

dition of the Almighty as the Author of every blessing and the Ruler of nations.

What hath God wrought! may we not well say, as the intelligence reaches us that the Fiji Islands have been formally received into the role of civilized peoples, and have become annexed to the British Empire. Thirty-five years ago the missionaries in the Friendly Isles sent two of their number to the Fiji group, where they found the vilest forms of cruelty existing. There are now 50,000 children in the schools, 26,000 persons who meet in class, and 120,000 sitting under the glorious Gospel of the blessed God. There is a native ministry of 52, sustained by 900 catechists; and thus these islands are taken for Jesus, as His right and His inheritance. Thank God that the good old Gospel has done it all.

THE REV. NARYAN SHESHADRI writes from India as follows:— You will be gratified to hear that I have resumed my labours at this station, I trust with renewed vigour, zeal, and perseverance. Perhaps at no former period of my missionary life have I enjoyed such opportunities of preaching the gospel of God's grace to my countrymen of all classes as I do at present. Ever since my return from Europe, I have been getting far more orderly and numerous attended congregations than I used to get before. How this is to be accounted for I know not. But I simply state the fact. Every Tuesday evening hundreds come together to hear the gospel and return to their respective places. A great revival is in progress in Calcutta. The various evangelical missionaries including the Methodist Episcopal and Wesleyan, are earnestly and harmoniously engaged in it. There have been some remarkable cases of conversion among the heathen of late, which shows that the Holy Spirit is not passing by without a blessing.

CHRISTIAN MISSIONS IN JAPAN have recently been brought prominently into notice through a young Japanese named Neesima, who, after having seen a great deal of European life, and having received a thorough theological training in America, has become a Christian Missionary among his own countrymen. His career has been a very remarkable one. His father had given him a good education in the Japanese and Chinese languages, and the lad having one day come upon a Japanese translation of a work on American Geography determined to see this great Western land for himself. It was as much as his life was worth, but after a variety of adventures he effected his escape on board a schooner bound for Massachusetts. He went to an academy, thence to college, and finally to the Theological Seminary at Andover. In 1872 the Japanese Commissioner heard of him, and went to Andover to see him. The result of this visit was that Neesima was pardoned by the Japanese government for running away from home, was made secretary of an Educational Commission, and sent to Europe to study the systems of Education in England, France, Belgium, Prussia and other countries. He remained fifteen months in Europe, and then returned to Andover to complete his theological curriculum. "Sprung strangely and sud-

denly out of the obscurity and exclusiveness of his race, he reappears suddenly as a missionary, not devoted to the interests of his sect alone, but, to the best interests, material and moral, of the Japanese. Surely the teachers and divines at New-Haven were not amiss in their judgment, when on the occasion of Neesima's farewell to America, they announced their belief that his history would have a most important bearing on Japan. He is strong in faith and resolute in action, and will accomplish more than a score of foreign missionaries could do among his people, for he thinks that the Japanese will readily take hold of the Protestant religion, and that they will become, under its influence, every year more liberal and modernized. They have rejected the worship of nature as insufficient; they threw away Catholicism after 600,000 Japanese had become converts to it, because it held them too tightly in its iron bands. But Neesima believes that their ultimate choice will be Protestant Christianity, liberty, and growth."

We are all more or less familiar with the wonderful results of missionary labours in MADAGASCAR. We remember the conversion and baptism of the Queen and her prime minister, the public burning of the idols, the profession of Christianity by vast numbers of the natives and the substitution of christian churches for heathen temples; how fresh missionaries were sent out, and how the work of reformation increased. After an absence of fifteen months, Dr. Mullens and Mr. Pillans, a deputation sent from the London Missionary Society, have returned to England and reported the result of their observations. They confess that they did not find all their expectations realized, yet they had seen much that was interesting and remarkable. The Queen and her husband had received them graciously. They found large districts of country open to Christian instruction, and many of the people crying out for the Bible and for education. They found Churches where no missionaries had ever been; one place had twelve Churches, while there were only seven people in it who could read: yet the people meet there, and talk, and pray and try to edify one another. There are chapels holding fifteen hundred that are full every Sunday in these remote parts. The great want is a sufficient number of qualified teachers. The population is said to be about three millions, and the nominal adherents of Christianity are put down at three hundred thousand—one tenth of the population. Of these there are some sixty thousand Church members; concerning twenty-five thousand of whom the missionaries entertain a favourable opinion. Dr. Mullens is of the opinion that there is no single person in Madagascar who has a more deep and solid interest in all that is right and holy and good for the Malagasy people than the Queen herself, who wished the Deputation to assure the London Missionary Society of her deep gratitude to them for all they had done in Madagascar. The English missionaries were at one with their brethren at home in desiring that the Christian Church in Madagascar "should stand by itself, untrammelled by state control, relying on its own resources, and seeking its guidance, instruc-