

Mr Phillips
Nell -
Jennie -
Jett -

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Lurebo, Africa - C. I. S.

Feb. 20 - 1894 -

A storm has passed over our station; and shook it from centre to foundation. The heretofore peaceful serenity has given place to unrest and disquietness, a sort of anxious expectancy; as after the first dull roar and sickening sway of an earthquake one hesitates to take another step. As the distant rumbling of thunder and the black clouds in the west foretell of a coming storm the results of which none can tell, so our storm approached; ~~and~~ and now while listening to the faint roll of the departing storm and gazing with sad eyes on the desolation left in its track I will try and tell you the story from the beginning. On Thursday morning Feb 8th I arose ^{at six o'clock} as usual and summoned the station to morning prayers there was nothing unusual in the appearance of the morning - a dense fog, like a huge sheet, enveloped every thing but this is an almost every morning occurrence during this time of the year. After prayers, we all (this does not include our wives) repaired to the centre of the station a large open space, and while Mr. A. gave out the days work to the men & women

I drew the children up in line and was just starting in to punish one boy for stealing when one of our men came running down from the goat house, where he had gone to get our morning's supply of milk. Calling out, as I at the time understood him, that an animal was after the goats - as there had been an animal of the cat species visiting the goats at Kassana and carrying them off I did not pay much attention to the noise only noticing that Mr. A. had gone on with his gun - the boy whom I was in the act of punishing naturally tried to draw my attention away from him but as his case was some what of an aggravated one I paid no attention to his appeals to "go and see" I had just finished when one of the men came running bringing word from Mr. A. for me to come quickly with my gun. Just before I reached the goat house I met him - "has the animal got away" I said "Oh no" he says "I have just shot a boa constrictor - I passed him and entered the goat house - in the first division I saw two dead goats one all ^{covered} with slime which I readily saw was the Bilara deposited by the boa preparatory to

Swallowing it. having been disturbed in
 his feast by the entrance of our men. I
 passed on through to the second division and
 saw two more dead goats and all the
 other goats trembling and showing every
 other evidence of great fear. And there
 stretched out to all its horrid length lay
 the boa - I called to Ngoya to come and
 draw the serpent away but he was too
 scared and as I went closer to do
 what I could, the snake started to crawl
 and I put another bullet into its head.
 the noise of the gun brought Mr A back
 and we had the goats released and
 the boa dragged down to the house.
 It measured twelve feet four inches in
 length and six inches through its body.
 The people called it Morrona and as the
 name for animal is Nyama - I naturally
 mistook the call when the man first introduced
 the visitor - We had lived so long here (8 miles)
 without seeing snakes that we had re-
 -marked the absence of snakes in Luebo and
 were naturally thankful for it, but now, not
 only a snake, but a boa constrictor had come
 within three hundred feet of our houses and
 killed four goats. And the path to Kasenga
 leads all the way through the woods - a
 narrow path, not five feet wide any where -

And it is by this path we reach the people at
Kasungu and reach the church and the court ⁶⁸
The Basuti tell us that the Boa just killed is
small as compared with those they have seen
in the woods - they talk of Moroma twenty odd
feet long with a head like your two fists -
they tell us that the snake kills by a blow
with its tail, after which it gets the man
up against the bole of a tree and enfolded
both man + tree in its coils crushes the
bones ~~and~~ body into a pulp then covering
all with saliva swallows the body - Another
thing they say that a boa returns again in
twenty days - I take from this that it takes
at least twenty days to digest the body
of a goat or man - And so with out warning,
suddenly there came to us this troublesome
thing, and the Command to "Go Forward"
rings in our ears - We were just calming
down a little when one morning in doing
some work around my house I was
suddenly and with out warning stung
by a large Scorpion - one or two Basuti
who were standing by told me
to "put on plenty of medicine as there would
be plenty of pain -" and then added that
in two days "finish" as was personally
interested in this matter. I made strict
inquiries as to whether I or the pain was
to "finish" as their word for finish of the

