

Le Message de Lord Lugard et l'Afrique d'aujourd'hui
(‘The message of Lord Lugard and present-day Africa’)

Moeller de Laddersous

ABSTRACT

This is the text of the third Lugard Memorial Lecture which was delivered by Vice-gouverneur Moeller de Laddersous at Brussels on 7 April 1952. The lecturer recalled the conference on colonial problems held in Brussels in May 1923, when Lugard spoke of the principles on which colonial government should be based, on the need for an understanding and appreciation of indigenous institutions, and of the necessity for international co-operation in solving the problems—educational, economic, and administrative—which confronted colonial powers in Africa. After a summary of the chief ideas and doctrines which Lugard expounded in his writings and put into effect in his administration of East Africa and Nigeria, M. Moeller showed how the concept of indirect rule and Lugard's emphasis on the importance of education, and his regard for native law and custom, had influenced Belgian colonial administration, though the details of their application had of course differed. M. Moeller recalled that other lecturers had drawn parallels between the career of Lugard and that of Lyautey; and indeed the two men presented many notable points of likeness. He himself, however, ventured to draw attention to H. M. Stanley, a man who had been attacked from many quarters, whom Lugard himself disliked, but who would always be remembered for two imperishable exploits: his search for Livingstone and his exploration of central Africa. Scarcely less notable was his expedition in aid of Emin Pasha. Like Lugard, he served a stern apprenticeship before he achieved fame; for both, the intervals between their African journeys were spent in crusading for their ideas and projects, in alternations between triumphant receptions and bitter attacks; both were convinced of the importance of economic and commercial development in Africa. Above all, both consecrated themselves to the fight against the slave trade.