and ten miles—perhaps it may exceed the latter. On entering the town, I soon perceived our Robookah friends, sent by king Tom to assist in the palaver; among whom, I was glad to notice Gov. War, or Jeammah, as is his country name. We were obliged to wait at least one hour in the hot sun for the appearance of the king, without whose welcome we could not presume to make ourselves at all at home; besides, it would have appeared quite vulgar, in the eyes of the nobility present, to manifest the slightest uneasiness in consequence of wet garments and empty stomachs. At length a long, lank Jonathan, made his appearance, and was introduced as king Toureh. He was decidedly one of the most contemptible, cross-grained, senseless looking pieces of majesty that I ever encountered, and I became subsequently satisfied that a perfect correspondence subsisted between his person and character. After waiting a proper time, he offered me a house for our luggage, and a he-goat as a breakfast. Poor Capricornicus was despatched in a twinkling, and soon made his appearance in a more acceptable manner, with a pot of boiled rice. After breakfast, I formally made known my business to the king, and desired him to send for his colleague, belonging to the next town up the river. This he promised to do, and I believe forthwith despatched a messenger. Nothing could now be done until the return of the messenger; and I spent the day in receiving dashes from the head-men of the small towns, in the vicinity, of which, I believe, there are five dependant upon Ploroh. I also sounded the river for some distance, up and down, and found from four to eight fathoms—not less than the former in any place. It is about two hundred yards broad at Ploroh. During the first night of my stay at this place we were favoured with a grand serenade. Being well slung in my hammock, I was enjoying sweet recompense for the disturbances of the previous night at Baphro's, when I was aroused by the most tremendous din—the strangest concord of discords—the most direful chaos of sounds, that ever offended the ear of mortal. I shall not attempt to analyze or describe this uproar, nor its effects on me. My first impulse was, of course, to make ready for an onset; for I expected that the grand devil and all his imps, instigated by our Half Cavally friends, had determined to take advantage of our situation, and fall upon us. However, I was soon undeceived by our native boys, who informed me that it was the grand devil going his rounds, to keep the town in order; that an additional dozen or so of fiddlers were added to his band that night, in honour of the '*nation's guest.*'

GRAND PALAVER AT PLOROH.

On the next morning (Wednesday, Oct. 21) the messenger returned, stating that king Gunoa could not attend the palaver, that I must first visit his town. I now understood the whole matter. They hoped to get more dashes by dividing the palavers, and retaining me in each town as long as possible. After breakfast, king Toureh assembled the head-men, and sent me notice that he would take it upon himself and people to talk the palaver without king Gunoa, and that they were then ready to hear what I had to say. It may not be amiss, briefly to describe to you the general conduct of this palaver, as it was one of the most perfect specimens I have ever witnessed, and I believe I have never as yet troubled you with the details of one. That you may have a more correct idea of it, I will give it you in all the English that was used on the occasion. The place for holding a palaver is generally under some large tree, and we were this time favoured with the shade of an enormous one, close to the town palaver house. The whole assembly was first divided into two parts: one consisting of king Toureh and head-men; and the other, of your humble servant, his train of natives and colonists, and the head-men of king Tom's country. King Toureh was surrounded by the head-men of his town,—such as town governor, grand devil priest, orator, &c. They were in common dress, and unarmed. On his right, in regular order, sat all the governors of his small towns, backed by their soldiers, with fine burnished muskets. All communication with the king and assembly is made through the orator, who, while speaking, or being addressed, occupies the centre of the open place between the parties. When the orator, or any one, commences speaking, or finishes a sentence, and when he finishes his speech, he commands attention by crying out 'Bâteo!' one, two, or three several times. He is responded to by the whole assembly, with '*bâtee*' at each time, with more or less vehemence, as his remarks are acceptable or otherwise. This has a very imposing effect, and adds much to the dignity of the assembly. The orator now demanded attention, and after a few words to the king, approached me and said:—'You be white man; you done come we country; pose you have word for peak; black man ready for hear what he be.' *Hall.*—'True, I have word for peak; no more he no be all same country-man palaver, he be white man word I go peak; no country-man word fit go side to him; he be one grand palaver; he never come this country first time. Your old father never hear palaver; all same; I go peak; pose you hear him properly; he do you good plenty: pose your heart no be good for that palaver, I can't peak him two time. First time God make world, he make one man; he be father for all man live this time. Long time man be few; he have one country, no more; by and by he grow big, he be plenty, he fill all country. One part go for that place, where sun come from; he live long way off—one part go for tother country; he be English, French, and Paniard man. Tother part he be Africa man, your own people; live this country. Now all man live tother country. Sava make ship, musket, powder, cloth, and plenty, plenty thing you never look this country. What make this thing so? God make man all same; no more sun make Africa man black; he head be all same white man; he walk all same white man. Now, what make this palaver so?'

