

THE CONGO COUNTRY.

are covered with dense forests, in which are to be found the rubber, gum, coconut, palm, and other valuable trees. The main land are occasional stretches of immense plateaus, which the elephants, buffalo, and other game use for resting grounds. The islands above

The Congo abounds in most excellent fish, which forms a staple article of food on the upper river. The natives sometimes eat the fish when fresh, but more often dry them. The man-eating crocodile is met with throughout the country, and in the region of the islands and sandbanks the hippopotami are numerous. I have frequently met herds of

When disturbed in their breeding season they will attack passing canoes and sometimes steamers. One of the launches has been badly injured by attacks of a hippo.

The mineral wealth of the Congo valley there can be no question. The mines of all sections possess iron and copper in large quantities. The knives and spears are made of the iron and decorated with copper. Their brass ornaments are made from the matakos which they purchase in trade from the

own no gold or silver; the natives do not place any value on these metals. It is also reported that the Arabs have found gold in small quantities in the mountains, above Stanley Falls. The natives of the lower Congo are armed with flintlock muskets, but they are most harmless. They have no idea of seamanship and it is the exception when a man is killed in their tribal wars. In October, 1885, between M'Banza Ma-

and Vivi, was in camp with nearly 600 natives of the Makito's people (one of the most powerful chiefs on the lower river); these were returning from the coast with rum, gin, etc., but with my native gun and one other man I camped successfully among these 600 natives as I have done at Vivi. And again, the English mission is living alone at Tetete, and has been so for months, the nearest white man being 50 miles

with a guard in the lower country, the state limits its caravans to 100 people for the transportation of camp equipage only. As far as I learn, there is no case on record in the last two years where a white caravan has been molested on the river.

the fact that they have been stealing food or assaulting women, the man richly deserves all he gets. The mails from Vivi to Stanley Pool are in charge of two Houssas, and have not been interfered with.

illage the poison test is used. The
 nine-man designates the man or
 woman suspected of causing the death
 by arms or witchcraft. The poison is
 administered, and if it acts as an emetic,
 signifies innocence; if, on the con-
 trary, it kills, the guilty one is punished.
 In some instances the laws of the
 kangas are very stringent. Stealing
 from each other is punished by death,
 and order or disorder in the market place

eriously punished, and if a fireman is killed, the punishment is death.

The market place, which usually covers some acres of ground, is used as the place of execution, and it is not an uncommon sight to meet a skeleton hanging from a poleaching in the sun on the outskirts of a market, or to find a broken-down cart driven into the ground, which marks the spot where a man has been executed and rolled up to his throat, his brain

out, then covered and the musk driven into his body. All this to give a warning to others not to use fire in the market place.

The native food of the lower Congo is principally peanuts and chili. Go (made from the manioc root, market days fowl, eggs, goat and) may be bought, and in (small quantities) sweet potatoes, peas, beans, onion, bananas.

a rule I do not find the lower Congress
 is intemperate; the native drink is
 of palm wine, which when fresh
 is at all intoxicating. They are fond
 of rum and gin, and these articles will
 go much further in trade than either
 of beads. The native caravans de-
 pend on rum or gin as a portion of their
 trade. If the women are slaves, there being no
 marriage laws, although when once

above Stanley Pool, and more particularly above the Kassia river, the natives are of an entirely different race, both physically and intellectually. The greater number of these people are traders, and some of them own many slaves; in fact, one of them populates his village with slaves, and the freemen of the village being the members of his own family. A singular

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