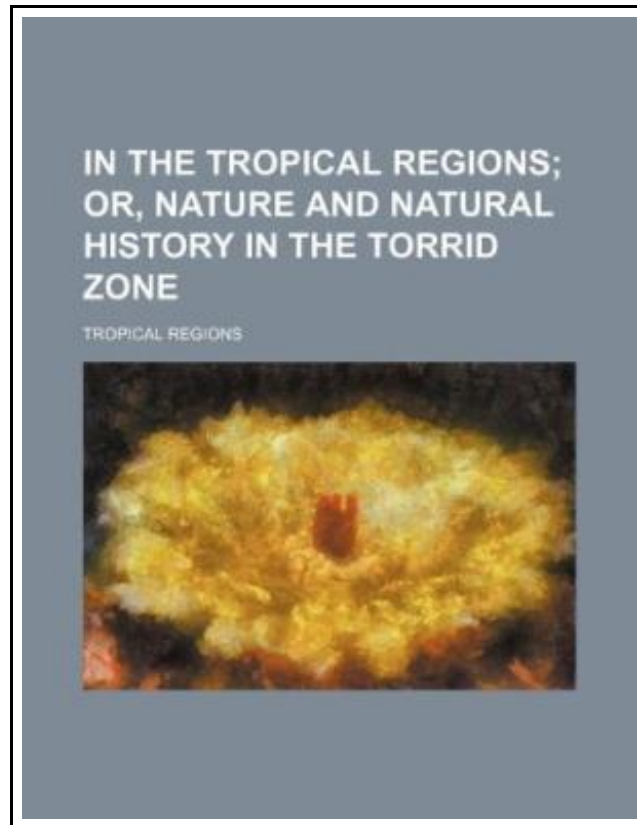


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Rarebooksclub.com, United States, 2012. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 246 x 189 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1882 Excerpt: .passion, approaching almost to demoniacal fury, and at times so completely overmastering the animal that it falls a victim to its own outburst of wrath. This insane ferocity, its great strength, and its habit of associating itself with its congeners in large and formidable bands, render it an object of great dread to the natives of Guinea, who, unless well-armed, and in large numbers, will never enter the forests frequented by the mandrill. THE AFRICAN BIRDS. Taking leave of the mammals of Africa, we come now to a brief review of some of its principal birds. One of the most characteristic of these is the Secretarybird, which derives its name from a fancied resemblance of its occipital crest of feathers to pens stuck behind a writer s ear. It is also, and more appropriately, known as the Serpent-eater. In the arid plains and dry thickets which it frequents, serpents and other reptiles abound; and it does good service to humanity by the incessant warfare it carries on against them. Its feet are very strong, and armed with sharp claws. With these it strikes down its prey, and clutches it in a grasp from which escape is impossible. The larger and venomous serpents it stuns with blows of its wings; or it seizes them in its vulturelike bill, rises with them into the air, and lets them drop from such a height that they are killed by the fall. Another well-known African bird is the Ibis, which...

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