

THE MONTH.

THE Folkestone Church Congress has, on the whole, enjoyed a marked success. The tone of dignity and fairness which was set by the president at the beginning of the proceedings was maintained all through the debates, with one or two exceptions. This fairness was noticeable under many aspects; in political questions, in treating of canon law, and especially in social theories and problems. Indeed, the consideration with which the speakers treated the claims of labour was most marked, and if it is only brought under the notice of the working classes, cannot fail to disabuse their minds of many misconceptions. Accounts of the devotional meeting are at variance; some regarding it as the best yet held, others as "unspiritual." The one regrettable feature of the Congress was the discussion on vivisection, which caused much heat, and has produced unpleasant correspondence in the daily press. It is difficult to see what advantage would be gained by the inclusion of this or similar topics in Congress proceedings, that would at all correspond with the acrimony that is evoked.

Matters with regard to Uganda are in a critical state. Lord Rosebery has undertaken to assist the I.B.E.A. Co. to remain in the country up to March, 1893; but then the company will evacuate, and, unless some steps be taken, all those who know the country intimately prophesy terrible scenes of anarchy and bloodshed. An important deputation waited on Lord Rosebery on October 20 to lay these views before him. He held out hope, as an individual—but as a cabinet minister he was mute. • The *Record* published a very timely supplement on Uganda, which should do much good, and meanwhile Captain Lugard, Mr. Stanley, the *Times*, and all the Church papers, are urging on the Government the desirability of retaining the country. Probably, if the Government see that the English people desire this, it will be done.

Greater Britain has lost its poet. Tennyson died on October 6; on the 12th he was buried in Westminster Abbey with demonstrations of respect that are probably unparalleled in recent times. A critical review of the great poet's writings will shortly appear in THE CHURCHMAN.

A proposal of very great practical importance has been brought forward by the Bishop of Chester. His object is to improve the licensing laws. Briefly speaking the scheme is this: the trade in intoxicating liquors instead of being conducted by private enterprise, is to be placed in the hands of companies under State control, which have no interest in promoting the sale of drink.

The return of a Unionist for the Cirencester Division reduces Mr. Gladstone's majority to 38. The Gladstonian poll was greatly diminished in South Leeds and the Luton Division.

We regret to note the death of Prebendary Tilney Bassett, a valued and frequent contributor to these pages.

Canon Luckcock succeeds the late Dean Bickersteth as Dean of Lichfield.