

THE VOYAGE OF THE 'DAYSPRING'

the Journal of the late SIR JOHN HAWLEY GLOVER,
R.N., G.C.M.G., together with some account of the
expedition up the Niger River in 1857. By A. C. G.
FRINGS, author of 'Nigerian Days.' With an Intro-
duction by Lady Glover.



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THE VOYAGE OF THE 'DAYSPRING'

Nigeria is a country that has come very much into the public eye of late years, and very little of its early history is known. Especial interest therefore attaches to the publication of this Journal of the 'Baikie' Expedition up the Niger in 1857-8, kept by the late Sir John Glover, who as Lieutenant Glover was surveyor to the expedition. The book is a valuable record of early African exploration made by one who later played a great part in the making of modern Africa. The Journal, which has never before been published in full, is edited and presented in this volume by Mr. A. C. G. Hastings, an authority on modern Nigeria, whose recent book 'Nigerian Days' attracted much attention.

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THE VOYAGE OF THE *DAYSRING*

NIGERIAN DAYS

By **A. C. G. HASTINGS**

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LIEUT. JOHN HAWLEY GLOVER, R.N.
(Taken from an oil painting belonging to Lady Glover).

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DAYSRING Being the Journal of
the late Sir JOHN HAWLEY GLOVER,
R.N., G.C.M.G., together with some
account of the Expedition up the Niger
River in 1857 By A. C. G. HASTINGS
With an Introduction by LADY GLOVER**

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INTRODUCTION

NIGERIA is a country that has come very much into the public eye of late years, and very little of its early history is known. Therefore I have decided to publish a journal written by my late husband, Sir John Hawley Glover, when he was a very young man, which describes the Nigeria of that day.

Lieutenant Glover, as he then was, left England with the "Baikie" Expedition, as it was called, for the purpose of making an official survey of the Niger, and his work for the British Government was to be the foundation for the charts and maps of that unknown and extensive valley. The attention of the scientific world was being directed just then to the Niger by the Royal Geographical Society, more particularly by Sir Roderick Murchison, the President, who urged the Government to undertake the surveys. The Earl of Clarendon—who was the head of the Foreign Department—therefore decided to despatch an expedition, of which the scientific head was Dr. Baikie and the surveyor, Lieutenant Glover. The latter, being an excellent

shot, was instructed to obtain and send back all the specimens of African birds he could procure for the British Museum, where his collection may be seen to-day.

When writing the *Life of Sir John Hawley Glover*, which I published some years ago, I included part of this Journal in its pages, but the larger portion remained unpublished. My old and valued friend, the late Sir Richard Temple; who wrote the Introduction to the *Life* and a chapter on the Ashanti War, wrote to me, strongly advising the publication of this Journal in book form. He said : " I think Glover's journal of mid-Niger is a valuable piece of writing, and ought, if possible, to see the light in these days when the national mind is much turned towards that region," and he goes on, in his somewhat lengthy letter on the subject, to say : " If in anything further I can be of use, you may rely on the same co-operation from me in this, as for the *Life*, either as editing or writing."

It was a great temptation to me at the time to accept his kind offer ; but, knowing that all Sir Richard's experience was of life in India and that he had no personal knowledge of Africa, I did not feel that he could enter into the very different psychology of that less known and more difficult country. Therefore I thought it desirable to wait, in the hope that later I might come into touch with a

man who himself had had personal experience of mid-Nigeria ; so I possessed my soul in patience. A recent publication, called *Nigerian Days*, written by Mr. A. C. G. Hastings, came by chance into my hands, and in reading the book I found that the author had lived for many years as Commissioner in exactly that part of Nigeria mentioned in the Journal, and had returned from Africa only a short time before. Mr. Hastings described in his book the Nigeria of to-day, with roads and railways opening up the country, showing what British enterprise has done for it in sixty or seventy years. Before that, Africa was lying fallow.

In the Journal, Mr. Glover says : “ The people, as I found them, were nothing more than heathens, worshipping trees and rocks ; yet the name of God is ever in their mouths.” That day when he first climbed the mountain at the confluence of the Niger and saw the magnificent view of the river winding like a silver thread away into the distant horizon, he was sadly thinking that a fatality seemed to hang about it, and how oppression, bloodshed, wrong and darkness polluted the splendid stream. He prayed that he might help to cleanse that river, and that one day commerce, as a means to a greater end, might cover its waters with burdens other than slaves and the result of war and depredation. And his prayer has been answered ; for Africa is awakening, rejuvenating, reinvigorating, after

centuries of savagery and debasement. Africa is the coming country to-day. She appeals to the imaginations of the men who serve her ; whenever a true Englishman travels or settles down he plants that civilizing influence which has produced an Empire that is the envy of the world.

From the time that young Glover first set foot in Africa till the last day of his life his thoughts were all for Africa. He spent fourteen years in that Dark Continent, during which time he did much greater work than that described by the Journal in this story, for later, when he became Governor of Lagos, his real work began.

Indeed, it might be said that he was the first Governor of that Colony, because his predecessor, Mr. Freeman, only held the appointment for a short time, being obliged to leave on account of ill-health, when the people petitioned that Lieutenant Glover should be appointed to take his place. Then came strenuous days of improvement in the town of Lagos, which was at that time a miserable, dirty, unhealthy place. Broad streets were cut, good houses, schools and churches built, new roads made to open up the hinterland and enable produce to be carried down without fear of interruption. The settling of tribal disputes brought the Governor into close contact with the chiefs and people of Nigeria, who all knew and trusted him. After his full term of five years of office were completed he

returned to England, and soon afterwards a petition was sent to the Colonial Office, begging that he should be sent back again as Governor, and offering a large increase of salary if he would assent to this request.

All his friends tried to dissuade him from returning to that pestilential climate, and by so doing blocking his promotion, but all to no avail. His love of Africa was stronger than any personal consideration, and he wanted to continue and complete the work he had begun. His second term of office enabled him to lay firmly the foundations of what Lagos is to-day—a thriving mercantile town. During Captain Glover's second term of office he had occasion to take up his old work of surveying. The River Volta had been until then unexplored from the point of view of navigation, and he was anxious to ascertain whether it would be a suitable water-way into the interior for commercial purposes. Subsequently the knowledge he had acquired of that river and the surrounding country led to his appointment in the Ashanti Campaign of 1872-3, when he raised the Haussa Force. The history of this war has been already written in the *Life of Sir John Hawley Glover*.

In later years he constantly spoke of the people of Africa and the old days there with a love that could not be quenched by distance or by time, or by remembrance of hardships and discomforts endured

there. It was Africa—he only remembered that. Nor is it surprising that his name has become a household word, almost a fetish, with the people both of Lagos and of Nigeria.

Through the kindness of Colonel de Satgé of the Colonial Office, I got into touch with Mr. Hastings, and found that he also took the view expressed by Sir Richard Temple, in his letter referred to above, as to the value of publishing the early history of Nigeria as set forth in this Journal which, it would appear, is the only record of the happenings of the expedition sent out in the s.s. *Dayspring* to the Niger, except, of course, a few official documents and the charts which are now at the Admiralty. And thus it was that *The Voyage of the Dayspring* has been written.

ELIZABETH GLOVER.

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