HARRY PARTRIDGE.

Harry Partridge was no ordinary character, for he summed up in himself almost all those things which make a Christian and a gentleman. He had a perfect simplicity and humility, which made him at home with whomever he was brought into contact. That is "at home" in the best sense of the word, for he had the gift of bringing out the best in those with whom he mixed, and there was no touch of self-consciousness or of superiority or conceit.

As a desperately hard worker in our fishing craft he had the thoughtful serious way of those who lead the dangerous life of a fisherman, but combined with it was the happy sunny disposition that always looked for, and found gaiety and fun, laughter and merriment in the humdrum events of daily life. To watch him of a morning at the Celebration buried deep in prayer for comrades in the mission field far away, kneeling long after the Celebration was over, and then later in the day to enjoy a pleasure trip with him on our cycles or out on the waters of Torbay, when he would be ready for any sort of jolly adventure—was to realize what a glorious life a Christian may enjoy. And how many sided he was! Through his furlough there never was a bit of Church work to be done but Harry was there: never a scheme for bringing some lapsed member of our Church back again but he would work might and main in the matter.

For one brought up, one may say, at sea in the rough life of a trawler, he had a quite extraordinary grip of theology, and many and many a question would we thresh out, and his instinct would always help us to the true solution.

One thing he fairly hated, and that was speech making. He was called on to address a large meeting at Torquay for U.M.C.A., and probably no one can realize what it meant to him. At one time he had had an impediment in his speech, which he had practically overcome, but the dread of its returning was a nightmare to him. Yet who that heard him at that meeting will forget his speech, how he held us with his plain homely talk and how his face lit up as the idea struck him to sing us a verse of the "Adeste Fideles" in Chinyanja in his sweet mellow voice.
Here at Brixham we can hardly realize that we shall never see him in our chancel again, singing in the choir, or joining in our walks along the cliffs, nor shall be receiving any more of his wonderful letters, which in themselves did a work of their own among our lads, who would hang on each word and sentence as they were read; but his life will always kindle and inspire all that is best and noblest and deepest in men's hearts; and come life or death one feels sure that if men be wanted by the mission for the mariner's life on Lake Nyasa they will not long be wanting. We are hoping to erect a tablet to him and his brother Missionary and Brixham fisherman George Sherriff, who lies buried at Likoma also. While we commit Harry to the loving keeping of his Saviour, we must not forget his comrade Alfred Brimecombe who went out with him from here. They were as David and Jonathan one with another, and help from on high will be needed to comfort and support the one that is left in his loneliness.

A. Baring-Gould.

THE SMALL EXCITEMENTS IN LUVULAND.

Here were two of them, Padre Stead and Mr. Pegge who left Korogwe to visit the school of Kwa Mgumi which they reached in about an hour. The town of Kwa Mgumi is situated on an island surrounded by the river Luvu—a great and terrible river full of hungry crocodiles. To reach the town it is necessary to cross the river by a bridge—if it can be called by that name—but if you have seen Blondin's tight rope you will have a good idea what the bridge is like, only instead of a rope there are five planks tied end to end suspended high above the river. When the visitors saw the bridge they did not know if they could cross it, for it looked so difficult, so they sat down on the bank—not too near the water for fear of the crocodiles—to consider what they should do. Very soon the old men and the children came to the opposite bank to watch the white men go over the bridge. Padre Stead and Mr. Pegge felt that they must be brave in the presence of those African boys and girls, so in spite of great fear they succeeded in crossing, and were welcomed by the chief and many of the people of the town.

The school is a nice little building of mud and poles with a thatched roof, and is in charge of a native teacher, called Frank. The scholars are not provided with desks such as there are in English schools, but they sit on the floor, all except the first class who have the privilege of being allowed to sit on a long plank which is about four inches wide. Near the door there is a native drum which takes the place of a school bell. In this little school, children are being taught to read and write so that they may read the Bible and Prayer Book and join in the services of the Church.
After they left the school the chief took his visitors to a part of the river where there are no crocodiles, because the water flows so fast, and crocodiles cannot live in places where the river runs very swiftly. Here five boys jumped into the river and gave an exhibition of their swimming powers. It was marvellous to see these little fellows quite at home in the rapid current, turning somersaults, imitating fishes jumping in and out of the water, suddenly disappearing and after quite a long time re-appearing far down the river, and many other little tricks. The visitors said to the boys, “Truly, you swim just like fishes,” and they replied, “Yes, but we are more clever” (than fishes).

