

NOTES OF THE MONTH.

The trial of Dr. Talmage before his Presbytery has resulted in his acquittal. The trial lasted seven weeks. He was charged with falsehood and deceit.

Dean Stanley preached in Glasgow recently, in a Presbyterian church before a vast audience. In his sermon he bore the following tribute to Presbyterianism :

“The Scottish church is not only Christian, Catholic, National and Protestant—it is also Primitive. There was a time when it used to be the prevailing belief of English divines that, Episcopacy in the sense of the necessity of one presiding officer over every christian community, reached back to the first origin of the christian society. This belief, in the enlarged atmosphere of more exact scholarship and more enlightened candor, has now been abandoned. The most learned of all the living bishops of England whose accession to the great see of Durham has been recently welcomed by the whole church of England, with a rare unanimity and enthusiasm, has with his characteristic moderation and erudition, proved beyond dispute, in a celebrated essay attached to his edition of St. Paul's Epistle to the Philippians, that the early constitution of the Apostolic Churches of the first century, was not that of a single bishop, but of a body of pastors indifferently styled bishops, or Presbyters, and that it was not till the very end of the Apostolic age that the office which we now call episcopacy gradually and slowly made its way in the churches of Asia Minor; that Presbytery was not a later growth out of Episcopacy but that Episcopacy was a later growth out of Presbytery; that the office which the apostles instituted was a kind of rule not of bishops, but of Presbyters; and that even down to the third century presbyters as well as bishops possessed the power of nominating and consecrating bishops.

The Afghan war is finished. England retains possession of the great passes through which vast armies might march from Russia to seize upon India, and has thus put an effective check upon the further advance of Russia towards the much coveted East. The Earl of Beaconsfield has thus added another, to what some call his many glories and others his many crimes; and has secured what has been termed a “scientific frontier” for India.

The South African war still continues. Lord Chelmsford is waiting for further reinforcements before advancing further into Zulu-land. It is probable that one of the results of this war will be the further opening up of South Africa for colonization and commerce.

The merchandise of Britain being excluded to a great extent from other countries by high protective duties, must seek other markets. Already a line of telegraph is spoken of, from Egypt by the great central lakes to Cape Colony, and a railway from the Sea Coast to the head waters of the Nile. The Presbyterian churches of Scotland have each established a mission in this central region, and are sending out not only ministers, but artizans and laborers of different kinds, with their families. They aim at teaching the natives the arts of civilized life, and seek to open up the country by legitimate trade, thus abolishing what Livingstone called the “open sore of Africa” the traffic in slaves.

In our own Presbytery no little flutter has been caused by the election of Mr. Herdman to the parish of Rattray. The last minister of this charge was Mr. Herdman's brother, who succeeded his father. It is said that there are still parishioners living who remember some of the texts of the original Mr. Herdman, the founder of the clerical line who died in 1833. As the race is long lived, we may hope that Mr. Herdman returning to the calm atmosphere of his native soil, will renew his youth and live till well on into the next century, and that his sons or grand-sons may then reign in

In order to fill up the vacancies now occurring, we presume the example set since the union by one or two congrega-