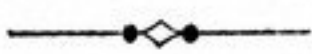


## PREFACE.



AT the close of the journey which this book describes, I was asked to deliver a lecture before the Royal Geographical Society. Being only twenty-four years of age I was not unnaturally in some trepidation at the thought of addressing the greybeards of so scientific a body. But one of them—a hearty old Admiral—gave me a piece of advice which quickly relieved my mind. He said: “Leave out the Geography!” All the small details important to a Geographer might be published in the official “Proceedings”; at an evening lecture graphic incidents and personal adventures would be much more appreciated.

In my previous book, ‘The Heart of a