

African Superstition Still A  
Christian Challenge



LAFAYETTE G. JACKSON

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FOREIGN MISSION BOARD, N. B. C.  
Rev. J. H. Jackson, Cor. Sec'y  
701 S. 19th St., Phila., Pa.

## HOW IT IS ADMINISTERED

The candidate for position comes forward, explains his wishes. The "doctor" man or the administrator of the "Jujues," hearing them, rises from his seat, goes forthwith into the bush with these wishes and gets certain leaves for medicine which will be conducive to the candidate. Returning from the bush, he calls the candidate and washes his face in a basin of water with these leaves, and says to him: "Your way is opened as your face is washed in this water of luck." Then the "doctor man" burns a little palm oil, mixes it with perfume, gives it to the candidate and says: "This is the oil of luck and love; you will be loved and be employed by all who are able to pay you."

Upon receiving the "oil of luck and love," the candidate pays a sum of money and goes away with joy, believing that success is sure in every prospect.

Such beliefs are still existing and prevailing among our people to-day and will continue until Christ comes

# African Superstition Still A Christian Challenge

by

LAFAYETTE G. JACKSON

Young Native Teacher at Bassa Mission, Liberia

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In this benighted continent belief in superstition is still a problem which requires solution. From time to time missionaries are coming out to this continent, preaching the Gospel of Christ and doing all that lies in their power to educate and Christianize the people here, but still it seems a great problem that they cannot wean their minds from such vain orthodoxy.

It appears that the radiance of Christianity's transforming light has not yet reached and shone within their souls. In spite of divine aid, providence and labor, there exists still in the native African an inherent superstitiousness which dominates his life. To him nothing happens by chance. He sustains the belief that something or someone is always the cause. It is firmly believed that no one dies in his prime except an intimate friend, a brother, a sister, or some close relative administers poison. This creates malice and an interminable hostility

in the breast of the offended party whose son or daughter is dead.

In the history of the world, curious arts have come into existence and practice since Creation. In Old and New Testament history we read of these arts used and practiced by people who lived before us. Arts in these days, especially in this dark continent, one can almost say, are more prevalent than those in ancient times.

Among the curious arts practiced, or "African sign," as it is called in this land, the "Gbenn" is the most dominating and celebrated sign. Every native African has a certain degree of fear of this "Gbenn." It is used as an instrument to avenge wickedness; it is also a remedy for witchcraft. The firm belief of the people is that in a town where "Gbenn" is buried in the ground, nobody dies untimely; neither can anyone practice witchcraft, the source of a premature grave as they define it. He seems unhappy, unsafe, exposed to danger and death who has not the "Gbenn" or a horn filled with medicine for his protection against other men.

### THE "JUJUES"

Another superstitious medicine highly esteemed and used in canvassing for position is the "African Jujues." So much confidence is placed in this medicine that it is believed that no one who is seeking immediate employment can be successful unless he comes in touch with it.

Sometimes, instead of being lucky and successful as one desires, half the time he is being shrouded for a bed of clay, the result of handling something quite detrimental to life.