

hope that the movement would be successful, as the districts mentioned were much in want of religious ordinances.—The Presbytery unanimously sanctioned the application to the Home Mission Committee.

The American Tract Society

Spent last year half a million of dollars in carrying on its benevolent enterprise. It has 4500 publications, including 800 bound volumes, in which 141 dialects and languages are represented, and diffuses these in all parts of the earth.

Most Encouraging.

Dr. J. M. Stevenson, one of the Secretaries of the above Society, states the gratifying fact that in Mexico *forty* distinct congregations have been formed, made up of seceders from the Roman Catholic Church, and are deeply engaged in the study of the Bible.

Madagascar.

A summary of facts as to Christian work in this great island presents the following: The island known to Europe since the 13th century, is populated by 4,000,000 people, of various tribes. For 500 years it suffered from the slave trade, and idolatry, polygamy, and infanticide abounded. In 1820, under the auspices of the London Missionary Society, missions were begun, but fever destroyed all the missionaries but one. In 1822 a new entry was secured, schools started, and progress made for fifteen years. Meanwhile the Bible was translated into the native tongue. On the 29th of May, 1830, the first converts were baptized. By 1836, however, a new Queen (Ranavalona) had driven out all the missionaries, and fierce persecution was commenced against the Christian population. It continued for 26 years. During that time no religious teacher from outside the island was ever present; and thousands of Christians perished by sale into slavery, by drinking poison, burned, cast from rocks, and in other ways which devilish ingenuity contrived. None of them, however, is known to have denied Christ under it all. In 1861 Radama succeeded his mother, and his wife, who followed him, favored the missionaries, who had

returned. In 1868 Queen Romoin succeeded her sister, and was baptized Feb. 21st, 1869. All idols have since been destroyed, and the work of Christianizing the whole people now goes forward with great success. The religious movement in the island has even outrun the ordinary means of grace. In some cases people have come together and built meeting-houses and assembled for worship on Sunday, without even having a leader to explain the simplest gospel truths. They pray, "O God, we want to worship Thee, but we do not know how."

Miscellaneous.

The Blood of Jesus Christ.

A Hindoo on the coast of Malabar, having been awakened to anxiety about his salvation, inquired of various Fakeers (or devotees) and Brahmins, how he might make atonement to God for his sins. All agreed that it was by torturing and wasting his body that his guilt was to be expiated; and the mode of doing this, which was most confidently recommended, was the following:

"Thou must drive," said the Fakeer, "a number of iron spikes, somewhat blunted, through thy sandals; and on these sandals thou must place thy naked feet, and walk to the sacred station, at the source of the Godavery river, (about four hundred and eighty miles.) If, through loss of blood, or weakness of body, thou art unable to proceed, thou mayst halt, and wait for healing and strength. When thou hast performed thy penance, thou mayst hope that thy soul will be cleansed."

The poor Hindoo was in earnest to save his soul; and, severe as the penance was, he did not hesitate to undergo it, but immediately set out on his painful journey. At length he could go no farther; and, though unwilling to lose time in so great a work, he felt himself absolutely compelled to halt beneath the inviting shade of a wide-spread banyan tree.

It happened that a Christian missionary resided near the spot; and beneath the canopy of this very tree he had been