



Sufferings in Africa (Irish History Classics)

By James Riley



Sufferings in Africa (Irish History Classics) By James Riley

He was used to adventure. He was used to the high seas. He was Captain James Riley, American seaman and independent businessman bound for Europe in 1815. He never made it! Instead the young sea captain and his crew were shipwrecked off the coast of Muslim-controlled Morocco. The sea salt was still wet in their hair when the battered survivors were pounced upon by local natives, ensnared, enchained, and marched off into the horrors of African slavery. Riley's narrative reads like fiction but is based on solid fact. Most of his men died. A few were separated and sold into the interior of the continent, never to be seen again. He was the first American to venture near the legendary Timbuctoo. Yet the conditions were so barbaric, the food so scanty, and the beatings so regular that Riley dropped from 240 down to 90 pounds! After many desperate ordeals, the American sailor and a handful of his men were ransomed by a sympathetic English merchant who had learned of their plight. Upon his return to the United States, Riley penned "Sufferings in Africa", which went on to become America's first best-seller, reportedly selling more than a million copies through various editions. Yet "Sufferings in Africa" is much more than just an adventure travel classic. In a time when the United States was grappling with the thorny issue of slavery within her own borders, Riley's startling book told a tale of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" in reverse. Here was a story of Caucasian Americans under the whip and in the chains that held millions of Black Americans at the same time. Scholars are currently researching clues that this deservedly famous book was read by a young Abraham Lincoln, and thus helped seal his own heart against slavery. A classic story of endurance and bravery then, this important American book remains as fresh today as the day it was first released.

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Editorial Review

From the Back Cover

In this classic tale of adventure, a young American sea captain named James Riley, shipwrecked off the western coast of North Africa in 1815, was captured by a band of nomadic Arabs, and sold into slavery. Thus begins an epic adventure of survival and a quest for freedom that takes him across the Sahara desert. This dramatic account of Captain Riley's trials and sufferings sold more than 1,000,000 copies in his day, and was even read by a young and impressionable Abraham Lincoln. The degradations of a slave existence and the courage to survive under the most harrowing conditions have rarely been recorded with such painful honesty. *Sufferings in Africa* is a classic travel-adventure narrative, and a fascinating testament of white Americans enslaved abroad - during a time when slavery flourished through the United States. (5 1/2 X 8 1/4, 336 pages)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Elaine Rode:

Book is to be different for every grade. Book for children right up until adult are different content. We all know that that book is very important for all of us. The book *Sufferings in Africa (Irish History Classics)* was making you to know about other know-how and of course you can take more information. It is rather advantages for you. The publication *Sufferings in Africa (Irish History Classics)* is not only giving you far more new information but also to get your friend when you experience bored. You can spend your current spend time to read your reserve. Try to make relationship with all the book *Sufferings in Africa (Irish History Classics)*. You never experience lose out for everything in case you read some books.

Mary Richards:

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when write the book, hence the information that they share for your requirements is absolutely accurate. You also could possibly get the e-book of Sufferings in Africa (Irish History Classics) from the publisher to make you considerably more enjoy free time.

Ronald Johnson:

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