

lar outline of the rocks environing the cataract has given rise, among the negroes, to a host of legends.

The *Victoria Falls*, on the river Zambesi, were first made known to the civilized world by the illustrious traveller and pioneer of geographical science, Dr. Livingstone.

He describes the surrounding scenery as very beautiful; the banks of the Zambesi, and the islands which, gem-like, stud its surface, being adorned with sylvan vegetation of great variety of form and colour. There flourish the mighty baobab, each of whose enormous arms would form the trunk of a large tree; the graceful palm, with its plume of emerald foliage; the silvery mohonou; and the

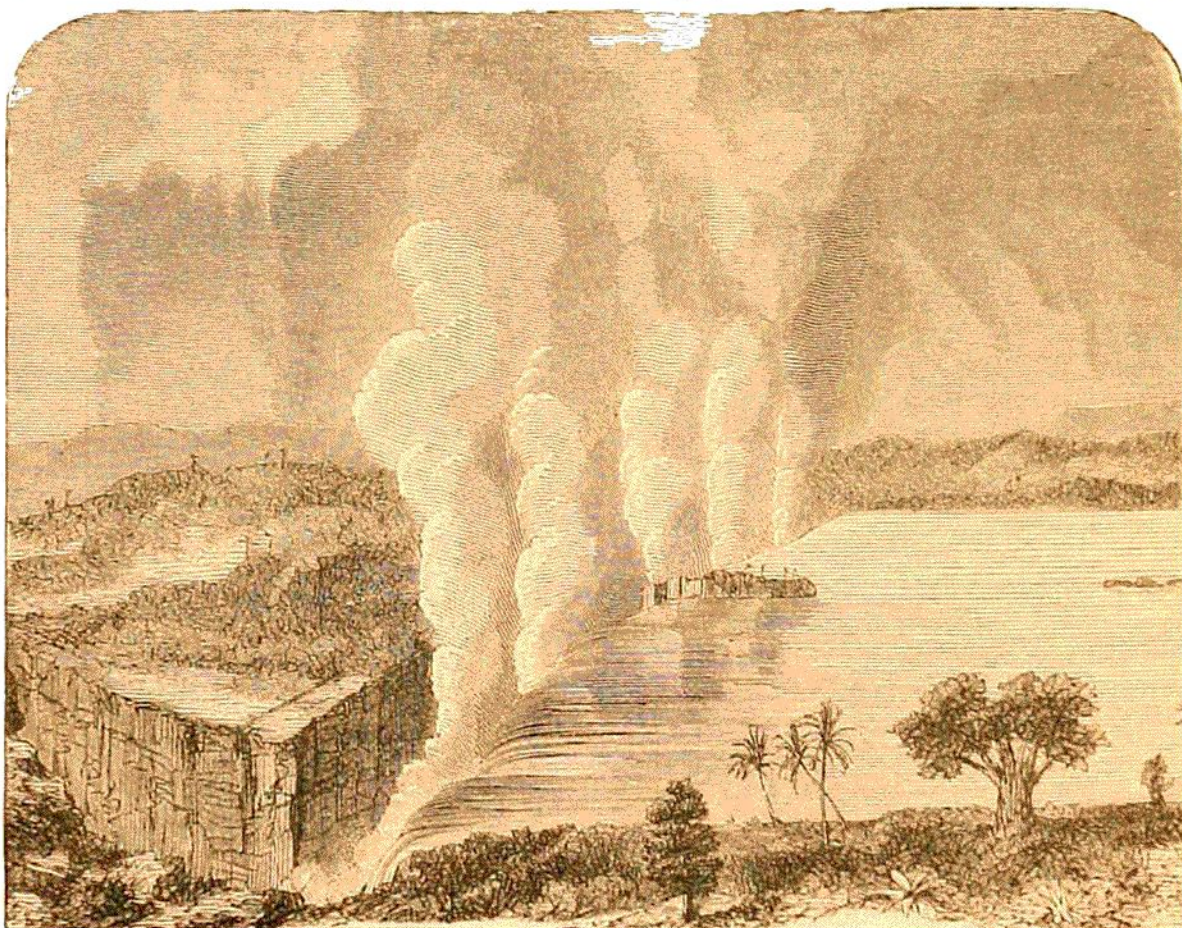


FIG. 185.—THE VICTORIA FALLS, ZAMBESI RIVER.

motsouri, rich in clusters of bright scarlet fruit. The Falls are bounded on three sides by densely-wooded ridges 300 or 400 feet in height, and may be likened to a flood of water, a thousand yards broad, hurled over a precipice of basaltic rock one hundred feet in depth, and then suddenly compressed into a narrow gully of fifteen or twenty yards.

“If one imagines,” says Dr. Livingstone,\* “the Thames filled with low tree-covered hills immediately below the Tunnel, extending as far as Gravesend, the bed of black basaltic rock instead of London mud, and a fissure made therein from one end of the Tunnel to the other, down through the keystones of the arch, and prolonged from the left end of the Tunnel through thirty miles of hills; then fancy

\* [Dr. Livingstone, “Missionary Researches in South Africa.”]