

EMIN PASHA

HIS LIFE AND WORK

COMPILED FROM HIS JOURNALS

LETTERS · SCIENTIFIC · NOTES

AND FROM OFFICIAL

DOCUMENTS BY GEORG

SCHWEITZER WITH

AN INTRODUCTION

BY R. W. FELKIN

M.D. F.R.S.E

VOLUME I

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informing him that he had been appointed Governor of Suakim. "This change was not to Emin's liking," Vita Hassan remarks, "for he liked his province, and it was hard for him to have to break off his scientific researches and the study of the country." Gordon's resignation resulted in Emin remaining in his old post, as Rauf Pasha revoked Gordon's order.

A letter to Dr. Schweinfurth from Emin at this time shows how he was actually endeavouring, in every possible way, to develop commercially the province entrusted to him. This was the commencement of a correspondence with Dr. Schweinfurth. The first letter addressed to him is dated the 20th of August, 1880. He writes:—

"You will pardon me, a stranger, for venturing to trouble you, but the interest which you have always evinced in humanitarian efforts emboldens me to write to you. Two years ago, on taking over the administration of this country, I wrote to Gordon Pasha and some leading officials in Egypt asking them to send me seeds for experimental purposes. I had in my mind, in the first place, plants for cultivation, which, in course of time, might be a source of profit to the country, such as cinchona, cocoa, coffee, vanilla, indigo, etc., genuine bamboo for building houses here, and whatever else might be available. From Uganda I brought with me a good many things which are now thriving well here, such as *Dioscorea*, *Carica*, *Papaya*, etc. Unfortunately the coffee plants were ruined in transit. As I have never received any reply to the requests just referred to, nor to a subsequent request for Egyptian rice (I am growing Uganda rice here) and Liberian coffee, I venture to-day to apply to you, who, through your world-wide connections, might be able, without difficulty, to benefit this province by assisting us in this way. . . . If you are so good as to send me anything, kindly address it to Consul Hansal, who will see to its being transmitted. May I take this opportunity to venture to invite you most heartily to pay a visit to this province, which, indeed, is receiving very little attention on the part of savants? I should certainly do all in my power to assist you in your labours and to smooth your way."

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sent from there to Khartoum does not represent the actual production for the year, but the residue of the stock laid up by the old owners of zeribas, such as, for instance, Ziber Pasha, Ali Amuri, and others.

“ However, it would be erroneous to gauge the extent of the productiveness of the country simply and solely by the production of ivory. The cost of administration is very considerable, and must of course increase in proportion as new countries are opened up. The unfortunate system of State ownership which is in force in the whole territory of the White Nile impedes colonisation, and, in view of the growing expenditure, precludes all possibility of a regular and steady increase of revenue, either by means of trade or through agriculture, and consequently a time will soon come when the production of ivory will no longer cover the expense.

“ A product hitherto neglected is to be found in the teeth of the hippopotamus and the horns of the rhinoceros. These two animals exist in countless numbers everywhere, and the only reason why they have hitherto been left undisturbed is the absence, as yet, of buyers.

“ To the west of the Bahr-el-Ghazal the ostrich is somewhat rare, because the country is covered with woods; but east thereof, even in Latuka, it is found in large flocks. It exists in still greater numbers in the wide sandy plains of the Lango lands, the inhabitants of which are in the habit of bartering the feathers for iron supplied by the neighbouring tribes. In the large villages of Unyoro, situated far away to the south-east, are frequently to be seen stables for ostriches, which go out to pasture in the morning, together with the oxen and donkeys, and return at night.

“ The quality of the feathers is excellent; they are in no way inferior to the best feathers from Kordofan, and might form a valuable article of commerce. Since 1881, experiments have been made in breeding ostriches at the stations, but no very satisfactory result has yet been obtained, which is perhaps due to the fact that the majority of the ostriches kept in captivity are too young to breed. At any rate, these experiments deserve the greatest attention. The price of a young ostrich is so low, and rearing it so easy, that ostrich-farming would be very profitable.

