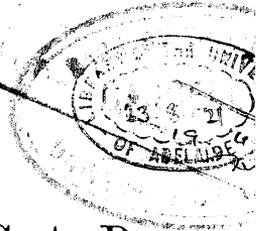


4/12 2002

HISTORY

OF

MADAGASCAR.



COMPRISING ALSO

THE PROGRESS OF THE CHRISTIAN MISSION ESTABLISHED IN 1818: AND AN AUTHENTIC ACCOUNT OF THE RECENT MARTYRDOM OF RAFARAVAVY; AND OF THE PERSECUTION OF THE NATIVE CHRISTIANS.

Compiled chiefly from Original Documents,

BY THE REV. WILLIAM ELLIS,

Foreign Secretary to the London Missionary Society.

"TELL THE QUEEN OF MADAGASCAR FROM ME, THAT SHE CAN DO NOTHING SO BENEFICIAL FOR HER COUNTRY AS TO RECEIVE THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION."
Queen Adelaide to the Embassy from Madagascar.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

FISHER, SON, & CO.

NEWGATE-STREET, LONDON; QUAI DE L'ECOLE, PARIS.

ГОУНПОСОННО
БНЕМОДЕКА
ООП
ИИ. В. Н. КОШИИ

21527-89.

PREFACE.

THE materials for a large portion of the following work, were collected by the Missionaries in the island to which it relates, and forwarded to this country in the year 1830. It was then intended to present chiefly a history of the Protestant Mission in Madagascar, from its commencement in 1818, to the decease of Radama in 1828. This, it was proposed, to accompany by a description of the most remarkable customs of the Malagasy, biographical notices of the late king, and other distinguished personages; and an account of the abolition of the slave-trade in the island. When the documents were examined by the Directors of the London Missionary Society, to whom they were sent, it appeared desirable to extend the plan of the work, by including the history of the island from its discovery, to a later date than 1828; and early in 1833, I was requested

to prepare the work for publication, adding such information as could be obtained from publications in this country—correspondence with the Missionaries—and the papers in the possession of the London Missionary Society.

Shortly after the period now referred to, circumstances occurring in Madagascar which rendered it expedient to postpone for a time the publication of the history, its preparation for the press was suspended; and although a very strong desire for information respecting the country and the people has been manifested, the delay that has taken place is the less to be regretted, as the work has been rendered more complete than it could have been, if published at any earlier period.

By the kindness of the Right Honourable Lord Glenelg, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, access has been obligingly granted to the voluminous and peculiarly interesting MS. journals of James Hastie, Esq., by whom the treaty for the abolition of the slave-trade was negociated, and who was, for many years, British agent at the capital of Madagascar.

In the early part of the work, the writings of Flacourt, Rochon, the narrative of Drury, and the life of Benyowsky, the History by Copland, as well as other works, have been used. Much valuable

information has also been obtained from the island, in answer to specific inquiries sent to the Missionaries. Several of these, namely, Messrs. Jones, Griffiths, and Baker, have also visited England since the preparation of the work was commenced, and have readily furnished information, which has enabled me to enlarge and modify many of the original statements. Mr. Freeman has also cheerfully supplied much useful information respecting the recent history of the country, and has prepared a valuable paper on the native language, which is given as an Appendix to the first volume. The embellishments are chiefly from sketches taken on the spot, or from articles brought to this country; the outline of the map is copied from that published after the recent survey by Commodore Owen; and the names of places and persons are given by the Missionaries, or taken from other authorities.

To the distinguished nobleman to whom I am indebted for access to the documents in the Colonial Office, to Captain Moorsom, R.N., to the Author of "The Loss of the Winterton," and the Missionary Brethren who have rendered me valuable assistance in the preparation of the work, I would thus publicly acknowledge my obligations, especially to the Rev. J. J. Freeman, who, in order to aid in securing the greatest possible accuracy, has kindly