

PRICE 1 CENT.

Kikwakwa

By
P. A. McDIARMID



Mission House and Students' Homes, Kimpesi



American Baptist Foreign
Mission Society

Ford Building, Boston, Mass.

KIKWAKWA

+ + +



WORSE than heat in the tropics is the mosquito. We have several varieties, which might be divided generally into those that stand on their heads when they dig for your blood and those that are not guilty of this undignified position. The former carry malaria. One of our students, Kikwakwa, was praying one day in chapel. He asked that the white people, they, their wives and children, might be kept in health in the midst of mosquitoes and other troubles, "Even as Daniel was kept in the lions' den may we be kept."

Kikwakwa is not only a man of faith but works as well. His father was one of five who were crucified and shot to death in the early days of Leopold's rule in this country. A white officer was shot in their neighborhood. Whether the natives whose lives were forfeited were

the guilty ones or not I do not know, but I suppose it was felt that harsh measures must be resorted to, in order that the people be kept in subjection. It would be little wonder if Kikwakwa had never had much love for those who rule this country.

From the time of his conversion he has faced persecution, but this has only kept his faith in Christ's power to help strong and abiding. At the Christmas gathering at Sona Bata this year he told us how when he was baptized his friends tried to dissuade him, saying that the white missionaries are devouring the spirits of the blacks. They said these evil spirits were in the water at the time of baptism. Kikwakwa was not very sure, but he and two others decided they would put it to a test and would not turn back into their old life. As they went into the water they nodded to each other to show that they would keep to their agreement, and then as each went under the water he opened his eyes wide to see if there were spirits. As they came up they shook their heads to indicate to each other that they had seen nothing. Then a witch

doctor predicted they would all be dead in six months, but when this proved to be false others began to come to worship at the old mission station at Kifwa.

Kikwakwa is not by any means the brightest man we have in our Kimpesi school, but there are few that can show a record of such effective service. He says that when he completes his studies here in June he wants to go to a part of the country where they have not yet heard the Gospel. Everywhere he has taught he has won men and women for Christ, and we look to him to do much in the years to come. Between Sona Bata and the Kwango River there is plenty of room for such a man. May God raise up more like him is the desire of our hearts.

