

**MAGDALA: THE STORY OF THE
ABYSSINIAN CAMPAIGN OF 1866-
7. BEING THE SECOND PART OF
THE ORIGINAL VOLUME ENTITLED
'COOMASSIE AND MAGDALA'**

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HENRY M. STANLEY

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MAGDALA

THE STORY OF THE ABYSSINIAN CAMPAIGN OF 1866-7

BY

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BEING THE SECOND PART OF THE ORIGINAL VOLUME ENTITLED
'COOMASSIE AND MAGDALA'

WITH NUMEROUS ILLUSTRATIONS FROM DRAWINGS
BY MELTON PRIOR (SPECIAL ARTIST IN ASHANTEE OF THE ILLUSTRATED
LONDON NEWS) AND OTHER ARTISTS, AND A MAP

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PREFACE

'COOMASSIE and MAGDALA : the Story of Two British Campaigns in Africa,' is the title I have chosen for a volume which is a record of two grand successes gained by English soldiers in East and West Africa.

Before proceeding to Abyssinia as a Special Correspondent of the 'New York Herald,' I had been employed for American journals—though very young—in the same capacity, and witnessed several stirring scenes in our Civil War. I had seen Americans fight; I had seen Indians fight. I was glad to have the opportunity of seeing how Englishmen fought. In Abyssinia I first saw English soldiers prepared for war. What I think of them I have written frankly, and without malice. The story of Magdala was written five years ago.

The record of the Coomassie campaign is dull compared to that of Magdala; but it is as heroic, and as worthy of our sympathy for the sake of those who fought, who suffered grievous sickness, and died.

Coomassie was a town insulated by a deadly swamp. A thick jungly forest surrounded it to a depth of 140 miles seaward, many hundred miles east, as many more west, and 100 miles north. Through this forest and swamp, unrelieved by any novelty or a single pretty landscape, the British army had to march 140 miles, leaving numbers behind sick of fever and dysentery. Five days' hard fighting ended the march, and

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Coomassie was at the mercy of the conquerors, to sack and burn to the ground. When this work was done, the commander of the force was compelled to march his soldiers back again to the sea, to save the remnant from perishing by flood and disease.

Magdala was a town situate on the top of a mountain about 10,000 feet above sea level, amid gigantic mountains, profound abysses lying between them—2,000, 3,000, and even 4,000 feet deep—a region of indescribable wildness and grandeur. It was almost an impregnable stronghold, about 400 miles from the sea, in a strange, weird country, full of peaks and mountains. The scenes which flanked the march bristled with rocks and crags; but the country was one of the most healthy countries on the face of the earth. The march was full of interesting incidents, more especially as we drew near the end. A battle was fought; Magdala was taken by assault, then fired, and utterly destroyed. The Emperor committed suicide; the captives were released; and the conquerors returned to the sea, flushed with unequalled success, having suffered the smallest loss that could possibly follow an invasion of a hostile country.

A greater contrast could not be made than is presented by the story of the two expeditions, which England undertook in Africa, in behalf of her honour, her dignity, humanity, and justice; and more brilliant successes than attended these two campaigns in hostile countries are not recorded in history.

HENRY M. STANLEY,

Special Correspondent 'New York Herald.'

LONDON: April 1874.

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