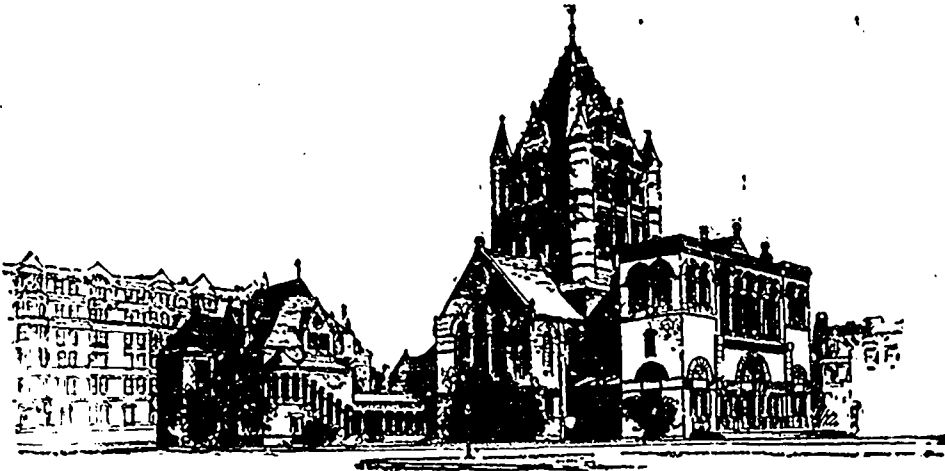




TRINITY CHURCH, BOSTON.

preachers, as Roberts succeeded, as Brooks succeeds, because they were on fire with holiness to the bottom of their being, and back of their words lay their lives."

As rector of Trinity Church, Phillips Brooks was best known to the people of Boston; but for anything further regarding this remarkable man we must refer our readers to the book already mentioned, which is full of incidents and thoughts well worthy of perusal.

THE SUDAN MISSION—THE NIGER.

BY N. W. HOYLES, ESQ., Q.C., TORONTO.



AFRICA, having mountains in the interior and sloping land toward the coast, is often compared to an inverted pie-dish. These lowlands are its most malarious part, and this is especially the case in the Delta of the Niger. This Niger flows for 2,000 miles, bending round so that its source is near Sierra Leone.

The two branches of the Niger, the Binue and the Quorra, join at the confluence, Lokoja, which is more than 200 miles from the sea. Between the Delta and Lokoja is the district called the Lower Niger, and at Lokoja commences the Upper Niger.

On July 21st, 1707, Mungo Park struck the upper waters of the Niger near Segon, the capital of Bambarra. "I beheld," he says, "the long-sought-for majestic Niger, glittering in the morning sun, as broad as the Thames at Westminster, and flowing slowly to the eastward."

It was not till 1830 that its whole course was determined. In 1832 two steamers ascended the river with a view to commerce, but the attempt was not successful.

In 1841 the British Government fitted out the celebrated Niger Expedition, the main purpose of which was to aim a fresh and effectual blow

of the Society to accompany the expedition. One of these was Samuel Crowther, then still a young schoolmaster, thirty years of age. The romantic story of his life,—the destruction of his home when he was about twelve years old,—his capture and experiences in the Portuguese slaver where he and 186 others were packed in fearfully close contact in the hold, the living, the dying and the dead all together; the slaver's capture by a British man of war; the baptism of Adjai, by the name of Samuel Crowther, his ordination, his meeting after a separation of twenty-five years with his mother and brother, and his consecration as first Bishop of the Niger, are familiar to us all.

In this expedition Christianity and industry were to go hand in hand, and one of the leading promoters of the expedition, Sir Fowell Buxton, summed up the needs of Africa in these two words, *The Gospel and the Plow*.

But the expedition closed in sorrow and disappointment. A deadly fever struck the crews and 42 white men out of 150 died in two months. The Niger Expedition became a by-word as a conspicuous and hopeless failure, yet it taught some valuable lessons and so paved the way for the more successful enterprises of later years.

For twelve years after the return of the ill-fated Niger Expedition of 1841, the great river dropped almost out of sight, but the white men were not forgotten by the tribes upon its banks. Year after year old King Obi, who had given the visitors a warm welcome at Ibo, used to look wistfully down the stream for the ship that never came. "The white man," he said to his sons, "has forgotten me and his promise too;" and he died without hearing again the message of salvation.

In 1854 a second expedition, which Samuel Crowther (now an ordained missionary), accompanied, was carried out without loss of life or serious sickness. The geographical results

at the slave trade. In this project Prince Albert, then a young man, took a lively interest. The C.M.S. saw in this scheme an opportunity for enquiring into the openings for the spread of the Gospel which the great river might present. Permission was obtained for two agents