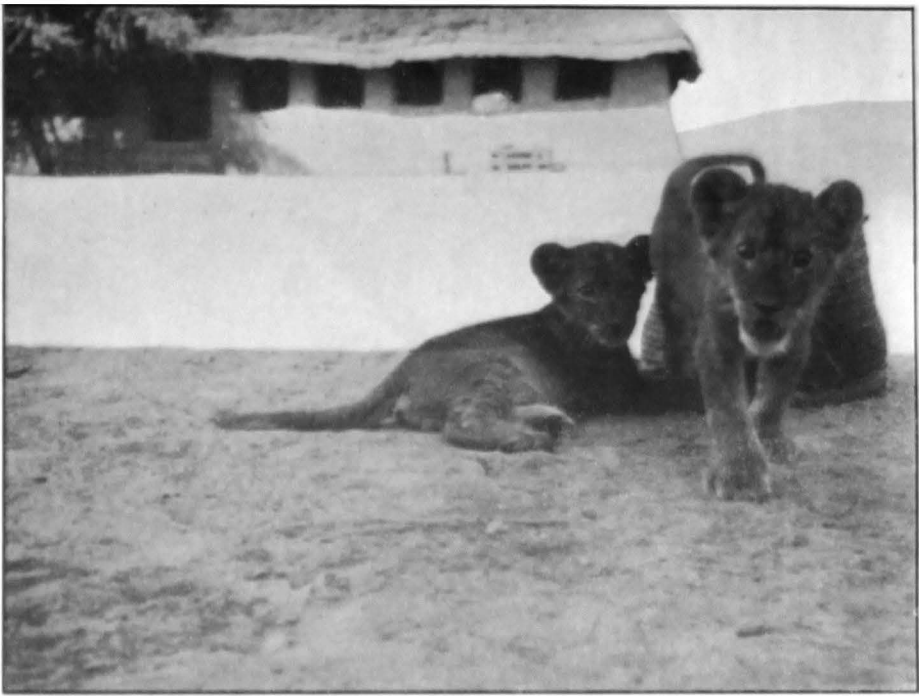


**Chiefs and Cities of
Central Africa**



Kusseri and Lamy.



Mastaba giving the Zakoki Chop.

Chiefs and Cities of Central Africa

Across Lake Chad

By Way of British, French, and
German Territories

BY

OLIVE MACLEOD

William Blackwood and Sons
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PREFACE.

I AM told that it is expected of the writer of a book of travels to set forth clearly and concisely the objects with which his or her journey was undertaken and the results achieved. I must beg leave to be excused from so business-like a proceeding, and further ask my critics not to read on if they expect more than a simple unexaggerated narrative of travel through little-known regions.

In the course of our journey, which lasted from August 1910 till May 1911, my companions, Mr and Mrs P. A. Talbot, and I passed through countries under French and under German administration, where the Residents of both nationalities invariably showed us the utmost consideration. Nothing could have surpassed their generous help, and as we had come without notice or introduction, I cannot express too strongly our gratitude for their spontaneous kindness. To Herr von Raben, Commandant Maillard, and Captain Facon we are particularly beholden.

We also received much kindness and assistance from many British officials.

Mr Morel has admirably described, in a series of

articles lately published in 'The Times,'¹ the anxious and responsible work discharged by the Government officials in the Nigerias, and also the privations and dangers under which it is carried on, for what seems an inadequate guerdon.

As it was one of the things that struck me most in the course of our travels, perhaps I too may be permitted to add a comment on the extraordinary good fortune of our country in securing the services of so many able men, who deliberately risk their lives and health in the administration of West Africa.

I am advised that it may be of interest to some of my readers to know that a selection of those curios collected on our journey, and mentioned in this book, have been presented to the British Museum, where they are on exhibition in the Ethnographical Department. In this connection I should like to add an expression of particular thanks to Mr T. A. Joyce, who has given me most generous help; as also to every official of the British Museum with whom I have come in contact.

¹ Republished in 'Nigeria: its Peoples and its Problems.'

CONTENTS.

CHAP.	PAGE
I. THE NIGER AND BENUE (AUGUST 10-SEPTEMBER 29) .	1
II. GARUA AND THE NORTH KAMERUN. (SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 14)	16
III. THROUGH FRENCH UBANGI, SINCE CEDED TO THE GERMANS. (OCTOBER 14-25)	36
IV. SEARCH FOR THE FALLS ON THE MAO KABI. (OCTOBER 25-NOVEMBER 1)	61
V. THE TUBURI LAKES. (NOVEMBER 1-9)	72
VI. DOWN THE LOGONE RIVER. (NOVEMBER 9-25)	97
VII. AT FORT LAMY. (NOVEMBER 25-DECEMBER 5)	129
VIII. THE BAGIRIMI. (DECEMBER 5-12)	143
IX. GAUARONGA, THE GREAT CHIEF. (DECEMBER 12-JANUARY 15)	159
X. THE SHARI. (JANUARY 15-23)	192
XI. HAJER-EL-HAMIS—THE PLACE OF PILGRIMAGE. (JANUARY 23-25)	202
XII. ACROSS LAKE CHAD. (JANUARY 25-FEBRUARY 7)	212
XIII. A TREK THROUGH BORNU. (FEBRUARY 7-MARCH 1)	238
XIV. FOUR WEEKS IN FIKA. (MARCH 1-28)	259
XV. HOMEWARD BOUND. FIKA TO LAGOS. (MARCH 28-APRIL 18)	284
<hr/>	
SOME MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS	300*
LIST OF PLANTS COLLECTED BY MR AND MRS P. A. TALBOT AND MISS MACLEOD ON THE EXPEDITION	301
<hr/>	
INDEX	309

INDEX.

