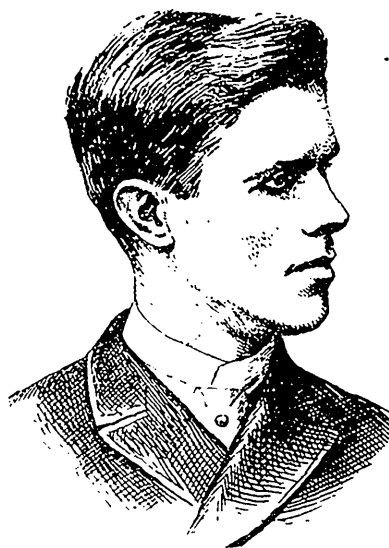


REALITY VS. ROMANCE.*



JAMES JOHNSTON, M.D.

DR. JOHNSTON will be remembered as having preached in several of our churches before going to Africa. He had a successful mission among the blacks in Jamaica, and was impressed with the thought that converted negroes would make admirable missionaries to the Dark Continent. He, therefore took with him a party of six Jamaicans and safely made his journey of exploration.

"During a period of twenty months he crossed South-Central Africa, travelling four thousand five hundred miles, mostly on foot, and alone so far as a white companion is concerned—passing through numerous savage and hostile tribes, traversing areas hitherto reported too pestilential for exploration, surmounting natural obstacles which have been represented as insur-

mountable, and penetrating regions where no white man had ever gone before. In all that long journey he never once found himself prompted to fire a shot in anger, or compelled to do so in self-defence against a human enemy; while he can say what perhaps no other man who has crossed Africa can—that of the many native carriers who travelled with him he did not lose one by death. He went among the fiercest tribes, not as a conqueror and master, but as a friend, and seeking to leave a trail behind him, not of blood and hate, but of peace and good-will."

The peaceful journeys of such men as Livingstone and Johnston, are in a remarkable contrast to the warlike excursions of Baker and Stanley, and certainly seem to demonstrate that there was no need of the wholesale slaughter of the natives described in Stanley's book. Dr. Johnston is exceedingly outspoken in his criticisms of Stanley. He does not hesitate to pronounce some of his statements as gross exaggerations.

Dr. Johnston traversed the region which has since become famous as the scene of the Matabele war, and visited the strange pre-historic ruins which have been claimed as relics of the lost city of Ophir. He criticises very freely the policy and conduct of the British South African Company, and dispels a good deal of the glamour that has invested part of the Dark Continent.

He is equally frank in his criticism of missionary methods and their successes. While some of these criticisms may be deserved, others, we think, are too sweeping, and founded upon too narrow an observation. He visited, it is true, a

* *Reality versus Romance in South-Central Africa.* An account of a journey across the continent from Benguela on the west, through Bike, Ganguella, Barotse, the Kalihari Desert, Mashonaland, Manica, Gorongoza, Nyasa, the Shire Highlands, to the mouth of the Zambesi on the east coast. By JAMES JOHNSTON, M.D. With fifty-one full-page illustrations and map. Toronto: W. J. Gage Company, Limited. Price \$4.00.