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From "Early Christian Biography" we take the following about *the influence of the laity* :

There is at present a vehement and almost passionate demand for the reference of the disputed questions of doctrine and ceremonial in the Church of England to the purely "spiritual authority" of ecclesiastics, and the example of the "primitive Church" is pleaded in support of the claim. The primitive Church, we must needs observe, means too often, in the mouth of controversialists, whatever portion or period of the first four or five centuries they find most convenient for their purpose. But it is very instructive to remember, in reference to these appeals to primitive example in the decision of disciplinary questions, that even the typical Spiritual Courts, held under an exemplary Christian Bishop of the third century, have, by the universal acknowledgment of the Church since then, been adjudged to have been in error, even on so vital a point as that of the conditions of valid baptism, and that, in the judgment of such a divine as the present Archbishop of Canterbury, it was by the general sense of the Church, acting through the laity, that their blunders were overruled and rendered innocuous.

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### THE MONTH.

TO the character and work of the late Bishop of Durham testimonies by representative men have appeared on every side. In recording "with profound sorrow" his death, the *Guardian* said :

The Church of England can ill afford to lose one in whom critical and patristic scholarship of the highest order was combined with eminent devotion to the work of his diocese and singular beauty of character.

From the *Record* we quote the following :

Dr. Lightfoot was for a time private tutor to the Prince of Wales at Cambridge, and we believe acquired a great and lasting influence over his Royal Highness, who was warmly attached to him. Dr. Lightfoot was always a favourite preacher at the University Church, and when he filled the pulpit the building was invariably crammed in every part, the undergraduate portion of the gallery being especially full. Lord Grimthorpe has put it on record that Dr. Lightfoot was offered and declined the bishopric of Lichfield on Bishop Lonsdale's death, and tells us that, as report has it when many people thought that he would be Archbishop of Canterbury, he declared he "was too ugly a fellow for that." But as somebody after a consecration in York minster declared, "the moment he opens his mouth everyone can tell he is a great man."

The venerable Dr. Döllinger has fallen a victim to influenza.

The Islington Clerical Meeting was held on the 14th: a very successful gathering.

On the 21st, Field-Marshal Lord Napier of Magdala was laid to rest in the crypt of St. Paul's Cathedral, at the side of the Duke of Wellington.\* Thirty-eight years have elapsed since the spectacle of a national funeral was last witnessed in London.

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\* Canon Fleming, preaching at St. Michael's, Chester Square, on the 19th, said : "Lord Napier of Magdala, as a parishioner, was a constant worshipper in this church. In him England has lost a great soldier, our Queen a loyal servant, our country a devoted patriot, and our own church a humble Christian. He was one who, through a long and splendid career, built up his character and wrought his achievements by the maxim and rule of our text this morning, 'As the duty of every day required' (Ezra iii. 4). Caring much for others and little for himself, he lived a very pattern of modest merit. The loss of such men would be irreparable if we did not know that England was not made in a day, but by the generations of sons who have followed their fathers. So long as we shall hand down such an inheritance as men like Lord Napier have won, and stand together as an unbroken nation and an undivided Empire, no Powers shall ever make a breach in us. They shall fit round us as the Chasseurs of Napoleon galloped round and round the steel-girt squares of Wellington at Waterloo."