

the greatest importance, and which he is said to have stated strongly in his late correspondence with Napoleon—to outdo the latter in respect of genealogy. Theodoros, very angry at Mr. Stern's assertion, wished to know the source from which he had derived his information. As he would not mention the name of his informant, the king ordered him and Mr. Rosenthal to be beaten and put to the Abyssinian rack, i. e., the wrist of the hand and upper part of the arm of both gentlemen were firmly tied with ropes, in consequence of which the blood was forced out of the tips of the fingers. After the prisoners had confessed, the rack was removed, but we may imagine how dreadfully they suffered. Whether the efforts made by the English government in behalf of the prisoners will not be too late, and whether they will lead at all to a satisfactory result, is still doubtful.

J. L. KRAFF.

PROTESTANT ACTIVITY IN JERUSALEM.

A dignitary of the Catholic Church, Valerga, patriarch of Jerusalem, has afforded a notable testimony to Protestant zeal and its effects in this city. In an account published by the *Union*, he expresses himself in the following terms upon the religious condition of Palestine:—

"The Protestant propaganda is displaying the greatest activity in Palestine in establishing orphan-asylums, boarding-houses, schools, and artistic, mechanical, and agricultural institutions. At Jerusalem there are Protestant deaconesses conducting a hospital and orphan-asylum, which latter now contains about forty young girls, chiefly from Lebanon. In the interior of the city there is an institution for the training of artisans and farm-laborers; and on Mount Sinai, *extra muros*, an Internate, which is under the immediate direction of the Protestant Anglo-Prussian Bishop. Outside, on the west of the city, Prussian ecclesiastics are conducting an agricultural institution, attended by about thirty young people, brought together from nearly the whole of Syria."

The patriarch further speaks of the Russian propaganda, which he appears to consider as less dangerous, and concludes with the words:—

"The Catholics must therefore double their zeal and their devotion in order to support the operations of our missionaries, and our religious institutions in Palestine."

The journal *Halebanon*, published in Jerusalem, in Hebrew, states, "It is astonishing to observe how the love to the Holy Land increases among the Jews. There are coming constantly pious, well-to-do, and learned men to Jerusalem, to spend the rest of their days in the midst of its sacred scenes. Many now come from Hungary, from which there were

formerly few. They have recently founded several valuable institutions."

CHRISTIAN CHURCHES IN JAPAN.

It is known that a Christian Church exists already in the important city of Nangasaki. In the month of December last, a second Church was solemnly consecrated at Yokohama, having been erected by the diligence of the English and Scotch residents of the place. Of late, the Consul of the United States, who is said to be an earnest Christian, has obtained from the Japanese Government a very fine site for the construction of a Church and an Institute in behalf of the missions of the reformed Batavian Church at Yokohama. The value of the concession herein made to the Christians, by a government which has often been decidedly hostile to them, is estimated at more than 80,000 florins. "Japan is opened," says a sanguine missionary, "and there is no reason to apprehend that it will be again closed upon us: on the contrary, it can only become from year to year more accessible. The various recent treaties into which Japan has entered with England, France, Holland and the United States, will not remain a dead letter, but will acquire a vital importance. It is assuredly one of the signs of the times, this magnificent donation from the rulers of the island."

PROSPECTS IN MADAGASCAR.

Mr. Ellis gives a satisfactory account of the recent change of government, as it affects the mission:—

"The new prime minister is perhaps about thirty years of age, late commander-in-chief, and younger brother to the minister, his predecessor. He is a man of temperate habits, never having been carried away by the excesses of the court, though obliged to be in daily attendance upon the late king. He is a man of chaste morals, has a large family, and has never had but one wife; she is a heathen, but a very passive one. He does not profess to be a Christian, but his tendencies are favorable. He is, compared with his brother, a humane man, and anxious to save rather than to take life. On the occasion of his elevation to the highest office in the state, his expressions were such as to inspire us with confidence at present, and hope for the future. In a note written the day after his elevation, he said that he considered his position as a reward from God as well as from his sovereign; that he asked God to assist him, and would make it the object of his life, to the utmost of his power, to promote the enlightenment and welfare of his country, and all classes of its inhabitants."

CHINA.

The whole number of Protestant mission-