

**THE CONGO COUNTRY.**  
 —————  
 and Flowing with Milk and Honey  
 —The Natives.

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 from the upper river. The natives never eat the fish when fresh, but smoke or dry them. The man-eating crocodile is met with throughout the river, and in the region of the islands and sandbanks the hippopotami are numerous. I have frequently met herds of

If disturbed in their breeding they will attack passing canoes or 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 soil 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 matokoos they purchase in trade from the natives.

As no gold or silver the natives do

It is 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 almost harmless. They have no idea of marksmanship and it is the exception that a man is killed in their tribal wars.

In October, 1885, between M'Banza Mangu and Vivi I was in camp with nearly

...to people (one of the most  
...chiefs on the lower river); these  
...were returning from the coast  
...rum, gin, etc, but with my native  
...and one other man I camped  
...fully among these 600 natives as I  
...have done at Vivi. And again,  
...f the English mission is living alone  
...ete, and has been so for months,  
...nearest white man being 50 miles  
...him. The agents of the state never

the state limits its caravans to 10 people for the transportation of camp equipment only. As far as I learn, there is no case on record of the last two years where a white caravan has been molested on the river.

stealing food or assaulting women, he 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. The Baskungas are superstitious to the degree; they rely for protection on fetish charms, and the medicine men of the tribes have great influence. The death of any person of note in

vine-man designates the man or woman suspected of causing the death by charms or witchcraft. The poison is administered, and if it acts as an emetic, it signifies innocence; if, on the contrary, it kills, the guilty one is punished. In some instances the laws of the village are very stringent. Stealing and fighting is punished by death. Disorder in the market place

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 unusual sight to meet a skeleton hanging, bleaching in the sun on the outskirts of a market, or to find a broken cart driven into the ground, which is the spot where a man has been killed and alive up to his throat, his brain

iven into his body. All this to  
a warning to others not to use fire  
in the market place.

The native food of the lower Congo  
is principally peanuts and chi-  
ngo (made from the manioc root).  
On market days fowl, eggs, goat and  
sheep may be bought, and in (small quan-  
ties) sweet potatoes, peas, beans, onion  
and bananas.

the intemperate; the native drink is  
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  
beads or 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 a  
man has married he cannot divorce his  
wife.

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 they own many slaves; in fact, the village is populated by slaves with slaves, the freemen of the village being the members of his own family. A singular fact, that, changes any in your mind.

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