After the chief had accompanied them round the town, Mr. Pegge, who was a visitor to Korogwe and not acquainted with walking across bridges such as these, asked if there was not another way back to Korogwe, and the men said “Oh yes,” and took them to another bridge which was far worse than the first. Here they said “Kwa heri” (Good-bye) to the chief and his people.

Padre Stead safely crossed the bridge; but as soon as he reached the bank he heard a shout, and turned round just in time to see Mr. Pegge fall into the river with a tremendous splash. It was a very dangerous situation for him. Would he be carried away by the rush of water, or would he be seized by a crocodile? However he was able to swim and did not seem to realize his danger, but laughed and made a dash for the bank where he was quickly assisted to land. So ended an interesting and exciting visit to a Luvu town.

THEY SIT ON THE FLOOR.

LAST week I took the boys to town for their promised trip in the train. We left here at 1.30 and went by the shore. I really thought we should have melted, for I never felt anything like the heat. Even little Barnaba and George Majaliwa went and we arrived quite safely at 2.30 at the Hospital. Miss Brewerton treated all the boys to bananas and sherbet, and at 4 p.m. off we went to the Palace as the train starts from there. Tom, the black dog, followed us. The officials had kindly
reserved a carriage for us and we all packed in, a pretty tight fit, some sat under the seat. After a long wait off we went and the excitement began. "Hoh—how does it go?" "Bibi we shall fall out." "Je, what are they putting oil for?" and so on. But words can't describe the enjoyment as we rushed through the town! Really I was thankful I was not walking, for how the people get out of the way. I can't think. When we were half way to Bububu Tom could not stand it any longer and bolted. I gave him up for lost and the boys were quite sad. When we arrived Mr. McLean took our photographs; I send you the group. Then we went to look at the old Palace and when we returned we found the train kindly waiting for us. Back we rushed to town, arriving at 6.30. We all went back to the Hospital where dinner awaited the boys—huge kitoweos (the relish eaten with rice) and such rich gravy, they still talk of it! The boys slept in the Hospital, some preferred lying under the beds to being on them. Early in the morning they bathed, and then Raikes' mother appeared with a big teapot and bread and treated them all round. (The Kilimani boys never have tea at home and it is an immense treat.) Miss Brewerton hired the train to take them as far as the German Club, so their cup of delight quite overflowed. We got back to Kilimani about 9.30. The boys were some way ahead of me and suddenly I heard such a shouting and clapping, and found that it was to greet Tom who had found his way back; it was really very clever of him. Now the boys play trains all day long. They have three empty barrels and the bottom of an old packing case which they put on the top of them. The rails are made of bamboos. They give the barrels a shove and all pitch down in the end. The other day the Sultan turned his motor car over and was a little hurt, the boys immediately started accidents, and I had to bind up three legs, so I soon put a stop to that little game.

M. B. Stevens.
A HEART-BREAKING SIGHT.

ARCHDEACON CARNON left Lindi on February 5, with an escort of ten soldiers and twenty irregulars, about thirty Christians from Masasi, and as many from other places, with a large number of up-country people who had been waiting for an opportunity to return to their homes. On the way they saw what destruction the rebels had wrought on the property of everyone who was in any way connected with Europeans. The Benedictine headquarters shewed terrible havoc, the beautiful brick church a heap of rubbish, only the altar left, and all the other buildings destroyed, excepting the Sisters’ house, to which they had done all the harm they could. No houses were standing on the road, and they passed a place where a big fight had been and saw the terrible remains. When they arrived near Masasi the Christian people came to greet the Archdeacon from all the villages round and seemed very pleased to see him, but he says, “Masasi is a perfectly heart-breaking sight, it is nothing but ruins.” However, the small school was not destroyed and has been used as a church, and as many as could get into it joined in thanksgiving for all God’s goodness to them on the road.

