

life. As if they had no souls, as if they were to live on earth forever, they are seeking only after what they shall eat and drink, and wherewithal they shall be clothed.

Our Lord said to him, If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. And he said, Which? And the Saviour replied, Thou knowest them. Thou shalt not kill; thou shalt not steal; thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor; honor thy father and thy mother; thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

And the young man said, "All these things have I observed from my youth, and what lack I yet?" So he thought he was sure of the great prize of eternal bliss. But he did not know the spiritual meaning of God's holy law; how that it condemns the evil thought as well as the evil word and the evil action. No one who knows his own heart, will say of the commandments, "All these have I kept from my youth up."

Indeed, our Lord knew that with all he said about keeping the commandments, he loved his riches more than he loved God. To make this plain to himself, he said, "One thing thou lackest; if thou wilt be perfect, go thy way, sell what thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven; and come, take up thy cross, and follow me."

When the youth heard this, he knew indeed that he lacked "one thing," and he knew also that it was a heart to love God more than the pleasures and riches of the world. He was unwilling to part with earth for heaven, though heaven is worth ten thousand times more than the whole world.

He went away very sorrowful, for he was very rich, and had great possessions.

And the Lord Jesus looked round about on his disciples, and said, "How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!"

And have I began indeed to inquire

after eternal life? This is true wisdom. The present life will soon fail me. I must shortly enter into eternity. Have I good ground for expecting that I shall be happy forever? To know this is the one thing needful.

If I am convinced of my sins, and am seeking for mercy, and earnestly asking what I must do to inherit eternal life, the apostle Paul will answer the all-important question; for he says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved!"—(*Londm Teacher's Offering.*)

MADAGASCAR.

The report of the Queen's death, which was inserted in the daily papers, has been contradicted by a Mauritius newspaper.

In the latest communications, the date of which is uncertain, the suffering Christians of Madagascar write—

"The following is our present state:—On the 15th day of the first month persecution broke out, and twenty-one were caught: the Tangena Ordeal was given to nine—eight lived and one died; five were condemned to pay half the value of their persons; five were imprisoned; and two concealed themselves. But the persecution has not prevented the spreading of God's word, but rather has caused it to spread much more—nay, far and wide. The bonds of the prisoners, the preservation of those tried by the Tangena, the hiding-places of the concealed, and the blood of the martyrs, have facilitated the growth of God's word in the hearts of men. When any are condemned to be sold as slaves, none will buy them, because the Lord has softened their hearts; and when any of those who conceal themselves make their appearance, none has strength to accuse and imprison them, for the Lord restraineth the wrath of man.

"How wonderful is the power of God, as seen by us at present in the spirit of anxious inquiry produced in the