Answer.—'We be black man; we can't sava what for this be so. We will for hear your word; you sava peak true.' *Hall*—'True I sava tell: you country people no mix; you no peak one word; you part—every man live he own side; you no will for let one man pass your country. Plenty bush man live back side to you, who sava make cloth and iron; but you no will for let him come your country; so you can't sava that thing. You no will for let white man live your country. You tief all him money; you make fight to him all time. You make fight for every town live close you. Every pickaninny king say, I pass all man. Every man make he brother slave for white man. This be why country can't 'come up for good.' Your country have big bamboo stick; he fit make house. Pose you take axe, and split him all pieces; he done, spoil; he fit burn for make fire, nothing more. All same your country; he done, split up, and spoil. This thing make white man heart sorry for black man. This time all white man in America country say, how can we do Africa man good? This be live he heart this time. This be what for he send me and plenty America black man this country. He say, Go black man country; peak him all that palaver live we heart, pose he will. Buy some country; set down long-side to him; make all people peak one word; make black man sava make house, make boat, make proper farm, make cotton for cloth; make he pickaninny one sava book. So that time he come up for more; he can fit white man. So long time past, I come this country; I buy Cape Palmas; I build town; I make farm; I make country-man sava work; I pay him money for every thing I take from him; I make school this time. Plenty country boy sava book; all same America boy. All this thing, you sava, I done do for Cape Palmas people. Long time I hear grand devil name; I hear big word for country live river side; my heart say I must look him; I must hear he word, pose he be good. I done look king Tom; we mix word; I done make book for he country. That book say he country be America country; this time all same Cape Palmas. That book make all country one; so they all be one people; all peak one word; every man pass where he please. No palaver live any place; every side be clear. Country-man can pass, bring trade, can work for money for America man. He pickaninny can go school; American man can come bush country, go river, build house any place he please. All this palaver live book. King Tom put he name for book; all he head-men like this palaver; he done send he head-men for peak you this palaver long side to me. You done hear their word; you done hear my word; I peak, no more.'

Response.—'We done hear your word; we tink he be good; we tank you. No more, he fit we look we head; then you can hear we word.'

Upon this, an adjournment took place for private consultation. In about an hour we were again assembled, and the orator spoke to the following amount:—'We done look we head for that word—you done peak. All man heart be glad. We old, old father never hear white man peak word. That word you peak please all man; we will for that you peak. We will for you come this country for set down here; for do that fash your heart please. We will for put our name for book all same king Tom. *We thank you—we thank you.*'

DIFFICULTIES AT PLOROH.

Thus ended the palaver. After dinner, the deeds were executed, every specification was fully explained, giving to every clause the broadest interpretation, and much wrangling ensued previous to signing. After this the dashes were produced; this business had been in their hearts from the beginning, and like civilized people, they had affected to feel a great deal for the benefit of the rising generation, &c. while the present gain was the only incitement to action. At sight of the cloth, tobacco, &c. his majesty appeared quite indignant and sulkily demanded if the whole was a dash for him or for his people. He was informed that they were intended for him and people altogether, that he could divide them as he thought proper. His conduct gave a cue to the others—a scene of confusion ensued, which can only be witnessed in an African town. I quietly waited its termination near two hours, but in vain; reason, and even words, were out of the question. Night was approaching and I ordered the goods returned to the house. They all menaced us by gestures at least, and declared that we should not go up the river; that we should go back as soon as morning came. To all of this I made no reply, and seemed perfectly indifferent to the clamour on all sides. This irritated them so much the more, and it seemed as if they would split their throats and throw their limbs from their bodies, so violent were their gestures. I feared no violence from them until we should attempt to ascend the river, but I doubted much if the palaver could be quietly set. I perceived from the first, that the Half Cavally people maintained a powerful influence over the minds of many, and although they talked palaver with us in the day, I was well informed that an embassy from Cavally opposed us in the night. I had determined not to move our goods from the house in which we lodged, but to fix our swivel in the floor, capsize the roof and sides, and then clear the town, which we could easily do, as we were situated immediately in the centre, on the apex of the hill. First, however, I thought proper to use all palliative measures. In the evening, I sent privately for king Toureh, and dashed him as if for his kind entertainment, expressed my sorrow that the palaver was spoiled, intimating that I should leave early in the morning for home. In like manner I served several other head-men, unknown to each other, among whom was the G. D. Priest. He said that I must not go, that he would induce the king to set the palaver to-morrow. Early in the morrow, king Toureh dashed me a bullock, and said I must stay until breakfast. I found the Half Cavally people had been up last night, and pressed their suit to have them turn us back very strongly, but their promises of remuneration fell so far short of my yesterday's dash, that they rather lost than gained by this movement. After breakfast the palaver was again opened, and was continued among themselves four hours at least. Finally, I was asked if I wished to go up the river; I replied, that I had talked my palaver, that it was good and they knew it, that they had behaved so, that I cared little whether they accepted my dash or not; that I would add a few things more, and if they took it, well and good; if not, I should do what I pleased. They desired that the money might be again produced; it was done, and I must own it gave me much pleasure to see the king roll up his tobacco in a piece of romauls. The receiving money is their only bond to a contract.

