

THE RECORD.

Our friends will be glad to learn that most of the orders received for 1862 are larger than the orders for last year. We expect a considerable increase in our circulation, and have made provision for it by printing a large edition of the January number. Some congregations have added 4, some 10, some 20 to their lists. We have reason to believe that nearly all could add a few. The *Record* should be the most widely circulated periodical in the Lower Provinces, and if our friends do us justice we hope it will reach this point in a few weeks. No family of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces should be without it; but the responsibility of circulating the *Record* must of necessity rest with our ministers and elders. Brethren, do what you can for the *Record*, and you will be repaid tenfold by the increased intelligence of your people, and their keener interest in all that concerns the REDEEMER'S KINGDOM. We spare no pains to make the *Record* what it should be. If we come short it is not for lack of diligence. But we have no ground of complaint as to the reception hitherto accorded to us; all that we ask is that for the sake of our people who have never seen or read the *Record*, its claims be pressed upon their attention from the pulpit or otherwise, as the minister and elders judge best.

SUMMARY.

DEATH OF PRINCIPAL CUNNINGHAM.—When we directed the attention of the Church to the solemn address of Dr. Cunningham on the subject of Missions, we were not aware that they were to prove his LAST MESSAGE to the churches. Yet so it is! The learned Principal died on Saturday the 14th December. On Monday he lectured as usual. He was taken ill with pleurisy on Tuesday, and on Saturday he tranquilly departed to his eternal rest. He was but 56 years of age. He has left a widow and seven children. He was confessedly one of the first theologians of the age. The Free Church will feel his loss as second only to that of Dr. CHALMERS.

The Prince Consort's death, in the prime of life, is felt as a heavy calamity throughout the whole extent of the British Empire.

UNION BETWEEN THE ENGLISH PRESBYTERIANS AND THE U. P. BODY IN ENGLAND.—A numerous and highly interesting meeting of the ministers and church officers of the English Presbyterian or Free Church in England and United Presbyterians in London was held last week, in the large hall connected with the National Scotch Church, Regent Square (the Rev. Dr. Hamilton's), to consider the subject of the union of these two bodies south of the Tweed. About 150 ministers and elders connected with the different Presbyterian Churches in the metropolis and its neighbourhood were present. The meeting, it was understood, had originated with Mr. Henderson of Park; and the preliminaries

were arranged by the joint action of the Rev. Dr. Hamilton and the Rev. Dr. Edmond. After the company had partaken of tea and coffee, speeches were delivered by Dr. McCrie, Dr. Hamilton, Dr. Edmond, Rev. Mr. Redpath, Dr. Taylor, of Toronto, all most cordial and brotherly; and a committee was appointed to forward the views of the meeting.

NEW MISSION IN THE UPPER INDUS.—Sir Herbert Edwardes, K. C. B., who is about to return to India as Commissioner of the Cis-Sutlej States. Punjab, has just brought before the Committee of the Church Missionary Society a letter from Colonel Reynell Taylor, Commissioner of the Trans-Sutlej States, earnestly pleading for the commencement of a new mission at two or three of the great towns on the Upper Indus, offering £1000 on its establishment, and enclosing a letter of cordial acknowledgment from Sir Robert Montgomery, K. C. B., Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, in which he promises a further donation of £300. Sir H. Edwardes has given the committee a description of the vigorous and energetic character of the travelling merchant tribes, Lohanis, Boluchis, and others who would thus be reached, whose *Khaplas* (caravans) penetrate from Bokhara to Calcutta, and has pointed out how they, if brought to acknowledge the truth of the Gospel, would indeed be "itinerant Christians." The committee did not hesitate for a moment in accepting Colonel Taylor's generous offer.

DESTRUCTION OF MISSION PREMISES IN WESTERN AFRICA. Letters appear in the *Times* announcing the destruction by fire of the mission-house and church at Fallagra, Rio Pongas, on the 24th September:—"Some grass having been lighted to burn out the ants, unfortunately the flames flew up and caught the thatch and burnt down the mission-house and the church. I am happy to say that through the indefatigable exertions of our people, the Christians as well as the heathens and the Mahomedans, the church is being thatched again. But with regard to the mission-house, this I shall not be able to carry on without a deal of help. I have also lost my English and Soosoo prayer-book; the plain song of psalms has also been partly destroyed." Another letter says:—"The cotton-gin, all the Soosoo prayer-books, and all the manuscripts are lost, together with a part of my books and all of Mr. Phillips's. All my stores, bedding, crockery, glasses, &c., and the whole of Mr. Phillips's have perished. I only saved a few things in the way of clothing, and have not a single pair of shoes left. The box of tools, the mission medicine chest and that of Mr. Phillips are destroyed, and I am left homeless and without stores. The cries of the children on the day of the fire were heartrending. With their hands on their heads they flucked together, exclaiming, 'Our house is destroyed; what shall we do?' The cries of the women quite unmanned me."