- ABBIGA, Chief, visit to, at Lokoja, 9, 10
Abechir, entry of the French into, 129-30
Abugher, illness of author and the Talbots at, 185 *et seq.*
Acacias, 128, 193, 255
 Red-dye from, 121
Aji, 32-3, 107
Akerri, 296
Alexander, Captain Claud, at Lewe, 287
Alexander, Lieutenant Boyd, discoveries of, on Lake Chad, 219
 Gifts to, of the Jëggara, 195
 Navigation of, on Lake Chad, 2
Alexander-Gosling expedition, 2
Aligata, the, 20-2, 123, 200 (*ill.*), 20
Ambatch (Marea) floats, how propelled, 231
 Plant (*ill.*), 220
Am Doko of Massalit, surrender of, 137 n. 1
Amai Silim, 230
Animals, *see* Antelopes, Apes, Baboons, Bariwa, Boar, Bush-buck, Bush-cow, Dogs, Duiker, Gazelles, Giraffe, Hippopotami, Jackal, Kob, Leopards, Lions, Manatees, Monkeys, Rats, Rhinoceros, Water-buck, Water-hog, &c.
 Forbidden as food to Fikans, 282
Ankleta, 6 (*ill.*), 117
Antelopes, 118, 199, 207, 217, 241
 Harnessed, as pet, 140
 Roan, 117
Anthropology, and Salt ! 89-90
Apes, *see* Baboons, and Monkeys
Arab Spears, how used, 157-8
Archery, feat of, at Fika, 266
Ark, the, resting-place of, near Lake Chad, 205-6, 229
Armour, *see* Weapons
Arrows, poisoned, Fika, 266
 Gabai, 252-3
 Unfeathered, Fika, &c., 266
Asclepias, 204, 207, 223 ; aspect of, 241
Ash - heaps from Salt plant near Jimtilo, 212
Assil, Sultan of Abechir, 130
BABOONS, where met with, 7, 8, 27, 72, 65, 67, 117, 215, 256
 Dog-faced, 15, 259
Bachelors of Lewe, dwellings of, 289 (*ill.*), 290
 Ordeal of manhood for, 289
Bag, woman's, 106-7 (*ill.*), 107
Bageri, village, outdoor school at, 184
Bagi hilla, 255
Bagirmi race, *see also* Gauaronga
 Capital of, 143
 Former extent of territory of, 149
 Hostility to the white man, 180
 Justice (?) among, 172-3
 Origin of, 148-9, 272
 Slave-raids of, 115
 Sultan of, 143 *et seq.*
 Visitors of, Léré, 46
Bahr Alienya, ju-ju river, 187, 190
Bahr el Erguig, 176
Bahr tree, 241
Baker, Mrs, drawing by, of curios, 300
Bamboiyu, pool of, 187, 190
Banana race, aspect of, 101
 Clubs, 101
 Composite character of, 149

- Banana race (*continued*):—
 Corselet, 114-5 (*ill.*), 115
 Dwellings, 97, 105, 111-2
 Contents, 105-6
 Doorways, 105 (*ill.*), 106
 Fireplaces, 112, 113 (*ill.*), 97, 113
 Wall-paintings, 113-4 (*ill.*), 114
 Guide from, 110
 Helmet of, 114-5 (*ill.*), 115
 Linguistic affinities of, 149
 Logone river, alarm from, 102-4
 Religion (at Musgum), 115
 Unclothedness of, 98, 110
 Village of, 97
 War-dance, 101-2
 Water-jars or Pots of (*ill.*), 97, 113
 Women, aspect and ornaments of, 98, 115-6
- Baobab trees, 13, 33, 87, 248; Djinns of, 260
- Bariwa (an animal), 234
- Barth and Overweg, an old companion of, 9
- Basin and Nut game, Birni Logone, 126-7
- Bata Kuji, the, Tchekna, 169-71
- Beads, ornamental uses of, 46, 83, 123
- Beds and Bedsteads:—
 Buduma, 213, 215, 224 (*ill.*), 213
 Curious, at Gulfei, 197
 and Goat-pens combined, 105 (*ill.*), 106
 Mud, at Fika, heating of, 270
 Vast, at Jimtilo (*ill.*), 213
 Wadama tribe, 88
- Bees at Fianga, 87
 and Hornets at Rest-house, Yola, 13
- Benue river, affluents of, 52
 Animal life in and along, 26-8
 Confluence of, with Niger, 7
 Journey up, 11, 12, 15
- Benue-Mao-Kabi route, free trade along, 38
- Bertaut, M., of Léré, friendly kindness of, 39, 43 *et seq.*, 68
 Generosity of, concerning Mao Falls, 62, 71
- Bipare, Mundonng town, features of, 39, 44; country beyond, 41
- Bird-life near and at:—
 Fort Lamy, 153
 Gabal, 255
 Hajer-el-Hamis, 207
 Kuka Island, 234
 Lagone river, 107-8
 Lake Léré, 53
 Maiashe, 187
 Mao Kabi river, 70
 Musgum swamp, 117
 Niger shores, 1
 Shari river, 214
 Tikem swamp, 78
 Bird-skinning, joys of, 28-9
 Bird-snare, Mundonng (*ill.*), 56
 Birds, *see* Bush-fowl, Crane, Egrets, Fish-eagles, Geese, Guinea-fowl, Ibis, Jabirus, Owls, Paroquets, Pelicans, Pigeons, Plovers, Waders
- Birni Logone, 101; arrival and stay at, 122 *et seq.*
 Band of the Sultan at, 123
 Birth customs:—
 Buduma, 230
 Fika, 282
- Black man as bearer over streams, 65-6
- Blackwater fever, white sufferers from, Garua, 23
- Blinding of brothers, by Sultans, 143
- Blood-preventing charm, exhibition of powers of, 278-9
- Boar, wild, 118, 119, 199
- Bogolo, hunting from and view near, 26-8
- Bokkoiyu, pool of, 187
- Bolewa tribe, customs adopted by Fikans, 273
- Bongor, German fort at, visit to, 104-6
- Boots, long, utility of, 5
- Bornu, cattle of, 238
 Game reserve in, 241
 Natives, characteristics of, 256
 Coiffure of (*ill.*), 175
 Origin of, 272
 Royal representatives at, 171
 Shehu of, daughter of, a visit to, 197
 Slave-raids from, 115
 Torrents across roads in, 255-6
 Vegetation in, 241
- Bornu-Bur-Noah, 206
- Bouhaben, M., 45, 62
- Bowls, wooden, ornamented with tin-foil, Fika, 270
- "Boys" (*see also* Carriers), and their methods, 140
- Bracelets, Buduma, 226 (*ill.*), 227
 Ivory, at Garua, 24
- Brass-casts, Native, of Ostrich, Horseman, and Giraffe ("Josephine") (*ill.*), 134; of Chicken (*ill.*), 138; of French officials (*ill.*), 139
- Bretonnet, M., aid of, to Gauronga, 146; death of, 171

