## GREAT RIFT IN THE EARTH

A Crack in the Face of the Planet Four Thousand Miles in Length.

GREATEST OF GEOLOGICAL CONVULSIONS

Syria, Palestine and Africa\_Believed to Explain the Biblical Story of the Deluge.

It is a tale of strange and often thrilling interest which is told in the account just made public of the explorations of the party organized by Prof. J. W. Gregory of the British museum in 1892 to penetrate into the unknown regions of British East Africa. This region, which, by men of science, had been deemed of as little interest as it was little known, is revealed in the report of the expedition as one of the most singular portions of the earth, the scene of perhaps the greatest geological convulsion of which any records now remain on the crust of the globe. It, furthermore, reveals a probable historical basis for the story of the flood, which geology for the last half century has been busy in describing as a fantastical

The land which Dr. Gregory penetrated in his expedition lies between the great lakes of Victoria Nyanza, Tanganyika, Albert Nyanza and the eastern portion of Uganda, and the Indian ocean, and extending on both sides of the equator. That part of the report, which is of especial interest just now, is the description of the Great Rift valley. As the readers of this article are aware, by far the larger part of the contour of the earth's crust, as we now see it, has been formed, sculptured, as it were, by erosion of rivers and glaciers. A third shaping agency has been volcanic eruption, and those huge catoclysms or cracks known as geological "faults," wherein the crust of the earth has been lifted up by pressure from beneath to a height, where it has parted, and in the drop back one portion has sunk much lower than the other

THE GREAT RIFT VALLEY. Though these faults are to be found every-where, yet they are not, as a rule, of great extent. That to which the formation of the Great Rift valley of eastern Africa was due, appears to have been more than 4,000 miles in length. Whether this vast geological catastrophe was simultaneous throughout the entire length of the rift or occurred at different times. Dr. Gregory and those who have studied the story of its rocks are not able to determine. But what is clear is that this monstrous trough extends in practically unbroken line from northern Syria and Palestine through east Africa and al-most to the Cape of Good Hope, and from one end to another of its course it presents many aspects different from anything else upon the surface of the earth. Not only does it seem to have a different geographical history, but scattered along its floor is a series of over thirty lakes, including the high expanse of Victoria Nyanza, only one of which has an outlet to the sea. More than all this, although the plateau of east Africa is among the most ancient portions of our present land area, there being evidence that never throughout geological cras dld it sink below the sea, there is evidence on the other hand, that the formation of this continental trough, and of Rift valley in particular, was of comparatively re-cent date, perhaps reaching down to within the scope of human tradition.

All along the line the natives have tradi-

tions and legends of great changes in the structure of the country. The Arabs tell us that the Red sea is simply water that did not dry up after Noah's deluge. The Somali, who live far to the south of the say that when their ancestors sed from Arabia to Africa there was a land connection between the two across the straight of Babel Mandeb. The natives of Ujiji, 1,000 miles further to the south, have a folk lore that goes back to the time when Lake Tanganyika was formed by the flooding of a fertile plain, rich in cattle and end of the valley we have accounts of the destruction of the towns of Sodom and Gomorrah, whose wickedness is reputed to have invited the wrath of the subterranean

RECENT GEOGRAPHICAL CHANGES. In support of these traditions there is geological evidence to show that great earth movements have happened along this Rift valley, as it may be termed, at so recent a date that it is distinctly probable that the traditions are recollections of geographical changes. The structure of the Rift valley has, therefore, a varied interest, not alone from its singular and unexampled character, but on account of its explanation of some of what Dr. Gregory, with a com-placent air, is pleased to call "the best known stories in our folk lore," meaning thereby some of the narrations of the bible. But the valley seems of further interest to science in yet another way. Astronomers have long been puzzled as to the origin of a series of long, narrow clefts surrounding the "ring systems" of the moon. If, says Dr. Gregory, all the air and water were re-

larger of the lunar rills present to us.

The existence of what might be called Rift valley proper, that is to say, that portion of the great trough which lies beween about two degrees north of the equator and five degrees south, has been known to African travelers more or less by hearsay for a considerable time, and in 1883 the valley itself was reached by Fischer, to whom belongs the honor of having first demonstrated the occurrence of the valley in equatorial Africa. Subsequent to this time fugi-tive expeditions have been made to this strange region, but up to the Gregory explo-ration no attempt had been made to study ration no attempt had been made to study the region exhaustively in all its features. Especially did there remain a long gap between the southern end of the Red sea and the northern end of Basso Narak (Lake Rudolf) that had never been visited. Late in 1892 the expedition arrived at Mom-Late in 1892 the expedition arrived at Mombasa and began its march into almost the last portion of the habitable earth which had not been explored by white men. With many vicissitudes and perilous adventures a considerable portion of the party being killed or sinking down under disease, it made its way from Mombasa, the chief port of British East Africa, on the Indian ocean, as far as Lake Bayingo. ocean, as far as Lake Bavingo. PECULIAR FEATURES OF THE TROUGH.

