

**ON THE TRAIL OF THE
PIONEERS: A SKETCH OF THE
MISSIONS OF THE UNITED
FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649151875

On the trail of the pioneers: a sketch of the missions of the United Free Church of Scotland by J. H. Morrison

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J. H. MORRISON

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PIONEERS: A SKETCH OF THE
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FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**



JU-JU PILLAR, WEST AFRICA

ON THE TRAIL OF THE PIONEERS

A Sketch of the Missions
of the
United Free Church of Scotland

BY

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HODDER AND STOUGHTON

LONDON NEW YORK TORONTO

PREFACE

THE history of missions throbs with romance on every page, a fact which seems hardly yet to have dawned upon the general reader, and least of all upon that large section of readers who love romance.

Missionary reports are, of necessity, dull and, to a great degree, unintelligible to all but the initiated. They plunge *in medias res*, and bear down the hapless reader with a cavalry charge of unfamiliar names; while, as they deal only with the work itself apart from its environment, they leave the "native" a vague and misty figure, devoid of nationality and human interest. Only when each mission stands out clear, against its own background of place and people, does it become living and begin to take on the colours of romance.

The following pages are intended as a sketch of the missions of the United Free Church of Scotland for the uninitiated, and especially for the youth of the Church. One would even hope that the fastidious ear of the "young barbarian" might be caught, and he be led to the discovery and enjoyment of the great missionary classics.

The chapters were first delivered as a series of addresses to the young, under the form of a voyage round the world to the various mission fields of the Church.

This form has been retained as a convenient framework, although at one or two stages of the journey the actual traveller might find some difficulty in booking a passage !

May the story, even in a brief and imperfect telling, be to the reader, what it has been to the writer, a tonic to faith and a spring to compassion.

I desire to express my obligation to Professor Clow, D.D., Glasgow, for generous encouragement and many helpful criticisms.

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