

Foreign Missions.

THE ISLES OF THE SEA.

Among the promises made to the Redeemer is this: "The Isles shall wait for his law." We propose to give the readers of the *Independent*, this month, some items of information on the Islands of the Sea, showing how wondrously and gloriously this promise is being fulfilled. We begin with

MADAGASCAR.—The London Missionary Society has been considering the question of expenditure, which now amounts to ten thousand pounds per annum, and desires to enlist a native ministry more and more. Very properly, the Directors sent their propositions to the Missionaries on the ground, who are always the best judges of what is needed. From the statements of the Missionaries we glean the following particulars.

Native Agency.—"The Committee most fully approves of the general principle laid down by the Directors as to the desirability of raising up and employing native agency. Such an agency already exists and is employed vigorously; but the majority of our agents are men who have had little or no education; many, especially in the country, cannot read without difficulty; some cannot even write their own names, and not even the best of them are fit to be left alone in the superintendence of churches and districts. * * * * We trust that from year to year the Missionaries will have less pastoral work, and will have more time for general superintendence and itinerating, and will find a little leisure for translation and book-making."

District Work.—The Missionaries propose six Districts in connection with the principal towns near the Capital, one Missionary to superintend the work in each. We give interesting statistics of these districts, omitting the almost unpronounceable names.

	Churches.	Members.	Adherants.
(I.)	78	4,681	25,000
(II.)	41	2,185	13,870
(III.)	81	4,409	37,916
(IV.)	98	1,065	20,157
(V.)	53	827	16,646
(VI.)	55	2,786	18,484
Total.	406	15,353	132,073

Intelligence among the People.—"The type of Christianity which obtains among these people is very varied. Near the Capital considerable numbers of the preachers and pastors are intelligently acquainted with the Sacred Scriptures. The great mass of the villagers even close to the Capital are yet exceedingly ignorant. Further away many of them are secretly heathen in faith and practice. And, though to others the old superstition has become a wreck, yet it would be but a grand mistake to account them other than very nominally and very superficially Christian."

Remarks.—A few years will settle the religion of that great island for centuries. It is just in the position of England 350 years ago—a transition state. Let the *twenty-four* Missionaries and the few hundred native preachers, who are carrying on this work, have our prayers and our help. If we cannot go and help them from Canada, we can help to support them. Every Christian should make "Foreign Missions" a plank in his religious platform.

NEW GUINEA.—This is an island of vast extent, lying North of Australia, in the very hottest of the tropical regions, and with the reputation of being very unhealthy. Above all this, the inhabitants are most degraded and ferocious. They