

"MACKAY OF UGANDA."

WITHIN the limits of a short article it is impossible to give anything like a full account of the doings and personal character of one in whose life every point is important and whose qualities were so varied. Instead of tracing out the details of Mackay's struggle against the Pagan influences of Uganda, let us rather seek to consider the under currents of his life—the forces within of which outward actions form an index.

We may judge men by the extent and kind of their aspirations. Napoleon wished and struggled to be crowned head of all Europe; Gould, the late financial king of the United States, aimed at complete control of the money market of America; Mackay of Uganda sought to establish civilization and Christianity in the heart of the Dark Continent. Three purposes; all are gigantic and indicative of three distinct types of character. In extent, not so different; but in kind, that of Mackay infinitely higher and nobler than the others. It is a poor philosophy of life that looks upon all men as actuated by selfish motives, and is proved to be utterly false when brought face to face against such as that of Mackay. Abnegation of self and selfish motives; exaltation of the claims of mankind and of

duty to God; both are seen in the purpose of his life. The scope of his purpose is the outward measure of the love and generosity of his heart. The deep and strong forces within the man must seek outlet through some vast field of action and that field took definite form in the one word "Uganda."

"I hope specially to connect Christianity with modern civilization. In England it is true that as Christianity made progress civilization advanced, and as civilization advanced, Christianity became more deeply rooted." Here we have in Mackay's own words his object in reference to Uganda. True Christianity always brings to a country the highest civilization. These two go hand in hand. To convince men of the truth of the former, may best be accomplished by showing the progress of the latter. To civilize Uganda through the influence of Christianity was the work upon which Mackay bent the best energies of body and mind. Through the preaching of Christ he intended to lift the people of Uganda from the slough of paganism and place them upon the firm basis of a Christian civilization. The forces with which he was about to contend were powerful and subtle. Ignorance of the first principles of morality and religion lay between Uganda and Christianity