

NOTES OF THE MONTH.

the Fenian excitement has transferred it to the other side of the Atlantic. Large numbers of troops have been sent to Ireland, numerous arrests and seizures of arms have been made. It is generally believed there will be some outbreak. The Police are on the lookout for Stephens, and have meanwhile whetted their appetite with the cure of his Secretary—a centre, who went to jail to America and returned lately a leader. The Trades Unions of London had a large procession in the interest of Mr. Bright has been, in the fulfilment of his great mission, stirring the fire with a few letters and speeches. There seems to be no intention to grant universal suffrage, consequently few of those who thus will receive the franchise; but the voters will perhaps turn out the hated and receive for themselves offices, moment and notoriety—all which are the principal things. Solomon said long ago: "that which hath been is that which shall be and there is nothing new under the sun." The era is producing great havoc in dirty villages in Scotland. Filth and bad water are immediate causes. A noble effort has been made in Glasgow to bring about sanitary improvement. The members of all Christian churches in a certain section of the city have organized themselves into parties of visitors and visited every house. They take measures to remove every thing pernicious.

On the continent of Europe there has transpired nothing of marked importance. Spain threatened with revolution, a danger with which the miserable inhabitants of that very country are familiar. Now that the new Government is soon to have Rome, the world are puzzling themselves to make what the Pope will do. Outwardly that visible spiritual sovereign of so many millions of consciences, and temporal sovereign in ragamuffians, keeps remarkably cool; Mr. Cumming is quite excited and fires many prophetic utterances. Ordinary men do not well understand the present, but the future is quite at home in the future. Are we entitled to predict from the prophecies? I think not. Let Christians believe what is certain, work what is commanded, and leave what is future.

On this continent we have had the U. S. President's message—favorable to the Fenians, jubilant at the fall of the Mexican Empire. A commission is to sit on the Alaskan claims. The Conservative Foreign Secretary, Lord Stanley, manifests a moderate augurs well for peace. Another Atlantic Cable is to be laid to Halifax, which will be more exclusively British than the old lines.

DR. CRAWFORD is to be Moderator of the next General Assembly. Our friends, the Colonial Committee, have been disappointed in their purpose of sending another Missionary to Cape Breton. The W. C. Smith case has resulted in a decision against him, against which a great many leading members of the F. C. Presbytery have protested. The case has lasted for six months, and been prosecuted with some parade of orthodoxical zeal. There will be a strong party in the Free Church against union with the U. P. body. The movement was spontaneous on the part of the leaders of both Churches in cities, but not with the masses in country districts. Could it be accomplished in a sound and serious way, it should be for the honor and good of religion.

RITUALISM attracts much attention in England and this country. Truly it is a most contemptible movement, a fearful falling away. It is not piety, but a substitute for it. No one that has tasted the gospel could ever betake himself to garments, crosses, wafers, paint, embroidery and pleasant smells. We have far more respect for a Brahmin than for Father Ignatius, with his bare feet, his shaken crown, and rope round his middle. We honor the Church of England, and deeply lament that she cannot at once send about their business those who would degrade Christian faith and worship. Many of the clergy of the diocese of London have memorialised the bishop against these practices, and in this province the clergy are signing a letter of sympathy with Bishop Binney, who deserves no sympathy whatever. The Church of England is a great Protestant Church, and we trust that at least her laity will never permit themselves to drift away by any influence whatever into the "beggary elements" of Popery, with its confessionals, its real presence, its prayers for the dead, its honors paid to saints, &c. If they prefer episcopal government, we shall not quarrel much about that; but let them remember the ashes of Smithfield and remain Protestants like their fathers.

The settlement of Mr. Grant in St. Andrew's Church, Halifax, has taken place under the happiest omens of success. Upwards of \$1000 of debt has been cleared off the Church at once, and we hear that a manse is to be erected next year. This will cost another thousand, we should think. The people deserve great praise. They prove their attachment by deeds. May the union now formed be long and happy.

A. P.

THE annual Sabbath School Soiree in connection with St. Andrew's congregation, New Glasgow, is expected to be held on the evening of Thursday, 3rd January.