

LIFE AND CHARACTER OF "MR. THEYSAY."

Few and far between are those who have not heard of the world-renowned "Theysay!" His name is familiar with all men everywhere. The high and low, rich and poor, bond and free, honoured and despised, civilized and barbarian, Protestant and Papist, Musselman and Christian, all nations, kindreds, tribes, and tongues, have heard of Mr. Theysay. His name is almost a household word. But who has ever given the world a history of this eminent personage? Numerous as biographers are, no one has ever written and published the life of Mr. Theysay. Pardon me if I undertake the task of writing a brief history of him.

His Parentage.—His father's name is Slanderer; his mother's, Tattle. Of his genealogy nothing more is known. He was born in the town of Evil Report, in the kingdom of Sin.

His Age.—It is not known in what precise age of the world Mr. Theysay was born. It is my opinion that he was born soon after Adam and Eve were expelled from the garden of Eden. If I am correct in this opinion, he must be very far advanced in life, and we should naturally expect to witness in him all the evidences of feeble old age, grey hairs, sunken eyes, and palsied limbs. But he is really as strong and active, as fresh and fair, and hale and hearty as he ever was. Remarkable old creature!

His Education.—Mr. Theysay's education is very limited. What knowledge he has obtained is principally from hearsay: hence he does not get any correct knowledge of anything. His deficient education has ever been a serious embarrassment to him; for he never dares to make a positive assertion, but guesses it is so, fears it is so, and so on.

His Personal Appearance.—I have spoken of him as being as strong, as active, &c., as he ever was. But who has ever seen Mr. Theysay? Have you? Has any one? If any one has, I know not the man. But we know he exists, because every body is talking about him. And I have come to the paradoxical conclusion that he exists and does not exist; is everywhere and nowhere; is responsible and

irresponsible; a sort of will-o'-the-wisp, Jack-with-the-lantern kind of being, whose personal appearance can never be described.

His Character.—He is distinguished for wickedness:

1. He is a slanderer.
2. A deceiver.
3. A liar.
4. A peace-breaker.
5. Everything that is bad, without one redeeming quality.

Reader! is Mr. Theysay in your family? Drive him thence. Harbour him not a moment. Listen not to his vile slanders. He will involve you in trouble, while he himself will escape.—*Christ. P. Mag.*

EASTERN AFRICA.

From a valuable work entitled "The Lake Regions of Central Africa, a Picture of Explorations," recently published, we make the excerpts subjoined. The author of this volume, Richard F. Burton, is a captain in the British army in India, and is known far and near from his daring and adventurous pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina, some years since, whither he went disguised as a Mohammedan fakir.

The volume before us contains the history of journeyings from the autumn of 1856 to the spring of 1859, extending throughout Eastern Africa. Captain Burton discusses the different races of Eastern Africa at great length and with great ability. The condition of the natives contrasts favourably, he thinks, with that of the European peasantry, and is incomparably superior to the ryots of British India.

When the sun has dashed the dew from the grass, the elder boys drive the herd to pasture, and do not return until sunset. The elders, even at this early hour, devote themselves to steady drinking. They talk, laugh, smoke, sleep, gamble. Gambling is a passion. They will sell their property, and then sell themselves. A negro will stake his aged mother against a cow, which appears to be the value attached to the old lady.

At one o'clock dinner, the great event of negro life, comes off. The negro's soul is in his stomach. The meal is his meditation by day, and his dream by night. The human animal is ravenous after flesh. Any living