

men of the Vamsinya class, who, when convicted, were removed to distant convict stations in Tembuland, where they are effectually banished from their friends. I was glad to hear this, as I knew very well if Vamsinya was sent to some distant prison it would be a great calamity to his friends, and there would be every probability of my being able to persecute them until they should decide to leave the district. I experienced some difficulty in dressing before starting for the Court, but as my host is a man accustomed to European clothes he rendered valuable assistance, facilitating the boot troubles with an application of lard, thus enabling us to reach the Office without a mishap. We found a few Fingoe policemen about the Court, and they told us the Judge was not due for some time; so I went with Bambela to some thorn-trees near at hand, took off my trowsers and boots, and enjoyed a comforting smoke. After some time I noticed a commotion at the Court House, and presently a vehicle with two prancing horses drove up to the side entrance. I was very much struck with the horses. I had never seen such fine animals before, the horses in my neighbourhood being very small, and there are not many of them. I marvelled at the wonderful animals of the white man, and fattened my eyes upon them.

We hurried over to the Court, and after being worried by the Fingoe policeman, instructed by a white man, who spoke to us in English and appeared surprised at our not understanding him, we settled down quietly under the walls of the building and watched the people with much interest as they came out and went into the Court. I longed to see the inside of the building, I had never seen such a large one before; my experience of houses consisting of our huts and the small shops of the traders in our neighbourhood. Butterworth appeared to me to be a large town with many beautiful houses, of which the Court House is the most beautiful, and while I sat against it I could see it was the great place of the chief of the white man.

I attempted to repeat to myself the speech I intended to make, but did not feel able to do so in my usual form, there were so many people walking about, talking, calling out,

and causing so much bustle and excitement—such as is never seen at our Galeka meetings when cases are being decided—that I became confused, and I imagined I was being bewitched by Vamsinya. Now I must tell you that all of us who can afford it are provided with a medicine (c) which is supposed to bring good luck, and preserve the family from misfortune; and in cases such as the one in which we were engaged the medicine (piece of root) is kept in the mouth and carefully chewed while the case is going on. When I found that my thoughts were wandering I experienced grave doubts as to the quality of our medicine; and serious thoughts that Vamsinya had employed a doctor to deprive me of my senses filled my mind.

Presently there was a movement amongst the police, Vamsinya was marched into the Court by two policemen, and my name was called out in a loud, angry tone. I walked up to the Court House steps, feeling that the hour of victory had arrived, and that I should soon have the pleasure of witnessing Vamsinya's departure for the distant convict station. I was greatly surprised when I entered the Court-room to notice how large it was, the roof appeared so high that it hurt my neck to look at it; the people inside seemed smaller than usual, and were distributed about in so many places and nooks (*amagumbi*), their voices sounded so peculiar and strange to one accustomed only to the open air, that I became confused and felt as if I were in another world. The boarded floor puzzled me, when I put my foot down it come in contact with the floor with a loud noise which sounded throughout the room, and again when I attempted to lift it up it would cling to the floor, and in my endeavours to raise it, I would lift it higher than was necessary, and would find the foot somewhere about the region of the knee, and it would necessarily come down again and cause the same loud noise, which disturbed me and was most trying to my feelings. It was quite clear to me that the boots were the cause of this trouble. I had never, until

(c) In trials of native cases witnesses and others are often observed to be chewing all the time the case is proceeding.