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CECIL PALMER

CHRONICLES OF KENYA

7541

CHRONICLES *of* KENYA

BY

A. DAVIS

Author of "*The Native Problem*,"
"*Umbandine*," "*Microcosm of Empire*," etc.

AND

H. G. ROBERTSON

*A people whose common ties are small,
Who, mixed with every race, are lost in all.*
(Paraphrase, Crabbe)

*The friendship of five free Dominions is
worth more than the allegiance of fifty
subservient races. Herein lies the strength
of the British Empire.* (Jenkyn)

CECIL PALMER

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This book, "Chronicles of Kenya," is a work of fiction. All the characters in the book are drawn from the authors' imagination. Care has been exercised to avoid the use of names or titles belonging to living persons. If any such names or titles have been used in the book, such usage has been inadvertent, and no reference to such person or persons is intended.

FOREWORD

By

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR EDWARD NORTHEY,
G.C.M.G., C.B., F.R.G.S., F.Z.S.

I HAVE been asked to write a Foreword to these parodies of Kenya life and politics, which I do with some diffidence, not sure to what extent I am myself lampooned !

But I knew both authors in East Africa as editors of local newspapers, and, though I do not necessarily identify myself with any of the views expressed, I am satisfied that the object of these bold and caustic sketches is a worthy one, and of good intention ; they reflect, I think, actual conditions and settlers' opinions, some humorously put, others in more serious vein.

There is truth and instruction to be gleaned from these pages, which I recommend to all those who are interested in the Colony. Kenya is commonly recognised to be a most difficult country to control and administer. It contains a settler class of very high intellectual and social standard, colonists whose aims are patriotically British.

Yet the place teems with difficult problems

of racial, social, and financial origin. With these, successive Governments and Governors have striven to cope, and not without success; for, despite the difficulties to be overcome, or mistakes made, there is a record of steady progress, bringing increased prosperity alike to all—Europeans, Arabs, Indians, and African natives.

EDWARD NORTHEY.

WOODCOTE HOUSE,
EPSOM,
3rd July, 1928.

PREFACE

FOR its population and dimensions Kenya Colony has been receiving more than its ordinary share of public attention. Not undeservedly so, because of its picturesque conditions of settlement and its complicated political problems. "*Ex Africa semper aliquid novi*" still stands good.

Kenya's earlier days and Kenya's present conditions are worthy of such master pens as were wielded by Mark Twain, Bret Harte, O. Henry, in quaint material and rough-hewn humanity. Without possessing the genius of such character-delineators, one may only crawl feebly in their footsteps. Kenya presents new and modern material of the Western type, leavened with a good deal of the East, so, rather than such good "copy" should be entirely lost and wasted, an attempt has been made in the following articles lightly to depict Kenya's problems and characteristics in sportive strain.

Yet the book has its moral and its purpose ; it is for the reader to discover their implications.

The sketches have been written from time to time over a period of some busy years ; pressure

of other occupations and journeyings delaying completion of what was aimed at. Under stress of other work the clever and facile pen of my friend and colleague, Mr. H. G. Robertson, widely known throughout Kenya as "Rab," has been enlisted to get the book completed. The whole, if properly digested—or digestible—yields a fairly true picture of this "Colony in the Making."

A. DAVIS.