

**THE CONGO INDEPENDENT  
STATE: A REPORT ON A  
VOYAGE OF ENQUIRY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649102549

The Congo independent state: a report on a voyage of enquiry by Viscount Mountmorres

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**VISCOUNT MOUNTMORRES**

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# **The Congo Independent State.**

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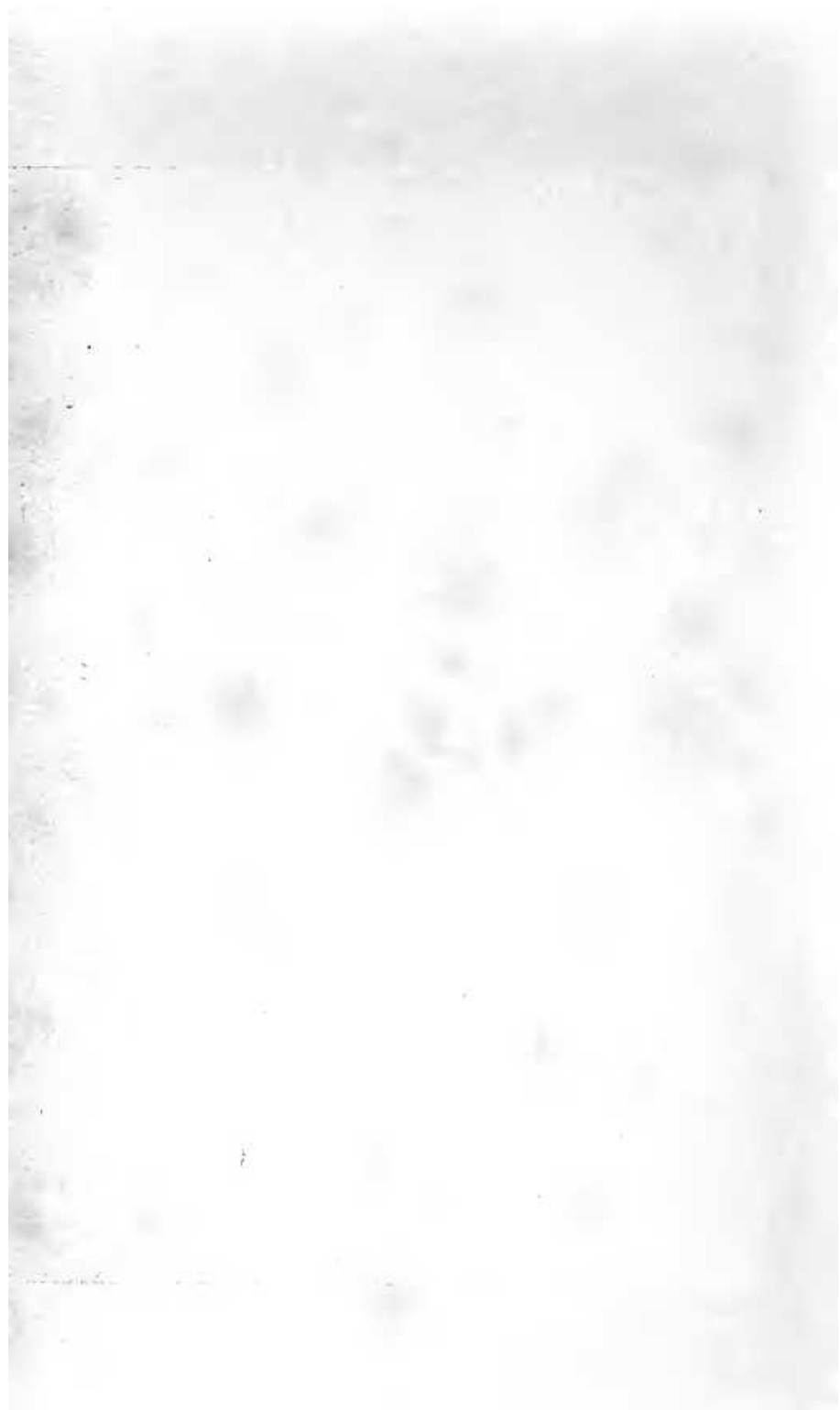
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CHARLES BIRCHALL, LTD.,

PRINTERS, ETC., 7 AND 9, VICTORIA STREET, LIVERPOOL.

TELEPHONES 585 AND 514 CENTRAL.