- Bridle (?), Mundonng, 57
 Buduma race, Lake Chad, aspect and ornaments of, 226-7 (*ill.*), 227
 Beda, 213, 215, 224 (*ill.*), 213
 Birth customs, 230
 Camp of, near Lake Chad, shared by author's party, 215 *et seq.*
 Canoes, models purchased, 240
 Cattle, 232, 238
 Death and burial customs, 229
 Divorce among, 229
 Dwellings, Jimtilo, 213-4
 and Compounds (*ill.*), 224, 225-7
 Exclusiveness of, 198
 Fishing appliances, 213, 215
 Floats of, 231
 Friendliness shown by, 216
 Guria branch, 227
 Friendliness of, 230
 Humming (vocal) sole music of, 230-1
 Inheritance among, 229
 at Kumu, 223
 Madjagodia branch, 227
 Dance by, and hospitality from, 230
 Marriage customs, 227, 229-30
 Origin of, legend of, 235-6
 Religion, 228-9
 Slaves and slave-trade of, 227-8
 Sub-divisions of, 227
 Tree sacred to, 223-4
 Bulariga, Madjagodia dance at, 230
 Bull-baiting of the Cow-Fulani, 257-8
 Bulu, and the origin of the Buduma, 235-6
 Burnouses, made by Gauronga's wives, use made of, 166
 Burr grass, pest of, 209, 223 & n. 1, 243
 Bush-buck, 154
 Bush-cow, 65, 119
 Bush-fowl, 256
 Butter, at Garua, 24
 Byfield, Mr, 7
 CAIRN on Hajer-el-Hamia, 210
 Calabash Druma, Fika, 277
 Horn (*ill.*), 283; stopped against the Leg, *ib.*
 Rattles, Kotoko, 201
 Camp near Lake Chad, with the Buduma, 213 *et seq.*
 Canoeing on the Benue, 26
 Canoes, Kotoko, 193-4, 198 (*ill.*), 212
 Lake Chad, 236-7 (*ill.*), 237
 Niger river, 4-5
 Carlyle, Mr, at Nafada, 256
 Carrier-pigeons *versus* telegraph, 120
 Carrier-work, Native dislike of, 79, 98
 Carriers, tributes to, 264, 286-7
 Cassia trees, near Fika, 285
 Casts, Native, of Ostrich, Horseman, and Giraffe ("Josephine") (*ill.*), 134
 Cattle, Buduma, 232
 seen at Kawa Baga, 238-40
 Cavalry charge as greeting, 42
 Centipedes, 5
 Ceremonial Throwing-weapons, Mundonng (*ill.*), 60
 Chad territories, Cattle-transport in, 239
 Shortage of doctors in, 44-5
 Chain-mail, bought from Gauronga, 168, 180
 Charms (*see also* Love-philtres, Medicines, and Witchcraft), 279
 Chauvelot, Captain, 130
 Cherijamm, 75
 Chickens, African, 40
 Native Brass-cast of (*ill.*), 138
 Chiefs, compounds of, Bipare, 40
 Female, in French Ubangi, &c., 46
 at Gauronga's court, 171-3
 Churoma, the son of Gauronga, 165, 167
 Chutes MacLeod, *les*, 71
 Clarinet, from Tchekna, 182; others resembling, 200 (*ill.*), 174-5
 Clay Pipe for roof drainage (*ill.*), 267
 Toys (*ill.*), 259, 270
 Cloth, Wajama use of, 89
 Clubs, Banana, 101
 Mundonng, Ceremonial (*ill.*), 60
 Cobra, in a kitchen, 10
 Venom spat by, into Mr Talbot's eyes, 181-2
 Coiffures, Bornuese and Wadaian (*ill.*), 175
 Compounda, Buduma (*ill.*), 224, 225
 Convolvulus, where seen, 33, 41
 Corselet, Banana tribe, 114-5 (*ill.*), 115
 Court officials and chiefs, Bagirimi, 169-73
 Cowardice (?), penalties for, 171
 Cow-Fulani, *see under* Fulani
 Crane, Crowned, 78, 107, 154
 Creation legend, Buduma, 228-9
 Crocodiles, 55, 63, 75, 117-8, 199, 214, 231
 Cuirass, Iron, Native-made (*ill.*), 269
 DAHOMEY, Floats on sacred lake of, 231
 Dakar, s.a., 2, 297

Dances :—

- Bagirimi tribe, 176
 Banana tribe, War dance, 101-2
 Bornuese peoples, by Women, 169
 Fika tribe, at Wedding, 277
 with Blood-flow-preventing charm, 278-9
 Madjagodia tribe, to hummed music, 230-1
 Ngassar tribe, at Gabai, 254
 Tuburi tribe, at Harvest feast, 81-2
 Various tribes, at Tchekna, 169, 174, 175
 Wadai people, 176
 Daniski, old Fika capital, 265, 272
 Darfur, Slave-trade in, 130
 Dar Massalit, 129, 130
 "Dash," 31, 41, 44, 200
 for a Bride, Fika tribe, 281-2
 Dates from Gauronga's, problem of, 183, 188-9; results of analysis of, 190-1
 Dead, spirits of, Mundonng custom concerning, 55
 Death and Burial Customs of the Buduma, 229
 Déd, Feast of, 150, 160
 Demons (*see* Djinna, and Ju-ju) of Mao Kabi falls, 62
 Denham's journey, 115
 Dikoa, Rabeh's headquarters, in Bornu, 144
 Dikoa, Sultan and sultanate of, 150, 195; Bornuese in, 272
 Divorce, among the Buduma, 229
 Djinns connected with Baobab trees, 28
 with Water, 62, 152, 231, 259-60
 Dogs, forbidden food to Fikana, 282
 Wild, 154
 Dolls (*ill.*), 246, 270
 Donkeys, at Kauga Baga, 238
 Doors, Wadama tribe (*ill.*), 88
 Doorways, Buduma, 224-6
 Doroté, French reverse at, 129; retrieved, 137 *n.* 1
 Dress :—
 Banana tribe, 110
 Tuburi tribe, male, 86
 of Warriors, 79
 Drewitt, Mr., 15
 Drum-messages, 203
 Drums, at Gauronga's, 174
 Kotoko, 200
 Mode of beating at Garua, 21
 Mundonng, 50
 Various, at Birni Logone, 123
 War, of Fika (*ill.*), 277

