

2nd

FC (19 books consulted) Many examples
Not well expressed.
"Perseverance Conquers All."

B.54

The Naturalist and Big-game Hunter
as Pioneers of Empire.

1928 Compth

2nd Prize

Class B

The naturalist and Big-game hunter together with the navigator and sailor were without doubt the pioneers of the Empire. They were willing and determined, and never abandoned their object. Hardships were suffered but they were only regarded as marking the way for those who followed them.

among the earliest explorations were those in Australia? and British North America; while later there came that of the "Dark Continent," Africa. Doctor Livingstone? and Cecil Rhodes} were two of our best known pioneers, but several other other men have explored different parts of the World, thus showing what territory it might be desirable to add to the British Empire, which to-day consists of nearly fourteen million square miles.

The first explorers in Australia devoted their attention to the coast; afterwards they travelled inland, great difficulties were experienced. Edward John Eyre, a distinguished naturalist, in 1838, discovered Lake Hindmarsh. In 1839 he reached Mount Arden and investigated Lake Torrens.

Continuing westward he passed the head of the Great Bight and finding no grass or water, both of which were necessary for the cattle and sheep of settlers, he returned. The following year he continued his work going north and he explored the Flinder Range and Lake Torrens. His name is given to Lake Eyre and the Eyre Peninsula.

Allan Cunningham was another great student of nature, who accompanied Lieut. John Oxley across the interior of New South Wales, and surveyed Mount Melville together with the surrounding country, following the course of the Darling and Macintyre Rivers. Allan Cunningham did more surveying and exploring in Australia than any other person.

Sir Joseph Banks, who made the study of plants and animals his life's work went with Captain James Cook to Australia. He was the first British subject to collect botanical specimens in Eastern Australia. With Captain James Cook he sailed around the coast of New Zealand and surveyed its shores. The East coast of New South Wales was mapped out by him, and he gave the country its name, New South Wales. The rounding of Cape York, by him, proved that Australia and

New Guinea were separated, while he also made the discovery of the Great Barrier Reef by his ship striking, on that danger to navigation.

Charles Frazer, a naturalist accompanied Allan Cunningham and John Oxley on their first journey. He climbed Mount Lindesay, and explored the country around Brisbane, and the river of that name.

George Caley, another enthusiastic traveller, made short journeys inland in which he explored the country on both sides of the Nepean several times, and especially some of the extensive areas suitable for the raising of cattle.

Spencer, after whom the Gulf and Cape are named, added much to our knowledge of the Geography of Australia, and made many journeys in the country surrounding Lake Eyre and Lake Amadeus, and the Macdonnell Ranges. He made interesting studies of the animal and plant life, and the Alice Springs, Powell's Creek, Pine Creek and Charlotte Waters were surveyed by him.

The interior of Africa has only within the last century been opened up to British trade, the British pioneers having encountered difficulties, which were increased by the natives, either refusing to act.

as guides, or pleading attacks of fever which may, or may not have attacked them, Africa being known as the mysterious of all continents.

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Sir Samuel W. Baker, a keen naturalist and Big-game hunter, went to Africa to try and find the sources of the Nile, and was accompanied by his wife. On reaching the Karuma Falls he advanced to the great lake, which he named Albert Nyanza, afterwards sailing down the Nile to the Murchison Falls. The Nile mystery was solved and Sir Samuel Baker received his knighthood for this wonderful and valuable discovery.

Doctor David Livingstone, missionary and a close investigator of African peoples and their country, discovered Lake Ngami. He travelled on through Linyanti, on the Chobe River, whence he made his way down the Zambesi to Lake Dilolo, and then on to the Capital of Angola. He returned to Linyanti and navigated the Zambesi to the mouth, discovering the famous Victoria Falls. He reached Quilimane in 1856, thus being the first white man to cross the continent of Africa. Lakes Nyassa, Shirwa and Bangweolo were discovered by him. He struck out for Ujiji and reached this village after a long and fatiguing journey. Here he was

met by Mr. afterwards Sir Henry Morton Stanley. Dr. Livingstone died in a small village, south of Tanganyika, in 1873.

a Big-game hunter, and one who developed the diamond regions of South Africa was Cecil John Rhodes. He was a pioneer in his beloved land, which is named after him - Rhodesia. When exploring Mashonaland he took several hunters who knew the country well, and the famous Selous, was chosen to be his guide.

a young Scottish surgeon, who distinguished himself earlier in West Africa, was Mungo Park. His object was to explore the Niger. He reached this river from Senegal and after many hardships he sailed up the Gambia, learnt the languages of the peoples, and collected specimens and products of the country. To help him on his journey he constructed a large flat-bottomed boat in which he attempted to sail down the Niger but unfortunately he perished in the attempt.

