

His colony in the Hokaido has demonstrated that people, here as well as elsewhere, can observe the Sabbath, refrain from the use of intoxicants, and yet be prosperous and happy, for these are two indispensable conditions to everyone entering this colony. Not only has he thus, by the blessing of God, put a safeguard about the weak ones among the Christians, but he made it easy for all unbelievers to attend regular services. A large church is probably the most conspicuous building of the colony.

But his work is done, and he has gone to his reward. On the return trip from visiting Kochi, he went to bed on board the steamer apparently perfectly well, but never awoke, passing without a groan or struggle to his God. Our prayer is that God will call many to live the life of faith as this dear brother did, teaching them, even as he did, that "godliness is profitable unto all things." If this be an example of "Japanized Christianity," we long to see many, many more cases of the same kind.

LETTERS FROM THE FIELD.

AFRICA.

DR. SNYDER.

Despite all the hardships and dangers, the work at our station goes on, slowly it is true, but it goes.

As to the spiritual work: Since the arrival of Mr. Sheppard we have acquired a deeper hold of the language, his knowledge of the Bakuba dialect being a wonderful assistance in getting at obscure meanings. I am getting in a position to write a grammar of the language, and hope to accomplish this before our needed vacation.

All this has enabled us to put before the people the plan of salvation in much plainer language than ever before, and with the happy result of seeing

THIRTY-FIVE SOULS

brought to the foot of the cross.

Mrs. Sheppard is a bright Christian and a thorough worker, ever ready to lay aside anything, no matter how interesting, to work for the good of the people. I have always received from her a willing and ready response when some one was needed to accompany me

to Kasenga. We go every day and hold a meeting there, and days when my wife is unable to accompany me, I have to call on others, and it has been a source of pleasure to see the willingness of Mrs. Sheppard. Since my wife's terrible fight with the hematuria we have had to restrain her, lest by over-exertion she might bring on a second attack. Miss Thomas and Miss Fearing have charge of the "Home," where our children have their wants looked after.

Mrs. Sheppard, at the head of our day school, with the assistance of the others, is teaching the principles of the Bakete language. We have a meeting with the people every morning, at which I preside, and every night a meeting is held in the church, Mr. S. and I leading alternately, with the exception of Sabbath night and Wednesday night, when our young converts hold prayer meetings by themselves.

Our meetings at Kasenga are so much more interesting than heretofore, because of the parts taken by our young people.

The first day we went to Kasenga, after the baptizing of the first band who professed religion, Dick, honest, impulsive Dick, started to *pull up some of the idols* of the Bakete; and came near getting into trouble.

The absolute faith of this people when once they believe, would make you ashamed for the majority of the converts at home. Mr. Sheppard, in one of his talks before the people, used as an illustration of the love of Christ an incident connected with the burning of a ship at sea. When the boats were filled there was found only one seat left, and still one woman and her child to be saved. He told how the woman gave the vacant place to her child, and perished that the child might live. Dick listened with his usual deep interest, and the next morning said to me, as if after an all night's thought over the matter, "Why did not the people pray to God to put out the fire, and then none of them would have been lost!"

Every morning our house children take part in the morning worship, and confess their little faults, and pray for forgiveness in a way to humble one to the dust. These young converts are teaching us religion.

We have a regular Sabbath morning sermon, when the gospel is preached as plainly as we know how. For some time one of my regular tasks has been to translate a chapter in Matthew each week, and to use that as the theme for Sabbath morning. (I have been interrupted just now, in writing, to listen to the request of two more for baptism. I wish you could have been here to listen to their answers.) We talked to the new converts on the subject of Christian giving, and voluntarily they have been giving ten per cent. of their wages each Sabbath towards roofing the chapel. And they do it gladly.

One thing we feared was never realized. We feared that those who professed the Christian religion would look for *extra pay*, or for gifts ("makibish" but, on the contrary, they tell others "Our reward is not on earth, but when we die God will reward us.")

We also feared that they would be *tinctured* with transubstantiation, because of their *literal* minds, but they have clear conceptions of *this doctrine* and our first communion was a day never to be forgotten.

In justice to Mr. Sheppard, I would like to state one thing before closing this letter. There was some discussion at this station, when first I came here as to who was the *first foreigner* to visit Lukenga. I was made to understand that Mr. Sheppard was the second instead of the first. Incidentally I heard, from two men that were here when Mr. Sheppard made his trip, that without a shadow of doubt, Mr. Sheppard was the first foreigner who interviewed Lukenga. These two men were well known in Congo Land, one of them, Monsieur Leroux, is a Frenchman, and is in the employ of the Societe Anonyme Belge, and the other, Monsieur Boudeux, is a Belgian, and is in the employ of another company. Neither of these men could have any objection to affirming anything but the truth as regards the matter.

Apropos of Mr. Sheppard's trip to the Bakuba, I heard something, though knowing Mr. Sheppard's modesty, I am sure will be pleasant news to his many friends in America. While crossing one of the swift streams between Lukenga and Lukenga's country, one of the boats was swept away, and Mr. Sheppard, at great risk of his own life, plunged in and after a heroic struggle rescued him. One of the natives told me this.