

REVIEWS AND NOTICES OF BOOKS.

ABBEOKUTA; OR, SUNRISE WITHIN THE TROPICS. An outline of the origin and progress of the Yoruba Mission, by MISS TUCKER. London: James Nisbet & Co. Montreal Depository of the Religious Tract Society.

This book gives a most interesting account of the condition of the African races in that large tract of fertile country which lies to the north of the Bight of Benin; on the west there is the kingdom of the fierce and savage Dahomey; on the coast there are a variety of principalities, to the north of which the country of the Yoruba Nation lies, an immense region in which there were formerly many large towns and finely cultivated districts. The people of this country are remarkably docile, and are not ignorant of the arts of civilization. Their government was a confederation of chiefs, of whom one was made supreme. For many ages these people dwelt securely from the ravages of the slave hunter, but from some unaccountable cause a religious frenzy took possession of the Fellatahs—a Mohammedan and Arabian race dwelling chiefly to the north of the Yoruba. Under a sagacious chief, the banner of the prophet was unfurled, and a fierce onslaught was made upon the infidels around them. Thousands were thus slain, and thousands of all sexes were made captive and sold into slavery to the traders on the coast. Flourishing towns with 50,000 and 60,000 inhabitants were utterly destroyed by this fierce people, and those who escaped were compelled, for protection, to flee to the more remote and wilder parts of the country. The district of Abbeokuta lies upon the banks of the river Ogun. It is covered with rocky mounds, among which there are sheltered caverns. These, once the resort of robbers, now became the refuge of the scattered people. It has now grown to be a city containing 100,000 inhabitants, and surrounded by a wall 10 miles in circumference. This place has sprung up within the last 25 years, and rivals for its progress any of the cities of our American continent. The Gospel has, within these few years, been sent to Abbeokuta by the London Church Missionary Society. Both European and native Ministers trained in Sierra Leone, have been the agents in this work; they were most cordially received by both chiefs and people. As Englishmen they were welcomed as the friend and liberators of the Africans. Great success has attended their labors; many have been converted to Christianity; Churches and schools have been established; the Bible and other books have been translated into their language. The wild manners of the people have, in some measure, been corrected, and the influence of their fetish idolatry much abated. Notwithstanding the opposition of the devil and his agents to this good work, and the persecution to which, in some measure, the converts have been subjected, the cause of Christ rapidly advances, and bids fair ere long to become the religion of Abbeokuta. There is no civilizer like the Christian Missionary. The message of mercy which he bears to the sinner has a charm for the suffering and the oppressed. The sun of righteousness has risen with healing upon this fine race of Africa's sable children, and is blessing them with his saving light. We strongly recommend this most interesting little book to our readers, and especially that it be put into the shelves of the Congregational or Sabbath School Library. We would also recommend an occasional visit to the Depository of the Tract Society, where there may be found a large variety of books most suitable for family reading and for the young.

AFRICA'S MOUNTAIN VALLEY; OR, THE CHURCH IN REGENT'S TOWN, WEST AFRICA. New York: Carter & Brothers. Montreal: Depository Religious Tract Society.

This is another Missionary book, of a similar kind to the preceding. It is chiefly taken from the Diary and Letters of a distinguished and devoted Mission-