

FROM CATARACT TO EQUATOR

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From Cataract to Equator by James Teackle Dennis

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JAMES TEACKLE DENNIS

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TO EQUATOR**

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HIPPO HUNTER AND BOAT—MELUT

FROM CATARACT
TO EQUATOR

BY

JAMES TEACKLE DENNIS

*Author of "The Burden of Isis," and
"On the Shores of an Inland Sea."*

*Illustrated with photographs
by the author*



RICHARD G. BADGER

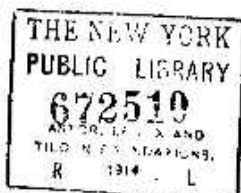
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PREFACE.

Just a century ago, in that Island in the North Atlantic whose sons have borne her flag from the heat of equatorial regions to where the blasts of the Antarctic pole drive their white legions "adown the viewless valleys of the wind," there was born of humble but sturdy parents one whose name will be forever connected with the African continent — David Livingstone. Of his career it is unnecessary to speak; but had it not been for the indomitable energy, bravery and steadfastness of Livingstone, these pages might never have been written, and some of the most glorious (as well as some of the most disgraceful), pages of England's Colonial policies would have probably remained blank. He blazed the trail: yet it would be the height of remissness not to name some of those who followed after, and added to the work begun by that great apostle of civilization — men of the type of Sir Samuel Baker, Henry M. Stanley, Paul B. Du Chaillu, Col. Charles Chaille-Long, Genl. Charles Gordon, Sir William Johnston, and other great explorers of the "Dark Continent." The ordi-

No attempt is made in the following pages to go into details of the origin, life, customs, etc., of the various wild tribes that habitat in this central portion of the great continent: the typical differences and racial characteristics are those that anyone can see at a glance — if they *see* what they *look* at —; but the trip is one of such varied, new experiences, so full of the novelty of that which is old by many a thousand years, and yet perhaps seeming old because of some dim, atavistic tendencies yet lingering in the blood, that I cannot but hope that the reader may find throbbing within his heart some chord responsive to the brotherhood — far removed physically — of the denizens of these sun-haunted regions, and may receive some, at least, of the pleasure and delights of the tropic days which the author felt in following the Nile — mother of earth's earliest known civilization — towards its source.

JAMES TEACKLE DENNIS.

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