

labouring in connection with parish clergymen. Such an agency seems indispensable for Norway, where the average size of a parish is seventy square miles, where there are many churches to be served by one pastor, and where the people are, therefore, thrown very much on their own resources for edification.

The institution is in its infancy. It has, however, published eleven tracts. Two only are from the writings of Luther. One is a serious address by a Norwegian bishop to his people, when suffering from a terrible famine; and the remainder are translations from the English.

Besides these societies in connection with the national churches, there is an institution at Stockholm entitled the Missionary Union, which is conducted by the Baptists, of which there are eight thousand in Sweden, and a few in Norway. The Rev. Mr. Wilberg, formerly a Lutheran clergyman, is the leading minister of the body, and is held in high repute by the pious people of Stockholm. Mr. Palmquist, the publisher for the institution, has a good supply of evangelical tracts and books; the latter being published, for the most part, at his own risk. Although the Religious Tract Society cannot adopt the distinctive teachings of either the Evangelical Lutherans or the Baptists, yet it can render efficient aid in the circulation, by both, of the common truth.—*The Rock*.

### A Nation Seeking Christ.

The *Evangelical Magazine*, of London, contains a letter from the Rev. C. Jukes, who has been travelling in Madagascar, in which he says: "The spirit of religious inquiry which I find prevailing in many places on my way, where there are no Christians, was most remarkable and interesting. I was asked for lessons by people of all ages, who wished to learn to read, and had to answer innumerable questions about the 'praying.' My palanquin, too, was frequently stopped on the road that I might reply to some inquiry about the 'custom of praying followed by the Christians.' I was asked such questions as these: 'Who was Jesus?' And often I was requested to 'tell about the good man who died to substitute the guilty.' The *furor* for reading lessons was most extraordinary. Old and young of both classes sought to possess a 'paper,' that they might, as they said, 'learn to read the Word of God.' Every day, and almost every half hour in the day, people applied for 'lessons,' and when I walked in the street gathered round me with the same request. It was perfectly useless for me to tell them that all I had left were for other congregations, who were expecting my arrival. They would take no

denial." The *Chronicle*, speaking of the progress of Christianity in this island, containing 5,000,000 souls, says: "No such growth—no such rapid extension of the Church—no such earnest grasp of the gospel, has been seen in any nation since the days of the Apostles. And it is with adoring wonder and gratitude that the missionaries and directors stand still and see the salvation of God."

Thus even the heathen press into the kingdom, while thousands who have had the offers of the Gospel before them all their days hesitate, and wonder, and perish. Simple indifference is the cruelest, and at the same time the most deceptive of all ways of despising salvation. What an admonition from Madagascar!

### Work among the Formosan Aborigines.

The Rev. H. Ritchie, of the English Presbyterian Mission, writes in the *Chinese Recorder* :—

I send you some information about our work on this side of the Channel, and from an occasional remembrance of us, in our insulated position, I have no doubt you will help us to a large place in the prayers of our brethren on the opposite continent, and wherever your publication may be read.

At our three southern stations, more immediately under my charge, we have now upwards of a hundred members, whilst there is a residue of inquirers, considerably over half that number, waiting regularly on the preached word. I have called the attention of our members to the self-supporting principle from the outset, and the result is, that at all these three stations a monthly opportunity is afforded each member, by the deacon present, to contribute according to his means for the support of ordinances. One station pays the salary of a helper every month, and the other two every alternate month, whilst at each place a small reserve fund is kept to meet the wants of the sick, the widow, or the fatherless within our borders. After candidates are received by baptism into our fellowship the great advantage of reading and searching the word of God for themselves is set before them; and on looking over the communion roll I find that there are upwards of forty who can now plod their way through the easier portions of the New Testament, whilst the majority of these persons a year or two ago, at the time they entered the Church, did not know a single character; and if it were not owing to the accidental circumstance that, about one-half of the members live at a considerable distance from our chapels, I would have been able to inform you of a still larger