

survived, she is declared innocent, and her release is celebrated by firing guns and in making great libations. About the same time two Malagese of our neighborhood, not Christians, one of whom was the father of one of our children, mutually accused each other of sorcery. This was in the sight of the public a serious charge, which they could not support. They did not hesitate to demand the tanquin, thus defying each other. They retired to the same place, and were treated in the same manner. Alas! both succumbed. Evidently, according to Malagese idea, they were sorcerers, and no one lamented them. These, then, are the people whom we have to civilize. But true civilization will have great trouble to uproot these ancient customs, till this generation shall be supplanted by that which we are now preparing beforehand by the Christian education of the children. We see, indeed, this new generation rising by degrees through great obstacles. It is still a young tree whose growth is retarded by the bad earth in which it is planted. But this earth fructified by Catholicity, will, we hope produce a large tree.

---

The following information on the "Tree of the Virgin Mother," cannot fail to be of interest. It is to be found at the village of Metarich, a few miles distant from Cairo, and in the immediate neighborhood of the ancient Heliopolis, whose site is now unoccupied only by a few scattered ruins and a picturesque monolith of over fifty yards high. Near this monolith is the present village of Metarich, an old heap of houses in a state of ruin, presenting a most wretched appearance, but surrounded, however, by large and well cultivated gardens, in the centre of which rises, with an imposing appearance, the large tree of the Virgin (*Segar ej Mariam*), an old sycamore, under whose tradition has it that the Holy Family, reposed at the time of their flight into Egypt. This sycamore is very large. Seven men could hardly span the lower part of its trunk. Its age is unknown, but by the concentric circles which a section of one of its largest branches, which has been detached from the trunk for some years past, presents we may conclude that it has withstood the storms of several centuries. The present Viceroy of Egypt, at the time of the inauguration of the Suez Canal, presented this sycamore to