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MADAGASCAR.

Recent events have thrown a degree of interest around Madagascar-the Great Britain of Africa, as it has been not altogether inappropriately termed. A brief sketch of its past history, and of the progress of the Gospel there, will be read with interest.

Those who will turn to the map will see the Island of Madagascar, situated in the India Ocean to the east of Africa, from which it is separated by the Straits of Mozambique. It is only distant about three hundred miles from the main land. The island is about nine hundred miles long, and three hundred wide, with a very prominent mountuin range, running from North to South. As eleven degrees south of the equator, Madagasear is one of the tropical isles, and marked by some of the peculiarities of that torrid region. Still, it is stated by some of the missionaries, that in the cold season the thermometer has fallen as low ported to the Queen by her chief officer, as a as 30 dec. Especially is it thus cold in the Christian: but the love of a mother has prens 30 deg. Especially is it thus cold in the Christian: but the love of a mother has premarnings. It is even said that the thermometer vailed over the spirit of a pagan persecutor, and will vary forty degrees in a few hours. A recent traveller has seen it at 40 deg. at six o'clock in characteristic of the Malagasy to their offspring the morning, while at at three o'clock in the af- and near kindred has been strikingly overruled is healthy, though there are districts into which no man man can enter without bringing back with him the seeds of death.

In the island two races are found co-existing with different languages. The Malayan, or lighter coloured race, in the interior, and extend. | in this strange way.' 'But he is my son' replied ing to the eastern coast-and the Negro of the Caffre stamp, on the western side of the island. The hovas, the present dominant tribe, are of the Malayan descent, and their language indicates very clearly their affirmity to that widely scattered ace of the east.

The island was first visited by the Portuguese, towards the close of the fifteenth century, when the adventurous De Gama doubled the Cape of Good Hope, and crept along the Africa, and so eastward to the renowned Calicut. After these, that he could obtain, he concluded that 1,000,000 the Dutch effected a temporary lodgment on the of the inhabitants of Madagascar had suffered coast. The French made settlements on the isl- death through the ambition and cruelty of the and in 1642. The right of these three nations to the sovereignty of the country was strenuously contested by the Malagasy, as the natives are called. The invaders were sometimes severely numbers. Once populous districts are representdealt with. For a long period, these forced set- ed as now almost desolate. We trust that the tlements were abandoned, and the island was day of hope will soon break on that isle once visited only by Europeans passing to the rich more, and that under the auspices of a Christian marts of the East Indies. During the latter half | ruler the people will advance in every way, and of the last century, frequent attempts were made | make their beautiful country a habitation of joy. to colonize it from France, and from the Isle of Bourbon and Isle of France, which lie a few hundred miles east of Madagascar. But disasters thwarted all these attempts, and left France, at the commencement of this century, with only a settlement on the Isle of St. Mary, on the eastern coast, and a trading post or two for the purchase of cattle for the market of the Isles of lish influence has been powerful in Madagascar, which was regarded as a dependency of the Isle About the same time, the king of the central

part of the island died. His name was almost as ong as the radius of his dominions. He rejoiced in the unprouounceable appellation of Andrianampoinimerina. He was succeeded by his son, Radama, who extended his control over a large area, and entered into friendly relations with the English, who held the Mauritius, or Isle of France. It was during this king's reign that the mission aries of the London Missionary Society entered the island. Two began their labours in 1818 .-One of these soon died, and the other removed in consequence of ill health, to Mauritius. In 1820 a treaty was entered into by the Governor of the Mau itius and king Radama, for the extinction of the slave trade. Mr. Jones, the missionary at the Mauritius, having recovered his health, accompanied the embassy to Tananarivo, a city in arrived from the Island of Rorotonga. Through the interior of the island, and the seat of the Royal Court. As a result of this visit, he remained, provided for by the king; and a royal request was sent to the Society at London for more missionaries. Radama placed under the care of Mr. Jones, sixteen native children, among whom were three children of his sister, throne. Soon, other missionaries arrived, and all or Missionary. Being a son of a minister of the one of whom was the heir presumptive to the seemed to go on prosp-rously. The Bible was Church of England, he had received instruction translated, corrected and printed; the schools in the things of God in his earlier years, but no were multiplied; the unwilling people were com- lesson ever went to his heart till the Holy Spirit pelled, by the edict of the king, to give the chil- sent home the teachings of his brother sailor in the overthrow of the national superstitions. King Radama, however, died in 1828: and, after a and native land; and now for the first time, was series of butcheries, in which she got rid of most constrained to cry, "God be merciful to me a Rakotobe, the heir presumptive to the throne, and a Christian, was one of her victims. His faened and liberal spirit the missionaries had hoped lage of 800 inhabitants. A good meeting-house much, was also slain. For a time, the Queen apparently favoured the

