

than cheap, we cannot help it. The United States papers do not admire Sumner's speech as much as formerly. It always received more attention than it deserved. A valuable bed of Hematite has been examined by Dr. Honeyman. It is uncovered near to Springville, Pictou County. This East River valley, from head to foot, is one of the most marvellous beds of mineral wealth, and now, in addition, it glows with beauty and abundance. It is one of the fairest spots on earth, but money and skill are needed to build railroads and open mines. The whole line to Annapolis is expected to be open by the end of the year, which will shorten the journey to all parts of this continent. When the contemplated lines of railway shall have been completed, a Nova Scotian may look with some pride upon the comforts and facilities of his country.

THE work of Bible circulation proceeds vigorously in Spain, but the difficulty in this land of "distinct schools" is, that out of 17 millions of population, 12 millions can neither read nor write. The Pope, it is said, in the coming council, is to ask for "personal infallibility." But how can he obtain this satisfactorily? If he has it not from heaven, then the body conferring must still seem more cogent than himself. Union between the Free and U. P. Churches has not advanced much this year. The minority against the reappointment of the Committee in the Free Assembly was very large. In our General Assembly the majority in favor of a change in the patronage law was 105, in consequence of which a deputation waited upon Mr. Gladstone. He answered with caution, as his support has come chiefly from the Free and U. P. Churches. He asked, if anti-patronage were the immemorial principle of the church, would they be prepared to share their endowments with those who had less on that account? The answer to this is twofold. (1.) Patronage, with brief exceptions, amounting to about 50 years at most, existed throughout her whole history. (2.) The Free Secession arose from the principle of "spiritual independence,"—a more extensive question, assisted by the Free Church in a form not hitherto granted to any religious body. Pure popular election would be better than corrupt patronage, no doubt. But it is strange that no example of popular election can be quoted from the New Testament, except that resulting in the election of Barabbas and the crucifixion of Jesus.

A very fine meeting of delegates from Y. M. Christian Associations on this continent has lately taken place in Portland. Nova Scotia would seem to have been represented in a superior manner; for, a correspondent of the *Witness* writes: "British delegates were ably represented on all occasions by John S. Maclean Esq., who was Peter among the apostles, the spokesman and leader, speaking always to the purpose."

THE venerable Dr. Muir, of St. Stephens, Edinburgh, father of the respected Convener of the Colonial Committee, has departed this life. A. P.

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### NOTICES.

I. The money from the Colonial Committee to pay all sums due missionaries for the half year ending 1st August, 1869, is now in the Treasurer's hands. All entitled to draw are requested to forward to the Treasurer (Geo. MacLean, Esq., Merchants' Bank, Halifax) their Presbytery certificates and their receipts for their respective amounts, (as both documents have to be transmitted to the Colonial Committee), and their supplements shall be immediately forwarded to them.

II. There will be a meeting of the Home Mission Board in St. Paul's Church, Truro, on Thursday the 2d day of September, at 10 o'clock, to fix the amounts and the number of the grants to be applied for to the Colonial Committee for the year commencing 1st August, 1869. All applications for supplements must be in the Convener's hands before the day of meeting, and should state the circumstances and number of the congregation, the amount of