DIVISION OF THE PRESENTS AT PLOROH.

The moment the king's money was deposited in his chest, a scene of confusion ensued that almost killed me with laughter. All hands simultaneously seized upon the spoil-pieces of bleached cotton, which were coiled round and round their smoky houses, and dragged in the mire of the town in every direction. Some one more fortunate than his fellows would envelope himself in half a dozen folds, slash both sides with his cutlass, and clear for the bush. Eight or ten others would half agree upon the division of a piece, when some long two-fisted fellow would dash himself into the ring, fold the whole into his arms, paw some half dozen fellows into the dirt, and make his way off. I saw one old head-man of a small town entangled in a coil of shirting. He was so corpulent as to be hardly able to waddle—a few lusty youngsters, unmindful of his situation, were tugging violently at each end; the poor old man was rolled among the mud and rocks, at once crying aloud for baft and mercy. Many other articles proved not so difficult of distribution, or rather division. The pipes and looking-glasses shortly fulfilled their destiny; cutlasses and knives were drawn through many a naked hand. The tobacco was saved by handsfull. Many of the head-men were unable to secure even one leaf. One little fellow, a governor for a bush town, particularly excited my compassion and merriment. In the midst of the fray, they had torn off the cloth he wore from home, and he came begging for another. He was in a woful plight, indeed; entirely naked below a thick woollen roundabout, in which he was buttoned to the chin. That part of his face which appeared between this and a thick felt hat crammed over his eyebrows, indicated the deepest agony. He sobbed and whined so dolefully, that I gave him a fathom of romauls, which, at least, improved his appearance.

VISIT TO HAIDEE.

The palaver was now set in good earnest, and I determined to be off while the turmoil lasted. We accordingly took a hasty leave of king Toureh, manned our canoes, gave them a parting gun, and once more, to my infinite satisfaction, turned our prows up the stream. King Gunoa, of Haidee, had sent a man the night previous to escort us to his town. I took him on board my canoe. My old friend Jeammah was also one of our party. We left Ploroh about four o'clock in the afternoon of Thursday, October 22d. The distance to Haidee is four or five miles. We arrived in time to witness one of those delightful mellow sunsets, which I had thought peculiar to an × ~~African~~ horizon; at least I never before enjoyed one in Africa. The town is on the east side, and immediately overhanging the river, whose waters appeared to move onwards with unusual tranquillity. Opposite was the site of an old demolished town, noted only by the immense plantain orchard, which rose in the midst of an extensive rice and cassada field; beyond was the dense forest, occasionally overtopped by one of those magnificent trees, frequently noticed on the banks of the Cavally, whose dark green foliage formed not an unpleasing contrast with the soft world of light, fast fading in the west. I am not so world-worn but a scene like this would, under any circumstances, absorb my attention and render me contemplative. But now, after suffering three days and nights of clamour and confusion at that detestable Ploroh, it was doubly soothing to my over anxious and troubled spirit, and seemed a harbinger of less troublesome hours.

× Amer'can

I stated to king Gunoa, this evening, the object of my visit, and that I hoped, from what I had heard of his good name, that the palaver would be easily set in the morning, and I be enabled at once to pursue my journey. At this his majesty seemed not a little elated, and promised that I should meet with different treatment than he had been informed I had received at Ploroh. With this promise I turned in for the night, hoping to enjoy the rest which I so much required. But as ill luck would have it, the king's brother died that night in the house next us, and the dismal funeral howl dissipated all hopes of slumber.

The next morning, October 23d, nothing could be done until the man was buried, and this could not be until the sun had arrived at a certain point in his downward course, say two o'clock, P. M. consequently the day was lost. I sounded the river in sundry places, and found it from four to seven fathoms. About sun-down, the head-men convened, heard what I had to say, and promised to confirm king Tom's contract early in the morning. On Saturday, October 24, I came very near being again foiled. A man was to take saucy wood for witching or poisoning the king's brother, and all hands must attend. With much coaxing and dashing I overruled this movement, and set the man clear. We had nothing now to do but sit down, read and explain the nature of the deed, the obligations of both parties, and sign it. This was speedily effected. The dashes were now produced, and at once accepted, with, I believe, a sincere expression of thanks.

VISIT TO THE ORACLE OF THE GRAND DEVIL COUNTRY.