missionaries and the schools. Still, the missionaries were in constant fear of a storm. Such was the character of Ranavalona that they never felt safe. In 1831, a series of edicts began to issue from the throne. First, Mr. Griffith, the missionary, was ordered to leave-though, finally, he Next, permission to administer baptism and the non for Liverpool. In the spring, he purposes Lord's Supper was withdaawn : then the slaves were prohibited from learning to read and write; and finally in February, 1885, the missionaries were forbidden to teach the religion of Christ; and all who had embraced it were required to confess their guilt and abjure it. It is said that a courtier persuaded the Queen that Jehovah was far.—Sailor's Magazine for Oct. the first king of the English, and Jesus Christ the second; and that those who served them thus gave up their allegiance to her. It seems incredble that for fifteen years the religion of Christ had been taught, and yet the Queen was so ignorant of it. This looks likes a laboured attempt to find a plea for persecution. The books, how- 48 or 49 languages; in 1848, it existed in 136. ever, which the missionaries had scattered, were gathered up and returned to them. They formed a balk large enough to fill an entire house. The up. These four-footed guards of this literary

accounts that have reached us from time to time seem to indicate that there is yet hope. There are men and women on that island who fear God

more than they fear the Queen. The latess accounts state that the son of the Queen himself is a Christian. The last Report of the London Missionary Society makes the following statement :---

"The only son of the Queeu, and her successor to the throne, who has just attained to man-hood, has continued to afford to the persecuted followers of Christ the most conclusive evidence that he is a faithful brother in the Lord. In defiance of the laws, which pronounce slavery and death upon the Christian, the youthful convert its northern extremitiy, Cape Ambro, is only assembles with them for worship in their places of retreat; and when their lives and liberties are threatened, he employs all means in his power to warn them of impending danger and effect their rescue. He has been more than once reternoon it stood at 80 deg, In general the island for the preservation of this hopeful youth .-'Madame,' said one of her prime ministers when recently addressing the Queen, 'your son is a Christian; prays with the Christians, and en-

> the Queen, 'my only-my beloved son! Let him do as he pleases; if he wish to become a Christian let him!-he is my beloved son." He is the heir to the throne, and we trust that he may be preserved to repay the Christians as far as possible, for the cruel ies his mother Ranavalona has inflicted. Her reign has been a season of blood and carnage. Mr. Griffith, the oldest missionary in Madagascar, stated some time ago, that from the most accurate accounts

lost if your Majesty do not stop the prince

THE SAILOR MISSIONARIES.

-Christian Chronicle.

" God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform.'

years ago, and were so called from the circumpicture as seen from the sea. Pigs, poultry,

bread-fruit, bananas, and oranges abound. About the year 1828, a reckless sailor, preferring a chance among the savage natives, to the hard usage he received on board a British whale ship, ran away, and found a home on one of these islands. The natives, finding him capable of teaching them many things useful, treated him with marked respect and kindness. The old chief gave him one of his daughters for a wife. In a year or two after, two native missionaries, educated by the "Martyr Missionary," Williams, their instrumentality the sailor became a changed, praying man, and immediately joined them in their various labours for the temporal and spir-

charge of this missionary station.

