

nection with the Church of the Boganda, sixty-one of whom are women. Their salaries vary from \$7.50 to \$10 a year, and many will take no salary, working simply for the love of Christ. Twenty thousand people are daily studying the Bible. There are 1,355 communicants, and 10,000 more may be classed as enquirers of a most hopeful sort.

FIVE TO SIX.

"What mean ye by this Service?"

When this question was asked of old by child or stranger, concerning Jewish feast or ritual, full answer was to be given, that none might plead excuse of ignorance. Perhaps oftener and more carefully than we do should we heed questions about observances which are dear to us, but unfamiliar to others, that they, too, may share in the good these bring.

For more than twenty years the hour between five and six on Sunday afternoon has been, to many in this land, and on mission ground, a very sacred hour. It would seem strange, in view of all that has been written and spoken concerning this, that there should be any in our churches or societies who fail to know its meaning and its purpose. Yet there are such, and to their expressed or implied question an answer should be given.

When the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society was young, the imperative need of divine help was felt by those connected with it, perhaps even more strongly than in later years. The work undertaken seemed so great, the path so little trodden, the hands so weak, which were stretching themselves out far over land and sea, that the cry for sustaining and enabling grace was urgent. And the belief in the power of united prayer was so strong that the suggestion to have an hour fixed, when hearts everywhere might send petitions up on behalf of this work, was hailed with gladness. So the hour between five and six on Sabbath afternoon became the time for such separate, united prayer.

No one bound herself to spend the whole hour thus—indeed, there was no binding at all in the observance—it was simply an agreement, coupled with an invitation, to remember in prayer the cause of foreign missions, and especially woman's part therein, some time during the hour named.

Only God would ever know who kept this tryst; how much of the hour was given to it; how fervent or how listless were the petitions offered; what answers of blessing were received. There it is, with its record of twenty years and more of praying for the coming of Christ's Kingdom in the world. Its influence goes to the uttermost parts of the earth; it holds a promise for those who love and observe it; it has sent, and is still sending, a volume of prayer up to the