

Young People's Department.



AN AFRICAN KING.

KING MASSALA.

A GLIMPSE of an African mission field is given in the accompanying picture representing King Massala, who is ruler of the people of Vivi. This chief lives on the left bank of the lower Congo, one hundred miles from the sea, between the territory of the Banza Manteke and the Lukungas. King Massala is the central figure—a stalwart form that towers above the two attendants on his left and members of the royal family on his right. The building in the background is the king's house—a substantial structure built of bamboo with thatched roof. A missionary at work in this vicinity writes entertainingly to the *African News* as follows about a recent trip through the country, a hammock hung from a bamboo pole and carried by natives, being his only vehicle:

"A small trunk, containing extra underwear, food, stew pan, cup, plate, and some money,—i. e., cloth, brass tacks, case-knives, etc.,—and my folding bed, blankets, rain coat, and gun,

completed the personal outfit. I was soon on the march eastward, with nine carriers: four men with cloth and food for the mission station, one with the trunk, one carrying my folding bed and blankets, and three for the hammock—one at each end of the pole, and the third for a change when one of the others was weary, and he carried my gun and water-flask. The hammock is stretched tightly under the pole, over which my rain coat is spread to keep off the sun.

"A climb of an hour and a half was rewarded by a beautiful view of Vivi and Matadi from the mountain top. Turning northward we commenced to descend into a beautiful valley. The dead grass had been burned off in many places, yet below, where a stream ran down to the Congo, one could see the groups of palms in lovely green. As we descended, the grass in this valley was found to be from ten to fourteen feet high, and it fell over the path and across our faces in a very unpleasant manner; so having walked for two hours, I got into the hammock to escape it, and found it quite a comfort-