Three years ago, another young sailor deserted from a British whale-ship, and as a good pro-vidence directed, fell into the hands of this Saildred an education. Thus, way was preparing for this distant island of the sea. Seven years he of the royal family, Ranavalona, one of the wives sinner." He also became a "new creature," and of Radama, found herself acknowledged queen. joined his brother sailor, and brother in Christ, ther Prince Rataffe, a man from whose enlight- taught school. The mission is located in a vilhas been built, and a church organized, with 80 members at the present time. Every family in the village observes morning and evening worship. In November last, he left in an American whale-ship, to visit once more the home and the friends of his youth. The other day he arrived in New-York; and having spent a short time at the Sailor's Home, on the 31st of August, he sailed as a cabin passenger in the fine suip Lebato return to his adopted home in the South Seas, where he hopes to spend his days as a missionary in the service of his Divine Master. These two sailors are the only white persons on the island. Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first to bring thy sons from

> It is said that in 1804, according to the best estimate that can be obtained, there were in existence only about 4,000,000 copies of the Bible. Now there are more than 30,000,000.

depot were furnished with an allowance of meat at the royal expense. But the day of hope for testant Missionaries to the Chinese, 67 in num-Madagascar seemed to have passed. The per- ber, of whom 13 are stationed at Hong-Kong, She was speared to death, though firm and faithful to the last. Many were sold into hopeless slavery for their adherence to Christianity. The

THE KING OF TERRORS.

BY THE REV. DR. ALEXANDER.

His dominion is wide as the world; his subjects are all men except two. His tyranny is cealment, by no resistance, can we escape.-

Death is the doom of every man. all our possessions. However painfully and unjustly wealth has been accumulated, and howev- but learning there the spiritual destitution er cautiously the soul clings to its treasure, death of the people at St. Helena, he felt a strong conforces it away. As "naked we came into the viction that it was his duty to go there. His husband: snatches children, tenderly beloved, from the affectionate embrace of their parents; the bond of friendship is rudely sundered, and the affections of the heart are torn and left bleeding with hopeless sorrow. All plans and pro jects are in a moment frustrated, and anticipated pleasures and honours are left behind.

Death is terrible, because it drives us into a enquire anxiously, What is the condition of our pecting him. We consult the oracle of reason, courages them in their new doctrine. We are but there is no satisfactory response; she mutgoing, or what is our destiny.

something far worse. This king of terrors comes armed with a tremendous sting. Conscious inno purchase and license a chapel. He was now that the union of Italy and the expulsion of the cence would inspire us with courage; but guilt, safe from government annoyances, his popularity a sense of sin, a feeling of deserved punishment, increased, until, at length, he gave out the asabove all other things, renders death terrible.— tounding notice, that at such a time he should If it should be said, in honor of the Pope, that In the gayety and bustle of life, men may drown preach on the subject of baptism, and undertake he has granted an amnesty to exiled persons, it the voice of conscience; or by repeated violations of its dictates, men may enjoy temporary whole body in water is the only mode, and because it is a bloody revolution. And to stings of conscience. Nothing so corrodes the had touched, gladly received the word, and re- time-in which, by order of the Pope, all public soul with anguish indescribable as REMORSE. quested baptism. Thus far there is nothing in death but terrors.

soul ransomed by thy blood, into thy bosom.

"There shall I bathe my weary soul In seas of heavenly rest, And not a wave of trouble roll Across my peaceful breast."

[Am. Messenger.

I would walk A weary journey to the farthest verge Of the big world, to kiss that good man's hand, Preserves a lowly mind, and to his God. Feeling the sense of his own littleness. Is as a child in meek simplicity.

Oh! how many ties there are to bind the soul itual good of the people; and subsequently took to earth. When the strongest are cut asunder, and the spirit feels cast loose from every bond which connects it with mortality, how impercept tibly does one little tendril after another becom entwined about it, and draw it back with gentle

> sad-those now walking the avenue of pleasure may be the subjects of sorrow-those on the mountain-summits may be in the valley—that rosy cheek may have the lily's huc—the strong may falter-death may have come.

The grave buries every error-covers every defect—extinguishes every resentment. From its peaceful bosom spring none but fond regrets and tender recollections. Who can look down upon the grave of an enemy, and not feel a comunctious throb that he should have warred with

Necessity is a tyrant who is said to have no law; and a wise man will avoid becoming his

likewise, a sore eve is offended with everything Philosophical and true happiness is to want

Jittle and enjoy much; vulgar and false happiness is to want much and enjoy little. He that hath a prudent wife, hath a guardian angel by his side; but he that hath a proud wife ath the devil at his elbow.

THE HOPE OF THE CHRISTIAN.-Lord Byron who had a constant struggle against his better nowledged "the Christian enjoys an advantage of the infidel in having an exalted hope through life." - Miss Sinclair's "Business of Life."

