

THE
SOURCES OF THE NILE.

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BEING

A General Survey

OF

THE BASIN OF THAT RIVER,

AND OF

ITS HEAD-STREAMS;

WITH THE

HISTORY OF NILOTIC DISCOVERY.

BY

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PREFACE.

THIRTEEN years have elapsed since I wrote a Paper "On the Nile and its Tributaries," which was read before the Royal Geographical Society of London on the 28th December, 1846, and 11th January, 1847, and was printed in the seventeenth volume of the Society's Journal.

For some time previously our knowledge of the Upper Nile was in a state of transition. The three great Turco-Egyptian expeditions up the White River had taken place, and numerous Europeans had visited Abessinia and the adjacent countries, where some of them had resided several years ; so that, looking to the amount and character of the information actually collected, our knowledge of the basin of the Upper Nile was almost as extensive and accurate as at the present day.

But the manner in which that important new matter had been digested and arranged, was far from corresponding with its intrinsic value. To show how widely