

confirm my statement. This gentleman may be heard of by application at the American Consulate at Liverpool.

"I, in common with most persons, doubt that M. Du Chaillu ever killed or assisted to kill a Gorilla, and also of the extent of his 'travels.' At any rate, his estimate of distances, as well as the direction in which he pretends to have penetrated, must be received with the utmost caution, as not only was he unprovided with instruments, but ignorant of their use.

"As endorsing my opinions, I am authorized to mention the name of M. Labeguerie, a French merchant here, and a distinguished member of the Agricultural Committee; to which I venture to add that of my friend M. A. Michon, of Havre, who could furnish information on the subject of his 'travels,' &c.

"With regard to his commercial exploits, which are as mythic as his sporting adventures, I beg to suggest that application be made to the firm of Oppenheim and Co., of Paris, with which firm he had some dealings in the year 1852, and who will be able to give every desirable *renseignement*, not only on that point, but on others also which I will not mention, when informed that M. Paul Du Chaillu, the Great African explorer (?) and the lion of the season in London, is identical with M. Paul Belloni.

"Having thus, as far as time will permit, done my best to arrest a career which I leave others to characterize,

"I am, &c.,

'To the Editor of *The Times*.'

"R. B. WALKER."

On the Height of the Gorilla.

By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., V.P.Z.S. &c.

Much difference occurs in the statements of travellers and others with reference to the height of the great African Ape. Bowdich, the first traveller by whom it was referred to, under the name of the *Ingēna*, states it, on the authority of the natives of the Gaboon, to be generally five feet high; but in some recent notices it has been asserted to reach a height of six feet two inches; and the specimen exhibited at the Meeting of German Naturalists at Vienna is said, on good authority, to have measured more than six feet in height.

The measurement of a stuffed skin without bones is necessarily delusive, depending as it does, first, on the mode in which the skin has been originally prepared, and, secondly, on the extent to which the artist may be disposed to stretch it. Such measurements are not to be relied on, unless they are in accordance with those of the bony skeleton; and it has therefore occurred to me that it would be desirable to measure the long bones of the limbs of the various skeletons existing in the British Museum,—the osseous structure giving the only certain dimensions on which reliance can be placed.

The skeletons in the British Museum are six in number, viz. :—

1. A skeleton obtained from Paris by Professor Owen in 1857, and mounted in the best French manner.

2. 3. 4. Skeletons of male and female and young male, all more or less imperfect. Purchased from M. Du Chaillu, 1861.

5. A skeleton of a male, obtained at Bristol in 1858, of which we have also the stuffed skin.

6. An imperfect skeleton, purchased from M. Parzudaki of Paris in 1852.

The measurements of the several bones of each of these skeletons are given in the following Table.

	Humerus.	Ulna.	Radius.	Femur.	Tibia.	Fibula.
	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.
Articulated specimen from Paris. ♂	17	14	13	14½	11½	10½
Skeleton from Du Chaillu's stuffed specimen. ♂ Called the "King of Gorillas."	16½	14	13½	13¾	11	9¾
Skeleton of young male, from the stuffed specimen. Purchased at Bristol	14½	11½	11	13	10	9½
An imperfect skeleton. Purchased of M. Parzudaki	12	11	10	11	...	9½
Skeleton of female. Purchased of M. Du Chaillu	13	11	10½	11	9	7
Skeleton of young male. Purchased of M. Du Chaillu	12	11½	9½	10	8½	7

They were taken by Mr. Gerrard with a tape, measuring inches and quarters of inches only, but are quite sufficient for a comparison between the specimens themselves, and as affording materials for determining the actual height of the animal. As the largest of these (viz. the Paris specimen photographed for the Trustees of the British Museum by Mr. Fenton) stands five feet two inches in height, I think we are justified in concluding that to be the extreme natural height of the full-grown animal.

I do not wish it to be understood that the Gorilla never grows higher, but that we have no evidence that it does; and the "King of the Gorillas," which we are told was a large full-grown male, certainly did not exceed that height.

The writer of the 20th and 21st chapters of the 'Explorations and Adventures in Equatorial Africa,' which are written in a very different style from the rest of the book*, and curiously interpolated in the narrative of the travels, states that there are some bones in the possession of Dr. Wyman which are much larger than any in M. Du Chaillu's collection; that he thinks the animal might have been six feet two inches high, if it could stand perfectly upright; but as the legs are always somewhat bent, and the body thrown forward, "the largest specimen would not *appear* higher than five feet nine inches." (Pp. 354 and 369.)

It is to be regretted that the measurements of the long bones of the limbs of Dr. Wyman's imperfect skeleton have not been given.

* Thus, in the body of the work, the *Troglodytes calvus* and *T. koolookamba* are called new species, but in these chapters they are said to be (and reasons given why) only varieties of the Chimpanzee (see pp. 359, 375, &c.). And a supposed peculiarity of the skull of the Koolookamba is said to occur also in the skulls of the Gorilla and *Nshiego mbouve* (p. 376); and there is considerable and correct anatomical knowledge shown, which is quite at variance with the rest of the work, or with the paper that has appeared under M. Du Chaillu's name.



Gray, John Edward. 1861. "On the height of the Gorilla." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 8, 349–350.

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