PRAYER IN THE ARMY .- During the American In 1804, the Bible had been published in only war, Washington was seen to retire daily to a 48 or 49 languages; in 1848, it existed in 136. grove in the Vicinity of Vally Forge, where it that infested the house where they were stored 000 more than in any year before, except 1845. battle of Blenheim, that "he had prayed more that day than all the chaplains in the army

MEN OF THE WORLD.—When George III. heard one of his courtiers observing on the importance of all persons in authority being of gensecution continued, and at length, on the 14th of 13 at Canton, 9 at Amoy, 6 at Pucau, 9 at heard one of his courtiers observing on the importance of all persons in authority being of genabout thirty-eight years of age, suffered as the whole number, 49 are supported by American uine religious principles, he said, "Such are the men I have sought, but those distinguished by

BAPTIST CHURCH AT ST. HELENA. Mr. Wade alluding to his detention at St. He-

lena on late return passage, says :-We spent the first week at the very hospitable mansion of Mr, Carroll, the American consulinexorable. By no art, by no flight, by no con- In the course of the week we were made ac-

quainted with several pious persons, seals of Mr. Bertram's ministry. Death is terrible, because he cuts us off from Mr. Bertram had left England with the intention of labouring at the Cape of Good Hope:

world, so naked we must go out." Death severs friends dissuaded him from the attempt. There the strongest, tenderest bands of nature; it takes are there,' said they, 'two chaplains, the coloaway the beloved wife at a stroke, or the kind nial and the military, who are sustained by the strong arm of Government; and the entire population of the island is in religious matters under their immediate supervision. They will, of course, everything is dear on the island, and you will have no means of support.' 'The Lord,' said he, 'is stronger than men, and he hath promised to do all all things for them that believe, -- I will world nnknown. We look into the grave and go; God will help me,' He did go. When he arrived, he knew not a person on the island; but departed friend: or does he still exist in a con- he was not diffident; he soon formed some acscious state? We see no sign of life; he gives | quaintances, and procured a private house to be no token by which we can learn anything res- open to him for preaching, his congregation became large; the chaplains were disturbed, and reported him to Government; he was called beters some ambiguous and uncertain answer; but fore the governor and his credentials demanded; cas's no light on the darkness of the grave. Oh, these were produced; His Excellency said they how awful, to be obliged to go down into a | were legal, and he was dismissed. His congreworld of darkness: not knowing whither we are gation now increased; numbers of the most respectable families attended. The chaplains made This obscurity is not all that terrifies; there is another effort against him on the charge of hold-

This was the state of things when Mrs. Wade sepulchre, with the air of a conqueror. I hear to the conversion of souls. Religious meetings which cost him the loss of his place and the inhim proclaiming, "I am the resurrection, and the for preaching or prayer was held almost every dignation of Pius IX. life; and whosoever liveth, and believeth in me, evening in the week; it was in fact a time of of light. I hear them singing a song of gratula-tion and triumph to their great King, who has, Dutch consul on the island, and had educated ing to their motive

punctious throb that he should have warred with that the gospel finds its way to the heart; and by the sovereign. Thus the public have accused the poor handful of earth that lies mouldering the little Baptist church which has been begun Marini of despotism and tyranny, in opposition to from debt; their pastor is wholly dependent on them for support, and their means are small; but if their chapel were free of incumbrance, they would feel happy; for if they lose this, they will

> FRENCH PROTESTANT SEMINARY FOR YOUNG LADIES IN MONTREAL .- Many promising Protestant children have been diverted from the ways of truth into those of Popish error by being educated in Convents and Nunneries; and no accomplishments, however valuable in their own place. an justify parents for sending their children to such places. We learn, with much pleasure. that a Seminary for young ladies, conducted by Mdlle. Tregent, and Madame Escuyer, from Ge-

neva, Switzerland, has been opened in Montreal. We heard very favourable accounts of these ladies, when recently in that city; and found, on our return, a letter from Mr. Doudiet, Missionary, waiting us, in which he thus speaks of

If it were but for the honour of Protestantism, such a boarding-school ought to be supported or encouraged by every friend of the Redeemer's kingdom. It is the first of the kind that has ever been tried in this country, whilst the Roman Catholics have long ago been abundantly supplied. I doubt, however, whether any one of the leaders of the French Catholic schools can outdo

PIUS IX.—THE OTHER SIDE.

