

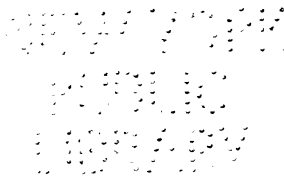
William McCutchan Morrison

Twenty Years in Central Africa

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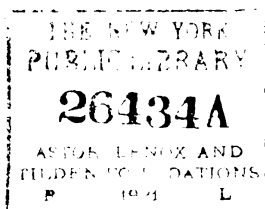
By
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APPENDIX B

The Case of Dr. Morrison and Dr. Sheppard

[Article in the "Kasai Herald" of January, 1908, a magazine published by the missionaries at Luebo, on which the indictment of Dr. Morrison and Dr. Sheppard was founded.]

FROM THE BAKUBA COUNTRY.

W. H. SHEPPARD

These great stalwart men and women, who have from time immemorial been free, cultivating large crops of Indian corn, tobacco, potatoes, trapping elephants for their ivory tusks and leopards for their skins, who have always had their own king and a government not to be despised, officers of the law established in every town of the kingdom—these magnificent people, perhaps about 400,000 in number, have entered a new chapter in the history of their tribe. Only a few years since, travelers through this country found them living in large homes, having from one to four rooms in each house, loving and living happily with their wives and children, one of the most prosperous and intelligent of all the African tribes, though living in one of the most remote spots on the planet. One seeing the happy, busy, prosperous lives which they lived could not help feeling that surely the lines had fallen unto this people in pleasant places.

But within these last three years how changed they are! Their farms are growing up in weeds and jungle, their king is practically a slave, their houses now are mostly only half-built single rooms and are much neglected. The streets of their towns are not clean and well-swept as they once were. Even their children cry for bread.

Why this change? You have it in a few words. There

are armed sentries of *chartered** trading companies, who force the men and women to spend most of their days and nights in the forests making rubber, and the price they receive is so meager that they cannot live upon it. In the majority of the villages these people have not time to listen to the gospel story, or give an answer concerning their soul's salvation. Looking upon the changed scene now, one can only join with them in their groans as they must say: "Our burdens are greater than we can bear."

Just near the mission station, however, it is still reasonably prosperous. The parents send their children to school and to church. Many of them are in training to become teachers and preachers to their own people. The industrial part of the work is doing beautifully. Church services are held daily in all the near villages. Sabbath schools are taught by competent evangelists. The Lord is showering blessings upon them, and they appreciate it and prove it by their works.

In 1890 our church sent a lighted torch into Central Africa, entrusting it into the hands of the immortal Samuel N. Lapsley. The light has not been extinguished and shall never be. It has sent forth its rays of light and life into hundreds of homes, and the great highway from Central Africa to Glory has been lighted up by it, and thousands have been led to walk therein. May a blessing rest upon all who have in any way aided in sending the light into this dark land.

*NOTE.—Rev. W. M. Morrison, D.D. (co-defendant with Dr. Shepard), writes that in the indictment much is made of the use of the word "*chartered*" instead of the word "*concessionary*," in describing the Company Kasai. The amount of damages named in the suit is 80,000 francs, \$16,000. The alternative penalty is five years' imprisonment.