was gratifying to see how clear of weeds and grass they kept them. Doctors Livingstone and Kirk, while passing through part of the same region last April, saw cotton patches of from two to three acres each, though this time, on a different route, we did not observe any containing more than one-third of an acre. They were in general about a quarter of an acre each. In every village we saw men busy cleaning, spinning and weaving cotton. The looms are of the simplest possible construction, and all the processes are exceedingly slow.

"This vast cotton region is easily accessible. The Shire joins the Zambesia about one hundred miles from the sea. below the difficult parts of the latter river; and for one hundred and twelve miles, the shire has a deep channel, the river being from one hundred and fifty to two hundred yards wide. One hundred and twelve miles from its mouth the cataracts commence (lat. 15° 55′ S.,) and for thirty miles the river is not navigable (goods would have to be carried overland here) above the cataracts to Lake Nyassa; sixty miles the river is again navigable, and how far to the north the great navigable lake extends we do not know. The native said that it would take months to get to the head of the lake

"The Shire Valley is about twelve miles wide at the foot of the lake, but soon expands to twenty or thirty, being bounded on both sides all the way by ranges of hills, the range on the east or left bank being very lofty. There is an exceedingly fertile plain on both sides of the river (we travelled on the east of the river,) and pretty well cultivated on the Upper Shire, where it is about twelve hundred feet above the level of the sea. Ascending the eastern range of hills by a steep path, we soon reached a plateau, five hundred or six hundred feet higher; a second ascent of one thousand feet, and we find another plateau, three or four miles wide, and in a short time we gain the highest part, upwards of three thousand feet above the level of the sea, and find ourselves on an extensive table land, which in these three distinct divisions extends some distance below the cataracts. This high table land is from twelve to fourteen miles wide, and its eastern side slopes gradually down to Lake Tamandua or Shirwa (eighteen hundred feet above sea level,) east of which we saw some lofty mountains.

"On the table land are numerous hills, and two mountains Chuadzua, about 5,000 feet high; Zomba, at the northern extremity—which was ascended—from 7,000 to 8,000 feet in height, and twenty miles long from north to south. The whole of this country is remarkably well watered; wonderfully numerous are the streams and mountain rills of cool, clear, gushing water. Even Zomba has a river about twenty yards wide, flowing through a fine valley near its summit. On one occasion we passed eight streams and a fine spring in a single hour, and this was at the end of the dry season.

"These highlands seem to possess a salubrious climate; the air wsa bracing, and we saw an unusual large number of old grey headed men and women. The cotton country—not that merely where cotton may easily be grown. but where they are actually growing it—begins twenty or thirty miles below the cataracts, and extends up to the lake and probably far beyond, both on the plains and in the highlands—the foreign cotton growing at the lake and in different places for thirty miles below, and also again below the cataracts, while the native is cultivated throughout the whole extent of country. The people live in villages and are pretty numerous; they seem to be an industrious race. Iron is dug out of the hills and each village has one or two smelting houses. From their native iron they manufacture hoes, axes, spears, arrow-heads, knives and numerous ornaments. Nearly all their own clothing they prepare themselves; it consists of the bark of trees, skins of goats—for there are few or no wild animals in the highlands or in the well peopled plains—and native cloth; and they are also great cultivators of the soil, men, women and children are often seen at work in the field. This seems really a fine country for benevolent enterprise—healthy highlands and the materials for commerce and water communication, with but a single exception. Let a market be opened, or an agency appointed for the purchase of their cotton, &c., and they will soon increase the amount raised to a large extent, as it does not require the severe toil which it does in the United States, and there are no frosts to kill it. They are very anxious to trade. At the villages we could hear the women pounding corn all night, to have meal to sell before we left. The people of one village, which we passed without stopping, followed us, endeavouring to induce us to remain all night with them. As a last argument they cried after us, "Are we to have it said that white people passed through our country, and we did not see them." We noticed extensive tracts of land on the plains, where salt exudes from the soil. These would probably be found well adapted for Sea Island, as the foreign cotton becomes longer in the staple on these lands.

"I enclose specimens of the two kinds of cotton picked in different parts on the plains and in the highlands. "CHARLES LIVINGSTONE."

LETTER FROM DR. LIVINGSTONE.

We published, on Thursday, an interesting letter from Mr. Charles Livingstone respecting the marvellous adaptability of the Shire valley for the growth of cotton. A communication from Dr. Livingstone himself is now published, confirming all the statements which have already appeared in our columns. The doctor, whose letter is dated "River Shire, October 10th, 1859," says:

"We met a large east coast slaving party here, coming from Cazembe's county, with an immense number of slaves and elephants' tusks. We bought some fine specimens of malachite from them. A more blackguard looking set I never saw; they appear to be the people of the Angotia river, but were not Arabs, though somewhat like them. When they knew we were English, they slipped off at night, with probably the same opinion of us as we had of them. The English name is well known far into the country. An English establishment in this quarter would be of great benefit, for the native traders would rather part with their ivory here than carry it a month further to the coast for the same prices. It would soon develop the cotton trade, for the people around are great agriculturists, and have no cattle, like the Kaffirs. They are quick of apprehension, and we found that suspicions of our turning out to be a marauding party were quickly allayed by frankly stating that we came to find out and mark paths for our traders to come along and buy cotton. Some of the natives ran off at once to find the cotton for sale. But time would be required to get a firm footing in the country. At present, not more than one-fifth of the soil capable of cultivation has been under the hoe. A colony of our own honest poor would be a great advantage to both England and Africa; and, were our religious as well as mercantile establishments planted simultaneously, I have no fear as to the result. I have submitted a plan to Government by which I think this new field may be occupied advantageously, and a command for a large portion of the east coast slave market obtained. This is the work which I proposed to myself when the expedition was planned.

Maryland Historical Society

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