



A ROOF FOR A HUT—WHEN COMPLETED, IT IS PICKED UP, TURNED OVER AND SET ON THE WALL

hut before entering would betray one's ignorance, and would likely be mistaken for disregard of their good forms. Or, if one chooses to be received outside he may take a seat under a tree and wait for the head man to come and greet him; but this he will not do until you have waited ten or fifteen minutes, for to hasten the greeting would be impolite. He will finally stroll over to your side with amusing deliberation, pretending not to see you, and squat down upon his haunches. Then he will adjust the tails of his skin girdle and stare blankly at nothing, or continue to carve at his knobkerrie or weave at his mat. Suddenly he discovers your presence, raises the right hand high above his head, and in a most respectful tone says "Nkosi!" (Master). He then proceeds in a monotone to tell all the kraal and district news, from the killing of a leopard to the loss of a chicken in a beer pot. You must then tell him your past movements and future purposes, all of which will be duly reported to the chief. The chicken-flavoured beer will then be

served, the man himself taking the first swallow from your vessel to show that it is all right.

As already remarked, the Tongas are industrious. With them it is a disgrace for a male of strength to evade work. When not away to civilisation, earning money with which to buy wives, pay the annual wife-tax (\$3.36 per wife), or buy presents for their female relations, they labour in their gardens and help their wives to provide food for the family; but the bulk of the responsibility for the food supply, of course, falls upon the women. A bride who turns out to be a poor gardener may be sent back to her parents, and her price recovered by the husband.

But such a one generally defends her reputation by attributing her crop failures to the witchcraft of, perhaps, one of her industrious fellow-wives.

Barrenness also may be the cause of a divorce and the recovery of the "labola" cattle and money. As the woman is the chief agricultural labourer, so the hoe is the principal implement, its only associate being the hand axe, used for land clearing and chopping of faggots.

Next to hoeing, the work of the



THE FAMOUS "LALA" PALM TREE FROM WHICH IS SECURED THE "PALM WINE" IN THE FORM OF SAP