

car Christians lived and acted as true Christians everywhere have done. Their inward experience showed the same faith, love and hope. They tried to live the same spiritual lives. They burned with the same zeal for the salvation of others. They had family worship. Secret prayer was universal. They prized and sought the Scriptures. They kept up their weekly meetings. Even their judges had to confess that they could find no fault in them except on the ground of "their praying." The martyr church of Madagascar was a New Testament Church!

A new persecution, the fourth and the last was hastened by the attempt of a Frenchman to incite insurrection and depose the Queen. The Christians took no part in it. The plot failed. But another convocation was called, and a fresh ukase issued, condemning the Christians and all their aiders and abettors. More than 200 suffered at this time different kinds of punishment and many more were banished from the Island. The old torture of stoning was introduced. Fourteen were stoned to death in one place. Another device followed, that of chaining the Christians together. One mentioned by Mr. Ellis wore fetters weighing 56 lbs. for four and a half years. Of one gang, fifty-seven in number, more than one-half died lingering agonizing deaths in their chains.

On the 16th of July, 1861, the Queen's long reign of terror came to an end. The miserable woman died, and her son ascended the throne as Radama II. Before the sun set that day he proclaimed liberty to the captives and the opening of prison doors to them that were bound. The year of Jubilee had come! All the people rejoiced. The idols were banished from the palace. The dreadful ordeal of tangena was abolished. The brightest hopes concerning the Prince were entertained, alas! too soon to be dissipated. He was amiable and kind. But, he was not a Christian. He chose young foolish counsellors, and rushed into all kinds of excesses. Still he favoured the missionaries and wished them to return. Again Mr. Ellis was sent from England to negotiate, in 1862. Oh what a change! He was met by delegations of Christians who rent the air with their songs of deliverance. Everywhere he found the people organizing themselves into congregations, and

there was no lack of native ministers. But the young king himself went on from bad to worse, until he was confirmed in dissipated habits. His mind grew dark and unsettled. Finally, a conspiracy was hatched. On the 12th May, 1863, a party of desperadoes entered his room and strangled him. So perished a ruler who twelve months before was regarded as the rising sun after a long night of terrible darkness. His widow, *Rasoherina*, reigned for five years. During her rule protection and liberty were granted to all. There was complete religious liberty. In accordance with a request of the Queen of England, *Rasoherina* engaged that there should be no more persecution of the Christians, and the engagement was faithfully kept. About this time three missionaries arrived from England. Missionary meetings began to be held. Three churches were built in the capital; one of them had an ordinary attendance of 1500 worshippers. One hundred and eighty communicants were added in a year. By the year 1868, there were twelve congregations in the capital, and eighty-six throughout the Provinces; 5000 communicants and 21,000 adherents. An educated native ministry was being raised up, and a native Christian literature was founded. The people gave liberally of their means. Thus rapidly Christianity advanced under this heathen Queen. A heathen she died on the 1st April, 1868. But, to the very last, she was faithful to all her promises, and in many things set a good example to Christian Sovereigns.

RANAVALONA II, the sister of the late king, and the present Queen, was the first Christian ruler in Madagascar. She was crowned on the 3rd September, 1868. The ceremony was quite a Christian service, conducted by native ministers. Her address was very remarkable, being chiefly made up of Scripture quotations. *Ranavalona* was as merciful to the idolators as her namesake had been cruel to the Christians, and Christianity now entered upon that triumphant success which it has ever since enjoyed in Madagascar. Joy spread everywhere. Towns with thousands of inhabitants were found willing to receive Christian instruction. Idolatry was in a state of general decay. But the most remarkable occurrence was the erection of *four Memorial Churches* on the spots consecrated by