

A MAN, NOT A SPIRIT.

The Children in this land, where schools and books are so plentiful, where even the babies are taught something of the beauties of the world around them, can hardly form any idea of the ignorance of some of the people to whom our missionaries are trying to carry the gospel.

And because they are ignorant, they are very timid about certain things; they are continually haunted with the idea that there are spirits about them ready to in-

come walking into their village, they looked at them very carefully; and, knowing that they had come in the big ship, they suspected that all was not right.

At last, after looking at them for a long while, some of them caught sight of their feet, clothed, of course, in decent shoes and stockings. Immediately they set up a cry:

"*Mou, mou!* these are *mou* (spirits)! They have no toes; they have no toes. They are *mou, mou!* They are not men! Run, run for your life! They must



jure them in some way; and at times they are almost afraid of their own shadows.

The *Illustrated Missionary News* tells the following story:

"We should not think any one could be afraid of a man because he happened to wear shoes and stockings, should we? They are not very frightful things in themselves; nor should we think they could have any very frightful meaning.

But the poor Africans, among whom our missionaries went for the first time on the banks of the Niger, thought differently. When they saw one of them, with his interpreter, land on their shores and

be spirits; they have no toes."

"The missionary, as soon as he heard what it was that frightened them, sat down on a bank and pulled off his boot. This astonished them very much. They thought he had pulled off a piece of himself, and they crowded around him to see if it was all right. But under his boot he wore a white stocking; and as soon as they saw that they began again:

"Ah! That is what we said. Now we know you are *mou*; for you have feet without toes under those things you take off."

"It was not till he had pulled off the