

—The British Government, after a year or two of hesitation, has finally decided to raise Uganda and the region lying between Victoria Nyanza and the East Coast to the estate of a protectorate, has voted a snug sum for the maintenance of order, and in due season is likely to construct a railroad.

—England has lately annexed the small strip of territory in South Africa that separates Swaziland from Amatongaland. It will be seen, by a glance at the map, that this shuts out the Transvaal from the sea, and encloses it within either British or Portuguese territory on every side. The Boers are determined to fight England on this issue, and the President of the Transvaal Republic has called into the field an army of 20,000 men. His attitude is taken too late. The Transvaal has ceased to be Dutch. Its foreign residents greatly outnumber the Boers. Its gold fields have attracted thousands of aliens who cannot now be expelled. Johannesburg is to all intents and purposes an English city. It is a question of only a few years when the Boers will either be assimilated or find a home elsewhere.  
—*Zion's Herald*.

—The London *Christian* states that F. S. Arnot has returned from Africa. "Last year he journeyed to Garenganze by the East African Lakes route, taking supplies to Messrs. Thompson and Crawford and their fellow-laborers, now on the western shores of Lake Noero. He hoped to be able to settle again in Africa. After, however, having written to Mrs. Arnot telling her to make arrangements to join him, he became so seriously ill that those with him quickly realized the fact that he could not live many months in Africa. They consequently persuaded him to leave for England, which he did as soon as he had recovered sufficiently to travel. Another severe attack of fever prostrated him near the south of Lake Tanganyika, but after reaching Lake Nyassa, the steamer of the East African

Lakes Company quickly carried him to the mouth of the Zambesi."

—To the same paper F. W. Crossly writes: "Johannesburg is now a city of first importance in South Africa, situated among the gold fields, and with a rapidly growing population of, say, from 60,000 to 80,000. Mr. Dudley Kidd and Mr. Frank Huskisson went to labor there about a year and a half ago. They commenced under many severe trials, and are prominent in faithfully preaching the Word. God has owned their labors, and the hall they have occupied is now much too small. About £2500 is required to build a larger one, about £1200 being in hand. Rev. Andrew Murray is president of the South African General Mission, with which they are working.

—In *Missions of the World*, Rev. Henry Rowley, formerly of the Universities' Mission to Central Africa, sets forth these several and sufficient reasons for the utter failure of Portuguese missions in Africa after a continuance of three hundred years: "1. The reckless and wholesale administration of baptism. 2. Unholy accommodation of Christian truth and observances to heathenish superstitions and customs. 3. The neglect of education for the young. 4. The attempts to prop up waning influence by a pretended exercise of miracles. 5. The cruel punishments inflicted for the slightest deviation from the prescribed rules of the Church. 6. The connection with the slave trade, illustrated by the marble chair to be seen until lately on the pier at Loanda, from which the bishop used to give his blessing to the slave ships. In the old kingdom of Congo the entire population was Christian, in the Roman sense, in the sixteenth century. The capital still bears the name of San Salvador, but Christianity has disappeared."

#### ISLANDS OF THE SEA.

—Last November 21st, the birthday of the Queen of Madagascar, the first