

the blessings it brought him; loved it for the joy it gave him to make others happy; loved it for the generous hopes that warmed his soul and held the promise of triumphs, honest triumphs, to come, always before his eyes.

It is hard to think of the stoppage of that life when in full career; it is with heavy hearts that his friends recall his name and all his splendid traits.

Peace to him, may the tired head rest softly on the pillow, to which no troubled dreams come, and the waking from which is in that dawn which has no clouds, but which is aureoled with everlasting peace.

"In Darkest Africa"

CAROLINE KIRKLAND, in her book on "Some African Highways," says of night in the Dark Continent:

"There is nothing so black as an African night and I think that it is because the earth, being a deep red, offers no reflection to the faint starlight such as we get in other lands. Instead, it swallows up what slight glow there may be, and gives to the darkness a dim, velvety quality not to be found anywhere else. Overhead the stars glow more brilliantly than in northern latitudes, but they seem to cast no light, and the night is palpable, suffocating, appalling and filled with a nameless horror which is quite indescribable."

The cruelties that have been inflicted and suffered in that land through the unnumbered centuries have made their impress upon Nature herself. It forced back civilized man for ages. In other wild countries he has obtained a foothold and forced his way inland; but while nations arose and flourished, and at last declined and died, that inner darker continent had at most but a fringe of settlements around its shores. The mighty interior was given up to its savageries; something held the explorer back. It was that way through the centuries, while Egypt arose and flourished, and finally declined until all her glory had nothing remaining to tell of her former power but her ruins. The land-hungry nations recoiled before seeking to penetrate those African depths. A new world was discovered and all its mysteries uncovered before Africa finally was searched out and its horrors revealed. Now this writer that is quoted above tells of its "palpable darkness," and cannot explain lucidly the reason.

We think it is because the land and its people never knew either charity or mercy. They have been as cruel as their own fierce beasts from the first, for how the description of those African nights fits the character and presence of the man who has neither charity nor mercy in his soul. We have all seen now and then such a man. Whatever light there may be in him is never reflected. Children and domestic animals, by a live instinct, shrink away from him. Those near him are uncomfortable and distrust him; he walks unloved through life; he is in the world's way always—even the stars that shine down upon him can make no impression upon him by their rays. After all, the light of the world is love, and above all other graces is charity.

May be Africa was reserved until the best in the known world should be worn out; possibly the races that have ruled the world so long are by and by to be displaced; possibly a new light is to be kindled in the continent which has always been dark, and a new civilization is to be born there; but if it is, it will be when Mercy builds a throne there and brings with her the two ministers—Love and Charity.

Which, Asia or America?

NEARLY forty years ago, Emilio Castelar, in the Spanish Cortes, said: "Europe has to decide whether she will confound herself with Asia, placing upon new lands old

tars, and upon the altars old idols, and upon the idols immovable theocracies, and upon the theocracies despotic empires, or whether she will go by labor, by liberty, and by the republic, to collaborate with America in the grand work of universal civilization."

Castelar was making a plea for a republic for Spain; for a right about face and forward march for the Spanish people.

The court of Spain had become a reproach before the world; the sufferings of the common people had become unbearable, and Castelar, in the inspiration of his wonderful genius, was beseeching his countrymen to cast aside their superstitions and their slavery, and to stand forth to "redeem and regenerate and disenthral" native land.

Spain was too weak and too corrupt to arise and follow him up into the light of freedom and advancement; too weak to awaken anew the old manhood that once made Spain the foremost of nations.

Since then she has lost her island possessions, and so low is she reduced that her weakness has become her only safety, and for pity only her integrity as a nation remains intact.

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