

## SUMMARY OF CHURCH NEWS.

UNDER this head we purpose giving each month a short account of what may seem to be the most interesting news from the different branches of the Church. England will of course claim the largest share of attention. The Church in the United States will generally give some points of interest, especially now, when, it is to be hoped, a re-union between the Northern and Southern portions will be amicably effected. News from the different Colonial Churches must always have special interest for us. Nor must we forget, as occasion may offer, to glance at the condition of the religious world on the continent of Europe, and watch the movements of both the western and eastern churches. Now that the political condition of Italy is undergoing so many and such great changes, and now that voices are raised in France which speak boldly of ancient Gallican liberties as better than modern Ultramontane usurpations, we cannot help remembering that our own reformation was due to causes personal and political as well as religious, and we must cherish the hope and offer the prayer that the changes going on in Europe now, may, under the guidance of the Lord, be directed so as to be a means of purifying His Church, and we shall gladly notice any signs of so desirable a result.

This is the programme that we shall endeavour to follow, and although it is not well to begin with excuses, we must beg that allowance will be made for the present number, if the summary of news appears scanty, arrangements not yet being completed for the receiving of periodicals in exchange or otherwise. Our sources of information are not now so many as we hope they may be in future.

Prominent among matters of interest in England stand the doings of the Convocation of the Province of Canterbury, the chief if not the only representative body of the Church of England. Each meeting of convocation seems to give that body more weight, and though its practical results are as yet small, if any one compares its position now with what it was even five years ago, he will easily see that great advances have been made. The late session of convocation gave a remarkable proof of this,—in accordance with the suggestions made by a commission appointed by the government for the purpose of considering the question of clerical subscription, a bill has been introduced into parliament to change the form of subscription. Convocation was unofficially consulted upon this matter, and it is most probable that when the proposed change is effected, it will be by the concurrent action of Convocation and Parliament; thus carrying into practice what for many years has been only the theory of the British constitution. Lord Lyttleton, who was on the commission, said in the House of Lords, "The commission had certainly taken for granted, with regard to England, that the action of convocation would be required, because though parliament could do anything according to the old legal maxim, except turn a man into a woman, it had never yet meddled with the canons of the Church to alter them, and was less likely to attempt it now than in previous times. There was no doubt that a measure of this sort *could not have been carried without the assistance of convocation*. Since the revival of convocation some eight or nine years since, its proceedings had been conducted in such a manner as to allow the government, without violating the feelings of any one, to intrust to it this power."

The declarations proposed to be substituted for the present forms, are as follows:

1. "I, A. B., do solemnly make the following declaration:—The King's Majesty, under God, is the only supreme governor of this realm, and of all other his Highness's dominions