

a gentle stream of well-dressed gobblers until all the multitude had fed.

There was plenty and to spare of everything, enough left to fill the larder for a few days to come, and yet Mrs. Fanshaw had not spent more than half what Mrs. Muddle spent.

After supper there was some more dancing and some more music, a last hand at whist, and a final chat; and when, at three in the morning—for it was such a jolly party, they said, and *would not* go before—every one went, they declared it had been the pleasantest evening they ever remembered.

"It was the management that made it go off so well," Mrs. Muddle owned to her husband. "I shall know what to do next time."

"Oh, dear Mrs. Fanshaw," said Nelly Roberts, all excitement, "it *has* been so nice—and," she whispered, "I'll tell you a secret to-morrow."

"I guess it—Mr. Crawford has pro—" the rest of the speech is lost to the ears of posterity for ever.

"A very nice party; I have spent such a pleasant evening," Mrs. Gomez said, and so they all said; and when they were alone, Mr. and Mrs. Fanshaw congratulated each other with smiling faces, put out the lights, agreed that Tommy and Carrie should have a good stuff off the remains next morning, and then trotted off to bed to sleep the satisfied sleep of the givers of a very SUCCESSFUL EVENING PARTY.

## UP THE WHITE NILE.

BY ONE WHO HAS BEEN THERE.



WHILE staying at Khartoum, we arranged that after the great pressure of business had passed with the traders who visited the town during the season, and before our return to Egypt, we would take advantage of the offer of some of the European residents

who owned a large trading boat, that we would accompany them on a short excursion and hunting trip up the White Nile, as it was an opportunity that would not present itself often of our seeing that seldom-visited part of the country.

Khartoum is situated on the east bank of the Blue Nile, and about one mile above the junction of that stream with the White Nile. The former river is called "blue," but the colour is really a deep brown, being much more impregnated with the rich earthy matter from the regions from which it flows than its sister stream, which is of a light grey colour. Near Khartoum, when the water is at its full height in July, the Blue Nile is about seven hundred and eighty yards wide, and twenty feet in depth; and the White Nile five hundred and ten yards wide, and fifteen feet deep; the current of both is about two miles an hour.

The situation of the town is low, and unhealthy at most seasons, and were it not for being well embanked, it would be liable to constant inundations at the periodical rise of the river. It possesses many good gardens in which fruits and vegetables are well cultivated, and dense groves of palm and tamarind trees also contribute their stores to the well-supplied market. Most of the houses are constructed of mud-coloured sun-dried brick; the Government stores and principal houses are, however, of well-burnt brick, and rather superior in arrangements; but the best establishment in the town is that of the Catholic Mission, which is built of good brown stone, with a

very superior garden, and schools in which from eighty to a hundred children are educated.

The inhabitants are a great mixture, almost every country in the East having one or more representatives; and during the trading season, numbers of naked and armed negroes from the Bahr il Gazal, and even farther south, jostle with Egyptian and Arab tribes and hunters from the Nubian Desert, traders from the Red Sea, among them a few Persians and natives of India, Abyssinians and warriors from the Galla country—more interested in slave-dealing than in the ostensible bartering of gold, feathers, ivory, or cattle—Greeks, Maltese, French, Germans, Italians, very few English, many Turks, and a good sprinkling of Bashi Bazouks and Arnauts (irregular Turkish troops), who are used as garrisons and collectors of taxes and tribute in the Soudan, which duties they carry out to perfection in the usual overbearing, tyrannical, and plundering fashion peculiar to Turkish officials in distant regions.

On the day fixed for starting on our trip, nearly the whole European community turned out to view our departure, and give us advice of all kinds, although scarcely any of them had ever been more than a few miles out of the town, and only two of our party had been up the White Nile before. Our boat was a large, single-masted, almost flat-bottomed craft, built at the Khartoum arsenal, which is situated a few miles up the White Nile; a spacious cabin reached from the stern to midships, and though somewhat crowded with bundles of bedding, boxes of stores, crammed saddle-bags, rifles, fowling-pieces, ammunition pouches, saddles, &c., afforded ample accommodation for our party of nine. On the cabin-roof were tethered four powerful and fierce dogs from Erment in Upper Egypt, which were tolerably well trained for hunting purposes.

After many farewells and much shouting, our twelve sturdy Khartoum sailors towed our boat down the river, and on rounding the point we entered the White

Nile with a full sail bending the tall tapering yard before a strong northerly breeze, and scaring the crocodiles which showed in considerable numbers on the banks and islands as we passed.

On reaching Machadar, where the river is so shallow that it can be forded on foot, our boat was driven fast upon a mud-bank, and during the two days it remained in that position, some of our party landed at the invitation of a few of the Baghara Arabs who inhabit the right bank of the river, and who informed us there were plenty of giraffes and lions in that neighbourhood. We saddled some of their capital horses, and after a few hours' ride through a dense forest of mimosa, heglig, sycamore, and sunt trees, and a tremendous undergrowth of reeds and creepers swarming with small blue monkeys, we came to a wide plain, and almost immediately saw three fine giraffes about half a mile off in the open. The mounted men immediately gave chase, and the tall animals went off at a terrific pace and most ungainly gallop, and would have soon distanced us, but something in the bush, near which they were running on their left, caused them to turn sharp to the right, and pass close across our front, when two rifle-bullets brought one down stone-dead.