After breakfast, I asked permission to visit the grand devil, which, after much consultation, was granted. Accordingly a canoe was manned, guide and priest put on board, and we forthwith pulled away for the famous oracle. The creek which leads to it empties into the Cavally, close to the town. It is very narrow and deep, and comes down with considerable velocity. The water is not muddy like the river, but very dark, so that the bottom is perceptible in no place. The banks are covered with large trees, and a dense undergrowth of vines and other shrubs, often times meeting over head, rendering the passage exceeding gloomy; and to a timid mind, even dreadful. From our first entrance into the creek, the priest standing in the bow of the canoe, dressed in all the insignia of his order, occasionally, in a deep hollow tone, called upon his devilship, informing him of our approach, and quality of his new votary. We pulled up the current about four miles, and then landed. The guide now conducted us, by a most miserable, shrubby place, in a circuitous route to the top of a hill, elevated something like two hundred feet above the level of the creek, and a distance of at least one mile from the landing. Here we found a thatched shed and some blocks to rest ourselves upon until the priest should go and see 'if grand devil live home this time, and if he will for look America man.' On stepping a few rods into the bushes, he commenced his inquiry in the same hollow tone, and was shortly answered by a whistle at a distance. He soon returned with a favourable answer, viz. that we were welcome, and grand devil be glad for look white man. We were now joined by another party, who had come across the bush. We were here shown a certain tree, having a hard rough bark, which cuts like a knife, or rather scratches like a grater, against which all were directed to rub their bodies, stating that it served to preserve life: which it no doubt would if external irritation was necessary. The boys all rubbed their carcasses with great satisfaction. I declined the favour. His satanic majesty was now said to be waiting for us. We accordingly began to descend the other side of the hill, where no path at all existed except what was formed by a water course. This we followed near half a mile, often letting ourselves down several feet of perpendicular rocks, supporting ourselves by vines and bushes, then hobbling over masses of sharp stones, occasionally slipping into the brook, and wetting a foot or limb, and now and then receiving a gentle hint from some overhanging thorn to use more caution in a place so sacred. At length we overtook our priest and guide, the former seated under a rock about eight feet square, set in one bank of the rivulet, and slightly arched in front, where the priest was sitting. A small square rock rests in the middle of the stream, on which I had the honour to be seated, and which, I believe, is always occupied by any one consulting the oracle. I was then asked if I wished to consult the grand devil in any matter: I answered no! that I only wished to see the place and shake his hand, that I might put his name in the big book I was about to send to America. They now commenced their incantations, slowly at first, but soon with increased vehemence. After a proper time, a low growl was heard under the rock. All now appeared to manifest great joy and reverence. This growl was interpreted to me as a demand of my business. I stated it as before. Whereupon another growl followed, which was a demand to know what I had brought him. I practised the foolery until I satisfied myself whence the noise proceeded, and then declined further intercourse.

It has generally been supposed by the more intelligent natives that some man is concealed under the rock, but it is not so. On first seeing the rock and position of the priest, I readily concluded that he, himself, was the grand devil, and further observation confirmed me in this conclusion. During the exorcisms or incantations, I watched the muscles of his chest and abdomen, and perceived their action to be natural; but during the long deep growls I perceived his chest slowly to contract, until the noise ceased, and then the muscles acted as before. The devil had a wonderful faculty of throwing *multum in parvo*, as one short growl formed three or four English sentences.

Knowing the extensive celebrity of this oracle, the implicit confidence placed in its predictions, and the high value of the fetishes, I was prepared to meet with something marvellous or imposing in the place itself, or the ceremonies of the priests. I had supposed at least, that there would be some slight of hand management or juggling in the affair, in a manner to deceive the senses. But there is no such thing. The whole farce falls infinitely short of our children's boo-peep or blind man's buffet. And how or wherefore it should maintain such extensive influence over the minds of the most intelligent tribes on the sea-coast to an extent of six hundred miles, is truly astonishing. However disgusted and disappointed I was, I professed to be much astonished at the supernatural growlings, and promised his invisible majesty that his big name should go book for long America, and set about clambering the rocks on my return. The excessive fatigue which I had undergone tempted me very strongly to slake my thirst in the pure stream, which came tumbling down upon me in my ascent, and which is said to prove fatal to all who presume to rob the grand devil of his own especial beverage. Being a little ahead of my train, I made bold to filch a few swallows, much to my own relief and the horror of one of my Cape Palmas boys who twigged me in the act. He, however, wisely held his peace until we had finished a pot of soup on our return, well knowing that when the honour of the grand devil was at stake, a little fetish, always at hand with these people, would probably have been dashed into my mess, and its effects been attributed to the sacred water.

ARRIVAL AT DENAH.

