

NOTES OF THE MONTH.

Our readers will remember that some time ago Governor Letellier of Quebec, dismissed his ministers who at the time were supported by a majority of Parliament. The result of the general election ensuing was that Mr Joly the leader of the opposition came back with a bare majority, and he has since carried on the government as prime minister. For his action in the matter the Dominion Government desired to dismiss Mr. Letellier, but the Governor General it appears was inclined to let him alone. However by consent of his ministers Lord Lorne referred the matter to the Home Government. Their reply has just been received. In effect it amounts to this. That the British Government would much prefer not to be bothered with a mere local squabble,—that the Governor General is not however to be blamed for asking their advice,—that the local governor has power to dismiss his ministry—and that the Dominion Government has power in turn to dismiss a local or provincial governor. There is a hint thrown out that it would perhaps be as well to let Mr. Letellier alone. A few days however after the receipt of this despatch, Governor Letellier was dismissed under the plea that “his usefulness was gone,” and now Governor Robitaille reigns in his stead.

The rate payers of this Province are a good deal interested in the elections of municipal councillors to take place this month. It is to be hoped that men of good sense and honesty will be elected. Many people are opposed to incorporation, but it is useless to try out about the matter. The act of Parliament settles it, and we may as well make the best of it.

Great sensation has been caused by the conviction of Sir Francis Hincks for

issuing false statements as to the financial standing of the Consolidated Bank of which he was President. His lawyer has moved for a new trial. Whether Sir Francis shall suffer imprisonment or not, his conviction will have a salutary effect upon Bank officials in general.

The magnificent harvest gathered in on this continent has had a favorable effect upon trade in general, and there is good prospect of a speedy revival in business matters for which all men will be thankful.

The death is announced of the Rev. Dr. Topp of Toronto a distinguished minister of the united Church.

The Rev. David McRae (of Gourrock) of the U. P. Church has received a call to the charge formerly ministered to by the late Rev. George Gilfillan of Dundee. The ministers of the Free Church of Scotland have been enjoined by the General Assembly to discountenance raffles, bazaar lotteries, and other similar methods of raising money for Church purposes.

Last month about thirty missionaries left the United States to labour in heathen lands chiefly Asia and Africa.

Full religious liberty has at last been established in Portugal.

The Belfast (Ireland) Presbytery is gravely discussing the question whether in the Parish of Newtownbreda a special service in which a harmonium is used should longer be tolerated. The special service has a larger attendance than either of the two regular services, where no instrumental music was allowed.

Owing to the hard times the St. John, N. B. School Board has decided to reduce the staff of school teachers by twenty and to reduce the salaries of those who are retained.