- Due, Mundonng village and people described, 53-5
 Dugu tribe, Potash-trade of, 215-6
 Duiker, from Fika, 276
 Duno Maisha, Fikan chief and historian, 260, 273
 Dusi, rock-ridges at, 294
 Dwellings :—
 Banana tribe, 105
 Contents, 105-7 (*ill.*), *ib.*
 Wall-paintings, 113-4 (*ill.*), 144
 Buduma tribe (*ill.*), 224, 225-6
 Fika tribe, 269-70
 at Gabai, 250 *et seq.*
 Interiors (*ill.*), 251, 253
 Kerri-Kerri tribe, Bachelors' Huts, Lewe, 289 (*ill.*), 290
 Kokoto tribe, 194
 Mundonng tribe, 39
 Native and other, at Fort Lamy, 131
 Niger banks, round and square, 4, 6
 Tuburi tribe, 85-6
 Two-storied, at Birni Logone, 125, 126
 Dyes used by Kotoko tribe, 121
 EAR-RINGS, Buduma, 226
 Women's, at Kauga Baga, 240
 Eating, essentialness of, during African travel, 140
 Ebony trees, 248
 Egerton, Sir Walter and Lady, hospitality of, 297
 Egg-shell superstitions, 88
 Egrets, 1, 107, 154, 234
 Ekoi tribe, Talbot's promised book on, 299
 Electricity at Tchekna, 179
 Elephants, 62, 65
 Bornu, sanctuary for, 241
 Elliot, Mr., 7
 Enamelled iron-ware, distastefulness of, 139-40
 Endogamy, Buduma race, 227
 Endurance-test of Cow-Fulani "braves," 257
 English used by Germans in drilling Natives, Kamerun, 23
 Entrance Hall, Gabai, 250-2 (*ill.*), 251
 European prestige and the Horse, 159; salutations to enforce, 221-2
 Eye-disease, prevalent among the Munchi, 13
 Eyes, effect on, of Cobra venom ejected into, 181-2

- FACIAL** painting, Benue tribes, 12
- Facon, Captain**, 131, 133, 139; kindness of, 150; presents from, 139, 140
- Falls of the Mao Kabi**, 61; search for, 61-70; discovery of, and naming of, 71
- Fantasias** at Birni Logone, 127; at feast of Déé, 173; accessory displays, 174-6; at Fikan wedding, accident during, 280-1
- Fatcha, the**, at Gauronga's Court, 172
- Feasts**, *see* Déé, Harvest, Marriage, and New Moon
- Ferry-methods**, Bornu, 255-6
- Fetish worship**, *see* Ju-ju Houses
- Fianga, Tuburi village**, 81; cultivation near, and thorn zareba at, 85; hostile chief at, 84
- Fika, animal life** at, 266
- Chief of, welcome from, 260
- Wedding of his son, 277 *et seq.*
- Dwellings at, 269-70
- Fortifications of, 267
- Guitars at, 281
- Journey to, and stay at, 259 *et seq.*
- River near, 264-5
- Street corner at (*ill.*), 262
- Taxation at, 282-3
- Fika tribe** :—
- Birth customs, 282
- History, &c., of, 272 *et seq.*
- Love-philtres of, 273-5
- Marriage customs of, 277 *et seq.*
- Religious ideas, &c., of, 273
- Fire, sacred, in Mosque at Fika, 267
- Fire-ovens (and Fish-ovens)**, Wadama tribe (*ill.*), 88
- Fireplaces** :—
- Banana tribe, 112, 113 (*ill.*), 112
- at Bongor, 105 (*ill.*), 106
- Fires as Mosquito-preventive**, 213, 214, 215, 224
- Fish of Lake Chad**, 218-9
- Plentiful in Lake Léré, 59
- Fish-curing**, Kotoko tribe, 122
- Fish-eagles**, 1, 70
- Fishing appurtenances**, Buduma race, 213, 215
- Fishing industry**, Kotoko tribe, 122, 193-4
- Fishing methods** :—
- Kebbia river, 93-4
- Lake Léré, 111
- Logone river, 111
- Tackle, Mundong (*ill.*), 59
- Flies** at Garua, 18
- Floats** used by Buduma, 231
- Flooring of Potsherds**, Gabai, 252 (*ill.*), 253
- Flowers**, *see* Vegetation, and under Names
- Flutes** :—
- Bagirimi (*ill.*), 174
- Mundong (*ill.*), 50
- Wadama (*ill.*), 91
- Food**, Bagirimi region, Locusts, fried, as delicacy, 158
- Food taboos**, Fikan tribe, 282
- Forçados**, journey from, up Niger, 3 *et seq.*
- Fort Archambault**, 16; exiled Sultan of, 136, 137
- Fort Lamy**, 25, 187
- Description of, 131-3
- Prison life at, 132-3
- Stay at, and events of, 129 *et seq.*, 192
- Tribes around, 272
- Fort Lamy - Bangui**, telegraph line between, 16
- Franco-German boundaries** in Central Africa, as lately modified, 36
- French military and civil doings** in C. Africa, 129-37 *& n.* 1, 171
- Officers in Africa, choice by, of own subordinates, 148
- Relations with the Bagirimi ruler, 145-9
- Rule, Bagirimi region, 149, 150
- French Ubangi**, 38, 39; races of, 240 *et prævi*
- Frogs** in a tent, 27
- Frum - frums** (trumpets), at Birni Logone (*ill.*), 123
- Fulani, cattle**, 19
- Conquest, some consequences of, 19
- Exempt from enslavement, 227
- House, Gaiya, Room in (*ill.*), 294
- Race** :—
- Cow-Fulani—
- Bull-baiting of, 257-8
- Endurance tests for young men, 257
- Salutations of, 291-2
- Fuli, village**, 63
- GABAI, Chief's hospitality** at, 250 *et seq.*
- Country beyond, features of, 255-6
- Fortifications at, 250
- Inhabitants, dwellings, &c., at, 249 *et seq.*

