

chap. iv. But this was the foundation of the African International Association, out of which have grown all the stupendous movements now fulfilling Victor Hugo's prediction that in the twentieth century the eyes of the world would be on Africa.

Into the treasury of this International Association in ten years this one man, Leopold II., sends gifts amounting in the aggregate to \$2,500,000. The Congo river is thus aroused from its long sleep and is soon alive with steamers, and the surrounding forests resound with axes, and trees are felled and buildings are erected, and all the machinery of modern enterprise and civilization is put in motion. Mission bands advance westward from Zanzibar and occupy the shores of the great lakes, and other pioneers move eastward from the Congo's estuary until the equator is reached and the cross is set up at Equatorville.

As to Stanley's connection with King Leopold it behooves us to add a few words.

When Stanley, in January, 1878, reached Europe, slowly recuperating from the effects of famine, fever and fatigue endured in his great journey of three years, he was met at Marseilles by two commissioners of the King of Belgium, who communicated to him King Leopold's desire that he should undertake to assist him in accomplishing something practical and permanent for Africa, and asking Stanley to pay him a personal visit. Too exhausted to attempt any new enterprise, or even venture a visit, the explorer rested for a season and then went to Brussels and saw the king. Then a few weeks of pedestrian touring in Switzerland, a few months' lecture touring, and in November, 1878, Stanley was again summoned to the royal palace at Brussels, and found various persons of note in council as to what might be done to utilize previous discovery and make the Congo river and basin of service to humanity. A new expedition was organized, with Leopold II. at its head, and on Nov. 25 Col. Strauch of the Belgian army was made president of the society, called "*Comité d'Etudes du Haut Congo*;" and the expedition was put in charge of Stanley. The coincidences of history are often startling. He had emerged from the Congo at Banana Point Aug. 12, 1877. On the 14th of August, just two years later almost to a day, Stanley arrived before the mouth of this river to ascend it, to sow along its banks the seeds of new settlements, to suppress the slave trade, and to prepare the way for a new and Christian civilization.

Another great step remained to be taken.

Ten years pass away from the time when Stanley first began the transit of the continent, and a conference is held in Berlin which for its character and the possible magnitude of results probably has had no equal during the Christian era. The Berlin Conference sprang from the African International Association. It met in the closing months of 1884, under the presidency of Prince Bismarck. There were represen-