

**MADAGASCAR: ITS
SOCIAL AND
RELIGIOUS PROGRESS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649641383

Madagascar: Its Social and Religious Progress by Mrs. Ellis

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

MRS. ELLIS

**MADAGASCAR: ITS
SOCIAL AND
RELIGIOUS PROGRESS**

MADAGASCAR:

ITS SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS PROGRESS.

BY
MRS ELLIS.

LONDON:
JAMES NISBET & CO., 21 BERNERS STREET.
M.DCCC.LXIII.

~~200. m. 169.~~
133. g. 120

EDINBURGH
PRINTED BY BALLANTYNE AND COMPANY,
PAUL'S WALK.



PREFACE.

IN issuing this volume at the present time, some apology appears necessary on the part of the writer, who, when the proposal was first made to her to draw up a short summary of missionary efforts in Madagascar, was not aware that other works on the same subject were already in preparation; or rather, that matter available to all was being at that time so fully and so ably treated as to supersede the necessity for any other attempt to describe the extraordinary events connected with the early mission of the London Society in the island of Madagascar.

The appearance of other ably written

books on the same subject, before her own was completed, has induced the writer of the present volume to give a more social, and even personal, character to her descriptions of Madagascar, under the idea that, should the journalist not in the meantime come home to tell his own tale, the present extracts offered to the public may prove introductory to a future supply of sketches derived from the same source.

ROSE HILL, *February* 1863.

MADAGASCAR.

CHAPTER I.

WHEN an island of the size and relative importance of Madagascar is beginning to assume a place amongst civilised nations, it is of consequence that its history should be clearly understood.

There are many channels through which the religious history of Madagascar has been faithfully transmitted to this country; but as the most important facts connected with the religious experience of the people are becoming blended with their condition as a rapidly-advancing and improving community, it is an act of justice, as well as a cheering and delightful duty, to lay before the public such candid and impartial statements as may tend to throw light upon this interesting subject.

Never was the world more alive than at the present time to the vast importance of freedom of opinion, and especially of religious freedom. Never was the world more generally favourable to every onward and upward movement towards a higher range of intelligence, whether amongst individuals or communities. And never has the natural world presented a spectacle more astonishing in the upheaving of its physical structure, than that which is now taking place in the structure of mind and character, and of social and public institutions, in the island of Madagascar.

A brief description of some of the causes which have operated in producing this change, while conveying to some minds a wonderful narrative of which they had previously no knowledge, may not be without its use in reminding others of one of those instances of God's providence by which He sometimes utterly confounds the wisdom of man, in frustrating, as it would seem to human observation, the success of His own beneficent and merciful designs.

We see this not unfrequently in the events of social and domestic life, where the one member of

a household, whose influence appears most essential to the well-being of the whole, is suddenly snatched away; and we see it also where some great enterprise, undertaken for the glory of God and the benefit of mankind, suddenly deprived of its leader, is permitted to fall to the ground, without accomplishing the good designed.

In the world's history these anomalies have always afforded the most striking and often the most appalling evidence that

"God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;"

that He orders His affairs with a wisdom inscrutable to man; and that, by arresting or retarding His own work, as it seems to our dim and narrow view, He is often in reality shewing that He can effect His purpose by means which to us would appear entirely inadequate, and often even opposed to the desired results.

As regards some nations and peoples, these arrangements of Providence have operated in a manner gradual and slow; or they have been less marked by adverse movements, and consequently the current of human affairs upon which they have operated