

## Miscellaneous.

### Nursing Fathers and Nursing Mothers.

Several incidents come before us this month, showing the connection of the highest personages with Christianity. The first is from Madagascar. We have now the text of the letter written by the Prime Minister for the Queen of Madagascar to the Directors of the London Missionary Society, thanking them for the deputation which they sent out, and for all their kind services to the island: "Her Majesty is happy to tell you," says the Minister, "that, by the power of the Most High, and the mercy of Jesus Christ our Saviour, according to the saying, 'The king's heart is in the hands of the Lord,' God has shown mercy to our sovereign, has enlightened her to know Jesus Christ, and has endowed her with strength, so that from the time when she began to receive the gospel, she has led and encouraged her subjects to serve God and pray to Him through Jesus Christ, and to be diligent in using all opportunities of acquiring useful knowledge.... The kingdom of Christ has made great progress in Madagascar.... Still the Queen prays to God that His kingdom may advance until the royal words shall be fulfilled which say, 'They shall all know Me, from the least of them even unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord.'"

In Creek Town, Old Calabar, Africa, a Christian has been chosen king. His emprise does not appear to be very extensive, but King Henshaw, or, to use his official title, King Eyo Honesty VII., seems to be one of those who are taught to be faithful in small things. The missionary of the United Presbyterian Church who writes of him says, that on one occasion, before his election, he showed his principle by refusing to swear a pagan oath, even though a fine equal to nearly £200, was the inevitable consequence. In assuming the office of king, he lays down two conditions: the first, that the king rule, and the people be ruled according to the will of God as laid down in the Bible, and that there be no religious intolerance; the second, that the king be not the king of a party, and that all the towns accept his rule. When crowned, the King, after prayer, addressed first his subjects, then the consul, and then the missionaries, inviting all to aid him in doing good, and urging the missionaries not to rest day or night in their efforts to win men from sin to God.

In another little kingdom in the same country, Duke Town, the Prime Minister is a Christian, Prince Eyamba, and is not unlikely to be the future king. He has already

done good service by stopping Sabbath marketing. In thanking the missionary for a present of a Bible, Eyamba says, "I think I can say for the King and myself, and for some other of the gentlemen, that we stop Sabbath marketing from a wish to do what pleases God; and I hope we shall go on to do still better things for the future in Duke Town than we have done yet, which will cause the good people in Scotland to rejoice that it was not in vain they sent the mission among us; and so that before you die, you can see all the work you have done for us, and the little seeds you have sown among us for the last twenty-four years, becoming a green bay-tree, under whose shadow our children's children shall repose, and call you blessed."

Another, and perhaps the most interesting case of all, of royal countenance to the cause of Christ, comes from the Tonga Islands, where, at the public examination of a college, the King contrasted the condition of Tonga, still having a government of its own, with that of its neighbours:—

"Let me ask you to look around you—at Fiji; it is lost to its people. At Samoa, it is being lost. But Tonga here, between the two places, has not yet been touched by a foreign power. Why and how is this? Is Tonga wise? No, it is foolish. Is Tonga strong? No, it is weak. Is Tonga rich? No, it is poor. Is Tonga numerously populated? No, we are few in number. We are a people and a kingdom to-day because 'God is with us.' Look at what we are, at the good we have—it is the Lord's doing. It is true we are a people and a kingdom to-day, but unless we attend and seek to become wise, we shall waste away. You have heard to-day, in the explanations by the collegians, about the human body, that you must be careful what you eat and drink, and you must build better houses to live in, if you would continue to exist as a people. Look at the great nations of the earth; at Britain, France, Germany, America. They live because they are wise; and if we would continue a people and a nation, we must seek to become wise—wise about food, raiment, and dwellings. In my youthful days there was no college, and I cannot do the things you students can, but this I can do—I can encourage you. Look at that man, he is going with his dog to hunt pigs. He cannot catch a pig himself, but he says to his dog, 'Run—jump,' and the dog, thus encouraged, runs and catches the pig. Now, I cannot do the things you students can, but I can encourage you by saying, 'Run—jump—be in earnest—work.' Mr. Moulton has told us that he is going on a visit to Australia, because of continued ill-health. Well, this is right. We can never get him back from the grave, but we may get him back from Sydney. Let him