

for ten years missionaries, have lived at Luebo, yet during all that time only one adult European (a lady missionary) has died here.

There are at present over thirty traders and missionaries living at and around Luebo, all of whom enjoy good health.

The Rev. J. E. Phipps visits the Bakuba villages every week, and preaches to attentive crowds under palm frond sheds. Services are held twice daily in the church. Everyone on the station is expected to attend morning devotions at six o'clock. In the evenings the natives hold their own prayer and praise services in groups outside their huts, round their camp fires.

Mrs. Sheppard has charge of the school. Already some of the Bakuba boys can write. They are remarkably quick and imitative, and possess excellent memories.

INFLUENCE OF THE MISSION.

For many miles around Ibanj the natives consider Mr. Sheppard their father and friend. They come with every conceivable difficulty, and expect him to arrange all their troubles for them. For this work he has special gifts, and consequently the spacious veranda of his house is seldom free from some deputation. Mr. Sheppard is, however, loyal to the Congo State, always advising the natives to pay to the State any just taxes which it may impose upon the native chiefs.

At least two more missionaries are required to prosecute the work at and around Ibanj. Who will respond to the call of this open door?

January, 1901.

In a half century, Protestant missions in India have six times duplicated themselves in number of communicants.

TRIAL TRIP OF THE LAPSLEY.

Dr. Snyder wrote from Leopoldville, April 2, 1901, as follows:

"The Samuel N. Lapsley has made her trial trip, and is a success in every way.

"A small party of us, including two wee babies, took quite a sail the other day, the guests of 'Admirable' Vass. We felt right proud as we saw the American flag floating gaily to the breeze from the stern of the vessel (the stern is the place of honor), proclaiming it an American ship. Most of the vessels sailing the Congo have to fly the State flag at the rear, but as our little ship was registered in America she can fly the American flag just where she wishes.

"We visited Mr. Greshoff, of the Dutch house, who lives on the French side of the Congo, and as we passed the middle of the great river (very wide at this spot) we hoisted the French flag out of compliment to the French State.

"We have quite a number of our Luebo boys here, who have been assisting in rebuilding the steamer, and they naturally asked me the name of the 'Dikumbi dia bana ba Nzambi' (the steamer of the people of God), and when I told them, and also told them who S. N. Lapsley was, they said, 'Oh, yes,' and then immediately gave to the steamer the name they had given Mr. Lapsley years ago—*i. e.*, 'Mutombanjila.' So ever afterwards the steamer will be to all natives along the river, not S. N. Lapsley, but 'Mutombanjila.'

"Mr. Vass has been troubled not a little in getting wood choppers, only one tribe making successful choppers of firewood, and they (the Bangala) are monopolized by the State. This has caused a big delay in getting off, and it began to look like a serious block in the matter. Fortunately, arrangements have

been made with the State for the first trip, enabling us to use their wood posts along the river. This may be made a permanent contract, or we may try working in our up-river boys.

"Mr. Vass hopes to get away by the sixth of this month. Too much cannot be said in praise of Mr. Vass in reconstructing the steamer; it has been a long, tiresome work.

"I am sending you a negative of the Lapsley as she lay at the beach near here. She was rebuilt within fifty feet of where she lies as shown in the photograph. The stretch of water back of her is the Pool, or part of it.

"Trusting this will reach you in time for the JUNE MISSIONARY, I remain sincerely and affectionately yours,

"D. W. C. SNYDER."

LATEST NEWS FROM AFRICA.

The foreign mail, received at the Mission Rooms May 10, brought tidings

both cheering and sorrowful from the Congo. As will be seen from Dr. Snyder's note of April 2, the "Lapsley" has had a successful trial trip, and is now doubtless at Luebo. But a letter from Mrs. Snyder, written from Antwerp, Belgium, April 25, brings the sad news that just as she landed at Antwerp, the evening before, her little daughter, Anna, died in her arms. She was coming home, hoping to save the dear child's life; but the little one now sleeps on a far-away shore. Much sympathy will go out to dear Mrs. Snyder.

A CORRECTION.

The statement in the Children's Day Exercises this year as to the number of Protestant Christians in Brazil is a misprint, which was overlooked in proof-reading. The number should be 40,000 instead of 4,000. S. H. CHESTER,

Secretary.



WOMAN'S WORK FOR WOMAN.

CHEER FOR THE CHURCH IN CHINA.

BY BISHOP RIDLEY.

[Amidst the cares of his far-off diocese, Bishop Ridley has found time to send this message for the afflicted Church in China.]

God forces rage in panoply complete
To blindly sow its own defeat.

Its armoured hands
Will clutch the seed in vain,
Thus falls the gospel grain,
Enriching after pain,
Grief-harrowed lands.

The pleading tears of saints, and prayers that
rise

Complete the circuit of the skies
Through stricken souls.
Unseen a life divine
Is felt to intertwine
Their hopes with God's design
Till faith consoles.

Gleam softly, Love, on eyes that gaze on space,
Invoking their dear Saviour's face.

Through cloud and rift
Look up, parched souls, and trust
Him ever as at first;
Storm clouds will quench your thirst
And far off drift.

No angel, fanning fevered brows with wings,
So gently consolation brings,

When children sigh,
As Jesus' voice that cheers,
Exchanging tingling fears
For sympathetic tears.
Believe Him nigh.

Fewer the forest leaves and countless waves
Than deeds of love by Him who saves

From friend and foe.
All storms His voice obey.
Cloud shadows pass away;
But Jesus comes to stay
And peace bestow.

Metlakatla, August 22, 1900.