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## A CRUSADE AGAINST THE SLAVE TRADE.

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*To the Editor of the Transcript:*

Africa and the African people are suffering at the present time an appalling amount of misery through the enormous development of the slave trade and slave raiding throughout the length and breadth of that vast continent.

Dr. Livingstone, in his time, groaned over the terrible evils and horrible cruelty and desolation which the Arab, and in some cases the Portuguese, traders inflicted on the countries comprised in the basin of the Zambesi and Lake Nyassa, and he earnestly prayed that some measures might be taken to stop this man-destroying scourge of Africa.

General Gordon, while governor of the Equatorial Provinces of the Egyptian Soudan, witnessed and graphically described in his letters and journals the scenes of savage cruelty and suffering, and while governor did all that he could to suppress the slave trade in the provinces bordering on the basin of the Nile Valley.

But since these two good and great men have passed away the Arab raids have increased to an alarming degree everywhere throughout the great continent of Africa, but more especially in that tract of country extending from the Egyptian Soudan in the north to the Zambesi in the south, and from the Zanzibar Coast on the east right across the continent to the basin of the Congo.

Cardinal Lavigerie, the well-known and much-respected archbishop of Algiers, who knows Africa personally, and who has made the question of African slavery a life-long and special study, estimates that the enormous number of two millions of lives are now being destroyed every year on the African continent through the horrors of the slave trade.



Captain Cameron, the African traveler and explorer, and other African authorities, confirm this estimate of loss of life as not being in excess of the actual facts of the case.

"Every minute," Cameron wrote lately in a magazine, "a fresh victim is seized by the slave stealers. Not an hour passes without more than fifty being killed or torn from their homes; and during this month of August, of which I write, forty-five thousand more victims are being added to the number of those who appeal to us for aid and protection from some of the foulest criminals that ever disgraced the earth."

To heal this great open sore wound of the world, why cannot the earnest and high-minded men and women of America unite with those of Great Britain in endeavoring, if possible, to discover and carry out in combination some measures which will effectually remove and suppress during this, the last decade of the nineteenth century, this horrible scourge of Africa, and give peace, light and liberty to the Dark Continent?

We are, however, strongly opposed to employing or introducing military force and measures into Africa. We have had in times past far too much fighting in Africa. We can only advocate methods of a moral, religious or pacific character.

There are several measures which may, with advantage, be tried. For instance, there is a great central highway some four thousand miles in length which can be navigated by steamers for the greater part of its entire distance, commencing on the Nile at Berber, immediately opposite the important port of Suakin, on the Red Sea, and extending along the Nile to the great Equatorial lakes of Victoria Nyanza and Albert Nyanza, and thence on to Lakes Tanganyika and Nyassa, and terminating at the mouth of the Zambesi.

With the exception of some two or three short connecting links or roadway, the whole of this vast distance can be cheaply navigated by steamboats.

Great Britain has during the past fifty years expended vast sums of money in trying to suppress the slave trade by gunboats along the African sea-coast, but these efforts have proved ineffectual in stopping the internal and external slave trade. The most effectual way, apparently, to grapple with this gigantic outrage on humanity is to suppress the evil right in, at and through the heart

of Africa. And we maintain that this can be accomplished with comparative ease if only some few earnest Americans will co-operate with a few like-minded Englishmen to form an Anglo-American association for the suppression of the African slave trade, which shall be constituted on such lines as shall secure the cordial support and sympathy of the two governments.

The Association would probably look to establishing at certain favorable locations along this great central highway from the Nile at Berber to the Zambesi, a police administration, by means of a series of stations, patrolled in steamboats, by specially selected Anglo-Americans, who would be suitably qualified for exercising a strong moral influence over the peoples of the country in the immediate vicinity of the several stations—such a moral force as was employed by Livingstone, Moffat and Gordon.

There is no nobler and greater work in the world than that of unloosening the cruel fetters which hold the millions of Africa in chains and of giving to these people the blessings of Christianity and of civilization, and if the peoples of the two greatest powers in the world, America and Great Britain, were to unite in this great work of humanity, would not untold blessings be conferred on the world at large by the united action of these two nations in this glorious work?

Already preliminary arrangements have been made to organize committees of leading and prominent citizens in the large cities of the United States, such as Boston, Washington, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Chicago, etc., which shall confer as to what action shall be taken to arouse public opinion and interest in the United States on the African slave-trade question, and which shall co-operate with similarly constituted committees in Great Britain.

I return to England in a few days, but before leaving I should be glad to give any information I can about this Anglo-American movement.

Yours truly,

FRANCIS WM. FOX,

Of 8 Queen Anne's Gate, London, S. W.

*Parker House, Boston, July 10th, 1889.*





