

**LIFE AND LETTERS OF SAMUEL  
NORVELL LAPSLEY: MISSIONARY  
TO THE CONGO VALLEY, WEST  
AFRICA, 1866-1892**

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Life and Letters of Samuel Norvell Lapsley: Missionary to the Congo Valley, West Africa, 1866-1892 by Samuel Norvell Lapsley

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SAMUEL NORVELL LAPSLEY.

LIFE AND LETTERS

OF

SAMUEL NORVELL LAPSLEY,

MISSIONARY TO THE CONGO VALLEY,  
WEST AFRICA.

1866-1892.

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SIP #  
ELIZABETH A. EASLICK  
1-13-57  
-7-93

This is  
Inscribed, to  
The dear Little Mother,



From whom our boy  
Learned his earliest lesson of entire  
Devotion to God and duty;  
Whose beautiful life, and gentle  
And wise words were as an inspiration,  
Even in citing and guiding him,  
In that life of consecration,  
Some pictures from which,  
These pages seek  
To portray.





## PREFATORY NOTE.

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WITH the exception of the memoir and closing chapter, this book is made up of extracts from my son's letters and diary, beginning February 26, 1890, the day he left New York, and ending March 17, 1892, a few days before his death.

For the better parts of the memoir and the editing of the letters from May to July, 1890, we are indebted to his brother, R. A. L., who would gladly and efficiently have done more of this labor of love had not his time been constantly occupied as an evangelist elsewhere.

We have a continuous diary and also contemporaneous letters, and I have selected from one or the other, as seemed best, in order to give briefly a clear and connected view of his journeyings and labors, and of the countries and peoples among whom he went.

In his daily intercourse with people of divers tongues, he acquired polyglot capacities and habits which naturally show themselves in his familiar writings, in editing which an effort was at first made to translate or substitute the strange words that occur with others. This was found undesirable, in place of which I give here a little glossary showing the meanings of those most commonly occurring; in addition to which, it is well to be forewarned that almost every place and person has at least two names; *e. g.*, Leopoldville is known also as Kintamo; Bwemba, as Chumbiri; Luluaburg, the farthest point east to which he journeyed, is called also Malange; and Underhill, where he died, is known as Tunduwa, etc., etc. And there are no established rules of spelling, and hence we must not think it strange to find the same word written by him in different ways at different times.

As an example of the strange mixing of languages, see the diary March 25, 1891, chapter VII, and note.

J. W. L.

ANNISTON, ALA., August, 1892.

