

NOTES OF THE MONTH.

THE last month began with an alarm of war, which has now happily been dispelled by the labors of a peace conference in London. The King of Denmark retains Luxembourg and Prussia removes all her munitions of war from the fortress. The Eastern question still agitates the European world of politics. It would give very general satisfaction if Candia were separated from Turkey and added to Greece. The Reform Bill has been reported in Committee into as liberal a form as it could take without yielding universal suffrage. The qualification in burghs is holding any house and paying rates. A sweeping change in the abolition of *compounding* has been effected. This was a system by which a landlord paid part of the rates. The British Reform Bill has been introduced, which, while the principle is the same, has the effect practically of leaving the qualification much worse; as in Scotland, all householders are rated down to £4 rental. All parties are astonished at these measures. Right and other extreme Reformers, who have lived and flourished upon a grievance, find that their vocation is gone. Having spent their lives grumbling, they cannot live without it. They cannot forgive the Tories for ruining their business. Mr. Lowe, on the other hand, is howling in despair at the conversion of Britain into a democracy. A great step has been taken and all parties will probably wait with some anxiety the development of its consequences in the political network of our great Mother-country.

In America, the release of ex-President Davis has taken place very quietly. Whether done from magnanimity or from policy, it will acknowledge it to be an act worthy of a great country. His downfall is alone a great punishment. Maximilian, also, who has been taken prisoner and is now in the power of his enemies, adds another to the list of disappointed aspirants to imperial honors. The Fenians again threaten disturbance on the Canadian border. As in Canada, so in Ireland, the Fenian trials have resulted in many convictions, but no one will be the trouble of hanging any of them. Eternal confinement for life is to take the place of the gallows of martyrdom. The contest between labor and capital is still worse in America than in Europe. The eight-hour-work movement in many American cities seriously affects the prosperity of trade. The demand for shorter time is simultaneous with the demand for higher wages. The Commission that has sat lately in Britain upon the Trades' union, has elicited many startling facts as to the tyrannical conduct and cruelty of such bodies. A recent case of certain working tailors, who were on strike, visiting

the house of one of their brethren, who was sick, and whose wife was sewing for the support of the family, searching her house for evidence of her labors and then threatening to kill her husband, has awakened much indignation. Combination is right, whether of labor or capital; but restriction and oppression are wrong. Take away these and all things in this world of God's making will find their proper place. Lord Brougham the veteran Reformer is very ill, and Sir Archibald Alison is dead. The latter, during the leisure moments of an active life, found time to write a long and laborious history of Europe, that very few can now find time to read through. It is, however, of great research, containing a vast amount of information, and composed in a pleasing if not brilliant style. As an honest journalist of the events of a very eventful time, the deceased has laid his country under obligations.

The opening of the Pictou Railway upon the very day specified in the contract, is an event of great importance. It must assist in the development of the great mineral wealth of Pictou county. Already the amount of travel appears wonderful.

The General Assembly is reported to have met; but we have only the accounts of the formal proceedings of the first day. Dr. Crawford has been elected Moderator. Dr. Lee's prayer book case was expected to come before the General Assembly by an appeal of his from a decision of the Synod; but as the Dr. is reported to have been injured by a fall from his horse, the accident may delay the consideration of the matter. The tedious Cumbrae disputed settlement case comes before the General Assembly. The Presbytery has decided against the presentee. The proceedings of the U. P. Synod, have been somewhat animated and interesting. Two memorials from England have forced in a decision upon the organ question. They have resolved to permit organs in their churches in England by 232 to 136. By a majority of 389 to 39 they have declared that there is now no distaste to union with the Free Church. Their statistics show that their divinity students have fallen in number from 181 in 1860 to 132 in 1866; while during the last ten years they have added to their list 80 new congregations; their congregational income is £203,308, and their missionary and benevolent income is £71,948—all which prove high prosperity, and prove with what zeal and wisdom the affairs of this highly respectable body of Christians are managed. They have appointed Dr. Cairns to the chair of Apologetic Theology in the room of Dr. Lindsay, deceased. The May meetings in London, show for the British and Foreign Bible Society an income of £172,000; Church Missionary Society £150,000; the Wesleyan £148,000 and the London Missionary Society £100,000. John Henderson of Park, a very benevolent Glasgow merchant, has lately