Early in the expedition the party divided, Gregory, with a small but well organized force, was allowed to follow out his original plans of penetrating Rift valley. In vivid terms he described the long exhausting march from Mombasa into the mous extent of 4,000 miles it is practically and the south. Interior. His route lay for a thousand a continuous crack, broken only now and miles to the northwest, about half way then by the later cruption of some stray between the great volcanic peaks of Kilima volcane. In no part of the world does there Njaro and Mount Kenya. Some 200 mlles exist evidence of another such disturbance beyond the outposts of the traders he of such prodigious extent and effect as must reached the summit of a ridge near the once have convulsed this portion of the headsprings of the Tana, which he believed globe.

H. F. JOKOSA, PH. D. was on the edge of the valley. "For five weeks," he says, "I had been toiling forward to gain the view that I had expected ward to gain the view that I had expected to get from this point. My disappointment may therefore be imagined when just be-fore we reached the summit of the pass a dense cloud settled down upon us and

completely blotted out the view.

"We descended a few hundred feet and then a wonderful prospect burst upon us. We were on the face of a cliff 1,490 feet in height, broken only by a platform 500 feet."

To man's mature estate. And none my soul so sadly tried. Or spoke such bitter things who said that I was tied To mother's apron strings. height, broken only by a platform 500 feet in height, broken only by a platform 500 feet above the floor of the valley. From the foot of the cliff a level plain extends thirty miles to the west to the foot of the scarp of 'Mau.' Most Zanzibari have an eye for beauty and landscape and to many of my men the view was new. We sat long in enjoyment of it. Now and again the cloud banks that floated up the valley settled round us and blotted out the prospect but.

To mother's apron strings.

To mother's apron strings.

I loved my mother, yet it seemed That I must break away and find the broader world I dreamed Beyond her presence iay.

Beyond her presence iay.

Uncorrected the floor of the valley settled to the valley settled to the valley settled to the valley settled to the world I dreamed That I must break away and find the broader world I dreamed To mother's apron strings. round us and blotted out the prospect, but a friendly gust of wind would cleave a a friendly gust of wind would cleave a passage through them and give us a glimpse, now to the north, of the great cone of the volcano Longonot, and now to the south of the breached crater Doenyo Suswa, and of the breached crater Doenyo Suswa. the newer cone rising within it. Some-times the clouds would lift for a few minutes and reveal the plain, with its patches green swamp and glittering sand, and dark, sinuous lines of the flat-topped acaclas, that mark the course of the Guaso

valley. We stopped there, lost in admiration of the beauty and in wonder at the character of the valley until the donkeys sud-denly took fright and bolted down the

FEATURES OF THE RIFT.

From Doctor Gregory's explorations, throughout the long weeks that followed, he came to the conclusion that the portion of Rift valley which he had first entered was formerly occupied by a lake which had long since disappeared. He traveled back and forth across the floor of the valley, and penetrated on the north as far as lake Baringo. In a general sort of way Rift valley is a cleft in a vast volcanic plateau, and it is Doctor Gregory's belief that this plateau exhibits a peculiar type of land mak-ing. Its origin is due, he thinks, to a vast 'plateau' eruption, as he is pleased to term t. For example, a considerable portion of the Italian peninsula has been formed or at least overlaid by lava flows from Vesuvius and Aetna, while the great lava beds of America and the Deccan traps of India are probably due to what are known as fissure eruptions, where a huge crack or rent has een made in the earth's crust and the lava has belied up through this. The con-formation of the East African plateau seems to indicate that the whole region was at one time burst through by an innumerable series of small fissures—in other words, that the country very much resembled the meshes of a colossal sieve, with the lava pouring up from beneath. Doctor Gregory estimates the extent of these fields as something in the neighborhood of 200,000

square miles. It must have been acons of time after-ward that the great "fault" of Rift valley was made, since its bold and precipitous sides stand out in the clear desert air almost as if they had been formed but yes-terday. Further, the apparently absolute absence of any fossils of marine origin tells that here at least it is not probable that

the sea ever penetrated. Yet another curious feature of this mysterious region are the "block" mountains. These seem to have been formed through some convulsion, by which the whole of the surrounding land had suddenly sunk away, leaving a single portion supported as if upon a pedestal. The strata of rock lie horizontal and as little disturbed apparently as if there had been no stupendous sub-sidence of the surrounding country. INHABITED BY SAVAGE TRIBES.

