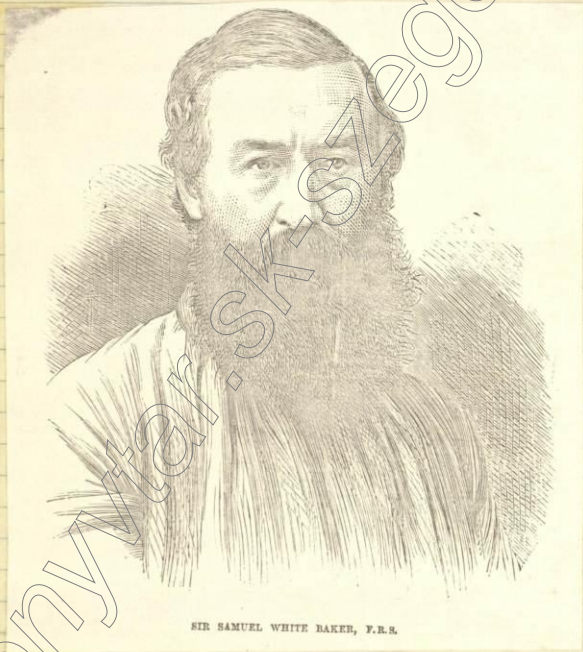


BAKER, Sir Samuel



SIR SAMUEL WHITE BAKER, F.R.S.

1821-1893

Illustrated London News<sup>c</sup>  
1873 Oct. 11/18. 345-6.

AP4  
I3



### SIR SAMUEL AND LADY BAKER.

The safe return to England of this courageous and skilful pioneer of civilisation in the wilds of Central Africa is an event which has been hailed with general congratulations. Those who are more particularly interested in the advancement of geographical science, which was so greatly promoted by his discoveries concerning the probable source of the Nile and the Lake Albert Nyanza, have on this occasion shared a common feeling of satisfaction with the philanthropists and the political, social, or commercial reformers who have witnessed his successful efforts, using the authority confided to him by the

Khedive of Egypt, to suppress the cruel traffic in slaves among the savage tribes of that hitherto inaccessible region. We may take some pleasure in reminding our readers that, in the year 1865, soon after Mr. Baker's return from his four years wanderings in Africa, this Journal received some of the earliest contributions of his pencil and pen, which were afterwards embodied in the interesting book that contains a full account of his explorations and adventures. His portrait was at that time engraved for our pages; but, as he has since gained new claims to public esteem, there are enough grounds for presenting it again to view, accompanied by that of his lady, who has long been accus-

tomed to partake with him the hardships and perils, as well as the heroic delights and merited glories, of his most enterprising achievements in travel.

Sir Samuel White Baker, who was born June 8, 1821, is eldest son of the late Samuel Baker, Esq., of Thorngrove, Worcestershire (at one time High Sheriff of that county), and of Lypinst Park, Gloucestershire. He went to Ceylon in 1845, prompted by the enthusiasm of a sportsman, and wrote a book entitled "The Rifle and Hound in Ceylon." With his brother, Colonel Baker, he set up, in 1848, a large agricultural establishment at Newera Ellera, a hill station a hundred miles from Colombo. Of this an account is given in his "Eight Years'



ekonyvtar

1823 0 573  
1851-1863

Samuel W. Baker  
1821-1863

Wanderings in Ceylon," published in 1855. His first wife, Henrietta, daughter of the Rev. Charles Martin, was married to Mr. Baker in 1843, but died without leaving him any children. In 1860 he married the present Lady Baker, who was an Austrian or Hungarian lady, Florence, daughter of Finian von Sass. She accompanied him, in March, 1861, when he started for an expedition in Africa, intending to meet Captains Speke and Grant at the sources of the Nile; they were travelling north-westward from Zanzibar, while he went up the river (the White Nile) beyond Khartoum, having first spent a few months in exploring the tributaries of the Atbara and Blue Nile.

