

**THE "MAN-  
STORIES"  
OF A BLACK SNAKE**

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The "Man-Stories" of a Black Snake by W. A. Boord

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**W. A. BOORD**

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A BLACK SNAKE

BY

W. A. B.

WITH AN INTRODUCTION  
BY CAPTAIN MAURICE D. BELL, R.A.

FRONTISPIECE AND MAP

LONDON  
WHITTAKER & CO., WHITE HART STREET  
1898

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**' Now the serpent was more subtil than any  
beast of the field.'**

*Genesis.*



## INTRODUCTION.

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A CERTAIN critic gave it as his opinion that there were two classes to whom these unusual pages would particularly appeal. He thought that children would one and all immediately make friends with Wriggie and Coila; Uncle Stretcher for them would be no conception of the imagination, but a teacher full of wisdom and experience; and as he drew upon the stores of his memory, every child would listen in breathless sympathy while his emotions of love or of fear, of laughter or of tears, were in turn excited by the serpent's subtle tongue. But in this opinion I am bound to say I do not concur. There runs, it is true, an apparent simpleness throughout the book, but this has been a natural outcome of the ideas which the author holds with reference to the intelligence