

CHAPTER XXXI.

João's Settlement.—His Official Position.—Openly trading in Slaves.—Bad Specimen of the White Man.—A Fetich-man.—Fortune-telling.—Charms.—Infallible Cures.—Arms for Kasongo.—Probable Result.—Belmont.—Miserable Work.—Buffalo Herd.—Opposition by Bihé People.—Civility of the Chiefs.—The Kutato.—An Extraordinary River.—Dangerous Crossing.—Subterranean Streams.—Run- gi.—Suspected of the Evil Eye.—A Fetich-man declares Me free.—Untrustworthy Postmen.—Making and mending Clothes.—A Portuguese in Pawn.—A Festival.—Drink and Debauchery.—A Superior Chief.—Rheumatism.—A Glimpse of Paradise.—Visit to King Kongo.—Housed and fed by the Prime Minister's Wife.—The King's own Hut.—His Dress.—Strongly Guarded.—A Drunken Conference.—Pounding Corn.—My Beard excites Curiosity.—Hungry Times.—Caterpillars a Delicacy.

October,
1875.

Bidding adieu to Senhor Gonçalves, who expressed many kindly wishes for my success, we crossed some open prairie country, apparently admirably adapted for growing wheat, and reached the settlement of João Baptista Ferreira.

It was a complete contrast to the one we had just left, being only a shade better than that of Alvez; but João accorded me a thoroughly hearty welcome, and I was not slow to appreciate his kindness. The men whom I had left at Komananté were here awaiting my arrival, and I immediately gave them some of the cloth I had obtained, so that they might clothe themselves for entry into Benguela, and the remainder I served out to procure rations for the journey to the coast.

João was the white trader of whom I had heard as having been to Kasongo's country, and he was preparing for another journey thither, for since his return from Urua he had paid a visit to Jenjé, and exchanged the slaves he obtained from Kasongo for ivory.

At Jenjé he met an Englishman whom he called George, and became most friendly with him. He had received from him a rifle and compass as tokens of amity.

From Jenjé he brought a riding-bullock, and from Benguela

Example 1: V.L. Cameron, *Across Africa* (New York, 1877), pp. 402-403.

There are a number of important pieces of information contained within this short extract from Cameron's book. A precis is provided below, and following that an example of how this information might be extracted for use in the database.

In October 1875 (helpful marked in the margin), Cameron was on the final leg of his transcontinental journey. At this point he is in Bihe, on the Ovimbundu plateau in what is now Angola. Cameron makes mention of three traders; [Guilhermé] Gonçalves; [José Antonio] Alvez and João Baptista Ferreira, the primary subject of this extract. Some of the information Cameron provides on these figures would be extracted and added to other data on traders. The part of interest for the purposes of this example is that which describes a trading circuit.

Ferreira, we learn, had recently returned from a trading expedition to the 'Urua' and its then ruler, Kasongo. 'Urua', we know, is the Luba country. He had also been to 'Jenjé', where he met an 'Englishman' called 'George'. 'Jenjé', we know, refers to the Lozi country on the Upper Zambezi. The George referred to is either George Westbeech, a major trader in the south of the Lozi country; George Blockley, who was Westbeech's trading partner; or George Dorehill, who was in that region as part of a hunting party in June 1875. Whoever it may have been, and it was almost certainly Westbeech, the point remains that this is a positive identification of 'Jenjé' as the Lozi country.

Ferreira had exchanged slaves, acquired from Kasongo, for ivory in the Lozi country. These slaves he purchased with guns, reporting that it was pointless seeking ivory in the Luba country when it could be had much cheaper in the Lozi country. (This route, and others, are, represented by Map 2.)

a donkey, both of which knew him well, and would follow him like dogs, which I accepted as a proof that there must have been some good in João's nature. Indeed, I must acknowledge that to me and mine he showed great kindness, and I wish I were not compelled, in the interests of Africa, to make any allusion to the dark side of his character. But "*Fais ce que dois, advienne que pourra.*" I am constrained to declare that he was any thing but the right kind of man to create a good impression by trading in Africa. He was openly engaged in the slave-traffic, notwithstanding his holding a commission from the Portuguese Government as a district judge, and slaves in chains were to be seen in his settlement.

With my experience of the manner in which slaves are obtained, I could not but feel pained that white men who could thus disregard the feelings of fellow-creatures should be among the first specimens of Europeans seen by the untutored people of the interior. He told me, as rather a good story, how Kasongo had ordered hands and ears of slaves to be cut off in honor of his visit, and expressed his intention of taking about a hundred flint-lock muskets to that chief to exchange for slaves, and quite scouted the idea of going there for ivory. That, he said, could be obtained much more easily at Jenjé, to which place the road was comparatively easy and healthy.

A fetich-man visited João's while I was there, his errand being to tell the fortunes of the people about to journey to Kasongo's, and he also professed to cure diseases and expel evil spirits. He was followed by some friends, who carried iron bells, which they occasionally struck with small pieces of iron.

On arrival he seated himself on the ground, surrounded by his friends, and then commenced a monotonous recitative. In this he accompanied himself by shaking a rattle made of basket-work and shaped like a dumb-bell, while the circle of attendants joined in chorus, sometimes striking their bells, and at others varying the performance by laying them down and clapping their hands in a kind of rhythmic cadence. This being finished, the soothsayer was ready to be consulted, provided those coming to him were prepared to pay in advance for his predictions.

The principal instrument for reading the decrees of fate con-

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1875.

In this case we have a record of a trade route, of two trades, and of several pieces of information about people, for which separate record types will be created. The data on the trade route will be recorded as follows:

Type: Trade route

Source: V.L. Cameron, *Across Africa* (New York, 1877), p. 402

Date (if known): October 1875

Location of author: Bihe

From where?: 'Urua' [Luba country]

To where?: 'Jenjé' [Lozi country]

Via?: Bihe

The list below represents the range of data that can be extracted from a single instance of trade, using Cameron's trade as an example.

Type: Record of trade

Source: V.L. Cameron, *Across Africa* (New York, 1877), p. 402

Type: Reported trade

Date (if known): 1875

Location of trade: 'Jenjé' [Lozi country]

Goods traded by: João Baptista Ferreira

Goods: Slaves

Quantity: Not known.

Value: Not known.

Obtained in: 'Urua' [Luba country]

Obtained from: Kasongo

Goods traded with: Not known.

Goods: Ivory

Quantity: Not known.

Value: Not known.

Obtained in: Not known.

Obtained from: Not known.