

the northern crest of the mountain close by, was filled with soldiers, while every avenue to the city was securely kept by the Minister's troops. The first object of his nobles was to secure upwards of thirty of *the more obnoxious of the Mena maso*, whom they accused of being the advisers and abettors of the King in his unjust and injurious measures. A number of these were taken and killed, a number fled, but twelve or thirteen remained with the King. These the nobles required should be surrendered to them. The King refused, but they threatened to take them by force from the palace, to which the King had removed. Troops continued to pour in from adjacent and distant posts; and, as the few soldiers with the King refused to fire on those surrounding the palace, the people, though pitying the King, did not take up arms in his defence. He consented at length to surrender the *Mena maso*, on condition that their life should be spared, and that they should be confined for life in fetters. On Monday, the 11th, they were marched by Andobalo, on their way to the spot where the irons were to be fixed on their limbs.

In the course of the discussion with the nobles, the King had said *he alone was Sovereign, his word alone was law, his person was sacred, he was supernaturally protected, and would punish severely the opposers of his will.* This led the nobles to determine that it was not safe for him to live, and he died by their hands the next morning within the palace. The Queen who alone was with him, used every effort to the last moment of his life to save him—but in vain. His advisers, the *Mena maso* were afterwards put to death.

In the course of the forenoon, four of the chief nobles went to the Queen with a written paper, which they handed to her as expressing the terms or conditions on which, for the future, the country should be governed. They requested her to read it, stating that, if she consented to govern according to these conditions they were willing that she should be the sovereign of the country, but that if she objected or declined, they must seek another ruler. The Queen after reading the document, and listening to it and receiving explanations on one or two points, expressed *her full and entire consent to govern according to the plan therein set forth.* The nobles then said,—“*We also bind ourselves by this agreement. If we break it, we shall be guilty of treason, and, if you break it, we shall do as we have done now.*” The Prime Minister then signed the document on behalf of the nobles and heads of the people, and the Queen signed it also. The chiefs of the nobles remained in the palace, and between one and two o'clock the firing of cannon announced the commencement of a new reign.

Between three and four o'clock a party of officers came with a copy of this document, which they read to us. I can only state two or three of its chief items.

The word of the sovereign alone is not to be law, but the nobles and heads of the people, with the sovereign, are to make the laws.

Perfect liberty and protection is guaranteed to all foreigners who are obedient to the laws of the country.

Friendly relations are to be maintained with all other nations.

Duties are to be levied, but commerce and civilisation are to be encouraged.

Protection and liberty to worship, teach, and promote the extension of Christianity, are secured to the native Christians, and the same protection and liberty are guaranteed to those who are not Christians.

Domestic slavery is not abolished; but masters are at liberty to give freedom to their slaves, or to sell them to others.

No person is to be put to death for any offence by the Sovereign alone; and no one is to be sentenced to death till twelve men have declared such person to be guilty of the crime to which the law awards the punishment of death.

An hour afterwards we were sent for to the Palace, that we might tender our salutations to the new Sovereign, who assured us of her friendship for the English, her good will to ourselves, and her desire to encourage our work. I cannot add more now. We are all well.

Rev. Dr. Tidman.

(Signed)

Yours truly,

W. ELLIS.

P.S.—June 17.—Everything is going on well. The new Queen has written to Queen Victoria and to the Emperor of the French, announcing her accession to