

published by the International African Institute in 1931 with an introduction by Sir Henry Newbolt, who dwells upon the richness and vitality of the whole work.

The book inevitably loses something in translation, but even in its English dress the author's psychological insight, imaginative power, and literary skill are evident. It has been described by a competent South African authority as the finest literary achievement produced in South Africa.

Many of us hoped that Mofolo would follow this up by a study of the national hero Moshoeshe. I am told that he actually began to write this but the manuscript was lost or destroyed. He attempted to rewrite it from memory but his broken health did not allow him to complete it.

E. W. SMITH

Tigré or Tigray?

DR. S. F. NADEL, in the concluding paragraph of his review of Miss Perham's 'Government of Ethiopia' (*Africa*, Oct. 1948, p. 310), objects to the use of the word Tigré to denote the northernmost province of Ethiopia and states that: 'the correct name . . . is Tigray, not Tigré; although the use of the latter term is very widespread it leads to considerable confusion since there is also a language called Tigré, spoken in parts of Eritrea and the north-western Sudan'.

Dr. Nadel's statement in this form is, I fear, incorrect. His objection is twofold: (a) Tigré is 'incorrect', (b) Tigré 'leads to confusion'.

As to (a) there can be no doubt that Tigré is philologically the correct form for the northernmost province of Ethiopia. The form Tigray is a derivative from Tigré and the suffix *-ay* is the common Ethiopian equivalent of the Arabic Nisbe form *-iyyu* denoting that a person or thing belongs to or is connected with a family, tribe, country, &c. Thus Tigré is the name of the province (and all natives refer to it by this name), and Tigray is either a man of the Tigré (thus in Ethiopic literature: *Tigray* = *Tigreensis* in *Maṣḥafa Mestir*, folio 344; cf. Dillmann, *Lexicon*, col. 1415) or anything else belonging to the Tigré, such as its language which is either called Tigray or latterly more frequently Tigrinya with Amharic termination.

However, apart from these unassailable linguistic arguments objection must also be raised to the second part of Dr. Nadel's statement. The use of Tigray would lead to confusion with Tigrinya which is still called Tigray by most Italian and French scholars. Thus by avoiding one source of confusion we would only create another. Moreover, the danger of confusion with the language Tigré is not very serious nowadays, as Tigray and *not* Tigré is spoken in the Tigré province, although Tigré originated there just as much as Tigray (= Tigrinya), the former having retained the name of the province in its original form.

To these cogent linguistic and general reasons one might add that Miss Perham finds herself in very illustrious company in calling this province 'Tigré', for Ludolf, Bruce, Salt, Munzinger, Dillmann, Guidi, Conti Rossini, and others all do so as well. Budge and Padre Francesco da Bassano use both Tigré and Tigray side by side.

E. ULLENDORFF