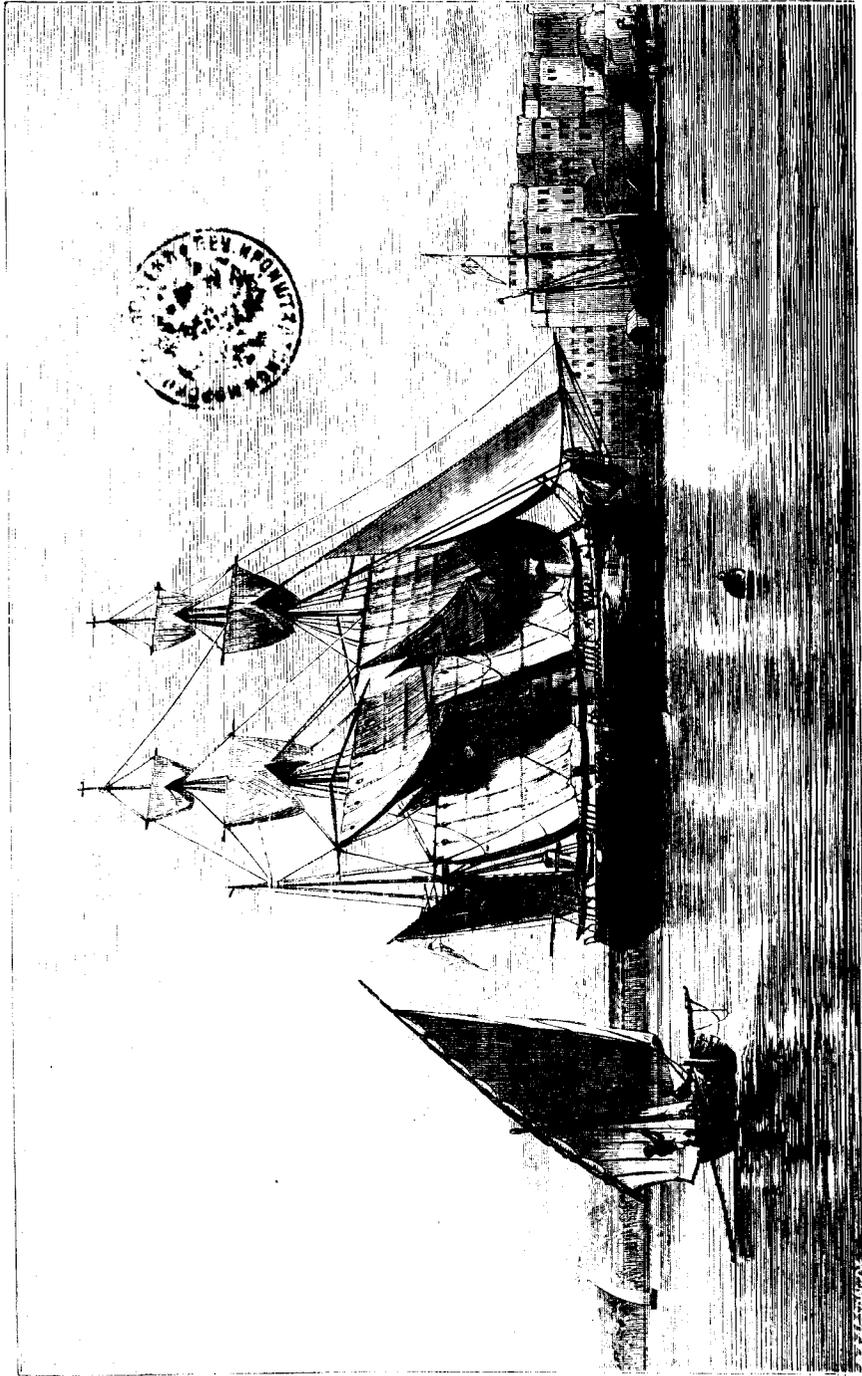


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A RECORD
OF
NAVAL EXPERIENCES.



H.M.S. 'DRYAD' AT ZANZIBAR. From a Sketch by Lieut. W. HESS, R.N.

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254
SLAVE-CATCHING

IN

THE INDIAN OCEAN.

9-23/14

A RECORD OF NAVAL EXPERIENCES.

BY

CAPTAIN COLOMB, R.N.

'I pray you, in your letters,
When you shall these unlucky deeds relate,
Speak of me as I am; nothing extenuate,
Nor set down aught in malice.'

The Moor of Venice.

LONDON:
LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.
1873.

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MY COMPANIONS IN THE SCENES DESCRIBED

WILL BE MY BEST CRITICS:

TO THEM, THEREFORE, I DEDICATE MY BOOK.



P R E F A C E.

MOST OF THE NOTES from which the following pages have been written, and much of the actual text, were prepared on board ship without any thought of publication, and chiefly as a relaxation in the intervals of active service afloat.

The great public interest now developed on the question of East African slavery, led me to consider that, however incomplete my notes might be, a view of the whole question as seen from its sea-face could hardly fail to prove interesting, if not useful.

While, therefore, I have not attempted to disturb the form in which my observations happened to be written, I have endeavoured to supply such a connexion between them as should make a readable book.

I have also endeavoured to correct, by a reference to the best authorities, those erroneous views which a mere relation of personal experience might engender.

In my endeavour to represent a true picture to my