

## ABDÜL RAHMÁN'S HISTORY.

"I was born in the City of Tombuctoo. My Father had been living in Tombuctoo, but removed to be King in Teembo, in Fouta Jallo. His name was Alman Abraham. I was five years old when my father carried me from Tombuctoo. I lived in Teembo, mostly, until I was twenty-one, and followed the horsemen. I was made Captain when I was twenty-one—after they got me to that, and found that I had a very good head, at twenty-four they made me Colonel. At the age of twenty-six, they sent me to fight the Heboho, because they destroyed the vessels that came to the coast, and prevented our trade. When we fought, I defeated them. But they went back one hundred miles into the country, and hid themselves in the mountain.—We could not see them, and did not expect there was any more. When we got there, we dismounted and led our horses, until we were half way up the mountain. Then they fired upon us. We saw the smoke, we heard the guns, we saw the people drop down. I told every one to run until we reached the top of the hill, then to wait for each other until all came there, and we would fight them. After I had arrived at the summit, I could see no one except my guard. They followed us, and we ran and fought. I saw this would not do. I told every one to run who wished to do so. Every one who wished to run, fled. I said I will not run for an African. I got down from my horse and sat down. One came behind and shot me in the shoulder. One came before and pointed his gun to shoot me, but seeing my clothes, (adorned with gold,) he cried out, that the King. Then every one turned down their guns, and came and took me. When they came to take me, I had a sword under me, but they did not see it. The first one that came, I sprung forward and killed. Then one came behind and knocked me down with a gun, and I fainted. They carried me to a pond of water, and dipped me in; after I came to myself they bound me. They pulled off my shoes, and made me go barefoot one hundred miles, and led my horse before me. After they took me to their own country, they kept me one week. As soon as my people got home, my father missed me. He raised a troop, and came after me; and as soon as the Heboho knew he was coming, they

carried me into the wilderness. After my father came and burnt the country, they carried me to the Mandingo country, on the Gambia. They sold me directly, with fifty others, to an English ship. They took me to the Island of Dominica. After that I was taken to New Orleans. Then they took me to Natchez, and Colonel F. bought me. I have lived with Colonel F. 40 years. Thirty years I laboured hard. The last ten years I have been indulged a good deal. I have left five children behind, and eight grand children. I feel sad, to think of leaving my children behind me. I desire to go back to my own country again; but when I think of my children, it hurts my feelings. If I go to my own country, I cannot feel happy, if my children are left. I hope, by God's assistance, to recover them. Since I have been in Washington, I have found a good many friends. I hope they will treat me in other cities as they have treated me in the city of Washington, and then I shall get my children. I want to go to Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York, and then I shall return hither again."

#### HIS INTERVIEW WITH DR. COX.

"Dr. Cox was a surgeon on board a ship. He went ashore in Africa, and got lost. When he returned, he found the vessel gone. He set out to travel, and came into my country, Fouta Jalla—our people saw him, and ran and told my father, that they saw a white man. My father told them to bring the white man here, that he might see him. They brought Dr. Cox, and my father asked him whither he was going. He said he knew not where to go, that the ship had left him, and that he had a bad sore leg. My father inquired what was the matter with his leg. He said he had wounded it in travelling. My father told him, he had better go no farther, but stay with him, and he would get a woman to cure his leg. He was soon cured. My father told him to stay as long as he chose. He remained six months. One day my father asked him, if he wished to go to his own country. He said yes. My father said, what makes you desire to go back—you are treated well here? He answered, that his father and mother would be anxious, when the vessel returned without him, thinking he might be dead. My father told him, whenever you wish to go, I will send a guard to

accompany you to the ship. Then fifteen men were sent with him by my father for a guard, and he gave him gold to pay his passage home. My father told the guard, that if a vessel was there, to leave the Doctor, but not to go on board the ship; and if there was no vessel, to bring the Doctor back. They waited some time, and then found the same vessel in which he came, and in that he took his passage. After that I was taken prisoner, and went to Natchez. When I had been three sixteen years, Dr. Cox removed to Natchez, and one day I met him in the street. I said to a man who came with me from Africa, Sombó, that man rides like a white man I saw in my country. See when he comes by; if he opens but one eye, that is the same man. When he came up, having to stop him without reason, I said master, you want to buy some potatoes? He asked, what potatoes have you? While he looked at the potatoes, I observed him carefully, and knew him, but he did not know me. He said boy, where did you come from? I said from Col. F's. He said, he did not raise you. Then he said, you came from Tombó? I answered, yes, sir. He said, your name Abdül Rahmán? I said, yes, sir. Then springing from his horse, he embraced me, and inquired how I came to this country? Then he said, dash down your potatoes and come to my house. I said I could not, but must take the potatoes home. He rode quickly, and called a negro woman to take the potatoes from my head. Then he sent for Gov. W., to come and see me. When Gov. W. came, Dr. Cox said, I have been to this boy's father's house, and they treated me as kindly as my own parents. He told the Gov., if any money would purchase me, he would buy me, and send me home. The next morning he inquired how much would purchase me, but my master was unwilling to sell me. He offered large sums for me, but they were refused. Then he said to master, if you cannot part with him, use him well. After Dr. Cox died, his son offered a great price for me.<sup>22</sup>