

Miss Clara Wilkes, a niece of Rev. (Dr.) Wilkes was born in Brantford. In March, 1886, she married, and they sailed for West Central Africa. True, she was not there long, only from June to September, but who can say her going was in vain when she, by her nursing, saved to the world her husband, Walter T. Currie, the founder of our African Mission at Chisamba.

The work which Dr. Currie was able to accomplish, and, not only accomplish, but with far-seeing vision plan for Africa, is immeasurable. Dr. Currie was "a born missionary, a thorough business man, of indomitable courage and determination, admirably fitted for pioneer work in the Mission field."

After his wife's death, Mr. Currie spent some time acquiring the language, and then with a band of natives began exploring for the purpose of selecting a site for the Canadian station. In time, he settled upon Chisamba, a very strategic point in a densely populated area. Chisamba is 300 miles from the West coast, 400 miles south of the Congo, and 1000 miles north of Benguella.

The work of the missionaries has always been evangelistic, yet there must needs be other departments, i.e., educational, medical and industrial, because missionary work among a primitive people touches all sides of a man's nature.

Dr. Currie's first converts were two little boys, one of whom came to service wearing a shirt belonging to his father, and which he had tied on himself with a rope. The report of 1918 gives these wonderful results: 39 out stations around Chisamba, 364 church members, 200 catechumens, 1358 pupils in the out station primary schools. 315 in the station boarding schools, and \$228.00 received in school fees.

The testimony to the character of the African converts is high. They leave their drinking and gambling. They leave their witchcraft. The chiefs give up polygamy. Some of these converts are slaves who have been brought from further inland; frequently they return to their homes. One missionary from that inland country worked ten years, making little headway. One day three families came in from Chisamba, returning to their homes Christian people. The missionary saw an answer to his prayers and took new courage.

The missionaries are thoroughly convinced that much more good may be accomplished by trained native evangelists, raised among the people, than will ever be done by foreign missionaries. A native can live cheaper, travel better, and preach from the vantage ground of one born amid the same scenes, raised on the same fare and trained to the same thoughts. Thus one of the ideals of the missionaries has been a well-equipped training school, where the natives might be adequately fitted for their work among their untaught brethren.

Space forbids to tell of Dondi, Dr. Currie's materialized vision. Dondi, established near a waterfall which furnishes adequate motor power as well as electricity. Dondi with its two-storey brick dormitories and \$75,000 Institute, named in memory of Dr. Currie, the Currie Institute. This Institute will be the greatest influence in that part of Africa for the civilization and Christianization of the people, and its influence will be felt throughout the whole of the continent.

The missionaries at Dondi live in modern brick bungalows, built by the natives, who have also prepared and burned the bricks, made roof tile, also door frames, doors and window sashes.