

KACHALOJA



St. Broomfield
Aug 25th 30

KACHALOLA

or the

EARLY LIFE AND ADVENTURES

of

SIDNEY SPENCER BROOMFIELD

IVORY HUNTER, PROSPECTOR, SPECIMEN COLLECTOR
PIONEER, PEARL FISHER AND
DOCTOR OF MEDICINE

RELATED BY HIMSELF

WITH MAPS, APPENDICES AND A
FRONTISPIECE PORTRAIT

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APPENDIX A

THE AFRICAN BACKGROUND

THE part of Africa covered by this narrative—roughly bounded on the south by the Zambesi, on the west by a line running east of Lakes Nyasa and Tanganyika, and on the north by another from Lake Kivu to Zanzibar—had no clear political delimitations in the year 1868. The southern part, as at present, was under Portuguese influence, extending north as far as the Rovuma, and east along the lower Zambesi. Northwards lay the large but undefined regions of the Sultan of Zanzibar. The partitioning of Africa among the European Powers had not yet begun. It was not until 1876 that Leopold II of Belgium, the first man to appreciate the commercial significance of Stanley's discovery that the Congo was a navigable waterway reaching the heart of Africa, summoned an international conference to consider the exploration and civilisation of the Dark Continent, thereby awakening Europe to the possibilities of opening up new markets and founding or adding to Colonial Empires. Up to this time England, following the happy instinct which has always led her to acquire territories of the greatest ultimate value, had concentrated on the southern part of the Continent, and her interest in the rest was confined to the activities of societies and private individuals organising missions and making journeys of exploration.

David Livingstone, of course, combined the two, and for three reasons it may be well to remind the reader of the ground he covered. Firstly, because the last five years of his life were contemporaneous with Doctor Broomfield's first two African journeys. Secondly, because much of the ground he went over from 1858 onwards was the same as that described in this book. Thirdly, because one of the great aims of his life was to stamp out the slave trade carried on by the Arabs.

Just about the same time that Doctor Broomfield arrived at Quilimane, Livingstone discovered Lake Bangweolo. From there he proceeded to Ujiji on Tanganyika, where he was found by Stanley, and after exploring the northern end of Tanganyika the two went eastward to Unyamwezi. From here Stanley left for the

coast, and Livingstone, some months later, set out on his last journey to Bangweolo. This was in August, 1872, a month before Doctor Broomfield reached Bagamoyo from Ceylon. If it had been a year later an encounter would not have been unlikely, for it appears from Doctor Broomfield's narrative that he must have passed through the Unyamwezi country during this second trip.

Most of Livingstone's work of exploration in this part of the country belongs, however, to his second period in Africa, from 1857 to 1864. During his first journey he had discovered Lake Ngami, and crossed the Continent from Loanda to Quilimane, discovering the Victoria Falls on the way. The second journey, consisting of expeditions round the Zambesi and northwards, though perhaps less spectacular and of smaller geographical range than the others, was possibly even more important from a utilitarian point of view. In 1858 he explored the Zambesi above Tete, especially the Kebrebasa Rapids. The next year he spent exploring the Shiri River and Lake Nyasa. In 1860 he did further work round Nyasa, and in 1862 he went 156 miles up the Rovuma. All this time the activities of the slave traders were constantly being brought to his notice. In 1864 he returned to England, and his remaining explorations in this neighbourhood were made during the early part of his final expedition. This time, starting from the Rovuma in 1866, he ran south-east to the south end of Nyasa, and then, striking north-north-west, crossed the Loangwa and reached the southern end of Tanganyika. From there he made his expedition to Mweru and Bangweolo, going from the latter to Ujiji, as has been already noted.

To the work of Livingstone must be added that of Burton and Speke, who visited Tanganyika in 1858, and Speke and Grant, who reached Victoria Nyanza—which Speke had sighted on his earlier expedition—in 1862, and proceeded northward to clear up the mystery of the sources of the Nile. Stanley's great trans-continental expedition, which among other things threw further light on both Tanganyika and Victoria Nyanza, did not commence until 1874.

It will thus be seen that Doctor Broomfield's first two expeditions were undertaken while the process of putting Central Africa on the map was at its height. As he explains for himself, he was neither a professed explorer nor a scientific observer. He was a simple hunter and trader whose business carried him into many strange places, where he had no intention of making anything in the nature of a survey. Unlike Livingstone, Stanley and others, he was without any backing, whether from financial corporations, missionary societies, or powerful newspapers. Always he was

alone, and always he was at pains to avoid contact with Governments and Government officials. Throughout he was inspired by the spirit of adventure. Any profit he might make by his journeys was a secondary consideration; his aim was to go wherever his spirit led him, and by so doing to make things easier for the next white man to follow him. He has in conversation described his early expeditions as a big bluff. Where certain famous explorers would hear of hostile natives and make a detour to avoid them, Doctor Broomfield's way was to carry straight on, and take any fighting that might come to him; and perhaps it was this supreme confidence that carried him through.

