

## Lecture by P. B. Du Chailu.

M. Paul B. Du Chailu delivered a lecture last evening for the benefit of the Cuban Ladies' Fair at Apollo Hall, corner of Twenty-eighth street and Broadway, before a numerous and sympathizing audience. The lecturer said he was happy to be able to lecture for the benefit of the wounded of Cuba and to add his mite to their cause. He would give them that night an account of the geography of Equatorial Africa. He had travelled in that country more than fifteen thousand miles on foot, and brought home several thousand stuffed birds, one thousand quadrupeds, very nearly three hundred skeletons of wild beasts, over thirty gorillas' skins and skeletons, chimpanzees—in fact he brought all the beasts he could, with the exception of elephants, which were rather too big to be carried. (Laughter.) He also brought some stuffed hyppopotami, besides reptiles, insects and shells. This country lay under the equator, north and south of it. His explorations had demonstrated that all that part of Central Africa was nothing but an immense forest, where trees grow to a gigantic size. Under all the trees there was an immense jungle, where no man could penetrate. There were two seasons on the seashore—the rainy and the dry—the rainy beginning in September and lasting until May, and the dry in June, July and August. March and April were the hottest months in the year, the thermometer in the sun standing sometimes at 143 degrees. The amount of rain falling was 223 inches during these nine months. In the mountainous interior it rained all the year round; but in July and August the rains were not heavy and there was no thunder nor lightning. Fevers, dysentery and liver complaints were very prevalent. Some of the fevers were very deadly and of a malignant type, which killed in twenty-four hours. He was surprised at the scantiness of the population. He discovered thirty-three new tribes of men, all of different shades of color, but all of the negro type. North of the equator he discovered cannibals, called "Fang." South of the equator he discovered diminutive men. These dwarfs were the most extraordinary little people he met, and they were very warlike, fighting continually. Slavery, polygamy and witchcraft were the institutions of the country. The richer the man the more wives he had, and the more slaves. They all believed in witchcraft, and for this they would kill the free, the slave and everybody. That was the reason why the population was so rapidly decreasing, because so many were killed. There were no beasts of burden in the country; the wild elephants were not tamed; men and women were the only beasts of burden he had seen.

The lecturer then went on to describe the history and habits of this wild and singular people, and at the conclusion was greeted with loud applause.