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WEST AFRICA.

EXTRACTS FROM THE JOURNAL OF MR. WILSON.

(Concluded.)

Reception at Kay-The Town and its Inhabi-

The people of Kay had heard that we were man;' but, with few exceptions, none of this occasion as a general specimen. them had ever seen one; and now they were' about to enjoy the long wished for sight within the enclosure of their own town. The chilfrom the town, and the whole population were assembled without the gate. Our entry was honored by the beating of the town drum and a heavy discharge of muskets, an honor shown in this country only to kings and white men. We were conducted to the front of the king's house, where an old dusty hollow chest was thrust out for us to sit upon, and we were soon walled around by a solid mass of naked human beings. Those who stood in the outermost ranks pressed into their service mortars and benches, and many clambered up the roofs of the houses to get a peep at the stranger. I was urged to take off my hat, and in so doing caused another loud yell. No menagerie exhibitions in the world could excite | side. Den God say to heself, What I go do | characters after his own, and lead them unhemore close observation, than does a white man on his first visit to one of these bush towns. His every action is observed with shameless scrutiny. If you eat, they want to see how a white man eats; if you sleep, they want to see how you look with your eyes shut. Nor is it possible in one of these settlements to get out of their reach. If you walk out, you are followed by a gang of noisy boys and girls; if you go into one of their houses, it will be crowded to suffocation. The traveller acts the wisest part who sits down, and bears

A small house in front of the king's was assigned as our quarters, and I availed myself pile him one time. Den Jesus Christ say to by tears, in tumults, in distress, in misery, and dancers, to relieve them from cramp. of it to bathe my feet and change my clothes. During the time, however, it was necessary to have a sentry at the door to keep out the people. We were presented with a chicken for our supper, but my interpreter took it in high dudgeon that the bearer of it should have mistaken him for the cook. Our house was afterwards changed for a more commodious one, and it would have been more pleasant, had not the king and a part of his family been fellow occupants. I enjoyed, however, a comfortable sleep. In the morning we were aroused by the singing of a woman at our door, and the discharge of guns. The houses of kings or chiefs in this part of the country do not differ materially from those of the common people. They usually have a larger number of wives, and consequently a greater number of houses, as each woman must have her own house. There was no great display of china as we are accustomed to see in the houses of the people along the beach, and it is probable that this king was very poor in all foreign articles, because for some years before this they were cut off from all communication with the beach people.

it with all his might.

When I came out of the house in the morning I found Teddah and his head-men assembled to thank me for my visit, and to commence his country's hospitality. A handsome young bullock was brought out and the king pronounced it mine. Another man with a drawn knife stepped up and asked me if I would have it killed. I told him certainly; and before I could get away it was killed within a few feet of our door. Soon after this work of death, which, from its barbarous mode of infliction, had made me feel uncomfortably, a man brought a large bowl of smoking blood and inquired if I wanted it. I turned away with no little abhorrence, but was relieved in some measure, when Bello informed me that the people did not drink it before it was boiled. After the bullock was quartered, I was again | if I had not met two slave dealers, who came | nights and nearly two days, we were treated sent for to say how I would have it distributed. This Bello undertook. One portion was set aside for our company, another for the king's family, a third for the soldiers, and the remainder for the town's people at large. For which I received general thanks.

Specimen of a Sermon to the People.

Teddah to assemble the people at some con- just sold. He had come on a friendly visit to nuts, cakes, etc., to monkeys, to see how they near to me, and the people formed an oblong to get more slaves.

one man and one woman. Dat man and dat | slave trade altogether. woman go hab pickenniny, and dem picken- The conversation I had with these men led niny go hab more gen; bomby de world cum | me to reflect upon the vast influence which a up full people. Some go one country for lib, white man is capable of exerting over the some go tuder way. Well, God look all man, mind of an African. His assertions, whatever and he see all man hab bad heart; all man do | they may be, carry a weight of authority that | fool fash; no one man hab good heart for God is seldom questioned. He may fashion their wid dese people? Dey no lub me; dey no do sitatingly into the mazes of sin, or constrain what ting I tell dem for do; all time dey go | them to walk in the narrow path of piety and | fight war; dem done spile dat world I make | virtue. He would not find their minds own place, den dey go spile him too. God stitious practices, or any false religion. They bad place. Pos man go dere, palaver catch | made of their previous notions, and they seem | him; he eye look to dis world. When God to hold themselves in readiness to lay hold of he Father, Let me go down dere to dat world: by every thing that can degrade and render for do all time; dem bomby de world come up | hand, if the soul of the white visiter is anigood again,' etc.

