

The fiercest light has been turned upon Darkest Africa, and public attention is directed to the great and perplexing problems of African colonization, civilization, education and evangelization. Hence the call for information. Every scrap of news relating to the newly found continent is eagerly read. Uganda, made sacred for ever more by the life and labours of A. M. Mackay, whose biography is now in the hands of English readers and will soon reach Canada—Uganda is rapidly advancing to the first place in public attention. It is Imperial England's latest charge. The manners and customs of the people, as well as their history and the wealth of their country, are of intensest interest just now. It is for this reason that *Life in Uganda*,* by Rev. Robert P. Ashe, is a timely publication. This little book consists of several chapters from the author's large work, "Two Kings of Uganda," and is devoted almost entirely to the manners and customs of the people. It is well written, and may be depended on.

Ashe's little book had scarcely passed off the Shelf when the one missionary book of the year, the only one deserving of a place beside Paton, presented itself. It is *Mackay of Uganda*.† Books have been coming in on us in shoals, and but little time or space is left for late arrivals. But the title, "Mackay of Uganda," was not to be resisted. There were not many of its 480 pages left when we laid it down.

A. M. Mackay was one of earth's great ones. He was a son of the Manse. His father was Free Church minister in an obscure parish in Aberdeenshire. About the time of his birth, 1849, in three neighbouring manses, Keig, Inch, and Auchindoir, three other Aberdonians started on their way to usefulness and fame, Robertson Smith, W. G. Elmslie and Robertson Nicoll.

The first thing that attracts attention in this book is the etched portrait of Mackay: a Scotch face, honest, brave, fearless. Then comes the biography: boyhood in Aberdeen; life in Edinburgh and Berlin, during which time he studied engineering and was being prepared for that strange and unexpected life which lay a little farther on; then came the call for missionaries and his determination to go to the heathen as an engineering missionary, his acceptance by the Church Missionary Society and his arrival in Uganda.

**Life in Uganda: Imperial England's Latest Charge.* By Rev. Robert P. Ashe, M.A., F.R.G.S. London: Sampson, Low, etc. Toronto: Upper Canada Tract Depository. 1890.

†*Mackay of Uganda.* By his Sister. With Portrait and Map. New York: A. C. Armstrong & Son. Toronto: Presbyterian News Co. 1890.