

directly across or round the south edge of the great Salinas to Huan-chaca, and thence to the rich mining districts of Portugaleta, Porco, and Potosi, while the other branch, keeping along the western edge of the Salinas to Llica, and crossing the low pass at that point, would enter on the great plain traversed by the Laca-Ahuira river, and ascending the course of this latter it would pass at a short distance from the Garcimendoza mines, continuing thence to Pampa Aullagas and the mining district of Oruro along the eastern shore of Lake Poopó.

With the exception of the ascent through the Pica Quebrada, the whole extent of this railway would be practically level, with an almost complete absence of bridges or anything exceeding the dimensions of a culvert; it would tap the heart of perhaps the richest mining district in the world, and from the first day of its opening it would enjoy an abundant traffic; while by the facilities it would offer for the introduction of machinery and all the necessaries of life, and for the transport of fuel and salt to the mining centres, it is no exaggeration to say that it would render not only practicable, but extremely profitable, the working of hundreds of mines at present lying abandoned.

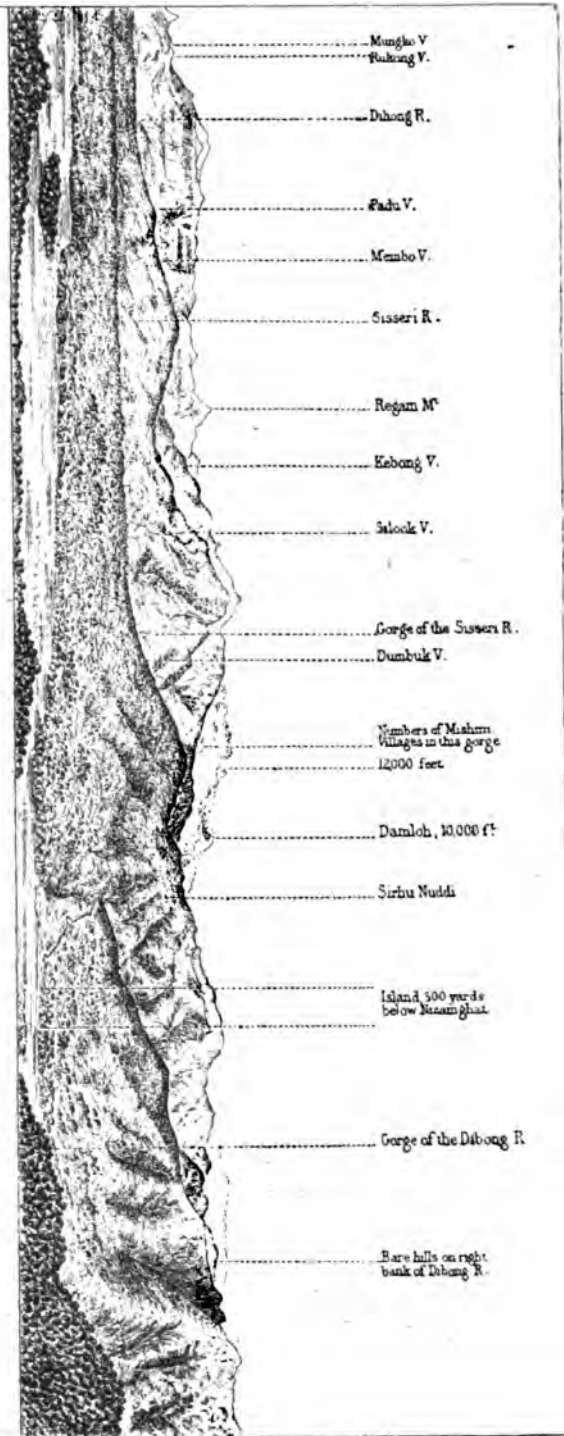
ORURO, BOLIVIA.

The Abor Country, on the Upper Waters of the Brahmaputra.