Captain John H. Speke claimed to be the discoverer of the sources of the Nile. He explored these for many years, and after awhile he returned to England, but later he went back to the Nile with Mr. J. A. Grant, the explorer.

The Zambesi Region of Africa was

explored by Selous, who has already been mentioned. President Roosevelt, then President of the United States of America, accompanied him to collect East African and Nile Fauna.

Ceylon is a happy hunting ground for naturalists and Big-game hunters.

Years ago the mountains were clothed with swampy jungle and pathless forests, but now are thriving with plantations of rubber, tea and coffee.

✓ Sir Samuel Baker, naturalist and hunter was an early pioneer in Ceylon. He assisted in the advancement of the colony and made a small settlement in the wilds. At first this was not a success, but after a time he made this settlement very prosperous and useful in developing the natural resources of the country.

Another pioneer in Ceylon was Major Rogers, who was Commandant of a small fort up in the hill country, which was overrun by wild animals. He thinned the ranks of the crop-devouring and destroying pests, especially the wild elephants, and the leopard. It is said that Major Rogers killed no fewer than one thousand wild animals.

The making of Roads in Ceylon is credited to Major Skinner, another military officer, who was also a famous

elephant hunter.

The Country of Ceylon was also explored by J.R. Gordon Cumming, who did good work in helping to kill off the wild animals.

The "Beagle" under Captain Fitzroy sailed round the world with Charles Darwin on board. His object was to collect specimens of plants and animals and study nature in general. On landing in New Zealand he was astounded to find that the Islands contained no indigenous animals. He also went to Australia, Tasmania, Keeling, Mauritius, St. Helena and Ascension Islands, for specimens.

Insects and birds were collected by Alfred Russel Wallace in the forests of Malaya, which he explored. He also visited Sarawak, Java and Sumatra for specimens, but many were not to be obtained.

Good pioneer work, in Burma was done by Captain F. Kingdon Ward, the naturalist, who collected specimens of plants and animals, and who surveyed the country. He once travelled from China, to Tibet, through the gorges of the Irrawaddy, Salween and Mekong Rivers, down to their mouths.

Donald Smith (subsequently Lord Strathcona) commenced life as a clerk in the employ of the Great Hudson Bay Company. Later he became

a fur trader and hunter in Labrador. He was Canada's "Grand Old Man" and drove the last spike of the Canadian Pacific Railway at Craigellachie, British Columbia. His name is remembered by the town Strathcona, Alberta, Canada.

Much gratitude is due to these explorers, naturalists and Big-game hunters, for the part they played in helping to build up the British Empire. To-day the Empire is becoming self-supporting and in the wastes, where the hunter followed the game, vast herds of cattle and sheep are raised and cotton and grain are cultivated, to feed the people of the United Kingdom.

Books which I have consulted.

- (1) "Opening up of Africa." (Sir H.H. Johnston).
- (2) "Two Happy Years in Ceylon." (C.F. Gordon Cumming).
- (3) "Eight Years in Ceylon." (Sir S.W. Baker).
- (4) "Life of Livingstone." (T. Hughes).
- (5) "Mungo Park and the Nile." (J. Thompson).
- (6) "Discovery of the Sources of the Nile" (J.H. Speke).
- (7) "Man and Empire Maker" (C. Radziwill).
- (8) "The Malay Peninsula." (A.R. Wallace).
- (9) "Britain across the Seas - Africa." (Sir H.H. Johnston).
- (10) "Life of F.C. Selous." (Millais).
- (11) "Fifty Years in Ceylon." (Major Skinner).
- (12) "Darwin" (G. Allan).
- (13) "Early Explorers in Australia." (I. Lee).
- (14) "From China to Hkamti Hong." (F. Kingdon Ward).