



THE CRIME OF THE CONGO

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BY
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CONTENTS

Preface

Introduction

1. How The Congo Free State Came To Be Founded

2. The Development Of The Congo State

3. The Working Of The System

4. First Fruits Of The System

5. Further Fruits Of The System

6. Voices From The Darkness

7. Consul Roger Casement's Report

8. King Leopold's Commission And Its Report

9. The Congo After The Commission

10. Some Catholic Testimony As To The Congo

11. The Evidence Up To Date

12. The Political Situation

13. Some Congolese Apologies

14. Solutions

Appendix

“Every time the executioner draws away the chicotte a reddish streak appears upon the skin of the wretched victims who, although strongly built, gasp in terrible contortions.

“Often the blood trickles, more rarely fainting ensues. Regularly and without cessation the chicotte winds round the flesh of these martyrs of the most relentless and loathsome tyrants who have ever disgraced humanity. At the first blows the unhappy victims utter terrible shrieks which soon die down to low groans. In addition, when the officer who orders the punishment is in a bad humour, he kicks those who cry or struggle. Some (I have witnessed the thing), by a refinement of brutality, require that, at the moment when they get up gasping, the slaves should graciously give the military salute. This formality, not required by the regulations, is really a part of the design of the vile institution which aims at debasing the black in order to be able to use him and abuse him without fear.”—“Le Régime Congolais,” Liège, Lefranc.
