

PREFACE.

The wonderful discoveries and thrilling adventures of the world's greatest explorer, Henry M. Stanley, are related in this new work. It is a record of the most daring achievements and heroic deeds of modern times, describing the long and perilous journeys, the terrible sufferings, the brilliant conflicts with ferocious men and beasts, the grand discoveries, which have awakened intense interest and aroused the enthusiastic admiration of all civilized nations.

The work depicts the brave struggles and hard-earned successes of Stanley's early life, from the poor boy, dependent on charity, to the sturdy young soldier, carrying the knapsack and rifle. He becomes a correspondent of one of our great daily journals, is suddenly despatched to Africa to find the famous explorer, Livingstone, and enters upon his marvelous career.

Stanley's first great journey in the Dark Continent is vividly described. The reader follows the mighty explorer, becomes a sharer of his hardships and perils, and journeys with him through a land wonderful for the richness and variety of its resources, the grandeur and beauty of its scenery, the abundance of its animal life, and the remarkable traits and customs of its savage races.

Before the onward march of the famous explorer, a path opens through the thickest jungle; broad rivers shrink to rivulets; the rugged pass becomes a smooth highway; wild animals flee in dismay; the American axe hews down sturdy forests; the frail canoe descends foaming rapids and crosses inland seas; the Dark Continent gives up the secrets that have baffled the world for thousands of years.

The reader shares the thrill of excitement, joy and triumph, as Stanley, after the most heroic struggle, finds Livingstone and grasps his hand!

Stanley's next expedition, from Zanzibar right across the continent to the Congo, is so full of perilous adventure, so remarkable for pluck and resolution, that it stands out boldly as the greatest achievement of our times. He vanishes from the sight of the civilized world. Weeks and months pass, and no intelligence comes from the intrepid explorer. Curiosity as to his fate becomes anxiety, and the anxiety grows into terrible suspense. Seasons roll their rounds and still no news from Stanley!