

WILEY



---

A Journey from Fort Jameson to the Kafue River

Author(s): C. P. Chesnaye

Source: *The Geographical Journal*, Jan., 1901, Vol. 17, No. 1 (Jan., 1901), pp. 42-48

Published by: The Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers)

Stable URL: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/1775852>

---

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at <https://about.jstor.org/terms>



Wiley and *The Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers)* are collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *The Geographical Journal*

JSTOR

they were temporarily disabled. Turning in a somewhat different direction, however, by means of ropes the largest glacier was ascended for 500 feet, and a series of photographs was taken of the ice-caverns and crevasses. The lowest point of the largest glacier on Ruwenzori, on the eastern side of the mountain, is 13,200 feet in altitude. Snow was found lying as low as 13,000 feet, and permanent snow was reached at 13,500 feet. A large botanical collection was made, and photographs were taken of the more remarkable forms of vegetation, which include two species of giant lobelia, a tree-heath growing to 50 feet, and the tree groundsel, which was discovered by Sir H. Johnston in 1884 on the upper parts of Kilimanjaro. Collections in zoology made on the mountain in this vicinity will probably result in at least one new species of monkey, a new hyrax, a new antelope, and a number of birds, reptiles, and insects new to science.

The Bantu dialects spoken by the natives of the upper parts of Ruwenzori and in the adjacent forests, were found to be of the greatest interest as throwing light on the origin of the Bantu languages.

Sir H. Johnston, after a further term of residence in the kingdom of Uganda, will proceed at the beginning of next year to visit the northern and eastern parts of the Protectorate.

---

## A JOURNEY FROM FORT JAMESON TO THE KAFUE RIVER.\*

By C. P. CHESNAYE.

ACCORDING to instructions received, I left Fort Jameson on May 3, 1900, accompanied by Mr. M. Holland, of the Tanganyika Concessions Company, and Mr. Lyons, Assistant Collector, who was at the time under instructions to proceed to take charge of the Luapula District. Crossing the Loangwa Valley, we arrived on May 10 at the foot of the Machinga Range. A stiff and difficult ascent brought us to Hoste's Camp, the former head-quarters of the Rhodesian Concession Company, and apparently the highest point of this portion of the range, being approximately about 5000 feet above sea-level. Here a beautiful panorama spread itself; to the north the country is undulating and covered with belts of thick bush, with broken granite kopjes showing themselves here and there above the trees, and to the south, east, and west the valley of the Loangwa, with the Angoni plateau as a background, could be followed for an immense distance.

We reached Serenje, the present Administrative post for the West Loanga district, on May 12. This station, in charge of Mr. Kennelly, is built on a spur, horseshoe in shape, and commands the country on

---

\* Report to Mr. Codrington, Deputy Administrator, Northern Rhodesia.

the north, east, and west, being especially chosen in order to watch the main routes through that part of the country. On one shoulder of this spur are the "Boma" or Government offices, the Native Commissioner's dwelling and outhouses, and on the other the Police Barracks. The usual temporary buildings of wattle and daub have been erected, but more substantially and tastefully arranged than one might have expected. Owing to the elevation of this station, almost 500 feet above sea-level, it is healthy, without doubt. We found it extremely cold there at this time of the year. The surrounding country has rather a weird aspect, owing to the method employed by the natives in growing their crops. The trees have been cut down and the wood collected into heaps and burned; and on these burnt portions "malezi" (millet) has been sown. This method is employed to enrich the soil by the potash deposited. It entails less work than the ordinary method of cultivation. Serenje, the paramount chief of the Walala people, lives within a mile of the "Boma," and is an extremely old and feeble man, apparently not in possession of all his faculties. Here a difference of dialect was perceptible, resembling Kimambwe.

Starting from Serenje, we proceeded in a north-westerly direction, and ascended a rocky ridge, crossed by a deep and broken ravine, arriving at Sala's village (Walala) at midday. Leaving this place, and traversing an undulating, wooded country, well watered, we camped at the Katunga stream, where we slept. Next morning we again passed through a country similar to that traversed on the previous day, and passed through several villages, the principal of which was Mchinka's, a large stockaded village, close to a rapid-flowing stream. Food and water were plentiful, but we found a few villages deserted, probably owing to their having heard of the approach of white men. A notable fact was the large quantity of tobacco grown around this portion of the country. Passing Ndewa's village, we arrived at Kafakula village. The country here became rather swampy, and the belts of bush denser. We were in the country inhabited by the Wabisa of Kambwiri's (the paramount chief of the Wabisa living on the left bank of the Loangwa). Leaving Kafakula village, and passing Cherawaka's, a small village on the Kasanta river, we arrived at Mchinda's village on the Munti river. There was no water between Cherawaka's and Mchinda's villages, the country between these two villages—a distance of 10 miles—being thickly wooded and uninhabited. At Mchinda's a good supply of food can be obtained, but the people, we found, were very timid and distrustful. Both the Kasanta and Munti rivers are streams of considerable size, and are crossed by rough native bridges consisting of felled trees interlaced by bamboos. A guide was essential for the latter part of this journey, owing to the network of paths leading to the several villages on the banks of the Munti. From Mchinda's we came to Mlela's village; crossing the Luambwa, a stream of some size, we

