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TIPPOO TIB.

A MODERN SLAVE DEALER.

Among the many natives of Africa known to European travellers to-day none are so notorious as Hamad ben Mohamed, or as he is more commonly called, Tippoo Tib. A native of Zanzibar, he was years ago looked upon, with his father, as one of the richest travelling merchants of that place. He is perfectly black, but in manners and ideas he is a thorough Arab. To many African explorers he has been well known. Stanley first met him in 1876, after he had parted from Livingstone, and hired him and his men to accompany him as carriers down the Congo. He described him as an Arab of great influence, and well-known throughout Central Africa, indeed a sort of migratory king among the tribes of the upper Congo. He could easily assemble a thousand fighting men at a few days notice and at any time could command the services of two or three hundred of them. He was, he says, "a tall, black-bearded man, of negro complexion, in the prime of life, straight, and quick in his movements, a picture of energy and strength. He had a fine intelligent face, with a nervous twitching of the eyes, and gleaming white and perfectly formed teeth. He was attended by a large retinue of young Arabs, who looked up to him as a chief, and a score of Wongwona and Wanyamwezi whom he had led over thousands of miles through Africa. With the air of

a well-bred Arab, and almost courtier-like in his manner, he welcomed me to the village, and his slave being ready at hand with mat and bolster, he reclined vis-a-vis while a buzz of admiration of his style was per-

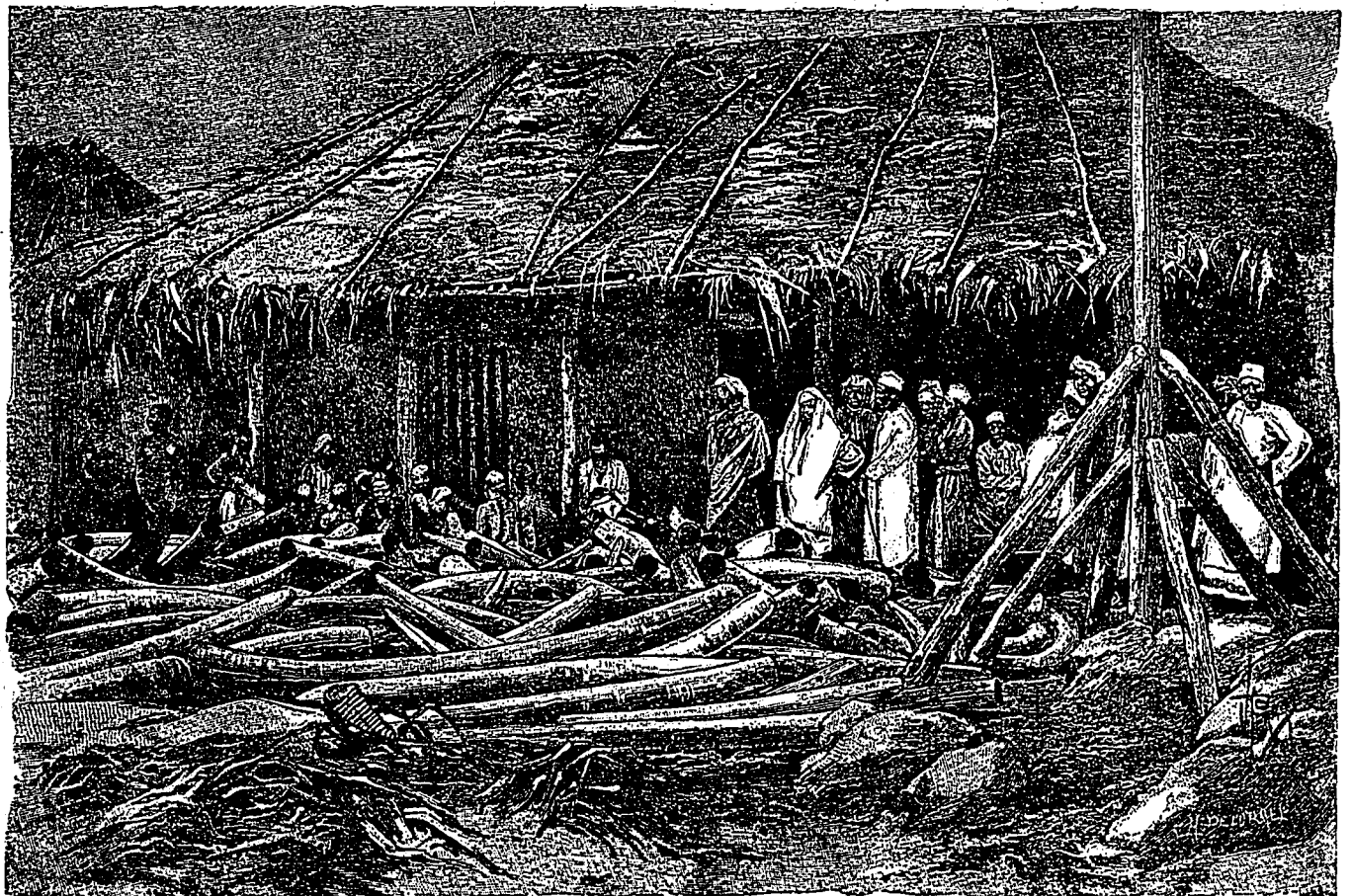
ceptible from the onlookers. After regarding him for a few moments, I came to the conclusion that this Arab was a remarkable man, the most remarkable man I had met among the Arabs in Africa. He was neat in his person, his clothes were of a spotless white, his fez cap brand new, his waist was encircled by a rich dwole, his dagger was splendid with silver filagree, and his *tout ensemble* was that of an Arab gentleman in very comfortable circumstances."

