

Lesson on the Flood at the closing exercises. The caravan of which 'Kanye has charge consists principally of Va Luimbe men, natives with a different dialect and customs, living the other side of the Kukema River. The boys (evangelists) have frequently preached in their villages, and so they gained confidence to come here to trade fish, etc., and now go to the coast for our loads. Muenekanye can speak their language very well. He has a meeting every evening in camp. A boy just in to say Kanye and the caravan are close at hand and may be here to-morrow.

*From Miss Margret M. Melville.*

CISAMBA STATION, April 21st, 1897.

DEAR FRIENDS,—One day last week we found ourselves without one child at our Kindergarten. This happens very rarely and then, because of heavy rain or some such cause. But that day was beautiful and bright, no rain having fallen for several days. Soon we discovered the reason of their absence. Crowds of people in holiday attire passed all day, in groups of twenty or thirty, at a time. We heard the "ocingufu" or native drum at the "Ombala" or head-village of this district, with singing, which accompanies their dancing. On inquiry, we found there was a beer-drink. This kept the children away from school and was the great attraction for the crowds of people. This beer is of native make and is quite intoxicating, if taken in sufficient quantity. All natives drink it excepting those who are at our mission stations. It is one of the great temptations, which the girls and boys meet, when they go to their villages. It takes no little courage to refuse to drink a little of this beer, when it is offered by one's friend in the village. Every child is taught to drink it from its birth and it is not until the "words of life" begin to take root and grow that the young people see their danger in drinking it and refrain.

The lads here told Mr. Currie quite proudly, that the old men of the villages were trying to keep the Sabbath, for in planning for their beer-drink they began it on Tuesday and it continued all day Wednesday, for they said, "Those days are between the two Sundays and then this will not keep the people away from Church." What an advance when the influence of keeping one day in seven is spreading in this way to the villages.

This month two little ones have come among us. The first is a little boy, whose name is to be Citende because his grandmother says, "He is instead of Citende" who died here a year ago. The father of this new Citende is Rumba, whom many of you know by name. He is so proud of his first born. The other little one is a fine girl whose name is to be Malinda. Her