

Ilang, Congo Free State,
W. C. Africa.

A. P. C. M.

Sept. 5, 1903.

Miss Mary Holman Smith:-
Abingdon, Virginia.

Dear Friend:-

Your nice letter to the Observer telling of snow falling in April, was very pleasing indeed. It made me long for a big snow storm and a skate on the ice. Here in Congo-land we have a hot summer all the year. We never see snow or ice. Sometimes we have a hail storm and the people look at the stones in great amazement. They cannot understand why they do not remain hard and cold. We often try to tell them about the very cold weather in our home-land, and about the nice ice-cream etc. And they regard all as a very mysterious story.

This a beautiful day, not so hot as usual. There millions of white butterflies which look like big snow flakes falling to the ground.

Our Mission Station looks very pretty and home-like. We have lots of roses and other pretty flowers. The

trees and the grass are always beautifully green except for a few weeks during the dry season. We hear continually the sweet songs of the happy birds that sing among the branches of the trees in our yard. We have lots of cunning pets too. Parrots, hawks, eagles and monkeys also a little jickal. All of them are very tame and make such lovely pets. We have plenty of chickens, ducks, pigeons, goats and pigs. All of which seem so happy, full of life and cheer. In the forests are many elephants, tigers, leopards and boa-constrictors. Of course they are not our friends.

Once when I was on a journey, I came near being attacked by a large fierce herd of elephants. They made a terrible noise which sounded like a thunder storm or an earthquake. They were of all sizes: baby ones, great big ones and middle sized ones.

Often big boa constrictors come to the mission in search of chickens goats and pigs. I kill them and the natives eat them.

The boys and girls of Congo land

are full of life and fun just as they are at home. They have many amusing plays and games. Many of them come to the Mission School and are very smart and bright. Some of them can recite the Catechism and also tell many of the beautiful Bible stories.

I wish you might come and visit us here. I know you would be delighted. Perhaps some day Jesus may send you here to work for him.

With every good wish,
I am your far away friend.

W. B. Sheppard