

and were permitted to remain until it was printed at the capital ; for, according to its usage in all other parts of the world, this Society sent out with its earliest labourers to Madagascar its printing press, and thus gave permanency to the beneficial effects of their labours. And not only were the Society's and various elementary books translated, but also other Christian books ; but when I tell you, that, besides the entire Scriptures that were translated into the language of the people, more than 25,000 copies of other useful books were printed and distributed, you will form some idea of the extent of the labours of those honoured men whom you first sent to that important field. Something of the nature of their work you will also infer, when I tell you, that next to the Bible the first book they translated for the Christian instruction of the people was the "Pilgrim's Progress"—and next to the Bible there is no book so universally read, so deeply pondered, and so highly prized ; and I have great satisfaction in stating, that next to the Bible there is no book they have yet had that has been so useful to them, affording them such instruction, such encouragement, such support amid their weary and cheerless pilgrimages. These labours have been continued ; for the devoted men who laboured there at the commencement, not only prepared these books, but they prepared grammars and dictionaries in the language. Their survivors have acquired that language ; and since they have been driven from their field of labour, and have returned to their native country, they have been employed in preparing books for the native Christians ; and I have great pleasure in stating, on this occasion, that some of the most highly prized books in our land, are the greatest favourites in Madagascar. Next to the Bible and the "Pilgrim's Progress," James's "Anxious Inquirer" is read, is prized, is appreciated, and, by the blessing of God, has been eminently successful. I have also great pleasure in mentioning that the "Sinner's Friend," the "Come to Jesus," the "It is I!" have been translated into the language of the natives of Madagascar. More than twenty years have elapsed since the last missionary left the shores of Madagascar ; but, though the missionaries were sent away, the Lord Jesus Christ was there, the Spirit of God was there, the Bible was there : and they read the Bible, and the Spirit applied what they read with power to their hearts, and, not withstanding the efforts of the enemies of the Cross, and the enemies of the Saviour, and those whose purpose was not only, as they expressed it,