It was at the end of 1862 that Mr. and Mrs. Baker set forth to ascend the course of the White Nile from Khartoum. They met Speke and Grant in February at Gondokoro, when Baker learnt that, besides the Victoria Nyanza, out of which the Nile flows, there was reason to believe in the existence of another great lake to the westward, from which the river must derive its most important supply of water. He resolved to go in search of this: and, taking leave of Speke and Grant, made his way, only attended by a few nativeservants and all accompanied by his young wife, through the Latooka and Ghook country to the Ansa and Karuma, thence traversing the Unyoro, and reaching the eastern shore of the newly-discovered lake on March 14, 1864. This lake he called the Albert Nyanza. It extends two or three degrees north and at least two degrees south of the Equator, and its southern extremity has not yet been exposed. Its width is about sixty miles, and its shores are mountainous, very much so on the western side. When Mr. and Mrs. Baker returned to England the fame of his adventures and discoveries won him a very high degree of social favour. He was presented with the gold medal of the Royal Geographical Society and with honorary degrees of the Universities; and in November, 1866, her Majesty the Queen bestowed upon him the honour of knighthood. His book, "The Albert Nyanza and Great Basin of the Nile," published by Messrs. Macmillan and Co., has gone through several editions. Another book, "The Nile Tributaries of Abyssinia," came out at a later date.

In September, 1869, Sir Samuel Baker undertook, at the request of the Viceroy of Egypt, to command an Egyptian military force for the subjugation of the lawless tribes in the White Nile region, and for the suppression of the slave trade. Lady Baker went with him, as before, and Lieutenant James Baker, R.N. He encountered great obstacles, and his force of 1500 men was soon reduced, by desertion and sickness, to about 200, with whom he entered the Unyoro territory, and there had to combat the murderous treachery, followed by the open hostility of Kabba Regga, the Unyoro King. Having fought a battle, won a victory, and burnt the town of Masindi, in the summer of 1872, the next act of Sir S. Baker was to ally himself with Isoga, a rival claimant of the kingdom, to depose Kabba Regga and set up a new native government, which owes allegiance to the Khedive of Egypt, and which is pledged to stop the slave trade. The Egyptian dominion has thus extended to the Equator, and our brave countryman has well earned the stipulated reward of £10,000 paid by the Khedive, who lately welcomed him with signal honours on his return to Cairo. He has founded several new military and commercial stations in the equatorial latitudes, opened the navigation of the White Nile a long way up, and made it a comparatively easy task to explore the districts yet unknown. But the opinion he entertained, while in that part of the world, of a connection between the Lake Albert Nyanza and the Lake Tanganyika, explored by Dr. Livingstone and Mr. Stanley, appears to be quite erroneous, having been founded on the vague rumours prevalent among the natives in Uganda. Sir Samuel Baker, however, was sufficiently occupied with military and political operations, which have had a most satisfactory result.

The Portraits of Sir Samuel and Lady Baker are engraved from the photographs by Messrs. Maull and Co.





LADY BAKER.

(1835? - 1908)





Florence Baker

ekönyvtar.sk-szeged.hu



them back with the troops - I was at that time in my bath, but was soon dressed and in the in the fort, where everybody had been for the last six days -

I will not give you a tedious detail of these six days - We now knew that Kabba-Réga must be treacherous, and he only had sent all these messengers so, as to keep us quiet until he had made all his arrangements to collect his people -

Papa determined to destroy all the luggage that could not be carried - it was therefore ordered among the houses to be burnt -

Papa then gave orders immediately to pack up for a start to join Kisonga the old enemy of Naurari the father of Kabba-Réga - It was very easy to pack up, but who was to carry the baggage? We had not one carrier -

It was necessary that we should not give our way; affairs looked very dark as we were in the road -

We packed up a few changes of, and some provisions, as our poor soldiers were obliged to carry the baggage we did not take much of anything - as we knew that there would be a good deal of fighting on the march until we should reach Kisonga's country 78 miles distant -

We started on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June at 10 A.M. after we had set fire to the station, and effects - I must say that my heart was very heavy to see all my beautiful things burn -

It began to pour with rain and we had to march through grass ten and fourteen feet high on either side of the road, and low forest with entangled creepers, and as it was the middle of the rainy season we had nothing but marshes to walk through -

Lady Baker  
Kézirata

ekönyvtar.sk-szeged.hu

*Baker of the Nile*



*Lady Baker*





SIR SAMUEL WHITE BAKER PASHA

*From Murray and White's Sir Samuel Baker, 1895*

5

© SZEGED



KING MUTESA OF BUGANDA

*From a painting by Mrs. Stanley after a photograph by H. M. Stanley*