

THE HISTORY OF A SLAVE

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The history of a slave by H. H. Johnston

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H. H. JOHNSTON

**THE HISTORY
OF A SLAVE**

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'I am not an old man yet, am I?'

THE HISTORY OF A SLAVE

BY

H. H. JOHNSTON, F.R.G.S., F.Z.S., &c.

AUTHOR OF 'THE KILIMANJARO EXPEDITION' ETC.

WITH 47 FULL-PAGE ILLUSTRATIONS ENGRAVED FACSIMILE FROM THE AUTHOR'S DRAWINGS



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Equatorial Africa, especially by Mbudikum people, with whom I have conversed at Old Calabar.

While this little work does not pretend to topographical accuracy—especially in countries that are only known to us by native reports—yet, to speak colloquially, it is not all humbug. Many of the incidents herein related I have actually witnessed during some one of my journeys in Africa. The places and peoples I have named are of real existence, as are also the languages quoted, though some of them, as in the case of the Mbudikum tongue, probably appear in print for the first time.

Were it not for the time and care which I have spent on the forty-seven illustrations of this booklet, I should consider even the few foregoing remarks superfluous; but, for the sake of these drawings, I would ask the reader to treat me somewhat seriously. These illustrations are truthful delineations of African life and scenery, and have most of them been done in Africa from actuality, though it does not necessarily follow that their application is to be

exactly localised ; that is to say, that, though the drawing may not have been actually done from the scene described in the book, it depicts an analogous scene elsewhere, from which, all or in part, it has been taken. It may, however, be well to mention that I have endeavoured to make my landscapes, architecture, implements, costumes—or the want of them—and studies of human types, as locally accurate as possible.

H. H. JOHNSTON.

LONDON : *March*, 1889.



ILLUSTRATIONS

'I am not an old man yet, am I?'	<i>Frontispiece</i>
'My mother was a young woman who had a pleasant face, although, after the fashion of these pagans, it was scarred and tattooed on the forehead, and cheeks, and chin'	<i>To face page</i> 3
'We lived in a kind of compound, the four sides of which were houses built of clay, with palm-thatch roofs'	5
'My father . . . was old, and his eyes were dim : he had a short grey beard, and the hair of his head was grey, and he had lost many of his teeth. . . . For hours together he would sit on his haunches over the fire in his own hut'	7
'But one elephant that was stronger and more cunning than the others would not fly before the shouting, but turned round and made straight at my brother, whom he seized with his trunk and carried to the firm land among the bushes'	13
Epfumo	15
'There were great fires burning, so that the place was full of light, and round these fires were squatting or standing all the young men of the town'	21
'We all went home with the birds we had caught'	25
'Around the base of the tree were walking two or three brown vultures. . . . When I said in a soft voice, "Ndeba !" her eyes opened, and she looked hard at me'	27