Early one morning we were roused by one of our men, and on turning out, saw on the left bank four fine elephants watching our boat; and one of them, evidently the mother, was continually caressing a young calf, which was trumpeting shrilly in alarm. Their leader, which stood some few feet in advance in the water, was a magnificent fellow, with enormous tusks, and him we determined, if possible, to have. Six of our party entered our small boat, and rowed quickly towards him. He did not move until we were about three hundred yards from him, when he raised his trunk and trumpeted loudly. The others immediately made off, and as he prepared to follow, we all fired, hoping even at that distance to disable him with our heavy bullets; but, although he staggered, and seemed half stunned with their blows, he turned and lumbered heavily off, crashing through the thick forest. As soon as we landed we pursued on his track, but could not overtake him or any of the party, so returned tired, disappointed, and hungry to our boat.

On arriving at Kaka, we found the inhabitants had already been informed of our approach by some of the small parties we had seen on the banks; and we were received and welcomed by the chief and several of the principal warriors of the tribe, from each of whom we had to submit to their rather unpleasant mode of friendly salutation—viz., a mild expectoration in our faces—and on our returning the compliment most vigorously, we were conducted by the delighted savages to the chief's hut.

He was a very fine, powerfully-built old man, about six feet three in height. Indeed, most of the men were very tall, muscular, and active-looking fellows; and although perfectly black, and having woolly hair, their features were fine and regular, not having the slightest approach to the negro, like those of the neighbouring nation of Dinkas.

Both sexes are perfectly naked, except the married women, who wear two tanned hides, ornamented with beads, shells, small iron bells, and rings. Most of the men wear ivory bracelets on the right arm, and a small skull-cap of ostrich feathers, with the full ends trailing down their backs. They are armed with spears, well-made clubs of heavy hard wood, and shields of elephant and rhinoceros hide.

An expedition was soon formed for a hunting incursion into the Dinka country, where large game is more abundant; and after one day's sail up the river, we found a large party of Shillooks had crossed the stream, and with numerous horses were waiting our arrival. Here we saw six warriors of the Djibba tribe, great hunters and a very warlike people, inhabiting the country between the Sobât and Giraffe rivers, where there is abundance of all the largest game, but unfortunately too far for our limited time to allow us to visit with the natives, who strongly pressed us to do so. They were fine sturdy fellows, not quite so tall as the Shillooks, but broader built, and with complexions of a warm copper-colour. They wear a peculiar weapon on the right arm, formed of a broad flat ring, sharpened on the outer edge, and with which they make themselves very formidable when fighting at close quarters. Another peculiarity is that they wear the hair of their slain enemies twisted and plaited into a long tail, ornamented with beads, cowrie shells, and ostrich feathers.

We soon saddled and mounted the horses provided by the Shillooks, and plunged into the tangled forest, the natives on foot spreading out and bounding forward with great activity. After some time advancing, we were gratified by some of those from the front returning, and saying they had found a large herd of elephants, and we soon had the pleasure of seeing about sixty enormous brutes quietly feeding among the trees. We Europeans selected two fine animals, with magnificent tusks, to try our rifles upon; and riding up as quietly as possible, just as our black friends commenced yelling and throwing their spears among the herd, we succeeded in killing one with two shots; the other, wounded, backed against a tree, and then made several savage rushes, which we avoided; and after receiving a few more bullets, he succumbed. The others had all disappeared, pursued by the natives and some of our party; and while we reloaded, and followed more slowly, we were alarmed at hearing loud cries in Italian, and soon beheld, preceded by his dog, one of our companions, who could scarcely keep his seat, as the scared horse tore through the underwood, and strong matted creepers, which hung like rope-nets from the trees. As he rapidly passed us with his head low and arms pressed across his hat and face, to protect himself and avoid being dashed from his saddle by the low branches, we saw he was pursued by a large number of the infuriated elephants, which came crashing through the trees directly towards us, breaking down huge branches as if they were matchwood, and trumpeting in a most terrific manner. We could barely restrain our frightened steeds sufficiently to allow us to fire into the advancing mass, before they

turned and most ingloriously bolted with us. Luckily our volley had caused the elephants to halt or turn aside, for had they pursued us, we must have been overtaken, as our horses could scarcely struggle through the forest, and not only would not pause, but swerved whenever we attempted to reload our rifles, the discharge of which from their backs, and the close approach of the elephants, had so utterly scared them, that it was late before we had all gathered together near the bodies of the two elephants we had first shot,

weight, but we could plainly see by the whispering and laughing among the Shillooks that they had secured and hidden the ivory.

On our return to Kaka we complained to the old chief of our loss, but from the gleam of satisfaction which passed over his sable countenance, as he vowed his men would never have taken our trophies, we knew it would be no further use our troubling ourselves about them. But next morning the disgust was on the side of the chief and his people, as they saw us



"OUR HORSES COULD SCARCELY STRUGGLE THROUGH THE FOREST."

and which we now found had been deprived of their tusks by our black companions during our absence; nor could we afterwards find any trace of them, so securely had they been hidden or buried. And when all the native hunters returned, they solemnly vowed they had not taken or seen them, and also that they had not succeeded in killing any elephants, as we had frightened them away with our guns; but that if we would join them, we would all make an incursion into the nearest Dinka village, and there carry off as many slaves and plunder as would be worth ten times the four tusks. We of course refused, and returned to our boat in great disgust, not only at the loss of the tusks, which were each from eighty to one hundred pounds

quietly drop down the river on our return voyage to Khartoum, without leaving them a single bead or present, or even the pleasant salutation of friendship, although they ran some distance down the river inviting us to return.

But although our exploits in ivory-hunting were not great, or thought much of in Khartoum, we felt very pleased as we returned to Egypt that we had taken this trip up the White Nile, and seen these countries which, when under better government, and a total abolition of the slave-trade, will some day amply repay with the abundant treasures of nature any loss which the suppression of that abominable traffic may cause to those who at present profit by it.