

sort of prophetic gift; for he sometimes foretells the ills that threaten men. The landlord, who is a Mohammedan, gave to the head men of Rembee presents of cloth, begging them to go to the neighbouring chief and ask him to bring Sokomah to Rembee, to prove the thief palaver. Sokomah came, and spent a whole evening dancing and singing, accompanied by music from a drum. He is said to have told the people of Rembee many things, and divulged many secret deeds. This was done to prove to the people that he was able to do the work for which he was called. He then gave notice that on the following morning he would point out the thief. The next morning the people of the town met again, and the medicine man came, followed by a girl, who carried on her head a basket, singing and beating upon his drum. As he approached the assembly the beating grew more furious. It was noticed, too, that the girl seemed to become excited. She moved first to one side of the circle then to the other. Suddenly she fell upon a brother to the trader's landlord. This was repeated thrice. Sokomah then asked the man for his name, and said he had taken the money.

Upon the accusation of Sokomah the man was seized and tied with ropes. This was done to draw from him a confession. The matter came to the knowledge of the chief of this territory, Thomas Neal Caulker, who sent for the parties concerned, together with the medicine-man. As the case was to be thoroughly investigated before the chief, the writer and other persons were invited. Sokomah was asked how he knew the man had stolen the money. He replied that it was his profession to find out such things. His charms, he said, gave him the knowledge. It was necessary that he give some proof of his knowledge and skill. So some one in the audience concealed a medal belonging to the chief, and Sokomah was told to point out the person who concealed it. He obeyed rather reluctantly. He dressed himself, however, and came before us a sight to behold. He had on a high cap, with a red front decorated with shells, the back of it being covered with tufts of palm fibres of dark colour. His body was bare, with horns of various sizes (his charms), dangling at his sides. Several folds of cloth encircled his waist, bound with a white sash, the ends of which dangled behind him. He carried a drum, upon which he kept up a constant beating. He was followed by two young girls, each bearing a basket on her head. One of the baskets was covered with a white cloth, the other, the principal basket, with a red cloth, and decorated on the outside with white shells and beads of various sizes and colours. Several women followed also, and sung a chorus, while Sokomah led in a solo. After a few preliminary songs and addresses, our magican proceeded to find out the person among us who had concealed

the medal. The beating upon the drum and the singing were kept up. As these grew furious I noticed that the baskets appeared to move unsteadily and uncontrolled upon the heads of the girls, the red basket especially. The girl swayed from one side to another, then darted forward and stood before one of the audience. Suddenly she fell upon a certain man, repeating this thrice, whereupon Sokomah told us the man had the medal.

Sokomah soon saw his mistake when the man grew indignant, and declared that he had come to the place not knowing what was concealed. Sokomah explained that the basket had seen disease or something about the man, therefore it went to him. We told him he had not been sent for to tell diseases, but to find out the person who had the medal. It was amusing to hear the jeers of the people, some saying "Sokomah will find out he come *now* to place where God's people are;" "His devils can't do anything where God's Spirit lives;" "Too much praying in Shaingay for your business, Sokomah!"

After singing and dancing all the afternoon—for we kept him at it—Sokomah came to the conclusion that some book-man or Mohammedan had done something to thwart him. Hence his baskets walked around all the afternoon without accomplishing anything. Thus Sokomah of wonderful fame declared himself completely confused and baffled. Yet it is a painful truth that in many parts of this land persons have been punished, yea, some have been put to death, for crimes that were charged upon them by such impostors as Sokomah.—*W. F. Wilberforce, in Missionary Visitor.*

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MR. STANLEY tells of a remarkable event during one of his African expeditions. He and his followers were suffering terribly from hunger—but the tale is best told in his own words:—

"It was lunch-time. Mr. Stairs was with me, and a large number of our pinched and suffering followers. We looked across that dark river to the forest beyond, and wondered whence help could come. I sat near the river, endeavoring to cheer the men, and had said to one of my officers—

"Moses brought water out of the rock at Horeb; Elisha was fed by ravens at the brook Cherith; the children of Israel were fed with manna in the wilderness; and even so God will minister unto us."

"Almost at that instant there was a sound of wind, the whirr of wings, and a fine fat guinea-fowl fell near my feet, and was promptly seized by my little terrier Vic. That was a happy incident, inspiring us with new hope."