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BY

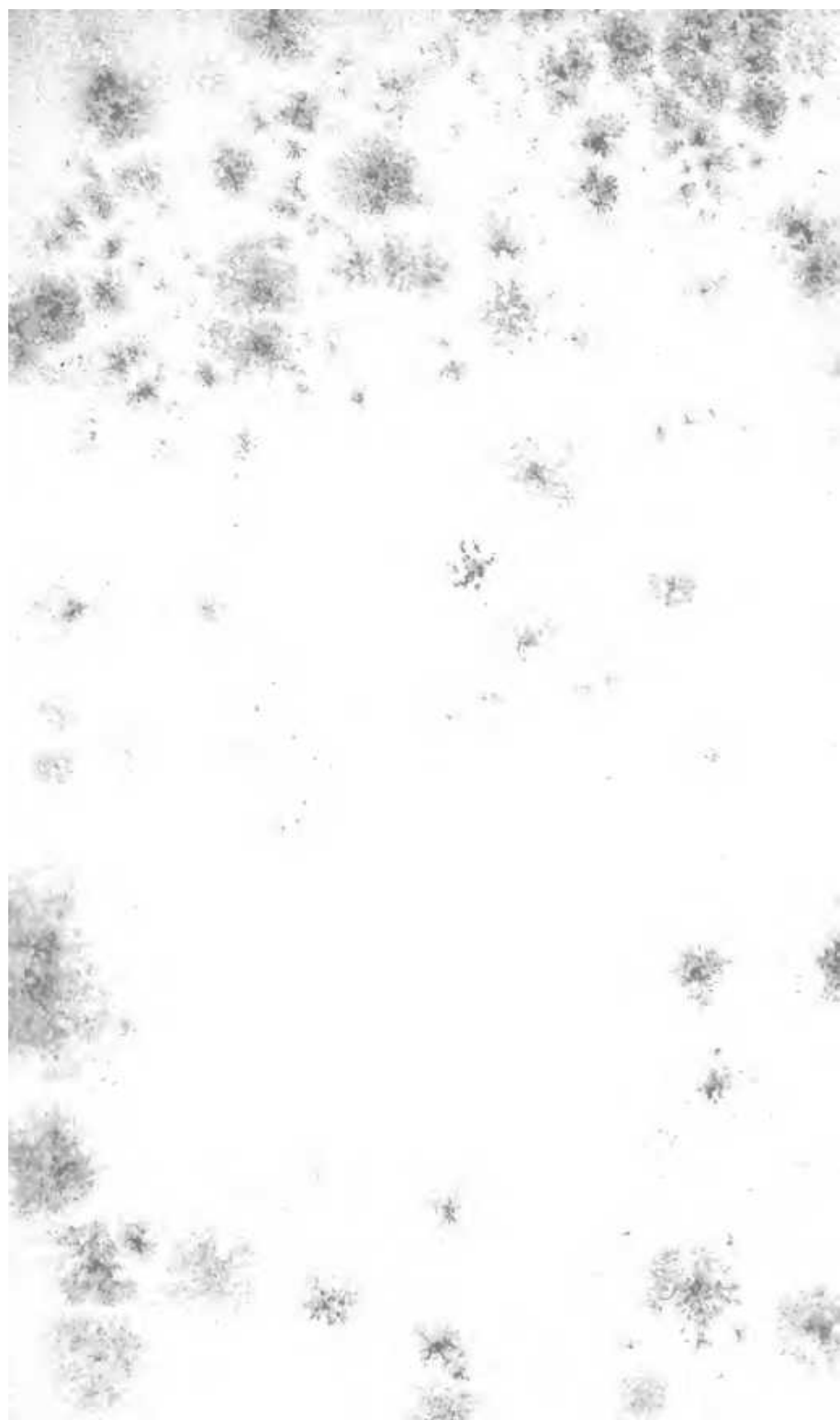
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London :

WILLIAMS AND NORGATE, HENRIETTA STREET,  
CONVENT GARDEN, W.C.

1906.



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## P R E F A C E .

THE accompanying report was written immediately after my return from the Congo Independent State in the spring of 1905. Repeated attacks of illness prevented my quite completing it, however, at the time; and during the many months which elapsed before I was able to present it to the Foreign Office, several important events occurred in connection with the affairs of the Congo Independent State, including the publications of the report of the Royal Commission in Europe, and in Africa many changes in the personnel and in the administration. I have thought it better to present the report to the public exactly in its original form. Its publication has been further delayed since the date on which I received permission from the Foreign Office to publish the non-controversial parts of it, by the fact that I have been absent on the West Coast of Africa. During this period again, further changes have taken place, including the deaths of both Dr. Bentley and Mr. Grenfell. The former I had not the pleasure of meeting; the latter was one of that grand old school of British missionaries, whose loss will be an absolutely irreparable one to the cause of humanity and the progress of white rule in Africa. The appointment of the Royal Commission of Enquiry was directly due to his personal representation. The Government of the Independent State, which had been deaf to the outcry of those whom, rightly or wrongly, it regarded as prejudiced parties, promptly acceded to the request of one whom it was bound to acknowledge as entirely impartial and reasonable-minded.

During the course of the eighteen months which have elapsed since my return from the Congo, my views on the condition of