

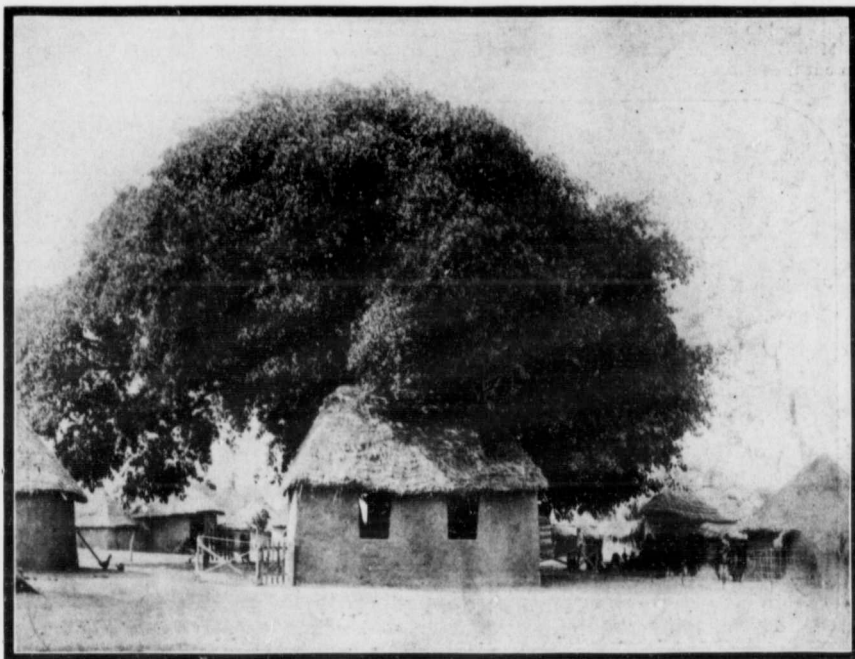
### THE M. B. C. NUPE CHURCH, SHONGA.



HARDLY think it is necessary for me to say that this is the first M. B. C. Church in Africa, for many have already realized this. This mud church was built when the compound was built, and is used also as a school. The first cost of the church was twenty dollars. The church is built entirely of mud, including a mud floor, and is thatched with grass. The capacity of the church is 175 people. It must be remembered that there are no pews or seats in the building, every one sits right down on the floor.

There is a public entrance into the church from outside, so that those who come to worship have no need of coming into our compound, but can enter and leave by this public entrance.

Many will remark: "What a beautiful tree," and truly it is, but the picture does not do it justice, in that it makes it appear very small. This is a wild fig tree, and every year bears abundance of fruit, but as it is bitter it cannot be eaten by any one, and is left to the birds and monkeys. At mid-day the tree offers a shade one hundred feet long. The Nupe Conference of 1907 was held in this church, and it was here that the Gospels were translated into the Nupe language, which have since been printed in England and sent back to be a blessing and the means of salvation to many. One by looking into the picture can see the native houses outside of our compound, also some of the people standing around, and our wire fence.



THE M. B. C. NUPE CHURCH, SHONGA.

There is a Sunday-school for the boys and girls of Shonga in connection with the church; these come and are taught a verse in the Bible and given some simple instruction in holy things. The children have wonderful memories. Since they have no written language, and are unable to write down anything that they wish to remember, they are obliged to commit it to memory; thus they have developed wonderful memories. All the history of the country is kept in this way, the old handing it down to the young from generation to generation. It might be of interest to mention that the very site on which our compound is built was the home of a most notorious slave raider, and the very site on which this church stands was that of his house, and this large tree was planted by him some seventy-five years ago. We are thankful to God that slavery has give away to liberty; cruelty and oppression to justice; a heathen temple to a Christian church; darkness to light even in this day. The village of Shonga, only a few years ago was the headquarters from which slave raiding parties left to scour the country in search of villages that they could surprise and carry away as slaves, but those days are fast dying, and we have every reason to believe that the ones who made slaves of others, will become slaves of Jesus Christ, and the villages that lived in fear may yet dwell under the banner of peace, and own none other as their Master, save Jesus Christ. To this end let us work and pray for the furtherance of Christ's Kingdom in the Soudan.