

MADAGASCAR.

We find in the *Missionary Chronicle* of the London Missionary Society much interesting information with reference to Madagascar. The present Queen, while she has not openly professed Christianity, has banished idols from the palace, and, with the idols, the idolatrous priests. The Bible is read and explained in the precincts of the palace, and in the presence of many of the native officers. No business is transacted in the palace on the Lord's day. The favourable aspect of the Queen and Prime Minister towards Christianity has brought large numbers to the churches who previously stood aloof. Many of the churches are too small for the congregations. The population of the Capital is 45,000, and it is calculated 10,000 attend public worship each Lord's day. The congregations are not only increased in numbers, but in earnestness and readiness to hear the truth. Some of the native preachers are spoken of as really powerful preachers.

SAMOA.

The Rev. J. B. Smyth, Chaplain to H. M. S. "Brisk," bears the following testimony to the Missionary work in the Samoan Mission:

"What I have stated of the success of Mission work in Fiji applies equally to that in the Navigators' group, for few Mission fields are blessed with such truly excellent men, of long experience and sound judgment. The Native Seminary at Malua, under the able management of Dr. Turner and his colleague, is a perfect model of its kind. It is the first of the sort I ever saw, and when I consider the beauty of the situation, the harmony which pervades every part, the admirable course of instruction, and the exact method with which everything is carried out, I cannot but compare it favourably with many of our English grammar schools.

"It is self-supporting, and contains generally from ninety to a hundred students, and turns out annually, on an average, thirty well-trained candidates for the ministry, who are allotted their respective spheres of labour, to take charge of day-schools and conduct Divine service on Sunday; the Missionaries, of course, having the superintendence of the whole. In this way each village has its own teacher, and supports him comfortably.

"Things are so well managed, that not only do the natives provide for their own educational wants, but they make a large contribution every year to the London Missionary Society.

"A handsomely bound copy of the Holy Scriptures, and nearly all the useful English school-books, are translated into the native language, and are in universal use. The Samoans are naturally a superior, and, comparatively speaking, a refined race, and I believe they are farther advanced than any other native race in the South Seas, except, perhaps, the Tongans of the Friendly Islands, whose great progress I know only by reputation. They are all Christians, and are now manifesting a desire for progress in the direction of law and order. Their hospitality, combined with their ceremonious manners, impress all visitors with a feeling of satisfaction.

"I may here state that so very strictly is the Lord's day observed in all the Christian islands of the South Seas, that I have heard the wisdom of this exact teaching questioned even by serious men, who averred that 'the Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.' To me it appears quite right, for the heathen must be dealt with in the beginning as children, and we do not give the same liberty to the infant mind as to that of mature growth."