We left Haidee about three o'clock, P. M. of Saturday, and again bent our course up the river. About three miles from Haidee we passed the Bropaum creek, the northern river boundary of our newly acquired territory, and entered the confines of Negapos. We soon hove in sight of Nopatea. I sent my head-man ashore with a dash of pipes and tobacco, as a shake-hand palaver. This would not answer. we must come on shore and stay all night. I objected; still they persisted, and I thought showed little more than friendly earnestness. I knew what would be the result if we went on shore. They had heard of the contract with the Yeabreh people, and of the splendid dashes which I had made them, and were determined to obtain the same themselves. But neither time nor funds would admit of opening a negociation with the people at present. When I gave orders to put out, they became outrageous, and threatened to stop us on our return. Passing on, we soon arrived at Ne-he-ro, a town which had lately been burned by the Napateo people, with whom they were now at war. Here the old head-man received our pipes and tobacco with thanks and good wishes for a prosperous voyage. We passed Blurob, a small town on the western bank, and arrived at Denah near dark. The town of Denah is located on the apex of a rocky hill, something like one hundred and fifty or two hundred feet above the river. It contains about two hundred houses, and perhaps fifteen hundred inhabitants. The river here turns suddenly from north to east, forming opposite the town a beautiful water bound plain, covered with a luxuriant growth of our tropical vegetables. You have a full view of the river in the south as far as Nehero. This is really a splendid, charming situation. It was to the king of this place that I formerly despatched a messenger, inviting him to visit our settlement, that I might induce him to permit me to open a communication through his territory to the river. The messenger was also requested to invite the king of the Bush country, residing between this and Cape Palmas. With true African cunning the bush king told the messenger that he would inform the king of Denah and both come together. He sent a child to Neh, the Denah king, which was equivalent to mocking him; and came to the Cape alone, thinking by so doing to render himself more consequential and receive a larger dash. This management I had never learned until my arrival at Denah. Of course I was astonished to find king Neh ill-disposed towards me. On the evening of my arrival he gave my head-men to understand that we could not be allowed to proceed on our voyage. This was not the most pleasing intelligence, situated as we were in the midst of this large town, containing at least one hundred good musket men. Open opposition was useless. We had other sources, also, of disquiet, less important, but more immediately annoying, viz. a heavy charge from at least one thousand people, void of all restraint or decency, determined, at the hazard of broken pates and bloody noses, to gratify their curiosity: not a curiosity to *see* a white, but to watch his every action and gesture. The slightest movement of any kind, as spitting, eating, drinking, taking off one's hat, or even looking at one another, occasioned the most deafening and continued clamour. All this I endeavoured to endure with christian-like fortitude and resignation.

FEASTING IN AFRICA.

The house was finally cleared, and we were found alive in the morning, whose light revealed to us the cause of the annoyance of one of our senses, before inexplicable. Six days previous to our arrival they had killed a very large elephant about twenty miles distant, and had just succeeded in depositing the whole in and about the palaver house for division. This meat, when newly killed, has a peculiarly disagreeable and very strong smell, enough to deter any delicate stomach from receiving a morsel; but now that it had been six days exposed to the sun by day and moon by night, and had become completely re-animated, it emitted a stench inconceivably horrible. Of this savoury melange of the quick and dead, the whole town of Denah had become fully saturated, so that no hope of exemption or momentary freedom from this all pervading deluge of putrefaction, remained. The breath and perspiration of the inhabitants exhaled it even more deadly than the disjointed carcase itself. This rendered my case hopeless, as the latter might have been shunned, but the former never. I had not supposed it possible for the human stomach to receive so revolting a substance, much less to relish it.

ADVANTAGES OF THE MEDICAL CHARACTER.

On the morning of Sunday, October 25, I had an interview with king Neh, but neither of us were disposed to touch upon the river palaver. He was much cast down in consequence of the sickness of one of his young wives. I offered to look at her, at which he appeared gratified. I found her labouring under severe inflammation of the whole contents of the abdomen, and in excruciating agony. I informed the king that but little hope remained of effecting a cure, but temporary relief could be produced. I applied a blister of an extremely acrid root of the country; gave a full dose of laudanum, and put her into a warm bath. Speedy relief from pain ensued, and the patient soon fell into a profound sleep. This effected a total change in the king; he called my head-man, told him I must go when and where I pleased, had a bullock killed, and a large quantity of rice prepared for our journey. I gave him to understand that I duly appreciated his kindness, talked of the proposed road across the country, of the advantages that intercourse with the Americans would be to his people, &c. He said his country was large, and the people few; that he would be glad to make any arrangements relative to the possession of a part of it by the Americans, that I might propose. I promised to come to his country and set the palaver at some future time. This I shall endeavour to effect as soon as circumstances will permit, and I have little doubt but this man will become one of the most effective and useful allies to the colony. His territory is very extensive; in fact, unbounded on the north-west and east, that is, no boundaries have as yet been established, not having come in contact with his neighbours in their farming operations. Up the river his dominions extend at least eight miles on both sides. The river here, as you will perceive by my map, forms a very material curve, leaving this the most westerly point for some miles: of course the most desirable spot at which to intersect it with a road from Cape Palmas. Above this we could hardly expect to reach it, and no point below would be so desirable. You will, therefore, readily see the vast importance of the proposed arrangement with king Neh. I regret not having been better supplied with funds, that I might have secured Nopatea and Nehero, in my course up. In that case the whole of what is termed the half-bush country would have been unalterably ours.

