

palace, dispensing with the attendance of priests and diviners. Unfortunately, however, he did not choose wise counsellors, but, following the example of Rehoboam, appointed to office companions of his youth, with no experience or ability, and neglected the veteran to whom he chiefly owed his crown. In order to increase the trade and wealth of his kingdom, he abolished all duties on imports, and the first result was a terrible influx of intoxicating liquors, 60,000 gallons of rum being admitted in one week. Drinking and other vices took hold of the king, and he quickly ran a downward course.

Soon after the death of Ranavalona, eleven houses were opened as places of worship; then five chapels were speedily built. Upon hearing of the accession of Radama, the London Missionary Society requested Rev. W. Ellis to proceed at once to Madagascar, and prepare for new agents and extended work. He had learned that several Romish priests had penetrated to the capital, but that the people were anxious for their old teachers.

In 1862, Mr. Ellis was welcomed to Tamatave by the Christians. Near the capital he was met by a large company of men, who escorted him with hymns to a comfortable house, which had been provided. Crowds welcomed him, and gifts poured in so abundantly that he had to distribute to the poor. Summoned the next day to an audience with the king and queen, he told them the plans of the London Missionary Society, and also conveyed despatches from the Governor of Mauritius, one being a letter from Queen Victoria, assuring the king of the friendship of Britain.

Mr. Ellis early visited the places of martyrdom, and on the first Sabbath went to one chapel which had been crowded since break of day. The song of joyous praise that burst from these thousand hearts was thrilling. Mr. Ellis also gave instructions for two hours daily to the sons of some of the princes and nobles, and he read English to the king.

The mission was strengthened by the coming of Rev. R. Toy and Mrs. Toy; a medical missionary and his wife, Dr. and Mrs. Davidson; a schoolmaster, Mr. Stagg; and a skilled printer, Mr. Parrett. On the following Sabbath the communion was observed by 800, who had been admitted to church fellowship by native evangelists, and had proved faithful amid persecution. The churches were now properly organized with native pastors and deacons. Thirteen thousand pounds were subscribed in England for the erection of churches on the spots where the martyrs had suffered, which sites were given by the king and his ministers. At once, men, women and children began to work, singing as they