[While the world is resounding the praises of the liberal Pontiff, it is well to listen to the statements of those who take different views, that we may be able to form a just judgement. It is well known that there have been from the first those who have denied the sincerity of the Pope, and declared his only purpose to be to secure the more firmly the Pontifical ascendancy. They do not speak without reason, and it is particularly noticeable that these views are confirmed by fre quent popular demonstrations against the Pontiff. Whether sincere or not, our hope is that the Pope has kindled a fire which he can neither extinguish

nor control. The following article, (from an Italian newspaper, the Indicatore, published at Malta.) which translated for our columns, is full of interest, their immediate supervision. They will, of course, oppose your efforts; none will dare listen to you, it is entitled "Liberty of the Press in Rome," though that subject is not reached in the portion which we give this week .- Ed. N. Y. Rec.]

> A MAN of wit said, " Pius IX. is not a liberal pope; because popery and liberalism are two contradictory and mutually destructive elements. like fire and water, light and darkness." "The liberties allowed by him," added the same person, " are only pretended, and show only the most refined policy, disguised to support the falling temporal powers and reduce his people to devotion the better to govern them." The pope was farther declared to have deceived himself in this, because the people would take advantage of the shadow of legality thrown by him upon improvement, to form a more extensive plan of revolution, which would end in restoring life to Italy, Austrians was not desired by the Pope but really in opposition to his wishes. \*\*

cessary to prevent a bloody revolution. And, to the honied words of the public edict, may be placed in contrast the infernal secret circular of Monsignor Corboli Bussi-published at the same officers are instructed to vex the returning exiles Thus far there is nothing in death but terrors.
Has he no other aspect? Does not animating and myself arrived on the island. Mr. B. was light from any quarter, shine upon the darkness of the tomb? Yes; I see One rising from the Holy Gnost was making it the power of God under the tomb? This was the state of things when and the indicate at Bologna, who published it—a step legate at Bologna at a bologna at a step legate at Bologna at a st

An ardent young admirer of liberty, irritated shall never die." I hear a voice from heaven, revival. Soon the baptistry was finished, and on hearing such accusations as these against the saying, "Blessed are the dead who die in the its waters consecrated by the immersion of about Pope, said that Pius had given the first impulse I see, through the narrow vista of the forty candidates on a profession of their faith in to the political movement, which, but for him, grave, a shining light. It brings to view the Christ. One of the earliest of these converts was grave, a shining light. It brings to view the Christ. One of the earliest of these converts was would still have remained under the influence of the people, the popular enthusiam subsides, and In the South Pacific Ocean, lat. 13, is a beau gates of the celestial city. By faith, I behold a Mr. Janisch, a young married gentleman, of the Jesuits; and therefore Italy owed to him the the moment of effectual reform is irretrievably ase of cattle for the market of the Isles of France and Bourbon. In 1810 these passed into years ago, and were so called from the circumstance that the inhabitants had a great number of canoes, and showed an admirable skill in their management. They are surrounded by coral reefs, and seem to have been of volcanic origin. The people are numerous, well-built, and active. The people are numerous, well-built, and active. Their villages sloping up the hill-sides, or half-buried in the shady vallies, present a beautiful baried in the shady vallies, present a beautiful braid and triumph to their great King, who has, by his own death, redeemed them from the powers of the English army; but he since his conversion, has devoted himself to the ministry of the Gospel. Mr. Carroll spoke of him in terms of an angel. Welcome Death! Welcome the highest commendation, and I was much bour of complete deliverance, from sin and sorting the source of the inhabitants had a great number of canoes, and showed an admirable skill in their description of the Gospel. Mr. Carroll spoke of him in terms of the Gospel. Mr. Carroll spoke of him in terms of the Highest commendation, and I was much bour of complete deliverance, from sin and sorting to their motives; and that an effect being opposite to that desired by an agent, he does not deserve the credit of it. Pius IX. had in mind of the Highest commendation, and I was much bour of complete deliverance, from sin and sorting the specific provided to the ministry of the Gospel. Mr. Carroll spoke of him in terms of the Highest commendation, and I was much bour of complete deliverance, from sin and sorting the specific provided the vited to spend some time in the country with a very pious lady who was an American. Here ple would never have them unless they made we staid six weeks, and as the Lord was pour- themselves. He avowed himself in favor of coming out his Spirit upon the people of the neighbourhood, we had many delightful meetings and witnessed many hopeful conversions. Three of establishment of infant schols; and by means of the new converts were members of the family in a secret circular rendered their introduction imthat house while we were there. About sixty in all were baptized, and some twenty more were of a national representation, the pontifical state expected to be baptized soon.

