

Wellby—'Twixt Sirdar and Menelik. An account of an expedition from Zeila to Cairo, through unknown Abyssinia. By Captain M. S. Wellby. Harper, \$2.50.

One has but to consult the very latest maps of Abyssinia in our best atlases and geographical publications, to see how handsomely the late Captain Wellby has added to science. A Rugby boy, born

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in 1866, he explored and mapped out in 1894 and 1895 much of the then untrodden Somali land. In 1896, he travelled from Cashmere to Peking, and his book "Through Unknown Thibet" resulted. He has again added to the inspiring literature of knowledge gained through hardship and endurance. He was killed in the Boer war last August.

While the Sirdar Kitchener was preparing to deliver his annihilating blow at the dervish power, Wellby planned to appear with a handful of men at the south of Khartoum simultaneously with the arrival of the British troops from the North. How he carried out his programme is told in this portly volume, which crackles with adventure and shows a most winsome traveller whose courage was unquailing and whose good nature was imperturbable. Plenty of good pictures from photographs brighten his text, and dulness in narration is unknown. From Zeila, on the Gulf of Aden, the journey was made southwestwardly through Somaliland to Lake Rudolf. Along the eastern side and around the southern point of this water and up the valley of the Ruzi to the Sobat River, and thence to Khartoum and Cairo, made the round trip. He met all sorts of dark-skinned men and had lively adventures with many sorts of beasts, enjoying the big game with a sportsman's delight. The most interesting part of the narrative is that which tells of the Abyssinians, who eat raw meat and profess and practise a very raw sort of Christianity, of which we have some glimpses—for the Captain

went to church at Harrar. Here, instead of praying in their hats, in the correct London style, the worshippers stood bareheaded, leaning on brass-topped sticks five feet long, the staves of the clergy or priests having silver tops. The King of kings, or the Emperor Menelik and the Queen Taitu, of ample avoidupois, seem to be interesting characters. These rulers and their subjects are not to be despised, as Italy found and other nations of Europe may yet find to their cost. Evidently British prestige had risen since the Sirdar's victory, and it worked well for the Captain in his travels. Unfortunately, cutting his forefinger in opening a "tin" of meat, the bold explorer lost not only his digit, but also the use and enjoyment of his rifle while in the savage part of Africa, yet he kept on, despite pain. The lovely scenery charmed him, and fed his ambition, ill-concealed, which was one day to govern and develop this profitable and fertile country. It scarcely need be said that in spite of "devil-infested" portions, the land traversed is very rich in natural resources. Undoubtedly, the effect upon the minds of readers of this book will be to stimulate their hunting and exploiting propensities. Besides a pleasant and easy style, we have here a wonderful picture of life in both known and unknown Africa and of the influence of the white on the black man. Like a bright-colored silken thread, is the story of the Captain's companion—a fox-terrier named Lady, which lost interest in life after her master left Egypt for England.