

the Word of God has free course in our midst. Bring therefore, with you all sorts of Malagasy books—the Bible, the New Testament, Tracts, and Alphabets, yea, everything printed in the Malagasy language; for everybody here scrambles, as it were, for the Word of God; so ardent is the desire expressed for it that they throw themselves upon any portion they find!

French Roman Catholic priests have already reached Antananarivo, and use every means to instruct the people in their religion. Pray ardently to the Lord that He prevent any of us who are Protestants at heart from being tempted to listen to their teachings. Everybody, young and old, are eagerly learning to read. All the Christians who were in bonds have received their liberty, and are living at the capital. Such is a brief statement of the present position. Salutations. Adieu. May God bless you all, you as well as us, say—(Signed) Ratsikianga, Randriantson, Bainiketaka, Andriambelo, and the brethren and sisters in Christ.

In the *Mauritius Overland Commercial Gazette* of the 6th December the following statement appears from a correspondent in Madagascar, dated Tamatave, Sunday, October 13th:—

Arrived, French steamer Mascareignes, from Bourbon, with a few passengers, including two priests and four Sisters of Charity. A large crowd of natives collected to witness their landing; they were dressed in the robes of their order, and some large crosses suspended from their necks. The packages accompanying them were labelled "Mission, Tamatave." I understand the intention of the sisters is to establish a school in Tamatave, for the instruction of Malagasy girls. This reinforcement, with the priests already here, who arrived from St. Marie, will make a total of three priests and four sisters. A letter from the Rev. William Ellis, written on board the mail packet, for Mauritius, and dated Aden, December 12th, states that among his fellow voyagers were six catholic priests and four lay assistants, who were, as it was understood, proceeding as missionaries to Madagascar.

The directors of the London Missionary Society, commenting on these facts say:—

The friends of Protestant Missions will therefore feel the necessity of prompt and energetic efforts to send the representatives of their faith and order, to frustrate the insidious designs of these Jesuit teachers; not, indeed, by entering on a course of angry controversy, but by a faithful exhibition of the truth as it is in Jesus. And although the number of our missionaries may fall short of their Romish opponents, they will possess the great advantage of having hundreds of faithful coadjutors among the native Christians, who possess the Bible in their own tongue, which is freely circulated among all classes of the people. The directors hope that six such labourers, as representatives of our churches, will join Mr. Ellis in Madagascar within the next six months.

Commenting on this intelligence the *Patriot* says: The utter falsity of the stories with which the French papers were filled as soon as the death of the old Queen of Madagascar was announced, is now demonstrated. They must have been fabricated with the deliberate purpose of bringing to pass that which they pretended was already as good as done. The die betrays the mint—they were the work of those famous coiners the Popish priests. The new King is not a Catholic; he has shown no desire for French protection; he has not made M. Lambert his Prime Minister, or charged him with a special mission to Europe. Colonel Middleton, who headed the recent embassy from the Mauritius to Radama II., says in his report that "there is no truth in the statement that the king has sought the official counsel of Europeans, or appointed one of them to fill an important executive office. Such a step would be opposed to the spirit of the Madagascar Government." It is now well understood that there is a distinct understanding between the English and French Governments, that there shall be no interference on either