

Mary Kingsley

when
born 3976
?

1886 younger brother entered
Christ College age?
say 18 - to 20

? The query is what age
was Mary when she
made first journey?
1892 to West Africa.

she was 31 in 1893
hence born in 1862

(1862 - 1900)

born 1862 3976
Mary Kingsley died 1900

"She had to educate herself slowly and laboriously, and she could not help being jealous and hurt when she saw that her father thought nothing of spending hundreds of pounds on her young brother's schooling at the same time as he treated her demands with amused indifference."

Before she had been many weeks in Africa she had become convinced that the white men who ruled that vast land were making mistakes which would not only bring loss & hardships to the European Powers but also untold misery to the subject races. The completion of her father's work on the religion and law of primitive peoples became of only secondary importance. Instead she became the champion of the African, & from 1893 onwards set out to prove that only by a painstaking and sympathetic study of his inclinations could the white man hope to rule justly & well.

Islands of Fernando Po
 She studied the customs & fetiches of the Bubis - the original inhabitants.

"The Bubis were not attracted to civilization; their villages were carefully hidden, they showed no interest in trade, they had a positive aversion to clothes." (Nati's ^{the liked} sarung & colmedpaate)

at the time of Mery's visit the Government (Kpanish) was trying to reduce them to a dependent state by discouraging (their trade in yams) for their labour was needed on the coffee and cocoa plantations "

At Calabar River (until Jan 1895) Mery collected fish & insects and studied the fetish of the Eboes

" On the whole Mery approved of the major secret societies, for she found that they helped preserve law & order among a people to whom killing was of far less consequence than to Europeans "

She distinguished between such law & custom societies & the type which were wholly bad - such as the Leopard societies of Calabar district. Leopards are treated with reverence all along the coast —

1895. 5- was under to 3976

After Calabar, moved on to the upper reaches of the Niger - but set out instead for the French Congo - & chose to work above the tide line of Ogowe - a river in which she hoped to find new species of fish. Also the people were entirely primitive.

They were the Fans - very much more mentally alert & natural than the "Lépharigie, dying out - Coast tribes".

(Rudyard Kipling (his wife) met her later & having read fully of her travels in West Africa spoke of her as "the bravest woman he knew, & in the Journal of the African Society after her death wrote "Being human she must have been afraid of something, but one never found out what it was."

(It was at the same port - 18 yrs later that Dr Schweitzer landed to establish his hospital in the Ogowe

Her influence, it is 3976
decried, prevented
our government from
allowing or condoning
cruelty & exploitation
(so great a measure)

She conceived it to be her
duty to stay in England
& fight for the preservation
of African law & institutions
during 1895 - 1900

When she thought she had
failed in that effort she
went ~~to~~ South Africa &
died there nursing Boer
prisoners.

Journeys all 3976
undertaken between
1892 - 1900

~~~~~  
consulted by  
Joseph Chamberlain  
about the native  
peoples of West-  
Africa -

She holds a much  
higher opinion of  
their qualities than  
the traveller, explorer etc  
of usual "colonising" type

Mary Kingsley.

3976

One reason why she has come to be ignored is that she found so much wanting in the Christian Missions to the natives in West Africa - as her father had done in the South Seas. Her father was a bitter opponent. He detested missionaries to the day of his death - charged them with destruction of native culture and petty tyranny. Although Mary undecided them of found they <sup>made</sup> exaggerated charges against the natives she could remain friendly & understanding friends with individual missionary workers.

"Believing in no revealed religion she she did not start with the preconceived idea that all African ideas were either childish or devilish."



PRIVATE

3976

Mary Kingsley - niece of Charles -

From 1892 - made great name for herself as African traveller, writer & publicist - most remarkable member of her family.

Purpose to collect specimens of fauna & flora - chiefly of fish to study primitive religions & beliefs - became figure of national importance whose advice was sought on matters

of administration by leading statesmen. Travels covered eight years 1892 - 1900. Her books sold in thousands & hundreds flocked to her lectures.

Her advice modified British policy in that period of the scramble for Africa which marked the 90's - great powers of Europe in it. (Stanley with whip & rifle

had made forced a way from East to West of the African Continent & England. Mary, having lived alone in the wilderness also.

many having lived alone unarmed 3976  
among the most ferocious tribes men  
insisted that the negroes of West Africa  
were taken all round, gentle, kindly,  
hospitable, willing, cheerful and strong.

She spoke ~~up~~<sup>out</sup> boldly & was not  
afraid to stand up to Colonial Governors  
even Joseph Chamberlain himself

Quote the earlier sentences  
in full