

The Arabs are ^{the} cause of most of the trouble in Africa. They are the ones who are carrying on the slave trade and fighting all who are opposed to it. Next to rum, and perhaps exceeding even that vile stuff in its consequences, the slave trade as carried on by the Arabs, is the curse of Africa - For a long time the Soudan was the seat of this trade but gradually it has been extended until now even the Congo Free State bear evidence of the invasion - Perhaps you will ask, why do the Arabs make slaves of the natives? For what purpose are they enslaved? - The center of Africa is rich in Ivory - Tusks by the thousands can be bought for little money - and when once brought to the Market can be sold at prices that give immense returns. But how to get the tusks to the sea coast - To hire laborers would take much of the profit off of the sales - The Arab is a splendid trader and gets his ivory very cheap, and he greed for gain forbids him to part with the profits unless it is absolutely necessary. The Arab has no heart and as he looks around on the thousands of natives living along the coast he has come from the sea coast, he says why not enslave them: Why not by force of arms compel them to carry their ivory to the coast. I can feed them on little or nothing and thus make all the more on my ivory - and this thought followed by immediate execution - Let me give to you an instance or two of Arab work and cruelty

Sir Samuel Baker describes a slave raid as follows
 "On arriving at the desired locality the (slave hunter) party dis-
 -embark and proceed into the interior, until they arrive at the
 village of some negro chief, with whom they establish an intimacy.
 Charmed with his new friends, the power of whose weapons he
 acknowledges, the Negro chief does not neglect the opportunity of securing
 their alliance to attack a hostile neighbor. Marching throughout the
 night, guided by their negro hosts, they bivouac within an hours
 march of the unsuspecting village doomed to an attack about
 half an hour before the break of day. The time arrives, and
 quietly surrounding the village while its occupants are ^{fast} sleeping
 they fire the grass huts in all directions, and pour volleys of
 musketry through the flaming hatch. Panic stricken, the
 unfortunate victims push from their burning dwellings and
 the men are shot down like pheasants in a battle; while
 the women and children bewildered in the danger and
 confusion, are kidnaped and secured. They are then fastened
 together, the former secured in an instrument called a
Shiba, made of a forked pole, the neck of the prisoner fitting
 into the fork, secured by a cross piece lashed behind, while
 the wrists, brought together in front of the body are tied
 to the pole. The children are then fastened by their necks with
 a rope attached to the women, and thus form a living
 chain, in which order they are marched to headquarters
 in company with the captured herds" The men are mostly
 killed in their attempt to defend their homes and families
 the women and children are made slaves - you can
 readily imagine what a price in blood is paid for each slave

But if you are not too tired let me quote from one or two Authors, more, to open your eyes to what is going on in Africa - ^{and} which thing is spreading even to this part of the Country ^{and} threatens to be a serious drawback to missionary work and a menace to the life and property of the Missionaries - Unless a stop is put to the nefarious Trade and the Arab taught to behave himself - Personally, we would like to see the United States the possessor of the Congo Free State. But to resume Cardinal Lavignerie, is quoted as saying of the slaves captured - "They march all day; at night, when they stop to rest, a few handfuls of raw sorgho are distributed among the Captives. This is all their food. Next morning they must start again. But after the first day or two the fatigue, the sufferings, and the privations have weakened a great many, the women and the aged are the first to halt. Then, in order to strike terror into this miserable mass of human beings, their conductors armed with a wooden bar to economize powder, approach those who appear to be the most exhausted, and deal them a terrible blow on the nape of the neck. The unfortunate victims utter a cry, and fall to the ground in the convulsions of death. The terrified troop immediately resumes its march. Terror has imbued even the bravest with new strength - Each time some one breaks down the same horrible scene is repeated - - - : The traffickers in human flesh have acquired by experience a knowledge of how much their victims can endure. A glance shows them those who will soon sink from weariness; then to economize the scanty food which they distribute, they pass behind these wretched beings and fall them with a single blow. Their corpses remain where they fall, when they are not surrounded on the branches of the neighbouring trees - - -"

Another quotation, this time from Stanley's work -

"We discovered that this horde of banditti - for in reality and without disguise they were nothing else - was under the leadership of several chiefs - - - - -

