

British and Foreign Record.

THE IRISH UNIVERSITY BILL.—All our readers have heard by this time of Mr. Gladstone's long-incubated scheme for settling the "Irish difficulty" in relation to higher education. It was a bold and ingenious attempt at harmonizing the discordant elements of the population of the Emerald Isle, and especially of its churches, so as to escape the evils of state support of denominational education on the one hand, and of leaving any portion of the people without the rewards of scholarship on the other. But it seems to have been an endeavour to compass the impossible—to square the circle. The Romanists demand a denominational system pure and simple, from top to bottom, from the primary school to the university, largely if not entirely supported by the Government, but managed wholly by the bishops and priests. They may accept less than this as a necessary compromise for a time, an instalment on account, but the original demand is never so renounced that it cannot be renewed at a convenient season. Mr. Gladstone's measure was repudiated by the bishops unless certain modifications in their favour could be made. And on the other hand, Irish Protestants and English Conservatives, with not a few Liberals, argued that it had gone too far already in the ultramontane direction. The combination of these interests in the House of Commons defeated the bill. Mr. Gladstone has returned to power, as Mr. Disraeli could not form a government, but will hardly attempt to press the measure through the present Parliament.

One of the most interesting of recent denominational events "on the other side," is the dedication of the "Congregational House," Boston, which took place on the 12th of February. After many years of weary waiting and tedious collecting, the impotency of Secretary Langworthy and his associates in the "American Congregational Association" has been crowned with success, in the

acquisition, by purchase, of two large and massive granite buildings, in a very central situation, (corner of Beacon and Somerset Streets), which have been so blended into one, enlarged and improved, as to make a very valuable property. In this fire-proof accommodation is provided for the Congregational Library, which is already an exceedingly valuable collection of devotional and other literature, and the offices of the chief societies of the body are concentrated into one focus, to wit, the American Board, the American Missionary Association, the Congregational Publishing Society, the American Congregational Union, the Massachusetts Home Missionary Society, the Boston City Missionary Society, and the Congregationalist Newspaper. A large room, "Pilgrim Hall," is provided for public meetings. In short, this will form the Congregational head-quarters for the Eastern States. The cost of the property, in its present state, is about \$400,000, and for the debt above the subscriptions previously secured, the annual rental of stores and offices (\$25,000) will provide interest and sinking fund. The building once paid for, the societies will be lodged at a much lower rate. Canadian Congregationalists visiting "the Hub," will find this a most convenient house of call.

DR. WALLACE'S APPOINTMENT.—The appointment by the Government to the Chair of Church History in the University of Edinburgh, of Rev. Dr. Wallace, a very advanced broad churchman, has called forth a strong opposition, which, however, has not prevented his regular installation. Dr. Wallace is said to deny the historical reality of the Resurrection of our Lord, and he advocates freedom of inquiry to such an extent as to exalt human reason above Divine revelation. The opponents of his promotion, however, have put themselves at a great disadvantage by leaving him unmolested in the pastorate of Grey Friars' Church, where as high orthodoxy should have been required as in a professorate. The