

laboured, and soon spacious churches were built and filled with earnest worshippers.

During this period the king was becoming more profligate. Under the baneful influence of Lambert, the Frenchman, he was induced, while intoxicated, "to sign a concession of rights to him over one-third of the arable land of the kingdom, of working all its mines, of conducting what manufactures he pleased, and of introducing Jesuits without any limit," all of which were violations of the laws of the land. He sanctioned the settlement of disputes by open battle, which greatly alarmed the wiser statesmen. Deaf to their protests, stronger measures were deemed necessary. Some of the king's favourites were seized and put to death, then some of his officers and nobles, followed by the assassination of the king himself, May 12th, 1863. Early promise was sadly disappointed, though substantial good had been gained during this short reign.

The crown was offered to the queen upon certain considerations, and a constitutional government was formed. Though an idolater she proved a good ruler, and granted liberty of conscience, except that sometimes Christians found they had to work on the Sabbath.

To arouse an aggressive spirit among the Christians, a plan was adopted which would doubtless prove advantageous if more generally observed in so-called Christian lands, that of having a missionary prayer-meeting once a month. The first had to be held in the open air, so many crowded to it, at least 3,000, and it lasted several hours.

A medical dispensary, under Dr. Davidson, was a means of blessing to multitudes. Mr. Stagg, the schoolmaster, was greatly pleased with the aptitude of the children, and was trying to establish a thorough system of education, when death terminated his labours. A large new edition of the Bible, revised by Mr. Griffiths, was circulated, also school books and periodicals.

An architect from England superintended the erection of the memorial churches. The cornerstone of the first was laid January 19th, 1864, by the prime minister. After many difficulties and great wonder of the people, who contributed liberally, the building was completed and consecrated January, 1867. A clock was put in the tower, the first public time-keeper in Madagascar. In 1864, there were more than 7,000 worshippers in the city alone, and the work was extending to the villages.

Rasoherina had many difficulties in her short reign with the Sakalavas; with Lambert the French adventurer, who insisted on his agreement with the late king being honoured, and to satisfy which claim \$240,000 had to be paid; and with Jesuit priests,