For eleven months the band had been raiding successfully between the Congo and the Lubirangi, on the left bank they had then undertaken to perform the same cruel work between the Biyere and Nane Kirunda. On looking at my map I find that the area described would be equal to 34,570 square miles, just 2,000 square miles greater than the island of Ireland, and is inhabited by about one million of people - - - - -

The slave traders admit that they have only 2,300 captives in this food, yet they have raided through the length and breadth of a country larger than Ireland bearing fire and spreading carnage with lead and iron. Both banks of the river show that 118 villages and forty three districts have been devastated, out of which is only educed this scant profit of 2,300 females and children and about 2000 tusks of Ivory - - -

Given that these 118 villages were peopled only by 1000 each, we have slain 11,800 and only a profit of two per cent. By the time all these captives have been subjected to the accidents of the river voyages to Kirunda and Nyangwe, of Camp life and its harsh miseries, to the havoc of small pox, and the pest which miseries breed, there will only remain a scant one per cent. upon the bloody venture!" ~~What~~ - - - - -

What Stanley goes on to write, "What was the cause of all this vast sacrifice of human life? of all this unspeakable misery?"

Nothing but the indulgence of an old Arab's 'Wolfish, bloody, starved, and ravenous instincts.' He wished to obtain slaves to barter profitably away to other Arabs, and having weapons, guns, and gunpowder enough, he placed them in the hands of three hundred slaves, and despatched them to commit murder wholesale, just as an English Nobleman would put guns in the hands of his guests, and permit them to slaughter the game upon his estate." —

Such is the Arab - Such his work - Here the other Curse Rum. Between the two the poor African Native stands a small chance - America, England - Germany sending us rum and gin - the Arab - carrying on his nefarious slave trade - Who shall say that the Arab's mode of enslaving is worse than that of America or Europe? I could quote you some reliable authors, stories that about the liquor traffic with Africa that would almost put in the back ground the stories I have quoted above of the slave traffic - What are we as Americans to do in the matter? Can we hold ourselves guiltless when we are monthly pouring into Africa a stream of intoxicating liquor, the size of which would surprise you, if you could see it? What is your duty? Do you look with honor on the Arab? - Do you despise him for his work? — — — — —

Before I close this letter I must give you a short history of this station. Leopoldville proper perhaps means to the outside world the Belgian State Station. The mission at which we are stopping is at Leopoldville but is known as Dr Sims Station and is situated about half a mile from the State Station. In 1883 Dr Sims, of the Livingstone Inland Mission, reached the upper river, and having procured from Mr Stanley this piece of land, founded the station now bearing his name (Subsequently this property passed into the hands of the A.B.M.U. as well as all other property and rights owned by the L.I.M.) It is situated at the head of the Livingstone falls - on the Congo River - At this point the river, the upper river - begins to be again navigable - Matadi is at the foot of the "falls". Leopoldville at the head. There are at present at Dr Sims station 13 houses including his own - this also includes 4 store houses - 1 Brick Church - 1 Pharmacy and Hospital combined and two cook houses - Home made brick are manufactured here successfully - All hand made - The grounds are laid out in broad paths, or rather avenues, lined with Pineapple plants and ~~Guava~~ Mango trees and juicy shrubs. My wife and I walked down one of these avenues this afternoon and came across numerous tracks freshly made, which by their shape and deepness in the soil showed that they were made by Hippopotamus. The foot prints were 6 to 8 inches diameter - we made tracks too but not so large - and they pointed towards the

mission Station, we have seen our first
 "Hippo" sporting in the pool opposite here and
 certainly are not prepossessed with them. What
 ungainly creatures, to be sure - The natives are
 very fond of them as food and go almost
 wild with delight when one is killed. ~~and~~
 They are not at all particular as to whether it
 is fresh or not - Last week you could smell
 "Hippo" meat all over the place - The English
 might call it "high" I wished it was higher.

At this writing the "war" fever has somewhat
 cooled down and we are in hopes that the
 Arabs will remain away -

March 29 - Have just heard of a big fight
 had with the Arabs up the Kassai river -
 hundreds killed - One boat returned -

Have again heard that all the boats would
 be impressed into service -

D. W. Snyder -