

**SKETCHES OF THE MEDICAL
TOPOGRAPHY AND NATIVE
DISEASES OF THE GULF OF
GUINEA, WESTERN AFRICA**

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Sketches of the medical topography and native diseases of the Gulf of Guinea, Western Africa by
William F. Daniell

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WILLIAM F. DANIELL

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WESTERN AFRICA.

BY
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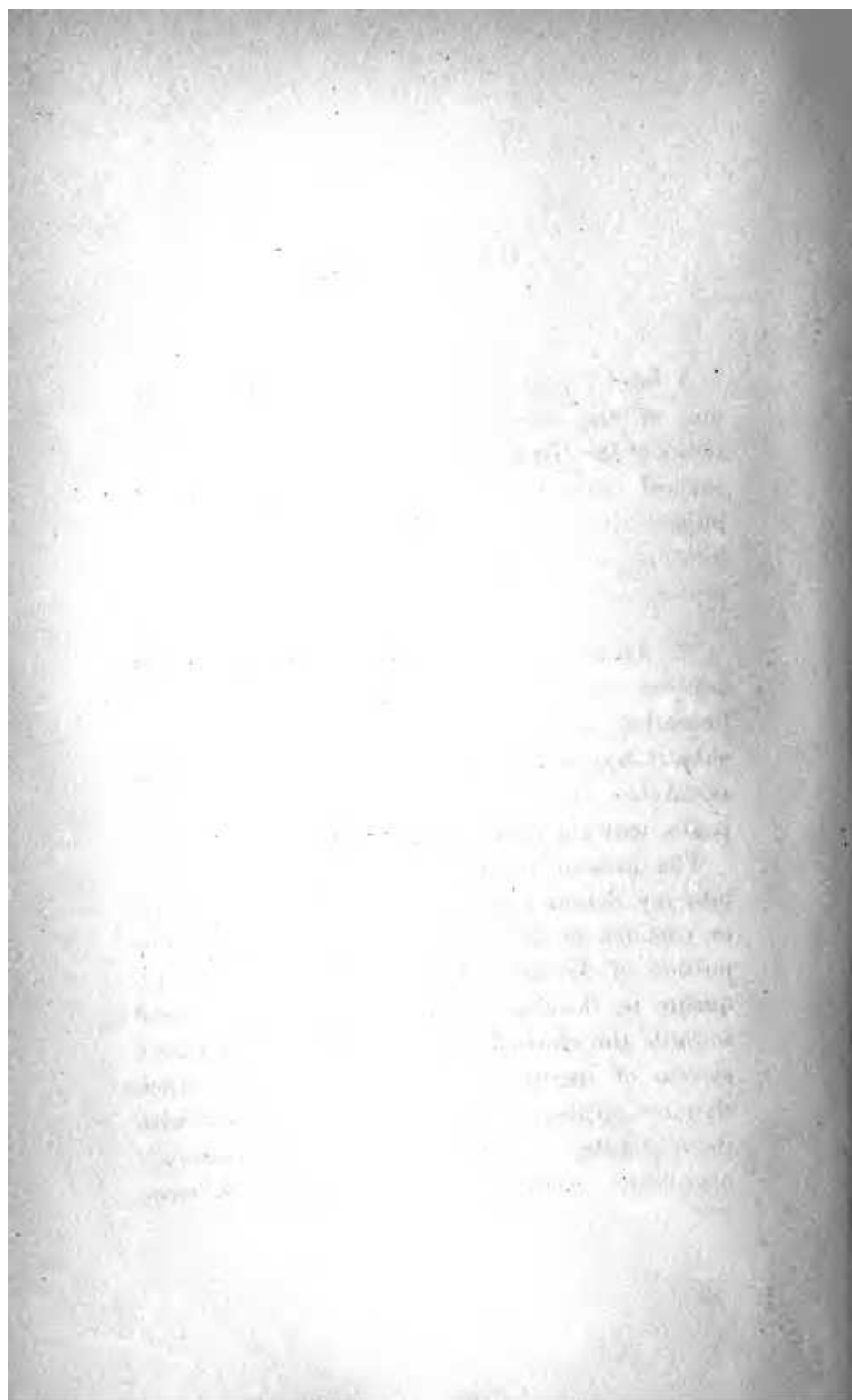
1849.

WILLIAM HENRY COX,
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P R E F A C E.

A brief topographical description, with an outline of the diseases peculiar to the aboriginal tribes of the Bights of Benin and Biafra, appeared several years ago, in a series of detached papers published in the *Medical Gazette*. These communications, now revised, constitute the basis of the present work.

The Author, since their publication, having enjoyed opportunities of acquiring additional information on various topics connected with the subject, has been induced to avail himself of these researches, by embodying them in the succeeding pages, with the results of his previous experience.

The present volume is not intended to enter into any details connected with the modes of life or customs of the different native tribes of this portion of Western Africa, further than is requisite to develop those principles which tend towards the elucidation of the origin, and native system of treatment of those diseases to which they are incident. In conformity, therefore, with these objects, a great variety of crude materials have been excluded, which, although of some

interest and importance in a philosophical point of view, nevertheless could not be consistently incorporated with these introductory sketches, without creating some confusion.

In conclusion, the Author will feel sufficiently rewarded should this work be the means of eliciting further enquiries into subjects which at present are involved in much obscurity, or prove of utility to those who are obliged to visit the Bights; and he sincerely trusts that they who may be influenced by the laudable desire of investigation, will escape the difficulties and perils which so frequently obstruct the path of those who become travellers in these unhealthy regions.

London, Sept., 1849.

MEDICAL TOPOGRAPHY
AND
NATIVE DISEASES
OF THE
GULF OF GUINEA.

INTRODUCTION.

Χωρίων δὲ θέσιν καὶ φύσιν ἐκάστων ὠδεύχρῃ διαγινώσκειν.

ἸΠΠΟΚ. περὶ Διαίτης, ε.

WHEN we refer to the annals of history, we find that the Portuguese and Spaniards were, from a very early period, familiarly acquainted with the greater portion of the western coast of Africa. They appear to have been uniformly actuated by the narrow-minded policy of the adventurers of that age, and indeed of much later ages; they neglected no precaution whereby they might secure to themselves the rich field of commerce, which was there displayed to their admiring gaze, and used every means to exclude other nations from partaking in its varied resources. A few years, however, must have demonstrated the fallacy of these expectations, for we find in the year 1553, records of an Englishman, of the name of Wyndham, trading in the Rio Formosa for pepper, and