

### The Pioneer Mission Work.

Picture to yourself a long, low building, the home of the missionaries in Tourane. Outside, the graceful fronds of the palms are rustling in the wind. In the silence one can hear the rhythmic beat of the waves on the nearby shore. Here on the broad verandah of the home the first public services in Anamese were begun in 1913—for at that time there was not yet a chapel in which to hold services.

On the Sunday morning, chairs and benches are arranged for the service. Soon the audience gathers. Most of them are neatly-dressed, refined young men coming from the various offices in the city. They are inquisitive to hear what the foreigner has to tell them of the "dao doi" (deceiving doctrine), as the Roman Catholic dictionaries have translated "Protestantism." They listen attentively, and make an attempt to join in the singing of the sweet Gospel hymns, for they are very fond of poetry and music. After it is all over they pass out to their homes, and we wonder how much they have grasped of the wonderful story, so old and yet to them so new.

#### Annamese

#### Sunday School.

Such a strange gathering in a place still more strange! The little chapel has now been built, so we gather there. Low, thatch-roofed, with bamboo-plaited walls through which the warm breezes play, such is the first "Nha Tho" (lit. worship house) for the Annamese.

At the loud beating of the drum, the yellow-skinned children come trooping in and take their seats on the hard wooden benches. They are as full of life and mischief as children anywhere; their dark eyes gleaming with fun. It is hard to convince them that they should not "talk in meeting," for Sunday School is a great novelty to them.

After a prayer and a hymn the teachers get to work. One little girl especially surprises her teacher by her bright mind, for in Annam the girls are usually not as clever as the boys who have had so much more attention paid to them. But when the teacher remarks about it to the Biblewoman, she it told, "Why, that is not a girl, but a boy dressed in girl's clothes to deceive the devil. He knows that boys are more appreciated than girls, and so he is not so apt to harm a girl." Such fear of the devil as they have in Annam! In our Sunday School we try to teach them about the love of Jesus Who is so much stronger than Satan.

When the memory verse has been learned, another hymn sung with much noise but little melody, and the Lord's Prayer recited in unison, the children are dismissed and skip away on their little bare, brown feet.