It was then, according to Mr. Herbert Ward, that he received the name by which he is now known. "It was applied to him by the people at Kassongo in consequence of their hearing the sharp, distant rattle of the bandit's guns when on some of their slave-catching excursions. The crack of the rifle-shot sounded in their ears like 'tip-tip-tip.' Another name he has won on the eastern side of Africa is 'M'Kango Njaa,'—'Afraid of Hunger,' for the natives declare that in traversing their barren country hunger is the only enemy of which he is in dread." He is now the most formidable ruler throughout the whole Congo region. Stanley Falls is his advance post. Here his Arabs camp on both sides of the river, sending out their ghastly expeditions in all directions carrying death and destruction to the smallest native settlement in their path. At Stanley Falls, says Mr. Ward, who was of Stanley's staff when he went, in 1884, to found the Congo Free State, there are large colonies of people living in canoes. They have

been driven from their original settlements—hunted like wild animals by the Arabs—and have had to abandon all idea of living on shore. They gain their subsistence by fishing, and in exchange for the fish they catch, they are able to procure plantains, bananas, and other kinds of food from the stronger tribes who have been able to retain their countries.

"The Arab system of raiding," to quote again from Mr. Ward's article in a late number of *Scribner*, is "unique."

"About fifty years ago they subdued the extensive Manyema country, of which Nyangwe and Kassongo are now well-known centres. The Manyemas, after being thus disbanded, gradually allied themselves with the Arabs, and eventually have spread their operations throughout the country to an enormous extent. The Arabs, on their expeditions in search of slaves and ivory, generally surround the native villages early in the morning. At a given signal they rush in from all points, firing right and left and capturing all the women. If the men offer resistance they are shot, otherwise they are allowed to escape. The marauders then pillage all the huts in the village, which they afterward fire. If, however, the place happens to be extensive, the Arabs adopt different tactics. They form a stockade or zareba. Thus fortified they establish themselves, maintaining a strict watch at night. During the whole of their stay they keep this attitude of defence. After the lapse of several days they release two or three of the wo-



TIPPOO TIB'S CAMP AT STANLEY FALLS, WITH AN ACCUMULATION OF IVORY.