

promised that one will be sent "as soon as practicable;" and having waited so long, we expect, if spared, to see him in Trinidad at the close of 1890. Surely in this matter the world moved but slowly. I did not realize till I read those minutes with how large a share of patience we were endowed.

Meantime the field has greatly enlarged. The 25,000 of 1867 have become 60,000. They have spread themselves abroad over the Island. They have won for themselves a recognized place in the land. They have become a large factor in our population, and an important element in the prosperity of our Island. So the whole church is summoned to go forward at the call of duty and do valiantly while the opportunity offers. Native ministers are to be trained, congregations formed and the native church organized.

Now when we have all this on our hands, don't trouble us about your funds. Surely all you at home can pray for, and give, and beg enough without laying any extra care on us.

And now that the women have come to the rescue, it must, it will be done. At the present moment two things are prominent—the improvement in the funds and the increase of Women's Foreign Missionary societies. I am safe in saying that these two things are *simultaneous*. If I say that the one accounts for the other, some obstinate man will very likely begin to chop logic in debating it. I want to raise no debate. It is enough for me that the two things are simultaneous, and that the ladies when we came home met us with a glad welcome and send us away with so hearty a fare ye-well.

RECENT INCIDENTS IN MADAGASCAR.

The persecutions of years ago in Madagascar and the subsequent triumph of the gospel have long been a familiar story, but a missionary there writes in the *L. M. S. Chronicle*, that there is still in many places, away from the capital, difficulty, opposition, and even persecution, in trying to carry on Christian work.

TWO RECENT INSTANCES

of the kind may be here briefly described:—

(1) About a year or fourteen months ago a society of young preachers here in Antananarivo determined to send two of their number as native missionaries to distant and heathen parts of the country. One of these was sent to a village called Rangaranga, among the Betsimisaraka people, on the skirts of the great belt of forest. Here the faithful and earnest work of the evangelist and his wife soon began to bear fruit.

Within a few months many of the people learned to read, a large number of children were gathered together, the people—who seem to have been of a docile, childlike disposition—abandoned their heathen practices, gave up the drinking of *loaka* (the native spirits), and put themselves under the guidance of their friends and teachers. It seemed as if in a short time heathenism in that district would be overthrown, and a Christian congregation be trained in the knowledge and service of God. But a few days before last Christmas time a message came to the evangelist from the governor of a Hova military post about three days' distance away, ordering him to bring the school children and most of the people up to the fort "to keep Christmas." This, however, the evangelist, knowing the temptations to which the people would be exposed, as well as the difficulty of at once getting together the necessary food for such an expedition, declined to do immediately, asking for a little time first. This, however, was peremptorily refused; soldiers were sent to apprehend the evangelist, he was treated with extreme harshness and kept in confinement, and eventually was obliged to retire and his work was entirely broken up. And the man who acted so shamefully was only a few months before a fellow-preacher with the evangelist at one of the churches in the capital!

(2) A few months ago one of the students at the London Missionary Society's College, an earnest and energetic young man, on completing his course of study was appointed as evangelist to an important central village about two days' journey west of the capital, in the Ambobabeloma district. For a time all went well; but for some months past the evangelist has been constantly pressed by the chief man of the place to join him in taking money from the people to allow their children to be free from attending school. This, of course, he refused to do; and on his continued refusal to be a party to breaking the laws referring to school attendance, as well as to making money by taking bribes, the big man has at length made the place so uncomfortable that the evangelist has been hindered in every way in doing his work, and has at length been withdrawn by the superintending missionary. In ways such as these the great enemy of souls, and of all good work, continually stir up his agents to hinder the advance of Christ's Kingdom in Madagascar. But, thank God, progress is being made. Many faithful and earnest men are laboring all over the country to bring their fellow-men under the power of the Gospel; many are