



BETREAT FROM ABILANGO-LAND.

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A JOURNEY

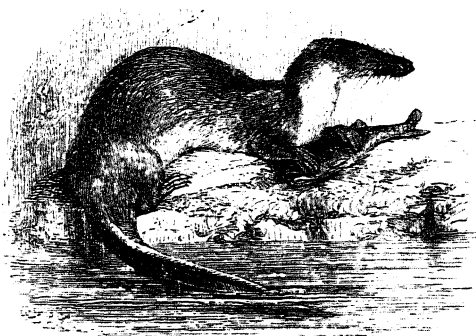
TO

ASHANGO - LAND:

AND FURTHER PENETRATION INTO
EQUATORIAL AFRICA.

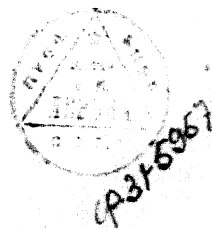
By PAUL B. DU CHAILLU,

AUTHOR OF 'EXPLORATIONS IN EQUATORIAL AFRICA.'



Potamogale Velox. Mythomys of Gray.

WITH MAP AND ILLUSTRATIONS.



LONDON:

JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.

1867

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BY THE SAME AUTHOR.



Tenth Thousand, with Map and Illustrations, 8vo.

EXPLORATIONS AND ADVENTURES IN EQUATORIAL AFRICA, 1856-9; with Accounts of the Manners and Customs of the People, and the Chase of the Gorilla, Crocodile, Leopard, Elephant, Hippopotamus, Nest-building Ape, Chimpanzee, and other Animals.

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P R E F A C E.



THE position of an explorer of unknown countries in England is peculiar, and very difficult. If he returns home with nothing new or striking to relate he is voted a bore, and his book has no chance of being read; if he has some wonders to unfold, connected with Geography, the Natives, or Natural History, the fate of Abyssinian Bruce too often awaits him: his narrative being held up to scorn and ridicule, as a tissue of figments.

It was my lot, on the publication of my first volume of travels in Equatorial Africa, to meet with a reception of that sort from many persons in England and Germany. In fact I had visited a country previously unexplored by Europeans—the wooded region bordering the Equator, in the interior of Western Africa—and thus it was my good fortune to observe the habits of several remarkable species of animals found nowhere else. Hence my narrative describing unknown animals was condemned. The novelty of the subject was too striking for some of my critics; and not only were the accounts I gave of the animals and native tribes stigmatized as false, but my journey into the interior itself was pronounced a fiction.

Although hurt to the quick by these unfair and ungenerous criticisms, I cherished no malice towards my detractors, for I knew the time would come when the truth of all that was essential in the statements which had been disputed would be made clear; I was consoled, besides, by the support of many eminent men, who refused to believe that my narrative and observations were deliberate falsehoods. Making no pretensions to infallibility, any more than other travellers, I was ready to acknowledge any mistake that I might have fallen into, in the course of compiling my book from my rough notes. The only revenge I cherished was that of better preparing myself for another journey into the same region, providing myself with instruments and apparatus which I did not possess on my first exploration, and thus being enabled to vindicate my former accounts by facts not to be controverted.

It is necessary, however, to inform my English readers that most of the principal statements in my former book which were sneered at by my critics, have been already amply confirmed by other travellers in the same part of Africa, or by evidence which has reached England.

I may first mention the geographical part of my work. No portion of my book was more discredited than the journeys into the interior, and it will be recollected by many persons that the learned geographer, Dr. Barth, a man whose great attainments and services as an African traveller I esteemed most