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Journeys in the Linyanti Region: Discussion

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These then were probably connecting channels, cut, as I have suggested, by the flow of the diminishing waters of the lake. Whether the natural changes which have altered them from permanent streams into the condition they are in to-day, are prehistoric or comparatively recent, I am unable to surmise. And all the evidence that I have been able to obtain (and at best it is second-hand) is contained in a statement in Baines's 'Explorations in South-West Africa,' published in 1864, where he states, on the authority of C. J. Anderson, that Libebe informed the latter that the Makalolo under Sekeletu, when they made a raid on Libebe, came all the way from Linyanti in canoes. So that there was water connection of some sort in those days. But even without this evidence, the existing connection by the Magwegena, coupled with the undoubted drying up of all this portion of Africa, as has been noticed by every traveller since Livingstone's time, does indubitably point to a far more complete connection in even comparatively recent dates. The subject is to me a most interesting one, and if any remarks which I have made to-night should act as an inducement to any one to go and study the question scientifically on the spot, I confess I shall be more pleased.

Before the reading of the paper, the Chairman, Sir T. H. HOLDICH, Vice-President, said: Once more I appear before you as I fear a most inefficient substitute for our President, who is unavoidably absent. To-night we have to turn our attention once again to Central Africa. Mr. Reid will take us into the little-known regions of Linyanti.

After the reading of the paper, the following discussion took place:—

Major GIBBONS: Mr. Reid has thrown down the gauntlet to me in no unmeasured terms. I hope, however, to prove to his satisfaction before I sit down that he has not got such a good case as he appeared to have. First of all, I must set him right on the question as to who the Marotse are. He seems to think they are in some way mixed up with the Basutos; that is not the case at all. I have taken a very considerable interest in this matter, spent a great deal of time in Marotseland, and have traced their history back for the last 250 years. Before that they came from the Kabompo, presumably *en route* from the north. But there is a link between the Basutos and the Marotse, although they have not a particle of blood in common. I think, if Mr. Reid had read Livingstone's or M. Coillard's book, or even my own, he would have found that the Makololo, an offshoot of the Basutos, worked their way through the desert, and settled, first of all, in the very country he has been talking about to-night. They arrived there in about 1828, and about 1840 went up into Burotse, and conquered the Marotse. In 1864 they were absolutely wiped out almost to a man—one or two escaped, and, with the exception of one or two women, there was no Makololo blood left in the country. So much for the blood relationship. Now as regards the language. The difference between the Marotse and the Basuto language is about the same as the difference between chalk and cheese—there is no connection between them. Livingstone calls these invaders *Makololo*, and Mr. Reid himself calls them *Makololo*, thus his rule falls to the ground on his own showing. Now as regards Sekololo, the language spoken, which was introduced by the Makololo, and is used, generally speaking, by all the upper Zambezi river tribes at the present time. I have a list of witnesses to prove my contention, most of whom, curiously enough, have been cited by Mr. Reid in

