

THE MONTH.

THE Ministry has been greatly strengthened by the Budget and the Local Government Bill.

The Prime Minister's speeches on the Tithe Bills have been, in different quarters, sharply criticised. The prospect is by no means bright.

In the Diocesan Conference¹ of London it was proposed by the Rev. Sir Emilius Laurie, and seconded by Mr. P. V. Smith,

That this Conference, without committing itself to details, desires to urge upon her Majesty's Ministers the supreme importance, in the interests of the Church, of the passage into law during this Session of the two Tithe Rent-charge Bills already introduced into the House of Lords, and also of so much of the Church Patronage Bill which was passed last year by the House of Lords as relates to patronage.

The Bill to facilitate the Sale of Glebe Lands, read a second time in the House of Commons, may, it is to be hoped, become law this Session.

On the Church Discipline Bill a remarkable letter from Lord Grimthorpe has appeared in the *Times*. The Bill needs, to say the least, a good deal in the way of simplifying.

Her Majesty the Queen has been staying at Florence.

Canon Pulleine, appointed by the Bishop to the valuable Rectory of Stanhope, becomes Suffragan ("Bishop of Penrith") in the Diocese of Ripon.

At the third ordinary session of the sixth General Synod of the Church of Ireland the President, in his opening address, said :

It is not desirable to enter on the delicacies of politics or party questions ; but as the Church of Ireland contains within its fold the rank, the property, and the educated intelligence of the country, I may be excused if I express in the name of the synod our abhorrence of the organized and wicked conspiracy against life, property, and law which has blackened Ireland's once fair name, and brought shame and sorrow to every loyal heart. But in the midst of all our gloom I think I can discover a streak of light breaking on our horizon, due, under Providence, to the wise rule of her Majesty's advisers, and to the firm, vigorous, and just hand of his Excellency and his Chief Secretary ; and I trust I am not too sanguine in assuming that the reign of law and order has set in, and the union of Ireland with Great Britain secured beyond the power of professional agitators to shake, or ambitious politicians to undermine.

The perversion of "Father" Rivington, a member of the Cowley Brotherhood, has been announced.

The policy of the Committee of the C.M.S., as the *Record* says, commands the hearty support of an "overwhelming majority."

Mr. Matthew Arnold died suddenly of heart disease on the 15th, in his sixty-sixth year.

¹ The *Record* states that the Rev. H. W. Webb-Peploe sought to bring forward the following resolution : "That this Conference, recognising the fact that in the Metropolitan Cathedral members of all schools of thought in the Church of England are accustomed to meet for worship, deploras the introduction there of a reredos the ornamentation of which is calculated to arouse (and has aroused) difference of opinion, and to hurt the consciences of many Churchmen." The resolution was not placed upon the *Agenda* paper.