

Christianity in Madagascar was once almost annihilated by terrible persecutions, but it has sprung up into a large-hearted, open-pocketed, and stalwart life.

—The crescent and the cross, how do they compare for strength, and what is the outlook for each? After thirteen hundred years Mohammedanism has 200,000,000 adherents, and stretches over a vast region 5000 by 10,000 miles in extent, even from Gibraltar to the Malay Peninsula and Java, though practically confined to Southern Asia and the northern half of Africa. Christianity after nineteen hundred years has 400,000,000 adherents, is the religion of Europe and the New World, politically is universal ruler except in China and Turkey, and is rapidly spreading its dominion into every region on the face of the earth.

—Why should not the tribe increase and spring up in every Christian land? Mr. Evan Spicer finds that from Great Britain have gone forth as missionaries 125 persons who support themselves wholly, and 24 more who partly support themselves. The Church Society alone has 50 of the one class and 23 of the other; the China Inland Mission has 41; the Universities' Mission, 10; the Propagation Society, 8; the Free Church of Scotland, 5; the Baptists and the London Society, 4 each, and the Wesleysans, 3.

—A friend of the Wesleyan Missionary Society has intimated his intention to supplement his missionary subscription by a birthday donation of £100 a year. A good precedent to follow, and why should not thousands of such anniversaries be marked by such thank-offerings?

—He said to the Quaker, "I can't help feeling for the poor, perishing heathen." And quoth the Quaker, "Does thee feel in the right place? Does thee feel in thy pocket?"

—It is related of Dr. Andrew Bonar that he began a sermon to his people

with this parable: "Once upon a time a congregation asked their minister to give them strong meat. The next Sabbath he preached on the duty of Christian giving; and they sent him no more requests for strong meat."

—It appears that Alpheus Hardy, the friend of Joseph Neesima and the noble servant of Christ, set forth for the ministry, but by ill-health was compelled to desist from study. For a time his disappointment was bitter and his soul was in agony; but soon a great light fell upon him, and he saw that a sacred calling was open for him, and said with rapture: "O God, I can be Thy minister. I will make money for Thee, and *that* shall be my ministry." From thenceforth he felt himself to be God's man, and as much chosen and ordained as though preaching the Gospel from the pulpit.

—Mrs. Bishop, who has travelled much in mission lands and visited some 140 stations, witnesses this good confession: "I am a convert to missions through seeing missions and the need for them. Some years ago I took no interest whatever in the condition of the heathen; I had heard much ridicule cast upon Christian missions, and perhaps had imbibed some of the unhalloved spirit. But the missionaries by their life and character, and by the work they are doing wherever I have seen them, have produced in my mind such a change and such an enthusiasm, as I might almost express it, in favor of Christian missions, that I cannot go anywhere without speaking about them, and trying to influence others in their favor who may be as indifferent as I was."

—And Dr. R. N. Cust puts himself on record in these words: "The missionary appears to me to be the highest type of human excellence in the nineteenth century, and his profession to be the noblest. He has the enterprise of the merchant, without the narrow desire for gain; the dauntlessness of the soldier, without the shedding of blood;