

Tuckey, James Hingston

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^{Tuckey}
Expedition to explore the Zaire, usually called the Congo in 1876
under Capt^y Tuckey - to which is added the journal of Robinson Smith
& an appendix. — Murray 1878.



p. xxix. List of Officers & crew 49 in number
Superintending List 6
Natives 2

xxx. Instructions very minute; — they were picked for by Capt. Tuckey.
Signed by John Barrow

XLii. Never did an expedition start with better prospects of success
& never were the results more disastrous. — 18 persons died
in the short space of 3 months. 14 of these were of the land travelling

party, which numbered 30 in all — Yet the thermometer never
was lower than 60° at night & seldom above 76° in day. Very
dry weather, sun obscured. — It seems the greater number
died of venereal diseases of the most violent type but others were
killed by mere fatigue. Those on the Congo were allowed to run
on shore at liberty, lying at night in huts or in the open air — Black

XLiv women profligate — Tuckey writes from Yellala Aug. 20 after
an excursion of several days "the climate is so good & the
"night so pleasant, that we feel no inconvenience from our
"travelling in the open air". — The fever seemed contagious.

XLV. No symptoms — like yellow fever.

XLvi Bleeding was particularly unsuccessful. — but the negroes bleed
easily — The missionaries were bled excessively — one of them,
Carli, 97 times!

XLvii Biography of Tuckey

XLx. "Lieut. Hawley — He went the whole journey & returned quite well
& did not know the fever till at sea.

XLxi "Lieut. the writer.

XLxii "T. G. Maurice. — Hodder — & Lockhart (the gardener, who lived,

XLxiii "Smith, Cheloni of Norway, the boatman

XLxi. "Craack, an extraordinary self-lanching man.

XLxviii "Tudor — Galwey.

1. Left Deptford Feb 16th

91. "The precariousness of the sea breezes by which alone we could
get the Congo up the river."

100. Hammock sent by the chief — some resemblance to the native palanquin.

105. Man of the Chénos (chiefs) house.

106. "In no one shape whatever do they seem to have profited by the multitudes
"of missionaries that flocked to Congo in the 16th & 17th centuries."

108. The Chénos offered Tuckey the choice of all his daughters & the courtiers
as easily preferred their wives.

112. The price of a slave - 17 different items.
115. Graves excavated to a great depth, with boxes, very neatly, vertical sides.
116. Reached the island Booka Embamma Aug 3. (see sketch with canoe).
118. This is the winter of the country. Therm: in day seldom above 76° and at night where there are occasionally, not always, heavy dew falling to 60°. Sea breezes set in very irregularly from noon till 4 pm, from W to WSW. The natives feel the changes of temp: very severely, shivering with cold when the sea breezes set in.
119. Salt is the great object of trade. 7 lbs = 2 fathoms of blue cloth. The small money, a little mats of the leaf of the bamboo 18 inches square 20 of these = 1 foot.
- Name 'Zaire' unknown here, natives call the river "Moiengi engaddie" the great river or literally the river that absorbs all the lesser ones. but no tributaries there for
120. List of domestic animals. Sheep, lay-lared. 2000, a few dogs; black cattle are not taken care of but seen very plentiful in the country. Fowls. numerous ducks, list of wild animals. - few elephants, buffaloes, antelope & very few mosquitoes - no common flies.
121. The ceremony of blowing a bargain is breaking a leaf.
122. is the description of the 'double boats' which used. Each boat was 35 ft. long & six feet broad. screwed together with a connecting platform & a canopy fitted to keep off sun & rain - held 20 to 30 men. He had 2 of these & several smaller ones. - They were carried by the Dorsetty transport.
125. Moored the 'Congo' near Embamma Aug 15. left 2 African & 15 men & took the rest in the boats up the river (Thurs to calendar month between England & starting point) -
133. The boats had sails.
134. At Cordo Sono (about 10 miles below where the river becomes very narrow) the European slave dealers formerly transacted their business. but there is not now a single hut.
135. Current swifter, hills more barren, very few inhabitants. Pays a visit to Noki a most fatiguing scramble of 2 hours. Interview with the Chono 2 guides granted to Cataract.
138. A slave merchant takes them back a better way.
139. Women most 'Oshakitan' Hills extremely barren - slate with masses of quartz & granite - the latter became the main formation.
141. "From the very little slave provisions the natives seem to have at this season, I do not think it would be feasible to procure daily subsistence for 50 men in passing through the country."
142. Most tedious huckstering in selling things.