Bearing all this in mind, it will be understood why Doctor Broomfield put on record no discoveries comparable in geographical importance with those of Livingstone, Stanley, and Speke, although he was actually the first European to visit many parts of the world. But there is one discovery he made in Africa to which it may be worth while calling attention. According to the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (latest edition) Lake Kivu, though heard of by Speke in 1861, was first visited by a white man, Count von Götzen, in 1894, *i.e.* twenty-one years later than Kachalola.

With regard to the slave trade, Livingstone, as a missionary and a man of peace, was neither physically nor perhaps morally equipped to deal with the matter by the direct methods employed by Doctor Broomfield—although on the famous occasion when he was the impotent witness of a massacre by the Arabs at Nangwe, he expressed an impulse 'to pistol the murderers.' His representations to England did, however, lead to pressure being brought to bear on the Sultan of Zanzibar in the hope of putting an end to the slave trade. This was in 1871, and through the efforts of Sir John Kirk—who must have been the British Consul with whom Doctor Broomfield dined at Zanzibar on returning from his first journey—a treaty for the suppression of the trade within the Sultanate was concluded in 1873.

How little effective this was is indicated by parts of Doctor Broomfield's narrative at present in MS.—it would not be fair to instance his pitched battle in the Nika country described in Episode Two of this volume, as this took place in the latter part of the same year. But it may be pointed out that if, as Doctor Broomfield heard on apparently the best possible authority, the Sultan was financially interested in the ventures of the Arabs, the treaty was almost bound to remain a dead letter, until some external force was applied—until, in fact, the Sultanate was dismembered some years later. In 1870, when Bargash ibn Said became Sultan—it

would be Bargash who was so enraged by Doctor Broomfield's exploits—his dominions extended from Cape Delgado to Somaliland, including some of the Somali ports. By his death in 1888, Italy had acquired the northern part (Somaliland), Great Britain the central part (now Kenya), and Germany the southern part (now Tanganyika Territory) together with Mafia Island. What remained—the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba—was shortly afterwards declared a British Protectorate, and the legal status of slavery therein was finally abolished in 1897.

APPENDIX B

HEAD HUNTERS AND PIRATES OF BORNEO

THE name 'Dyak' is often loosely applied to all the natives of Borneo, but in the language of the island it is used to signify the people who are not Mohammedans and who live in the interior. The head-hunters with whom Doctor Broomfield came in contact, and perhaps also the pirates by whom he was attacked on his way to Hong Kong, probably belonged to the tribe known as 'Ibans,' or Sea-Dyaks. This is the only race which makes a habit of taking heads for the sake of glory, and of attacking friendly villages or casual wayfarers to obtain heads. To-day the practice is much less prevalent, owing to the spread of European influence and the fact that the Ibans are mostly found near Government Stations. Among other tribes, heads are as a rule only taken from enemies, slain or captured in battle. Since the real use of the heads is as a part of religious ceremonial, these tribes are often satisfied to borrow them when required for certain rites, as the mourning of a dead chief, or a harvest festival. Indeed, in certain stations the Government keep a few old heads which are loaned out when wanted. The custom of head-taking is actually not quite so remote in time and space as is commonly believed; as late in 1912 it was observed in the Balkan Peninsula, until the taking of noses was substituted during the Balkan War of 1912-1913.

Piracy off Borneo was generally carried on by Mohammedans and certain tribes encouraged by them, chiefly the Ibans. It was through his partial suppression of them that Rajah Brooke—the 'white chief' mentioned in Episode Three—began his association with the island. As a reward for his efforts Brooke was ceded the district of Sarawak by the Sultan of Brunei in 1841. After a battle in which the British Navy engaged the pirates at Maruda Bay in 1845 it was hoped that the nuisance was at an end, but in 1849 Brooke had to undertake another expedition against Dyak sea raiders. Piracy among the Dyaks died slowly, and Doctor Broomfield's adventure took place as late as 1875. To-day, however, the only pirates remaining in Asiatic, or any waters, are Chinese, working from headquarters at Bias Bay, near Hong Kong.