“ In these countries one cannot speak of actual bee-keeping, because there is no need for it. The native confines himself to suspending hives on the tops of tall isolated trees, these hives being either plaited, as is the case in Makraka and among the Dinkas, or, as in the south, made of tree bark.

Chapter XI

FURTHER EXPEDITIONS

IN March, 1881, Emin undertook another journey of inspection through the district east of the White Nile, accompanied by Vita Hassan. His records of the journey have been partly published in Dr. Petermann's *Mittheilungen*, as well as in the Reports of the Imperial Royal Geographical Society of Vienna for the year 1881.

This time Emin started from Gondokoro, near Lado. "The country of Gondokoro," he says, "though looking very wintry now (March 29th, 1881), is relieved by the outlines of many mountains in the distance, as well as by the little Bari farms, with their euphorbia fences, which one meets with in every direction. The little station itself, after its complete evacuation three years ago by Gordon Pasha, was garrisoned by eleven soldiers on account of the lemon trees there, and then increased to a sort of auxiliary station to Lado. Now that lemon trees are planted all over the country, it has lost its original purpose, but on the other hand it answers a triple object: it serves as a medium for traffic with the neighbouring Bari chiefs; it affords great facilities for cultivation owing to its rich soil; and last, but not least, it has become indispensable as a strategic base for the route to Latuka. How times have changed may be seen from the fact that the position is now held by twenty men, and that Chief Loron, Baker's opponent, has become one of our most trustworthy adherents."

From Gondokoro Emin went on to Liria. He writes:—

"Although Liria came over to us a year ago, and can now be traversed practically without any escort, it must still be considered as almost independent. The inhabitants, a fine, powerfully built Bari type, with Bari manners and customs, are in great and evil repute as robbers. Their raids extended as far as Ber in the north, and the Kiri district in the south, and it was not until the Kiri chiefs obtained arms from me

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around a mighty fig tree is reserved as a meeting-place for the men. Rests formed of slanting stakes, and elevated platforms that afford an extensive view over the surrounding country, are occupied at all hours of the day by men of every age talking, smoking, and transacting their business. In the shadow of the tree boys are busy plaiting baskets for which borassus palm leaves furnish excellent materials.

“The men, mostly quite naked, bedeck themselves with iron, or less frequently with highly prized copper ornaments, but especial value is attached to the long brass spirals which find their way here from Zanzibar *via* Uganda. Cowries are valueless, beads are little appreciated, excepting the cylindrical dark blue variety known as ‘Mandjur’ in the Soudan, which is much in favour for belts and necklets, and small blood-red or coral beads used to adorn the head-gear; this head-gear is referred to by Baker as a kind of helmet of antique shape, made of closely matted human hair and trimmed with thin strips of copper, red beads, cowries, empty brass cartridge cases, *Abrus precatorius* seed, and the like. The most coveted ornament, however, consists of feather plumes, the gaudier the better, resembling the old-fashioned heron plume. Hence bird-catching is a very general industry, the bright-coloured weavers and thrushes being in special request; one result of this is, that the names of birds are easily ascertainable. Scars on the forehead, temples, and breast are very common forms of decoration.

“Spears and shields are the only arms I have noticed so far. Knob-sticks are used particularly by women for killing bustards, etc. I must add that the natives excel in hunting. Their pluck is extraordinary: armed with nothing but spears, they will engage an elephant or a rhinoceros, and, what is still more wonderful, they will even face buffaloes, which abound here and often attack without any provocation.

“Chief Latome’s hill and village rise from a gently undulating plain, apparently bordered on the north and north-east by the long Lafit range, on the other sides by more distant hills and other ranges.

“Our visit to Latome gave us an opportunity of going through his village. The hill is entirely covered by a series of miniature terraces one above the other, formed by heaping up stones. On these the huts and homesteads are set closely together, each separately enclosed in a strong bamboo fence, and all so well palisaded that bullets would scarcely penetrate them. The narrowest of passages between the fences lead up steep ascents to the terraces above; and as every row