143. Aug 12 River becomes very rapid. - vortices, forming suddenly which swept the sloop round & round in spite of her oars & sails - these last but ~~an instant~~ ^{few moments} with considerable noise & turbulence as quickly. The punt got out one of them & entirely dispropor- so that the depth of the vortex must have been 3 or 4 feet. - The schooner got off, with a strong breeze.
145. Went in boats to Casan Yellala - river $\frac{1}{2}$ miles = ^{875 yds} ~~3520 feet~~ a bar of rocks stretched $\frac{2}{3}$ across, the current breaking furiously in it a smooth strong current in the remainder (292 yards)
146. ~~Boat~~ ^{Boat} could be got past but dangerous shores, steep overhanging rocks, landed. Aug 14. Started to explore by land 4 officers 13 men 2 interpreters a guide & 4 days provision At Banza Cooloo Saw Yellala. it lay almost under their feet, it was no Niagara as the natives description had made them expect but "a comparatively
147. "brook babbling over its stony bed" - The river runs between granite cliffs a island of slate in the middle & breaks the current into 2 narrow channels. The river runs with great fury over the South channel but the north is nearly dry & is composed of great masses of slate with perpendicular fissures. - In the rainy season the water rises 12 feet & must cover all except the summit of the island
148. The idea it gives is that the quantity of water that flows over it by no means equals the volume of the river below. but he knows there is not a single tributary stream large enough to turn a mill. J. Smith suggests subterranean communication
151. Air very dry, most jerks in a few hours & botanical plants are fit for picking in a day. Aug 16 got another view of the river, violent foaming current $\frac{1}{2}$ mile broad, judging by the eye. 12 or 14 miles above Tallala.
152. Returned hence to boats. Mr. Tudor in a violent fever - carried in blankets.
155. Very little spring water along route.
156. None for the banks of the river do not afford a single tree - timber tree capable of making a beam or timber for a sloop of war. The only large trees are the Adansonia & Baobab whose wood is shaggy
158. The largest town in Cooloo 300 souls of whom 200 are women including
159. Boundaries of Congo.
164. Total ignorance of neighbourhood among natives due to indolence & to the stoppage of traffic by constant war.
165. Could not find a slave trader who knew to any distance.
166. Aug 20. Sent 2 parties each 1 officer & eight men with provision to form a depot at Cooloo.

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170 Aug 22 started from Corlo for the land journey

171. Interpreter, ^{Simmons} ran away (roamen), used a man in his place whom he had picked up at Simbomma.

172 Beyond Manzy saw a few perfectly straight trees 80 & 100 ft high & 13 inches diameter nearly as dense as & not unlike oak. These were the first useful trees seen.

173. Buffalo.

174 Aug 24 reached Iuga. - & the Chenoo is under the Benzey N' Congo who ^{clears 10 days to the NW.}

177 a good deal of licium vitor here. Blacksmithing, 2 skin bags to be seen.

178. A flock of 20 or 30 goats - reaches river at Mavonda. Boaya ^{200 to 300 good goats} an native spoke of a large sandy island 10 days by canoe up stream. which divides the river, in the NE branch there is a fall but canoes can easily get over it, that 20 days from the island the river flows by

179 many small streams from a great marsh or lake of mud. having thus ascertained the river to be navigable, he sent back men & porters to Corlo to bring up the provisions & presents. Aug 24. Some little information about articles of exchange. The fastest in beads varies from day to day.

182 Saw a slave merchant going into the interior. could give no information - He said that these merchants do not wish Europeans to penetrate & interfere.

183. The river begins to rise a month before the rains, that is, immediately after the season of showers has set in - ^{Returned to Iuga Aug 25.}

184. Aug 26 visited the river. Saw 3 falls ^{in 3 or 4 miles, by a course,} the highest Songa Yellala

185 again met the slave dealer - Some remarks on the slave trade.

191 Aug 28 leave Iuga & ^{up the} ~~journey~~ ^{up the} ~~river~~ ^{river} ~~onwards~~ ^{onwards} - Gets at night to Sangalla perhaps 10 miles above Mavonda where the river is crossed by a great ledge of slate rocks leaving only a passage close to the foot of the hill on L. bank about 50 yards wide through which the river runs at least 8 miles an hour with whirlpools fatal to canoes. About 2 miles above there is a fall. Camped in discomfort, soaked through with perspiration. Hears of another Sangalla 2 days higher up.

195 Aug 29th got back late to Iuga. - Convinced of the total impracticability of penetrating with any number of men by land, along the sides of the river, both on account from the nature of the country & impossibility of procuring provisions.

196 History of Congo. Once a mighty empire, divided among 3 sons. The one the upper part of the river above Sangalla, the 2nd the left bank of the river (the Blandey N' Congo) and the third the right bank, (the Benzey N' Congo)

