

LITERARY.

APPROACHING PARLIAMENTARY DISCUSSION ON THE ENGLISH LITURGY.—Lord Robert Grosvenor gives the following explanation of his motion for the modification of the Liturgy which stands for the 28th inst:—"That the commission should turn its first and chief attention to such a re-arrangement of the services as would curtail unnecessary length and avoid unnecessary repetition; but that it should not be debarred from a consideration of the services for the 30th of January and 5th of November, with a view of recommending possibly that the bishop should have the power of altogether dispensing with them. Also, that it should consider, and if necessary, recommend verbal alterations where no doctrine could by possibility be involved.

HISTORY OF THE COUNCIL OF TRENT.—We have formerly mentioned that a valuable work on the History of the Council of Trent is about to be brought out in Rome, under the auspices of Pius IX. Additional particulars respecting it have appeared. Padre Theiner, the editor and compiler, has been for many years the prefect of the secret archives of the Vatican, and in his official situation has had full and free access to all the MSS. During many years he has privately worked out his History of the Council, and has amassed an enormous amount of documents on the subject. In the revolutionary period at Rome, fearing that the original codices might be destroyed or removed from his keeping, he caused fac-similes of the autograph signatures of the Fathers to be engraved in copperplate. The Pope has consented to the publication of the result of those labours, and has added ten thousand scudi to aid in the project; and besides, has reinstated the famous printing press of the Vatican, which will commence its new life with Padre Theiner's "Complete History of the Council of Trent;" and with the publication of all the original documents which have been kept so long from vulgar gaze among the countless MSS. of the Vatican. The first part will appear in three folio volumes, containing the complete Diary of the Council, as it was arranged by Signor Massarelli, the secretary, and signed by the Fathers themselves; also the Acts of the Council from its formation, on the 13th of December 1545, to its close on the 4th of December 1563, with all the disputes, controversies, and correspondence during that time. These Acts are now for the first time presented to the world in an un mutilated form. The second part, also in three folio volumes, will consist of documents relating to the Council, which are not actually official, but at the same time necessary to its history. Padre Theiner has, during the time occupied in setting up the Vatican press, made a journey to Trent to examine the fifty-two volumes of documents relating to the Council, which are preserved in the Mazetti Library.

SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION TO THE DEAD SEA.—Letters have been received within the last few days, at Munich, from Dr. Roth, who is exploring the shores of the Dead Sea, and the surrounding region. According to these letters, the first expedition has been most successful; its object was thoroughly to examine the valley which separates the Dead Sea from the Red Sea, in order to settle the exact position and extent of the old bed of the Jordan. The only inconvenience during the expedition was that caused by the dangerous state of the country, which is infested by powerful bands of robbers. Dr. Roth was forced to leave much territory unexamined, which he had determined to explore. A complete scientific report of the first expedition is expected at Munich in a few days.

Lord Campbell's Bill to prevent the Sale of Obscene Books, &c., has now passed through all its stages in the House of Lords. The *Times* hopes that no false fear of its interfering with the ordinary liberty of publishing will prevent its speedy passage through the House of Commons. It sees no such danger in it, in its now somewhat modified form, while the evil is a most crying one. Whole obscure streets in London are lined with shops where obscene pictures are seen, and impure books are sold. Lord Campbell read a letter from the Secretary of the Society for the Suppression of Vice, in which it was stated, that not long ago, a man had been detected, who was accused to carry about to the Universities for sale a stock of highly-finished French prints, of the most abominable character. The Bill grants a power of searching for and seizing obscene publications, such as is given in the case of smuggled goods, unlicensed printing-places, instruments of gaming, and other unlawful objects of possession.

WORDSWORTH'S NEW TESTAMENT.—Part II. of this important work has appeared, containing only the Acts. The Commentary is prefaced by a long Introduction, discussing the historical value and position of the book, the chronology of the events recorded in it, and the manuscripts on which the text is based.

We observe with pleasure that Dr. Davidson has resigned his connection with the Lancashire Independent College. The Trustees of that institution having expressed there want of confidence in him as an orthodox teacher of theology.

Dr. Vaughan, the president of the same College and for many years, the able editor of the "British Quarterly Review" has intimated his intention of resigning his chair.