

brief visit was needed to Edinburgh, to bid farewell to his family. On the 25th of April, 1876, the band of missionaries, eight in number, of which Mackay was the youngest, took leave of the missionary committee. Each missionary made a short address. Mr. Mackay was the last to speak. He remarked, "There is one thing which my brothers have not said and which I want to say: I want to remind the Committee that within six months they will probably hear that one of us is dead. But what I want to say is this: When that news comes do not be cast down, but send someone else immediately to take the vacant place."

Just before sailing from Southampton, on April 27th, he concluded his letter to his family with these words, "It is His cause. It must prosper whether I be spared to see its consummation or not. May God give me health and strength, and fit me for so glorious a work—the enlargement of the kingdom of His dear Son. Pray for me that grace may be given me to keep steadily in view the one great object" A pleasant voyage brought them to Zanzibar by the 29th of May. On the second of that month he had his first glimpse of Africa. With deep emotion he gazed upon the outline of a continent which for long ages has been the abode of idolatry, error, and cruelty. "Now," he exclaimed, "for the springing up of a new light in the dark land of dusky Ham! Is there any power that will elevate the degraded race? Yes, the Gospel, mighty power!" . . . "I shall, in the name and strength of God, set up my printing-press on the shore of the Victoria Nyanza, and I shall not cease to toil till the story of the cross of Christ be printed in the language of Karague and Uganda, and every man be taught to read it and believe it too!"

The journey from Zanzibar to

Uganda was one of great difficulty and much suffering. As neither the Wami nor the Kingoni rivers were found to be navigable, they had to proceed by road. Four caravans were formed, each in charge of a leader. At Ugogo Mr. Mackay was taken so sick that it was deemed best to send him back to the coast. Here he remained until the tenth of April, when he started again for his destination. On the fifth of December Lieutenant Smith and Mr. O'Neil, of the advance party, wrote him from Victoria Nyanza that they were about leaving for Uganda. Unfortunately both of them were slain. The tidings of their death filled him with sorrow. "But," he writes, "God has other hands in reserve whom He will bring to the front fast and unexpectedly, and the work will proceed whether we break down or not." Pressing forward he met with many and varied difficulties. Of the young men who had left England with him one had died of fever, two had been sent home sick, and two had been killed, but he was still full of faith and hope and courage.

On the thirteenth of June he saw for the first time Lake Nyanza. But most of the stores belonging to the Church Missionary Society had been stolen, and much of the material of his little steamer lay damaged beyond repair. At length he put the parts together and made her fit for sea. On the fifth day out a terrific storm arose and he was compelled to let her drift ashore. Eight weeks of hard work enabled him to get his boat ready once more, and on the sixth of November he reached Rubaga, the capital of Uganda. On the eighth of November he had his first interview with King Mtesa, who was, according to Stanley, "the most striking figure in equatorial Africa."

The impression produced by Stanley's letters was that the king and his people were ready to embrace the Christian religion, but such was