

A F R I C A N L A N G U A G E S.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS,

PART I.

REMARKS RESPECTING THE INFORMANTS FROM WHOM THE LINGUAL SPECIMENS WERE OBTAINED, AND RESPECTING THEIR NATIVE COUNTRIES.

THESE REMARKS ARE HERE COMMUNICATED AS THEY WERE RECEIVED FROM THE DIFFERENT INFORMANTS,
AND MUST BE CONSIDERED AS ENTIRELY THEIR OWN.

I. NORTH-WEST ATLANTIC LANGUAGES, distinguishing themselves, like those of South Africa, by Prefixal Changes, or an Initial Inflection.

A. First Group—

1. Fúlup.—The specimens of this language were received from Isambákōn, or George File, of Kissy, born in the village Bātēndu, where he was kidnapped by the 'Ešir people in about his twenty-second year, and sold to Elálāp, where he was five years. He was next brought to Gádşou, or Kádşīou, where he remained for three years in the hand of a Portuguese; and after this he was about five years at Bisáo, whence he was brought to Sierra Leone by a British cruiser ten years ago, and has since been the only Fúlup individual in this place. He had some difficulty in remembering the words of his mother-tongue which I asked of him; yet, on revising them with him, I had not much to alter.

Geographical remarks obtained from the same.—Bātēndu is half a day's journey from Kátor, the Fúlup capital, and about one mile distant from the sea. Fúlup is near Bándşāl and 'Ešir, where the same language is spoken; also near Búiu; but a considerable distance, perhaps three weeks, from Elálāp, Bótirēt, and Sígidsöt, in which four places the language is different from that of Fúlup. Sígidsöt is inhabited by the Portuguese. The Fúlup country is quite level, without mountains and stones, the ground consisting of sand.

2. Fílham or Fílhol.—From Káyāwōn, or Abraham (Bahema) Belford, of Kissy, born in the town Búntur, the Fílham capital, where he lived to his sixth year, at which age he removed to Tónāri, where he had four children, the eldest of whom was eight years old when he was taken in war by the Bányūn. He was then in Demerara for six years, and afterwards in Sierra Leone for seven, with only two countrymen.

Remarks.—Búntur is situate on a large river, running towards the sea, called Kóya, and about three weeks' journey from the Gambia. Tónāri is ten hours' journey from Búntur, and six hours from the Bányūn frontier. The Kabúnga call the Fílham Dşóla, or Fóni Dşóla, *i.e.* perhaps, "foreigner, barbarian." The country of the Fílham tribe is called 'Eşu, and is situated to the west of Kuténo, with which it has one language in common.

B. Second Group—

1. Bóla.—From Bádşābu, or Manuel Maxfield, of Kissy, born in the town Góle, where he married two wives, and had a child old enough to walk before he was kidnapped by the Bidşógos. He has now been in Sierra Leone about thirty-six years, and has one of his countrymen in his house who came here only four years ago. Besides these two there is only one more Bóla in Sierra Leone.

Remarks.—Góle is situated in the Kō district, a few miles from the sea. Bóla is called Buráma by the

Bulánda, and is situated west of Bulánda, north-east of Púlunde, also near Bábög, Başéred, Kányöp, Káyū, Pósis, Bidşógo.

2. Sárār.—From 'Udşūman (or Osman), or Robert Nicol, at Kissy, born in the village Şádal, where he had a child about ten years of age when he was seized and sold by a Dşúal man because he had committed adultery with one of his wives. He was then bartered to the Mandşákoes for six cows and a pig, and, after one year, brought to Sierra Leone, which was about fifteen years ago. He has only one countryman in Sierra Leone.

Remarks.—Şádal is about two hours' journey from 'Amōn, the Sárār capital, and three hours from the sea. Sárār is situated west of Balánta, east of the sea, south of Bányūn, north of Bádşūan or Dşúal, where the Bóla language is spoken.

3. Pépēl.—From Béntu, or John W. Manuel, of Freetown, born in the town Tör, whence he was taken by his mother to the island Bélhlild, or Bělşlild, called Pésis, whilst still an infant. He remained on Bélhlild till his thirteenth year, during which time he spoke the Mandşáko language, this being the language of Bélhlild, of which his mother was a native. He then returned to Bişláo for about six years, during which time he spoke Pépēl. In his nineteenth year he went to the Gambia, where he stopped eight years, and then settled in Sierra Leone in about 1831. (He is accordingly not a liberated slave). He has since returned four times to his country in the employ of the cruisers, as pilot and interpreter, each time stopping about a month.

Remarks.—Tör is one day's journey from Nté, the capital of the Bişláo island. The Pépēl language is spoken on the island of Bişláo, commonly called Bisao, which is situate opposite Kányöp or Mandşáko, Balánta, and Nálu.

Third Group—

1. Biáfada.—From Búkar, or John Campbell, of Freetown, born in the village Tába, where he lived to his sixteenth year. He then removed to the village Wákóra, and, after six years' residence there, was taken in a civil war and sold. Being captured by the English cruisers he was brought to Sierra Leone, where he has been for twenty years, with five of his countrymen still remaining.

Remarks.—Tába is a day and a-half's journey from the sea, and is situate on the river Badşéba; but Wákóra is four miles from the Badşéba. The Biáfada are called Dşóla by the Kabúnga; hence, also, by others, Biáfada-Dşóla. Biáfada is situate west of N'kábu, east of Bulánda, north of Nálu, south of Birásu-Mandénga, where a language is spoken like that of the Kabúnga.

2. Pádşāde. From Wáli, or John Wali, of Freetown, born in the town 'Udádşā; where he was taken in war in