

THE MONTH.

PRESIDENT GARFIELD had been gradually growing weaker; and early on the morning of the 21st the following official telegram was received by the American Minister in London:—

James A. Garfield, President of the United States, died at Elberon, New Jersey, at ten minutes before eleven. For eighty days he suffered great pain, and during the entire period exhibited extraordinary patience, fortitude, and Christian resignation. The sorrow throughout the country is deep and universal. Fifty millions of people stand as mourners by the bier to-day.

Telegrams were received at the American Embassy from the Queen and the Prince of Wales.¹ The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Lord Granville, sent the following message direct to the Secretary of State, Washington:—

I request you to assure Mrs. Garfield and the Government of the United States of the grief with which her Majesty's Government have received the announcement of the President's death. Parliament is not sitting, and is thus prevented from giving formal expression to the sorrow and sympathy universally felt in this country—a feeling which has been deepened by the long suspense, and by the courage, dignity, and patience shown by the illustrious sufferer.

Vice-President Arthur has taken the oath of office as President.²

This year's defective harvest has thrown a gloom over the agricultural prospects of the country. A season which began hopefully has ended thus far in disappointment. British agri-

¹ According to a Reuter's despatch, Mrs. Garfield received at once the following telegram from Queen Victoria: "Words cannot express the deep sympathy I feel with you at this terrible moment. May God support and comfort you, as He alone can."

² The *Times* (of the 21st) well remarks:—"The career of the late President is of a kind which appeals to the best feelings and the most cherished traditions of our people. His early poverty, his manful independence, his hard-won attainments, his integrity of character, had all caused his career to be watched as that of a man of exceptional powers and brilliant promise. . . . That such a career should be prematurely closed by the bullet of an assassin would alone have afforded matter for general regret; but the time which has elapsed since the 2nd of July has enabled the facts to sink deeply into the minds of the public."

In the *Court Circular* has appeared a notice that, in consequence of the death of the President, the Queen has ordered that the Court shall go into mourning for a week, thus giving official recognition to the sorrow of the whole British nation. This tribute of respect will be all the more valued by the American people, as it is without precedent; no similar notice having been taken previously by the English Court of the death of an American President in office.

culture is by no means in a satisfactory condition ; and if Sir M. Hicks-Beach is to be trusted, there is worse yet to follow. Lord Derby, however, will not admit that agriculture is in any danger. An almost unprecedented cycle of bad seasons is, for Lord Derby, the sufficient explanation of the whole existing depression. Local Taxation, it is clear, needs early consideration.

The Œcumenical Methodist Conference is in many ways remarkable. The President said :—

Our Evangelical Arminianism, by God's blessing, will supply a want already beginning to be felt by those who are breaking loose from old moorings, and hardly know as yet where they shall drift.

Concerning Local Preachers there seems to be considerable difference of opinion. A gentleman from Newcastle, in reading a paper on lay-preaching, said :—

From the earliest Christian times, as was pointed out, laymen had been the pioneers of the Gospel. In the present time no other denomination employed its laity so largely as Methodism in direct spiritual work. The result had been that it had become the largest English-speaking Protestant Church, reckoning its adherents on both sides of the Atlantic. The spiritual destitution of the whole population could not be met by the ministry alone, between whom and the laity the New Testament does not make a clear distinction.

A letter from the Archbishop of York on the imprisonment of the Vicar of Miles Platting has been published.¹

The Archbishop of Canterbury gives no encouragement in regard to a Permanent Diaconate, but recommends the general appointment of Lay Readers.

Dr. Manning, the much-esteemed Secretary of the Religious Tract Society, has entered into rest.

¹ His Grace says :—"I therefore wrote to Mr. Green, more than a month ago, to invite him to express to me, if he saw fit, his willingness to put himself into the hands of his own Bishop, and to follow his direction, saying that it seemed to me that no clergyman could think any sacrifice of principle was involved in so doing. He replied that this was what he had refused to do two years and a half ago, and that he could not accept the suggestion. My attempt was thus brought to an end, and to my great regret and distress Mr. Green remains in prison. But I do not think that the attempt has been wholly vain ; for it has proved to me that the cell from which we should be glad to lead him forth is locked on the inside. Mr. Green will not accept the ruling of the Archbishop's Court, nor the opinion of the assembled Bishops of the Anglican communion throughout the world, nor the resolutions of Convocation, nor the determination of his own Bishop, nor the invitation of the Archbishop of the province. So long as this attitude is preserved, I do not see any further means that can be adopted to effect his much-desired release."