

**Jewish Colonization in Palestine.**—“Year by year,” remarks Lieutenant-Colonel Goldsmid, “the state of the Jews all over the world is becoming less satisfactory instead of better. As the result of the persecutions in Russia and Roumania Jewish colonies are being founded everywhere. They are even in an initiatory stage in South America, and may likely be commenced in Central Africa. These schemes, Mr. Goldsmid thinks, are only deferring the evil day. He holds firmly that the Jewish question will never be settled until there is a Jewish state in the Holy Land. “In some countries,” he says, “we are persecuted. In others we are barely tolerated. I am not at all surprised at this. What other race with so glorious a history as ours would tamely sit down and see the land of their ancestors in the hands of a foreigner? Italy has regained Rome, why should we not regain Palestine, instead of being contented to remain tolerated by the peoples among whom we live?”

**Madagascar.**—Political affairs are taking an erratic course on the island. The determined attitude of the more enlightened and patriotic Malagassies toward the French Protectorate, to which I referred in the January issue of the *MISSIONARY REVIEW*, is being neutralized by the Malagasy Court. Either by adroit negotiations, or intrigue, the French are already on growingly cordial terms with the Government. The English adviser, the Protestant missionaries, and other tried counsellors, are to-day set aside for the French, while the queen, the prime minister, and the ladies-in-waiting affect French customs, and eagerly show their regard for the officials of the French Republic. As a correspondent says: “The French representative has but to go ahead cautiously and circumspectly to obtain for his country all she can possibly wish for.” What the future will bring remains to be seen. At present the country, administratively, is in a lamentable condition. The increasing selfishness, despotism, and lax morality noticed in

Government circles cause serious misgivings regarding the nation's welfare. Thus far French influence has not raised the moral standard. The habits of life and non-Christian principles of Frenchmen are unmistakably introducing a false civilization. In developing the resources of Madagascar, or promoting commercial enterprise and colonization, the French are utterly unfitted. The export and import trade is nearly all done by English and American traders. Religiously, the work continues to prosper. In face of the disappointments with respect to the action of the Government, the missionaries maintain a powerful hold on the native communities. The London Missionary Society and the Society of Friends stand on almost similar platforms, and attempt much in common. It is regretted that the advanced sacerdotal teachings of the agents of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel prevent co-operation with this body. Despite the energy of Roman Catholic missionaries and their numbers, they are singularly weak and unable to gather congregations.

**India—“Age of Consent” Bill.**—Native papers are full of letters and discussions relating to the proposed measure for raising “marriage consent” from the age of ten to twelve. The bill is in committee, and should reappear before the Legislative Council next March, meanwhile, local governments are collecting native opinion in all parts of the country. By the Mohammedans expressing themselves favorable and, to a large extent, the Brahmo-Somaj, there is great anticipation of eventual success. Orthodox Hindus in Upper and Western India are apparently unconcerned. The National Congress is neutral, according to its resolution not to agitate on social questions. From Bengal comes the most pronounced opposition, though it is generally believed the measure will be carried when it is universally known that the bill does not interfere with religious customs, or form a prelude to corresponding acts of legislation.