

and as inferior. This done, Madagascar will soon take a stand among the civilised nations of the world."

THE contributions in aid of the Home and Foreign Missionary operations of the United Presbyterian Church, during the year 1861, has considerably exceeded any former period, notwithstanding the depressed state of trade and commerce throughout the country. The following is the amount received by the Treasurer for 1861:—For Home and Foreign Missions, £27,851, 2s. 3½d.; for London Movement, £3000; amount in year, £29,851, 2s 3½d. This does not include local missionary operations, such as City Missions, carried on by individual congregations, nor funds for Church buildings.

JUST as we are going to press, we learn the sad tidings of the death of the Rev. Dr. Symington, of Great Hamilton Street Reformed Presbyterian Church, Glasgow. Dr. Symington died on the 28th inst., in his 70th year of fever. He was one of the chief ornaments of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland—a man of profound ability as a theologian, and of the most genial and amiable disposition as a catholic Christian.

Review of the Past Month.

THE progress of the civil war in the States of America still absorbs by far the greatest portion of public interest. Its effects are being gradually but severely felt both in France, Britain and these colonies. The Northern States while they are scarcely importing any thing are straining every nerve to realise as much as possible by their export trade. Most of the cotton mills in England are on short time. The same may be said to a smaller extent of France, with the addition of a very serious blow to her staple manufactures in silk, of which America was a very large consumer. Cotton has advanced from 6d to a shilling per pound, though there exists but a limited demand for cotton goods. Still the home and export trade of Britain is in a sound and healthy state—the demands from India and other countries are very large and constantly increasing, and people are now beginning to be convinced that they are by no means entirely dependent for their commercial prosperity upon the U. States. It cannot be denied, however, that these Lower Provinces have suffered and are suffering very acutely from the present unhappy state of matters. Our Provincial Parliament has just met and it seems that the revenue of the past year is less than that of the preceding one by more than \$80,000—a very serious deficiency.

Several very important successes have been gained by the Federal troops during the past month, and at the present moment the prospects of the South look somewhat gloomy.

Several large naval expeditions have succeeded in effecting landings at different points, and with considerable success. They have captured Roanoke Island and a small army of 3,000 men, and more lately after a decisive and bloody encounter they have taken Fort Donelson with its strong garrison of, according to their own account, 20,000, though with a loss of 1100 on their own part. General Price also it is said at the head of a disorganised army is being chased out of Missouri, and altogether the Federals have all at once acted with a vigor and success which cannot fail in having a very depressing effect upon Southern counsels. Tennessee, Kentucky and Missouri would seem to be on the point of being wrested over to the Union at the cannon's mouth. As might be expected the recent victories have produced great elation and buoyancy of feeling in the Northern States. Still it is felt that their affairs are in a very critical condition. They are expending at the very least \$2,000,000 a day—their exchequer is empty—their credit is at an end, for not even the offer of 7½ per cent. can bring them funds—they have made inconvertible paper money a legal tender, an almost sure precursor of speedy bankruptcy. Already they probably are in debt £200,000,000 sterling, the interest of which will absorb far more than all their available revenue. It is evident that nothing can save them, but a series of victories which shall crush out the rebellion and that very speedily.

The notorious Confederate steamer Sumpter has been burning American vessels and their cargoes on the eastern side of the Atlantic, a sorry business which may irritate, but can have no sensible effect on the issue of this unhappy struggle, unless carried on to an extent really to imperil American commerce. Two war steamers Federate and Confederate, the Tuscarora and the Nashville, have been watching each other in the Southampton waters. At latest accounts the latter had got off to parts unknown. Indeed the U. States navy has not covered itself with glory, so far, in this contest. Quite a number of their best frigates having been detailed to capture those two Confederate steamers which are both small and weakly manned, but with no manner of success.

Mason and Slidell have arrived safely in England and it is not probable we shall hear much more about them, though they have been the cause of adding two or three millions to the expensiture of the British Government or as much as would have finished our Intercolonial Railway. But the lesson taught the States is worth the money.

A considerable force will be kept in these Provinces for some time, as well as a powerful fleet watching our seaboard.

The manner of the reception of the troops and the facilities voluntarily placed at the disposal of the authorities by all classes of col-