

year, according to their alternations of drought and heavy rains. Its waters are fresh, and it receives the tribute of numerous great rivers. In the midst of this vast shining expanse rise some verdurous islands; its shores are fertile and well cultivated. Cotton, cereals, and beans yield abundant crops, and ample pasturage is found for herds of cattle. Hippopotami, crocodiles, and elephants are included in the fauna of the Lake Tchad region.

Lake Tanganyika, which is situated in long. 27° E., and between the 3rd and

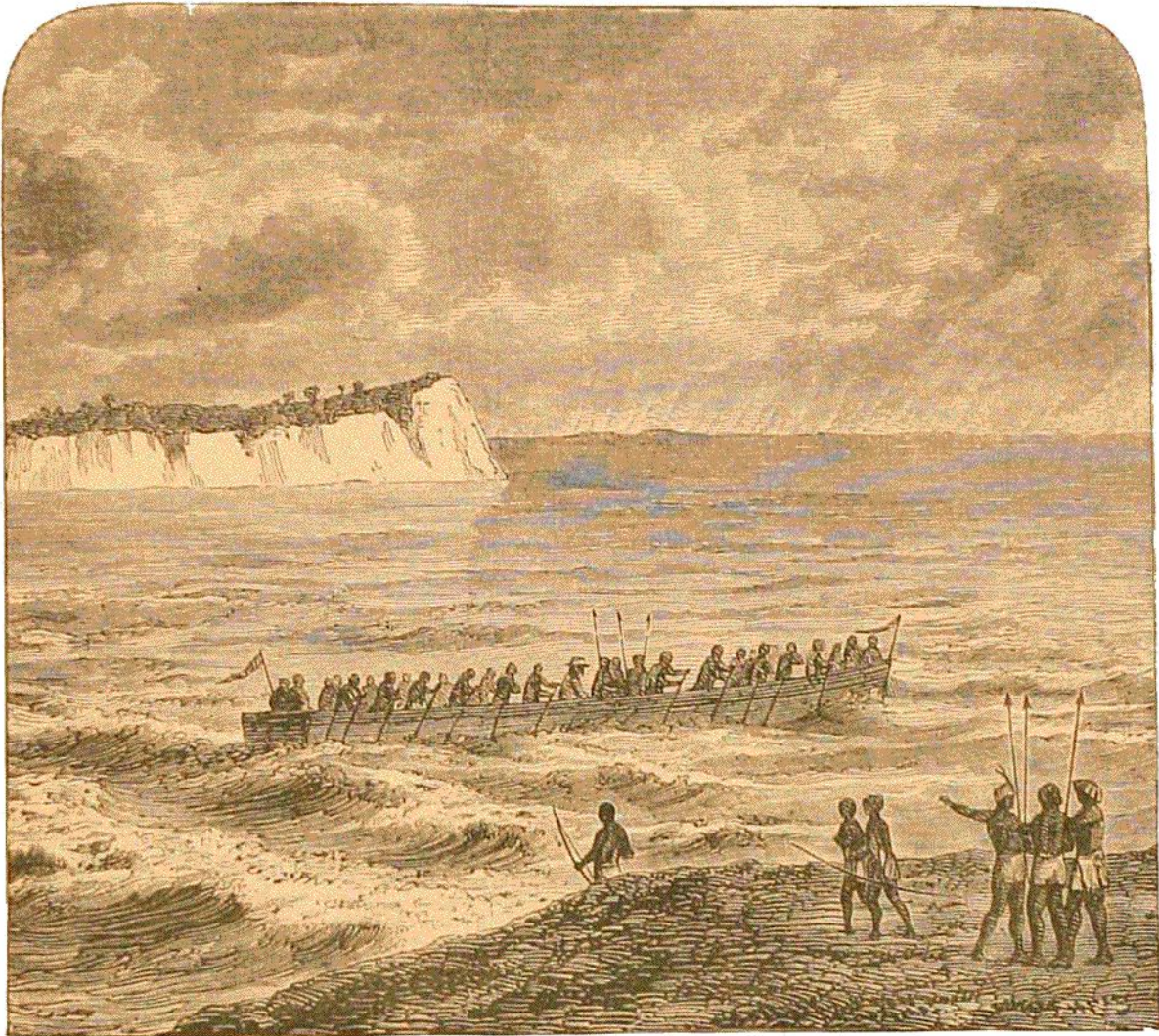


FIG. 204.—LAKE TANGANYIKA (AFRICA).

8th parallels of south latitude, was discovered in 1853 by Captain Burton. It is of an oval form, and measures 320 miles in length; breadth, from 15 to 60 miles. The water is fresh and deep, and its basin a volcanic crater, hollowed in the granite, which receives several streams, but has no apparent outlet. It is plentifully stored with fish.*

To the south of Lake Tanganyika Dr. Livingstone has discovered three important but less extensive lakes: *Shirwa*, *N'yassa*, or *N'yinyesi* ("lake of stars"), and *N'gami*.†

* Burton, "Lake Regions of Central Africa."

† Livingstone, "Missionary Researches in Southern Africa." &c.