

handed down direct or through the Malays or some other tribe. There were some Hebrew words, many French, but few English. It would have been interesting to trace how the Hovas, who were the conquering race, and in numbers the most insignificant, reached Madagascar, and one way of arriving at a certain conclusion was by tracing the language. He had occupied his mind a good deal whilst at Madagascar, and had collected much evidence as to the ancient proverbs and laws of the country. He believed that by tracing the purely native language they would be able to arrive at a conclusion as to the manner in which the Malays (for they could not be anything else) had reached the capital or had come to Madagascar. There was no question at all that the Arabs had for a long time been settled on the west coast.

Mr. ELLIS, in reply, said he was grateful for the notice which had been taken of his paper. In regard to the origin of the people, he thought that three races had been amalgamated to form the present inhabitants, or that they had been derived from three different sources: one, the opposite coast of Africa, the second the Malayan archipelago, from some family or portion of the large Malayo-Polynesian race, and the third unknown. It was too wide a question, however, to be gone into now. Mahomedan influence might have operated to some extent in former times, for the country was visited by Mahomedans before it was known to Europeans, and some few of the customs of the people may have a Mahomedan origin. There are also a number of Mahomedan traders at Majamba and some other places on the west coast, but for more than a century past Mahomedan influence has been but slightly if at all felt in Madagascar. With regard to the Arabic, he had made many inquiries of the people from that part of the country where Arabs had been most numerous, and there were parts on the south-east coast which were said to have been inhabited by a larger portion of Arabs than any other. They had come there for the purpose of trade and manufacture, and employed the natives in carrying on the affairs of the depôts of trade, teaching the natives numerals, or so much only of their language as was necessary for keeping accounts and transacting business, but not writing any books. He (Mr. Ellis) had not been able to learn anything further with respect to the use of the Arabic language; certainly, it never was written or understood by any of the natives that he had been acquainted with. He had inquired of the natives in the country the traditions preserved among them respecting the Arabs, and whether they did teach their language to any of the Malagasy; but they always answered "No;" and that it was used for their own purposes of trade and nothing further.

ADDITIONAL NOTICES.

(Printed by order of Council.)

1. *Leichhardt Search Expedition.* Extracts from Documents transmitted to the Society by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

IN vol. ix. of the 'Proceedings,' page 300; an account was given of the recent discovery of traces of the lost traveller Leichhardt, and of the movement which was, in consequence, set on foot in Melbourne by Dr. Mueller for an expedition in search of further remains of his party. The following communication has since been received on this subject from Sir George Bowen, Governor of Queensland:—

“ Government House, Brisbane, Queensland,
8th August, 1865.

“ Sir,

“ I have the honour to report that the Queensland Parliament has voted 1000*l.* in aid of an expedition in search of the long-lost German explorer Dr. Leichhardt; that the Parliaments of Victoria and South Australia, following the example of Queensland, have voted each 500*l.* for the same object; that private contributions to the amount of about 1500*l.* have also been collected in Australia (chiefly in Victoria and Queensland), and that the sums realised from these various sources being sufficient to maintain the proposed expedition during two years, it has started on its journey.

