

Three Visits to Madagascar during the years 1853, 1854, 1856, including a Journey to the Capital; with Notices of the Natural History of the Country, and of the present Civilization of the People.—By the Rev. William Ellis, F. H. S., author of “Polynesian Researches.” Illustrated by wood-cuts, from photographs, &c.—London: John Murray, Albemarle Street. 1858.

Among the books which have lately issued from the press, few can claim a higher degree of interest than Mr. Ellis' narrative of his visits to Madagascar; a country so long known, yet remaining so strange to the more cultivated nations of Europe and America. Populous, and possessing a certain type of civilization, with a climate favorable to the wonders and glories of vegetation; offering inviting prospects of commercial advantage not yet brought within the reach of those who desired to try their reality; and with a religious history highly obscure, yet fitted to excite an intense interest: could hardly have been visited at all, certainly could not have been visited by an intelligent and enquiring, as well as enterprising traveller, without his communications respecting it being welcomed by numbers, and his subject ensuring his success as an author. With these accidental advantages, Mr. Ellis unites the zeal, judgment, and experience which fitted him for the more weighty part of his duties, and the genuine love of nature, and careful preparation for profiting by what he observed, which must make his work attractive to the naturalist and the anxious inquirer respecting little known regions, as well as peculiarly interesting to all who desire the progress in the world of our holy faith, or can estimate and honour the firmness and devotedness of the martyr.

We cordially recommend Mr. Ellis's book to all thoughtful readers, and whilst leaving its most important parts to be studied in its own pages, we shall present a few extracts relating to scenery, manners and natural objects, which are suitable to our pages, and may afford entertainment to the reader, though removed from their context.

A MADAGASCAR DWELLING.

“The house of the harbour-master was a well constructed native dwelling, about forty feet long and between twenty and thirty feet high, with a door in the centre and a window on each side; the whole front shaded by a broad verandah, and the house thatched with