



"PREACHING AMONG INDIANS."

Page 194.

meningitis became more distinct, disclosing the real foe. To the last he was wonderfully free from acute pain, and quite free from delirium; but on the 25th his strength sank rapidly, and he became quite calm. Towards midnight, after a long period of quietness, he awakened suddenly and completely, and with a strong and vigorous voice called out "God be praised!"; then sinking back he fell asleep. Possessed of rare energy of body and mind, and with great power of adapting himself to circumstances, the mission could hardly have been started without him.

The country round Lokoja was rendered very unsettled during the last months of 1891 by the incursions of slave-raiders from the lawless tribes to the north of the Binue upon the populous and industrious communities inhabiting its southern banks, even venturing on the last days of December to attack the outskirts of Lokoja itself, and for a time Mr. Brooke was apprehensive of a general Mohammedan rising.

In consequence of these events, and of the sickness and frequent migrations of the missionaries, the special features which it was hoped by Mr. Robinson and Mr. Brooke would characterize this mission were only exemplified in a very limited degree. Mr. Brooke was called upon by the necessities of the case to work upon the more usual missionary lines, for which he considered his previous experience had scarcely fitted him.

He wrote: "A cavalry trooper trying to direct a steam loom is scarcely a strained illustration of my perplexities in being responsible for a parish." But he added: "It has been, however, a most valuable discipline to have been thus forced into applying myself to duties which would naturally have been most irksome; yet they have not been irksome."

His journals and leaflets, which have been published in England, and from which much of this paper has been taken, give many most interesting details of evangelistic journeys undertaken by himself and some of the native agents among the heathen to the north of Lokoja, which it would be most interesting to quote, did the limits of this paper permit.

In spite of the many trials which came upon the mission, he was able to report at the end of 1891 that the Gospel had been fully preached over a large area, and not only preached, but understood.

In August, 1891, Mr. Brooke writes an interesting report as to their experiences during the year, from which I make the following extracts:

"We have found Lokoja much more unhealthy than we anticipated, but in an unlooked-for direction; enteric illness of one kind or another, dysentery, typhoid, and enteritis, having been our chief foes. Our living down in the native town, which is at the foot of a wooded mountain—an ideally bad situation—has proved a mistake, and in future we purpose living on the hillside, where we are at present."

"We have been disappointed at the small amount of direct evangelistic work which we white missionaries have achieved. We have managed a great deal, as west African missions go, but that is rather due to the comparative simplicity of our machinery than to any great application to duty on our part. On the other hand, the work of the African agents has exceeded anything we could have hoped for, the numbers who are daily being evangelized by them being very considerable; in fact, they have taught us how much it is possible for a man to do, by God's help, in twenty-four hours. I trust, however, that we have been able to have some share in their work, not only by saving them from interruptions, but by suggesting or working out appropriate subjects for Bible study and teaching."

And, writing a month later, speaking about evangelical work undertaken in the picturesque region to the southeast of Lokoja, he gives the following interesting statements as to the character of the people with whom they had to do:

"For some years all these towns and villages have owned no sovereign lord, but they contrive to get along with fewer bickerings and squab-