- Kotoko race (*continued*):—
 Height of, 196
 Musical instruments of, 200-1
 Religion of, 120
 Slave raids and trade of, 227
 Kouno, Bagirimi flight to, 145
 Kukaua, gun-boy, 14 *et alibi*; carelessness of, 107; at the Falls, 71
 Kukana, old capital of Bornu, 245
 Kumbra pagans, visitors, Léré, 46
 Kumu, Island of, Lake Chad, Buduma of, 222 *et seq.*
 French visit to, 230
 Kusseri, defeat and death of Rabeh at, 147
 German hospitality at, 128 *et seq.*
 Pigeon-post to, 120
 "Kusseri," pet lion-cub, 137-9, 242
- LADIES of the party, menaced by Banana natives, 102-4
 Lagos, journey to, described, 284; farewells at, 297
 Lake Chad, Alexander and Talbot's voyage on, 2
 Dangers feared on, by Buduma, 231
 Fish of, 218-9
 Flowers of, 236
 Journey to, from Fort Lamy, 192 *et seq.*; first sight of, 204; seen from summit of Hajer-el-Hamis, 210; first day's boating on, 219; first camp, 221; Buduma islands visited, 222 *et seq.*; objects of author's party in regard to, 219
 Mystery of, 204
 Refugees on, 228, 235
 Rivers feeding two halves of, 219
 Water of, 234
 Lake Léré, animal life in and on, 55-6, 58
 Brightness of, 41, 51
 Canoe journey on, 51 *et seq.*
 Depth of, 51
 Fish and fishing at, 59, 111
 Lake Tréné, 63
 Lamina, Maiarami, a visit to, 178-9
 Lamp, Mundonng, in Spirit worship, 55
 Lamy, Commandant, and the fate of Rabeh, 147
 "Lamy," pet lion-cub, 137-8, 242-3, 293-3 *et alibi*
 Lancrenon, Captain, kindness from, 25-6, 29, 45
 Langwua, Fikan chief, 273-6
 Lazy-tonga, from Fika, 271 (*ill.*), 270
 Leg-armor, 105 (*ill.*), 106
 Banana tribe, 115
 Lelis, secondary wives of Guaronga, a visit to, 165 *et seq.*
 Leopards, 65, 189, 193, 217
 Forbidden as food, Fika, 282
 Near camps, 27, 154
 Léré, agriculture near, 39
 Land and water routes to, 37
 Visit to Lamido's palace at, 47-50; plan of palace, 46
 Visitors at, 46-7
 Water-journey to, 16
 Lewe hill and village visited, 287 *et seq.*
 Bachelors' huts at, 289 (*ill.*), 290
 Life, female, Banana belief as to, 107
 Lion-cubs as pets, 137-9, 182, 190-2; "en voyage," 192-3, 200, 201, 214, 242 *et seq.*, 291; on Lake Chad, 222-3; first train journey, 295; mischief of, 216, 217 *et alibi*; popularity of, 296-7; the last journey, 297-8; "at Home" in the "Zoo," 298
 Lions, 27, 62, 65, 119, 154, 188, 212
 Forbidden food to Fikana, 282
 Lip-discs or Plugs of
 Banana women, 98, 115-6
 Tuburi women, 79, 86
 Lip-dyeing of Women, Birni Logone, 123
 Lobb, Dr, 263
 Locusts, fried, as delicacy, 158
 Logone river, author's too close acquaintance with, 110
 Banana War - dance and other excitements at, 101 *et seq.*
 Bird-life along, 107-8
 as Boundary, 36
 Confluence with, of Shari, 131
 Game along, 99
 Hippo on, risks from, 108-10
 Journey down, 97 *et seq.*
 Slave-trade along, 227
 Lokoja, arrival and stay at, 7-11; feminine dress-difficulties at, 8-9
Lonchocarpus luriflorus, near Gabai, 255 & n. 1
 Loom, Mundonng (*ill.*), 57
 Love-philtres:—
 Buduma, 229
 Fikan, 273-5
 Loyer, M., 44

- Lucas, Captain, French Resident at Tchekna, 148, 158, 183, 184, 189
- MAAISHE, Arab village, 156, 188; false news about, 185-6; region beyond, 187, 188
- Madjagodia (Buduma), the, 227
Dance by, and hospitality from, 230
- Magira, the, 169, 173, 174; duties of, 160
- Mahdi, the, and Rabeh, 144
- Maiarami, the, at Tchekna, marriage customs of, 177-8; visit to, 177 *et seq.*
- Mailula (Buduma), the, 227
- Maiduguri, arrival and stay at, 244 *et seq.*
House-rent at, 245
Market, excellence of, 245-6
- Maifoni, route to, from Kaua, 242; ungracious natives at, 244
- Mail from Home, delights of, a wise word on, 156
- Maillard, Commandant, gift of Giraffe to author, 133
and the Naming of the Falls, 71
Wadai expedition of, and its success, 131-7 & *n.* 1
- Mallamai, at Fika, 268-9
- Mambas, met with, 5
- Manatees, Lake Léré, 55, 58
- Manes and manelessness in Lions, 299
- Manhood test of Kerri-Kerri "braves," 289
- Mani, sport *en route* to, 179
- Manjafia, siege of, by Rabeh, 144
- Mao Bulo [river], 16
- Mao Kabi River:—
Crocodiles and hippo in, 63
Crossing of, 63-4
Falls of, animal life near, and scenery around, 61, 62, 65
Demon of, 62
Search for, discovery, and naming of, 61-71
Infall and outfall from Lake Léré, 52
Navigation on, French right to, reserved, 37
- Mao Lui, boundary river, 39
- Maragi race, raids of, 249
- Marea plant, Lake Chad (*ill.*), 220-1
Floats of, 231
- Mareguba, water difficulty at, 249
- Marriage customs:—
Bagirimi, for Sultan's daughters, 177
Buduma, 227, 229-30
Fika race, 277
Kanembu race, 235
Tuburi tribe, 82
- Massénia, Bagirimi chief city, vicissitudes of, 143-5, 158
- Mastaba, headman, 13 *et passim*; as bearer, 73-4
- M'burao, camp at, 80
- Mecklenburg, Grand Duke of, African travels of, 186
Gifts to, of the Jeggara, 195
- Medicine Man, Maiduguri, attire of, 246; state post of, 247
- "Medicines," Buduma, 223-4, 229
to produce Lunar nimbus, 100
- Melfi, mountain city of, and the Bagirimi, 149
- Military use of English in German W. Africa, 23
- Millepedes, Lake Léré islands, 52-3
- Mimosa trees, 153, 241; forests of, 193, 203-4; scrub of, 41
- Mindif tribe, Women's ornaments, 46
- Miramiza, a Wadai princess, 170; visit to, 179
- Mohmaduba, interpreter, 150; delinquencies of, 151, 185
- Mohmaduba, Mrs, 151; as interpreter, 163, 164
- Moll, Colonel, death of, 129
- Monkeys (*see also* Baboons), 65, 128
Forbidden food to Fikans, 282
Long-tailed, Benue banks, 15
- Moon, nimbus round, native customs concerning, 100
- Mosque of sacred Fire, Fika, 267
- Mosquitos, of
Hajer-el-Hamis, 211, 218
Kebbia river, 95
Lake Chad, 204-5, ferocity of, 218
Lakes Tuburi and Tikem, some comments on, 77-8
Protective measures against, 5, 213, 214, 215, 224
- Moude Mourra, 130, 137 *n.* 1
- Mount Patti, Baboons of, 7, 8
- Mouth-protection, a possible origin of, 261
- Mud-coloured Snake, escape of, 57
- Mud-pillars, Sultan's palace, Birni Logone, 124 (*ill.*), 125
- Munchi tribe, pagans, origin of name, 11
Eye-affections prevalent among, 12
- Mundonng tribe:—
Absence of clothing of, 55
Arts and Crafts of, 55

