



A CHIEF IN HIS ROBES ARRAYED.—(To accompany Mr. Wilson's letter.)

and left for Ju Ju, who usually appeared in the form of an alligator or shark, or sometimes the girl was simply drowned in the rising tide.

In Brass River the boa constrictor snake was the representative of Ju Ju, and held in high honour. In a treaty between Queen Victoria and her faithful ally, King Ockya, of Brass, it is especially provided that all due respect be paid to the Ju Ju snake, and that any white man, or servant of a white man, who injures or destroys such snake be fined £50.

One day a Kroo boy came on board in a great state of excitement, saying that an immense Ju

Ju snake was lying on the casks in the shed, and none of the boys dared go near him. By Mr. Bar's advice I sent for the Ju Ju man from the village, who on his arrival commenced operations by bowing to the snake, and saying to him, "Please go away, you are a great gentleman, your grandfather was a great gentleman," and so on up to the fiftieth generation. Ju Ju, however, was not open to flattery and would not stir. So the old man tried abuse, saying, "Get out of this you old thief, your father and grandfather, etc., were all thieves since the beginning of the world." Ju Ju bore all this with calm dignity, but the old man lost his temper, and jerked his holiness off the casks and on to the ground, with a hooked stick. Once on the ground, the representative of Deity beat an undignified retreat into the bush, and I had to pay his high priest five dollars' worth of goods for the operation. I have seen the trail of a Ju Ju snake in the sand, eighteen inches in width. This creature had swallowed a calf, and was rather full. In Bonny, a large lizzard, called the iguana, in length about five feet, having horns upon its snout, was Ju Ju, and in consequence treated with the utmost respect, until one unfortunate morning an iguana that had strayed into a chief's house, killed a son of its host by

sticking its horns up his nostrils. The enraged father gave orders that iguanas should no longer be sacred. The delinquent was immediately killed and eaten, the rest of the people eagerly followed the good example of their chief, and by sun-down nearly every representative of the Deity in Bonny had been eaten. Polygamy was universal among the rich natives; many had twenty or more wives. I was present at the return of a great chief, named Eamani, from a three months' trading expedition to the interior. All his wives went to meet him, five or six carrying babies born during his absence. The