

me mad. It is not to make money that I believe a Christian should live. It will be a trial of all trials to part with you all to go to such a country, where so many (two thousand) Christians were not very long ago put to death. . . . Christianity should teach men how to be saved for eternity, but also how to live comfortably and healthily together."

Having obtained the consent and benediction of his father, he wrote him, "I thank God and thank you, that you have written me as you have done. When you consent I feel doubly sure that God consents."

His application to be engaged by the London Missionary Society was not, however, accepted. The authorities wrote him that Madagascar "was not ripe for his assistance, but might in time need such help as he could give." He was not discouraged by this rejection of his offer. As his supreme desire was to advance the interests of Christ's kingdom, he believed that God would open the way. He saw how indispensable was a warm and full spiritual life. He says, "I know that it is only in so far as I attain to a high spiritual life, by close fellowship with my risen Saviour, that I can be in any way fit for winning souls." And again, "If Christianity is worth anything it is worth everything. If it calls for any degree of zeal and

warmth, it will justify the utmost degree of these."

The sincerity and strength of his purpose to be a missionary are seen in his refusing, about this time, to become a partner in a large engineering firm in Moscow. The attractions of worldly gain and distinction could not turn him aside from that on which his heart was set.

Mr. Mackay had his attention first directed to Africa by an appeal sent out by the Church Missionary Society. They needed a lay superintendent to take charge of a settlement for liberated slaves near Mombasa. But before his letter reached the committee the appointment was filled.

He, nothing daunted, determined to follow the leading of Providence. In 1875 the Church Missionary Society decided to organize a mission in Uganda. It was in response to the appeal of Mr. H. M. Stanley, the famous African explorer, in the *London Daily*

Telegraph. He wrote a vivid description of Uganda and its people, and the strong desire of the king to be instructed in the Christian religion, and appealed earnestly to Christian England to send out missionaries. Mr. Mackay's offer was at once accepted. In March he was in England preparing his outfit—tools for his mission, and a steamer to be used on Lake Nyanza. A



MEN'S HEAD-DRESS IN
UGANDA.