- Mundonng tribe (*continued*):—
 Bird-snares (*ill.*), 56
 Bridle (?), 57
 Loom (*ill.*), 57
 Pottery making, 55
 Carriers from, 35 *et seq.*
 Characteristics, 43, 78
 Dwellings and granaries, 39-40
 Fishing methods of, 59
 Lamido of, greeting from, 42, 43
 Musical instruments of—
 Flute (*ill.*), 50
 Guitar, 54
 Horn (*ill.*), 54
 Pipes (*ill.*), 54
 Razors of (*ill.*), 54
 Recognition of Spirits of the Dead
 by, 55
 Women's status in, 46
 Musgum, walled city, beauty of, 111,
 118
 Dirt at, 116-7
 Dwellings, Wall-paintings on, 113-4
 (*ill.*), 114
 Religion of inhabitants, 115
 Swamp near, wild life on, 117-8
 Music and Singing, at Garua, 20 *et
 seq.*
 Humming (vocal) of Buduma, 230-1
 Pipe-solo, 169
 Seasonal, Léré, 50
 Singing at Native Wake, 100
 Song of Boatman's wife (with music
 and words), 11f
 Wadama tribe, 91
 Musical Instruments, *see* Aligata,
 Clarinet, Drums, Flutes,
 Guitars, Harps, Horns,
 Pipes, Tengale, Trom-
 bones, Trumpets
 Musical salute, Gauronga's levee,
 170-1
- NAFADA, 256; journey to, 248 *et seq.*
Naja nigricollis, venom of, effect of,
 on Eyes, 181-2
 Native Huts (*see also* Dwellings),
 Niger shores, 4, 6
 Necklaces, bead, worn by Buduma,
 226-7
 Ngama village, difficulties at, 185-6;
 Punch and Judy show at,
 157
 Ngarh Moriba, son of Gauronga, 167
 Ngassar tribe:—
 Dance of, 254
 Morning worship of, at Gabai, 249-50
 Niellim, slaves from, 227
- Niger Company, the, 9, 12
 Niger river, Bird life of, 1
 Confluence of Benue with, 7
 Huts on, shapes of, 4, 6
 Journey up, to Lokoja, 1-7; battle
 during, 6-7; scenes and
 scenery along, 4, 6; vege-
 tation along, 1
 Niger-Benue navigation rights, 37
 Nigeria, Cattle-driving in, 239
 Northern, length of day's march in,
 248
 Mr Talbot's survey in, 3, 284-5,
 291
 Nigeria, steamboat, journey on, 15
 Night in African travel, "amenities"
 of, 188-9
 Noah, *see* Ark
 Nose ornaments, of Women:—
 Benue tribes, 12
 Kotoko, 123
 Mindif, 46
 Nupe tribe, hoe of (*ill.*), 15
- OASES, near Tchekna, animal life of,
 154
 Odysseus, and his float, 231
 Ornaments, both sexes, various places
 and tribes, *see* Anklets,
 Bracelets, Ear-rings,
 Henna, Lip-discs, Lip-
 dyeing, Nose ornaments,
 Tattoo
- Birni Logone, 123
 Buduma, 226-7
 at Kaur Baga, 240
 Tuburi, 79
 Wadama, 89
- Ornithological collections of Talbot,
 Logone river, fate of, 108
 Ostrich, where met, 154
 Ostrich Egg converted into Pot (*ill.*),
 142
 Ouhamé et Nana, Cie. de, 81, 98
 Owls, Hajer-el-Hamis, 207
 Oxen, as transport animals, 151-2
- PAGENSTECHE, Messrs, 15; stay
 in stores of, at Garua, 20
 Palm trees, 41, 153
 Borassus, 259
 Date, 267
 Dum, 259
 Papyrus of Lake Chad, 218, 220
 of the Shari, 214
 Papyrus fillets for Oxen, Buduma race
 (*ill.*), 233
 Parasols of State, 124, 166, 247

