

be that the foreign governments will insist on the opening of Hunan. Loud calls are made for lady missionaries, especially on account of the ignorance and seclusion of the women of China, who were only now reached through the agency of their sons and husbands.

Universities' Mission, Central Africa.—There is much disappointment that the health of Bishop Smythies has been so enfeebled by toil in the Dark Continent. In letters from Likoma, Lake Nyassa, which he had reached after a journey of six weeks, he remarks that his fatigue had been exhausting. He had overrated his physical powers and, at last, could not climb any hill. A severe attack of malarial fever subsequently had left him almost powerless. The bishop formerly held a living at Cardiff, in Wales, where before going abroad he was marked out for early preferment. It is much to his credit, in face of a comfortable prospect at home, that he should have accepted one of the most arduous posts in the modern mission field, a position which he has filled with distinguished service.

The African Kaffir Choir.—Apart from the object for which this most entertaining body of people are visiting the United Kingdom, the members of the party have done eminent service on behalf of missions in showing by their own presence, refinement, and Christian bearing what missionary enterprise has done and is accomplishing in reclaiming the South African races for the Kingdom of Christ. Thousands of English listeners, who seldom see or hear a missionary, have been much impressed by the dusky visitors from South Africa. These unassuming strangers are welding a strong link of good will between Britain and Africa.

Uganda.—This important missionary field has excited unusual attention for several weeks, and providentially the prospects in England and in Africa are now more cheering. The sum of £15,000, which the British East Africa Company required to be forthcoming in addi-

tion to their own extra £25,000, has been practically subscribed for the Uganda Protection Fund by supporters of the C. M. S., which means that the company will remain in the protectorate and lend its countenance to Protestant missionaries and their converts. Although the C. M. S. cannot see its way to provide and keep a steamer on Victoria Nyanza, for which so much money has been contributed to the *Stanley and Record Funds*, the missionaries will have the use of a steel sailing vessel which is now *en route* for the lake. Bishop Tucker sailed for Africa on December 4th, after a succession of hearty farewells from English friends. The bishop is keenly disappointed that a steamer cannot be launched on Nyanza, and just before leaving for his African diocese he wrote a powerful appeal through the press to his fellow-countrymen to give generously on behalf of the Uganda occupation fund and the Victoria Nyanza steamer.

The last letter to hand in England from Uganda, dated June 1st, states that no mail from home had been received since those written in November, 1890. With Captain Lugard's defeat of the Mohammedans the natives were returning from the war. Mr. Pilkington, one of the C. M. S. agents, had, with the help of Henry Duta, completed the translation of the Acts of the Apostles, and also composed about twenty hymns based on popular English hymns, while other interesting literary work was in progress. The Rev. R. H. Walker was in Budu working with some of the lay evangelists, and enjoying the support of the lord of the district. Writing privately, Mr. Walker says that the population of Uganda is not more than 200,000, and also adds that the Roman Catholic converts are now sixteen to the Protestant four in proportion. Captain Lugard has been successful in seeking the pacification of Uganda and Unyoro, and telegraphs to England: "Assistance urgently required. State of affairs Uganda improving, prospects are encouraging."