187. The scarcity of food at this time is extreme. The people eat nothing but manioc and a very few green plantains. Also a bitter root which requires 4 days boiling to make it palatable.
189. The canoes are made for up the country - it occupies a man 3 months to make one, but they are not dear.
- 200 Aug 31. Hawky returns, unable to buy a single canoe - sent back 15 men, being unable to feed them at Costoo.
201. Sept 1. This day for the first time observed that the river had begun to rise. Dry season April to Septⁿ inclusion - The first rains fall in light showers, once or twice in the 24 hours, commence the latter end of Sept^r & continue to middle of Oct. at this time, the women prepare the ground for planting. The 2^d rains begin in Nov^r & end in Jan^y, very heavy, great heat but few tornadoes. They now plant Indian corn which ripens in 3 months. The 3^d rains continue during Feb^r - March very heavy, violent tornadoes & storms of thunder & lightning.
202. Sep. 2. Set off on journey from Inga.
- 203 Reached out of the tent into the wet grass by a swarm of ants.
- Sept 3 Met a slave canoe going to Simboma 30 men, & with much, the boat loaded with cassava & ground nuts. Reached the upper Sangalla, a ledge running right across the river. The river now makes an elbow & greatly expands - the river is left rugged.
- 204 Many *hiphopotami* at Condo Yanga.
 "This point of the river is the place of all others to set out from
 "in an expedition to explore the course of the river; the creek offering
 "a very fine place for boats, and the strand being an excellent spot
 "for an encampment"
205. Nagged with the porters - river expands here to 3 miles in width population more considerable. Provision more plentiful. Fish very plentiful, many parrots & dogs.
- 208 alligators plentiful & frequently carry off the women. Minute division of property. 3 or 4 people have actually a goat even a fowl has usually 2 owners.
209. Part in canoes part on foot. The canoes were stopped awhile by the *hiphopotami*. The river was for the first time bore a majestic appearance anchored at Coonda a fine bay. Many alligators.
- Sept 7. The river rose 3 inches in the night. Total rise by the rocks, 1 1/2 inches. - Women brought lime, beautiful & conical marble pencils.
- 210
211. Great trouble with the canoe men, a canoe was broken.
213. Sept 13 read Masoondy & halted where the river was 4 to 5 miles wide.

b)

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214. Wind always from the westward inclining up the reaches so that there is always a free & leading wind, yet the natives have no notion of sails. Indeed the waves make water inland as limited as that by land.
216. Sept 9 Reached ^{long} Vookey fison, & slept at head of a deep reach called Soondy N'Sanga. furthest point except that the party walked to the top of a hill & saw 3 miles ahead water clear of rocks & "according to the information of all the people, there is no impediment whatever, as far as they know, above this place"
217. Sept 10. Returned by land, except 1 sick man in a canoe.
219. Sept 11. Got 2 canoes - river rises about 6 inches a day. the canoes are said to work on it in the rainy season. Total rise as marked by rocks 11 feet. Temperature of river decreased from 77° to 74° .
- Sept 12 got to Condo Zanga. ^(deep rocks) many things stolen.
220. Sept 13 The Mangos Inzoma hill close by is the transition between the mica & the clay slate. Arrived at Inga. Shocked at hearing of sickness & death on board the Congo.
221. Sept 14. Terrible march worse than the retreat from
222. Motow - Reached Cooloo at 5 - Hospitable people. Sept 15 reached river at Eleven - Seized canoes
223. Sept 16 reached the Congo. "Terrible report of the loss on board - coffins. - - -"

Therefore he got back in 6 days travel, from his furthest point to where the Congo was moored.

Extraordinary quick rise of the river shows it I think to come from some lake which has received almost the whole of its water from the north of the line.

Commencement of its rise first observed Sept 1 on Sept 17 it had risen 7 feet, but its velocity was not ^{at all} increased

224. "Hypothesis confirmed. The water - - -" (nothing further)

Sept 18 reached the transport - greatest appearance of abundance.

225. Canoes made of bonibax

Flocks of flamingoes going to the south denote the approach of the rains

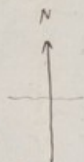
End of Capt Tucker's notes.

- 284 The double boats were soon found to be excellent sailing vessels,
 316 The fall of Yallalla - "a pond of water only, with a small fall of
 317 a few hundred yards!" - Yallalla is in the line of the greatest
 shortness of the mountains.
 328. The length of the rapids is perhaps ~~2~~ 20 miles.
 333 Editor speaks in a note of the vagueness of Prof. Smith's geography.
 336 They turn back. (note, cease.)

General observations

339. The distance at which the narrows commence is about ^{English} 140 miles,
 from the mouth at Point Padron & they continue as far as Inga
 a 40 miles west, the width of the river being from 300 to 500 yards &
 in most parts bristled with rocks.
 340. On the probable subterranean course of the river along the narrows.
 342 Tucker's lastest was about 100 miles beyond Inga
 343. One of notes shows it to be derived from N of the Equator. For between
 Sep 1 - Sep 17 it rose 7 feet while its highest rise was only
 11 feet - Alludes to the "hypothesis confirmed"
 349. Suggested means for further exploration of the Zaire take a dozen
 after a week by sea to Imbumba & thence direct over land to
 Condo Yanga (say 90 miles direct), buy $\frac{1}{2}$ dozen canoes, make
 them into double boats & sail up (after a while!)
 (Q? make a depot of the after in at Condo Yanga.)
 355 Meteorological table.
 Temp of river from mouth to Imbumba almost invariably 76°.
 356 domestic plants
 357 domestic animals - remarkably few grazing & noxious insects.
 361. Their huts are portable & very cheap.
 363. A common size for the canoe is 24 feet long 18 to 20 inches wide,
 are made out of the boardwalk tree & are paddled.
 384 The "school of missionaries" & ~~the~~ have left no trace behind.





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