

KIKUYU.

PROTEST FROM MAHOMEDANS IN LONDON.

We have received a letter signed Khwaja Kamal Ud Din, The Mosque, Woking, and Duse Mohamed, Effendi, editor of the *African Times and Orient Review*, 158, Fleet-street, E.C., in the course of which they say:—

On behalf of the members of the Islamic faith residing in England we desire to enter an emphatic protest against the hostility to Islam displayed at a conference of missionaries belonging to a number of Protestant denominations at Kikuyu, in East Africa.

We are convinced that the whole of the hundred millions of Moslems within the British Empire share our feelings of regret and indignation at the gratuitous attack on our faith; and we feel no doubt that the vast numbers of Christians who believe with us that conscientious opinions are too sacred to be made the subject of attack by the followers of rival creeds will consider our protest fully justified. There can be no doubt that important agencies of Protestant missionary enterprise have adopted against Islam the device of an artificial and pretended unity, for the purpose of increasing the chance of Protestant propaganda against Islam. We are entitled, therefore, to ask, What is the "menace" of which the Protestant missionaries are afraid? The humble missionary of Islam, without the accessories of wealth and power at the back of others, carries his simple faith to people immersed in absolute darkness; uplifts them from pure heathenism, teaches them the duties of life, and turns them into beings with a true conception of the relation of God to man; he preaches to them the power, glory, and love of God, the Omnipotent, the All-Seeing, Who is not made by hands, Who is the Creator Eternal, Who alone can give happiness to man; he teaches them the universal brotherhood of mankind in the faith of Islam; making no distinction of colour or race; he tells them that Moslems are brothers, and that there are none higher or lower in the faith of Islam; he endeavours to turn them into orderly members of the society in which their lot is cast; he impresses on them the value of human life and the responsibility of man to God; he weans them from drink and the barbarous rites of heathenism to the simple worship of an All-Seeing, All-Wise Creator, and he asks them to revere the great teacher who, in an age of utter darkness, called back the world to worship and the love of God.

The letter of the Bishop of Uganda published in *The Times* of Saturday, the 14th, shows exactly the spirit which animates the Christian pastors who seem bent on carrying into "benighted Africa" the intolerance common in Europe and Asia.

POSITION OF HIGH CHURCHMEN.

A meeting of the English Church Union was held at the Church House last evening.

LORD HALIFAX, who presided, moved a resolution declaring that no man can be accounted or taken to be a lawful Bishop, priest, or deacon, or be suffered to exercise any of the functions set out in the preface to the Ordinal and in Article XXXVI., except he hath had episcopal consecration or ordination. He said that the Kikuyu Conference was in itself an indication of the desire to work together, and as such they could be thankful for it, whatever exception they might be compelled to take to the means suggested for bringing the union about. He appreciated the feeling of Christians isolated in a heathen country, and wished to speak charitably of the conference. They were thankful to the Bishop of Zanzibar for his appeal to the authority of the English Church, but it would have been better if that appeal had not been made public, and the controversy in the Press was to be regretted. The scheme of federation put forward at the conference was based on a quite insufficient view of the nature of a church. Instead of laying the foundation of a Catholic Church the proposals would create a sect founded on undenominational principles incapable of fulfilling the mission to teach all nations.

LORD SHAFTESBURY said it was well for Churchmen to make a stand for episcopacy and Catholic order. There should be no hesitation in coming to grips with an unpleasant situation. The incidents at Kikuyu appeared to him to be a revival of the old attempt of the 17th century Puritans to capture the Church of England.

The resolution was passed unanimously with loud cheers.
