

ons. To missionaries, whether Protestant or Catholic, he has been especially attentive,—has himself embraced Christianity, and is most anxious that his subjects should embrace it also. We know of no more inviting field for missionary enterprise, and it is gratifying to find that the opening is being taken advantage of, by more than one of the great Missionary Societies of Great Britain.

We find in the *Illustrated London News*, a most interesting account of a mission to the sovereign of Madagascar, which sailed lately from the Mauritius. Its great length prevents us from giving more than a very meagre outline:—

In July last his Excellency the Governor of Mauritius, under instructions from the home Government, dispatched a mission to Anatananarivo, the capital of Madagascar, for the purpose of conveying an autograph letter and presents from Her Majesty Queen Victoria to his Majesty Radama II., King of Madagascar. The letter contained expressions of friendship and goodwill from her Majesty towards the King and his people upon the occasion of his coronation; and the presents which were sent in token thereof consisted of a large-sized, handsomely-bound Bible; a full-length portrait of her Majesty, in a richly-gilt frame; a complete suit of Field Marshal's uniform; a highly-ornamented rifle, by Wilkinson; a crimson silk umbrella, with carved ivory handle; a complete set of the newest instruments for a band of twenty-five performers; a very handsome silver-gilt tankard and six goblets to match, with sporting figures embossed upon them; and a crimson velvet mantle, richly embroidered in gold, for her Majesty Radojo, Queen of Madagascar.

The letter of her Majesty was entrusted to Major-General Johnstone for personal presentation. On his Lordship the Bishop was imposed the pleasing duty of delivering the Word of God, and upon Inspector-General Anson devolved the remaining duty of presenting the more solid tokens of friendship and good will to his Majesty and his Queen. The members of the mission were further directed to place themselves at the disposal of his Majesty to assist in doing honour, as representatives of the British nation, (should his Majesty desire it) at his approaching coronation.

The capital is situated about 5000 ft. above the level of the sea; but a member of the mission was so impressed with the continual descents, that at last he expressed his conviction that he had arrived at a point below the level of the sea. The villages between Andovoranto and Abordingavo (two days from the capital) are all similar, and equally if not more wretched than those already described,

with the exception that, after leaving the district of the traveller's palm, the walls are built of cocoa leaves flattened out, or of large rushes (papyrus) skewered together, which is but a very poor shelter, and the roofs are covered with coarse grass. The wacoa walls were converted into patent knife-cleaners by the mess-servants running the knives through and back three or four times. At Abordingavo, the entrance to the Ilova country, the houses assume the characteristics of those at the capital—namely, high pitched roofs thatched with papyrus, and the two wooden gables carried up about 6 ft. beyond the angle of the ridge, where they cross, and terminating in points, on each of which is fixed a small wooden bird with its wings extended, the effect of which is very pleasing. The walls of some of the houses are of upright plank about 2 in. thick and 6 in. or 8 in. wide, grooved on each edge to allow of a thin strip of wood to enter, and so connect them, leaving an opening between the planks of about an inch. These planks are further connected by two or three strips of wood about 1½ in. wide and ½ in. thick, which pass through them at intervals in their heights of about 3 ft. or 4 ft. These pieces are kept to the planks by means of small wedges of wood. The floors of these houses are of earth covered with the universal mats; of others the walls are built of stiff clay, about 18 in. thick, very neatly finished, and have a very trim effect. These have generally one window and one door below, and a small window in the gable above. Glass is an unknown luxury, except in the palace and some of the best houses in Antananarivo. After leaving Reforono, five days from the capital, the great forest of Analamasoatra is entered, and here the mission were overtaken by heavy rains, which rendered the clay-soil on the steep and rugged sides of the mountains so slippery that it became almost impossible for either the marmites or the travellers to keep their feet, and palanquins had to be deserted towards the end of the day by even the oldest and least active of the party. The hollows at the same time became either pools of water or mud, more or less deep. This part of the journey was very fatiguing. Fortunately, none of the party suffered much in consequence, although this is considered one of the fever districts. The scenery on the river from Andovoranto to Maromby is exceedingly pretty, and the same may be said of that of the rest of the route; some the views, as from Mounts Ifody and Augarvo, are very fine. There are also some very pretty bits at the crossings of some of the rivers. The town of Ambatomanga from a distance, with its monumental rock, forms a very picturesque object.

On Saturday, 16th, the mission were entertained at dinner at three o'clock by the King; but it is customary on such occasions for the King to order one of his high officers to give