

**A PILGRIMAGE TO MY
MOTHERLAND. AN ACCOUNT OF
A JOURNEY AMONG THE EGBAS
AND YORUBAS OF CENTRAL
AFRICA, IN 1859-60**

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A Pilgrimage to My Motherland. An Account of a Journey Among the Egbas and Yorubas of Central Africa, in 1859-60 by Robert Campbell

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ROBERT CAMPBELL

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ACCOUNT OF A JOURNEY

AMONG

THE EGBAS AND YORUBAS OF CENTRAL AFRICA,

In 1859-60.

BY

ROBERT CAMPBELL,

One of the Commissioners of the Niger Valley Exploring Party; late in charge of the
Scientific Department of the Institute for Colored Youth, Philadelphia; and
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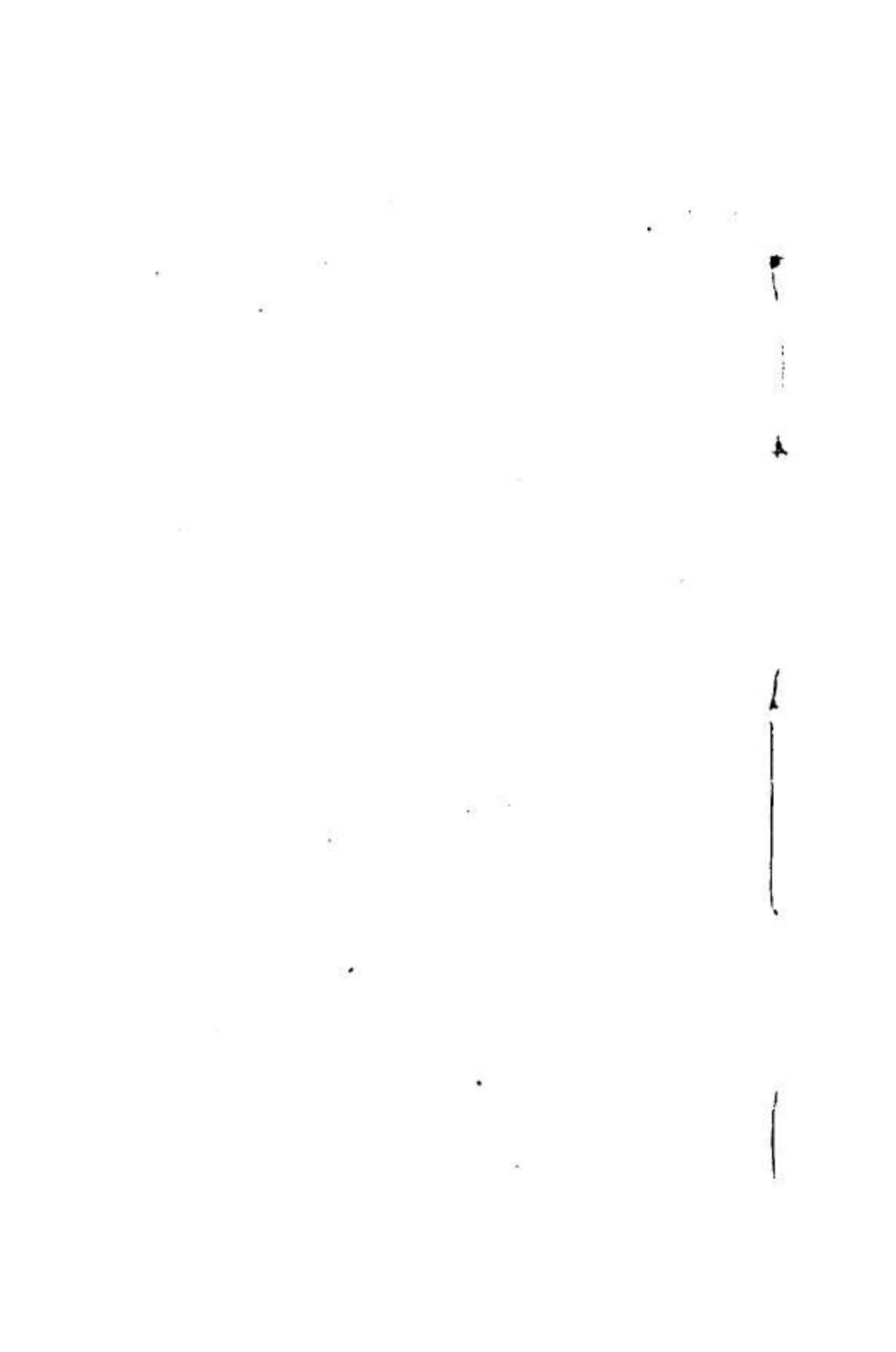
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A Pilgrimage to My Motherland.

CHAPTER I.

LIVERPOOL TO LAGOS.

Bathurst—Sierra Leone—Malignant Fever—Cape Palmas—Cape Coast Castle—Accra, English and Dutch.

ON the 24th June, 1859, I departed from Liverpool on board the African S. S. "Ethiophe," Capt. French. On the 2d of July we arrived at Funchal, Madeira; the 4th was spent at Santa Cruz, Teneriffe, four days after leaving which we came in sight of Cape Verde, Africa; the next day we anchored in the port of Bathurst on the Gambia. This little town is built on one of those great deposits of sand commonly found on the Deltas of large rivers. It is said to be surrounded by very unhealthy influences, although the American Consul, with whom I enjoyed an hour's conversation, assured me that he had not known a case of fever among the white inhabitants of the place for six months. The trade is chiefly in ground-nuts, (*Arachis Hypogea*.) Except perhaps Freetown, there is not a better looking place

on the West Coast. The largest houses are built along the river-side, and present a handsome appearance, heightened by some fine large trees growing before them, and a fine avenue is left between the trees and houses. The streets are wide and regularly intersect at right angles, with sewers for draining; the town, which from being low would otherwise be swampy, is thus kept dry. The white inhabitants, including the officers of the garrison and the missionaries, comprise about thirty persons. There is another small town about one hundred and fifty miles up the Gambia, called Macarthy's Island. The settlements on this river are British, and are garrisoned by African soldiers from the W. I. Regiment. The natives are chiefly Jolofo and Mandingas. Many of the latter, who are Moham-medans, read and write Arabic; both comprise some very active and successful traders.

On the 12th we were at anchor in the harbor of Freetown, Sierra Leone, lat. $8^{\circ} 29' N.$, long. $13^{\circ} 14' W.$, said to be the best harbor on the West Coast of Africa. Affairs were in a bad condition, the yellow fever, or as some say, a malignant form of bilious fever had appeared there, and swept off more than a third of the white inhabitants, while the small pox was busy among the natives. During the two days that the ship continued in the port I had frequent opportunities of con-