

TALK V.—ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

PAGEANT—"A MISSIONARY'S D. EMMA"

(Missionary, in his study in African home, head on hand as he sits at table reading.)

Scene One.

MISSIONARY (as sound of clapping is heard outside)—Who is there?

VOICE OUTSIDE—We salute you in your home. (Missionary looks up as two Africans enter.)

FIRST AFRICAN—Is it peace? (Both fall on all fours and touch foreheads to the ground again and again.)

MISSIONARY—Yes, it is peace (bowing solemnly). (Africans rise and stand just inside door.)

MISSIONARY—Who are you, and where do you come from?

FIRST A—We are the household slaves of the Chief of Ilawe.

MISSIONARY—You have come a long way.

SECOND A—We have. We started early in the morning, before the dew was gone, and have come through the narrow path in the forest. We bear an important message from our master. (Takes a small bundle done up in a handkerchief, off his head and lays it on table in front of Missionary.)

MISSIONARY (unties bundle and takes out a number of coins strung together, some silver and others nickel)—What does this parcel of money mean?

FIRST A. (taking a step forward)—Some years ago a white man passed through our town and preached your religion. Since then other men—black men, our brothers, who have been with the missionaries—have visited us from time to time and have told us more about it. What our Oba (chief) now wants you to do is to send us a teacher, who will live in our town and explain to us the religion that you preach. He has sent this money to help you to do so.

MISSIONARY (slowly putting the money back in cloth and beginning to tie it up)—It makes my heart sad to tell you, but I cannot take your master's money for I fear I cannot send you a teacher. Most gladly would I do so if I could, but the teachers we have are all too few and there are twelve villages now waiting for us to send missionaries to them. But tell your Oba that I myself will come over as soon as I possibly can and see him. (Hands back bundle to one of the men, who solemnly takes it, and, after both Africans have prostrated themselves again, puts it on his head and together they go out.)

MISSIONARY (head in hands, leaning on table)—Is it always to be so? This is the third time in a month that I have had to refuse in the same way. And yet what can I do? I cannot leave here now, and there is no one to send. Perhaps if I rise a little earlier each day and stay up a little later each night I may be able to manage soon to go over myself for a few hours a week. (Claps his hands and African servant appears.) Adjai, I will have my midday meal here. It will take less time. And bring more candles, Adjai, I shall be working late to-night.

ADJAI (bowing)—I will bring them.

MISSIONARY—And, Adjai, get ready for a journey soon. The chief of Ilawe wants to know more of our teaching, and I must go to him. (Adjai walks off, still bowing.)

Scene Two.

(Missionary and Adjai sitting resting outside hut in village of the chief of Ilawe.)

MISSIONARY—It is late, Adjai. We will have to wait till morning before we can see the chief. Have you been into the village, Adjai?

ADJAI—I have. I wandered about and saw many things. Some things made one want to weep, other things made one very happy.

MISSIONARY—The happy things, Adjai, tell me the happy things to-night.

ADJAI—At one end of the town is a small mud and thatch building that has been lately built as a church.

MISSIONARY—By missionaries? I thought none were at work here.

ADJAI—By the people themselves. Some of their young men have been in other villages and have seen Christian churches. They have had dealings also with men who have learned of Christ and who worship in those churches. They have come back and told their own people, and now they have this church in their own village. The young men, and boys too, are beginning to say that the sacrifices to the gods do them little good. One of the boys, also, who lives in the next village has returned lately from a mission school a long way off, where he has been taught to do many things. Now th v all want to learn, not only to read in the strange books