specimen of sermonizing, but so completely up his abode with the people, by the blessing hands are used as drum-sticks; and when it is ignorant are they of divine truth, that any of God he will be able to lull the elements of other mode of instruction would have been war, he may wipe away the stain of blood rapidity and loudness, you can well imagine unintelligible and unprofitable. It affords a from their skirts; he may dry up the tears of true but melancholy comment upon their anguish; and may exalt a people, now the ignorance; and we are constrained to suit our | most degraded on the face of the earth, to the instructions to their comprehensions. On this enjoyment of a peaceful and pious life. occasion I was gratified and encouraged by Population of Kay-Productions-Animals. the attention that was given to my message, and the seriousness that was manifested by Kay has a population of five hundred, and distance beyond the harsh sound of their ankle the people generally. The name of Jesus is walled around with split timber. There is had never before fallen upon their ears, and nothing remarkable or beautiful about its sitthey had scarcely believed that there was a uation. The soil must be very rich, as is indihereafter. But now these things were laid | cated by the richness and great height to open to their minds in language which they | which the banana and other plants grow. could understand and upon authority which | saw near to the town an enclosure of rich and they felt no disposition to question. I can beautiful tobacco; I am induced to think that was pourtrayed upon the countenances of a for smoking, but regarded inferior to foreign group of old men, who sat just in front of me. | tobacco. It probably belongs to that species I was strongly urged to spend several days, of the weed which botanists denominate Nicoand make them 'sabby God's palaver pro- tiana rustica. perly,' and I should gladly have done so, had | The cows in the vicinity of Bologo are consince, and says that the people believe what I highest fences are no defence against their to abandon those practices which I had point- to house their small cattle at night. Several made him a present of a razor and two yards edly designated as displeasing to God.

Men.

Bolobo is a slave-holding country, not so day. much, however, in practice as in principle.

us.' I was oppressed by a sense of my that indicated uncommon severity of characresponsibility, and in some measure discour- ter, except their filed teeth, and the heartless aged by the inadequate means that must be indifference with which they could relate their with a description of an African dance, but its employed to communicate divine truth to their | abominable practices. When they discovered minds. But on the other hand, it was cheer- my disgust and abhorrence at what they had ing to know that weak things when accompa- acknowledged, one of them attempted to nied by the Spirit's influence, might be made | shield himself by the stupid and shameless effectual to their salvation. It may not be apology that 'meat was meat.' After dark uninteresting to you to see a specimen of that | they came into my house and sat down by the most simple mode of speech and illustration | fire and afforded me further opportunity to which it is necessary for us to adopt in order remonstrate with them. I asked them if they coming, and were on the tiptoe of expecta- to communicate religious truth, and I will did not think it wrong to capture and sell tion. They had often heard of the white give you a literatim extract of my remarks on their fellow-men as slaves. They said no; that no white man had told them it was Well Bello,' (the name of my interpre- wrong. On the other hand if it was wrong, During our visit to Kay the men alone danced. ter,) 'you go peak dis palaver. I be God | why did white men tell them to do it. Again man, and me call all dis people together to they said, if we do not sell slaves, how will dren met us in great numbers some distance peak um God word. Tell all man hear him we get cloth, muskets, powder, etc. Bello good, pos he go hear dat word I peak pro- feelingly and unconsciously seized the converperly, and go do him, den he heart be glad sation and said, addressing himself to the man, The leader appeared first, and scampered plenty. Well, I begin. Who make all dis How do I get clothes, and musket, and powman, dem bush, dem tree, dem riber? Who der, and every thing I want?' I asked them make de sky, de sun, de moon, and all dem if they would be pleased to have me visit pretty star? He be God, and he be he word | their country. They said, Yes, and if I would | I come you country for peak. First time no talk to their king and head-men as I had done one man lib to dis world. Den God, he make | to them, they thought they would give up the

