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FOREWORD

Ntiyong U. Akpan was born in Mbiabong Edem Edik Village, Ibiono, Itu District in the old Calabar Province of Nigeria on 9th March 1924. He was educated first in his village school and then in Scottish Mission Schools at Ikot Inyang, Arochuku and Calabar, living with a Scottish Missionary whose transfer always automatically meant a change of school for Akpan. He finished at only Standard IV in Duke Town School in 1942, and then studied privately by himself (being unable to afford College or even correspondence tuition fees) until he obtained the B.A. of London University as an External Student in 1950.

He joined the Civil Service as a Third Class Clerk in the Administration Department in December 1944. In 1952 he was promoted to the grade of an Administrative Officer and served in several Administrative Divisions as A.D.O. or D.O., and then as Clerk to the Eastern Nigeria Executive Council (Cabinet). As this book goes to print, having served in London as the Principal Secretary to the Eastern Nigeria Commissioner in the United Kingdom, he has just returned to Nigeria, as Secretary to the Eastern Region Public Services Committee.

Akpan has all his life identified himself with social and educational organizations, in some of which he has played the leading part. For years he was General Secretary of Ibibio State Union, Calabar District; Secretary British Council, Calabar; part-time tutor in an evening school; part-time organizing tutor for the Ibadan University Extra-Mural Classes in Calabar and similar other activities.

He is married with children. It was largely due to his wife, herself a school-mistress, who had a hand in the writing of this book, that the author agreed that the book should be published by Longmans in this abridged form for use in schools.

Mr. Akpan has written other and more serious books, the first published and best known of which is *Epitaph to Indirect Rule*, published by Cassells, 1956.

Here his story is set in an imaginary area in the Calabar Province, among the people of the Eastern Region of Nigeria known as the Ibibios. All the scenes and characters are purely fictitious. The names of the characters are not always real names. For instance, "Ntime" is a native word meaning "palaver", "Isinenyin" means "jealousy or envy", "Nkaiiso" means "progress". "Unanaidim" means "lack of water", "Uwemineme" means "life is not sweet", and "Unjowo" means "lack of relatives".

The book is an attempt to show certain aspects of the life of the people, their organization and loyalties, and the sort of experience which a District Officer was likely to have, some years ago, in his relations with the people.

To

MR. C. J. MAYNE, C.M.G.