

Arabic, left Bagdad on February 4, purposing, after his return to Ispahan and the journey to England, to revisit it in November next.

ABYSSINIA.

Mr. J. M. Flad, whose labours in this land are well known, has recently accomplished an arduous journey. Knowing that in the present state of the country it would involve him in trouble were he to enter it himself, he was advised by the London Jews' Society, of which he is an agent, not to venture further than Mattama, on the Egyptian border. There he proposed to stay for several months, giving opportunity to the native converts and teacher to meet him, and draw from him encouragement in their work. When at Mattama in the same way several years ago, Mr. Flad sold upwards of 200 Scriptures in Ethiopic and Amharic.

A large consignment was sent by your Committee to meet him at Suakin, on the Red Sea, whence a caravan route goes across the desert in a southerly direction to Mattama. In a letter received from him on the eve of his starting for Suakin (December 4, 1880), he described his caravan of twenty-four camels, sixteen of which were laden with the Scriptures. He expected to reach Mattama in about a month, and to obtain donkeys thence to the mission station at Gondar. The expenses of conveying the Scriptures to the interior are met by a grant from this Society. While at Suakin, Mr. Flad had an interesting interview with a young Abyssinian refugee. The latter came to him and said :—

"I heard you were on a journey to Abyssinia *with books*. I am here in the land of the Moslem without the Word of God : give me, for Jesus Christ's sake, a Psalter of David"—meanwhile offering me a dollar—"that I may be able to read the Word of God in the land of the Heathen, and have my faith kindled thereby. I am yearning for it. I want a cloth very badly, but I may get that at any time when I can afford to buy it ; but I may not have an opportunity to buy the Word of God." I offered him the Psalter that I had for my own use, which looks worn, telling him that all the new books were in the boxes, and that I could not open them. 'Never mind,' he said, 'it is merely the cover that is worn. The word inside it will ever be the same, and never wax old.' He accepted the book with both hands, kissing it repeatedly, and beaming with joy. When I witnessed how precious the Word of God was to this youth, I felt tempted to return to him his dollar, because he was a poor labourer. Yet I did not give it back, as I am convinced that his Psalter will be all the more precious to him on account of the dollar it cost him ; but I gave him a New Testament in Amharic. I shall never forget the outburst of joy of this young fellow. Raising his eyes full of tears upwards, he exclaimed, 'Now I am the happiest and richest man that can be found. God surely has sent you on my account hither. May He bless and keep you on your journey, and may He give you'—raising the Testament in his hands—'a goodly place in heavenly mansions.'"

MADAGASCAR.

The revision of the Malagasy Scriptures has proceeded during the year without check. A version of the Psalms is being produced which it is believed will be of the greatest service to the native churches in taking the place of a version in which much of obscurity and not a few mistakes were found.

In acknowledging a large grant made to the Norwegian missionaries some years ago, the Rev. L. Dahl writes :

"Our mission is comparatively new, and we are working chiefly in distant country districts, where the great majority of the people are still heathen, and where the sale of books is a new thing. As our work, however, has of late made good progress, we venture to hope that we shall be able to sell many more copies of the precious volume in the future than we have done in the past."