APPENDIX C

NEW GUINEA

WITH the exception of the Polar regions and the Amazon basin, the island of New Guinea is probably less satisfactorily mapped than any other part of the world. It is only since the annexations that any proper surveys have been made, and these are far from complete. The wildness of the country and the savagery of the inhabitants is attested by more than one tragedy, suggesting that any one going far from the coast still does so at considerable risk.

To give the most recent example, in October, 1926, four Australian prospectors were massacred in the Nakanai district of New Britain, a neighbouring island. Two others escaped into the bush. A punitive expedition, whose armament included a machine gun and bombs, was undertaken, and resulted in the arrest of sixteen natives, after some fighting.

Of all parts of the island, least appears to be known of the north-eastern quarter, the scene of Doctor Broomfield's expedition. This is the Territory of New Guinea, formerly German New Guinea, but now administered by Australia under a mandate from the League of Nations.

At the time of Doctor Broomfield's visit—1875-1876—the official annexations had not been made. The Dutch claimed sovereignty over the western half of the island, but their right to it was not admitted until 1885, when the conflicting claims of Germany and Great Britain in the eastern part were also adjusted, and the boundaries fixed. Up to that time there had not been a single white man living in German New Guinea. Exploration had been almost confined to the coast, and it certainly appears that Doctor Broomfield must have been the first to get any distance into the interior. At about the same time as he made his journey Schleinitz, the German explorer, visited the north coast and the islands, but no expedition up the Sepik River is recorded until 1885, when part of it was explored by Otto Finsch. The first complete journey, from head-waters to mouth, was only made in 1927, by H. W. Champion and C. H. Karius.

It will be noticed that the route taken by Doctor Broomfield is not marked on the sketch-map of New Guinea, as with the others. He hopes to return to the island in a short time, to locate and start working the gold he found near the Sepik River, about fifty-five years ago. For this reason he does not wish to be too particular at the moment.

GLOSSARY

OF AFRICAN AND OTHER UNFAMILIAR WORDS

<i>Askari</i>	-	-	Native soldiers or police.
<i>Boma</i>	-	-	Fort, Government station, Stockade round dwelling-house.
<i>Bwana</i>	-	-	'Sir,' white man, boss.
<i>Capito</i>	-	-	Foreman, boss boy.
<i>Chikoti</i>	-	-	Whip of hippo or rhino hide.
<i>Chirundo</i>	-	-	Four yards (<i>e.g.</i> of calico).
<i>Chisowi</i>	-	-	Relish.
<i>Chitundo</i>	-	-	Basket (<i>e.g.</i> of meal).
<i>Chuma</i>	-	-	Trade truck.
<i>Daga</i>	-	-	Clay, mud, plaster.
<i>Dambo</i>	-	-	Savannah, open plain.
<i>Donga</i>	-	-	Watercourse, small ravine.
<i>Ghee</i>	-	-	Refined butter.
<i>Godown</i>	-	-	Shed, small warehouse.
<i>Kai Kai</i>	-	-	To eat, particularly of human flesh.
<i>Kapolo</i>	-	-	Slave.
<i>Kerri</i>	-	-	Club.
<i>Kris</i>	-	-	Malay dagger.
<i>Kumbilumi</i>	-	-	Hunter.
<i>Lusaka</i>	-	-	Belts of thick tangled bush near rivers.
<i>Machilla</i>	-	-	Hammock, litter.
<i>Makuis</i>	-	-	Vultures.
<i>Mandui</i>	-	-	Ground nuts.
<i>Mapira</i>	-	-	Millet.
<i>Maranda</i> or <i>Mlandu</i>			Conference, argument, complaint, <i>e.g.</i> 'While I was having this maranda with Chimsakasa, Chifumbi came along and said he had a maranda' = 'While I was having this discussion with Chimsakasa, Chifumbi came along and said he had a complaint to make.'
<i>Mkokwis</i>	-	-	Grain bins.
<i>Mkwala</i>	-	-	Medicine, magic.

<i>Msasas</i>	-	-	Camps.
<i>Mtengi</i>	-	-	Grass shelter with open walls.
<i>Ndaba</i>	-	-	Argument, affair, racket.
<i>Nsalu</i>	-	-	Cloth, calico.
<i>Nsima</i>	-	-	PorrIDGE.
<i>Pombi</i>	-	-	Beer.
<i>Singa</i>	-	-	To grind.
<i>Skaram</i> or <i>Scherm</i>	-	-	Bush enclosure made round camp for protection from lions, etc.
<i>Skoff</i>	-	-	Food.
<i>Ufa</i>	-	-	Meal.
<i>Ulendo</i>	-	-	Caravan, force, trek.