

of the city without discovery. They felt all depended on their losing no time, so they walked as quickly as they could, halting very seldom, and keeping out of the main roads. By the next night they had travelled 50 miles, and reached a place of safety—the house of some Christian friends. These good people received them very kindly, and did all they could to cheer them, while they united with them in blessing God for bringing them safe thus far. The names of the Christians they had got to, were Rafaravavy, Andrianilaina and his wife Sarah.

It was a joyful moment when the poor tired Christians reached these kind friends, and they sang a hymn of praise, but their joy was only for a time. The soldiers soon pursued them, and three days after they found they were not safe. Joseph and David fled to a deep forest, where they were joined by Stephen and Rafaravavy, and hid amongst the mountains all day, only venturing to come amongst their friends at night. For some time no soldiers came, and the Christians began to feel more secure. At last, one morning, while Rafaravavy was still in the house with Sarah, three came, and Rafaravavy had very near been caught by them. She and Sarah were talking, when they thought they heard the crows making a great noise outside, and Sarah went out to see what was the matter. She saw the men coming, and had only time to give warning to Rafaravavy in a whisper to hide herself before they were at the door. Rafaravavy hid beneath the bed. The men came in, and staid above an hour, but did not find her. Poor Rafaravavy now found she was safe nowhere long, so she went to another village, and was there hidden by a friend. Sarah and Andrianilaina were soon after forced to fly, and joined her in the village. Once, while there, 100 soldiers came to look for them, and they were forced to hide in the bottom of a pit to escape the search. At last they took refuge with a good rich man, who made them a little hut in his plantation, and took care of them for