

Roman Emperors : ' We are only of yesterday, it is true, but already we are filling your market places, your tribunals, your armies, your very palaces. We leave you but your temples.' I pray that God may add to your number also, and he will not fail if, like the first Christians, you are all apostles of prayer. "

In truth, of all the Catholic missions among the heathen, we believe there is not one in this century which has made such strides and yielded such consoling fruits as Madagascar. It was only on the 16th August, 1861, after repeated failures, that a mission was opened on the great African island. God seems to have a special love for islands, perhaps because the spirit of the big world, His sworn enemy, has less influence over them. Be that as it may, Madagascar, at this moment, counts 398 stations or Catholic groups, 112,000 Catholics, 540 schools, and 15,033 pupils. How has this wonderful result been brought about ? If the missionaries are to be believed, it was by prayer, especially by prayer that went straight to the Heart of Jesus.

Those of our Associates who have been accustomed to read the older *Messengers* may remember that Madagascar was the first mission which the *Messenger* of the Sacred Heart, as far back as 1862, gave out for the General Intention of the month. Since that period, our Holy League has never lost sight of the endeared island. *Messenger* readers can recall particularly how nobly those new Christians behaved when, after the solemn consecration of the mission to the Sacred Heart, the Franco-Malagassée war broke out, and they were for three long years left without priest or guide ; or they may recall the *retreats* of the Hova school teachers and mistresses productive of so much good.

What encouragement for our Associates, old and young, but especially the young, when they thus see that by their