

It was long believed that none of the African mountains rose above the limit of perpetual snow; but both Kilimanjaro and Kenia are exceptions to the supposed rule. The fact was obstinately disputed, until established beyond all doubt by the observations of Baron von der Decken, and the explorations of two missionaries—Mr. Rebmann and Dr. Krapf (1848). Neither of the two latter travellers attempted an ascent, but the natives informed them that, having visited Kilimanjaro, and carried away some of the white matter they discovered there, they had been surprised to see it change into water. Several of them had returned with hands and feet frost-bitten; a misfortune which they attributed to the influence of evil spirits.

The narrative of the two travellers was at first regarded as incredible. But, in 1862, the Royal Geographical Society of London received a complete confirmation of its truth from Mr. R. Thornton, an English geologist, and the Baron von der Decken, who furnished an authentic description of the great equatorial mountain. Messrs. von der Decken and Thornton have made a sketch of their route from the coast of Mombaz to the chain of which Kilimanjaro forms the culminating point. They estimated its height at 21,000 feet, by means of a series of triangulations, but could only effect an incomplete ascent; they were compelled to pause at an elevation of 8000 feet. At a later period M. von der Decken made a second attempt, and contrived to reach the altitude of 13,250 feet. He was surprised to encounter a heavy fall of snow.

The appearance of Kilimanjaro varies greatly, according to the point of view from which it is seen. Generally speaking, its outline is that of a cone with a very broad base. At some distance to the north-west rises another cone, that of Kenià, about 18,000 feet in height; and seventy miles westward towers the peak of Merón, 18,500 feet. On the eastern side Kilimanjaro resembles a truncated cone; the snow covers it like a dense cloak or pall; a tongue of snow descends on the southern flank, and numerous "nets" (*filets*) of snow fill up the ravines and furrows. The slope, very abrupt on the southern side, prevents the snow from accumulating, and it may