

AFRICA: AS SEEN BY ITS EXPLORERS

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Africa: as seen by its explorers by E. J. Webb

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E. J. WEBB

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BY ITS EXPLORERS**



Frontispiece.

KILIMANJARO.

AFRICA

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EDITED BY

E. J. WEBB, B.A.
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WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

LONDON
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37 BEDFORD STREET, STRAND
1899
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PREFACE

THE Africa of the explorers is rapidly passing away. Since it was discovered, or even asserted, that money might be made out of regions in which the ambition of our fathers looked to find at the most glory, a new era has set in, when political strife, financial complications, and international rivalries are the themes suggested by the mention of what was, only the other day, considered the Dark Continent. This era, too, will pass away; but whatever may take its place, the Africa of our ancestors will be gone, the land of mystery and monsters, of strange wild beasts and stranger wild men, which wrought so powerfully upon the imagination of civilized man, from the days of Herodotus down to our own. That the world, whatever it may gain from the new Africa, will lose something in the old, cannot be doubted; nor will it be denied that the performances of the men who took the leading part in the work of exploration now nearing its end are, upon the whole, among those of which the human race has most reason

to be proud. It is hoped that 'Africa as seen by its Explorers' may be of some use in enabling a generation to which such exploits are becoming rare to understand what work its fathers had to do, and how they did it.

An attempt has been made to select such passages as might, when read together, show in some degree what the chief problems of African exploration have been, and by what steps they were gradually solved. As much of this work has been accomplished within the last half-century, extracts from the writings of very many explorers could not be made without the consent of their publishers; and though this permission has been, in the great majority of cases, accorded with a kindness which must be here gratefully acknowledged, it has in one or two instances been withheld; which is the reason why no selections have been given from the works of so famous an explorer as David Livingstone. Cordial thanks are due, for permission to print extracts from works of which they are authors or proprietors, to Mr. David Nutt, Mr. Flinders Petrie, Messrs. S. Low and Co., Messrs. W. Blackwood and Sons, the Royal Geographical Society, the Hakluyt Society, Messrs. Longmans and Co., Messrs. Methuen and Co., Sir Frederick Young, K.C.M.G., Mr. E. Stanford, Messrs. G. Philip and Son, Mr. Grant Allen, the *Contemporary Review*, Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton, and Messrs. Smith, Elder and Co.

In preparing these extracts, care has been taken, in every case, to give the exact words of the writer himself or his translator. Where passages have been omitted,

the omission has been marked by asterisks, except in a few cases where it has amounted to a word or two only. Very rarely transposition of sentences or paragraphs has been allowed, as in the extract from Speke, numbered 12. But no attempt has been made to alter what an author wrote, even when, as in the case of grammatical blunders, an alteration might not have displeased him.

In the extracts from the older writers it has been thought advisable to modernize the spelling to such an extent as to obviate any possibility of misunderstanding by inexperienced readers. But no attempt has been made to adopt a rigorous uniformity of what may pass for orthography. This would, indeed, be impossible in the case of proper names, the spelling of which is still so much a matter of individual taste that it is difficult to say whether 'Morocco' or 'Marocco' is to be considered the established form of a name familiar in all men's mouths. Between 'pigmy' and 'pygmy,' 'Tuareg' and 'Tawárek,' 'Timbuctoo' and 'Timbuktu,' posterity, should it think a decision worth making, must be left to decide.