The Archdeacon is living in the cattle shed, a stall serves for his bedroom and the centre of the shed is used as a general room.

We hear also that Canon Porter left Zanzibar for Lindi on March 4, and by this time we hope has joined the Archdeacon at Masasi.

Miss Clutterbuck and Miss Sharpe are coming to England to recruit, as the Bishop thinks it will be better for them to take their holiday now. They leave Zanzibar the 26th April, and hope they may be able to return to their work before the end of the year.

SEVEN WEDDINGS AT LIKOMA.

REAT were the preparations going on in various villages at Likoma at the end of December, 1905, for there were seven brides who, assisted by their friends and relations, were pounding cassava into flour, for their wedding feast. St. John’s Day, December 27, was chosen for the wedding, which was as usual quite early in the morning, so that African brides and bridegrooms can receive the Holy Communion at the time of their marriage. The brides arrived quite early and put the finishing touches to their toilet in the Girls’ enclosure and they all went to church together accompanied by many of the schoolgirls. Arrived in church, each couple was arranged in order with the man who was to give the bride away standing behind her. Each of these men had to be called out of the congregation; they never lead the bride in. Three couples stood in the usual place at the chancel steps as both bride and bridegroom were Christians. Of the other couples one in each was a catechumen so they were placed at the end of the church. The service for a catechumen marriage ends before the part said at the altar. The Holy Eucharist was celebrated after the Marriage Service and after that the newly-married couples went to the vestry to sign the register, a very lengthy business here. The rest of the congregation assembled round the porches under the unfinished towers at the west end of the cathedral, and excitement grew apace as a basket was handed round and several women and girls plentifully sprinkled their heads with flour. This in Africa is a great sign of rejoicing. I have seen it done by the women of a family when some one returns from a long absence, perhaps from working in the mines in South Africa. The bridegroom’s friends were all
prepared with the necessary umbrellas ready to escort the brides home, as this is not the duty of the bridegroom but of his friend. Just as the wedding party appeared and were starting for the village, Mr. Craft arrived with his camera and they were all quite ready to wait and be photographed. The bridegrooms all wore long white kanzus and white caps, a black, or black and white ornamental waistcoat, and a tie. The brides had gaily coloured “sheeties” and another “sheeti” or handkerchief on their heads.

After the photo was taken a final start was made for the various villages with much laughter, and the curious sound made by the women. It is called “lululuti” and is done by holding the tongue sideways in the mouth and wagging it exceedingly fast. This also is an African sign of rejoicing. I have heard the Chisumulu women do it when greeting the Bishop who had gone over to hold a Confirmation.

Among the seven couples on December 27 were two school girls, another girl who had left school some little while, and Mwalimu (i.e. teacher) Margaret. Mwalimu Margaret has taught in Likoma girls’ school for some time and had been a widow for two years. We are very glad to think of her as happily married, all the more as we shall not lose her from the school.

H. M.

THE DANGERS OF THE NIGHT.

OW often at Evensong we hear the words: “Lighten our darkness we beseech Thee, O Lord,” without giving a thought to what we are praying for. But in Africa the perils and dangers of the night are very great and real, and just now have been brought terribly home to us. There was a Christian man named Paul, who we are told “was such a fine fellow”; he lived with a number of his companions, who, in the old days of slavery, were carried away, either to Massai or Dar es Salaam and a little while ago came back to Nyasa to settle somewhere near their old home. They went to a place called Chididi, which is very wild and uncultivated, with savage beasts and lots of game about. Here they ran up some rough grass huts for themselves, not waiting to build proper houses till they had cultivated the ground so that they might have food to eat; but though they had not built their own houses they had already cut down trees ready to build a church. One night Paul heard a noise as if some one cried out, so he went outside to see what was the matter, and all in a moment a great lion sprang upon him and carried him off. It was a dark night and the people were too terrified to do anything. I suppose they had no guns or lanterns, and probably knew it would be no use to follow the lion. When
the morning came there was nothing left of Paul but just one limb. Try and think how terrible it must have been for his friends—a fine strong man—and in a few hours devoured by a savage beast, one limb only left. Will you keep this sad story in your minds and when that prayer is said in church remember the perils and dangers to which missionaries and their people are always exposed and say with all your hearts: “Defend them, O Lord, from all the perils and dangers of the night, for the love of Thy only Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.”

