

in perfect preservation, among the latter being a number of Hebrew books, showing that the House belonged to a literary man. Besides the book of Moses and Psalms of David, there is a collection of Hebrew poems, absolutely unknown to the Orientalists of our day. These interesting remains have been sent to the Asiatic Society of London.

Notes of the Month.

THE Report of the Commissioners upon the great calamity under which Great Britain suffers at the present time—the Rinderpest, indicates the extent of the evil. There were, in October, 11,300 cases; in November, 20,887 cases; in December, 39,714 cases; in the end of December, 73,549 cases; and in January, 120,740 cases. Of the last mentioned 120,000 cases, probably 100,000 cattle were killed, or died. Great must have been the suffering inflicted upon poor people: and it is satisfactory to learn, by last advices, that the plague is diminishing.

MR. GLADSTONE has submitted to the House of Commons his new Reform Bill. He calculates that the changes proposed shall increase the town constituencies by 204,000, and the county constituencies by 171,000, or, in round numbers, 400,000. It is already apparent that it will meet with great opposition, particularly from the agricultural interest. The Bill for the Abolition of Church Rates has passed the second reading in the House of Commons—an indication of a growing Anti-State-Church feeling.

FENIANISM is thought to have been effectually checked in Ireland, constituting a bloodless triumph of law and order.

IN the United States, President Johnson has subjected himself to much obloquy, on the part of the Republicans, by vetoing the Freedmen's Bureau Bill. His firmness is remarkable, and elicits admiration from the world at large.

ANIMATED DEBATES have enlivened the Parliaments of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The Anti-Confederation Government of New Brunswick has been sustained in the Lower House. The Railway debate in the Nova Scotia House of Assembly has resulted in the sustentation of the Government. An Education Bill has been tabled, proposing further changes. It seems to give trustees the power of local assessment. Having only lately received the Superintendent's Report, much cannot be said on it without a further examination. The Report of the Rev. James Christie, the School Inspector for Cumberland, is the most carefully prepared and by far the best Report in the volume. Many of his remarks are admirable, and they seem to be original. The great defects in our schools relate to common branches. The machinery is becoming too complicated, and, for Trustees, Inspectors, and Teachers, vexatiously

minute. It will take some time to drill Nova Scotians into the school system of New England, where our educationists have discovered that education blooms in "sinless perfection."

REPORTS of Fenian invasion have alarmed all classes within the last ten days, and necessitated some military precautionary measures. The excitement in Canada is considerable, and a large number of militia are under arms. When the Confederation question comes on, Fenianism will be an argument for it; but the present conflict in the States, between Congressional and State government, will be a more conclusive argument against Federations in general.

THE news from the mission-field of the New Hebrides are of a very discouraging nature. The Commodore on the Australian station has, by the unanimous request of the missionaries, fired upon the natives. Mr. Gordon seems to be in great danger, and his last letter is evidently written under great excitement of mind. Obscure hints are thrown out of culpable and imprudent conduct. The whole proceedings are such a departure from the approved and successful policy of Mr. Geddie, that we cannot understand the matter, and wait for further light.

It would appear that Mr. Gilfillan is to be taken to task for his views on the Sabbath. The papers announce that a similar course is to be followed with reference to Dr. McLeod. We subjoin the following article from the *Glasgow Citizen* on the subject:—

"We hear it stated, on what we believe to be good authority, that at the next meeting of the Glasgow Presbytery a motion is to be brought forward for the appointment of a committee to ascertain how far the views recently propounded by the Rev. DR. NORMAN MACLEOD are in accordance with the standards of the Church of Scotland. This announcement will, we are sure, occasion deep regret, if not grave alarm, to every true friend of the Established Church. It indicates the existence, in certain quarters, of a desire to enforce a uniformity of interpretation in nice and difficult points of doctrine which would be utterly fatal not only to intellectual freedom and progress, but to the unity and strength of the Establishment. What would the Church of Scotland be without the men to whom it chiefly owes its distinction and influence in broader fields of Christian labour outside the narrow boundaries of sect? We can understand the maintenance of a narrow intolerance among the adherents of a limited persuasion. But a Church claiming to be national should be inclusive, not exclusive. It should admit both of a high church and of a low church party. Such a church should be slow to quarrel with any of its members, and large in charity for differences in non-essentials. It is by liberality and breadth of policy of this kind that the Church of England continues to be a grand national church, instead of being cut up into a host of petty denominations. So long, indeed, as the minds of men are differently constituted, there must, in every large religious body, be minor varieties of belief; and unless a certain number of open questions are tolerated, either pious hypocrisy must be engendered, or Christian honesty and courage be alienated or expelled. Those who, if we are rightly informed,