

RELIGIOUS AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

The Queen of Madagascar has issued an important proclamation, a portion of which is as follows:—"I thank God very much because the Gospel of Jesus Christ has entered my land and my kingdom, to make wise my people, and to make them know God, that they may obtain everlasting life in the end. And on account of this protection which I have got from God, which I see is very good, then I rested my kingdom upon God." Amongst other laws is one against making, selling, or drinking native rum; also, laws having reference to Churches, and their orderly management, forbidding work on the Sabbath, and one against unjust weights or balances. It would be well if rulers in more enlightened lands would imitate the queen in these things.

Extensive preparations are being made for the celebration of the founding of Sabbath Schools. It is just a hundred years since Robert Raikes started a School for the poor children of the city of Gloucester, England. A grand International Convention will be opened at the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London, on the 26th inst. The opening sermon will be preached by the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, and meetings will be held the following week in the principal cities of England and Scotland. Delegates from the United States will attend; and the occasion is anticipated with much interest as a great religious festival.

The Washington correspondent of the *Christian Union*, in reference to Mrs. Hayes, the wife of the President, thus writes:—"She came to Washington determined not to offer wine to her guests. This was the determination of a lifetime, and she would not and could not abandon it. To give a state dinner without wine was declared to be impossible. All Washington society was opposed to her; I believe it even became a cabinet question. For a year she was a target for the arrows which it is hard to bear unflinchingly. But she bore it all by her patient persistence, and her tact carried the day. She never has offered wine." All honour to the President's noble wife.

An English paper states that when the present incumbent of St. Paul's Church, Manchester, entered upon his duties, only two candles were used at the early celebration of the Lord's Supper. Since then they have been increased to forty-two. The result of this advance in ritualism is indicated as follows:—"Concurrently with this, the people's warden reported that the collections for church expenses had decreased from £115 to £41. The collections for the Sabbath School had decreased from £23 to £9. The income from sittings and pew rents from £105 to £35, and the number of sittings from 187 to 51. "More candles, but less light," is the comment of the *New York Observer*.

One of the greatest triumphs of engineering skill has just been achieved by the completion of the St. Gothard Tunnel. It is about 12 miles in length. By the completion of this wonderful work, those who had been obliged to toil for many hours over the St. Gothard Pass, can