

# THE CANADIAN CHURCH MAGAZINE

AND MISSION NEWS

Published by the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada.

Vol. V.

TORONTO, MAY, 1891.

No. 59.

## HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

No. 59 — MACKAY OF UGANDA



AFRICA has afforded many bright instances of heroism in the Mission field. Alexander MacKay, who fell a victim to the deadly African fever last February, may certainly be added to the list. The

*Pall Mall Gazette* styles him the St. Paul of Uganda, and probably when his work is well known he will stand out the foremost missionary layman of the century. Through the kindness of the editor of *World Wide Missions* we are able to present our readers with a portrait of this great missionary, and to supply the following facts regarding him:

“Mr. MacKay was born of Christian parents in Scotland. He received a liberal education and fitted himself for engineering. Having given his heart to God, he resolved to go among the heathen as an engineer missionary. Thinking that Madagascar offered a hopeful field of labour he applied to the London Missionary Society, but there was no opening for him. In April, 1875, seeing the Church Missionary Society’s appeal for East

Africa, he offered himself, adding: ‘It may be you have got a man to your choice. If so, I am at your service to be sent anywhere else you can find.’ This was the spirit of the man all through his life.

“A few months later, Mr. Stanley’s letter appeared, challenging Christendom to establish a mission in Uganda. Mr. MacKay at once offered his services and was accepted as a missionary

and engineer. Arriving at his field of labour he at once set to work to overcome all difficulties in his way. He laboured on for many months with apparent success, but at the close of the year, under the influence of a sorceress, Mtesa — the king — and his chiefs returned to their heathen superstitions and publicly prohibited the profession of Christianity. Mr. MacKay’s life was endangered by Arabs who declared him to be an insane murderer and a fugitive from England; but he held on to his work with indomitable courage until 1883, when the Mission was strengthened



ALEXANDER M. MACKAY.

LATE MISSIONARY TO UGANDA, CENTRAL AFRICA.

by the arrival of the Rev. Mr. Ash from England.

“Upon the death of Mtesa, Mwanga was chosen as the new king and a period of much trial ensued. Mwanga coquetted with the