“ I may probably be expected to recapitulate briefly the salient points of this case. Dr. Ludwig Leichhardt, a native of Prussia, studied medicine and natural science at the University of Berlin. He emigrated to Australia in 1842, while still a very young man, and soon distinguished himself by his valuable botanical and mineralogical researches and collections in various parts of the interior, and especially in the districts now forming the colony of Queensland. In 1844 he undertook the leadership of an expedition which was equipped for the purpose of discovering an overland route between Moreton Bay on the eastern and Port Essington on the northern coasts. The Imperial Government at that period maintained a post (since abandoned) at Port Essington; and Leichhardt reached it after a journey of fifteen months, during which his party traversed upwards of 3000 miles of country, which, for the most part, had been previously unexplored. They returned to Sydney by sea, and were received with public manifestations of joy, as it had been supposed that they had all perished. Rewards were voted to Leichhardt and his comrades by the Colonial Legislature; and, after some delay and one unsuccessful start, another expedition was equipped, with which he determined to attempt to cross the Australian Continent from east to west—from Brisbane to Perth. Leichhardt started on his final expedition from Moreton Bay at the beginning of 1848, and the last account received from him was contained in a letter which he wrote in April of that year from the banks of the River Cooen, in what is now the Maranoa district of Queensland. The mystery connected with his fate still remains to be cleared up after a lapse of 17 years. As it was understood that his journey would occupy at least two years, no special anxiety began to be felt for his safety until towards the close of 1851, when the Government of New South Wales sent out a party in search of him under the command of Mr. Hovenden Hely. Starting from Brisbane this party proceeded to the Maranoa district, whence Leichhardt's last letter had been despatched. Mr. Hely was there informed by some natives that the white men, with their horses and cattle, had been all killed by the blacks at a point about 200 miles to the west of Mount Abundance.

“ Mr. Hely's discouraging report received general credence for some time; but of late years discoveries have been made which tend to invalidate it. Mr. Augustus Gregory, in his expedition of 1858, found what are believed by many persons to be traces of Leichhardt's encampments on the river Barcoo, far to the north-west of the spot where he was said to have been massacred by the aborigines. Again, Mr. Frederick Walker, when searching in 1861 for Messrs. Burke and Wills, found traces still further to the north, near the junction of the rivers Alice and Barcoo. Lastly, a few months ago, Mr. Duncan M'Intyre, a pioneer squatter of Queensland, came upon trees marked with the initials of Leichhardt's name on the banks of the River Flinders, which flows into the head of the Gulf of Carpentaria. Mr. M'Intyre also found two aged horses in the same locality; and their discovery in close proximity to the marked trees is thought to render it probable that they belonged to Leichhardt's expedition. Here there were traces of the lost explorer more than

300 miles beyond the spot where he was reported to have fallen a victim to the hostility of the aborigines.

“Dr. Mueller, the Director of the Botanical Gardens at Melbourne, a friend and countryman of Dr. Leichhardt, has never ceased to urge the probability that the gallant leader, or some of his little band of explorers, may still be alive in some remote wilderness; and that a well-organised expedition might be the means of rescuing them from a long and dreadful exile among the savages of the interior. It will be recollected that in 1835, an Englishman, named Buckley, was restored to liberty and civilisation after a captivity of above 30 years among the native tribes which then roamed over the site of what is now the great city of Melbourne. Among several similar examples we may also mention the case of the shipwrecked sailor James Marrill, who, in 1863, was rescued by our frontier settlers after a captivity of 17 years among the blacks of Northern Queensland. Moreover, the question of a renewed search for the missing expedition was warmly taken up by Mr. Landsborough and by other distinguished Australian explorers, and by several leading members of the medical profession (to which Dr. Leichhardt had belonged), who lately published an earnest appeal in his behalf.

“Dr. Mueller further conceived the idea of enlisting in this cause the sympathies, more especially, of the ladies of Australia. He succeeded in forming at Melbourne a committee of ladies, who undertook to collect subscriptions, and to press the question on the favourable consideration of the Governments and Parliaments of the several colonies. They addressed an earnest appeal to Lady Bowen to procure the aid of the ladies of Queensland, on the ground that this colony owes most to Dr. Leichhardt, having been to a large extent explored by him. In compliance with this appeal, Lady Bowen convened at Brisbane a public meeting of the ladies of Queensland, and the leading gentlemen of all parties attended. The President of the Legislative Council (Colonel O’Connell) occupied the chair, and made an eloquent and interesting speech, which will well repay perusal. I transmit a copy of the proceedings, as reported in the local journals, and also of the letter of the Victorian Ladies’ Committee, tendering their acknowledgments for Lady Bowen’s assistance. Her social influence and that of the other principal ladies of Queensland has since been exercised so successfully that the Colonial Parliament (as I have already said) has voted a liberal grant in aid.

