

"In Afric's Forest and Jungle"

A Thrilling Story of Missionary Adventure Among the Yorubans

AFRICA can no longer with accuracy be termed the "dark continent," in the sense of its being unknown. In the last ten years the work of exploration has gone forward so rapidly that there is now no large tract that has been left untraversed by the eager discoverer. From many points railways are being pushed into the interior, steamboats ply the main inland waters, and African names are becoming as familiar to us as those of Europe or Asia.

The recent contest for empire between France and England has brought prominently before the civilized world that section of West Central Africa lying between the Bight of Benin and the

hottest time of the year. The fierce rays of the tropical sun seemed to pierce the thick covering of the white umbrellas like points of steel. Most of the way led through high grass and bushes of scrubby growth, but occasionally the path led through a dense forest walled in on either side by an impenetrable undergrowth. These forests are the home of elephants, leopards, wild boars, and other dangerous animals; while the braying of immense toucans, the hoarse barking of large monkeys, and the calls of the many other denizens of these wilds were heard all about.

The nights were passed in the thatched mud huts of wayside villages temporarily established



NATIVE RULER GIVING A RECEPTION.

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Niger river, and between parallels five and seven north latitude. It was in two cities of that country, Ejahyay and Abeokuta, that Rev. R. H. Stone labored as a pioneer missionary among the barbarous people. The story of his journeys, perils, toils, and triumphs, "In Afric's Forest and Jungle," has just been published by the F. H. Revell Company, and adds another to the noble list of missionary volumes which tell how the cause of Christ fares at the front.

Landing at Lagos, the young missionary and his wife secured a native caravan and began the long journey to Ejahyay, where they were to be stationed. It was then January, the dryest and

for purposes of trade with passing caravans. These caravans were composed of hundreds of carriers of both sexes, hurrying inland or to the coast. Palm oil, in large calabashes, and elephants' tusks seemed to constitute the chief articles of export from the interior. The loads of the carriers on the return journey consisted largely of kgs of powder, boxes of trade muskets, salt, cloths of different kinds, copper rods, and still more largely of green boxes containing cheap rum. The copper rods were to be made into bullets so that wounded men might die of poison if they were not killed by the bullet itself.

Ejahyay proved to be a large city, having a