

Soon after the Bailundus left, taking back some of my loads to Komendongo, a young man came over to remain. He had been sent by the chief to stay at the village, guard my property, and talk for me to visitors. I sent word that I had no need of a man at the village for such a purpose, but would like a couple of boys. The chief was satisfied, and promised to send me some lads to remain. It seems the old men could not understand why I should send back my things to Komendongo, and were afraid that I intended to go away again and leave them. Hence the man was sent as a proof that the chief wished to take care of me.

Quite a number of important individuals—in their own estimation—came to visit me. Some brought various small gifts, expecting much larger in return. One of the latter—a half-breed—failing to get all he wanted, told my boy that he was accustomed to steal the goods of Snr. Porto, and advised the lad to take mine. The boy replied: "Do you suppose that I am going to steal Ugana's cloth when he does kindness to me? Do you suppose he would not find out if I did?" Some others indulged freely in the use of the few words of Portuguese they knew, until I began to banter the foremost in English, both to his own astonishment and the evident amusement of those about. At length the fellow, in great perplexity, cried out: "Ugana, I have a sore, I wish some medicine." "I don't understand that, Oputu; do speak Umbundu." By repeating the same course the big men have learned to speak Umbundu when they come to me.

I have been out in the bush a number of days, cutting great hardwood logs, for bridges and a fence. A few lessons in such work from a Canadian woodsman would, perhaps, have done me as much good as some of the theological lectures, and have helped better to prepare me for my work here. But, dear me! you do not need to teach a duck how to swim; neither is it necessary for a Canadian to go to college in order to learn how to fell a tree; they take to such things by a kind of instinct.

It is, perhaps, a little humiliating to find oneself digging ditches under the heat of an African sun, while a couple of grinning natives stand looking on; but so we begin the work of a nation's

civilization. We may carry it on for a time, and then leave it to others; still, the work is begun.

I have more ground now planted as a garden than ever I had in Bailundu, and the prospect at present is, that I will have a better one. Most of my seed was brought out by Mr. Swan when we first came, and fell to my hands simply because carriers could not be found to take it into the interior, and Mr. Fay, to whom it was given, did not wish to use it all.

I have two houses, each 12 x 16, built for the use of boys, and have a portion of the timbers for a large house, 15 x 30, which I am going to build for myself as a temporary dwelling, to be used afterwards in part as a workshop, and part as a shelter for strangers who may wish to stop over night, or any of the old men who may come to visit either their children or myself, and spend a day or two at the mission.

A small piece of land has been cleared and dug, which is to be cultivated by any boys from a distance, who may wish to attend school, but cannot go to their villages for food. I cannot forecast how this will work. We have nothing of the kind in connection with the other stations. All the boys attending the schools live in the villages near to the station, or have friends in them, from whom they get their food. My aim, however, is to gather scholars from the country at large, give them an opportunity to earn what cloth they need, and cultivate their own food, and so teach them self-dependence. The boys from Bailundu have taken hold of the idea, and have a good garden of their own, by the brook, and a portion of the plot already referred to, planted. At present, however, most of the young people are afraid of the white man, and none of them could be induced to plant any seed from our country lest they would go to the grave before the seed bears fruit. Such superstitions are bound to break down in time.

It is a matter of astonishment to me how quickly the people have come for medical help—such as I am able to give them. At Cilume, comparatively few, at the present time, go to our mission station for medicine; but here, from the first, the people have come, in steadily increasing numbers, until I have now from ten to fourteen every afternoon to attend to, while three boys are staying at my village, one with a foot badly burnt, from fall-