SCENERY OF THE CAVALLY.

Picture to yourself a majestic deep river, moving smoothly onward, with an ever calm, unruffled surface, banks elevated from ten to forty feet above its level, indicating, by their frequent ruptures, an incredible depth of the richest soil that any combination of earthy matter is capable of forming. Fancy, as you glide down the stream, alternately on either side, the top of the bank, skirted with a heavy thick growth of impenetrable spear grass, the ready successor to a crop of vegetables or grain, or perhaps still teeming with its rich waving harvest of rice, interspersed with occasional clusters of the Indian corn. Occasionally, on the very edge of the bank, you are astonished to behold one of those huge trees from which the natives excavate their immense canoes, left, as if to declare to the inquiring passenger, we are the original possessors of the soil. On the opposite side you are no less charmed with *nature* in *nature's* own garb. The banks, not less elevated, are covered with all the varieties of the African forest trees, from the very tops of which a broad expanse of net-work descends and sweeps the passing current. Beyond this beautiful green drapery fancy alone can penetrate. It may be the abode of water nymphs or alligators, naiades or anacondas. Leaving them to themselves, just stretch your eye through the long vista formed by these variegated banks, 'till it rests on that slight elevation, in the distant curve of the river, which gives a brighter reflection of light than the surrounding deep-green forest. This, you will perceive on your approach, is the site of a native town. You soon see the conical hay-cock houses crowning its summit; for a little distance an either side you will soon distinguish the bright, short green grass, on which are feeding flocks of sheep and goats, with great numbers of sleek, black, fat beeves. A nearer approach will introduce you to nothing more interesting; the din soon commences, which I will spare you and myself too. When you have seen thus much through the dull perspective of my pen, you will have a correct view of the Cavally from Denah to its mouth. Of the face of the country back from the river I know nothing from personal observation. I should think, however, from what I could learn, that it was neither elevated nor marshy, but a continued extensive arable savanna, capable of yielding successive heavy crops of the most exhausting produce with comparatively little injury.

Before day, on Monday morning, Oct. 26, the loud wailing of the women gave me to understand that my poor little patient had taken her departure for a less palaverous sphere; and deeming it improper to trouble king Neh in his grief, I ordered all hands quietly to ship our baggage, and we were soon under way. The sun had not yet risen to dispel the damp, heavy fog, which proved exceedingly chilly and disagreeable to me, although it stimulated the hands to most vigorous exertion.

After passing up one or two miles from Denah, we saw no traces of cultivation, or of the labours of man. The land was much less elevated than what we had heretofore passed, occasionally shelving to the water's edge, and skirted with mangrove, although no indications of marshes were observed. The soil also appeared more sandy and rocky. Perhaps this may account for its not being tenanted. I could, however, perceive from Denah, that there appeared to be an elevated ridge back from the river. About seven miles up, we passed a beautifully elevated spot on the eastern bank, a curve of the river here forming a deep, spacious bay. I ordered the men to pull across; but no! I demanded the cause, and was told of a tradition that is current among them, and universally believed, viz:—that a big snake once inhabited this place, and subsisted entirely on the canoe-men who passed up and down; that so great was the dread of him, that the river was wholly abandoned, and a carrying place was opened on the opposite side. At length the head men of Enemo contrived to slay him in the following manner.

They heated a stone for some days in the fire, then killed a sheep, and quickly sewing the stone up in his abdomen, put the whole into a canoe, and pushed it into the stream. The snake (as in duty bound) swallowed the jest, and soon died in great agonies. Notwithstanding years have elapsed since this famous exploit, they affirm that no canoe has ever approached that bank, and this I verily believe; for neither threats nor entreaties could induce them to put me on shore, or even cross the stream.

About eight miles from Denah, we breakfasted on the Ai-wy-bli-yoo rock, which runs shelving into the stream. Never did cold, boiled bullock and rice meet with a more cordial reception; and river water was a prime article. From this, one mile brings you to Enemo, on the eastern bank. The land becomes considerably more elevated than any yet passed.

Eu-don-ne-vous, a town at some distance from the river, on the west side, is situated on an elevation of three hundred feet. We had not a fair view of it until our descent. We this forenoon passed the towns you will notice on the map,—all of which are beautifully situated, and are generally about the size of Ploroh or Haidee,—as far as Loo.

