

## THE MONTH.

A REPLY from the Archbishop of Canterbury to a letter from Captain Cobham, the Chairman of the Church Association, has been published. The Primate's letter thus concludes :

Since you deplore what you describe as the destruction of "all hopes of reunion at home," I take leave to say that it is hard to realize what sort of hopes of reunion are dear to Associations, on whichever side engaged, to whom their own uncompromising opinion is the only endurable law. Men who seek the "peace of Jerusalem" will detach themselves from factions within.

In an article on the Bishop of Lincoln's Charge, the *Guardian* well says :

To refuse to hear would be to refuse justice. As regards the mode of hearing, it looks very much as if the Bishop of Lincoln's contention holds good of primitive times, and the Archbishop's decision to hear the case in person were fortified by more modern precedents. We cannot feel surprise that, having to deal with it, he has dealt with it as he has.

At the Liverpool Diocesan Conference the Bishop criticised the proposal to introduce into our large parishes Brotherhoods under vows, as open to "very grave objections." On the continued want of unity, or rather the increase of "unhappy divisions" of Churchmen, his Lordship said :

So long as the Ornaments Rubric remains in its present disputed condition ; so long as the Ecclesiastical Courts are disapproved and disobeyed, and those who disapprove them will not make any effort to obtain better tribunals ; so long as imprisonment of clergymen for contumacy disgraces the law of England ; so long as that huge anomaly, the episcopal veto, is allowed to continue, so long I have ceased to expect unity, order, or discipline within our pale. For anything I can see, we are likely to go from worse to worse, until we break up altogether.

In the *Record* of the 8th appeared the paper read by Mr. Dibdin, at a well-known place of conference in London, on the Dean of Peterborough's Plan. A quotation is given on another page.

At the Chester Diocesan Conference Chancellor Espin advocated the abolition of marriage fees :

Dr. Espin hoped that the Conference would fix its eyes upon the weighty fact that since the passage of the Civil Registration Act of 1856 the number of marriages solemnized at the registrars' offices had steadily and continuously risen. He had had the figures before him for every year since 1836, and they showed that the proportion of merely civil marriages had continued steadily to increase. The number of Dissenting marriages kept pretty steadily where it had been for many years past ; but the proportion of marriages in the Church was steadily going down, and they had got to consider the reason why. He believed the matter of fees was one reason, and he believed that the true policy of the Church was the abolition of these fees.

The Protestant Churchmen's Alliance, we are glad to hear, is steadily making way.

A valuable statement on the New Code has been issued, not too soon, by the National Society.

The third anniversary of the Church Missionary Gleaners' Union was in every way a success.

We record with regret the death of the Rev. Dr. Hatch, the Rev. G. W. Weldon, and Lady Plunket, the devoted wife of the Archbishop of Dublin.