

Botanic Gardens, London, to be acclimatized.

—Mr. Johnston, the British commissioner, gives some interesting particulars regarding Nyassaland. He says it is mountainous, 75 per cent of the country being 3500 feet above the level of the sea. The native population is about 3,000,000. In 1891 the Europeans numbered only 57, with 1 trader and 8 steamers. Now there are 14 traders, 14 steamers, and over 100 boats. About the same time the value of the trade was £20,000 a year: now it is over £100,000. During the same period the number of acres under cultivation (mainly for coffee) has risen from 1250 to 7300. At the earlier date there were 4 missionaries; now there are 7. There are 3 newspapers, but no hotels.

—Writing from Unangu, Mr. Joseph Williams says: "Funerals are very lively affairs here among the natives. The procession to the grave is generally headed by a man bearing a white or a red flag, who runs along before the body. Then comes a woman with a basket of flowers, to be laid on the grave after the interment. A large number of people usually follow the body to the grave, which is always dug after the corpse has reached the spot chosen for its resting-place. A drum is beaten on the way, and people sing and dance, and sometimes the body itself is pushed along at a rollicking pace. When the grave is dug, and the requisite depth has been reached, a place is dug in the side of the grave in which to place the body; sticks are placed across, and then the earth is thrown in. The divining rod is nearly always consulted after every death, and somebody accused of having caused it, who is made to pay damages to the relatives. Even after the death of a cow or a goat they sometimes consult the diviner."

#### ISLANDS OF THE SEA.

—The *Madagascar News*, which vigorously represents British interests in that great island as against French preten-

sions, quotes also from a leading article in the *North British Daily Mail*, headed "The French Colonial Fever." The *Mail* says:

"If we were disposed for recrimination we could easily plead colonial grievances of our own against France in respect of Newfoundland, of Madagascar, of Siam, and of any or every portion of Africa where the French have sought to divert our trade or cut off the hinterland from our settlements, and these grievances would be considerably more substantial than the vague dog-in-the-manger-like jealousy which is now finding expression among a certain school of French politicians. But it is best to leave these matters to be settled by diplomacy. It is neither dignified nor useful to squabble in public over the assumed 'rights' which European powers have been pleased to appropriate in Africa. After all, there should be honor among thieves, and we are all thieves in the Dark Continent."

—The dialects of the Malagasy have been differentiated, says a recent writer, by the custom of extending the "tabu" to words. It is unlawful, for example, to use in common speech any syllable that occurs in the name of a chief. The prohibition is the same as if the British under Queen Victoria were obliged to abandon such words as *victory*, *victim*, *conict*.

—The *Presbyterian*, of London, reports that in New Zealand, owing to the adoption of female franchise, the *very existence of the liquor trade* is threatened in that colony.

—The immigration from India to Fiji is increasing so fast as to jeopardize the Christian character of the islands. The coolies are engaged upon the sugar plantations and refineries. As these Hindu laborers are heathens, and bring with them their own priests, the native church is threatened with grave peril. The brighter side of this question is found in the hope that Christian Fiji may have a reflex influence on heathen India.