

coast, and a great part of the road was exceedingly difficult; indeed it could hardly be called a road at all. There is one part of the country through which he had to pass that is so unhealthy that it has got the name of the *Fever district*. To make it worse, it was the rainy season, and the bearers had to wade through deep mud, or walk on a narrow precipitous path.

Mr. Ellis says, he was often reminded of a favourite saying of the late King Badama, "that he could trust any invading army with his two generals, woods and fever."

The government did all they could for the comfort of Mr. Ellis. They sent more than a hundred men to escort him, and wherever they stopped, provisions were ready for him. The young prince, who has long been a Christian, sent kind messages and letters to Mr. Ellis, and as he drew nearer to the capital, many of the Christian party poured in their welcomes to the Missionary.

The queen, too, though she has been so great a persecutor seemed resolved to show him all the honour she could. A palanquin was prepared for him to use in entering the city. It was covered with velvet, and three chiefs rode on horseback beside him, while he had numerous followers in attendance. In this grand style he was conducted to a house which had been prepared for him with every comfort. As soon as he arrived, the queen sent him presents, to show her goodwill. Who can tell if the heart of this cruel persecutor may not have been softened by witnessing the blameless lives of the Christians? Perhaps her own son may yet be the means of changing her.

Mr. Ellis sent back his letter by the bearers who had to return to the coast, so he had not yet seen the queen; but he was very much gratified by a visit he had from the prince. He describes him as being youthful in appearance, but of very frank, pleasant manners, and dressed like an English gentleman. They were soon quite at home with each other, the prince seemed to confide in the missionary as if he had been a near friend. It is very likely that Mr. Ellis will not be able to tell us much of what he hears and sees, for he will be afraid of putting any thing in print which might bring the Christians into trouble. They have suffered much and nobly; and many a touching tale could be told of their devotedness and faithfulness. When happier days shall dawn upon Madagascar, much will be brought to light that will awaken our admiration and strengthen our faith.