

vernment and missionaries, has greatly prepared India, and opened its heathen mind to receive our literature, our science, and our religion. Another remarkable event, very favourable to the religious interests of India, has lately occurred; viz., the appointment of Sir John Lawrence, as Governor-General, an officer not more distinguished for his ability in the field, or in the senate, than for his christian character. These two events have opened up a prospect for India, which has never before brightened her moral and religious horizon.

Madagascar is another field of deep interest to the friends of the Bible Society. It is upwards of twenty years since the first attempt to evangelize the Malagase were made. Soon after which a cruel and barbarous woman succeeded a mild and friendly king in the government of the country, and who determined to extirpate christianity from the land; in order to do which, she put many to a cruel death, and sent more into a state of slavery who were doomed to work in irons for many years. But the depth and reality of the faith of those poor Malagase were remarkable. Its existence ten, twenty, or twenty-five years after the last missionary had been driven away, is in the highest degree providential. No one would have ventured to hope that even a relic of christianity would be found, after all teaching, all public worship, and the possession of all christian books had been prohibited for more than twenty years. We must naturally feel desirous of learning how this remarkable preservation of the christian faith was effected, what means, if any, it pleased God to employ, to keep alive—and not only to keep alive the spark of divine truth, but soon to cause it to burst into a flame. The answer to this question is plain. The Malagase loved and felt deeply the power of God's word. They did, indeed, receive it "not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh in them that believe." They lived upon, they walked by its light. All their letters teemed with the subject. They asked not for money, though they were poor; to ask for missionaries, they knew to be useless; but every cry they sent to England was for more Bibles. We are hungering for the bread of life. We are like a hundred starving men to one plate of food. Do send us more Bibles—we can scarcely get a sight of the light which lightens our path. Men of business, men in office, would entreat, would implore, almost in tears, for one copy—only one—of the New Testament. When a ship was expected to bring some copies, men would toil through a twelve days journey to the port, and would linger off the shore for whole days, and watch with lingering eyes, for the first glimpse of the sails of the vessel which was to bring them the bread of life. They rejoiced in obtaining it, and returned joyfully.\*

Mr. Ellis tells us, that while at Tamatave, two men called upon him one evening, to say, that having heard of his arrival at Madagascar, and that he had brought some copies of the Bible, they travelled a long way to beg for a copy. Being strangers to him, he sent them away until the following day, while he made enquiries about them. He soon learnt from the Christians at Tamatave, that they did really belong to a Christian family; and that having heard of Mr. Ellis' arrival, they had travelled more than a hundred miles, solely to obtain from him, if possible, the Holy Scriptures. When they returned the next day, he questioned them as to their knowledge

\* The persecuting Queen was dead, and one more favorable to the promoting of Christianity in her country succeeding her, the Missionaries returned to their posts.