- Paroqueta, near Gabai, 255
 Pelicans, 107-8
 Peppermints as ammunition, 28
Personnel of the expedition, Yola to Garua, 13-5
 Pets at Fort Lamy, 133-4, 137-9, 140-3
 Pigeons, Blue, Hajer-el-Hamis, 207
 Pincers and Sheath (*ill.*), 243
 Pipe, of Clay, for Roof-drainage (*ill.*), 267
 Musical :—
 Banana, 99
 Mundonng (*ill.*), 54
 Tuburi, 82
 Pistols, from Gabai, 254
 Pito, Native liquor, 128
 Plovers, Logone river, 107
 Pogo, river journey to, 93-6
 Poison ? 183 *et seq.*
 Poker, iron, bought as curio, 56
 Poll-tax collection at Gulfei, 195
 Polygamy, Buduma tribe, 230
 Potash, trade in, near Lake Chad, 215-6, 238, 241
 Pots and Pottery, various places and tribes, &c. :—
 Buduma, 226
 Fika, 269-71
 at Gulfei, 197
 Kotoko, 121
 Mundonng, 55
 Ngassar, 249-50
 Ostrich Egg as (*ill.*), 142
 Tuburi (*ill.*), 96
 Princess Royal, of Tchekna, visit to, 177-9
 Prison life, Fort Lamy, 132-3
 "Punch and Judy" in Central Africa, 157
 QUERNS (*ill.*), 96, 105, 106
 Quinine-taking, German system, 23
 RABEH, Emir of Bornu, the African Napoleon, 33, 213; attack of, on the Bagirimi, 143, 144; conflicts of, with the French, 146-7; defeat and death of, at Kusseri, 147, 195; devastations and raids of, 136, 144-5; relations of, with Gauronga, 145-7; with the Mahdi, 144; extent of his rule, 144
 Raben, Commandant Herr von, of Kusseri, 132, 182; welcome from, 128; gift from, of Lion-cubs, 138
 Rainfall, Kerri-Kerri hills, 291
 Ramadan, fast of, delays due to, 26
 Ranke, Herr von, fly-killing Toads of, 18
 Rats (*Cricetomys gambianus oliviae*), new species, secured at Fika, 276
 Rattles of Calabashes, Kotoko, 201
 Razor, Mundonng (*ill.*), 54
 Refugees on Islands of Lake Chad, 228, 235
 Religion and superstition, various tribes :—
 Banana (at Musgum), 115
 Buduma, 228-9
 Fika, 273 *et seq.*
 Kotoko, 120
 Ngassar tribe at Gabai, 249-50
 Representatives of Royalty, Bagirimi and Bornu, 171
 Reptiles, *see* Cobra, Crocodiles, Iguanas, Mambas, Snakes
 Respect, methods of ensuring, 159, 291-2
 Rhinoceros, 65, 154
 Riding, importance of, 159
 Rifle, author's lessons in using, 10, 11
 Right arm, baring of, as badge of office, Bagirimi, 173
 Rings, in Ears, Buduma use of, 226
 round Ears, Senegalese women, 46
 Roan antelope, Logone shores, 117
 Rock-dwellers, or "little people," near Fika, 265-7
 Room in Chief's House, Gabai (*ill.*), 253
 in Fulani House, Gaiya (*ill.*), 294
 Rorquals, a sight of, 3
 Rose, Major, 10, 11, 247
 Rushes on Lake Chad, 236-7
 Ruxton, Mrs, at Ibi, 11
 SAIORUM, legend associated with, 234-6; scene near, 236
 Salt and Anthropology ! 89-90
 Salt plant, the, 212
 Salutations, Fulani, 291-2
 Salute of Chiefs to French Commandant, 137
 Sand-dune, lofty, Kumu Island, 223
 Sand-flies, torment of, 18
 Sara, slaves from, 227
 Scent bottle (*ill.*), 9
 Scheffer, Lieut. von, 23; on German and British methods contrasted, 19
 Schwartz, Captain, 18, 23, 24
 Scorpions, at Fika, 276; pain from sting of, 199

- Second-sight, Charm giving, Fikan story of, 275-6
- Senegal Hartbeeste, 27, 202, 241, 256
- Horn of, found, 234
- Sénégalais soldiers, characteristics of, 136
- Shari river, affluent of, *see* Bahr el Erguig
- Confluent of the Logone, 131
- Crocodiles of, 199, 214
- Flowing into Lake Chad, 219
- French and German influences on its opposite shores, 193, 195, 200
- Slave-trade along, 227
- Swamps along, 192
- Vegetation along, near Lake Chad, 214-5
- Shari-Chad expedition of Gentil and its consequences, 132, 145 *et seq.*
- Shehu, the, of Hornu, 245, 246-7
- Sheriff, the, of Fort Lamy, 136-7
- Shield, nearly 8 feet high (Kotoko) (*ill.*), 196
- Reed, Banana tribe (*ill.*), 115
- Singing, *see* Music and Singing
- Slavery, Slave-raids, and Slave-trade, Central Africa, 115, 130, 145, 147-8, 227-8
- Snake-bite, cures for, 271
- Snakes, *see* Cobra, and Mambas
- Dust-coloured, met with in tent, 27 at Mao Kabi Falls, 71
- Mrs Talbot bitten by, 271
- Mud-coloured, 57
- Poisonous, Talbot bitten by, 92-3
- Songs of Boatman's wife, 119; music and words, *ib.*
- Soa, the, ancestors of the Kanembu, 235
- Spears, Arab, Bagirmi district, 157-8 at Gabai, 254
- Speeding, Captain, 59
- Spermwhale and "kraken," a sight of, 3
- Spur (*ill.*), 245
- Staves of the Wadama, 87
- Stereospermum Kunthianum* near Gabai, 255 & n. 1
- Stone, Mr, 8, 10
- Stone, Mrs, 10
- Stone circles, near Garua, 19
- Stones of witness, 210 & n. 1
- Street corner at Fika (*ill.*), 262
- Sudanese desert, lower, journey through, 187 *et seq.*
- Sulkando, journey to and stay at, 72 *et seq.*; courtesy of chief at, 76
- Sultan, the, of Birni Logone, reception by, 122-4; visit in return, 124-6; fantasia given by, 127
- Sultan, Niger steamer, journeys by, 3 *et seq.*, 11-12
- Survey work of Talbot, 3, 284-5, 291
- Swimming a river with Oxen, 152
- Swine, taboo as food to Fikans, 282
- TABLES, Wadama tribe, 88
- Talbot, Mrs P. A., 2, 3; and author, solecisms committed by, 159, 163, 196; botanical work of, 5; serious illness of, at Ngama, 185-7, 189; sketching by, alarm roused by, 269; snake-bite of, 271; stories of the Fika people gleaned by, 271 *et seq.*; stung by scorpion, 199; welcome to, from Gauronga, 156-7
- Talbot, Mr and Mrs, help of, in author's book, 300
- Talbot, P. A., accidents to and illnesses of, 33-5, 99-100, 185, 188-9, 261 *et seq.*; bitten by snake, 92-3
- African experience of, 2
 - Collections of, 5, 276
 - aid from the Fikans, 276
 - Ethnological work of, 196
 - Eyes injured by spitting of Cobra venom, 181-2
 - Farewell to, 297
 - Hunter hunted? 202-3
 - Judge and jury, 57, 58
 - Nigerian survey by, 3, 284-5, 291
 - Rat named by, after author, 276
 - Tattoo patterns, Benue tribes, 12
 - Taxation at Fika, 282-3
 - at Gulfoi, 195
 - Tchekna, Bagirmi capital, and its Sultan, 143 *et seq.*
 - Arrival and stay at, events during, 158-9
 - Extent of, 176
 - Feast of Déé at, 150
 - First French resident at, 148
 - Gauronga's palace at, 177
 - Journey from, to Fort Lamy, anxieties and illnesses of, 184 *et seq.*