arrived at the Lusangashi river, more of a swampy nature, full of reeds, and very deep. Crossing the Lusangashi, we passed Chisengi, a large village, and slept at Mborewa's. Here the inhabitants were of the Walala race. Leaving Mborewa's, we traversed a long wooded spur, but without water until a small stream called the Nkanpongo was reached, to the north of which a high hill, also called Nkanpongo, rising 600 to 700 feet, was to be seen. Leaving Nkanpongo stream, about 5 miles farther we crossed a fast, shallow stream, the name of which I was unable to ascertain, and arrived after some distance opposite to Nyampara's village, situated some distance from the path. Here the native path makes an abrupt turn to the south, and crosses the Koatazi swamp, which was about 150 yards wide. The country between Mborewa's and Nyampara's is uninhabited and thickly wooded, and much fresh spoor of elephant was seen. Next morning, May 20, we arrived at the villages of Chombera, a chief of some importance. These villages are the border villages of the Walala and Walamba, Chombera himself being a Walala.

Here it was apparent to me that we were going too much to the westward and were south of the Luapula, and were already possibly within the Congo Free State. From information received here, I found that Chewalla's, my objective, was situated on the Kafu, more commonly known as the Kafue or Kafukwe, which I was aware lay in British territory, and that I should be obliged to traverse the bend of the Congo Free State territory to reach it. Having already travelled a considerable distance, and it being important that I should reach Chewalla's, I determined to push on although it left me a very small margin of time to return to Fort Jameson at the date stipulated by you, *i.e.* the middle of June. After leaving Chombera's we crossed the Lundi, Fulungani, and Nyangashi rivers, all considerable streams. The country traversed was thickly wooded and populated, the people being of the Walamba race, the principal village of which was Serenje's. It is a little confusing that the paramount chiefs of both the Walala and Walamba tribes should bear the same name.

The Walamba appeared to be strikingly superior in physique to their neighbours, the Walala, and, in fact, on first appearance to either the Angoni or Wabisa. They also appeared to be friendly and willing to work. From information gathered from Serenje, the Alamba country is bounded as follows:—On the north by the Luapula river; south by the Nika river; east by the Nyangashi river, and to the west by the Kaboshi river. The following are the names of their head chiefs:—Serenje, Kabola, Chikoloma, and Mshiri. After leaving these Walamba villages we traversed a tract of 26 miles of uninhabited forest country to Kavalo, a small village, though marked prominently in most maps. This uninhabited forest country was intersected by "dambos" or "vleys" from 300 to 400 yards wide, covered with long grass, with



water from 1 to 2 feet in the middle. Winding in and out of the belts of forest, these "dambos" could be followed for miles, their general direction being from south to north. They are, without doubt, the feeders of the many streams and rivers running into the Luapula. The open space in this forest country was covered with numberless white ant-heaps, conical in shape, very rarely more than a foot to a foot and a half in height. At Kavalo's I was informed we could reach Chewalla's in about four to five hours' march, which would be approximately 12 miles distant.

Chewalla's village is situated about 12 miles due west of Kavalo's, on the right bank of the Kafu, about 12 miles from its source, its position being about 29 E. long. by 13 S. lat. The village itself consists of about 150 to 200 huts, surrounded by a stockade by no means formidable, and differs essentially from the ordinary native ones in two respects, firstly, the huts are built rectangular, with windows and courtyards; and, secondly, there is an attempt at dividing the village into streets. The inhabitants are Swahili, ordinary natives, and cross breeds. The Swahili are distinguishable by their white clothing and caps. There is domestic slavery, without doubt, in existence here. Large quantities of rice are grown on the banks of the Kafu, and the people have a well-fed and prosperous appearance. In view of the friendly attitude of Chewalla's, I decided to allow Mr. Lyons to proceed to the Luapula district, and he left on the 24th inst.

Mr. Lyons reported to me later that, after leaving Chewalla's, he struck the Luapula river after travelling 61 miles in a north-easterly direction. He crossed at the village of Makoma in Chinama's country, where the river was about 400 yards wide and over 40 feet deep in mid-stream. The banks are clear, and have no marshy approach. From Makoma he travelled 27 miles to Meri-Meri's. On Meri-Meri being informed that an Administrative official had come to reside in his country he expressed great pleasure, saying he was always in dread of being raided by unscrupulous traders. He had, however, no complaints to make. Mr Lyons went on from Meri-Meri, some 50 miles, to Kalasa, from which place he reported to me that there were, so far as he could learn, no complaints against any of the Europeans trading in the Luapula district. Mr. Lyons describes the Luapula district, so far as he had seen it, as thickly populated. The villages are not large, but small groups of houses are scattered all over the country.

