

Romanists and practised barbarous rites. Alarmed at rumours of German annexation, he ordered that a white man of distinction who had entered his kingdom by the 'back door' (i. e. by the northeast), should be killed, and thus Bishop Hannington was cruelly murdered. Suspicion and jealousy prevailed, and as the result there were great persecutions of the Christians, too horrible to be imagined. Many of these were burned alive at the stake. Mr. MacKay's influence with the king was, however, considerable, even at this time. He insisted upon an interview with Mwanga and pleaded for the lives of native Christians in bond and waiting execution. Some fifty or sixty converts had been put to death.

"At this time he wrote home: 'It grieves me to think a massacre of native Christians elicits so little feeling in our Christian country, while the murder of one or two Europeans arouses intense interest. It should not be so. Let some of our friends at home fancy themselves changing places with us and see their friends, with whom they yesterday talked and ate and prayed, to-day ruthlessly seized and hacked to pieces before their eyes, and their members left lying to decay by the roadside so as to produce an abominable stench for days. No such realization is, I fear, possible in England. At any rate, no such realization exists, otherwise mighty efforts would be made, further than a passing sigh, to put a stop to such a monstrous state of things, however distant.'

"Notwithstanding all these trials, the Mission work progressed, and even in the midst of bitter persecution men came out on the side of Christ. And such Christians! They had counted the cost and 'chose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.' Those who were not called upon to seal their faith with their blood, showed it by their distinctively Christian manner of life.

"Messrs. MacKay and Ash were alone in the country and their position was one of extreme danger. Mwanga was described as a bang-smoking, drunken tyrant, who, possessed with the idea that they wanted to 'eat the country,' openly gave out that he would not tolerate their teaching, although he meant to detain them to work for him. He seems to have conceived quite a liking for Mr. MacKay, however, and in an interview in which Mr. MacKay asked permission to leave the country, said:

"'If you will stop, I will give you a lot of cowrie shells.' 'I don't want cowrie shells,' replied MacKay; 'I want your friendship.'

"'I will give you cows, then.' 'But I don't want cows.'

"'I'll let you go on teaching the people, then,' he said as a last bribe. So MacKay stayed by the work.

"Upon the departure of Mr. Ash from Uganda, Rev. E. C. Gordon and Rev. R. H. Walker

arrived, whom the king received with great honour.

"The work has gone on since with more or less success and has been prosecuted under the greatest possible difficulties.

"In January, 1889, Mr. MacKay wrote: 'Mwanga is still a heathen at heart and eager to rid himself of a control which not only our people, but the Roman Catholic converts seem determined to exert over him.'

"During Mr. Stanley's march to the coast, in August, 1889, he visited Mr. MacKay at his Mission. He says:

"'It would cure one of all moping to see the manner of Mr. MacKay's life. He has no time to fret and groan and weep; and God knows if ever man had reason to think of "graves and worms and oblivion," and to be doleful and lonely and sad, MacKay has. When, after murdering the bishop, and burning his pupils and strangling his converts and clubbing to death his dark friends, Mwanga turned his eye of death on him, the little man met it with calm, blue eyes that never winked. To see one man of this kind, working day after day for twelve years, bravely and without a syllable of complaint or moan, among the "wildernesses," and to hear him lead his little flock to show forth God's loving kindness in the morning and His faithfulness every night, is worth going a long journey, for the moral courage and contentment one derives from it.'

"Mr. Stanley strongly urged MacKay to accompany him to the coast; but he refused to do so. In the following February this brave man whom Mr. Stanley calls 'The best missionary since Livingstone,' succumbed to an attack of malarial fever. Mr. Ash—for a long time his companion in labour—writes as follows:

"Few, if any, know the almost unendurable trials, both small and great, which he had to undergo, for he was never very strong, and suffered from frequent and repeated attacks of fever. Yet he never lost heart, and had a marvellous power of inspiring confidence in other people. He was absolutely and entirely free from any insincerity or cant, was a most diligent teacher, and used regularly to preach in 'turn with me when we were alone in Uganda. He was never in a hurry, and yet one work after another was taken in hand and finished. The amount of physical labour he would go through was astonishing. Nothing was a trouble to him, and he would not hear of the word 'impossible.'

In the latest report of the Church Missionary Society, we find this record:—

"Mr. MacKay was the only remaining member in Africa of the first missionary party sent out, and he had throughout the whole fourteen years borne a leading part in the Mission. In all that he did he displayed a devotedness, a courage, a resourcefulness, and a practical