At Loo the natives said we must, and should come on shore: we would not, nor could not; so the palaver stood for some minutes, amidst a tremendous shower of rain. But on we went, and having rounded a point a little past the town, hauled in shore to partake of our lunch or dinner. While here, my head-man informed me, that in consequence of our not stopping, the Loo people would make palaver for their trade-men, who might ascend the river hereafter, and he begged me to return and stay all night. Being rather weary, I yielded, and we turned back to be deafened and smothered to death by the barbarous kindness of these people. ~~This was doubly provoking, as about ten o'clock, after passing Gadeo, I had been feasted with a most beautiful prospect of the Najiro mountain, and I longed to approach it: my heart was truly in the highlands. Having spent the early and happiest part of my life in the mountainous districts of Vermont and New Hampshire; intimate with the splendid scenery of the Green mountains and White hills; and now, after a confinement of near two years, to almost a single point, on the coast of Africa; the sea and land presenting, on either side, an almost equally regular horizon; now, amid the varied and delightful scenery around me, to have a sudden and unexpected view of this vast blue mountain in the distance, whose well-marked outline most strikingly resembled my favourite Ascutney, whose evening shadow darkens the place of my birth—my own white cottage, and the scene where lie buried all my earthly hopes. This was too much for my easily excited feelings, and I gave way to them in such a child-like manner, as to excite the affected laughter, but real sympathy, of my favourite head kroo-boy.~~

~~At Loo~~, I was much less annoyed by the natives than I expected. It is a beautiful place, and I spent a very agreeable afternoon in contemplating the variety of the surrounding scenery. After breakfasting the next morning, and talking a half hour's palaver, in which I was violently urged to stop another day, we departed on our voyage.

APPROACH TO THE MOUNTAINS AND ARRIVAL AT THE CATARACTS.

A few miles further up, we hove in sight of the Yapah mountains, on the east side of the river, considerably more elevated than my adopted Najiro. About four miles from Loo, we passed five small towns, on the east side of the river, scattered about on the peaks of little sugar-loaf hills. Their names you will see on the map. Some, as Detna and Uto, were considerably elevated—say from one to two hundred feet. On the west side, a little past these towns, we hove-to a moment under the banks of the sweet little town of Nanya. I have never seen any town that could at all compare with it. The houses are externally plaistered with a light yellow clay; they are located at a convenient distance from each other; the streets are perfectly clean and smooth, skirted with beautiful short green grass. Altogether the place was so charming, that I was for once urged by my kroomen to despatch. We here procured a canoe to conduct us through the rapids, which commence immediately on leaving the town. We had very strong pulling the rest of the way.

About two miles from Nanyah we came to the falls; here the river is divided by an island. I did not particularly examine the eastern branch. We took the western, which, after a very dangerous passage, brought us immediately under the foam of the cataract, to Faye, a small beautifully located town, belonging to king —— of Netea. From the best information I could obtain, I should judge that there were a succession of falls and rapids for some miles up the river. The lower one allows a fall of water of about ten feet—perhaps less, and forms one of the most perfect natural mill privileges I have ever seen. The soft rock on the western bank could be easily excavated as a flume, and the water supply a wheel perfectly free from any danger, from freshets or floods. The privileges for any kind of mills or machinery at this place must be innumerable, from the repeated succession of the falls, and the division of the river. That they will at no very distant period be occupied to some extent, I think we have great reason to hope.

After landing our canoes and luggage at Faye, word came from the head king of the country, at Netea, that we must visit his town, said to be close at hand. Having concluded that neither funds, time, nor duty, would admit of my farther ascending the river, I determined to visit Netea. Leaving our swivel, ammunition, chest, and some heavy baggage, at Faye, carrying only our small arms, we set off for the bush town. It will be useless to attempt to describe the vexations of a jaunt of six miles, through a thick undergrowth of bush and brier, following a zigzag bush path, when you had only anticipated a distance of half a mile. My patience was completely exhausted; also my strength.

VISIT TO THE KING OF NETEA.

After ascending a mountain of from four to six hundred feet elevation, we arrived at the large town of Netea, which completely covers the apex of this perfect cone. The ascent was in some places extremely difficult, abrupt, and broken. Our foothold, however, was always good, as we followed the water course; or rather, the water from the heavy rains followed the beaten track, clearing the rocks completely of their shrubs and soil. We entered the town amid a mingled shower of rain and musketry, the increasing roar from thousands of extended jaws, and the deep heavy bombing from their mighty palaver house drum. I have often endeavoured (although in vain) to give you an idea of the uproar and confusion caused by my entrance into a native town, therefore I shall not again attempt it. But suffice it to say, I never before saw the human countenance indicate astonishment, wonder, or admiration—I never before heard a full chorus of human voices. I felt that my whole life had been that of still monastic silence till the arrival of this hour.

