

precious of all books. Tell the Society to go on courageously with its work in translating God's Word into all languages ; for it is the message of salvation, for all we who have received the blessing cannot do better than spread it. I am a poor man, but I gladly give a pound (£1) for the good work." He was as good as his word, and some time after the meeting an old woman brought a shilling to add to the collection, to obtain which she had sold some native tobacco.

## MADAGASCAR.

During the past year two interesting books dealing with Madagascar have been published. One of them, written by the Rev. G. Shaw, lately of Tamatave, contains some remarks which may with great fitness find insertion here :

Mission work has been upset, trade has been stopped or hindered, neutral merchants have been ruined, property has been destroyed, money squandered, and lives lost, and yet no advance has been made towards peace. The conduct of the Malagasy, however, must have excited the strongest admiration in the minds of all who have followed the history of recent events. They have shown themselves determined patriots, clear-headed politicians, good soldiers, and conscientious Christians. In their dogged determination to resist to the last, and their indifference to the hardships of the campaign, in their watchfulness in the trenches and bravery in meeting death, they have called forth even the encomium of those who have seen active service in other parts of the world ; while their practical Christianity and faithfulness under the trying dispensation of Providence have completely silenced those detractors who prophesied that at the first breath of calamity the Malagasy Christians would revert to their ancient idolatry and superstition.

## PERSIA.

"The work of the Bible Society," says Dr. Bruce, "is the most important branch of the missionary work in Persia. By its means the Word of God has been, through the agency of brethren from our Church Missionary congregations and schools, and a few others, scattered far and wide from Julfa to Bagdad, a distance of one month's journey on the west, to Kerman, also a month's journey distant on the east, and to Bushire, Muscat, and other ports on the Persian Gulf on the south. The north of Persia is worked by the American missionaries. Our colporteurs and depôt-keepers have sold within the last two years about 12,000 portions of God's Word."

Of his staff D. Bruce speaks as follows :

"When Mr. Watt, who is at present agent of the British and Foreign Bible Society of Germany, paid us a visit in 1878, he did us many great services. First, his visit was the cause of establishing an agency of the Bible Society in Persia ; secondly, he led us to Bagdad, and was the means of establishing in that city both an agency of the Bible Society and a mission of the Church Missionary Society ; thirdly, he showed his discernment of character by choosing from the pupils of our school Mr. George Mackertich for the work of the Bible Society. On Mr. Watt's return to Odessa, where he then resided as Agent of the British and Foreign Bible Society for South Russia, at his request I sent George to him, and he kept him in his own house for five months, and gave him an excellent training in book-keeping and in all the details of the Bible Society's work. He has fully come up to Mr. Watt's expectation of his ability for the work, and is a most faithful and useful agent of the Society. If it were not for the help I receive from Mr. George Mackertich, and which he has been well qualified to render me, owing to the excellent training he received from Mr. Watt, it would be quite impossible for me to carry on the work."