

THE OLD MISSIONARY

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649485444

The Old Missionary by Sir William W. Hunter

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SIR WILLIAM W. HUNTER

**THE OLD
MISSIONARY**



THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR'S CAMP

The Old Missionary

By SIR WILLIAM W. ^{O.C.}HUNTER, K.C.S.I., M.A., LL.D.

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W. W. W. W. W.
O. L. G. W.
Y. I. A. F. L.

THE OLD MISSIONARY



CHAPTER I

THE TWO ENCAMPMENTS

SUNDAY passed rather languidly in the Lieutenant-Governor's camp. The aide-de-camp had officially marked the claims of the day by appearing in his staff-spurs at breakfast, and the judge read service in the mess-tent. The small party then separated, the younger men to watch the cleaning of their guns and examine the scratches which the dogs had got during yesterday's jackal-hunt, the seniors to work off the arrears of the week or to write letters home.

It was only the flying camp of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and had little of the elaborate equipage which attends a progress of the Viceroy, or the prolonged cold-weather tours of the

Lieutenant-Governors of the North-west and the Punjab. Half a dozen tents on either side formed a short broad street down the middle of a mango-grove, with a strip of lawn between and a noble pipal-tree closing in the upper end. On the right of its towering masses of foliage stood the Lieutenant-Governor's pavilion, the British flag twisting lazily round its pole in the sunshine.

The tents of the Secretary to Government, the private secretary, the aide-de-camp, and the officer commanding the escort, were ranged in military line on one side of the lawn. The less regular row facing them was made up of the tents of our small District staff, the judge, the magistrate and his assistant, the superintendent of police, and the old doctor with his melancholy flute. A structure of yellow native cloth for mess purposes and public receptions stood at the head of our side of the little white street, and was connected with the Lieutenant-Governor's pavilion by a covered way of canvas across the grass. A few clerks, the troopers of the escort, and the servants, had their humble pent-roof encampment behind the pipal-tree on the outskirts of the grove.