

Eastern and Western (not Northern and Southern) sub-provinces, since the trade routes run east and west. Maifoni and Kuka will be the British Stations in the east; Damjiri and Gujba in the west.

67. Escorted by the Shehu and some 300 horsemen we reached Kuka on November 27th. I was very favourably impressed by the King, who is a remarkably intelligent man, with a frank and open manner and the bearing of a well-bred gentleman. According to my custom, I fully explained his Letter of Appointment and the conditions of British rule, and I discussed with him in the presence of his principal chiefs the questions of slavery, taxation, &c. He was fully satisfied to accept the prohibition against slave-dealing, while as regards the system of taxation he begged that the ancient capitation tax should remain. He expressed a fear lest the district headmen should become too powerful—shewing in this his grasp of the subject, for it is indeed the vital point. He also desired that these headmen should reside at the capital, where of course they would become mere satellites of his Court, and could not be held responsible for the maintenance of order or the collection of taxes in their districts. The object of the suggestion was, in fact, to neutralise their power and influence. I could not concur in this proposal, but I desired that they should have houses at the capital, where they could reside for short periods at the King's summons.

68. Before leaving I presented the chief with his staff of office and the installation present I had brought with me. Many thousands assembled in the great open space before the King's residence, and a crier repeated my words to them. The Shehu took the Oath of Allegiance, and, himself holding the Koran, said before the assembled crowds that he understood that there was nothing in the oath which would interfere with his religion, and for the rest he accepted all the conditions and the policy I had described to him. He showed us with great pleasure over the innumerable rooms of his newly-built palace, and, removing his sandals, led me to the graves of his ancestors. Next day I selected the site for the Residency at Goanji, a former suburban residence of the Shehus, which is some 30 feet above the plain, and is not flooded in the rains. It contains a few fine shade trees and a good supply of water in wells 54 feet deep, and is beyond question the best site near Kuka, from which it is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles distant.

69. I marched from Kuka to Yo, where the Wobe River enters Chad. Rising at Anchan, 40 miles north-east of Zaria, and flowing within six miles of Kano (where it is called the "Mallam" or "Shallowa" River), it drains the northern watershed of the central plateau of Northern Nigeria (Zaria-Kano-Bauchi), while the Niger, with its tributaries the Gongola,