

think them very fine, but God loves them, for in them a pure gospel is preached and many true hearted Christians worship.

But let me tell you about this church in the picture. It is in the city of Bangkok. When Dr. Mackay wanted to get a building there to teach and preach in, the people were bitterly opposed, and threatened all sorts of dreadful things against him and against any one who would rent him a building.

At length he found a man who agreed to rent to him a small shop, the bargain was made at night, and in the morning the people were astonished to see a notice over the door to the effect that this was the "Jesus house."

Then they got very angry and came in great crowds and tore the building down, not leaving stick or stone.

But Dr. Mackay persevered. They could not frighten him. He would not leave. After a time they got more used to his presence. And he got a place for worship.

Then after a time, when the French attacked the Island, a great many of his chapels were torn down by bands of natives. But Dr. Mackay got paid for these buildings by the Chinese Government, and he went to work and built large stone churches in different places, one of them in Bangkok.

Then came another trouble. The native houses are all low and they are afraid to build them any higher lest they should disturb *Fengshui*, or luck, by unsettling things at a short distance above the earth, and they expected to see sad results follow when Dr. Mackay dared to build his church higher than the surrounding houses.

But he determined to put a high steeple on the church just to show them how foolish and false their ideas were, so up it went, higher and higher, until it was finished as you see it in the picture.

There it stands, preaching every day its silent sermon against their foolish superstition regarding evil spirits, and the people seeing it standing unharmed are fast losing these old beliefs and are more ready to accept Christianity.

Not many years ago a great mob of these

people drove Dr. Mackay out of their city threatening to kill him. When he was leaving Formosa to come home to Canada on his present visit, they formed a great procession, asked him to get into a carriage at the head of it, and marched through the principal streets of the city showing their respect for him. He did not care for that kind of honor but he went because it pleased them. What a glorious change the gospel brings to men. May it soon come to all the world.

HOW THEY GIVE IN AFRICA.

In some parts of Africa gold and silver coins are absolutely useless; the people do not know the value of them. What they use in many places as money is cotton cloth, a yard of which, costing about five or six cents, is often the pay for a day's work of a strong man. In other regions they use "cowries," or shells which are of no value in themselves, but, which serve as money. These shells are picked up on the shores of the ocean and are carried into the interior of Africa. Here is a table of values that has been given, like your tables of English money:

48 cowries make one string.

50 strings make one head (2,000 cowries).

10 heads make one bag (20,000 cowries).

A bag of cowries can be purchased for goods which are worth from \$1.25 to \$1.50. This makes about 140 cowries for one cent. Of course the currency is very bulky, and a missionary in west Africa, connected with the Church Missionary Society, writes of a collection taken in a church: "The amusing part of the business is to see the large grass bag, which, if filled, would contain shells equal to twenty English shillings (about \$5) and would weigh about eighty pounds, taken round in church by one of the native agents to receive the offerings, and to see how the little boys and girls run to meet him in order to throw in their ten, twenty, or fifty cowries. Then the minister, for example's sake, stoops over the pulpit to undo a white pocket handkerchief, the contents of which he lets into the bag held halfway up to him."—*Mission Dayspring*.