#15

Bleeck

Draft
~~Draught~~ written in London
after return from
W. Africa
and before
going to S. Africa

Bleeck (Arthur Henry) 27 Argyle Square, New Road

Bleeck Charles Thring esq. 6 South square Gray's inn

Bleeck A. G. (Mat) Trinity 1848
Alfred Ingelbrg
C. J. (Bat) Trinity 1851
Charles

1680 ~~Jo~~ Johannes Blank
1716 ~~Ad~~ Johann Blank
1720 Johann ~~Friedrich Blank~~
1756 Johann Friedrich Blank
1790 Philipp Friedrich Blank

It is the interest

I think you will excuse the ~~liberty~~ ~~I take on~~ ~~of~~ my introducing myself to you in the interest I take in the history of my and perhaps your family. You will not be unaware ~~of~~ how very seldom the name is, ~~&~~ which you have common with me. As to the ~~o~~ ~~your~~ which name has before the R. you must know that my grand-

father was accustomed to write Bleeck, but my father dropped the e, as unnecessary. The country in which my father, Rev. Friedrich Bleek, D.D., who is Professor of Theology at the University of Bonn, has been born is Holstein. Besides his children and one cousin of mine, there is only an old uncle of my father's, who is a physician in Holstein, and a cousin of mine, who bears the name Bleek or Bleek.

My grandfather's grandfather was, I think, Johannes Bleek, who took his degree as M.D. at the University of Glückstadt in Holstein, and whose dissertation, 'De Betonica' is in the Botanical Library of the British Museum. My grandfather had one brother who emigrated, and of him and his descent, if he had any, we do not know at all. It is very possible indeed that the English Bleeks and homonymous English family may be related connected with us also by the ties of common descent. As the name also in England is a very rare one, you would oblige me very much if you communicating to me whatever you know about the origin of your family.

As to my own person, and my present stay at London, I was appointed as scientific officer by Her Majesty's Government to an expedition appointed to explore the Niger and its tributary, the Tchadda, but I was obliged to leave the expedition, when arrived at Fernando Po, on account of ill health. It is most likely that soon I shall go out again to some other part of Africa. Apologising for the liberty I have taken in writing this letter I am

Your obedient servant

Wilhelm Bleek

Besides my father's family we know still of one other bearer of this name in Germany, but we are not able to trace any connection with them.