

CHAPTER XXI

Scholastic Work

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THERE are many people who, not being quite up-to-date in missionary literature, have an idea that the work of a missionary in such places as Africa is to stand under the shade of a huge fan-palmetto, hat, umbrella, and palm-tree, in the broiling heat of the day, and preach to a small crowd of open-mouthed astonished semi-savages. The picture does not attract them, and they dismiss the subject from their minds with "I could never be a missionary."

Well, although I have found in Africa the identical topee, the umbrella, palm-tree, the broiling sun, and a few gaping crowds, yet the picture is a painful distortion of the truth. If there is one thing that a missionary has less to do with than any other, it is preaching—at least, that is so in Uganda. He rather assumes the rôles of teacher, schoolmaster, builder, carpenter, doctor, nurse, and everything else, for he has learned that the African cannot be a saint without being a scholar and an artisan, any more than men of other nations can.

Besides the more direct spiritual work and the medical work that are being carried on in Toro, there are also industrial and educational departments. This former branch has not been developed to any extent, owing to the lack of workers, but, as far as he is able, King Daudi Kasagama personally superintends it. Being most anxious that his people should be instructed in useful trades, some years ago he sent a youth, Iburahimu, into