

telling you what I have been doing since I came to this country. I am glad to say that I have accomplished all that I intended, and now leave, taking with me part of the new edition of 10,000 copies of the entire Old and New Testaments in the Samoan dialect, and also four volumes, containing 1,084 pp. of Scripture comments, and a Scripture history, some of the first fruits of our efforts to give to the Samoan people a Christian literature. These books you are aware are all sold to the natives, and the proceeds of the sales refund the British and Foreign Bible Society and the London Religious Tract Society to the entire extent of the cost. Our passages are taken in the ship *Wellesley*, bound direct to Melbourne, and we are to sail from London next week, accompanied by four young missionaries and their wives. After resting a little at Melbourne we shall probably visit Tasmania and Adelaide, as well as Victoria, as a deputation from the London Missionary Society, and then proceed to Sydney for the same purpose, before finally leaving for the Islands. Our course from Sydney will probably be through the New Caledonia and New Hebrides groups, touching at many of them, visiting missionaries and native teachers, and locating fresh teachers who may be received on board on our way, ready to enter wherever we may obtain an opening. We hope to reach the close of our long voyage about the beginning of December. In Samoa, I hope to resume my much loved work in the institution for educating a native agency. My fellow-tutor, Mr. Nisbet, is now there and plodding on single-handed since I left, with the entire charge of the eighty and upwards of young men, who are there preparing for the work of the ministry." At the conclusion of Dr. Turner's address, the Rev. Dr. Robson offered up an impressive prayer.—*British Standard*.

ORIGIN OF THE MISSION TO MADAGASCAR.

The writer of the following letter has been long well known to us, as he has been, indeed, to many Christian ministers and people of various denominations in the North of Ireland. It gives us pleasure to insert his communication; but we do so, chiefly because we believe it conveys intelligence respecting the introduction of the Gospel to Madagascar which will be entirely new, and deeply interesting to most of our readers.

DUBLIN, January 8, 1863.

"As there has of late appeared much in the public papers respecting the operations of the London Missionary Society in the island of Madagascar, stating the remarkable success of its Missionaries during the reign of Radama the First, the cruel persecution and depression which followed under the sway of the late Queen, and the delightful change which has taken place since the accession to the throne of the present king Radama II., it has appeared to me that some information respecting the origin of that important Mission might be useful, and prove interesting to those who are the friends of Missions to the heathen; showing how God, in His providence, often by unexpected ways and means, works out His gracious designs in the extension of His kingdom in the world.

"Soon after my ordination in 1809, I was sent out by the directors of the above society to India, to attempt the formation of a Mission in the Madras Presidency. On my arrival, after much difficulty, I obtained from the Government permission to settle at Bellary, a large military station, 350 miles from Madras. On my arrival there, in 1810, I found at that station H.M.'s 56th Regiment, and about 200 more Europeans, of different grades and professions in the East India Company's service, but there was no Christian minister, no church, and no Sabbath—consequently, no real Christianity, but open, unblushing immorality. Pained at my heart to see so many of my fellow-countrymen, professing to be Christians, living in such a manner, and concluding that while this continued I could hope for little success among the 30,000 Hindoos and Mohammedans at the station, I determined that, until I had mastered the native language and could begin my direct Missionary work, I would give my Sabbaths to the service of my countrymen.