support of his theory. I have had talks on this subject with many of the chiefs. From Lewanika I took a list with paper and pencil of every tribe in his country through an interpreter, and he tells me the people are Marotse, and the country Burotse. I may tell you Marotse is the name given by the Makololo—previously they were known as Aälu. As regards M. Coillard, I talked to him on the subject, and he told me most definitely that what I tell you is right. I said, "Why did you call them Barotse in your book?" He said, "They are generally known as Barotse in Europe; it is for explorers, and not missionaries, to make such corrections." In connection with that, I wrote to M. Jalla, who had been there eleven years, and asked his opinion. He writes back, "By all means—speaking of these people—the 'Ba' should be given up, and the 'Ma' used. The Basutos never use 'Ma' unless they see a large crowd together. But at the High Zambesi it is not so, and they call the people Marotse." Now, we may take that also to be M. Coillard's view, especially as he has given a very good reason why he uses "Ba" in his book. But Mr. Reid quotes Selous. I wrote to him and asked his opinion. He used Barotse. He says, "My opinion"—he speaks very frankly—"my opinion as to whether it is correct to call them Marotse or Barotse is of no value; indeed, I hold no opinion on the subject, as I never made inquiries. If Lewanika and M. Coillard say the correct name is Marotse, no doubt it is so." Then, as regards Mr. George Westbeech, the same thing applies to him as to the missionary. They use Barotse to white men, but Marotse in native conversation. Personally, I always used to do so myself, but I would not like to bring myself as a witness against myself. As regards Livingstone—that is Mr. Reid's only strong point on the subject—we must take into consideration the fact that when Livingstone was there, it was in the reign of the Makololo, and the Marotse were a subject tribe. Livingstone was almost entirely associated with the Makololo, so I do not lay any special emphasis on the fact of his spelling the word Barotse. Mind you, nobody can have a higher opinion of the value of Livingstone's work than I have. I have passed over much of his route, and have seen traces of his conscientiousness throughout; on his work I have known as a rule where I am going to be next, and I cannot say that of everybody. I think we must acknowledge that Livingstone's strong point was not in his naming. As Mr. Reid says, the name Chobe, which Livingstone used of the lower Kwando or Linyanti, should be wiped out of the map, and I quite agree with Mr. Reid on that subject.

I really do not know that I can say anything more. I have produced every particle of evidence save one. Major Coryndon, who has administered the country for four years, quite agrees with me. I submit, therefore, as a counter-proposition to Mr. Reid's, that the people should be Marotse, and the country Burotse. Referring to the two floods of the Linyanti, possibly my experience may throw a little light on that subject. I preceded Mr. Reid, crossing the river a few miles south; then cutting across to the Okavango, I met its waters overflowing down the Magwekwana bed. I can vouch that the overflow took place on April 14, as I had to wade for three and a half days through the water knee-deep. As regards this theory of the two floods in the Linyanti, it is obvious the one in January, February, March must occur as the result of the local rain. The whole of the Kwando is under very similar conditions, in the matter of the rain-supply, as other rivers in Marotseland. While Mr. Reid was there, I had one of my men at the source, and another was following it up to where I was, and at any rate as late as August there was no fresh rainfall on the Kwando, so we can assume that the second flood is independent of Kwando. About 700 or 800 miles above the overflow the Kwito valley is some 2 miles wide, and held a lot of water at the end of June, and there is an inconceivable amount of water held up in the Magwekwana swamps. This

must take some time to drain off, because the river is not like the Zambezi, with a large bed. My idea is that the overflow should occur through May and June, and should continue to drain off for another two or three months. The fact of that water coming into the Kwando would in itself affect the current for some distance up-stream, because the Kwando is not a quick-flowing river at all, and the floods below would hold up the water above just as a bar of rocks or other obstruction would. I think the river would be affected as far up as Mr. Reid was, though of course the current would not be reversed. Although I differ from Mr. Reid on one point, I must say I listened to the paper with a great deal of satisfaction, and to one point especially, and I congratulate him on the result of his longitudinal observations. It has been a great satisfaction to me to see them, because I find that our relative positions between the points he fixed are within a mile of one another.

Major CORYNDON: I think Major Gibbons is quite right with regard to his prefix of the word to be applied to the people; but I think, under the circumstances, that the word Barotse has been used so long it will have to remain.

