

## THE MONTH.

THE Religious Disabilities Removal Bill, brought in by Mr. Gladstone, and commended in an eloquent and very skilful speech, was rejected, on Wednesday, the 4th, by a majority of 33. With a Bill for removing the disability of Roman Catholics to act as Lord Chancellor of Great Britain and Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, Sir J. Pope Hennessy's instruction in Committee to abolish restrictions on the faith of the Sovereign would have been logical. The First Lord of the Treasury quoted with effect from Mr. Gladstone's "Vatican Decrees." Mr. Sydney Gedge, in a telling speech, remarking that the question might be looked at either from the political or religious side, also quoted from the "Vatican Decrees."<sup>1</sup>

The Tithe Bill has at last left the House of Commons.

Archdeacon Denison's Convocation speech on *Lux Mundi* was in many ways admirable. The debate was somewhat disappointing.

Dr. Perowne, Bishop of Worcester, was consecrated in Westminster Abbey on the 2nd.

Mr. Dibdin has been appointed Chancellor of the Diocese of Durham, in the place of Mr. Jeune, now a Judge. The Right Hon. H. C. Raikes, M.P., succeeds at St. Asaph, and Mr. A. B. Ellicott in the Diocese of Gloucester and Bristol.

The Vicar of All Saints', Margaret Street, has, with the approval of his Bishop, reduced the ritual of his church in accordance with the Lincoln Judgment, but some of the curates, it is said, and "important" members of the congregation, have resigned.

The Bishop of Chichester, in a letter to his clergy, has pronounced strongly in favour of the Archbishop's Judgment. The venerable Bishop, in a significant sentence (echoing, so to say, the Church's direction "*before the people*"), lays it down that "the manual acts prescribed by the rubric" must be "so done as to be seen *by the congregation.*"

We record with sincere regret the death of Dr. Plumtre, Dean of Wells.

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<sup>1</sup> The *Anti-Jacobin* says: "The idea propounded in the *Times* that this Bill was brought in to give artistic finish, by its contrast with the pamphlet on the Vatican Decrees, to the history of Mr. Gladstone's expressed opinions on the subject, is ingenious, but wanting in substance. . . . The Bill would be pleasing to the Irish Roman Catholic hierarchy, and might to some extent dispose them to stand by Messrs. McCarthy and Gladstone for the purpose of staving off a little longer their imminent surrender to Mr. Parnell; but then Mr. Gladstone had announced his intention of introducing the Bill before the quarrel between Mr. Parnell and the Irish Roman Catholic bishops arose. There remains no motive plausibly attributable to Mr. Gladstone except a friendly wish to make himself agreeable to Sir Charles Russell and Cardinal Manning, or an extremely tardy conviction of the 'injustice and anomaly' of a law which, while Prime Minister, he had expressly refused to alter, and neither of these seem adequate. . . . Sir Henry James insisted that the disability of Roman Catholics to hold the offices in question was religious and not political. The opposite is the truth. All Catholic disabilities were at all times political, and for a long time before Catholic emancipation they were nothing but political. It was a political motive that caused Elizabeth to coerce and persecute Roman Catholics, it was a political motive—and a good one—that caused the Lord Lieutenancy and the Chancellorship to be excepted when Catholic emancipation took place. It is for political reasons that it is not now desirable to make Roman Catholics capable of holding any high office which they cannot at present hold. . . ."