

in all the cities and principal towns of these countries—a most important work, and thanks be to God, now permitted by the Austrian Government. 3. Though colporteurs may not actively engage in the work of Bible distribution, yet the Bible should be put into the hands of the pastors, who are permitted to sell to their flocks, and the members of their flocks are tolerated in selling to others.

This last is significant. The Government is now altogether favourable, and winks at what it has not expressly permitted. There is a good work of Bible distribution now beginning, and even some colporteurs are at work, as in some parts of Hungary. I have no doubt that their agents may soon be employed. The objections to the sale of the Scriptures in Austria at present are not, religious, but have respect to trade, and these are being removed.

Madagascar.

CHANGE IN THE GOVERNMENT, AND STATE OF THE CAPITAL.

We adverted in our last number to the change in the Government of Madagascar, in the removal of the late prime minister and the appointment of his brother, the commander-in-chief, as his successor. This was represented in certain French journals as tantamount to another revolution, and as greatly endangering the peace of the country. Later accounts however sufficiently refute this representation. The change is clearly in favour of civilisation, good government and freedom; and we cannot but sincerely desire that Government as it now is, may gather strength and permanency. The character of the present prime minister, in contrast with his predecessor, is thus given by Mr. Ellis:—

“The new prime minister is perhaps about thirty years of age, late commander-in-chief, and younger brother to the minister, his predecessor. He is a man of temperate habits, never having been carried away by the excesses of the court, though obliged to be in daily attendance upon the late king. He is a man of elastic morals, has a large family, and has never had but one wife; she is a heathen, but a very passive one. He does not profess to be a Christian, but his tendencies are favourable. He is, compared with his brother, a humane man, and anxious to save, rather than to take life. On the occasion of his elevation to the highest office in the state, his expressions were such as to inspire us with confidence at present and hope for the future.—In a note written the day after his elevation, he said that he considered his position as a reward from God as well as from his sovereign; that he asked God to assist him, and

would make it the object of his life, to the utmost of his power, to promote the enlightenment and welfare of his country and all classes of its inhabitants.

“A gentleman who was one of the British embassy to the capital of Madagascar on the coronation of the late king, and who is well able to judge of the circumstances of the country, writing from Mauritius on the 25th of August says:—‘If there is a man fit to conduct the affairs of that country, it is the new prime minister.’”—*Missionary Magazine*.

Garibaldi on Priestcraft.

A remarkable letter of General Garibaldi to the working women of Genoa, who asked him to be President of their Mutual Help and Instruction Society, is telling for good over Italy. He is so delighted to see these females emancipating themselves from priestly control, that he opens fire upon the priests as the deadliest foes of the country:—Some hypocrites will say [he continues]. “But are there not some good priests?” My reply is, these are worse than the others, for they cause the whole system to be tolerated. A priest, to be good, must divest himself of the unfriendly robe he wears.—That robe has sheltered brigandage in more than the half of Italy. That robe is the covering cloak of the agents of our every foe. That robe has been the guide and vanguard of every foreigner who ever invaded our soil. The worthless men who are opposing Italian progress will distinguish for you between the temporal power which you are to put down, and the spiritual which you respect! The spiritual power! Of whom? Of Antonelli, of Chiavone, of Croco? The spiritual power should be that which leads us into the presence of the Eternal; and will you present yourselves before God with such ruffian patrons as these? And he closes by not only accepting the Presidency of the Association, but offering to come and sweep out the place of their meeting for such noble purposes, if they will only confer the honor upon him. This letter decided Padre Pantaleo, Garibaldi's chaplain, to renounce the priestly robe for ever.—*Evangelical Christendom*.

Jerusalem.

A dignitary of the Romish Church, Valerga, patriarch of Jerusalem, has afforded a notable testimony to Protestant zeal and its effects in this city. In an account published by the “Union” he expresses himself in the following terms upon the religious condition of Palestine:—

“The Protestant propaganda is displaying the greatest activity in Palestine in establishing orphan asylums, boarding houses,