

to be important. The expedition visited Murdia, Gumba, Segala, and Sokolo. Gumba was found to be a village of from 1500 to 2000 inhabitants, and not a large town, as stated by Dr. Lenz. The soil of the country towards the north-east becomes less and less fertile. The travellers came across the beds of rivers entirely desiccated. The country is perfectly analogous to South Algeria.

Cameroon Mountains.—Two Swedish colonists, MM. Valdau and Knutson, have recently done some interesting geographical work in the Cameroons territory. In February 1887 M. Valdau, in the course of a journey made for commercial purposes, explored the northern slopes of the range, which are very thickly peopled by the Bomboko tribe. The main chain of the mountains does not extend as far as $4^{\circ} 30'$ N. lat., as the highest point attained by the traveller, about $4^{\circ} 28'$ N. lat., only measured 2850 feet.—An excursion undertaken in July last by M. Knutson resulted in the discovery of the mouth of the river Memeh. This river has been supposed by some to be a tributary of the Rio del Rey, by others a tributary of the Rumbi. It is now ascertained that it empties itself into the sea a little to the south of the Rumbi. M. Knutson ascended the river, and found it to be navigable for about 30 miles, as far as the Düben Falls at Ekumbi-ba-Ndene, which point was reached by M. Valdau from the south by quite a new route. The falls are 100 feet in height.

Peak K. proposed to be called Godwin-Austen.—Lieutenant Young-husband's adventurous passage over the Mustakh Pass, on his journey from China by way of the Gobi plateau, and Eastern Turkistan to India, of which an account was read at the Evening Meeting of the 14th May, and will be published in the 'Proceedings' of July next, has drawn attention to the circumstance that the second highest mountain which has as yet been measured on the surface of the earth is unnamed and almost unknown to the world in general. It is situated on the range of mountains which is crossed on the east by the Karakoram Pass, and on the west by the Mustakh, and is the highest peak of that range, rising to over 28,250 feet above the level of the sea. It was discovered and fixed nearly thirty years ago, in the course of the operations of the Great Trigonometrical Survey, under Major Montgomerie, and in the Survey Department continues to this day to be known by the symbol which was originally attached to it by the surveyors, viz. K₂, implying that it is the second very conspicuous peak, counting from left to right, of a range seen in the far distance which was supposed to be the Karakoram range. No name by which it is known to the natives of the nearest habitable regions has yet been discovered. In this respect it is analogous to the highest peak yet measured on the earth's surface. Both peaks were discovered in the fifth decade of the present century, and Sir Andrew Waugh, who was

then Surveyor-General of India, finding that the highest peak had no local name which could be ascertained, called it "Mont Everest," after his eminent predecessor, in fulfilment of the duty which had devolved on him of assigning "to this lofty pinnacle of our globe a name whereby it may be known among geographers, and become a household word among civilised nations." That neither peak has a native name which has as yet been discovered is most probably due to the circumstance that both are surrounded by peaks not very much less lofty, which shut out the view of them from the nearest habitable regions, and are such conspicuous and prominent landmarks that they are designated by well-known names. K_2 is not 750 feet lower than Mont Everest, and is thus of very slightly inferior importance; obviously therefore it should be honoured with a name whereby it may become better known to geographers and the world in general. Thus in the discussion which followed the reading of Lieutenant Younghusband's paper, General J. T. Walker (late Surveyor-General of India) proposed that the Survey symbol K_2 should be dropped, and the peak named Godwin-Austen, after the first surveyor of the Mustakh ranges and glaciers, which he described in a paper read before the Society in January 1864, and published in the Journal of that year. Sir Henry Rawlinson seconded the proposition, which received the general assent of the meeting.

The Project for a Railway between South-west China and British Burmah.—*A propos* of the scheme for a railway connecting the province of Ssu-ch'uan with Burmah, which was propounded by Mr. Holt. S. Hallett* before the Society more than two years ago, Mr. Bourne, late British consular agent at Ch'ungking, says in a report on the trade of the province of Ssu-ch'uan itself, recently published by the Foreign Office (No. 305), "The proposal to construct a railway from Burmah or Tonquin across Yün-nan appears to the writer, who has travelled for four months over the mountains of that province, to be quixotic, as affairs now stand; at all events, it may safely be relegated to the distant future. The exchange of products—opium and cotton, for instance—is not between Ssu-ch'uan and Yün-nan or Ssu-ch'uan and Europe, but between Ssu-ch'uan and the plain of the lower Yang-tzu." As regards the trade of Ssu-ch'uan, the report gives the following as the principal exports of the province—opium, salt, drugs, and silk. The first-named is grown all over the district, and the trade in it is the largest and most profitable of any. Sugar was also largely exported in 1886 to the Eastern Provinces, and excellent tobacco is grown on the north of the Ch'eng-tu plain and exported down the Yang-tzu. The imports have remained almost stationary during the last few years. The demand for foreign goods in Ssu-ch'uan, always luxuries, depends much on the nature of the rice harvest. In

* 'R. G. S. Proc.,' 1886, p. 1 *et seq.*