THE HILL OF GOODBYE; THE STORY OF A SOLITARY WHITE WOMAN'S LIFE IN CENTRAL AFRICA

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The Hill of goodbye; the story of a solitary white woman's life in Central Africa by Jessie Monteath Currie

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JESSIE MONTEATH CURRIE

THE HILL OF GOODBYE; THE STORY OF A SOLITARY WHITE WOMAN'S LIFE IN CENTRAL AFRICA



THE HILL OF GOOD-BYE

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

WITH POLE AND PADDLE DOWN THE SHIRE AND ZAMBESI.

THE ALTORETA

HILL OF GOOD-BYE

THE STORY OF A SOLITARY WHITE WOMAN'S LIFE IN CENTRAL AFRICA

BY

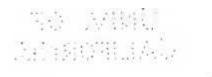
JESSIE MONTEATH CURRIE

Author of "With Pole and Paddle down the Shire and Zambesi."

ILLUSTRATED BY THE AUTHOR

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TT 211

With Loving Pride

I dedicate this book

To the Memory of my only Son

Adam Currie,

ist Scots Guards.

Who fought for Freedom till he fell in
Action in his fourth year at the Front.

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THE HILL OF GOOD-BYE

CHAPTER I

UP THE ZAMBESI RIVER

WHEN I sit alone, lost to things external, I see sights that few can. Marvellous rocky peaks, mysterious depths, and familiar dark figures, whose eyes flash with passion or mirth, pass before me. I hear sounds—soft childish voices, weird beating of drums and woeful yells, and the clear call of a bugle. It is the "lipenga." The flag is lowered. The dark figures cease their work. The sun slips behind the long line of purple hills. The small creatures awake in the grass—click, click, all night. It is quite dark. Can I make it light to you? Can I make you see the sights that haunt me, and hear the sounds that thrill me even now? I would that I could.

To begin with, there was the long, long journey which must be rapidly gone over, dwelling only