

## THE QUEEN OF MADAGASCAR AND THE ROMISH PRIESTS.

Mr. William Pool, who is engaged in building the chapels in Madagascar, writes a letter to the *English Independent*, under date April 5th, 1869, in which we find the following interesting statement :—"Since the opening of the Memorial Church at Ambohipotsy, and the attendance of the Court at its consecration, the French have been constantly urging the Queen to be present at their service in their Roman Catholic Chapel at Imahamasina. If I hear correctly, there had been a thinly attended service for some time on Sabbath afternoons. Reports say that to accomplish their object many arguments have been plied, and among others, 'that the treaty recently concluded requires that they be treated as the most favoured nation.' On the other hand, the Court made many excuses, the whole of which clearly indicated their reluctance to comply with the request. At last, consent to visit the building was obtained, and on Thursday, March 25th, the Court went. In order to give *éclat* to the occasion, a throne was prepared and richly decorated for the use of the Sovereign. The chapel itself was decked out with that artistic skill for which the French are proverbial; the altar, &c., sharing, of course, very largely in the decorations, and exhibiting many artificial lights. Outside, long hangings and festoons conveyed the idea of a travelling theatre, the resemblance being so nearly similar to those one has seen at large country fairs. Moreover, music was to do her part, and a laudatory National Anthem had been got up for the occasion,—in short, everything which ingenuity could accomplish likely to attract and please the monarch was done. At about eight o'clock the court left the palace, escorted by guards as usual, preceded by the Queen's band. At the building the Queen was received by the French Special Commissioner and the officiating priests. Her Majesty having advanced half way up the building stood still, and the Prime Minister then presented 'Hasina' on behalf of the people. (This payment of 'Hasina,' or a dollar of allegiance, still obtains among the people on the commencement or completion of any building of importance.) This done the Queen turned to leave, when the Special Commissioner took hold of her arm, urging her to occupy the seat prepared. The Prime Minister said, 'The Queen came to take Hasina, because the house is hers.' The Commissioner replied, 'I see there is no love, only hatred of France.' The Minister rejoined, 'There is nothing in the treaty to compel the Queen to pray with you;' and the Court left, their stay in the chapel scarcely exceeding twelve minutes. The Roman Catholic congregations are said to be considerable reduced, (they were never very large), in consequence of this visit of the Court."—*Christian Witness*.

## THE BIBLE IN RUSSIA.

The British and Foreign Bible Society has finally failed in its attempts to obtain permission to send the Bible printed in the Russian language into Russia. The *Exchange Gazette* of St. Petersburg is our authority for this statement. It says:

"We are positively informed that several thousand copies were sent under the address of a Russian general, all of which were stopped at the frontier, and then sent to the censors, who forwarded them to the Ecclesiastical Consistory. This body, after taking the advice of the Holy Synod, decided that it was impossible to admit the circulation in Russia of a Bible published abroad, because the right of publishing the Bible for the use of the orthodox is enjoyed by the Holy Synod alone."

It is believed by many persons who have given attention to the subject, that if the American Bible Society would send an able and respectable deputation of distinguished citizens to St. Petersburg, an arrangement for co-operation might be made, with the sanction of the imperial government.

There is no such thing as the Bible in the Russian language. The New