

## THE MONTH.

THE second reading of the Burials Bill was carried, as we expected, by a decisive majority. The Bishop of Lincoln, in opposing the Bill, was supported by Viscount Cranbrook in an eloquent speech; but the Archbishops, followed by eight Bishops,<sup>1</sup> voted for the second reading. In introducing the Bill in the Upper House, the Government showed a wise discretion. Lord Chancellor Selborne is greatly respected among loyal Churchmen, particularly, perhaps, among the majority of the clergy; and his conciliatory speech smoothed the way for a consideration of the Bill, which as it stood was by no means a mere reprint of the Liberationist programme. The clerical relief provisions were welcomed by many Church Reformers as at the least a step in the right direction.

In Committee, on the 15th, several amendments were proposed. The Earl of Mount-Edgcumbe proposed the insertion in line 13, after "place," of the words "where there is no unconsecrated burial-ground or cemetery in which the parishioners or inhabitants have rights of burial." The Lord Chancellor objected that this amendment would draw a line between parish and parish throughout the kingdom. In one parish a Nonconformist would be able to avail himself of the provisions of the Act; in an adjoining parish a Nonconformist would not be able to do so. The Archbishop of York, in supporting the amendment, remarked that a line between parish and parish already existed. On a division there appeared—Contents, 130; Non-contents, 106; by a majority of 24, therefore, this important amendment was carried. Of the prelates present, eleven, including the Archbishop of York, voted for, and seven, including the Archbishop of Canterbury, against the amendment. An amendment moved by the Archbishop of York for the exemption of cemeteries was carried by a majority

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<sup>1</sup> The Bishop of Carlisle informed the clergy of his diocese by letter of his reasons for supporting the present Bill. He had not changed his opinion with regard to the general merits of the case as between the Church and the Nonconformists; but there were two considerations which brought him to the conclusion that it would be the safer and more courageous course to vote for the measure. "In the first place, whether the grievance alleged in the matter of burials be great or small, reasonable or unreasonable, sentimental or otherwise, there can be no doubt that it has been blown to such a heat and made to assume such proportions as to render its existence a practical evil, and to furnish a mischievous weapon of offence to the hands of those who like so to use it. It appeared to me, therefore, that to defeat the Government upon the Bill would be to play into the hands of those who wish mischief to the Church. In the second place, I think it would be unfair and ungenerous not to recognize the kindly and considerate spirit in which the Government Bill is conceived. It distinctly recognizes the fact that the clergy have consciences and feelings as well as Nonconformists, and it proposes to effect for them a practical emancipation from a great difficulty which not unfrequently presents itself."

of 19; but the proposal of the Marquis of Salisbury to exempt "any consecrated burial-ground given as a free gift within sixty years before the passing of this Act, unless the consent of the donor or his representatives shall have been previously obtained in writing," was negatived by a majority of 13. The Lord Chancellor moved an amendment to define a Christian service as including "every religious service used by any Church, denomination, or person professing to be Christian."

At the annual meeting of the Scripture Reader's Society for Ireland the Right Hon. W. Brooke told the story of the formation of the Society in 1822, adding that he was the sole survivor of the committee which met for that purpose.

On Friday, the 11th, the Festival of St. Barnabas, Dr. Ryle was consecrated in York Minster to the newly-constituted see of Liverpool, and in St. Paul's Cathedral seventeen Islington students received deacon's orders.<sup>1</sup> In York the attendance was described as unprecedented; the grand old minster was densely crowded. It is believed, indeed, that at no previous consecration has so large a number of surpliced clergymen been present. Among them were the Rev. Alex. Stewart, Rector of Liverpool; Rev. J. W. Bardsley, Incumbent of St. Saviour's, Liverpool (nominated Archdeacon); Rev. W. L. Feilden, Rector of Knowsley; and the Rev. Canon Clarke, Vicar of Southport, chaplains to the new Bishop. The Archbishop was assisted by the Bishops of Durham, Chester, and Manchester. In an eloquent sermon, worthy of the occasion, Canon Garbett contrasted Antioch and Liverpool. The service is said to have been throughout of a most impressive character. Subsequently, the Lord Mayor of York entertained the dignitaries and eminent laymen at luncheon. The Primate said he had noticed with pleasure the manner in which the endowment for the see of Liverpool had been raised, the intense satisfaction which the appointment of the first bishop had caused, and the welcome he had received, not only from those who agreed with him, but from all who respected English manliness and honesty.

Clerical and lay meetings, we are glad to see, are giving promise of usefulness in many districts. At the Devon and Cornwall gathering, the Dean of Exeter spoke against paring

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<sup>1</sup> It was a special Ordination for the C.M.S.; seventeen deacons and five priests. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Prebendary Wright (Hon. Sec.), from Acts xi. 22-24. He mentioned that, although the Society had been successful in obtaining missionaries, those who were then to be ordained could not be sent forth to their work immediately, owing to the want of funds. The Bishop was assisted in the laying on of hands in the case of the Presbyters by Bishop Piers Claughton, and Prebendaries Cadman, D. Wilson, and H. Wright. The text for this ordination sermon included the words selected by Canon Garbett for his sermon in York Minster.

down doctrinal differences. Dr. Wilkinson, like Canon Clarke at Southport, spoke of the importance of union among those holding evangelical principles.

In a Bible Society speech, the Dean of Carlisle—vigorous and pointed as ever—has called attention to the spread of Rationalism within the family circle.

An important meeting in connexion with the new theological halls in the old universities has been held, under the presidency of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

A meeting was held in Exeter Hall, on the 18th, to protest against the appointment of Lord Ripon, a pervert, to the Viceroyalty of India. Mr. Spurgeon has so far withdrawn from his unbounded admiration for Mr. Gladstone as to express, in a published letter, his regret at this appointment.

The debate in the Assembly of the Scottish Free Church ended by a sort of compromise; the Professor was admonished.

The Select Committee has reported to the House that Mr. Bradlaugh ought not to be allowed to take the oath. The Secretary of the Wesleyan Conference, we are glad to see, has protested against certain Radical free-thought suggestions in regard to the Bradlaugh case.

The Rev. G. E. Moule, Bishop-designate of Ningpo, has written to the *Times* concerning the recent opium-traffic debate in the House of Commons. It is high time something should be done to abate so great a scandal.

The Mackonochie proceedings at present are at a deadlock. Lord Penzance refused to pass sentence of deprivation, and the Church Association see no adequate reason for incurring the expense of appearing on the appeal to the House of Lords.

In Convocation, on the 2nd, the Bishop of Llandaff made some remarks on the recently-issued volume of Prayers. There are two forms prepared by Convocation committees, one for family prayer, and one for private prayer:—

The particular passage which I wish to refer to (said the Bishop) is from a prayer of Jeremy Taylor. It is a petition which I could myself devoutly and properly put up, and no doubt others could do the same; but I feel convinced that a very dishonest use of that passage from the prayer of Jeremy Taylor might be made, and in all probability will be made, if this book is in any way supposed to represent the opinion of the bishops. The passage to which I objected was this:—"Give me the opportunity of a prudent and spiritual guide and of receiving the Holy Sacrament."

Mr. Gladstone has shewn his wonted financial skill and courage in providing for the abolition of that farmer's grievance, the Malt Tax. Sir Wilfrid Lawson's Local Option resolution was carried on the 18th by 229 votes to 203. The Prime Minister announced that he esteems it an essential part of the mission of his Government to "deal with" the Liquor Laws.