

COMITY IN CENTRAL AFRICA.

In a recent letter Rev. Donald Frazer writes:

"Until recently Central Africa has been an ideally-worked mission field. The whole area was divided up between old missionary societies, and there was no overlapping, but only the most harmonious co-operation. There it was proved that it is possible for so High Church a Society as the Universities' Mission to work in greatest friendliness with so Presbyterian a Society as the Livingstonia Mission. Two Scotch churches and the Dutch Reformed worked the Southern and Western parts of Lake Nyassa. The Universities' and German Societies worked the Eastern, while the London Missionary Society and the Moravians divided the Northern shores and the Tanganyika basin between themselves. By this arrangement, without waste of effort, a chain of stations has been spreading over the whole of British Central Africa, taking possession of the land in Christ's name.

"Recently some undenominational societies have started missions and have entered into the sphere of the established societies. Their advent has immediately been followed by friction and strained feeling. Teachers were induced to leave the old societies for the new. A feeling of rivalry, almost of opposition, was created in the minds of the natives, and the maintenance of Church discipline became difficult.

"This has been a great pity. Surely there are wide enough reaches in Africa where true evangelists will find ample scope for pioneer effort. These are days when we cannot afford to overlap. And great is the folly of denominational or undenominational strife. If people wish to help to evangelize Central Africa, would they not help better by diverting their funds into that existing society which is most congenial to them? Every one of these societies is intensely alive and aggressive, and not one of them has sufficient funds for its work. It is a false economy that starts work where work exists. It is a false economy that creates new societies, and multiplies independent executives to work where old and well-organized societies are already at work.

"Particularly unwise is a scheme for importing American negroes into Central Africa. It has been abundantly proved by past experience that the American negro finds malarial fever as severe for him here as the European does. He will require European houses, clothes, and food. That means that every negro imported will require an income of say £80 a year. How is he to get this? We can employ a skilled Central African joiner or printer for £5 or £7 a year. Central African labourers can be wealthy on £1 a year, or less. How can the American negro ever find a home in this poor and fever-swept country? Too much romance has become centred in Central Africa."—*Missionary Review.*

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