

## THE MONTH.

THE net result of the Elections is, that in the new House of Commons the Liberals will number about 350, the Conservatives 240, and the Home Rulers 60. Thus the Liberals will have a clear majority of 50 over Conservatives and Home Rulers combined. If the Home Rulers coalesce with the Liberals, the new Government will have a majority of 170, the largest Liberal majority since the Reform Act of 1832. Such a result has surprised everybody. It was expected that the government would lose a few seats in Scotland and in Ireland, and that several, perhaps many, English boroughs would return to Liberalism. But the defections in the English counties are more remarkable than those in the English boroughs; in the county elections, generally, the Liberal gains are great and significant.

How is such an extraordinary result to be accounted for? The answers to this question are, of course, many and various. It is said that a large proportion of the electors wanted "a change;" trade has been bad; the harvests have been disastrous; in these hard times, farmers as well as artisans have thought a change might do good. That the working men, as a rule, voted on Lord Beaconsfield's foreign policy, except in regard to taxation, is most improbable. Yet the Afghan and Zulu disasters afforded Mr. Gladstone a good handle; and he has used it in his own fashion. From the Bulgarian atrocity agitation, at every fresh development of the history, says the *Times*, "We see Mr. Gladstone drawn back by his responsible friends, and then recovering himself to keep abreast of his irresponsible admirers." The majority is undoubtedly to a great extent his work.

In many contests, no doubt, the energy of Nonconformists has turned the scale. At the election of 1874, they were to some extent neutral. Mr. Forster's independent action in regard to national education had given offence. During the last three or four years, however, Nonconformists have agreed to sink "minor differences" in order to turn out the Conservatives. In some cases their policy has provoked strong but just comment. The *Record*, e. g., made some pertinent observations on a telegram from Mr. Samuel Morley, supporting Mr. Bradlaugh in Northampton. Mr. Morley (April 13th) has written to express his deep regret that in a moment of electioneering excitement he agreed to "join with Mr. Adam in urging upon the Liberal electors the desirableness of union." The result of the Northampton election is a startling fact.

Mr. Gladstone has beaten Lord Dalkeith, in the Mid Lothian

contest; and the Presbyterian Establishment, we fear, is left weaker.\*

For ourselves, though THE CHURCHMAN will keep itself free from party politics, we confess we view with apprehension a majority which is largely Radical. Lord Hartington, however, whose statesmanlike speeches have been deservedly praised, will be strong enough, we hope, to hold his own, both in the Cabinet and in Parliament.

The influence of the publicans, it is clear, is not so great as some have supposed; and the cuckoo cry about "Beer and the Bible" will now probably cease. We are thankful to believe that the temperance movement is yearly growing stronger.

It is announced that the Bishop of Durham has determined on convening a Diocesan Conference. It is to meet in September.

By an Order in Council, in pursuance of the Bishops Act, 1878, the Bishopric of Liverpool was declared founded (March 24th). On the 16th of this month, appeared the announcement:—

Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to appoint the Rev. John Charles Ryle, M.A., Dean of Salisbury, to be Bishop of the newly constituted see of Liverpool.

Of the gratification which this appointment will cause among all Evangelical Protestant Churchmen, no remark need here be made. According to the *John Bull*, High Churchmen will unite with such in regarding it as satisfactory. It will prove, we believe, what is termed a "popular" appointment; and so far as concerns the new see decidedly the best which could have been made. The sagacity of the Premier in regard to patronage is well known; it has never been more conspicuous than in selecting Mr. Ryle for a Lancashire Bishopric.

Canon Carter has written a letter to the Bishop of Oxford resigning the Rectory of Clewer.

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\* The executive committee of the Liberation Society have passed resolutions in which they express unreserved satisfaction with the results of the general election. Notwithstanding that the main issues to be decided were of a character which made it necessary to hold in abeyance the Society's distinctive objects, its supporters are congratulated on the fact (1) that sixteen members of the Society's committee (including four members of the Scottish executive) have been returned to Parliament; (2) that a decided majority of the Scotch members are either in favour of the disestablishment of the Scotch Church, or are willing to accept the verdict of the country in regard to it, while no Scotch Liberal has declared himself to be opposed to it; (3) that there will be in the new Parliament amuch larger number of members in favour of disestablishment, both in England and Scotland, than in any previous Parliament.