“It need scarcely be added, however, without detracting from the merits of these ladies, that the shrewd, practical men who form the Government and Parliament of Queensland would not have sanctioned any expenditure of public money in a fit of enthusiasm, or without the certainty of tangible results. As the scene of the operations of the new “Leichhardt Search Expedition” will be principally within the bounds of this colony, it is felt that, whatever may be the success of the expedition in other respects, it cannot fail to add largely to our knowledge of the remoter portions of our territory, and so to assist materially in the development of our resources in various ways, and to an extent which will be cheaply purchased by a contribution of 1000*l.* from the public funds.

“Mr. Duncan McIntyre has himself undertaken the leadership of the expedition, which set out from Victoria a few weeks ago, and is to be finally organised in Queensland during the present month. It will consist of from 8 to 12 carefully-selected “bushmen,” with 14 camels, and about 40 horses. Supplies of all kinds will be provided for a consumption of two years. The expedition will proceed in the first instance to the spot on the banks of the Flinders, where the last traces of Leichhardt were observed by Mr. McIntyre. Thence it will continue the search towards the interior of the Australian Continent in whatever direction the discovery of further traces, or information derived from the aborigines, may seem to render most advisable.

“Now that this enterprise has been actually started, no effort will be wanting on my part, or that of the Government, to afford it assistance. The explorers will be able to procure from time to time fresh supplies at Burketown, the new settlement recently established on my recommendation at the head of the Gulf of Carpentaria.

“G. F. BOWEN.”

It may be seen by passages in the above communication, that the promoters of the Search Expedition believe other results will flow from the exploration, even should it fail in recovering any surviving member, or obtaining further traces of Leichhardt's party. Our geographical knowledge of the interior of the continent cannot fail to be greatly increased by an expedition so well-equipped, and commanded by so able a leader as Mr. Duncan M'Intyre. On this aspect of the question Dr. Mueller thus writes, in a letter dated July 21, 1865, to Sir Charles Darling, Governor of Victoria :—

“Independently of our fulfilling the dictates of gratitude and humanity, incalculable advantages for colonization, industry, and commerce would accrue from a further exploration of this great and solely British continent, over which, unhindered by the native population, the stream of settlement may spread. I see that the thousands perishing annually by cold and famine in overpopulated spots of the mother country, if brought to the unoccupied and everywhere salubrious Australian territory of the British Crown, might live in health and prosperity. I maintain that it has become a point of honour to the million and a half of civilised inhabitants, occupying as yet but little beyond the coast tracts of Australia, to throw open by exploration and by scientific research, for occupation, for industry, and for settled homes, the whole interior of this continent. I perceive that we cannot fix even the lines of the telegraph, which most advantageously are to unite us with the northern hemisphere, and indeed with the world, until we have withdrawn, as Leichhardt intended to have done, the veil from the still so extensively unknown interior. I cannot but contemplate, that of the real wealth of Australia in treasures of copper and gold we cannot form even an approximate estimate, until in many paths the space from coast to coast shall have been traversed.”

2. *Foundation of Burketown, on the shores of the Gulf of Carpentaria, and extension of the Electric Telegraph in Queensland.*

SIR GEORGE BOWEN, the active and enlightened Governor of Queensland, has transmitted to us, through the Colonial Office, an account of the establishment of a township near the shores of the Gulf of Carpentaria, being the first settlement made in this fertile and promising region. It is situated at the head of the navigation of the Albert River, and has been named Burketown, in honour of the gallant but unfortunate explorer who lost his life in recrossing the continent of Australia in 1861. The district of Burke is being rapidly occupied by pastoral settlers, who drive their stock overland from the older districts of this colony, but who will receive their supplies chiefly by ships sent round Cape York to the new port of Burketown.

With regard to the extension of the electric telegraph in Australia, Sir George Bowen announces that the Legislature of Queensland will be ready to carry the electric wire at its own cost to Burketown, if that point be chosen as the connecting-link of the Australian wires with the submarine line to Asia and Europe, or to meet, at any point that may be arranged, a line coming from the new settlement in Adam Bay, if the latter terminus be preferred. The