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Review: Italy and Abyssinia

Source: *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. 21, No. 2 (Feb., 1903), p. 175

Published by: geographicalj

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1775411>

Accessed: 25-06-2016 12:44 UTC

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Algerian Sahara, where the oases of Ghardaya, Gerrara, and Wargla were visited, and as recent literature on this region is almost entirely French, the views and impressions of an English traveller are of considerable value. Vol. iii. deals with Abyssinia, into which, however, the author and his party did not penetrate further than Adis Ababa and Lake Zwai. Mr. Pease was struck by the absence of all appearance of a town at the capital, the native huts being widely scattered over the valley. He is evidently by no means so enthusiastic an admirer of the Abyssinians as some recent travellers. In each section of the work lists of animals, birds, and plants are given, but with respect to the last, it is to be regretted that in few cases have botanical determinations been possible. Short historical summaries are here and there inserted, and will no doubt be of use to the general reader. The maps, prepared at Stanford's establishment, deserve a special word of praise.

#### ITALY AND ABYSSINIA.

'The Campaign of Adowa and the Rise of Menelik.' By G. F. H. Berkeley.  
Westminster: Constable. 1902.

It may seem at first sight that the interest in the events which finally freed Abyssinia from the threats of an Italian protectorate is hardly fresh enough to warrant the publication of an English narrative of the campaign, now become a matter of history merely. The lessons of the campaign are, however, not without importance for the future, owing to the undoubted influence on the fate of the surrounding European territories, which the rise of a powerful military empire under Menelik must exercise, whether or no the anticipations will be realized of those who see in the Abyssinian empire a source of danger to her European neighbours. Mr. Berkeley's account of the campaign embodies a large amount of material which has not been generally available to English readers, both with respect to the actual campaign and the events which led up to it, and may be recommended as a trustworthy guide to those who wish to gain a comprehensive view of the events described.

#### EGYPT.

'Egypt painted and described by R. Talbot Kelly.' London: A. & C. Black. 1902.

Mr. Kelly's pleasantly written descriptions of Egyptian life and scenery will bring the general characteristics of the country before the minds of stay-at-home readers with peculiar vividness. But it is the thoroughly artistic coloured illustrations which are the special attraction in the book, and which will probably be somewhat of the nature of a revelation to those not familiar with the scenes themselves. So much of the charm of Eastern scenery depends on the colouring that photographs, however excellent, can convey but a slight idea of the reality. Vivid as are the colours employed by the artist, they are so harmoniously blended that harsh and startling effects are altogether avoided. Much as he is inclined to regret the modern vulgarization of things Egyptian, which seems to have brought a subtle change over the spirit of the scene, Mr. Kelly is enthusiastic in his praises of the natural beauties which remain, and of the interest attaching to a study of native life where comparatively uncontaminated by the new influences. The pictures of Nile and desert scenery, in their ever-changing aspects, are drawn with particular vividness, but the author's descriptions all manifest the true feeling of the artist, and among the many charming sketches, that of the changing aspects of nature on the banks of one of the smaller and more secluded canals, is perhaps as attractive as any. More practical questions are now and then touched upon, and the remarks on such subjects as the recent experiments at