The greater part of the native inhabitants are exceedingly ignorant, having scarcely any knowledge of science, or of the world beyond their would have been armed unless it had armed it. own little island, and still less of religious truths self. He promised an assembly of deputies from

beyond what is contained in a book of common the provinces, to deliberate on all state affairs; prayer. Many are quite as ignorant of God and but when he was constrained to open it some religion as Burmans or Karens. But we saw there also some of the finest specimens of Christian character, as exhibited under suffering of pain or want, that I have ever seen in any country. One who had been reduced from affluence to poverty, now a widow, old, and almost suffocases in which Pius IX. has violated his promises. cated with dropsy in the chest, was calmly wait- His address of the 29th of April alone is suffiing till her change should come, and blessing cient to convince a doubter of his bad faith. It God for everything. Several young ladies had is said by some that he is deceived by his minis been repeatedly beaten by their parents or other ters; that he is a credulous man and easily imguardians, to prevent their attending the meetings. Others had been turned out of doors by clude, that if the ministers do anything contrary those on whom they were dependent, because to the promises of the people, they do it at hi they would follow Christ in baptism; but they command. In fact, when we see a minister deremained firm under their sufferings, nor did we nounced by the public, as a betrayer of the sohear them complain.

St. Helena is truly missionary ground; but, vereign and the people; and we see that the so-vereign rewards him, we must say, that while the

as in other places, it is mostly among the poor | iniquity of the ministers is evident, it is approved there, claims the prayers and sympathies of the the ordinances of the people. The facts cannot churches in the more tavoured lands. And they be denied, a d he, hated by the people, cannot need a sympathy which extends beyond the mere sound of words. Their chapel is not yet free purple of a cardinal. Another minister is accused of abuse of power, and of being concerned in monopolies injurious to the treasury and advantageous to his own family. The facts are plain, but the minister is made a cardinal. Did these be again exposed to the annoyances of government.—Baptist Missionary Magazine.

but the minister is made a cardinal. Did these
officers, then, act in o position to the wishes of
the Pone, or in accordance with them? the Pope, or in accordance with them? And so 5,000 miles, of which 2,000 constitute the British My lords Pallavicini, Spada-Medici, Rossi, Sagretti, Cannella, Santucci, Corboli, and many others, who have been accused by public opinion, as deceivers of the sovereign, and as having done evil in opposition to the Pope's promises,

why have they all been rewarded by him? But at any rate, replied the young advocate of Lake Ontario is the Pope, Pius has granted the freedom of the press. Of that, said his companion, you cannot Its average produce a single proof, in fact. What freedom Lake Erie is f the press can exist in a country, where, in ontempt of humanity, in the middle of the 19th entury, the Inquisition still exists, in all its vigor? Until that infamous remnant of sacerdotal barbarism shall have been destroyed, in vain will improvement be sought for in Rome. Let us Lake Huron is examine a case in my head, to see what this vaunted liberty of the press really amounts to. So saying the speaker took down a large sheet and produced.

[To be concluded.]

Chide a man for being angry when he is angry, what will you get by it, save some of the toam of his overflowing rage cast upon you!-As God is said to have come down in the cool of the day to remove Adam, so likewise should we come in the cool season of a man's passion,

