

two pioneers of the Latin Church strove hard to replace the corrupt Greek Christianity of Abyssinia by the dogmas and teaching of Rome, and therefore aroused a strong opposition against all European intervention on the part of the native Abyssinian priesthood. But for a time the Portuguese dominated the councils of the kingdom owing to their trading connection between Abyssinia and India. Moreover, the Muhammadan forces, partly on account of Portuguese doings, were massing for the attack of the mountain-kingdom. Islam found its champion in a certain Muhammad Granye, a Somali chief who ruled the country round about Tajurra Bay (now-a-days French Somaliland). Assisted by the Arabs of southern Arabia and by the Turks, he ravaged the greater part of Abyssinia with the deliberate intention of extinguishing for ever Christianity in Ethiopia. He would probably have succeeded in his purpose but for the intervention of the Portuguese, to whom the Emperor David of Ethiopia managed to send emissaries imploring the assistance of the king of Portugal. The result was a wonderful expedition (considering the times, and the means of this little kingdom). Four hundred Portuguese under the command of Cristoforo da Gama landed at Masawa armed with firearms, then strange weapons to the Muhammadans of North-east Africa. Cristoforo da Gama (son of the celebrated Vasco) was an heroic figure, an ideal crusader. With his