

**GLIMPSES OF ABYSSINIA: OR,
EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS WRITTEN
WHILE ON A MISSION FROM
THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO THE
KING OF ABYSSINIA IN THE YEARS 1841,
1842, AND 1843**

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Glimpses of Abyssinia: Or, Extracts from Letters Written While on a Mission from the Government of India to the King of Abyssinia in the Years 1841, 1842, and 1843 by Douglas C. Graham

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DOUGLAS C. GRAHAM

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PREFACE.

THE interest attaching to the present Expedition to Abyssinia encourages a hope, that the following sketches of native life will be welcome to those who may have relatives or friends on service in a country still so little known to the British public; and the Editor feels hardly at liberty to withhold even gleams of information at the present crisis.

It may disarm criticism to state that the letters, from which these extracts are taken, were never intended by the writer for publication; but form part of a correspondence extending over nearly thirty years—the period of Major Graham's absence from his native country—to which he was never destined to return, having died within a few hours sail of England in 1856.

The largest portion of Major Graham's manuscripts on Abyssinia were placed in the hands of his friend, Sir William Harris, the Chief of the Mission on which he was engaged; but the letters from which these extracts are given, have never been out of the Editor's possession. They are enlivened by many spirited portraits and sketches of costume and landscape, which cannot of course appear in so small a publication.

ALVECHURCH RECTORY, REDDITCH,
NOVEMBER 6TH, 1867.

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GLIMPSES OF ABYSSINIA.

BOMBAY, APRIL 26TH, 1841.

WHILE employed in taking a sketch for you, I received an express from Government, offering me employment on a secret mission, which is to leave India on the 1st May. The offer was too flattering to be refused. I shall not discontinue my letters to you,—but as we are bound for an unknown country, the correspondence may not be very regular. I shall in the meantime have a pleasant party, a good climate, and the excitement of seeing new countries. It was a melancholy parting from all my Khandeish friends, European and native ; they think, as I would not tell them where I was bound for, that I am lost for ever, and there was great weeping and wailing when “the Father of Khandes,” as I am denominated by the people, took his departure. These parting