AGRICULTURE AMONG THE CHINESE

The Chinese are a nation of the most industri ous habits, and must be considered as an agri cultural people. They have most wisely established laws for the protection and encouragement of agriculture, and to such an extent is it carried that the Emperor does not think it derogatory to his dignity, once in every year, at the agricultural festival, to descend from his throne, clad as a husbandman, to set the laudable example to his subjects of tilling the earth; his family and courtiers, similarly habited with himself, attend him on the occasion. The appointed day having been previously proclaimed throughout the empire, the Emperor goes forth and ploughs a particular field, and every farmer through his vast territories simultaneously turns up the earth .-The produce of the field ploughed by the Emperor is always most carefully preserved, being sidered far superior to any other. The ancient laws are so particular on the subject, that they even declare the peculiar manner in which the Sovereign shall perform his ceremony. So essential do the Chinese consider agriculture to the prosperity of a nation, in contradistinction to the many heavy blows and discouragements inflicted upon it in Great Britain, by modera legislation. By another ancient law, all uncultivated or neglected lands are declared forfeited to the Emperor, who grants them to farmers, on condition of their being kept in proper cultivation .-The consequence of this is, that, in China, there is not an uncultivated spot to be seen. A pfth, and in some instances, a fourth part, of all produce is reserved for the Emperor, which is paid in kind to the principal mandarin of the Prince, who farms the tax. There is one great peculiarity in Chinese agriculture, which, if adopted, might prove highly advantageous to British farmers. All seeds, previous to being sown, are steeped in liquid manure until they germinate, and to this, coupled with their system of irrigation, may be attributed the rich luxuriance and abundance of their various crops. Their ingenuity and perseverance may daily be witnessed in the terraces, built one above the other, up to the summit of a rocky mountain, where paddy is cultivated. They form reservoirs and dams on each platform, and the water having passed along one terrace, is received into the reservoir of the next below, and thus descends, step by step, in its irrigatory course. After the rainy season, when the water has been exhausted which was saved in these reservoirs, the water is carried, both by

REFORM NEEDS AGITATION

Power vegetates with more vigour after gencorrupt interest of the government is so strong, and the cry of the people so feeble, that it were vain to expect it. If the effervescence of the popular mind is suffered to pass away without effect, it would be absurd to expect from langour what enthusiasm has not obtained. If radical reform is not, at such a moment, procured, all partial changes are evaded and defeated in the tranquillity that succeeds. The gradual reform that arises from the presiding principle cxhibited in the specious theory of Mr. Burke, is belied by the experience of all ages. Whatever excellence, whatever freedom is discoverable in governments, has been infused into them by the shock of a revolution, and their subsequent progress has been only the accumulation of abuse. It is hence that the most enlightened politicians have recognized the necessity of frequently recalling governments to their first principles. Whatever is good ought to be pursued at the moment it is attainable. The public voice, irresistable in a period of convulsion, is contemned with impunity, when directed by that lethargy into which nations are lulled by the tranquil course of their ordinary affairs. The ardour of reform languishes in unsupported tedipusness. It perishes in an impotent struggle with adversaries, who receive new strength from the progress of the day. No hope of great political improvement (let us repeat it) is to be entertained from tranquillity, for its natural operation is to strengthen all those who are interested in perpetuating abuse. The only apparent exception to this principle is, the case where sovereigns make important concessions to appease discontent, and to avert convulsion .--This, however, rightly understood, is no exception, for it arises evidently from the same causes. acting at a period less advanced in the progress of popular interposition .- Sir James Mackintosh

THE LAKES-EXTRACT FROM COL. AL-BERT'S REPORT.

We make the following extract from the recent report of Col. Albert, the able head of the Topographical Department. It gives, undoubtedly, most correct statement of the size of the great Lakes extant. The entire report is valuable in a commercial point of view—as giving the statistics of the vast region watered by the lakes. and as exhibiting something of its resources and capabilities for a still more extensive and valuable commerce. The entire line of lake coast is coast. The following is the result of the survey of the U. S. Topographical Engineers: Lake Champlain is 105 miles long.

Its greatest width 12 miles. Its average width 8 miles. 180 miles long. Its greatest width 52 miles. . Its average width 40 miles. 240 miles long. Its greatest width 57 miles. Its average width 38 miles. Lake St. Clair is 18 miles long Its greatest width 25 miles. Its average width 12 miles. 270 miles long. Its greatest width, (not including the extensive bay of Georgian, itself 120 miles long, and average 45 miles in width,) is 105 miles Its average width 70 miles. Lake Michigan is 340 miles long. Its greatest width 83 miles. 58 miles. 420 miles long. Lake Superior is Its greatest width 135 miles. 100 miles. Its average width-

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