

number of *schools* they established amounted to nearly one hundred containing four thousand scholars; and more than ten thousand children passed through these schools during the period under review, to whom were imparted the elements both of useful instruction and religious truth. *Elementary books* were provided for the pupils; and a large proportion of these were distributed among those who *voluntarily* acquired the art of reading without attendance on the schools; while many of the principal scholars directed their attention to the English language, and became familiar with the English Scriptures. Two large congregations were formed at the capital; and nearly two hundred persons on a profession of their faith, were admitted to *Church fellowship*. *Preaching stations* were established in several towns and villages, at a distance from the capital; and many week-day services were held at the dwellings of the native Christians. Two *printing-presses* sent out by the Society, were in constant operation, and besides school-books, not fewer than twenty five thousand *Tracts* were printed and put into circulation, and a *Dictionary of the language* also was prepared and printed in two volumes. But, *above all*, the whole of the *Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments* were translated, corrected, and printed in the native language—a language which had been first reduced to a written form by the labours of the missionaries.

*Missionary expelled*—But, as it has been stated, towards the close of 1834, the coercive and persecuting measures of the queen were brought into full and fatal operation. All Christian instruction was prohibited in the school;—the congregations dispersed,—the observance of Christian ordinances strictly prohibited, and even the possession of the sacred Scriptures was attended with heavy penalties. And in addition to all other sorrows, the Christians beheld their faithful missionaries compelled to abandon their

much-loved work, and themselves left as sheep without a shepherd in the midst of ravening wolves.

*Suffering unto death*.—During seventeen succeeding years, (that is, from the expulsion of the missionaries to the year 1851,) the same oppressive policy has been continued. Many hundreds have been degraded and impoverished; hundreds more have been doomed to slavery; and between *forty and fifty* have suffered death for the sake of the Lord Jesus, in various forms of aggravated horror. *Several have died by the sword or the spear; others have been precipitated from rocks, and dashed to pieces in their fall; and four have been burnt alive in the capital of Madagascar.*

"The more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew."—But the number of the sufferers, and the willingness with which they have suffered, is in itself conclusive evidence both of the firmness of their faith and the extension of their principles; and from the latest and most authentic intelligence received, we learn that, during this reign of terror, *tens* have increased to *hundreds*; so that no less than FIVE THOUSAND (and, probably, a far greater number) have continued to study the Holy Scriptures,—to sanctify the Christian Sabbath,—and to assemble together on the mountains and in the caves of Madagascar, to unite in prayer to God, and in acts of love and obedience to Christ, as their Redeemer.

"The right hand of the Lord doeth valiantly."—And at length the faith and patience of the saints have triumphed! God has heard the blood of his martyrs from beneath the altar, and to his suffering Church in Madagascar there has arisen light in the darkness. The *only* child of the persecuting queen, and heir to her throne has learnt the faith in which the martyrs died; and the *only* son of the late prime minister (the bitterest foe of the Christians) has, it is reported, avowed himself the Christian's friend. To the