As might be supposed this wild region i only scantily populated and then only by savage tribes. The most formidable of the savage tribes. latter are the Somali, who dwell in the lower portions. They are a warlike and aggressive race who make life anything but pleasant for the daring intruder who ventures to invade their country. The floor of the Great Rift valley, proper, however, is occupied by the Njempsians, whose character is that of trustful friendliness and sim-plicity. Many of them are agriculturists the body of the population having abandoned the nomadic life of their ancestors. So peaceful are they that one can walk about their country unarmed and unattended, and chase butterflies or stalk zebras with as lit-tle fear as if one were rambling through English lanes. The country moreover is usually rich in food and caravans their empty sacks for the journey northward over the foodless waste that must be traversed in order to reach the ivory-yielding district of Sambaru. But they are primitive in the extreme. The author quotes Kipling for a description of the costume of the natives.

The uniform 'e wore

Was nothing much before,
And a little less than 'alf o' that be'ind,
For a piece o' twisty rag
And a goatskin water bag

And a goatskin water bag

Was all the field equipment 'e could find,

The main difference in the costume of Kip ling's here and that of the Njempsians was the absence of any piece of rag, twisty or otherwise. Gregory gave to his guides a few "hands" of cottoncloth by way of re-payment, and also in the hope that they might wear a part of it. But the Njempsians were far too prudent. They pointed out that if worn the cloth would get dirty and crumpled; moreover the thorns would tear it; while neither dirt nor scratches would matter on their skins. Nor did they need clothes for the sake of pockets, for they carried their chief impediments, a toothpick and a guid of tobacco, in the ex-panded lobes of their left ears. The cloth, therefore, was left safely at home in Njemps. bows and arrows, and Gregory's guides at least were appallingly bad shots. The intellectual attainments of the Njempsians are as simple as their personal adorn ments. They can only count up to five and have no idea of distance. Everything not in sight was "loqua" (far off). But not in sight was "loqua" (far off). But they were splendid walkers and did not know the meaning of fatigue. They have the morals of a child of 5 and appetites by the yard.

NOT AN INVITING REGION.

The country is hardly adaptable as summer resort, since it is not only under the burning sun of the equator, but it is infested with dense swarms of files, which would quite blacken the roof of a tent. flies, however, were harmless in comparison with the mosquitoes, which rose like a heavy mist from the marshes immediately after sunset. Around Lake Baringo there was animal life in abundance, schools of moved from the earth then the kiff valley was animal life in abundance, schools of would present much of the same spect to flocks of wild fowl and fish-eating birds and an inhabitant of the moon as some of the flocks of wild fowl and fire-eating birds and flocks of wild fowl and fire-eating birds and flocks of wild fowl and fire-eating birds and flocks of wild flocks of wild fowl and fire-eating birds and flocks of wild fl crocodiles in countless profusion. The latter occur in such enormous numbers that they lie in huddled, jostling crowds. They do not seem dangerous, however, and appeared frightened at the presence of the hunters. All sorts of malaria and disease lurk in these regions and Gregory's party suffered many losses in this regard. This character of the country comes from the profusion of marsh-like lakes, which are in turn fed by the great glaciers, that even under the equator abound. Lest this seem curious, it is to be said that the plateau in which volcano Kilima Njro is 19,600 feet, and Mount Kenjan about 19,000. Hence comes the apparent paradox of being able to travel or climb perhaps in a single day from the sandy desert from which the equatorial

It was Dr. Gregory's original purpose to press on northward through Rift valley and sketch the topography and geology of all that part of this great fissure which yet remains unexplored, but the undertaking proved too great, and he was compelled to return to Mombasa. His researches, however, proved conclusively the continuity of this huge trough with the parts of it known at the north and the south. There he longer

MOTHER'S APRON STRINGS.

Nixon Waterman in L. A. W. Bullet When I was but a verdant youth
I thought the truly great
Were those who had attained, in truth

O. happy, trustful girls and boys!
The mother's way is best.
She leads you midst the fairest joys
Through paths of peace and rest.
If you would have the safest guide,

while far to the west we could ward to dispute her see the long, dull gray scarp of the plateau be a fast and graceful rider. NEBRASKA'S NEXT GOVERNOR

Characteristics and Personal History of Hon. J. H. MacColl.

