

## MISSION FIELD.

## BISHOP TUCKER IN UGANDA.

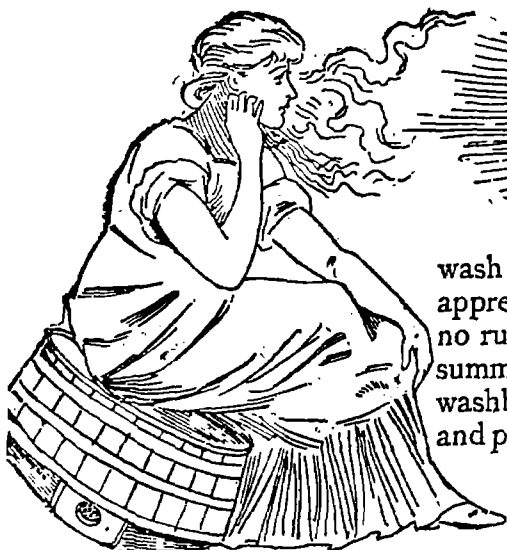
*A Picture of what God has wrought in the heart of the Dark Continent*

Buganda, Dec. 30th, 1890.

On Saturday, Dec. 27th, through the goodness and mercy of God, I reached this country, about which I have thought and prayed for so long. Our party is now fairly well, and all rejoice that at length the goal has been reached. Our journey across the lake was a tedious one, occupying 23 days. When I left Usambiro I was just recovering from an attack of fever. So weak was I, that I had to be carried to the boat. I was also nearly blind, owing to a severe attack of ophthalmia. Happily, I am now able to give a very different account of myself. My sight is now nearly restored, although I dare say an operation may eventually be necessary, and my strength is quite renewed. Altogether I am a very different man, physically, from when I left Usambiro.

But now how shall I find language to describe the wonderful work of God's grace which has been going on in the land? Truly, the half was not told me. Exaggeration about the eagerness of the people here to be taught there has been none. No words can describe the emotion which filled my heart as, on Sunday, Dec. 28th, I stood up to speak to fully 1,000 men and women, who crowded the church of Buganda. It was a wonderful sight! There, close beside me, was the Katikirc—the second man in the kingdom. There, on every hand, were chiefs of various degrees, all Christian men, and all in their demeanor devout and earnest to a degree. The responses, in their heartiness, were beyond anything I have heard even in Africa. There was a second service in the afternoon, at which there must have been fully 800 present. The same earnest attention was apparent and the same spirit of devotion. I can never be sufficiently thankful to God for the glorious privilege of being permitted to preach to these dear members of Christ's flock.

On Monday, the 29th, we paid our respects to the king in open court. At about half past nine a messenger came from the king to say that he was ready to see us. So setting off we reached the royal residence at about ten a.m. Our party consisted of Messrs. Walker, Gordon, Pilkington, Baskerville, Smith, Hooper and myself. Outside the palace another messenger met us, his work being apparently to conduct us into the royal presence. I suppose he must have been the chamberlain. As we came near the reed gate, which separated us from the audience or reception room, drums were beaten and trumpets blown. The gate was immediately thrown open, and we were in the presence of the king and his court. The former at once rose up to greet us, shaking each one by the hand. Our seats for we had taken the precaution of bring-



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ing our chairs with us—were placed on the right hand of the king. He at once inquired about our journey and made various enquiries as to our ages, &c., at the same time making remarks as to the color of our hair, our height, &c., &c. With regard to the king himself, his appearance is certainly not prepossessing. The impression he gives one is that of his being a self-indulgent man. When he knits his brows his aspect is very forbidding. During the whole of the time we were there he kept giving his hand to the Katikirc on his left hand, or to the Admiral on his right, or to any one who amused him and was near at hand. I had intended to bring with me one or two presents for the king not on the old scale or principles, but as a simple acknowledgement of his courtesy in sending canoes to Usambiro for our goods. But his unfaithfulness in regard to his promise recoiled upon his own head. Thinking that the canoes would follow us from Usambiro in a few days I left the presents for the king to be brought on later. No canoes appearing, no presents were forthcoming. I thought the king seemed quite angry with those about him who were responsible for the delay in the departure of the canoes. At any rate he asked several very sharp questions with regard to the causes of the delay. The atmosphere of the reception-room was oppressively close, and so we were not sorry when the king rose up from his seat, as the signal that his audience was at an end. Instead of retiring to the rear, as his custom is, he followed us to the front of the barraza, not merely, I think, as a matter of courtesy, but in order to inspect us a little more narrowly.

This morning I had an interview with the Church Council. I spoke to the members on three points:—1. Their own spiritual life, and suggested as a help that they should meet together, at regular intervals, for prayer and the study of God's Word. 2. The Confirmation, which I propose holding very shortly; and I pointed out how very much they, as elders in the Church, could assist, and how minister in the work of preparation, &c. 3. I spoke

to them very earnestly with regard to the Lord's Supper and the communicants' classes which must be organized in connection with the Confirmation.

[To be continued.]

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