

Basel Mission Archives

"Widmann to Basel"

Title: "Widmann to Basel"

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Description: Baptism on Christmas: Ashante, Irenki, Keteku and Ado Mensa. They are now called: David Dieterle, William D. Hoffmann, Paul Staudt, Isaak Ostertag. The parents and relatives were not opposed to their baptism. Curious idea: A baptised person should not carry a load on his head. The fetishpriests have a peculiar stone. If their head is touched with it, they are not allowed to carry any load afterwards (p 1). They held several weeks their meetings under the trees, but now the new school is finished. Widmann went to Abonse to fetch grass for the roof. But in vain, they asked for Rum. So he sent to Late. There the fetish prohibits the carrying of grass to Akropong, but they did it for them as white people without difficulties. 100 people had to go twice all the long way. A pity they cannot yet open a school at Late (p 2). Kwaw Dade, the paramount chief, has secretly left for Akira, because he is too deeply in debt and the Governor insists on payment, keeping some palm oil traders from Akropong captive. Kwaw Dade told the Akropong people to come and stay with him in Akim. Widmann was asked for advice and told them to stay, the Governor would not burn down their town. The people made mumusu yi sacrifices to get Kwaw Dade back (pp 2-3). Adukrum made a visit there. The chief hanged himself, being so poor. The people said that Riis had promised them a white missionary (p 3). Financial difficulties of the mission (pp 3-4).

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