The whole town is well secured by a high strong palisade of riven plank, on entering which we were conducted through a long narrow street, enclosed on both sides in the same manner, occasionally passing little openings or doors, which led to the separate enclosures of the different families belonging to the town, each enclosure containing from ten to twenty houses. The great palaver house is built on this main street, in the very centre of the town, and on the highest point of the mountain. They turned us into one of the enclosures, or pens, containing the king's houses and family. Here we suffered from the combined evils of fatigue, hunger, wet clothes, rain, and uproar, not to mention the extreme danger of suffocation. We were obliged to keep a breathing passage clear at the doors with bayonets. Finally, seeing that we would not really prick or injure them, this failed, and I was obliged to issue forth, cudgel in hand, and play upon their naked craniums: this I did so effectually, that the slightest movement from me would, afterwards, clear the passage.

SCENERY ABOUT NETEA.

I had an opportunity in the morning to view the extent of the town and the peculiarity of its location. As I before said, it occupies the entire summit of the mountain, is completely secured by palisades, is at least one mile in circumference, and as thickly studded with houses as the earth will possibly admit of, and contains at least three thousand inhabitants. The ~~[illegible]~~ view, from either side, was romantic and beautiful beyond description. I have said so much of the scenery on the river, even from my first out-set in the deluge of rain to this place, and been so lavish in my terms of admiration, that I fear you will think it mere habit, or a desire to excite an undue interest in the matter; and I would here spare you, if I could in justice, but I cannot. There was a world of beauty, magnificence, and grandeur before me, such as I never before witnessed, the view of which abundantly repaid me for my yesterday's toil, vexation and confusion. On the south was my favourite Najiro, although far less interesting now, that it had so many competitors claiming my admiration. The whole western prospect to the distant horizon was chequered with hills and dales, the little patches of rice and green sward, surrounded by the dense dark forest. With the aid of my telescope, I could here and there detect one of the innumerable hills before me crowned with the sharp points of native houses, indicating that the whole wilderness was inhabited. The northern view differed from that of the west only, that in the distance, far as the eye could reach, I could trace the dim blue outline of an extensive, elevated range of mountains, apparently running parallel with the windward coast. But the eastern view was at this time peculiarly imposing. I have witnessed something similar when in the highlands of Vermont, bordering on the Connecticut, although hardly to be compared with that now before me. The whole valley of the river, from the falls southward, was covered with a dense well-defined fog or vapour, perfectly tranquil, and so strongly refracting the flood of light now breaking in the east, that no other assurance than the fact of having the day before passed through the valley, would have convinced me that I stood not on the margin of some romantic wood-bound lake, dotted with innumerable little circular green isles, with here and there a majestic forest tree, rising in solitary grandeur above the surrounding flood. I had hardly time, as I rounded the northern extremity of the town, to contemplate and enjoy the unparalleled beauty of this scene, ere the broad, bright sun appeared suddenly to heave himself above the highest peak of Mount Yapah, and poured down his rays with uncommon intensity,—soon the heretofore tranquil mass began to undulate: small portions became detached, and ascending, soon became lost in the clear blue zenith. The distinct outline was no longer visible, the smooth bright surface was broken up, and the whole became but rolling masses of vapour, soon to melt and expand into æther. The illusion indeed vanished, but the reality remained. Yapah and Najiro, the little hills, and the dim distant ridges, the roaring cataract, and the murmuring brook, the smiling fields and the sable forest, remained: enough remained to render this one of the most enchanting spots ever formed by the beneficent hand of nature.

RETURN TO THE SEA-COAST.

After partaking of the bounties of king ——, our kind host, I set about descending the mountain. With much fatigue, although more cheerfully endured than that of yesterday, I reached Faye. We left the falls about twelve at noon, the thermometer standing at about 13° Faht. After passing the dangerous rapids we put on all steam and swiftly descended the current. From every town the canoes were darting out to intercept our progress; but deterred by nothing, we made the best of our way for Denah, where we arrived about six in the evening. King Neh gave me truly a very kind reception, and would not hear a word to our proceeding down to Baphro's that night, as we intended. We found things here far more agreeable than on our passage up—the people were more civil and well-disposed, the grand carnival was ended, and but slight savour thereof remained. Word was brought us while at Faye, that the Nopotea people intended, forcibly, to stop us in our passage down. We accordingly made all things ready during the night at Denah, and with the first streak of morning light, were under way. I felt considerable anxiety on approaching Nopotea, fearing an ambuscade in the bushes lining the banks; but no indications of hostility appeared, and we proceeded on our course unmolested. I jumped on shore a moment at Haidee and Ploroh, and was really most cordially received, particularly at the former place. We arrived at Baphro's

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