

any one who would throw doubt upon man's responsibility to a holy and supreme Lawgiver; and especially conversion on a large scale, as in the case of Madagascar, can be attested by facts, the argument becomes irresistible.

"We would ask skeptics, then, to look at the island we have just named. We do not repeat the narrative presented to our readers in February 1870. We simply remind them that upwards of half a century ago Christianity was introduced into the island by the London Missionary Society; that the missionaries found the people sunk in idolatry, and without a written language, and thus without a literature; that they taught the Malagasy men and women the truths of the gospel, reduced their language to writing, instructed some thousands of their children to read, and gave them the Scriptures in their own tongue. A few consistent converts to the Christian faith were formed into little churches; and in addition to the word of God, they were provided with the *Pilgrim's Progress*. In these circumstances a frightful persecution, instigated by a fanatical and wolfish queen, was directed against the poor Christian people. The missionaries were expelled. Persecution raged from 1835 to 1857. The profession of Christianity was treated as a capital offence, and a multitude which no man has ever yet numbered were put to death in the most cruel manner for their adherence to the truth. The Church of Madagascar seemed to those at a distance to disappear from the earth; but not a few succeeded in concealing themselves and their Bibles from their cruel foes. It is now ascertained that about seventy copies of the Scriptures were preserved; and these sacred deposits, carefully guarded, became fountains of comfort and life to the persecuted but faithful remnant. In this way the Church of Madagascar not only survived the persecution, which lasted about a quarter of a century, but, in spite of persecution, gained in numbers and spiritual strength.

"To these well-known facts we appeal as an evidence of the power and reality of Christian truth. We draw our conclusion that there must be truth in the religion which can sustain itself in such a struggle, and can come forth not deteriorated, but strengthened and expanded, out of such an ordeal. There are more recent facts, which it is impossible for us fully to state in this brief paper, which indeed would need a volume for their full development. The numbers which represented roughly the supposed state of matters about eighteen months ago were such as the following:—

European missionaries, - - -	30
Ordained native missionaries - - -	50
Christian workers, - - -	3,000
Church members, - - -	67,000
Adherents, - - -	28,000
Schools, - - -	570
Scholars, - - -	25,000
Contributions - - -	£2,000

"These numbers have been modified by more strict inquiry; but with every possible qualification, they more than justify the apostolic boast: "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one who believeth."

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPUTATION.

"The Rev. Dr. Joseph Mullens has just returned from an official visit to Madagascar. In company with the Rev. J. Pillans, he went forth in