

Young People's Department.

"FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH."

ONE day there came into the city of Capetown a boy looking for work. It must all have seemed strange to Mizeki's eyes, for he had come a long way from the southern part of the country on the east coast, belonging to the Portuguese, where live his people, the great Vangwanati. The Vangwanati nation is divided into tribes, and Mizeki belonged to the tribe called Bagagwambe. Here he was, a dark-brown skinned boy, come into the big town like many an English boy has come into London, from the days of Dick Whittington onwards, to seek his fortune. Mizeki was to find his fortune, but it was not the kind of fortune he had dreamt of in his wild home among the Bagagwambe. He began attending Mission services at Capetown, and this led in time to his being baptized and confirmed.

He was always very good and earnest. For several years he lived in St. Columba's Kafir boarding-house, which is connected with the Kafir Mission in Capetown. He seemed to have the making of a catechist in him, and so Canon Peters, the Warden of the Kafir College at Zonnebloem, allowed him to attend the classes at the College. In the evening he taught in the Kafir night school at St. Columba's, and he acted as an interpreter and assistant catechist in the Mission. Bernard was thoroughly trustworthy, and he was ready to take any amount of trouble to help on the work of the Mission.

While Bernard was thus learning and working, Bishop Knight-Bruce, far away in the north, had been thinking of the then unknown Mashonaland, whose people—downtrodden and oppressed by their terrible neighbors the Matabele—were living without God and without hope in the world. Thinking gave way to planning, and then the Bishop started off to see the country with his own eyes. After many

adventures he came safely back determined to start the Mission. The S.P.G. were very willing to help him, but he wanted something besides money, he wanted helpers. When he therefore came to Capetown in January, 1891, he asked Father Puller whether he could induce any of the Kafir Christians to volunteer to go to Mashonaland as catechists. Bernard Mizeki volunteered.

The Bishop gathered a small party together, among whom were Frank and Jacob (Zulus), and Bernard (Bagagwambe), all active catechists. They went by steamer to the port of Beira. From there they started on May 12, 1891, to walk up-country. All the baggage had to be carried on the heads of porters, as



A MASHONA VILLAGE MARKED AS A MISSION STATION.

the tsetse fly kills horses and mules. The Bishop asked the native Christians to carry loads, "which they very willingly did." They had to walk through long swamps and wet grass, which grew sometimes as high as two feet above their heads. They lost their way, and the Bishop said that one day they walked 9½ hours. "In the great heat, and with only a little biscuit to eat, the men over-tasked themselves, and one of them (Bernard) nearly fainted, so I carried his load the last part of the journey." Fever, too, troubled them, and lions. At last they reached the hill country of Mashonaland, and the village of a great chief, Maguendi. The Bishop went and had a long talk with him. Maguendi said he should be