AFRICAN PORTRAITS.

PAKUYA AND TUPU.

PAKUYA and Tupu are two girl catechumens at Kota Kota who both received the cross in spite of special difficulties. Pakuya’s heathen mother refused her consent at first, saying she had given us two children already and would not give us Pakuya. We never admit girls as 
catechumens without the formal consent of 
the mother and other responsible relatives nor 
without a solemn promise before witnesses 
that the girl shall not be compelled to share 
in the very evil dances in which at certain periods of their life every heathen girl is expected to take part. Eventually through Pakuya’s own pleading and with the help of her elder sister (a christian) the mother’s op-
to induce her to take part in this debasing rite, but Tupu herself was very anxious to avoid it and happily she was engaged to be married to a Christian who was absent from home some hundreds of miles at the time, but the heathen chief knew of the engagement, and though he (the chief) was the one who profited financially by each additional girl who was "danced," he refused to have Tupu danced on the ground that it was against Christian law and contrary to the wishes of the man to whom she was engaged. So Tupu was able to be admitted as a catechumen, and shortly afterwards her future husband returned and she was happily married at an early age as the African custom is. She still continues to attend school, and we ask your prayers for both these girls that they may endure the test of their catechumenate and in due course be admitted into the full membership of the Body of Christ by Holy Baptism.

WM. C. P.

In Memoriam.

REV. JOHN G. PHILIPPS.

We have had another cable from Likoma with the sad news of the death of the Rev. John G. Philipps. He will be remembered by many of our readers, as his health obliged him to stay two years in England, and during that time he went to a great many places to speak and preach for the Mission. He is buried under the shadow of the beautiful Cathedral at Likoma; may he rest in peace.
KILIMANI.

February 17.

UKA has discarded his crutches and it is a good thing, for that iron of his was no joke to keep in repair. The zambaraus are ripe (a sort of damson), and the boys look such dirty, grimy children these days. On Sundays, when they are allowed to pick them, I make them put on their shamba shukas (loin cloths) first, as they stain themselves fearfully.

“We went fishing Monday afternoon and on our way bought some oil ready to fry the fish. If you will believe it we never caught one!”

“James Pesa and Josef were confirmed while they were at Masasi. The two new boys, Stewart and Russell, have not yet taken any part in the life here except as lookers on. But it strikes me I shall find them a good handful in days to come.”

Thomas Spero, Petro Faraji and Hilary (three old boys) made their first communion on Christmas Day.

HEGONGO.

On Wednesday night (January 31st) we had the most terrific thunderstorm and were both so frightened. It began to be at about 8.30; we shut the venetian shutters and so kept out some of the lightning, but the thunder was terrific and we expected the house would go. About 12 it got a little better, but the storm went on more or less all night. We intended having the School games that week, but had to put them off; however they were most successful when we did have them, although it rained all the previous night and we could not have anything out of doors. We cleared the schoolroom and had them there, and the girls danced and played, and ran races, ending up with a big feast. They came at 8 a.m. and did not leave till 4 p.m., so we conclude they enjoyed themselves.

The orphans are all flourishing and are very bubbly to-day at going off for their holidays as they did not go away last time. Another of them has just got engaged to be married, and one of them who was married last year has a baby, so there are lots of small excitements. John Saidi and his wife have adopted a Kigego baby about ten months old; it is a fretful little thing, and must be something of a weariness to the flesh. Poor Josefin can’t sleep at night because it cries, and the children share the burden during the day. I am afraid it is not very well and it is not a bit likely to live; it is extraordinary how seldom Kigego babies do live. Hugh Semboja is looking out for a wife, and I hear has cast his eyes on one of our School girls, a catechumen at present, but she should be baptized before Hugh is ready to be married if she goes on well. She is a nice girl and both pretty and attractive.

