

the folly of idolatry. The passage struck her much, for only a few days before a little incident had occurred which shewed its truth. She had gone with her husband to an idol-maker, fifteen miles off, to buy a god, but the man had not the one she wanted, so he cut down a tree and made her one by the next day. When Rafaravavy called for it, the man asked her and her husband to take some boiled rice with him, and, to get it ready, he made a fire of the branches and chips he had cut from the wood of the idol, so when Rafaravavy heard this chapter she was greatly struck with the truth. You may read the passage from the 13th to the 18th verses.

Her anxiety after this was so great that she went to the Missionaries to hear more of the Gospel, and soon became a zealous and devoted believer in Christ. She took a large house in the capital, on purpose that she might have a good place for meetings, and here the Christians often met and spent whole nights in reading the Bible, and praise and prayer. For some time this was not known, but, at last, three of her servants went and told it to the judges, and set persons to listen at the windows. One day her aged father came to her, and tried to persuade her to give up praying, but she refused. He then tried to get her to give up her companions' names. Rafaravavy felt much to grieve her old father, but she knew it was her duty to fear God rather than man, and she prayed much that she might stand firm. When the Queen heard that she would not give up praying, she ordered her to be put to death; but her father and husband begged hard for her, and her life was spared on condition that she paid a large sum of money.

All this did not move Rafaravavy, but she sold her large house, and took a less one in the country, where the Christians still assembled. Sometimes, however, they were watched so closely that they dare not meet, and then they would retire to the mountains, or even sometimes walk twenty miles, to find a place in which to meet in peace. During this time one of the Christians died,