

"If Madagascar is now a kingdom, we feel that it is due to its being based upon the Word of God. That Word we recognise as the true basis of all government, and we are desirous of seeing its influence spread through the whole island.

"When the first Bible was printed it was like the first spark; when the idols were burned the flame spread rapidly, now the Scriptures reach to the Sakalava, the Betsilio, and the most distant tribes, tending to improve and raise the condition of those in all parts of the island.

"This Bible" (placing his hand on the old Bible referred to in the address) "though old, is a monument and reminder of God's mercy to Madagascar. If this had not been kept through those dark years, perhaps all that has been done would not have been accomplished. And we remember, although this Book has been so wonderfully preserved, that but for the labours and sacrifices of your Society we should not have arrived at that point of Christian civilization in which we now rejoice.

"Therefore for all the efforts made by your Society, I beg to thank you in the name of my people and government.

"In that Book is the soul of our progress and the explanation of our being an organised people; and as I look on your faces I see friends through whose efforts has been brought us to the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins, that knowledge through which we hope to meet in eternity."

AUSTRIA.

The chief impression left on the mind by a perusal of the recent correspondence and reports of your senior Agent, Mr. Edward Millard, is with what an intense aversion the Church of Rome regards the circulation of the Word of God. The many difficulties which have marked the past year have not originated with the people; their attitude, in so far as they are not influenced by the priests, is either favourable or indifferent. Nor are these difficulties to be laid at the door of the Government. The Government of Austria has no easy part to play; it has to control various nationalities that are more or less antagonistic to one another; it find the aid of the Church of Rome too valuable to be cast aside, and little surprise can be felt if, from fear of offending such a powerful ally, it should allow local governors to indulge a repressive policy which it might otherwise repudiate.

It is the priests, in every part of the Empire, who inflame the people and incite the authorities.

More than once during the past year, when the licenses of colporteurs have been taken away, and their lives put in jeopardy, have your Committee considered the propriety of memorializing the Austrian Government on the subject. That they have not done so arises from no lack of sympathy with their harassed and courageous friends, but because they did not wish to speak without effect and because they believed the Government to be at heart well-disposed toward their work. It is possible in a case of this kind to move prematurely and unwisely; and, while ready to take all needful steps in order to vindicate the position they have so long occupied in Austria, the Committee would remember that oftentimes their strength is to sit still.

The factory operatives are described as widely under the influence of Socialist teaching and hostile to the Gospel. "We are too enlightened for such books as yours; take them to the country folk;" such is the frequent reply made to the overtures of the colporteurs.

"Again, we have assurances warmly given and frequently repeated that there is nothing like this book in all the world, that it has not only enlightened the eyes but also pacified the mind. One copy sold several years ago had been so greatly blessed that the colporteur was not only hailed as a welcome guest, but was in consequence able to sell ten copies in two neighbouring families.

"One poor kitchen-gardener was so interested by what the colporteur told