means death, and I had read of the "fatal result" from the bite of a tropical serpent - Well I applied remedies as quickly as possible, not forgetting the Permanganate of Potash and though there was plenty of pain for some hours, lasting indeed until the next day, I suffered no serious inconvenience. But here was another trouble coming to us, still part of the storm where could we tread and be free from danger - and still the command "Go forward" - When I was bitten by the serpent the Barkete who were standing near started off and soon my wife who was attending to me saw Mrs. Adamson coming all out of breath and much excited for the Barkete had told her that both myself and wife had been bitten by a very dangerous snake. Mrs. A. was not well at the time, a small fever had made its appearance a day or two before and an excitement among, or rather in connection with two of our people the night before had not helped it and now this excitement and her running in the sun brought things to a crisis and she had to go to bed. There were no symptoms, however to mark it other than an ordinary case

of African fever (Mrs. Snyder helped ^{to} nurse her on
 Monday and on Tuesday, ^{and organized} she went to bed
 on Thursday.) but on Tuesday evening Mr. A.
 came to me and said, "Well N'ganga baka
 I have a haematuric patient for you."
 Was the coming of the bova ^{Constrictus} Sudden
 was the bite of the Scorpion Sudden? Yes
 but not so sudden, not so unexpected as
 this and though bite of the others were
 to be dreaded this was more dreadful.
 I went right over and true enough the
 haematuria had set in violently, the
 haemorrhage profuse. Immediately I set
 to work to stop the haemorrhage and by
 Wednesday night all signs of haematuria
 had passed and we began to hope. However
 one bad symptom remained and that was
 the two rigors that came about three hours
 apart on the day the haematuria ceased
 but as there were only two and then they
 ceased our hearts took courage again. ^{Although}
 it was plainly to be seen that there was
 a hard fight ahead - Friday noon a change
 for the nurse came - fever set in and where
 the neck and head was burning the
 hands & arms grew cold - Medicines failed
 to act and when tea time came the

Patient developed symptoms decidedly unfavour-
 -able to recovery. My wife was sick in
 bed and my time had to be divided ^{and}
 when at about half past seven Friday evening
 Mr. A. sent for me and I looked on the
 face of Mrs. A. I felt that the time was not
 far off and I remained at her bed-
 -side leaving it only for a very few
 moments at a time and these moments
 were chosen in between the sinking spells,
 to go and see my wife and try and
 prepare her for what I felt was to
 soon to come - and as the evening wore
 on until at ~~three~~ midnight the soul took
 its flight to heaven and we who had
 been praying for more help were left
 with less than we had - Mrs. A. was
 a strong and apparently very healthy ^{woman}
 and the last one of our party of whom I
 would have said the first to go - and
 so the stone passed and still the command
 "Go forward" "These are the times that try Men's
 Girdles" Oh what a struggle and comfort has
 God our Father been to us in all this. I
 trembled for the results in my wife sick
 with fever at the time. None to tell whether
 hæmaturia would develop or not - and it

Seems that exatement is one factor in
 bringing on this dreaded disease, but
 God has mercifully spared the dear
 wife to me and with the added burden
 of the extra work we have gone on —
 Well we had a very impressive
 funeral the next day. Our people and
 Mr Adamson with my self - Mrs S. being
 too sick to attend silently and tearfully
 accompanied her the loved wife of Mr. A.
 to the grave we told the people how
 much Mrs. A. had loved them and
 how her hearts desire had been that
 they would love God and Jesus. They
 listened attentively and we can only
 pray God to bless the seed thus sown.
 One can hardly realize the sudden-
 ness with which death comes to the
 one living in Africa - One week at
 the most, some times only four days
 and the strongest and healthiest are
 gone - the echo of the hearty laugh is
 hardly gone from your ears when
 you are weeping at the bier of her
 who laughed - Pray for this people
 that they may speedily be brought to
 Jesus -