- Tea, offer of, effect of, on the Jéggara, 196
- Teeth, filing of, Wadama tribe, 89
- Temple, C. A., help of, acknowledged, 300
- Temple, Mr, acting-governor at Zungeru, 297
- Tengale Musical Instrument (*ill.*), 258
- Thomas, Mr Oldfield, Rat named by, after author, 276
- Thorns, poisonous, in zariba fence, 85
- Throwing-weapons, Bagirimi district (*ill.*), 157
 Ceremonial, Mundonng (*ill.*), 60
- Tiger-cat, 154; as pet, 141
- Tikem Lake (*see also* Tuburi Lakes), 37, 76-7
- Tin gates, Gauaronga's palace, 163, 164
 Plates, &c., as mural decorations, 197
- Toads, to kill flies, von Ranke's, 18
- Tobacco-growing, Buduma, 232
 at Ham, 99
- Togbau hills, battle of, 146, 171
- Tom-tom (dance), at Tchekna, 174-5
- Toucan's head, wooden, used in Game-stalking, 266
- Toys of Clay (*ill.*), 259, 270
- Treasure chests of Gauaronga, etiquette of, 174
- Tréné, lake and village, 63
- Treppé, Dr, of Kusseri, kindness of, 128
- Trombones, 170, 174
- Trumpets or Frum-frums (*ill.*), 123
- Tsetse-fly regions:—
 Mao Falls district, 62, 64
 Tuburi district, 91
- Tuburi Lakes, and Lake district, 36, 37
 Hippo in, 92
 Mergence of, into Tikem Lake, beauties of, 76-7
 Tsetse-fly in, 91
 Visit to, 72 *et seq.*
- Tuburi tribe, aspect of, 78
 Characteristics, 76
 Dance of, 81-2
 Dislike of, for whites, 81, 84
 Huts of, 85-6
 Pipe (musical) of (*ill.*), 76
 Pleasure of, in Beads, 83
 Pot (*ill.*), 96
 Quern (*ill.*), 96
- Twins, customs concerning, Buduma race, 230
- UBANGI, *see* French Ubangi
- Umbrellas of State, 124, 160, 247
- Upper Nile, Floats used on, 231
- VEGETATION, *see* Asclepias, Bahr, Baobab, Cassia, Convolvulus, Palm trees, &c.
 of Lake Chad, 223, 236
 of Musgum swamp, 118
- Victoria, Queen, and Abbiga, 9
- Village Meeting-house, Fika (*ill.*), 262
- WADAI, French occupation of, and difficulties in, 44, 129 *et seq.*, 203
 Raid from, on the Bagirimi (1870), 143
 Slave-trade in, 130
- Wadaians, ringlets of (*ill.*), 175
- Wadama tribe, Tuburi-Tikem district, 78-9
 Aspect and weapons of, 87
 Dwellings and furniture of, 88
 Flute of (*ill.*), 91
 Men's adornments, 89
- Waders, Logone river, 107
- Wakes, Native, 100-1, 104-5
- Waldram, P., on Banana architecture at Musgum, 112
- Wall-paintings at Musgum, 113-4 (*ill.*), 114
- War Drum, of Fika (*ill.*), 277
- Water, Djians connected with, 62, 152, 231, 259
- Water-buck, 218
- Water-hog, Logone river, 119
- Water-plants, Lake Chad, 218, 220-1
- Water-pots (*see also* Pots):—
 Banana (*ill.*), 113
 Ngassar, religious use of, 249-50
- Weapons and Armour, *see* Arrows, Chain-mail, Clubs, Corselet, Cuirass, Helmet, Leg-armour, Pistols, Shield, Spears, Staves, Throwing-weapons
- Weaving, Kotoko tribe, 120-1
- West, Captain, at Maifoni, 248
- Whipping ordeal of Cow-Fulani men, 257
- Widows, customs concerning:—
 Buduma tribe, 229
 Kanembu tribe, 235
- Wilkinson, General, at Maifoni, 246-7
- Willcox, Dr W. H., on analysis of Dates submitted to him by the author, 190-1

- Wind-screens, Buduma, 224-6 (*ill.*),
225
- Witchcraft, *see* Charms, Love-philtres,
and Medicines
- Wives, *see also* Women :—
of the Jaggara of Gulfei, 198
Queen-wife, 197
of the Lamido of the Mundonng,
49
of the Sultan of Birni Logone,
125-6
- Woman Rattle-player, Mani, 201
- Woman's Bag, 106-7 (*ill.*), 107
- Women along the Niger, ornaments
of, 12
Position of, in various parts of
C. Africa, 10, 32-3, 34, 46
of various tribes—
Bagirimi, dances of, at Gauar-
onga's, 169
Banana, aspect and adornments
of, 96, 98, 115-6
Buduma, aspect of, 226
"Proposals" by, 226
Fikan, Animals forbidden to, as
food, 282
French Ubangi, as chiefs, 46
at Kaus Baga, headgear of (*ill.*),
240
at Léré, visits from, 46
Mindif, 46
Mundonng, dress of, 55
Tuburi, lip-discs of, 79, 86
- Women, white, Bagirimi and Mun-
donng attitude to, 42, 161,
163, 180
- Women's quarters, chief's compound,
Bipare, 40
- YEMEN, alleged first home of Fikans
and others, 272
- Yo river, affluent of Lake Chad,
219
- Yola, journey to, up Benue river, 11,
12
Rest-house at, some amenities of,
12, 13
- Yola-Maifoni road, insecurity along,
13
- Yué, native dance at, 81-2
- ZAKIS, or Zakokis, *see* Lion-cubs
- Zinnias at Fort Lamy, 132
- Zungeru, train journey to, 293-7

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