

"Our island politics are quiet now. Since the king took away our Constitution, and proclaimed a new one, there is a general apathy in regard to the matter. The Legislative Assembly are sitting now and making laws; but we hear but little of them, as their transactions are not published. A bill to license two distilleries has passed, but it is doubtful if they will be put into operation, the regulations being regarded as too stringent. A bill to legalize the sale of liquor to natives was indefinitely postponed. The taking off of the *tabu* on drinking liquor by the natives, would cause the speedy destruction of the race."

Madagascar.

We have again to record gratifying evidence of the Divine favour to the several departments of the Mission, of which the extracts given below from the letters of the Rev. WILLIAM ELLIS and the Rev. R. G. HARTLEY afford illustrations.

Amidst the evident progress and advancing strength of Christianity we are glad to state that the Queen and her Government, although patrons of heathenism, yet nevertheless honourably uphold the rights and privileges of the native Christians. We do not wish to intimate that the principles of civil and religious liberty are fully understood by the Government or enjoyed by the Christians in their largest extent; but on the whole the Churches enjoy rest, and, "walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost," are multiplied.

"It is my privilege to be able, amidst some discouragements, to witness the progressive triumphs of the Gospel in this part of Madagascar. No exciting and extensive awakening on the subject of religion takes place—nothing like what are deemed revivals in other countries; but there has long been a steady, quiet, and slightly fluctuating increase of believers to my own Church and Congregation, as well as to others with which I am best acquainted. Besides this, there has been peculiarly encouraging intelligence of the work of the Divine Spirit at Fianarantsoa, in the South, and the extreme limits of Imerina, in the West, as well as evidence of patience and cheerful confidence among the believers at Ambobimanga, in the North.

"The Church at Ambatonakanga numbered ninety communicants when I joined it in 1862. About forty left us soon afterwards, to form the nucleus of the Church at Ankadibevava. A few have also since left to join the recently formed Church at Ampamarinana; but the accession of thirteen, whom we expect to receive to our fellowship to-morrow, will make the present number of our communicants 283. Among eighteen to whom I administered the ordi-

nance of baptism last Lord's-day, was one who had recently arrived from Fianarantsoa, in the South, under circumstances of great interest in connection with the progress of Christianity there. Another was a chief from the extreme west of the province of Ackowa, about three days' journey from the capital. This man had long been wishing to associate with the believers, and will, we trust, return an enlightened Christian and a devoted missionary to his countrymen. The congregation has greatly increased at the temporary church recently opened at Ampamarinana; indeed, it is occasionally well filled, and, we trust, will be the birth-place of many souls."—Rev. W. Ellis.

Progress of the Gospel in India.

An American Presbyterian missionary gives the following very striking account of the progress of the great moral and religious revolution in India.

I dare say many of our friends in America often think the progress of our Mission work is extremely slow. Be assured none of you who help us with your money and your prayers feel this half so painfully as your Missionaries do. As inquirers for whom we have labored for months and years disappoint our hopes, and still cling to their evil ways, our hearts often sink within us. And yet God's word does not return to Him void, and then progress is not the less sure because it is gradual. I enclose two extracts which bring to view a little of the change effected in two short generations. Contrast Mukarjee, now a humble believer in Jesus, and practising all the Christian virtues, with his great-grandfather and his *one hundred and sixty wives*, and you obtain a glimpse of the change already effected in India by the Gospel. This same change is further illustrated by the longer extract, showing the great influence of the Gospel upon masses of Hindus, modifying their superstitions and reforming their social usages even before they become nominal Christians. Let this change continue, and must not Hinduism ere long lose its vitality?

Alone in this dark kingdom, with millions of idolaters around us, reached by no other Missionary (nor by us either) we are often oppressed with a sense of our great weakness. These masses of ignorance and superstition seem too mighty for us; seem to make sport of our sturdiest efforts to battle with them, ready to sweep us away or swallow us up in their vortex; and we often find ourselves looking wishfully to the churches and young men of our native land, longing for some to come and help us.