

**SCENES AND SERVICES IN SOUTH
AFRICA. THE STORY OF ROBERT
MOFFAT'S HALF-CENTURY OF
MISSIONARY LABOURS**

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Scenes and services in South Africa. The story of Robert Moffat's half-century of missionary labours by Various

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**SCENES AND SERVICES IN SOUTH
AFRICA. THE STORY OF ROBERT
MOFFAT'S HALF-CENTURY OF
MISSIONARY LABOURS**



AN AFRICAN MODE OF SALUTATION.

[*Special Edition for Presentation.*]

SCENES AND SERVICES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The Story of Robert Moffat's
HALF-CENTURY OF MISSIONARY LABOURS.



WITH NUMEROUS ILLUSTRATIONS.

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SCENES AND SERVICES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

CHAPTER I.

CALLED TO THE WORK.

Ordination of Missionaries, October, 1816—Early Years—The turning-point of Life—Rev. W. Reby—The Fifth Commandment—The Congregational Ministers of 1816—Early Missions to South Africa—Missionary Spirit of Dr. Andrew Reed.

IN October, 1816, a meeting of deep interest to the cause of Missions was held in Surrey Chapel, London. Nine young men were on that occasion ordained as missionaries, under the auspices of the London Missionary Society. Their names were Bourne, Darling, Platt, and John Williams, set apart for the South Sea Islands; and Evans, Kitchingham, Taylor, John Brownlee, and Robert Moffat, appointed to South Africa.

Of that chivalrous little band, two survivors alone remain,—John Brownlee, the father of Kaffir Missions, and Robert Moffat, the apostle to the Bechuana tribes. The former of these two still abides in the land of his adoption, where, in Kaffir phraseology, "he has fixed a pole like the Kaffir-boom and Wild

Plum, which, wherever they are planted, take root, bring forth leaves and flowers, and bear fruit, although he who planted them may in time become unknown to any one." The latter, in the month of June, 1870, came out from the far African Interior, where he had so long exerted an influence for good; failing health necessitating a return to his native land. On that occasion, colonists of every class assembled to do him honour; and public meetings, comprising representatives of all denominations, were convened to welcome and thank the devoted Christian missionary for his life-long services in behalf of the benighted sons of Africa.

Robert Moffat is a native of Scotland, having been born at Ormeston, near Haddington, in 1795. His youthful years were spent at Carron Shore, near the Great Carron Ironworks, where his father held an appointment in the Customs. When about twelve years of age, at the request of a ship's captain, a friend of his father, he was induced to try a taste of sea-life in a coasting vessel; but this not suiting his disposition, he returned to school; and having a strong desire to study botany and horticulture, he was apprenticed as a "Scotch gardener." Some time after, his father being appointed to Inverkeithing, Fifeshire, he took service in the Earl of Moray's gardens, near that town. After remaining there a year, he was invited to a situation in Cheshire, where he continued between two and three years, pursuing his studies with great avidity.