

NEWS OF THE MONTH.

All the war clouds of the East have not yet dispersed.

The yellow fever is still doing its deadly work in the Southern States.

Another colliery explosion in Wales adds 280 to the number of the dead.

Dr. Nobiling, the would-be assassin of the Emperor of Germany died last week.

A terrific thunder storm passed over Zealand lately doing great damage to life and property.

The helpmeet and beloved wife of the Rev. Dr. Sedgwick, of Musquodobiott, has been removed by death.

Rev. L. G. McNeil, Maitland, is spoken of as the probable successor of Revds. Messrs. Harvey and Patterson, of St. John's, Nfld.

The Synod of the Maritime Provinces held its annual meeting in Pictou on the first week of October. The Rev. A. Ross, Pictou, Moderator. The business was chiefly routine.

The Rev. W. Sommerville, Covenantor, West Cornwallis, "a ripe scholar, an extensive reader, an enlightened educationist and an effective preacher" has ceased from his labours and gone to his rest.

Lord Dufferin, one of the most popular Governors of any country, after a peaceful and happy reign has returned to Great Britain, to make way for another of Britain's popular sons in the Governor General's chair. The Marquis of Lorne is expected by the last of November.

CHURCH STATISTICS AND DIS-
ESTABLISHMENT.

In a letter which appeared in the "Times" in July, I drew attention to the frequent misrepresentations made by public men as to the relative strength of the membership of the Church of Scotland and the other large Presbyterian bodies in Scotland. As even this letter, or at least the annexed table of statistics, has been misquoted and false issues raised on the subject, it may be well to present here in full the letter, with the statement of statistics, which followed. The statement was very carefully prepared by one thoroughly versed in the facts, and has not been, as it cannot be, impeached. Even the United Presbyterian Magazine has not ventured "to question the correctness," only it insists that not only Presbyterians but "Episcopalians, Independents, and Roman Catholics," must also be reckoned, and that the result of such a reckoning would be to show that the Church of the nation. "Is simply a sect, the largest sect, indeed, but only a sect or section of the people."

It is of no use quarrelling about a word. If the United Presbyterian meaning of the word "sect" be merely "section," of course it is impossible to deny that the Church of Scotland, in so far as it does not embrace the very considerable numbers of the United Presbyterians, and Free Church Presbyterians, and Episcopalians, and Roman Catholics, is literally only a part or section of the Scottish people. That is so much a truism that it is hardly worth stating. In this sense there never was a time when the Church of Scotland was "the Church of the nation." In other words, it never embraced the whole people of Scotland—not even the whole Presbyterians of Scotland. There were Roman Catholics, and large bodies of Roman Catholics, large bodies of Episcopalians, and even Cameronian Presby-