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EAST AFRICAN SLAVE-TRADE.

THE attention of Members is earnestly directed to the following facts:—

The Report of a Select Committee of the House, in 1871, states that the *registered* export of Negro Slaves from the East Coast of Africa averaged 20,000, and adds:—

“Such is the fearful loss of life resulting from this traffic, such the miseries which attend it, that, according to Dr. Livingstone and others, not one in five, in some cases not one in ten, of the victims of the slave-hunters ever reach the coast alive.”—(*Report of Select Committee, page v.*)

The Report of Sir B. Frere, in 1873, puts the *total* export at 35,000 per annum. Sir B. Frere adds:—

“I observe in some recent publications a tendency to impute exaggeration to Dr. Livingstone and his companions, in reference to the mortality attending their capture, and their sufferings on the journey down to the coast. I may mention, therefore, that I have made these points the subject of particular inquiry, and the result was to produce a strong conviction of the entire general accuracy of the statements referred to.”—(*Blue Book on Sir B. Frere's Mission.*)

The large majority of the slaves were brought from the interior to Kilwa, a port near the southern limits of the Zanzibar dominion, and carried thence by sea to Zanzibar, and thence to Arabia, Persia, Egypt, and India.

Under the treaty of 1873 permission was given to British cruizers to seize any vessel belonging to the Sultan of Zanzibar engaged in transporting slaves, and the export trade as formerly carried on has been checked by the blockade thus established.

It was feared that the blockade by sea could be evaded by passing the slaves along from the south to the north by land, and accordingly Captain Elton was sent to inquire as to this land-traffic between Kilwa and the north.

Captain Elton states that between the 21st December, 1873, and the 20th January, 1874, **4,096 slaves** passed him on the road for the north. He says, speaking of one gang:—

“There were, I estimated, about 300 all in wretched condition. One gang of lads and women, chained together with iron neck rings, was in a horrible state, their lower extremities coated with dry mud and their own excrement, and torn with thorns, their bodies mere frame-works, and their skeleton limbs tightly stretched over with wrinkled, parchment-like skin.”

Again, on January 8, 1874, he writes:—

“‘There has never been such a good year,’ said one owner of a long string; ‘there is a great demand, and no duty levied by the Sultan; the 2½ dollars which went to him before for slaves shipped by sea we save, and the land journey is worked at a profit.’”

Captain Elton states that agents will pay thirty or forty dollars for each slave, and adds:—

“As long as such prices can be procured the trade will flourish, and I can see nothing to stop the inland route (all arrangements are carefully completed, and no insurmountable difficulties in the way) but rooting out the trade root and branch.”

The Rev. W. S. Price, writing in November, 1875, from Mombasa, says:—

“The Christian philanthropists of England have not yet half realized what East African slavery is, or they would not rest till the treaty which provides for the capture and liberation of slaves by sea is amplified, so as to *legalise the liberation of slaves conveyed by land*. Till this is done, comparatively little is done to heal the ‘open sore’ which is a disgrace to humanity, and which brings a curse upon the fair country in which it is suffered to exist. **It is a fact that within twenty miles of this place, there passes from south to north an almost continuous stream of miserable creatures**—human beings, men, women, and children—exposed to every hardship and cruelty by the men-stealers, who have caught them in their toils.”

The hunting grounds of the slaver have chiefly been in the vicinity of Lake Nyassa. Livingstone found the slave-hunters at work to the west of Lake Tanganika; Stanley meets them on

the Victoria Nyanza ; and the latest accounts from the Scotch Missions on Lake Nyassa state that five dhows are now on that lake collecting slaves. All these slaves will most probably be marched down to the coast, and then driven along to the north, to such ports as for the time may not be watched by our ships.

It is manifest that further measures are needed for the suppression of the trade. The land-traffic must be checked.

Dr. Kirk, the Consul at Zanzibar, speaking of the land-traffic, (20th March, 1871) says:—

“I am certain, however, that it will be found expedient, if not necessary, so long as Zanzibar remains a free Arab Government, for us to have a free settlement somewhere on the coast, possibly not an English possession, but certainly under our administration. On such a station only could a mass of freed slaves be properly and advantageously dealt with for the first five years of their freedom, *and a settlement of this nature on the coast would be a break in the land route that will at once be opened when the sea transport is prohibited and blockaded.*”

And again, on the 5th September, 1871, he says:—

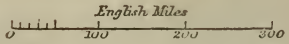
“It seems to me that if some station could be secured on the mainland at a distance from the island, a very much healthier place might be obtained, and a free African colony founded. The Arabs, however, will at first be much opposed to such a settlement, knowing the influence it would have on the system of slavery, and the fear that it was established with ulterior views of extending our dominion. If these views were once got over—and this might easily be done with judicious management—there is abundance of unoccupied ground available. In forming any such station I should not propose in any way to interfere with the Sultan’s sovereign rights, claim the power of raising taxes, or otherwise infringe the provisions made in his treaties with other countries. All I should aim at would be to become possessed as proprietors of a moderate tract of land, the fact of proprietorship alone giving us, under treaty, jurisdiction within the same as far as we should require.”

The Government will be urged to take further steps to make the treaty effective, and to make proper provision for liberated slaves.

Your presence is earnestly requested during the Evening.

[Over—see Map.

MAP OF EAST AFRICA



SKETCH SHOWING RELATIVE POSITION.



unexplored
(1865)

QUESTION

VEEN

Dec. 1876.

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BY SOCIETY

OMBO

Y BEFORE THE

OF GRADUATES

ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20th, 1876

AND SINCE COMPLETED

BY

ROBERT CAMPBELL MOBERLY, M.A.

Senior-Student of Christ Church

Chaplain to the Lord Bishop of Salisbury

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1876

