



COLONEL C. CHAILLÉ LONG-BEY.

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# CENTRAL AFRICA:

NAKED TRUTHS OF NAKED PEOPLE.

AN ACCOUNT OF EXPEDITIONS TO THE  
LAKE VICTORIA NYANZA AND THE MAKRAKA NIAM-NIAM,  
WEST OF THE BAHR-EL-ABIAD (WHITE NILE).

BY COL. C. CHAILLÉ LONG,  
OF THE EGYPTIAN STAFF.

*ILLUSTRATED FROM COLONEL LONG'S OWN SKETCHES.*

Forsan et hæc olim meminisse juvabit.—VIRGIL.



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## INTRODUCTION.

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ON the evening of the 21st of July, 1875, in response to an invitation from “La Société de Géographie de Paris,” I had the honour to address them upon a subject which has awakened in France, as elsewhere in Europe, the most profound interest and sympathy—Expeditions in Central Africa.

The Volume which I now present to the public is but a reproduction of the history of adventure and exploration, of which an analysis only was then given; and it occurs to me that I cannot introduce it more appropriately than by the translation of my preliminary remarks made on that occasion:—

“For several years an officer in the Egyptian Army, I come more as a soldier than as a savant, to submit to this distinguished Society a *résumé* of the incidents and results of two Expeditions which I have recently made in Central Africa—one to the Lake Victoria Nyanza, and the other to the Makraka Niam-Niam country.

“Your illustrious geographer, Malte-Brun, has properly said that ‘Egypt attaches Africa to the civilized world;’ and that ‘Africa is now the last portion of the civilized world which awaits at the hands of Europeans the salutary yoke of legislation and culture.’”

Although it is not a European who has devoted himself to this great work, it is one whose elevated soul and advanced ideas have placed him in the first rank of the progressive spirits of the century, and made him in this regard the type and pioneer of its civilization. He is not unknown to you, for the world appreciates the genius of Ismaïl Pacha, the Khedive of Egypt, who, inspired alike by the aspirations of Mehemet Ali and the traditions of the Roman epoch, has crowned the splendours of his reign by the triumphant solution of the problem of the Sources of the Nile.

Influenced by the judgment of kind and, perhaps, too indulgent friends, I have prepared for publication these “Naked Truths of Naked People” in the crude language of a soldier, and with the view alone of faithfully recounting the stirring incidents of my different expeditions; of promulgating correct views respecting the country, the nature and customs of the negro, and of paying an appropriate tribute to the character of the enlightened Sovereign, under whose auspices the work of Central African regeneration is being carried forward.