

THE SUB-OCEANIC VALLEY OF THE RIVER CONGO.

SIR, — I have just completed the details of this magnificent submerged river-channel by means of the soundings on the Admiralty chart No. 604. Fortunately they are sufficiently numerous at this part of the African coast to enable me to do so with great accuracy. That the Congo valley is continued under the Atlantic to a great depth has been known for some years, and accompanying the paper by Mr. Edward Stallibrass on "Deep-sea Soundings in connection with Submarine Telegraphy,"¹ there is a plan of this sub-oceanic valley from the mouth of the Congo down to the 1,000-fathom contour, which very closely corresponds with that drawn by myself. The scale of Mr. Stallibrass' map is about half that of the Admiralty chart, or about 25 miles to the inch: the details deserve publication on the full scale. The length of the submerged valley is about 120 miles, and, like those of the West of Europe, it opens out on the abyssal floor at a depth of 1,200 fathoms. The valley is remarkably straight for a distance of about 100 miles, and nearly coincides with the 6th parallel of South latitude, but at this point bends slightly northwards. It is generally narrow, and bounded by walls, in some places precipitous, descending to depths of 2,000–4,000 feet within very short horizontal spaces, and the average fall of the channel is 60 feet per mile. It is unnecessary to point out the significance of the presence of this great submerged river valley as far south as 6° beyond the Equator. It proves beyond question that the western margin of Africa has shared in the great upheaval and subsequent depression by several thousand feet of that of Western Europe and the British Isles, and, let me add, represents on the eastern side of the Atlantic the uprising and depression of the Antillean continent so ably elucidated by Professor Spencer. I hope to treat this subject more fully in a paper to be read before the Victoria Institute this session.

EDWARD HULL.

January 15, 1900.

 OBITUARY.

JOHN RUSKIN, M.A., LL.D., D.C.L., F.G.S.

BORN FEBRUARY, 1819.

DIED JANUARY 20, 1900.

THE great Art-writer and Critic of the century, John Ruskin, passed away peacefully on the afternoon of Saturday, 20th January, his life's work accomplished long since.

Few men have had greater influence on modern thought in matters pertaining to art, pictures, sculpture, and architecture than John Ruskin; he was always an idealist and romantically enthusiastic in his notions, and wholly unworldly, yet no one believed more strongly than he did in his ability to regenerate the world and reform its abuses. His kindness of heart was extreme, and his sympathies were universal. He has been, as such a man naturally would be, severely criticized for his published views on 'Political Economy,'

¹ Journ. Telegraphic Engineers, vol. xvi (1888), p. 479.