

**AN INTRODUCTION TO
THE LANGUAGE AND
LITERATURE OF
MADAGASCAR**

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An Introduction to the Language and Literature of Madagascar by Julius Kessler

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JULIUS KESSLER

**AN INTRODUCTION TO
THE LANGUAGE AND
LITERATURE OF
MADAGASCAR**

AN INTRODUCTION
TO THE
LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
OF
MADAGASCAR.

WITH
HINTS TO TRAVELLERS
AND
A New Map.

BY THE
REV. JULIUS KESSLER,
CURATE OF ST. JOHN'S, DARTFORD,
LATE MISSIONARY IN MADAGASCAR.



LONDON:
SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE,
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1872.

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TO THE
RIGHT REVEREND VINCENT RYAN, D.D.,
VICAR OF BRADFORD,
LATE BISHOP OF MAURITIUS,

This Volume is Inscribed

AS A MARK OF PERSONAL ESTEEM AND REGARD, BY

THE AUTHOR.

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PREFACE.

DURING my residence in Madagascar, both in the interior and on the coast, I have paid considerable attention to the language, and some three years ago it was suggested to me to prepare a short Manual to facilitate the study of the Malagasy Language.

Since then, my time being pretty well occupied in parish work, I was not able to carry out that suggestion, but I have now undertaken the work, because the whole island is thrown open to foreigners. The Queen and Government of the Hovas having lately embraced Christianity, the province of Imerina has become Christian, and I have hardly any doubt that the coast tribes will soon follow their example. Christianity and civilization go hand in hand. Missionaries will be followed by traders and others in much larger numbers than hitherto.

Up to the present, there is no native literature extant. The copious religious literature consists of translations by the missionaries. The Fables in the second part of this Work are purely native, with the exception of No. viii. ; they were published at Antananarivo in 1834, but besides a MS. in my possession, there are, so far as I am aware, no other copies in existence. If this little book contributes towards an elementary knowledge of the language, I shall be amply repaid.

39, TIERWHITT ROAD, UPPER LEWISHAM ROAD,

DEPTFORD, *May 10th*, 1870.

CONTENTS.

PART I.

	PAGE.
ELEMENTS OF GRAMMAR	11
ENGLISH AND MALAGASY VOCABULARY	25
ENGLISH AND MALAGASY PHRASES	53
HINTS TO TRAVELLERS	57

PART II.

MALAGASY FABLES *	67
THE LORD'S PRAYER	87
THE TEN COMMANDMENTS	87
THE CREED	89

-
- * I. The Wild Dog and the Lamb.
 - II. How the Frogs sought for a Leader.
 - III. How the Crocodile and the Rat, being tipsy, fought with each other.
 - IV. The Wild Dog and its Image (in the water).
 - V. The Wild Bull looking at its Image in the water.
 - VI. The Wild Dog and the Crow.
 - VII. The Wild Dog and the Heron.
 - VIII. The Frog which boasted of itself.
 - IX. The little Eel and its Grandfather.
 - X. The Dog and the Rat disputing with each other.
 - XI. The Cock and the Calf.
 - XII. The Wild Dog and the Tame Dog.
 - XIII. Questions to the Dead.