

prominent position in the mission field.—The more that is known of the young King, the more does he rise in estimation. He is most anxious for the instruction of his people. Overflowing congregations are attending the services of Mr. Ellis and others in the capital. Christianity has nowhere more strikingly shown its continued vitality in our own days than in Madagascar.

The Roman Catholics have built a large church in Yeddo, Japan, and are using every means to insinuate themselves. It is said they have adopted the plan of lending money to aristocratic, but needy Japanese. They thus obtain a hold upon them, which there is little doubt they will use for the accomplishment of their own purpose.

The Lutheran Church in France undoubtedly comprises many orthodox and devoted pastors. But it is a matter of regret that Rationalistic theories are gaining ground amongst the Lutherans of Alsace, and especially at Strasbourg. One of the leaders of the negative school, M. Colani, has been appointed pastor of a parish in that city, and M. Druch, Dean of the Lutheran Faculty of Theology, has proclaimed that the essence of the Reformation is *free examination*. The Confession of Augsburg has become a purely nominal tradition, and the new theology takes no account of it. What would Martin Luther say, could he return to the world?

The ministrations of the Waldensian pastor at Palermo, who settled there a year and a half ago, has been attended with great blessing. The German and Swiss Protestants, who, until then, had been entirely destitute of spiritual food, have rallied round him, and they have been joined by many candid souls among the natives of Sicily.—The latter belong in Sicily, as well as in other parts of Italy, mostly to that class of society which takes the most active interest in the national movements. This is a phenomenon which deserves well to be appreciated, and which is easily explained by the alliance between the Papacy and anti-liberal political principles.

It is difficult to ascertain the exact religious belief of Garibaldi. He has too moral and noble a character to acquiesce in a cold, sober Atheism or Rationalism. Those who know him maintain that he is very regular in saying his morning prayers. In reply to a letter from an evangelical Christian, who called his attention to a pamphlet entitled *Dottrina Garibaldina*, which was a parody of the Lord's Prayer, the Apostolic Creed, and the Ten Commandments, Garibaldi expressed his entire disapprobation of the irreverent style and contents of the pamphlet.

The principle of religious toleration has as yet but little hold of the public mind in

Sicily. The Catholic clergy of the island have been, on the whole, more favorable to the national movements than their brethren in other parts of Italy; but, in ecclesiastical questions, they have remained strictly orthodox. They are generally too ignorant, and, for a large part, too immoral, to give hope for the success of any reformatory movement among them. The prospects among the laity are somewhat better. The nucleus of a native Protestant population has been formed, although the converts generally have to stand a severe persecution on the part of the priests and their parents. Some of the converts have entered the army, where they bear a good witness to their faith; a few have even attained an officer's rank.

---

## Fireside Reading.

---

### SAVAGE ISLAND—HEATHEN AND CHRISTIAN.

MY DEAR CHILDREN,—The last promise I made before leaving England was that I would write a letter to you, either about our voyage in the "John Williams," or about the people amongst whom we settled. My brethren who sailed with me have given you an account of the voyage, but I have no doubt a letter from Savage Island will be interesting to you. It was nearly nine months after leaving England that we landed on this island.

As soon as the ship could be seen from the land, numbers of natives came off in their canoes, and great was their joy when they found it was the "religion ship," and that a Missionary was on board for them. Some speedily returned to carry the news on shore, and it spread like wildfire through the land. And so, by the time our boat reached the landing-place, it was crowded with hundreds of rejoicing natives. It would have done your heart good to see their happy faces as they gave us their hearty welcome. Indeed, it was with difficulty that we reached the Teacher's house, the crowd was so great, and all were so eager for a shake or smell of hand or leg. But you will say, perhaps, if the people are so kind and quiet, why have they such a dreadful name? Because, when Captain Cook attempted to land eighty-seven years ago, as we did, the natives rushed down upon him with the ferocity of wild boars. And even had we attempted to land there only sixteen years ago, they would have met us in just the same manner. Captain Cook was not, therefore, very far wrong when he named their land Savage Island, which