

1877; the mysteries of the unknown interior were penetrated, and King Mtesa's appeal for Christian teachers echoed round the world and revealed Ethiopia stretching out her hands unto God.

Of course Africa was during all these years more and more becoming the one point of attraction; like a constellation in the firmament which for some cause glows with supreme splendor, it became the cynosure of all eyes. The worldly man looked that way, for vast riches, vegetable and mineral, lay disclosed between the seas; the scientific man looked that way, for geology and geography, the fauna and flora invited and would reward a thorough research; the Christian man looked that way, for a hundred millions of people waited for the gospel, and a highway had been opened for the chariot of missions. A zone of light had taken the place of the deep darkness that so long lay like an impenetrable pall upon equatorial Africa.

Robert Arthington of Leeds resolves to make new investments for Christ in planting the gospel along the shores of these lakes and rivers, and missionary societies appeal for fresh recruits to follow up the path of the explorer by the labors of the evangelist and teacher and consecrated physician.

Meanwhile from the little kingdom of Belgium there comes a new and very remarkable sign of the coming future for Africa. King Leopold II. has been watching the developments of African discovery and studying the signs of the times. God had taken his only son, and when he laid his dust in the sepulchre he turned away from the grave saying, "I have nothing to live for." But a voice from above seemed to say, "Live for Africa." He heard and heeded the celestial voice, and determined henceforth to adopt the sable sons of the Dark Continent as his own, and spend his life and his imperial treasure for the development and direction of this new empire lying along the Congo.

This Belgian king, while Stanley was yet in the heart of equatorial Africa, summons a conference at Brussels, Sept. 12 to 14, 1876, and the *African International Association* is the result.

His Majesty the King of the Belgians invited to this conference a number of the leading geographers of the chief nations of Europe. Representatives gathered from Germany, Austro-Hungary, France, Great Britain, Italy and Russia, as well as from Belgium, and the result of their deliberations was an agreement that an international commission, having its seat at the Belgian capital, should be founded for the purpose of exploring and civilizing Central Africa; each nation co-operating should establish a national committee to collect subscriptions to further the common end and send delegates to the commission.

The first to form such national committee was Belgium, the members meeting under the presidency of Leopold II. himself, November 6, 1876. We cannot follow the history of this International Commission in detail. Those who are not already familiar with the minutiae may find them fully preserved in Stanley's book on the Congo, vol. i.