The Ba-Usi people are shy, but perfectly friendly. They have no cattle, but a few goats and a large number of fowls. Their crops are manioc, malezi, and sweet potatoes. In all the rivers an inexhaustible supply of fish provides the principal article of diet. On the Luapula large flotillas of canoes are always to be seen fishing, and hunting the hippopotamus. Crocodiles infest every stream and river, and it is unsafe to cross the smallest except in canoes. The country is gently

undulating, and water lies in almost every open plain. The timber is small and of recent growth, seldom more than 20 feet high.

Shortly after my departure, Mr. Kennelly made a rapid journey some 86 miles to the west of Chewalla's, passing through a very heavily timbered and well-watered country, generally level until near the Luenje, where there is a stretch of low granite hills. He struck the Kamjintse river 12 miles from Chewalla's, and followed its course for about 18 miles. This stream, which is of no great width, but of considerable volume, flows into the Luenje. The Luenje, or Kafue, at the point where Mr. Kennelly crossed it, is a splendid river, from 70 to 80 yards across. The banks are low, and lined with a fringe of splendid trees. The stream was about 14 feet deep. Bark boats were found there, which were quite serviceable. The bark is stripped off very large trees and the ends drawn together and pinned, leaks being stopped with clay.

From the Luenje to the Mwambezi river, about 34 miles southwest, the country is very flat; and Mr. Kennelly describes the timber as the heaviest he has seen in this country. Swamps are larger and more often met with than between Chewalla's and Serenje. The first signs of actual habitation met with was at Mwengo's on the Mwambezi river, although a great number of old villages were passed through, the former inhabitants of which have been harried by Chewalla, Chinama, and various black Arabs, who until lately infested the Luapula valley. The Mabunda people living along the Mumbeji river are said, even now, to carry their raiding expeditions in this direction. These people, the Walamba, are of splendid physique, shy, and harmless. They live scattered in the depths of the forest, far away from their gardens. Even the footpaths leading to their huts are concealed as much as possible, and the difficulty of finding them out for the purposes of procuring supplies for the caravan was considerable. Game, large and small, is plentiful; the hippopotamus infests the rivers. Elephants are not numerous, having been driven off by native hunters from the Luapula. Mr. Kennelly remarks that the name "Kafue," or "Kavu," is given by natives to all rivers of any size in which the hippopotamus abounds. In every case where a river was so called, he found on inquiry that there was a special and local name.

On May 25, accompanied by Mr. Holland, I started on my return journey for Serenje Boma, *en route* for Fort Jameson. From Chewalla's we went by the main path to Kavalo's, our previous route having been for the greater part across country, as before stated. About 8 miles on from Chewalla's along a thickly wooded portion of the road we came on what appeared an immense hole, with almost precipitous sides, 150 feet deep, with water at the bottom. The water was of a dark blue or green colour, and must have been extremely deep, probably fed by a subterranean stream. Whilst gazing at this beautiful spectacle, our

natives drew our attention to a crocodile sleeping on the surface. This was very curious, in view of there being no river within 8 miles. This place was also visited by Mr. Kennelly, who explored it thoroughly. He describes it as the crater of an extinct volcano, lying at a slight elevation between two "dambos" or "vleys." The upper rim is almost a perfect circle, with a slight lip-like break on the eastern side. The diameter is just 300 yards, a conclusion which Mr. Kennelly arrived at by finding the range of a mark on the opposite side with his rifle. A pool of water of a dark greenish colour lies about 150 feet below the rim, oval in shape, and some 250 by 180 yards. The depth must be very great. Mr. Kennelly exploded four charges of dynamite in the pool, well away from the sides, but nothing came to the surface, and he is of the opinion there are no fish in it. The water is fair, but slightly brackish. There was nothing to indicate that the water altered its level at all during the seasons, except a very faint line 2 inches above the present level. The native name for the crater is Chilengwe. They have a superstitious horror of the place, and did all they could to dissuade Mr. Kennelly from going down to the water, assuring him that there was a large snake there. The only possible way down was by means of the lip-like break in the rim, and it was certainly a rather dangerous descent.

On our return journey to Serenje we followed our previous route, and arrived there on the 2nd inst. without any incident worthy of record. One noticeable fact was, the natives at the several villages along the road did not appear so timid: on our return journey we did not find any villages deserted.

---

## ON THE MAP OF KING OSCAR FJORD AND KAISER FRANZ JOSEF FJORD IN NORTH-EASTERN GREENLAND.\*

By Dr. A. G. NATHORST.

As I have already stated in my preliminary note on the Swedish expedition to North-East Greenland, 1899,† published in this *Journal*, the chief geographical result was the discovery of King Oscar fjord and the mapping of the extensive fjord-system connected with it, together with that of Kaiser Franz Josef fjord, which was then visited for the first time since its discovery in 1870, the whole being thoroughly mapped on the scale of 1 : 200,000. While referring the reader to the above-mentioned note, as also to the detailed account in *Ymer*,‡ let me

---

\* Maps, p. 104.

† A. G. Nathorst, "The Swedish East Greenland Expedition," *Geographical Journal*, November, 1899, p. 534.

‡ A. G. Nathorst, "Den Svenska Expeditionen till nordöstra Grönland, 1899," *Ymer*, 1900, p. 115, with map on the scale of 1 : 500,000.