

toleration as her husband. Remaining upon the Throne for a brief period, she died in 1868, and was again succeeded by Queen Ranavalona II., who still reigns. Not long after her accession to the Throne, she was baptized, became a professed follower of Christ, and a public burning of the old national idols took place. Settled congregations now grew rapidly large, accessions were made to the communion of the Church, and the professedly Christian population is now numbered at 60,000.

No such instance of remarkable progress in the history of missions has ever been witnessed in these modern times as what we now see taking place in Madagascar. God has abundantly blessed the labours of his servants, and made the wrath of man to praise him. Fifty years ago idolatry reigned supreme, there were no schools, not a Christian in the land, and the whole people sunk in ignorance and crime. To-day how changed the scene. Now in hundreds of places idolatry has been superseded by Christianity, schools have been established, and the Scriptures scattered throughout the land. Christians are now numbered by tens of thousands, and society is being leavened by the principles of Christian morality. Of course, much yet remains to be done before this people are thoroughly christianized. And even among those who have left the ranks of heathendom, we are not to look for as high a position in scriptural knowledge or for as high toned morality, as among those more highly favoured. There are features, however, which characterize this Mission Church, that may well shame communities in these Lower Provinces. In the capital of Madagascar we are told that all the Christian families regularly observe family worship. Of how many congregations within the pale of the Church of Scotland can this be said?

We cannot but look back upon the past 50 years in the history of the good cause in the Island of Madagascar, without a feeling of the liveliest gratitude and wonder. The church there has been cradled amid the raging storm, it has passed through severe trials and come forth strong and pure. Let us, whilst learning of what has been done, be en-

couraged to do our part and sustain our missionaries with ceaseless prayers and enlarged contributions. **OBSERVER.**

### **Albion Mines and Westville.**

The combined congregations of Albion Mines and Westville, sensible of their obligation to the Home Mission Board for the Supplement of Stipends they have received for their present minister and his predecessor, have unanimously resolved, henceforth, not only to relieve the Home Mission Board of that burden, but raise their minister's stipend to \$800 per annum, exclusive of the Manse.

They felt uncomfortable while they received that supplement. There were, however, several extenuating circumstances in their case. They were comparatively a new congregation, formed from material of different descriptions; a considerable proportion of them never identified themselves with any congregation of christians until now, others recently from Scotland needed to be trained into our voluntary system of supporting the stated ordinances of religion.

The migrating disposition peculiar to a mining population, has been very injurious to the prosperity of this congregation.

As a new congregation, we were obliged to assume the responsibility of building two commodious churches and a splendid Manse, involving a cost of some \$8000 within the last eight years. But the most disheartening event that has occurred to us was the removal of our former pastor, the Rev. W. M. Philip, who was held in such high estimation by all his congregation that we really feared that it was impossible to procure the service of a successor, who would supply his place in the affections of the people; and this was the idea which induced us to renew our application for a supplement to our present minister. It is a matter of sincere gratification, that in this respect we have been most agreeably disappointed; for our present minister is deservedly beloved and increasing in popularity every day. We all feel grateful to Almighty God for providing so speedily for us a man to go in and out amongst us to break the