

"From Razanakombana, the only son of Thotoos (Raombana),
"Antananarivo, August 1, 1863.

"DEAREST FRIEND,—I ask Heaven's blessing upon you for your precious letter: I cannot tell you with what delight I hailed your handwriting. Often do I fear, lest by word or deed, I should bring dishonour on the Name we love, but yet I feel quiet confidence in God that He will keep me by His grace and power, and make me to persevere to the end. I thank God that he has ordered it so that the London Missionary Society sent some of the gentlemen to instruct the people of Madagascar. We are glad to hear that our friends in England are willing to help us so liberally to build churches, which shall be consecrated to the memory of the martyrs of our country. The Christians increased very fast during the reign of the late king, Radama II. We blessed the goodness of God, for we had the unspeakable pleasure of listening to the good preaching which the English missionaries and the native preachers gave us. There are six chapels in our capital, which the Christians fill, many of the native chiefs, both men and women, are among the communicants. I found on the arrival of the missionaries, that the benefits diffused by the British and Foreign Bible Society extended to my countrymen, and their moral wants were supplied by the distribution of the said Books. For Holy Scripture is the fountain of light and salvation of mankind, and particularly to comfort people in their time of trouble. We in this remote part of the world have heard much of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and have contemplated with admiration the beneficial influences of that noblest Institution of charity in the world. We rejoice in the success with which it has pleased God to crown the efforts of His servants in their labours of love, and we pray that uninterrupted success may attend them. I must thank Miss Whiteley for her kindness; she sent me a beautiful Bible. I wish you to tell the friends of my dear late father to write each to me; and to the widows and children of the dead. My dear mother and sisters are quite well; they desire me to present their good wishes to you. Remember us kindly to you all.

"(Signed) Your sincere Friend,
"RAZANAKOMBANA,
"14th Hon. Officer of the Palace, Minister
"for Foreign Affairs."

It is needless to add, that your Committee have cheerfully made a grant of Scriptures, in compliance with this lady's request.

UNITED STATES.

NEW YORK.—It is with unfeigned sorrow, on account of the fearful calamities which civil war is entailing upon this country, that your Committee refer to the operations of the AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY during the past year. They cannot regard the prolongation of the present struggle between members of the same family, and the bloodshed and misery which are its necessary accompaniments, without feelings of deepest sadness, and an earnest supplication that it may please God so to control and direct the various events to which this conflict has reference, that the sword may no longer devour, but that peace may once more prevail. It is, however, gratifying to find that among the supporters of the great Religious Institutions of the country, and especially of the Bible Society, there have not been wanting those who have been equal to the occasion, and who not only have honoured God with their substance, but have shown much activity and zeal in the prosecution of the Lord's work. The receipts of the past year have been upwards of 44,000 dollars in advance of those of the year preceding. The Board of Managers, however, expect that all the means at