

MISSION FIELD.

Notes from the S. P. G. Mission Field for February:

RAMAINANDEO, in Madagascar, is the Mission entrusted to the R. V. E. O. McMahon, who is also the Examiner of the Mission schools of Imerina, the central province of Madagascar. In his Mission Mr. McMahon reports the baptism of 24 adults, besides 13 children, during six months; and also tells of two new stations opened recently in entirely heathen districts. Besides these he mentioned the important new work among the Betsiriry, of which the Bishop spoke in a letter from which we quoted in December:—

"In May last, with two catechists, I visited the Betsiriry tribe—one of the fiercest and most self-reliant tribes of the Sakalava. These people live on the banks of the Tsiribihina and its tributaries, some 150 miles west, and are governed by a king and several chiefs. We saw some of the latter, who received us well, and the Bishop decided, on our return, to commence work amongst them, and Radaniel and Rajostina are prepared to go and live there. These people have never been visited by a European or Missionary before, and have no idea of civilization, &c. They do not even know the value of money. We leave on Monday next, and (D. V.) shall begin work by occupying the king's town. I return here after seeing them safe and at work."

This new Mission becomes even more interesting from the fact that native Christians are maintaining it:—

"This new Mission to the Betsiriry will be commenced by subscriptions raised in Madagascar, the native Christians are giving quite nobly. At two meetings (at which no notice had been given or subscriptions) I received \$20 and \$4, and most of those present asked to be allowed to subscribe and pay their money later. On looking over the subscription lists I see that eight natives have already subscribed one dollar and upwards each, which sum to a native represents a good deal. We require \$300 for the first year's work, the greater part of which I have in hand already, and suspect the subscriptions will be over that amount."

Mr. McMahon also mentions that in a part of his Mission the native Christians had raised their endowment fund to \$189 12. Such things as these are very good signs indeed.

Mr. McMahon also reports on examination of the schools, and sends a full statistical account of them. They are 56 in number, with 2,184 scholars of whom 1,595 were examined with satisfactory results.

We gave an account two months ago of North Borneo, and of the arrival of the Rev. W. H. Elton, at Sandakan, on September 2nd. The Rev. B. Belcher, who took much interest in the opening of the Mission, has forwarded to us a later letter

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