

by their anxiety for the souls of their friends and countrymen. For instance; a missionary meeting was lately held in Abbeokuta. An African clergymen, once a slave, took the chair, and there was not one white man present. Mr. King (the chairman) made a speech, and then some of the people spoke. One said, "When we die, what we leave behind us will be for others. But what we give now to Jesus will be ours for ever. Therefore, let us show our love to Jesus according to the means each one possesses." Another, who had been a very wicked man, said "Was there any so bad as I was? But see what Christ, by his Gospel, has wrought in me! Let us show our thankfulness to God for his mercy." A third made this odd remark, "I am quite willing to put myself in pawn, if it is needful, to serve the Lord Jesus Christ, for what He has done for me." When a Yoruban wants money, and can't get it in any other way, he pledges or pawns himself, for a time, to some one who will lend the money he wants. In other words he becomes the domestic slave, as to part of his time, of the lender. He is obliged to labor for him instead of for himself; this labor being the interest the lender receives for his money. He must continue to work in this way until the money is repaid. So you see what the speaker was willing to do for Christ. Like David, he was not content to offer to God only that which would cost him nothing.

And it was not all talk. The collection was made about a fortnight after the meeting. So eager were the people to give, that they crowded to the table like bees when they swarm. "If I had had six hands," says Mr King, "I could not have put their names down fast enough." They cried out,

"Fi oruko mi sille!
Fi oruko mi sille!
(Put my name down!
Put my name down)!"

Some of the school children were not behind. A little girl came up and said "*Put my name down for thirty strings.*" that is strings of the little shells called cowries, each string containing forty cowries, worth a penny. Mr. King might well be astonished, as he was; so he told her it was of no use putting her name down for more than she could pay. She still persisted. "I know it. I will pay it." The whole collection amounted, in English money, to *twenty five pounds!* "This," says Mr. King, "is what our new converts have