WE have received from Captain St. John Michell, of the Intelligence Department, Simla, a reconnaissance sketch, of which the adjoining is a reduced engraving, representing the aspect of the rugged mountain region on the upper waters of the Brahmaputra, in the hitherto inaccessible valleys of which lies the secret of the true course of the Sanpo river of Tibet. Captain Michell, in the note accompanying his drawing, says that if the Sanpo flows into the Assam valley, it must be by one of the two rivers whose site is indicated in the sketch, viz. the Dibong, or the Dihong; but recent surveys have approached so near to the sources of the Dibong that this river must now, to all appearances, be excluded from the question. The problem, however, is by no means solved by this fact, for Captain Michell states that the Abors maintain that their river (the Dihong) comes from the north-west, and not from the north, and is not the continuation of any great river. They will not allow strangers to enter their country, otherwise a view from the northern side of the gorge of the Dihong would probably settle the vexed question. No European has crossed the mountain barrier shown in the sketch.

Captain Michell appends the following explanatory remarks to his sketch:—The mountains shown on the right bank of the Dibong are 45 miles distant from that river, and opposite to Regam the Dihong takes a westerly turn. If this point could be reached by any European

INSTANT VIEW OF THE ABOR COUNTRY, FROM THE LEFT BANK OF THE UPPER LIDONG, LOOKING WEST.



or intelligent native, the question of whether the Sanpo and Brahmaputra are one and the same would immediately be settled. The gorges of the three great rivers are from 16 to 40 miles due north of the Brahmaputra. The bed of the Dibong is one to two miles wide, the river flowing due north and south. The Sisseri and Dihong flow parallel to the Dibong, and at their gorges are 8 to 10 miles apart, in a straight line. Damloh is distant from the Dibong 28 miles in a straight line, or three days' journey. Silook is eight miles from the Dibong. Membo and Padu are two important Abor villages on the low hills at the entrance to the Dibong gorge, the path to the villages lying along the base of the hills.

Work of the German African Association in Western Equatorial Africa.

It is now nine years since the German African Association undertook the task of penetrating the dark continent from its western side; and looking to the results achieved, it must be admitted that our colleagues have much to be proud of, and to be satisfied that the 22,000*l.* devoted to the work have not been spent in vain. The first expedition, under the leadership of Güssfeldt (1873-6) found itself planted on the Loango coast, north of the Zaire, and although the routes travelled by it make no great show on the map, the natural history, anthropological and meteorological researches carried on by the sharers in this first venture will ever remain invaluable to the student of African geography.*

Since these early and expensive days of African prenticeships† the Association has despatched no less than five expeditions into the interior. Dr. Pogge, a member of the expedition led by Dr. von Homeyer, succeeded, in 1875, in reaching the capital of the Muata Yanvo, the first educated European who had ever done so.‡ This brilliant success naturally led to fresh efforts. Edward Mohr, who had been chosen to follow in the footsteps of Pogge, unfortunately died on the threshold of the interior, at Malanje. To him succeeded Otto Schütt (1877-9), who furnished a minute route survey of the country as far as the Chikapa river, together with an instructive diary.§ Buchner followed next, and like Pogge, he reached the Muata Yanvo's capital, where he resided for six months. The last expedition, under the approved leadership of

* 'Die Loango-Expedition,' von P. Güssfeldt, J. Falkenstein und E. Pechuel-Loeache. Berlin, 3 volumes, since 1879, have appeared, but the work is not yet complete, owing to dilatoriness of the last-named author. See also Falkenstein's 'Afrikanisches Album,' of 72 photographs.

† The first expedition (1873-6) cost 10,530*l.*; the second 4459*l.*; the four sent out since about 7000*l.* to date.

‡ 'Im Reiche des Muata-Jamvo,' von P. Pogge. Berlin, 1879.

§ 'Reisen im südwestlichen Becken des Congo,' von O. H. Schütt. Berlin, 1881.