

## NOTES OF THE MONTH.

The news from Britain contains an unusual amount of shipping disaster on the British coast. There can be no doubt that Confederation Bills have passed through Parliament. The Intercolonial Railway is to form the subject of a separate Bill. Great respect has been shown to the late Prime Minister, Mr. Gladstone, by the men of science, and particularly those interested in political economy in Paris. The agitation on Reform continues. The procession of working-men in London, which was participated in by about 25,000 persons, passed off peaceably. Trades Unions continue to be the subject of much discussion. It has been found that, in recovering debt or prosecuting for recovery, they do not enjoy the protection of law. Their present operation has been to injure trade and throw many thousands into poverty. The British Parliament having been opened, the programme of the Ministry has been indicated. A Reform measure has been proposed. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has, to an audience of unusual brilliancy and interest, introduced the subject in the Lower House. The speech was very able—a masterpiece of parliamentary tact. The Ministry were to begin testing the House by resolutions embodying principles of action. The House not relishing this procedure, they have been led to introduce the Bill, which is said to embody a rating franchise. It is to receive the opposition of all the Liberal party,—as may be expected. The business of liberalism is popular, and those who deal in it are partial to a monopoly. We have no doubt that the Conservative Ministry will introduce a fair and safe Bill; but it will be rejected, and they will be forced to resign. Fenianism, after another outbreak, has again collapsed.

In foreign countries, it is noteworthy that several reforms have been introduced by Napoleon, which he speaks of as if they crowned the political edifice. These are principally the right of holding public meetings, and referring offences of the press to a special tribunal. France is described by observers as "restless." "The wicked are a troubled sea." There is not religion enough in France to steady the ship of state. Immense preparations are being made in Paris for the Exhibition. The passages of 100,000 visitors from America have been taken.

We omitted to mention, in our last, the deaths of Mr. Alexander Smith, the poet, and Mr. Smith of Jordanhill, the scientific and religious writer. Mr. Smith lived in the neighborhood of Glasgow, and was an elder of the Church of Scotland. He was famous for his book on the voyage and shipwreck of the Apostle Paul, and for a critical inquiry into the authorship of the first three gospels.

A careful study of these led his careful and ingenious mind to the conclusion that the Apostle Peter wrote a gospel from which Matthew made a translation, and also Mark, and that Luke, in composing his gospel, used both the other accounts.—The deaths of Dr. McPherson of Aberdeen, and Dr. Hill, late Professor of Theology in the University of Glasgow, are also noticed. The latter has reached the age of 81. He will be long remembered for his piety, good sense, kindness, and safety as an adviser of the Church. The Endowment Committee is making great advances to the completion of the original scheme—the endowment of 150 chapels. The Established Presbytery of Edinburgh are said to be about to overture the General Assembly to memorialize Parliament to declare the principle of co-ordinate jurisdiction. No authoritative account of the matter has come into our hands, and we can give no satisfactory explanations on the subject. It seems a foolish affair.

THERE will be strong opposition to the union of the U. P. and Free Churches. The strong party in the Free Church stands firm by the maintenance of the principle of a National Church, spiritual independence, and the integrity of the Sustentation Fund. These ideas are known to be very dear to Free Churchmen, and it is easy to predict that, if the union interfered with them, shall not take place. Two or three union ministers of the U. P. Church have declared in favor of a revision of the Westminster Confession of Faith. Mr. Stuart Mill, in a very fine, a most instructive and able speech as Lord Rector before the University of St. Andrew's, makes some remarks upon Confessions of Faith. He advocates that the doctrines to which subscription should be required ought to be few, unessential matters being passed over—a most wise remark. He admits the need of some Confession, but wishes that it be not so stringent as to be an occasion of hypocrisy. The early Confessions were very short.

RITUALISM is as rampant as ever in the Church of England. Some apostle of the school, desiring to recommend the system, at a West of England town, advertised a lecture on the subject, and a display of the new vestments. The vestments, which had, no doubt, to be cut according to the canon by some ritualistic London tailor, had not arrived, and the audience demanded, amid much noise, their money. Dr. Pusey had written in support of confession. There has been a conference of working-men with the leading clergy of London, to ascertain why the working classes do not attend church. The reasons stated did not amount to much. Some complained that seats were too dear, and others that they were too cheap—some that they did not like the doctrine preached, and