for dem. Pos I bring dem for heaven, my strongly prepossessed in favor of any superpeak dis word, den all dem angel lib to God any thing better that you may present to their hand say he be true. God fit for do dat. But minds. But how affecting to trace the foot-Jesus Christ he say, My Father, dat word steps of white men in Africa! I have refe-

never forget the intensity of interest which it is indigenous to Western Africa. It is used

I not been constrained by imperative circum- | siderably larger than those on the beach, and | stances to return the next day. One man | quite as large as the common cows of Amerfrom an adjoining village has been to see me | ica. Leopards are numerous and daring. The told them, and many of them have determined | aggression, and it is necessary for the people goats slept in the same house with us, and one lay ruminating all night within a few feet of Slavery -- Cannibalism -- Influence of White my head. The fowls also found a resting Fetish house, two images, that were more like place under the same roof, and did not fail to give us a timely intimation of approaching

The people I regard as decidedly more sim-They are too poor to purchase them. I should ple-hearted and generous than their beach not have known that such a practice existed, neighbors. During our stay, which was two while we were there to deliver up a slave to with the utmost kindness and hospitality. one of Teddah's subjects. These men had Besides the bullock that was killed for our that were prepared for the expected contest. come two days journey from the interior, and entertainment, Teddah gave me a second to I availed myself of the opportunity of a con- take home with me. The children and others versation with them, to express in the pre- loaded me with cherries, bananas, and other sence of Teddah and some of his head-men fruits, and without asking or expecting any my abhorrence of the practice. They un- thing in return. I thought, however, that blushingly acknowledged the perfidious man- their object in many cases, was like that of black, forming a strange contrast with his At an early hour in the day I requested ner in which they captured the slave they had boys whom I have seen before now handing snow white teeth, and his body is completely venient place that I might preach to them, in | their town from a neighboring village, and | would eat. When I made my dash to the other words, 'to talk God's palaver.' To | while there an order for a slave arrived. They | king, which consisted of four yards of red this he readily assented, but it was twelve fixed upon this man as their victim, waited flannel, three yards of blue cotton, two yards victory by the fright he may occasion. o'clock before they could all be got together. until he was asleep, fell upon him, bound him, of apron checks, a razor, knife, pair of scis-The palaver house was swept out for this pur- and in the night hurried him away. I sors, and a few beads, all of the coarsest and the afternoon, well, but much fatigued by a pose, but proved to be small, and we retired to | inquired if this act would not lead to hostili- | cheapest kind, he received them with pleasure, | brisk steady walk of nine hours. an open space in the town, which is occupied | ties between the two settlements. They said | and said it was much more than he could have | as a dancing ground. The king took his seat | if it did, it would afford them an opportunity | expected—an acknowledgement that is seldom made by an African in these parts.

Dances-Need of an Itinerant Missionary. Were I adequate to it, I might amuse you superlative ridiculousness hardly admits of description. Perhaps, however, if one of these children of nature were allowed to peep in upon one of the splendid dances in America, he would think his own equally rational at least. Unlike the customs of most countries, the two sexes here never dance together, except where, as I have once or twice seen, some old withered woman, roused by the recollections of former days, obtrudes herself upon the scene, whilst the men are engaged. An open space in the centre of the town is always kept well swept for this purpose. The drums commenced beating, some time before any of the party appeared on the ground. about like a wild horse. He was followed by others, until they formed a line of forty or fifty, when the whole moved single file around the ground in a long stiff trot. The music then revived, and all was broken up. Each one strove to excel the rest in the rapidity of motion, sometimes leaping as high as possible, then squatting or jumping on their heels. Each individual had a set of bells around his ancles, the astounding noise of which seemed to impart supernatural agility. Every part of the body was thrown into violent motion. The head was thrown backward and forward, from one side to the other with great violence and apparent distress. The countenance was made to portray in rapid succession every passion of the human soul. At one moment you saw the man so overwhelmed with fright, that his eyes are ready to start from their sockets: say he go send dem all to hell. Hell be one | will listen patiently to any refutation that is | the next moment you saw him pouring a flood of contempt upon the senseless object of his fear. Again you saw his countenance clothed with smiles, and in the twinkling of an eye, it had gathered a storm of anger. The hands were also severely taxed; and the whole peryou peak he be true; you fit for send all dem rence to slave-dealers, who form the great formance was laborious in the extreme. Freman to hell; and he be true, pos you let dem | majority of those who have visited her shores. | quently it was necessary for by-standers to come to we place wid he bad heart, den he go They are to be traced in wars, in bloodshed, rush in, and pull the arms and legs of the

