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MORRISON (William McCutchan), Presbyterian Missionary Linguist and Social Reformer in the Congo (1867-1918) (additional note to vol. IV, col. 631).

Morrison was born on a farm near Lexington, Virginia, November 10, 1867. He graduated from Washington and Lee University (1887) with high honours at the age of twenty and was employed for six years as a schoolteacher. He then entered the Presbyterian Theological Seminary at Louisville, Kentucky, from which he graduated in 1895. At seminary, he volunteered for the African mission field and was sent to the American Presbyterian Congo Mission, founded at Luebo in 1890 by Samuel N. Lapsley and William H. Sheppard, arriving there in 1897.

Morrison quickly became the leader of the mission. His policies became the policies of the Mission. Believing that Africa must be evangelized by her own people, he put his greatest efforts into training indigenous leaders.

Not only did he hold the place of leadership on his own mission, he also came to be regarded as the leader of all the Protestant Missions. He was elected President of the Conference of Protestant Missions and was entrusted with the responsibility of formulating all its policies.

In his own mission area, he began to develop a writing system for the widely spoken Tshiluba language. He published the important *Grammar and Dictionary of the Buluba-Lulua Language* (1906) and translated *Malesona* (Lessons from the Bible, 1913) and *Lumu Luimpe* (Gospels and Acts of the Apostles, 1919).

Morrison also joined with British reformer E. D. Morel in publicly denouncing the human and economic exploitation perpetrated by the regime of Belgian King Leopold II in the Congo. Morrison's protest made him a marked man and, in 1909, he and Sheppard were sued for libel by the government-controlled Kasai Rubber Company. The trial received international publicity and the acquittal of the missionaries led to important reforms. Both Morrison and his spouse, Bertha Stebbins (d. 1910), are buried in the church cemetery at Luebo.

15 May 2003. R. Benedetto & D. V. Miller.

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