Mr. REID: If you will excuse me for one moment, I would like to say a few words in reply to the remarks made by Major Gibbons. As regards the name Barotseland, I do not think it is of importance. Of course I unhesitatingly accept the statement made by M. Coillard, backed up as it is by M. Jalla and Major Coryndon, that the name used now by the natives is Marotseland. But I have no doubt that what has occurred is this: When Dr. Livingstone visited the country it had been recently conquered by the Makololo, who imposed their language on the people, and as the Makololo were Basutos they would naturally use the term Barotseland. But since then the real Makololo have been entirely wiped out, and though their language still remains it is naturally tending to become impure, and so I think the prefix "Ba" has gradually been changed into "Ma," which is the usual one among the bulk of the tribes who go to make up the nation of to-day. As regards Major Gibbons's theory about the dry season overflow of the Linyanti marshes, what he says is that in his opinion this is not caused by the Kwando itself coming down in flood, but by the Okavango doing so and emptying its surplus waters into the Linyanti by the Magwegena river. But to my mind this is a physical impossibility. The Linyanti marshes cover an area of about 350 square miles. The Magwegena, as I saw it in flood, had an average width of some 30 feet, and a depth of some 5 feet. Its current I should calculate at about 2 miles per hour; but even if double this, it would take something like six months' continuous flow to raise the level of the water in the Linyanti marshes *by one foot*. Added to this is the fact that at Maheni's, where I crossed the Kwando, I saw it with my own eyes coming down in heavy flood with a rapid current of a good 4 miles per hour. And this was roughly some 50 miles above the real Linyanti marshes. Of course, when Major Gibbons crossed it some three months earlier it was not in flood, neither was the Magwegena until he got a considerable distance up its course, where he met the floods advancing on him almost like a wave. I have no doubt whatever that the greater bulk by far of the dry-season water in the Linyanti marshes comes down the Kwando itself. Where it comes from I cannot tell you.

The CHAIRMAN: In the present phase of African development, the unravelling of its geography is a matter of very great interest to us. Twenty-five years hence—if all of us live to see that day—we shall find the district of the Linyanti is a well-known hunting-ground, and the route between Khartum and Fashoda almost as well known as the route to-day between London and Cairo.* It seems to

* At the same meeting, the paper on "A Survey of the Sobat Region," by Major Austin, published in the May number of the *Journal*.

me it is the infinite possibilities, the extraordinary variety, of the unsolved problems which lie hidden in Africa and form its chief attraction, and it is to men like Mr. Reid and Major Austin that the happy chances of unravelling these mysteries are coming, and it is for you to say whether they make good use of their opportunities. For my part, they seem to me to be the masters of the art of exploration, and I would call your attention to the map of Major Austin.* It seems to me to be a good specimen of the maps we nowadays ask for; we are no longer content with the haphazard speculations of geography—we ask for good sound maps based on a fair number of fixed points. And here we have them, not only from Major Austin, but from a great number of travellers who wander through the length and breadth of Africa. We hope that the magnet of Africa may once more attract Mr. Reid, and that we shall hear something more from him and from Major Austin in the future as to the possibilities of that great country. Meanwhile, I will ask you all to join me in according a cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Reid for what I am sure you will agree with me is the most graphic and realistic record of African travel.

THE ANGLO-SAXONS OF THE KENTUCKY MOUNTAINS : A STUDY IN ANTHROPOGEOGRAPHY.

By Miss ELLEN CHURCHILL SEMPLE.

IN one of the most progressive and productive countries of the world, and in that section of the country which has had its civilization and its wealth longest, we find a large area where the people are still living the frontier life of the backwoods, where the civilization is that of the eighteenth century, where the people speak the English of Shakespeare's time, where the large majority of the inhabitants have never seen a steamboat or a railroad, where money is as scarce as in colonial days, and all trade is barter. It is the great upheaved mass of the Southern Appalachians which, with the conserving power of the mountains, has caused these conditions to survive, carrying a bit of the eighteenth century intact over into this strongly contrasted twentieth century, and presenting an anachronism all the more marked because found in the heart of the bustling, money-making, novelty-loving United States. These conditions are to be found throughout the broad belt of the Southern Appalachians, but nowhere in such purity or covering so large an area as in the mountain region of Kentucky.

A mountain system is usually marked by a central crest, but the Appalachians are distinguished by a central zone of depression, flanked on the east by the Appalachian mountains proper, and on the west by the Alleghany and the Cumberland plateaus. This central trough is generally designated as the Great Appalachian Valley. It is depressed several hundred feet below the highlands on either side, but its surface is relieved by intermittent series of even-crested ridges which rise 1000 feet or more above the general level, running parallel to each other, and conforming at the same time to the structural axis of the

* See p. 572.