

THE EMPEROR RETURNS TO ADDIS ABABA.

A wild and almost unknown land in East Africa: bordered by the Sudan, Kenya, British Somaliland, Eritrea and what used to be Italian Somaliland; the first victim in the Axis avalanche of aggression and slaughter; justly, the first country to be restored to its own people; and a tonic for Britain in the days of reverses, for the restoration was accomplished by the army of the British Empire. ~~This will be the faithful record of the re-entry of the Emperor of Ethiopia into his capital...Addis Ababa.~~

Armoured units of the Empire's army led the way into a little village on the outskirts of the city where the inhabitants were waiting with the royal sign of the Lion of Judah --- and with words of welcome.

The local chieftains stood with the gold and crimson umbrellas of their high rank to welcome the King of Kings; to ~~whom~~ whom they had remained loyal through 5 years of bondage. This is the day of triumph for a great man: great because we have seen him accept catastrophe and triumph with the same calm dignity.

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Children whose early days knew only subservience to the Italian tyrant --- watched the return of the Emperor's sons, the Crown Prince and the Duke of Harar; warriors who fought with spears against bombers and ~~flamethrowers~~ poison gas; ~~they~~ waited with their ancient symbols while the Emperor prayed in the little church --- giving thanks for his return to free Abyssinia. And as he came out there was the first burst of acclamation that was to swell to a great crescendo nearer to Addis Ababa.

The procession started; leading it is a British Colonel; one of the many officers of the Empire army who did such magnificent work in organizing patriot armies; following are the native cavalry and infantry --- the fighting men of a fighting race who needed modern arms to overthrow the Italian usurper. Those arms were supplied by Britain; and ~~that~~ *this* return in triumph is a promise to all who fight for freedom. The road may be long and hard and dangerous: but the prize at the end of it will be ~~surely~~ *won, as surely as it has been* ^{heard,} *on this day of Ethiopia's rejoicing & homage.*

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What thoughts must be crowding upon the scholarly mind of Haile Selassie, as he returns upon the road he travelled to exile five years ago? The bitterness of a struggle that was lost; the abandonment of his just cause by the great Powers in the distant Palace of that futile League of Nations; that unbelievably disgraceful behaviour of Italians who interrupted with whistling, as the ~~exiled~~ Emperor put his case before the League; the ^{lonely} ~~desolate~~ years ~~of exile~~ in the sanctuary of Britain while he worked for this - the liberation of his unhappy people.

show this As he nears the capital of Ethiopia, as his simple children ~~bestow~~ homage and affection, he must be thinking of all these things. ~~And we are thinking of days to come when other things~~ *things* shall be restored; ~~when the laws of the jungle that now bind Europe shall be put aside; when the tragedy of life under the rule of homicidal maniacs shall have come to its end. For that Europe must await the future; this land in Africa know the joy to day.~~

The strange but proud procession is now nearly in the capital itself. ~~The crowds are thronging thicker by the sides of the roads; excitement is rising in a quickening tempo as this African Empire writes a page of glorious history; the first real milestone on the road back to justice; to a world in which a weak nation may live without fear of a stronger neighbour. The stage is set; the weird chanting and cheering of the Ethiopia reaches a climax at the gates of Addis Ababa, as an Emperor returns in triumph to his people.~~

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Picture ^{to} yourself how one day this scene will be enacted again and again; in Czechoslovakia, in Poland; in Holland, ^{Belgium} Norway, Denmark --- yes, in France too. And in gallant, glorious Greece. ^{He was the first} ~~Here were Nigerian troops in a guard of honour after their battles in the campaign of victory:~~ here was the moment of supreme triumph, as the Emperor was greeted by the General Officer Commanding in Abyssinia --- ^{Nigerian troops were guard of honour after their victorious campaign.} General Cunningham. ^{African guns} ~~with captured Italian ammunition,~~ ^{canon} fired a 21-gun salute. ~~that echoed throughout the world.~~ This day five years before, Italian troops had marched into this place. The Emperor ^{stood on the balcony} ~~mounted the steps~~ of the Menelik Palace to speak to his warrior subjects. He spoke of his friendship with Britain; he called for unity to continue the struggle against godless brutality.

So ended ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ this moving, historic ceremony: so liberty and justice were brought back again into a land that has known only fear and ruthless oppression for five terrible years. The crowds return to their homes as the Emperor walks again into the great halls of the Palace that seem so strange, and yet so strangely familiar. ~~His work is not yet done; Haile Selassie has much to do yet to bring the light of true civilization into the dark ways of Abyssinia.~~ ~~But~~ ^{He} has shown that faith can live through the darkest years; in our dark days, we shall do well to remember ~~XXI~~ the grim ordeal of these simple people; how they endured; and how they came through hell to victory.