

was very satisfactory. One poor fellow came here with injury to the spine. His case was hopeless, but he was carefully attended till he died, and more easily than he would at his own home. He is the first interred in the cemetery, and will, I hope, be the only one for a long time to come. As he had opportunity, Dr. Laws carried on at intervals a school, but to-day we gathered together, Europeans and natives, at ten o'clock—work being stopped for an hour—and made a formal opening of the school on the station, with fourteen pupils—twelve boys and two girls. We had a black board and a few slates, and the lesson consisted of the first few letters of the alphabet and the first few numerals, with the names in English and Manganya. We commended the school in prayer to God, and asked that His blessing might be given now and henceforth to the work this day begun. This is the first school on lake Nyassa. The pupils were also informed they would have to work a little for a certain time each day, probably an hour, as it was as necessary to have to work as to know the names of those marks on the board. Christian people at home have long wished, I believe, to get a hold of Central Africa, to find a basis from which extensive Christianising operations might be carried on. So far as I can see *the thing is now done*. We can extend northward on a great inland sea for 350 miles of latitude, with a coast line of 900 miles to work on. Still further north with only 200 miles of land, lies Tanganyika, and westwards at about the same distance, lies Bangwen. Southwards, when we choose to venture into the valley of the Shire or get native agents (and there are half a dozen boys here already from the Shire valley), we have 300 miles of water line to work upon. I don't want to be sanguine or to hold out delusive hopes; but no man with his eyes and with any experience of Central Africa, can look at this position and not feel its extreme importance. And if I may, without presumption, I would say, let the two Churches carry out the work so auspiciously begun. It will require the strength of both to take advantage of the opening now made. The Free Church has taken the first risks in the expenditure of money, and has shown the enterprise to be a safe and practicable one, big with beneficent results to the people of a vast area of this Continent, if the thing is successfully wrought and not allowed to languish after the first burst of enthusiasm is over. Let the sister Church now come forward and throw its weight and influence into the scale. At the least, it is to be hoped that Dr. Laws will not be recalled, and the single link that binds the two Churches together in this work be broken. Let them together hold the position that has been gained. It would be a thousand pities and a shame to do otherwise.—Yours affectionately,

—“JAMES STEWART.”