

558  
Reviews  
Dayton Ohio

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"TRAVELS IN THE CONGO"  
By Andre Gide. (Edited A. Knopf).

WHEN something new is desired in travel, there always remains Africa, toward which country brave souls are continuously treading, and in "Congo," Andre Gide that master of prose whose thoughts have always been those of a scholar immersed in philosophy and the important things of life, has carried his readers into that unknown country where traveling is more a labor than a pleasure.

M. Gide has told the story of his meanderings; telling it with that savoir faire that is so essentially Gide's. His fly leaf motto from Keats, "Better be imprudent moveables than prudent fixtures" sounds the keynote of the pages' contents.

Traveling companions asked "What are you going out for?" to which the author replied "I shall see when I get there," and having plunged into the heart of things he enters upon adventures as one would, who had planned a visit to the Congo thirty-six years before, and just now had the opportunity to carry out that plan. One can imagine the joy with which the journey was taken after the nearly two-score years of waiting.

The book is a diary filled with interesting data; what has pleased him he has set down; what has not impressed him he has glossed over perfunctorily and throughout there is the evidence of keenest enjoyment in visiting strange places; in meeting strange peoples; experiencing new adventures; the climate, the rituals and — the morality of the various people with whom he came in contact on this very fruitful journey.

When one considers that this author, writing so delightfully of everyday affairs in the Congo is the same Andre Gide who wrote "The Counterfeiter," "Do Stoevsky" or "Strait Is the Gate," then one marvels at the versatility of this clever Frenchman; of whom critics say much in praise; that

name may be coupled with that of Marcel Proust!

M. Gide has visited north Africa twice before, the first time in company with Oscar Wilde. But the interior was still terra incognita to him until, in 1926, he organized his trip to the Congo. The motion picture record of his journey has already become one of the classics of the cinematic art and the two books published from his diaries—Voyage au Congo and Le Retour du Tchad—are now brought out in English by Alfred A. Knopf, under the title Travels in the Congo.