

practical effect of so-called "British rule" is thus set forth in no very complimentary or hopeful terms.*

For Dr. Johnston's uncompromising opposition to the rum traffic, and his pictures of the ruin which strong drink is bringing to African natives, we are thankful. He depicts the awful orgies of intemperance at Kolombambi; † and yet he seems ready enough himself to have given drink to Kananene, if he had had any spirits with him ‡—an inconsistency which we cannot explain.

This book, finely gotten up as it is, has in it, like most journals, plenty of comparatively useless matter. It abounds in minor matters and trivialities, which become wearisome. To the ordinary reader it matters little what a traveller eats for breakfast; on which side of a stream he pitches his tent; just how many new carriers he engages, and what is their age and complexion, and at just what hour of the day he takes his cup of tea; or exactly what is contained in every present a chief may send him.§ We would not wish to follow our author in his disposition to hypercriticism; but a very minute examination of his book convinces us that it might have been reduced in bulk fully one third, if not one half, by avoiding needless repetition of details. One chapter—on the conditions of pioneer life, diet, carrying of goods, modes of tenting, sleeping, crossing plains and deserts, fording rivers, etc.—might have sufficed for the whole book. A diary is a convenient method of daily record; but, after the details are thus gathered and recorded as each day's experience makes possible, it would seem wiser and better to classify and rearrange. Because the individual facts were thus collected day by day, it does not follow that their presentation to the reader must pursue the same process. We learn to spell words letter by letter, but we do not introduce our spelling exercise into essays.

Valuable contributions are made incidentally by Dr. Johnston to the literature of missions, by his vivid description of the country and its inhabitants and their customs, as well as by his researches into the fauna and flora. His illustrations, furnished by his own camera, are superb.

The advice given in this book, touching all matters of physical regimen, dietetics, and medicine, should be carefully weighed.|| He gives sound counsel as to building sites, food, habits, etc. His general conclusions may be found in the close of this somewhat voluminous work.¶

To imitate Dr. Johnston's candor and avoid his sweeping denunciation, we confess that, amid many attractive features, we have found his book "a disappointing country" to travel in. We are glad it is a somewhat costly book, for it will not be so likely to fall into the hands of miscellaneous people, who will hastily draw conclusions adverse to missions. Read by the young and enthusiastic, the romance is perhaps too rapidly dispelled. The "facts" are too bald and bare and repulsively barren; we believe unnecessarily so. Such a book, if read at all, should be read side by side with Moffat's life, or Henry Richard's "Story of the Pentecost on the Congo," or Josiah Tyler's "Forty Years Among the Zulus."

We mean no unfriendliness to Dr. Johnston when we record our impression that, with all the good qualities of his superb book, it is as a whole a mistake; and that the general impression left on the mind of the reader is *not a true one*. We feel confident that the conclusions here reached are not based upon sufficiently abundant particulars or a broad enough induction; and that those who would get at the complete truth as to African missions, must listen to the testimony of other witnesses and to the author of *Reality vs. Romance*.

* Pp. 291, 295.

† P. 73.

‡ P. 80.

§ Pp. 82, 88.

¶ P. 320.

¶ P. 326 *et seq.*