

Javanese hate the very name of a white man, which drives the missionaries to indirect rather than direct ways of working upon them.

—"How foolish it is to imagine the heathen as living in a happy state of nature, as many a one is still inclined to do, is proved, once for all, by this Batta people of Sumatra. Here we have a skilful, keen-witted people, having their own written character, and also a hereditary unwritten law, very expert at working in both wood and iron, ready and happy in speech, intelligent in thought, and yet leading a crippled, pitiable life. No one is sure of his goods or his life; warfare, quarrelling, plundering are their delight and daily employment; sad is the position of woman; to a wretched lot are the thousands of slaves, with their families, given over, without legal right or defence as they are, and moreover, as here in Samosir, for instance, standing upon a fearfully low plane of humanity. Without ideals, without hopes of the life to come, never lifting themselves above the life of to-day, each one seeks his own at the cost of the other. The moral state is, especially here in Toba, fearfully corrupt, marriage not far removed from the free love of the social democratic state of the future. Truthfulness and honesty are unknown virtues."—JOHN WARNECK, *Rhenish missionary, in Allgemeine Missions-Zeitschrift*.

MADAGASCAR.

—"Well-attended and enthusiastic meetings of our Congregational Union have just been held. The chairman (the Rev. R. Baron) followed up his former address, on the Person and Work of Christ, by another on the Works of Christ, dwelling on the many moral and social changes that are to be ascribed to the present action of Jesus Christ in the consciences and lives of men. Particularly interesting was the manner in which his reference to slavery was received. In the year 1876 Mr. J. S. Sewell raised an angry storm by de-

livering a very kind and reasonable address on this topic. Mr. Baron's address this morning seemed, so far as I could judge, to raise no spirit of resentment. The way he put it was very effective. 'All Christian nations,' he said, 'have now abolished slavery except'—and, after a pause—he added, in a kind of stage whisper, and with both hands to his mouth—'except you in *Madagascar*.' He then went on to say he had no wish to make an attack upon them, as he well knew the many practical difficulties of this question. 'But be assured,' he said, 'that even if you do not see that slavery must be abolished, those who come after you will. It must disappear before the progress of Christ's kingdom.' The main business before the Union this time was to consider how to carry out the decision arrived at at the last meeting, to send out ten additional missionaries. Much interest was shown, and many additional contributions were promised."—*The Chronicle*.

—"Just prior to the late Franco-Malagasy War all evidence showed that, as Admiral Gore-Jones wrote, the Hova were 'in that condition that they were ready to burst into perfect civilization.' A frost, almost a chilling frost of foreign aggression has come, and, as British philanthropists foreshadowed in 1882, all progress has been nipped in the bud. And for the destruction of the hopes of commercial enterprise, for the stagnation of this vast and resourceful island continent, of this intelligent, kindly, and hospitable people, possessed of a natural predilection to progression, France and Great Britain are to blame, and not the formerly rapidly progressive Malagasy Government."—*Madagascar News*.

WHAT THINK YE OF CHRIST?

—Pharisees! with what have you to reproach Jesus?

"He eateth with publicans and sinners."

Is this all?

"Yes."