

its first great affluent, the Bahr-el-Guzal, from the west. It then takes an easterly course for eighty, and a northern one for thirty miles, swollen by the tributary waters of the Giraffe and the Sobut. Afterwards, it runs for nearly 500 miles due north, to Khartoum, the capital of Nubia, where it is joined by the Bahr-el-Azrek, or Blue Nile; the united stream then flows north to its first rapid, or cataract, at Meroë; traverses the fertile country of the Berbers; descends into Egypt at Assouan, lat.  $24^{\circ} 10' N.$ ; and with an average fall of only two inches in 1800 yards, proceeds to form its famous Delta, and to pour its waters into the Mediterranean Sea.

The total length of this great river is about 3300 miles.]

Next to the Nile, the most important river in Africa is the *Zambesi*, which has been explored by Dr. Livingstone; it joins the Mozambique Channel in lat.  $18^{\circ} S.$

The *Niger*, or *Joliba*, descends from the eastern slope of the mountain-chain whence flow, in a westerly direction, the Senegal, the Gambia, and the Falené. At first it strikes in a north-easterly direction to Timbaktu; then returns towards the south; and pours itself into the Atlantic through two-and-twenty mouths.

This river, whose course has only recently been made known to Europeans, was successively explored by Mungo Park and Laing, both of whom fell victims to their brave and adventurous spirit; then by the Frenchman Caillé, and Dr. Barth, who, more fortunate than their predecessors, returned from Timbaktu in safety. The latter traveller, who has published a valuable and interesting narrative of his discoveries, ascended the river as far as Say.

Further to the south—namely, in southern Guinea—we meet with the *Zaire*, or *Congo*, which also falls into the Atlantic Ocean.

The rivers of AUSTRALIA are, with few exceptions, inconsiderable; flowing, for the most part, through the ravines which intersect the table-lands. In the rainy season their volume is augmented in an extraordinary manner. The Hawkesbury, for example, rises 96 feet above its ordinary level. It is probable that in the interior of the island-continent exists a basin formed of salt-lakes, into which several streams empty their waters. [The best-known rivers are—in New South Wales: the Hunter, 200 miles; the Manning, the Hastings,