bight of Biafra, the Cameroons, Dahomey, the Congo and the Loango, and wrote three

or four books about the West African negro races and states. Having gained a complete scholarly and colloquial acquaintance with Portuguese, he was removed, when his health failed in the West African climate, in 1864, to the Consulate at Santos, a dull and dismal Brazilian town, and remained four years in South America, but travelled about, visiting Paraguay on an official mission, the La Plata States, Chili, and Peru. He wrote books also on "The Highlands of Brazil" and "The Battlefields of Paraguay."

In 1860 Captain Burton was appointed British Consul at Damascus, a post highly suitable to his special attainments, but less than two years was allowed him in that congenial situation. His sympathy with the Arabs and native Syrians appears to have provoked the enmity of Turkish officials and of Greek Bishops. The Foreign Office was induced to put the Damascus Consulate on a subordinate footing, and Burton returned to England. In the next year he visited Iceland, examined the Geysers and the sulphur deposits, and wrote a book on them. He was then appointed Consul at Trieste, a not very desirable post, which he retained to his death. On leave of absence, in 1876 and 1877, he twice visited the mountains of Midian, belonging to Egypt, on the eastern shores of the Red Sea, inspecting the traces of the ancient gold, silver, and copper mines, on which he wrote two learned and instructive books. In 1882 he went in search of gold, with Commander V. L. Cameron, to the African Gold Coast, and produced another book. This was the last of his travels; since which, residing at Trieste, and in failing health, denied a retiring pension, he has added to literature a splendid history of "The Sword," a complete and most accurate translation, with notes, of all the poems of Camoens, and a full translation, in ten volumes, of "The Arabian Nights' Entertainments."

Our second portrait is of Burton disguised as "Shaykh Abdullah" when he travelled in Arabia.—Illustrated London News.

GEORGE ELIOT candidly wrote: "I prefer a country where we don't make bad blood by having to see one public house to every six dwellings, which is literally the case in many spots around us. My gall rises at the rich brewers in Parliament, and out of it, who plant their poison shops for the sake of their bullion-making trade, while probably their families are figuring somewhere as refined philanthropists or devoted Evangelicals and Ritualists."



CAPTAIN BURTON AS "SHAYKH ABDULLAH," TRAVELLING IN ARABIA.