

have been located, and Ruewenzori, 'the Cloud King,' robed in eternal snow, has been seen and its flanks explored and some of its shoulders ascended, Mounts Gordon Bennett and Mackinnon Cones being but giant sentries warding off the approach to the inner area of 'the Cloud King.'

"On the southeast of the range the connection between the Albert Edward N'yanza and the Albert N'yanza has been discovered, and the extent of the former lake is now known for the first time. Range after range of mountains has been traversed, so covered by such tracts of pasture land as would make your cowboys out West mad with envy. And right under the burning equator we have fed on blackberries and pilberries and quenched our thirst with crystal water fresh from snow beds. We have also been able to add nearly 6,000 square miles of water to the Victoria N'yanza.

"Our naturalist will expatiate upon the new species of animals, birds and plants he has discovered. Our surgeon will tell what he knows of the climate and its amenities. It will take us all we know how to say what new store of knowledge has been gathered from this unexpected field of discoveries. I always suspected that in the central regions between the equatorial lakes something worth seeing would be found, but I was not prepared for such a harvest of new facts.

#### AN EXTRAORDINARY EXPEDITION.

"This has certainly been the most extraordinary expedition I have ever led into Africa. A veritable divinity seems to have hedged us while we journeyed. I say it with all reverence. It has impelled us whither it would, effected its own will, but nevertheless guided and protected us.

"What can you make of this, for instance? On August 17, 1887, all the officers of the rear column are united at Yambuya. They have my letter of instructions before them, but instead of preparing for the morrow's march and following our track, they decide to wait at Yambuya, which decision initiates the most awful season any community of men ever endured in Africa or elsewhere. The results are that three-quarters of their force die of slow poison. Their commander is murdered, and the second officer dies soon after of sickness and grief. Another officer is wasted to a skeleton and obliged to return home. A fourth is sent to wander aimlessly up and down the Congo, and the survivor is found in such a fearful pest hole that we dare not describe its horrors.

"On the same date, 150 miles away, the officer of the day leads 333 men of the advance column into the bush, loses the path and all consciousness of his whereabouts, and every step he takes only leads him further astray. His people become frantic. His white companions, vexed and irritated by the sense of evil around them, cannot devise any expedient to relieve him. They are surrounded by cannibals, and poison-tipped arrows thin their numbers. Meantime, I, in command of the river column, am anxiously stirring up and down in the river in four different directions. Through forests my scouts are seeking for them, but not until the sixth day was I successful in finding them.