

PREFACE

THE present English version of Gautier's *Sahara* is an expanded and revised edition, containing, thanks to the author, much material which has never before been published. The conclusion, which is entirely new, gives a vivid picture of the present-day Sahara under European administration, no longer a waste region lost to the uses of the civilized world, but an open country already confronted with economic and industrial problems common to modern progress, yet showing an amazing advance and development in an incredibly short space of time. The picture is one of startling contrast with that of the prehistoric and historic Sahara so painstakingly drawn in the main body of the text, and adds vital interest to the book as a whole.

Besides this new conclusion, the author has given us copious notes regarding his own latest researches and the results of his and other expeditions which have been in the field during the past few years. He has been tireless in answering questions and furnishing explanations which have clarified many points that might have been obscure to the lay reader, all of which data has been worked into the text at various points. The map has been redrawn to include new map data, and the illustrations have been enriched by several new photographs furnished by him.

Any changes which have been made in the order of presenting material have had his consent; and the present version has been submitted to him and has received his careful consideration and approval. On behalf of the publishers and myself, I wish to express my appreciation of his generous coöperation and unflagging efforts to assist us in presenting his valuable book to the

English-reading public to the best possible advantage.

I should like also to thank the many others who by their interest and assistance have helped in this undertaking; particularly Professor Douglas Johnson of Columbia University, Professor Derwent Whittlesey of Harvard University, Professor Charles Brooks of Blue Hill Observatory, and Mr. Charles A. Weatherby of the Gray Herbarium, both of Harvard University.

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