KOROGWE.

February 11.

“Your lovely packet of books came yesterday; they are exactly the sort of Scripture books for taking to teach in the villages, oriental picturing with not too much detail, very necessary when our pupils always begin by holding the book upside down. The new S.P.C.K. one of the Old Testament History is admirable. The babes know their one picture of Cain and Abel, off by heart; and I feel rather like the Russian priest, who bewailed that the picture of Purgatory in his Church was so old that it would not frighten
a child. The old Cain picture does not fill them with such horror as it ought to. Today I went across the wobbly bridge to teach the girls. They all collected down at the bathing place and the boys followed and wanted to look at pictures too. I cleared them off; naughty lads, some of them wound blue Kaniki round them so as to look like girls and of course, with their shaved heads there is nothing to distinguish them. The girls were righteously indignant. Is not human nature the same all the world over?"

MALINDI.

February 2.
The boys who have joined us are a great comfort, they are so cheerful and ready to help in many ways. We hear that they have to put up with a good deal of insult and ridicule from Mohammedans in the village, but the boys themselves rarely say much about it.

We go in for cricket a good deal these days. The boys did not take kindly to it for a long time, they did not quite see the fun of standing still at a wicket while some one bowled at them with a thing that seemed very like a stone! But now they have quite got hold of the game and some of them display considerable ability at batting, but they do not shine at bowling. The bat we are using shows much signs of wear, and if any one would like to send us out a bat we should be very pleased; it should be the full size. A ball would also be useful—composition would do very well.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN has been graciously pleased to accept specimens of dolls in Native Costume, dressed by Mrs. Hodgson, Zanzibar Cottage, Exeter. The profit sent up to the Mission last year, by the sale of these dolls amounted to £113.
MY DEAR CHILDREN,—

It was lovely to have such a number of papers this month. I think it means that you are trying to keep Lent well, and I am very glad it is so. Before the papers came I was feeling a little sorry that so very few had asked for Lent savings’ boxes and ladders.

I am asked to tell you that Miss Meade-King, Walford, Taunton, will be glad to send particulars of the Query Society to any applicant enclosing a stamped envelope.

Half-yearly papers are set on miscellaneous subjects. The subscription is 1s. 6d., and the funds are divided between U.M.C.A. and prizes. Perhaps some who are too old for the competition in African Tidings might like to join this Society.

Your affectionate friend,

ELLEN M. NELSON.

RULES.

1. Competitors will be divided into two classes. Class I., Seniors, those over 13 and under 17. Class II., Juniors, those under 13. Three Certificates will be given in each class every month. When four Certificates are obtained they may be exchanged for a Prize.

2. One side only of the paper to be written on.

3. Name, age last birthday, and address, to be written at the top of the first page.

4. Every paper to be signed by a parent or teacher to certify that it is the unaided work of the competitor.

RESULTS OF MARCH COMPETITION.

Seniors.

Full marks, 48. Alice Cameron, 45; Olga de Lavelaye, Lily Vanson, 40; Mabel Bottrell, 30; Mimi Clarke, Elsie Colwill, Louie Scantlebury, 38; Elsie L. Hills, Theodore Peters, 30; J. M. B. Baser, Mabel Cockerill, 28; M. M. Bartle, 25; Jane Burrows, 22; Samuel Court, 19; Robert Wycherley, 12; William Pratt, 6.

Juniors.