But the drummers had a still more laborious I go make he heart good; I go show him how savage the heart of man. But on the other part to perform. Their drums are made by stretching a piece of skin over one end of a mated with philanthropic feelings, what may hollow cylinder of wood, leaving the other This may seem to some minds as a strange he not do? As a missionary, if he will take open, but resting on the ground. The open remembered that their music is prized for its how painful must be the operation, when it is continued two or three hours without inter-

mission.

The female dance is not materially different, except that they more commonly accompany theirs with singing, and when heard at a bells, it is not without melody and beauty. The dance, when at night, is kept up sometimes until cock-crowing, as was the case for two successive nights while we were at Kay.

In the afternoon of Thursday we apprised Teddah of our determination to leave early the next morning. He consented, but at the same time insisted that we should stay one day longer, but this we could not do; and the next morning, after an early breakfast, we set out for home by the same route we had come. We arrived at Saurekah about eleven o'clock, and expected that the people would be very unwilling to release us from our promise to spend the night with them. But in this we were happily disappointed, for we found our timid and bashful king just as willing to release us as we were anxious to get on. of blue cotton, for which he had not the courtesy to thank me. At this place, I saw in the idols than any I have before seen in Africa. They were arranged with the other Fetishes, and were doubtless objects of religious veneration. The people of Saurekah had just been on the point of war with a neighboring settlement of the name of Bakra; and although the cause of difference and dispute had been removed, they had not laid aside the trappings As we passed through the neighbourhood the woods resounded with the rattling of their war-bells, and their savage yells. I scarcely know an object more frightful than an African warrior in full attire. His face is dyed jet covered over with the skins of wild beasts, cartridge boxes, daggers, etc. And when he assails an enemy he expects to gain half the

We arrived home about three o'clock in

The interest manifested by the people of Kay in the word of God is the most pleasant incident in the review of this little excursion; square in front. A few of the principal men But there is another circumstance acknow. During our stay at Kay, the people were and I trust that the seed sown, though by a had seats, but the body of the people were ledged by these two men, which must render often engaged in dancing, partly in honor of weak hand, may spring up and bear fruit an squatted on the ground. I need scarcely say them, in the eyes of every feeling man, I will our visit, and partly because it was the 'time hundred fold. A missionary, in my humble that my feelings were deeply engaged when I not say more execrable, but more pitiable, to dance.' From the time of harvest, which opinion, is much needed to itinerate among found myself, as a minister of the living God, viz. that they and their countrymen were in is September, until December or January, these people, to break to them the bread of surrounded by five hundred human beings, not | the habit of eating human flesh; thus con- | when they recommence clearing their farms, | life. 'He would find within a semi-circle, one of whom had ever heard of the name of firming the suspicion that there are cannibals the people do little else than dance and drink having Cape Palmas for its centre, and a Jesus, or the glad tidings of salvation. The within fifty miles of Cape Palmas. That the palm wine. Hence at this season we were radius of thirty miles, a population of forty or simple announcement of my intention had same may not once have been practised here, always apprised of our proximity to a settle- fifty thousand souls; and no people in the awakened their attention. Their language I am not prepared to decide. There was ment by the firing of guns and beating of world, so far as human foresight goes, would be virtually was, 'What has the Lord to do with | nothing about the appearance of these men | drums, common accompaniments of the dance. | so ready to receive the gospel of Jesus Christ.