

## CHAPTER VII.

### THE RELIEF-EXPEDITION.

Attempted expeditions of Dr. Fischer and Dr. Lenz—Geographical Society of Edinburgh—Routes to Wadelai from the east—The Congo route—Formation of relief-committee in London—Arrival of Stanley in Europe—Congo flotilla placed at his disposal by King of the Belgians—European members of expedition—Departure from London—Stanley at Cairo—Tippoo Tib accompanies Stanley—The "Madura"—Start from Zanzibar.

THREE years had passed without any direct communication with the Europeans blockaded in the southern Soudan.

It was in 1882 that letters had been brought from Lupton and Junker to Meshra-er-Rek, and thence conveyed to Khartoom by the "Ismailia," the last steamer that made the passage of the Upper Nile. Amongst those on board on this occasion was Junker's assistant, the naturalist, Frederic Bohndorf, who was fortunate in getting safely to Egypt.

Vague rumours from time to time reached Zanzibar, carried by the ivory traders, that some