STILL LIVES ON HIS OLD HOMESTEAD

Has Been Engaged in Farming Practically Ever Since Coming to the State-Had 1,400 Acres Under Irrigation Near Lexington.

John Hamilton MacColl, the republican andidate for governor of this state, has been a resident of Nebraska since February, 1869, most of that time having been spent on the place which he homesteaded early during his residence here. He was born in Canada in 1842, his father being a Scotchman by birth and his mother of Scotch parentage, though a resident of New York at the time of her marriage with his father, When 27 years of age the dectors informed Mr. MacColl that he could live but a short time if he remained in his Canadian home and he, like many another young man, started for the west. He had been raised on a farm and was used to hard work and did not on arriving in Omaha spend his time in looking for some soft snap, but took the first thing that offered.

In those days most everybody who came to this country and wanted to work applied to the Union Pacific and Mr. MacColl followed the usual custom. He applied to Mr. S. H. H. Clark, now one of the receivers of the property, who asked him if he thought he could pile wood. At that time the Union Pacific road used wood cut from the islands in the Platte, on all of its locomotives. Mr. MacColl was sent to Willow island and soon afterwards to Plum Creek, now Lexington. Here he has resided ever since.

Soon after his arrival at Lexington he con cluded to quit working on the railroad and get a home for himself, and in pursuance of this idea located on the homestead and built his house on almost the exact place which his present dwelling occupies. From that day to this his life has been devoted to farming and he now owns upwards of 3,000 acres of Dawson county land, most of which is under a high state of cultivation and a large share of this is under irrigation ditch, He owns one farm of 1,400 acres adjoining the town of Lexington, all of which is under ditch and was this year planted in about equal portions to wheat and corn. CAREFUL BUSINESS MAN.

Whatever of success he has met with in life is due to his careful business methods and has been made out of his farms and allied industries. He was at one time largely interested in sheep and at another in horses, but abandoned both industries just in time. Throughout his life he has been noted for careful business methods. From the small beginning of a homestcader he carefully kept account of all his transactions and always knew just how much he had made or lost on any given transaction or crop that was harvested. It is this business method, combined with untiring industry. which is responsible for his success in life and the same characteristics render him es-pecially fitted for the office to which he In 1880 Mr. MacColl sent for his sister and

his parents. The father and mother lived with him until their death. In their later years both were invalids, but the tender care of brother and sister greatly lightened the burden of their infirmities. The sister still lives with him and the two have kept up the home at Lexington as it was.

When Mr. MacColl first came to Lexington it was a wild western place and the sur-roundings were like those of most such places. The law-abiding people had the usual difficulties with horse and cattle thieves, rowdies and "bad men" who wanted to run ments of frontier life. In bringing order and quiet out of this condition of affairs. Mr. MacColl took a prominent part and was always ready to protect his own and to assist others in doing the same. Personally h always been a stranger to fear and in the turbulent scenes of those early days this was demonstrated on more than one occasion. One incident serves to illustrate this. When he first came to Lexington there were some soldiers stationed there to protect the setbefore his eyes, and then declare he was dying of starvation. He was easily terrorized, but on the other hand, he would be to be troublesome. The soldiers acquired, or brought with them, a fondness for the dying of starvation. He was easily terror-ized, but on the other hand, he would lie fruits of the farm and especially for roast pig. MacColl's sty suffered in common with others and the settlers protested vigorously, none more so than MacColl. A lieutenant came over to make him applogize for some-thing he had said and to impress MacColl with an idea of his authority, drew a re volver. MacColl promptly downed him and took the weapon away. Another officer came to his comrade's rescue and a friend of Mac-Coll's entered the game at this stage. The officers were not making progress in securing an apology when a number of privates chipped in. MacColl and his friends simply covered the officers and told them to order the men to their quarters, which they did. The officers, somewhat under duress, it is true, then tendered an apology to the two settlers and promised to see to it that the privates intruded no more on the premises of the settlers.

