



A GROUP OF NIGERIAN CHIEFS

empire, live between the Benin and Niger rivers. The King of Ishan (or Urome) refused to allow traders of any kind, native or European, to go into or through his country. Now Urome, as a dependency of Benin, had come

under British rule in 1897. The king, however, claimed that his ju-ju was stronger than the white man's ju-ju and would keep the white man out.

Already in 1898 Major Heneker, with a force of about 25 men and about 200

carriers had gone in on a peace mission, to preserve the law; with great difficulty and danger he had to fight every foot of his way back to Benin. He did get out, however, without losing his carriers, though with a number of casualties. The Ashantee trouble intervened; for it the Third Niger Frontier Force had to furnish a quota of men, and thus Southern Nigeria was short-handed. It was not until early in 1901 that the matter could receive the attention it deserved. And I had been fortunate enough to arrive in Southern Nigeria to take part in the work.

Accordingly on the first day of March the expedition to establish British pres-



A GROUP OF NIGERIAN CHILDREN IN GALA ATTIRE