THE STORY OF AN AFRICAN CHIEF: BEING THE LIFE OF KHAMA

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The Story of an African Chief: Being the Life of Khama by Mrs. Wyndham Knight -Bruce

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MRS. WYNDHAM KNIGHT-BRUCE

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WITH A PREPACE BY

EDNA LYALL

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PREFACE

To be permitted to write a few words of introduction to the life of such a man as Khama is a great honour, and it was with pleasure we learnt that, at last, the admirable sketch, which appeared a few years ago in the pages of Murray's Magazine, was to be republished in a form which could be more easily circulated. For, surely, in these days when column after column in our newspapers is devoted to correspondence on the question—

"Is Christianity played out?" it is time that such a grand living witness to the victory of the Cross as this "Knight of Africa" became better known. He will prove to us that "the world's male chivalry" has not "perished out;" that Christianity is not a failure; and that missions are not mere waste of time and money.

As a rule we candidly admit that missionary literature has no attractions for us, and that to listen to the dry details of Church work among far-away tribes—read perhaps to an assembly of ladies stitching away at unbleached calico "kissaboues"—is a severe trial. But in this sketch of Khama we have the vivid portrayal

of a most noble character, and gain real insight into the difficulties and struggles of a nineteenth century hero who, had he lived in former times, would have been canonised and accorded a place of honour in many a stained-glass window.

We do not give our modern saints any such distinctions, but yet through them the true Light shines, and if, as it has been said, "one hypocrite may make a hundred infidels," it is equally true that one Christ-like man may induce hundreds to follow Christ.

The full significance of such a life as that of Khama, lived in the midst of temptations and troubles, can hardly fail to impress all who carefully study the details of his career. He seems to us a most convincing argument that Christianity meets the needs of all ages and of all conditions, and his story will wonderfully cheer those who work on but see little result from their labour—those who sow that others may reap.

EDNA LYALL.

EASTBOURNE,

Easter Eve, 1893.

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