

only a kitchen and a garret, leaving his house to the soldiers, who occupied it still twenty days after his departure."

We hope and believe that the exposure of these tyrannical proceedings, through the medium of the press, will have the effect of mitigating, if it cannot destroy, a system of oppression which is equally disgraceful to the country and the age.

It is some relief to find that British Christians, ever alive to the claims of religious liberty, and roused when they see it violated, have nobly declared their sentiments at a special meeting of the "THREE DENOMINATIONS," recently held in London. Their fourth resolution is,

"That the members of this body cannot, therefore, refrain from expressing their deep concern, that the Government of Holland, a country once so greatly distinguished as the asylum of our persecuted fathers, has exposed a large number of its own subjects to the operation of a penal law, directly at variance with the principles of religious freedom; that they affectionately present their fraternal sympathy to their persecuted Christian brethren, assuring them of the lively sense they entertain of the wrongs they suffer, and of the indignity thus put upon our common Christianity; and that they earnestly desire and pray that the day may speedily arrive, when neither in Holland, nor elsewhere on the Continent of Europe, the sacred rights of conscience shall be invaded, by the assumption, on the part of the civil power, of that jurisdiction which belongs only to God."

MADAGASCAR.

In this island persecution has assumed a yet more cruel form than in Holland. Not only has the government of the island forbidden the promulgation of Christianity there, but has commenced a bitter persecution against the Christian converts. One of these converts, a female in good circumstances, named RAFARAVARY, was imprisoned on account of her Christian profession, and during a period of eight or ten days was frequently and cruelly tortured, to induce her to renounce her faith. Having sustained these trials with a holy fortitude, and refusing either to recant, or to impeach her companions in the faith, she was condemned to die, and submitted calmly to the execution of

the sentence, a spear being run through her body, on the 14th of August last year.

"Never did a Christian martyr in the annals of the church suffer from motives more pure, simple, and unmingled with earthly alloy. She had never heard of any after-glorious martyrdom on earth. No external splendour had been cast around the subject in her mind, by reading any lives of martyrs. All was to her obloquy and contempt. Her own father and relatives to the very last accused her of *stubbornness*. The people generally regarded her as *stubborn*, and worthy of punishment even on that account. She had no earthly friends to support and cheer her. She was not poor in outward circumstances, and by recantation and by humbling herself to beg pardon of the Queen, she might very probably have saved her life. But her whole heart, as her letters testify, was filled with the love of Jesus. She endured as seeing Him who is invisible. Her letters are composed principally of passages from the gospels and epistles, and these, doubtless, under the influence of the Holy Spirit, were the entire support of her mind in the last hour of trial. She died directly and exclusively in defence of the gospel."

This unlooked-for and appalling event has created a deep sensation in Great Britain, and many of the churches have held special prayer meetings in behalf of their brethren, suffering under the scourge of heathen persecution; and, as amid the wide range of missionary exertion, for many years past, the Lord has been graciously pleased to exempt his people from so severe a trial of their faith, the most intense interest has been excited on the present occasion.

Madagascar, it will be recollected, is a very large island, containing a dense population, situated on the eastern coast of Africa, and has for some years past been occupied by the London Missionary Society, which, until the commencement of the reign of the present Sovereign of the Country, has had a number of missionaries labouring there with much success among the natives.

A large Missionary Meeting has been held in London on this occasion, of which a highly interesting report is contained in the English periodicals. We hope to furnish our readers with a more detailed account of what has occurred, in our Missionary Register of next month. Meanwhile let every Christian lift up his heart in earnest prayer to God that he will protect his people under their heavy trials, and make all this oppression and cruelty turn out to the "furtherance of the Gospel," and the advancement of his holy cause in the earth.