



Magdala: The Story of the Abyssinian Campaign of 1866-7 (Classic Reprint)

By Henry Morton Stanley

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Coomassie and Magdala: the Story of Two British Campaigns in Africa is the title I have chosen for a volume which is a record of two grand successes gained by English soldiers in East and West Africa. Before proceeding to Abyssinia as a Special Correspondent of the New York Herald I had been employed for American journals though very young in the same capacity, and witnessed several stirring scenes in our Civil War. I had seen Americans fight; I had seen Indians fight. I was glad to have the opportunity of seeing how Englishmen fought. In Abyssinia I first saw English soldiers prepared for war. What I think of them I have written frankly, and without malice. The story of Magdala was written five years ago. The record of the Coomassie campaign is dull compared to that of Magdala; but it is as heroic, and as worthy of our sympathy for the sake of those who fought, who suffered grievous sickness, and died. Coomassie was a town insulated by a deadly swamp. A thick jungly forest surrounded it to a depth of 140 miles seaward, many hundred miles east, as many more west and 100 miles north. Through this forest and swamp, unrelieved by any novelty or a single pretty landscape, the British army had to march 140 miles, leaving numbers behind sick of fever and dysentery.

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