In politics Mr. MacColl has always been a republican, casting his first vote for that His first office was thrust upon him under protest and without his knowledge until after it was accomplished. When the county Rift valley occurs is in itself upward of 5,000 feet above the sea, while many of the peaks are two and three times this. The asking his consent Mr. MacColl was appointed to the position. The office thus thrust upon him he held for thirteen years. Both the duties and the income of the office were small and the position was really a detriment to a man, but he performed the duties of the office in the most conscientious manner. His also served one term in the legislature and was a delegate to the republican convention which nominated Blaine and Logan for the presidency and vice presidency respectively. In 1890 and again in 1894 he was urged as a candidate for gov-ernor before the republican convention, but was defeated. This year the same friends again presented his name to the convention and he was nominated. One incident in his life serves to illustrate

both his determination and his resources in accomplishing the results aimed at. In the early history of the county the funds in the treasury were low and there was a pressing need for money. About the only resource was a claim for taxes against the Union Pa cific, which the company refused to pay for some reason or other. It amounted to several thousand dollars and if it could be secured would be of great service to the county. In this emergency the commissioners deputized MacColl to collect the amount, it being urged that he could do it if any one could, and he did. He simply went down to the depot and levied on the first freight train of the company which stopped at the station. He chained the train to the track and another one which came along soon after was served in the same manner. A United States marshal was sent out, but his persuasive powers failed and after the trains had been held for forty-eight hours the company settled and the strinency in the county treasury was relieved. His home town is one of the most beautiful and progressive of the cities of the state and in every move for the beautifying of the place or for increasing its material pros-perity Mr. MacColl has been a prime mover. It is a common saying that a man, like a prophet, is not without honor save in his own land. If one wishes to be convinced of but to take a trip to Lexington, or any other county is pretty evenly divided politically, but no one, not even the leaders of the op-position, pretend to deny that Mr. MacColl will carry the county by a large majority. Miss Christina E. Yates of Oakland, Cal., who is 50 years cid, says that she is the oldest wheelwoman in the state of California, and thus far no one has come forTHE-"Estate

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MESSRS F. I. KAHN BROS.,

Hamilton, Ohlo.

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remained so to the end of the test.

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to were visible until 16 o'clock and 15 minutes of the evening of that day.

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an extraordinary record, and one of which
you can well be proud. Respectfully submitted. CONRAD BRUNE, Supt.

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| Cribs-See Child's Folding Cribs.  | 100  |
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| Another one, far superior, 8.50 with brass rods and spin-   | ant for Parlor Suite — Uphoistered in tapestry, full spring, mahogany finish frame, five pieces, for |
| Traning Boards 5 feet for 300   | pieces, for  |

Pier Mirrors-8 feet high, 24 inches wide ...... 10.00 Pillows-See Bedding. Quilts-See Bedding. Rattan Rocker-Very large Reclining Chair-With corand back Rocker-Cobbler seat, oak frame Rugs-Moquette, largest size..... 3.50 Rag Carpet-Per yard ..... 23c Range-4-hole Steel Range. 23 50 Screens-Japanese, a big variety at ..... 3 50 1 60 Three section Oak Screens. Secretary - 8-foot high, solid oak ..... 14 50 35c Shades-Regular size ..... Sideboards — Solid. oak, plate mirror, velvet lined drawers, nicely carved.... Silverware-Rogers' best goods Knives and Forks-Per Teaspoons-per Set ..... Sofa-The Sofa of the Par-lor Suit mentioned in this ad for ..... Springs-Woven wire ...... 75c Stoves-A guaranteed four-hole Cook Stove, good baker, large oven, for..... Stair Carpeting-30c Ingrain, per yard..... 59c Tapestry Brussels, per yard Stair Pads-Each ..... Sham Holders—The most improved patterns ...... 45c 69c Sad Irons-Mrs. Potts' for. Tables-See Center, Extension, Kitchen Table. Toilet Sets-A finely decorated Toilet Set, 12 pieces, gold stippled edge, for..... 6 50 Tinware—Special cut of 23% per cent. Tapestry Brussels—See Brussels, Tapestry Curtains - Per 15c Towel Rings-Oak, each .... 89c Velvet Carpet-Per yard ... Vases - Delft decoration; something exceptionally fine, not very large, but good ..... 1.75 Vapor Stoves-See Gasoline Stoves Wall Cabinets—White enamel finish Wardrobe—Antique finish, well constructed Washboards—The Victor, Wash Stands-Large top, well made, finished in an-Waste Paper Baskets-Made of best willow...... 45c Vindow Shades—See Shades. Vindow Woodenware—Special cut of 20 Wringers-The Paragon Wash Tubs-Made of good 35c 1.10

Be Sure Open You Get Until 6:30 The Right Saturday Place, 1313-15-17 Until 10 O'clock FarnamSt.

Ironing Boards-5-foot, for.

Plated Silverware-Special cut of 40 per cent.

Open Until 6:30 Saturday Until

10 O'clock

Be Sure You Get The Right Place, 1313-15-17 Farnam St.