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Gide Looks at Congo

Without Any Platitudes

TRAVELS IN THE CONGO. By Andre Gide. Translated from the French by Dorothy Bussy. (Knopf.)

Travel books are very much in vogue nowadays. But, in order to write them, it is not sufficient to have a superficial ability of expression. One must have the power of observation and vision. These necessary qualities of an excellent writer can be observed in Andre Gide's book, "Travels in the Congo." Andre Gide, one of the outstanding imaginative writers of contemporary France, has through this book proven that even travel books can defy platitudes. It is a book written with great compassion, almost superhuman understanding, and at the same time with such rational intelligence that the statements made by Andre Gide affect one as reliable scientific and psychological information.

Congo, seen through the eyes of the great French writer, is less primitive than we expected it to be, but more interesting than one imagined it.

J. R.