Full marks, 30. Hannah Colwill, 28; Ida Colwill, 27; Minnie Scantlebury, 26; Elsie Gainesville, Jasper G. Olivier, Emily Stephens, 25; May Phillips, Ruth Vinter, 24; Elsie Burbery, Mildred Charman, Robert Vinter, 23; Gladys de Lavelaye, Lily Snaul, 22; Horace Bant, Rose Edworthy, Edith Gee, 21; Marjorie Beauley, Noma Clarke, Kathleen N. Hills, Beatrice Jones, T. F. Middleton, 20; Elsie Yardley, 19; Olave Ashbourne, Clara Faulkner, Dorothy L. Fisher, Winifred R. Knight, 17; Maud Lukings, Gladys M. Page, Stanley P. Thomas, 16; Violet W. Brown, Audrey E. Lloyd, 15; Eva Barker, Dorothy Barnes, Lily Davies, 13; Alexander Cook, R. Maddin, Vernon Gee, Lily Johnson, Anna Watson, 12; Annie Woodfield, 11; Winifred M. Watson, 10; Ivy Moore, 9; Alfred Clines, 8; Florence Wycherley, 7; Oliver Pratt, 7; Fred Wycherley, Mitty Woodfield, 6.

Alice Cave is credited with 4 marks for last month.

COMPETITION FOR MAY.

Seniors.

1. Where is Kwe-di-Ganga, and what do you know of it?
2. Write in your own words the story "Worth its weight in gold." (Not more than one page of foolscap.)
3. What is the later history of Magila? (See African Tidings, p. 40.)
4. What do you know of Mr. Harry Partridge?
5. Solve the following acrostic. The initials make "African," and the finals "Tidings."

Juniors.

1. Where is Kwe-di-Ganga and what do you know of it?
2. Write in your own words the story "Worth its weight in gold." (Not more than one page of foolscap.)
3. What do you know of Mr. Harry Partridge?
4. Answers to be sent by May 26 to—

MISS NELSON,
10, Avenue Road, Grantham.
A LETTER FROM MALINDI.

MY DEAR CHILDREN,—

I am sure you will all like to know how the children at Malindi spent their Christmas. About twenty-four boys live on the Mission Station, but all the boys and girls from the hill stations were invited to spend Christmas here, so that altogether there were between sixty and seventy children here for Christmas. On Christmas Day the children were given a feast. Very early in the morning an ox was killed, which was to provide the chief delicacy for the feast. All the children who were Christians and catechumens came to the church in the morning before they did anything else. It was a very pleasing sight to look down the full church on the rows of happy, smiling faces. They all joined in the hymns with great heartiness and sang "O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord," as though they really meant every word. After the morning services were over, the ox was cut up and distributed, each child receiving a portion with a cup of rice and a teaspoonful of salt. The children then formed themselves into small groups, and for some time were very much engaged with fires and cooking pots.

On the day following there were sports held for them. They are very good at running and jumping. The smaller children were most enthusiastic. A tug-of-war brought the sports to a close in which the boys from the hills were the victors.

After a scramble for sweets one boy brought a handful to me, and asked if they were good to eat. It was evident this boy had not been accustomed to such dainties. The next day about sunrise amid much shouting and singing our visitors departed for their homes, having spent a very happy time.

R. J. RUSSELL.

Lake Nyasa.

THE SONG OF THE LENT SAVINGS BOX.

Sing a song of pennies
Children gladly bring,
Giving up their pleasures
For the children's King.

When the box is opened
Hear the pennies ring
"Joy, for we are bearing
Tidings of our King.

"Telling heathen children
On far Afric's shore
How we children love them,
How God loves them more."

When the box is opened
All the pennies sing—
"Listen to our tidings,
Love and praise our King."

The Report of the Coral League will be ready on May 10th. It will be sent free to all who subscribe 5s. and upwards, to others the price will be 2d.

THANKSGIVINGS: Let us give thanks—

1. For the joy we have as Christians in our Lord's Resurrection.
2. For the good health of the workers in Zanzibar.

PETITIONS: That it may please Thee—

1. To bless our Anniversary. (See pages 58, iii).
2. To bring all nations to the joy of believing in the glorious Resurrection of Jesus Christ.
3. To defend our Missionaries and their people from the perils and dangers of the night. See page 54.
4. To give the grace of Perseverance to Tupu and Pakuya. See page 55.

FOR ANNIVERSARY ARRANGEMENTS AND SALES OF WORK, see cover, p. iii.