

the dinner, at which the King himself does not attend. The dinner was given on this occasion at the house of the Commander-in-Chief, who is brother of the Prime Minister. They are the richest and most influential family, although not of noble blood, in Madagascar. The Commander-in-Chief is a very gentlemanly, intelligent, and good man, and one in whom the King places great reliance. The dinner was very handsomely arranged, the peculiarity of it being the great number of viands, each of which was removed in turn from the table and carved and handed round. There were also handed round at least a dozen different descriptions of a sort of mild curry with rice. There were about thirty-four persons, principally ladies and gentlemen of the Court, who sat down to the table, which was an unusually broad one. After dinner the room was cleared and dancing commenced, and about ten o'clock polking and waltzing, quadrilles, lancers, &c., came to an end, and the party broke up. The room was a fine large one, ornamented with small looking-glasses about 6 in. by 10 in. in gilt frames, placed side by side all round, or forming ornamental patterns on the ceiling, &c., and round the arches of a gallery which ran round the upper part. The effect was good, and considerable taste had been displayed in the arrangement. From the centre of the room was suspended a handsome glass chandelier.

On Monday, the 18th, the presents having all arrived, the presentation of them took place at one o'clock, by Capt. Anson, who had unpacked and tastefully arranged them in the Silver Palace, ready for his Majesty's inspection early in the morning. The King, being fond of music, was much pleased with the band instruments. The healths of the King and Queen Victoria were drunk out of the goblets which formed part of the presents. Queen Rabodo also seemed gratified (when the mantle was presented to her) that she had been remembered. At two o'clock the British Consul—who had arrived the day previous—was introduced to his Majesty, in company with Dr. Mayence, a French creole, of Mauritius. The Consul delivered his credentials and made a speech to the King, by which it appeared that he was anxious to prove that he had not quarrelled with the French Consul, and that he was not going to fight him. During the stay of the mission at the capital, besides the members of the French mission, there were present several Europeans, for the purpose of endeavoring to obtain concessions of land from the King. One of these, formerly a French planter at Mauritius, named Lambert, had been to Europe to endeavor to organize a Madagascar company, but failed. As he appeared to entertain monopolist ideas and to have no notions of free trade, probably it is as well he did not succeed. This individual had assumed to himself the title of the Duke of Imerina, and had

skillfully managed to obtain the signature of the King to a letter which he employed so as to lead to the supposition that he was accredited by King Radama II. as Ambassador to the Courts of Europe. It is to be hoped that no purses have been lightened in Europe in connection with this man's absurd schemes.

In contrast to such men there is, however, at present at Antananarivo a remarkable man well known in connection with the history of Madagascar, the Rev. Mr. Ellis, who is now the head of the London Missionary Society, and also a private friend and confidant of King Radama, who, there is no doubt, derives great advantages from having so excellent and able a friend so close at hand. It is from this gentleman that the King receives daily lessons in the English language, and his Majesty kindly permitted some of the members of the mission to be present on some of these occasions, when he read very fairly out of the New Testament, commenting extensively and with great acuteness as he went on. Mr. Ellis had also a service every Sunday afternoon for the King and his Court at three o'clock, at which the mission and other English residents in the capital usually attended. The number of professing Christians is daily on the increase; and at one of the churches alone on one occasion at which the mission were present there was a congregation of 800 people.

The Americans, it is understood, are about to send a party of missionaries to Madagascar. Shortly before the coronation an interesting event took place—namely the reception of the chiefs of the Sacalanes, a warlike tribe who had not hitherto been entirely subject to the rule of King Radama. These chiefs were well received by the King, and appeared much pleased with their reception. They paid their "Hasena," and otherwise acknowledged their subjection to the King in the customary manner. Their followers then danced some of their native warlike dances before the King with their muskets (which were beautifully kept and in strong contrast to those of the King's army) in their hands.

The King honored the mission by dining with them on two occasions. He is a man of low stature, very active, and has great powers of endurance. Quick and excitable, but very intelligent; full of humour; kind-hearted, goodnatured to a fault. His boast is that he has never allowed any one to be put to death during his reign. During his mother's reign the greater part of his time was occupied in trying to prevent her cruelties, in which he was aided by a number of sworn followers, called "Menaniaso," or Red Eyes, from their never being supposed to sleep. These men now form his confidential friends, and act as a sort of Court detective force. There are some excellent and good men amongst them.