

Now, if I am to enlist your sympathy and help in this great cause, I must tell you something of what God is doing among the heathen nations of the world. But if I write to you about India, China, or America, it can only be of what I have read. If, however, I write about what God is doing in Central Africa, I can tell you of that which I have seen with my own eyes and heard with my own ears. And this is what I propose to do.

I. FIRST, AS TO THE PAST.—Twenty years ago Buganda, which is, as you know, a country on the northern shore of the Victoria Nyanza, was one of the dark places of the earth—one of the very habitations of cruelty. Blood flowed like water; slave-raiding, with all its horrors, was rampant. Mtesa, the king, maintained an army of 10,000 men, whose sole work was to capture slaves for sale to the Arabs. Think of it—think of the misery and sorrows of a people in such a case! And then add to that the awful fact that although well-nigh 2,000 years had passed away since Christ came, they were living and dying in utter ignorance of Him who alone could alleviate their misery and brighten their unhappy lot, and you will realize something of their pitiable condition. But, thank God, this is all now a thing of the past—a wonderful change has come over the country. "The people that dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined."

How did the change come about? It is a long story—longer than I can tell you now; but it is a deeply interesting story. It tells us how God in working His purpose out used a variety of men and means. First came the visit of Stanley, the explorer; then the sending forth of the first missionary band, composed of such men as Mackay, Shergold Smith, Wilson, and others. Upon a groundwork of self-sacrifice, isolation, suffering, sickness, and death, were the foundations of the Christian Church in Buganda laid. First one and then another laid down his life in seeking to win Buganda for Christ. After five years of patient labor and prayerful waiting came the first baptisms. Then after the death of Mtesa and the accession of the present king Mwanga, cruel persecutions broke out, and many a young Mganda lad laid down his life rather than deny his Saviour. What an example for the Christian lads of England! Then came the martyrdom of Bishop Hannington, and the death at the south end of the Victoria Nyanza of Bishop Parker, Mackay, and others. After this the little band of Christians was driven out of the country by the Mohammedans, who had gained the upper hand, and who in their turn shortly afterwards were themselves conquered by the combined forces of the Christians. In the meanwhile the work of teaching went on, and

so mightily grew the word of God and prevailed, that on my visiting the country in 1890, I was able to preach to a congregation of something like a thousand souls. Three years later I was enabled to pay a second visit to Buganda, when I found that the congregation of one thousand to which I had preached in 1890 had grown into one of five thousand. I also found that the lay readers whom I had set apart on the occasion of my first visit had given such proof of their ministry, that I was able to ordain six of them as deacons—the first deacons of the Church of Buganda. The thirst for reading had become so intense that 40,000 books were eagerly purchased by the people in the one year of 1893. Two more stations were opened; and "the Lord added daily to the church such as should be saved." So much, then, for the past; what about the present condition of things?

II. THE PRESENT.—I have recently returned from a third visit to Buganda, and can therefore give you the very latest information as to the progress of the work and its present condition. Instead of the one church as in 1890, we have now some 300 churches scattered throughout the land; and in these churches there assemble Sunday by Sunday congregations amounting in the aggregate to some 25,000 souls. More than 700 Native teachers, supported entirely by the Native Church, are engaged in this glorious enterprise, about which I wrote in the beginning, of seeking to make Christ known to those who as yet know Him not. Happily, through the indefatigable labors of Mr. Pilkington, we are now able to place a copy of the whole Bible in Buganda in the hands of these teachers, so that wherever they penetrate, there the Word of God is read either to or by the people in their own tongue. The number of readers attached to our various mission stations is now some 57,000, of whom a large proportion are either baptized, or under instruction with a view to baptism. Three Native priests and five more Native deacons have been ordained, and twenty-two lay readers have been set apart for work as evangelists.

This, very roughly and briefly, is a statement of the main facts connected with the evangelization of Buganda. Could any facts speak more eloquently of a change in the moral and spiritual condition of a people? The murder, mutilation, or enslaving of men, women, and children were the ordinary occurrences of everyday life in Buganda twenty years ago. Sin and immorality abounded on every hand: now what do we see? Thousands of men and women trying to order their lives according to the precepts of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Many of them, thank God, have learned what many of us at home need to learn, and that is that Christ is a Savior, not only from the pen-