in getting, at different times, five young Gorillas, captured after the killing of the mother. I observed that when they wanted to bite me they used to take hold of me first with their feet. I have never been able to tame any of them, or to accustom them to eat anything but wild nuts and berries of the forest. In this particular the Gorilla is quite unlike the Chimpanzee, which is easily tamed.

Though one would naturally suppose, from the canine teeth of the Ngina, that he sometimes lives on meat, I must say that I never met in the stomach of any specimen anything else but vegetable matter, such as nuts, wild berries, and fruits and leaves. Although skeletons of this animal have been taken to Europe or America, I have seen but very incorrect and exaggerated accounts concerning it. The too confiding ship captains or others have been too apt to take for granted the stories related to them by the natives of the coast concerning this really wonderful animal, which is to them an object of great terror. In their superstitious fears, the natives of the interior say that bad men are changed sometimes into Nginas. The one who killed my hunter was said to be a Ngina that had been a man first, and no gun could kill him.

I have met with the Gorilla, or Ngina, or Ngila, or Ngia, as it is indifferently called along the waters of the Muni River, as far as the Sierra del Crystal Mountains; how much further north or east they are found I cannot tell. It is found also on the head waters of the Gaboon River, and in the undulating prairies and woodlands of the interior between Gaboon and Cape Lopez. I have found it also up the Fernand-Vay River, in the mountainous regions of that river, and up the Nazareth in the Kong Mountains, and in all the surrounding hilly countries; and were it not that I had found the Gorilla very abundant in a flat prairie and woody country back of the Camma country, I should say that it lives only in hilly or mountainous regions. In the Camma country, where pine-apples are very abundant, they feed on the white portions of the leaves, which they pluck out of the pine-apple plant.

At certain seasons they live in pairs, but I have most frequently seen them in troops of five—four females and one male. I have never seen more than five together. The old males are found wandering alone in the forest.

The Gorilla is very shy, and when met several together I have never seen them face a man. It is then exceedingly difficult to approach them; the least noise generally disturbs them in their retreat. They sometimes inhabit the forest near the towns, and come during the still hours of early morning to eat the plaintains and sugar cane planted by the natives. The Gorilla is to be dreaded only when the male is suprised with the female, or when he is looking for her; but the most to be feared above all is the old and lonely male, which, when disturbed in his solitude, offers you battle wherever he meets you. While in the Ashira country, I was hunting with the best Ashira hunter, Gambo by name, and we were following the tracks of one which seemed to avoid us. When he finally got tired of being pursued, he made a stand for us, and while we were crawling through the forest, he startled us by the most formidable cry I had ever heard, resembling in some measure the barking of a dog. Often I have heard Nginas three miles off, roaring like lions. This old inhabitant of the forest eyed us and squatted down, and uttering frightful roars, quite enough to frighten any body, beat his bare chest several times with his powerful hands, then advanced a few steps and repeated the same motions. It was a moment of life or death with us. We aimed at him and shot him dead—I shooting him right through the heart, and Gambo

through the neck. When wounded, the male Ngina pursues the hunter, and kills him, and the natives of the interior say that in his wild rage he will then break the gun and twist the barrel as if it were lead. From the strength of the animal, I can easily believe this.

The female is, I think, not to be dreaded. I have never seen one make a stand; but I suppose that sometimes they might do it.

The flesh of the Ngina is considered by the Ashira people as the greatest dainty.

Unlike the Chimpanzee, the Gorillas never build or construct nests; they sleep on the ground. The old males never sleep on a tree. The natives have told me that sometimes the female sleeps on the branches or trees, while the male sleeps at the foot of it to watch them; but this I think is seldom the case. I have always seen the Ngina, when unsuspected, sleeping on the ground, protected either by big rocks or big trees. I have only seen them on trees while eating, and then the male often watches at the foot of the tree. Their mode of progression is by all-fours, using their hands as feet. They sometimes walk erect toward fruits which oblige them to do so in order to get them, but otherwise never.

In many countries where the Gorilla was very common, it has been impossible for me to get near them, they were so shy; and after two or three days hunt in the forest none could be seen for twenty or thirty miles around. They dislike to be disturbed in their solitude, and though they come round the villages, as I have said, as soon as they perceive that they are tracked, they will leave the place.

As to the Gorilla attacking elephants or sacking villages, these are but mere stories.

I consider the male to be one of the most frightful and terrible animals in the world.

I have made the discovery of another animal while travelling in the Kong Mountains—a species between the Ngina and Chimpanzee, and similar, in some respects, to both of them. It is called Koula or Koulam Kamba; it is very curious, and its face is surrounded by whiskers. I have had but a single specimen of this extraordinary new species, which is considered very rare by the natives of the interior. It is much larger than the Chimpanzee or female Ngina, but not so large as the male Ngina.—*New York Tribune.*

From the Willsburgh Herald.

It affords us pleasure to be able to furnish any information that may be calculated to encourage emigration to Liberia.

The better portion of the free black population of the United States is by no means opposed to Colonization; the principal opposition coming from those who either have not sufficient intelligence to comprehend the scheme, sufficient energy of character to enable them to emigrate, or sufficient self-esteem or ambition to rise, to induce them to make the attempt.

There are, also, individuals, knavishly disposed, both among them and the whites, who, for ends of their own, throw every possible obstacle in its way.

In spite, however, of opposition in every shape, the Republic of Liberia has steadily prospered, and the Colonization cause steadily gained ground among the thinking, intelligent, and well-to-do portions of the race it essays to benefit.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

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