

# **THE MONKEYFOLK OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649171613

The monkeyfolk of South Africa by F. W. Fitzsimons

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

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**F. W. FITZSIMONS**

**THE MONKEYFOLK  
OF SOUTH AFRICA**





THE AUTHOR.

# THE MONKEYFOLK OF SOUTH AFRICA

BY

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AUTHOR OF "THE SNAKES OF SOUTH AFRICA: THEIR VENOM AND  
THE TREATMENT OF SNAKE BITE."

*WITH 60 ILLUSTRATIONS*

LONGMANS, GREEN AND CO.

39 PATERNOSTER ROW, LONDON

NEW YORK, BOMBAY, AND CALCUTTA

1911

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## P R E F A C E

THIS book is the first of a series which I hope in due time to have published.

The monkeys are at the head of the sub-human animal kingdom, so I have taken them first.

Each group of animals will be dealt with in turn, until a complete history of the animals of South Africa has been produced.

This volume is written mostly in the form of anecdotes. The animals are made to tell their own stories.

By adopting this style I hope to interest the minds of our boys and girls, and at the same time to present all that is known to science about the ways and habits of the animals of South Africa.

I have been encouraged to do this by the large measure of success which attended such efforts in the past, in connection with the literary and lecturing departments of my work as a museum director. In the degree that a writer is able to interest the mind of the reader, so just in that degree will he succeed in impressing the cells of the grey matter of the brain. Unless the teacher succeed in arousing the intelligent interest of his pupil, he can make but little headway.

I am a strong advocate of books being written in simple language, because they are then easily comprehended by



learned men and women, as well as the most ignorant school-boy or girl.

The reason, probably, why scientific knowledge is so distasteful to the general public is that it is usually presented, either verbally or in books, in a form so complex and involved that it is not readily understood, and therefore fails to interest the public mind. I think that if our boys and girls can be taught to take a real live interest in the Creator's handiwork, they will grow up truly and genuinely reverent.

Nearly, if not all the ideas which have led to discoveries have been gained by the observation and study of the marvellous works of God upon the world, and in the heavens.

In the degree that we profited by such study, so in that degree have we risen superior to the adverse forces which threatened to overwhelm us.

This world is a great book—the Book of Nature. In its bosom is stored up the history of the past. Upon its surface are the results of that wonderful law through which God perfects His works. We term it the law of Evolution.

It is necessary for the moral, spiritual, and physical health that the individual should take up the intelligent study of some mind-developing subject, apart from the ordinary routine of life. The man or woman who is wholly absorbed in his or her trade or profession becomes, in time, incapable of taking an intelligent interest in anything else. Such people become mentally dwarfed. The human brain is very complex, and unless the various parts are systematically exercised, they become more or less atrophied, as do those muscles which are rarely, if ever, used.

I wish it distinctly understood that this volume is a book

## PREFACE

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of fact, the style adopted being solely with the object of trying to "sugar-coat" the facts, and thus make them more presentable to young readers.

My excuse for writing the book is that I am keenly interested in the natural history of South Africa, having devoted all my life, so far, to it. I shall feel well repaid if I am able to stimulate the minds of some of our boys and girls to take an intelligent interest in the creatures of mountain, veld, forest, and stream.

The pictures in this book, except where otherwise stated, are from photographs of the animals in their natural habitats.

THE AUTHOR.

PORT ELIZABETH MUSEUM,  
PORT ELIZABETH, CAPE COLONY,  
*December 1910.*

