

sionary party sailed from London *en route* for the immense lake region of East Central Africa. That same year the steamer *Itala*, named after the village where Dr. Livingstone died, was ploughing the blue waters of lake Nyasa. The missionary head of the enterprise was Dr. Laws, by whom it has been subsequently pioneered and developed. With the exception of a brief furlough, in 1885, to carry through the press the Chinyanga New Testament and several catechisms and primers, the doctor has never quitted his sphere of spiritual conflict until 1892. Well does he answer to the poet's call :

"God give us men! A time like this demands
Strong minds, great hearts, true faith and ready hands "

in maintaining the noblest traditions of mission field toils.

Nyasa, or "Lake of the Stars," one of the greatest of East Central African lakes, has a length of 350 miles, with a breadth varying from 16 to 60 miles, and an area of 14,220 square miles. It lies in a remarkable hollow of the surrounding table-land, 1,520 feet above the sea level, flanked by lofty mountain ranges, rising from 8,000 to 12,000 feet in height. The multitudinous villages in the vicinity of the lake coast have dense populations, divided into some fifteen chief tribes and septs, speaking as many languages, and numerous minor dialects. Fishing, agriculture and shepherd-life are the principal occupations of the natives. Between Livingstone's discovery of Nyasa in 1859 and the arrival of the mission in 1875 not even the "faint dawn" of the Gospel had broken in upon the haplessness of these benighted lands.

At an early period Cape Maclear, at the south end of the lake, on which the missionaries had settled for their headquarters, was abandoned on account of its unhealthy situation, and in its place Bandawe, half way up the west coast of the lake, was chosen. From this commanding site the gentle doctrines of the cross have radiated among dusky, barbarous tribes. The