

Church News.

ENGLAND.—The Bishopric of Durham has been filled up by the translation of the Bishop of Ripon (Dr. Longley), and that of London by the preferment of the Very Reverend Archibald C. Tait, Dean of Carlisle. These appointments are calculated to give satisfaction to all Churchmen, who are not prejudiced by exclusiveness or bigotry. There is reason to hope that the diocese of London is to be divided, and a diocese of Westminster created out of it. The vacancy of the Deanery of Westminster affords facilities, which may never occur again, for carrying out this desirable object, and it is understood that the new Bishop of London accepted his appointment on these conditions.

The Archdeacon of Taunton has formally stated that he did not intend to retract his alleged errors; so that on the 21st of October the Primate would pass sentence upon Mr. Denison, depriving him of all his clerical appointments. But the opinion seems to be gaining ground that the whole proceedings against him will be vitiated by the discovery that the statute of Elizabeth under which he was tried, cannot be allowed to inflict its extreme penalties upon the Archdeacon of Taunton. It is well known that although in our Prayer-book there are thirty-nine Articles, which are said to have been agreed upon by the Archbishops and Bishops and the whole clergy in 1562, there were in fact only thirty-eight until 1571, the year in which the statute referred to received the royal sanction. The twenty-ninth article had in fact no legal existence when that statute became law; and it appears to be very uncertain by what authority it was afterwards added.

There has been considerable excitement in London with regard to out-of-doors preaching. Some well-disposed persons undertook to preach to the crowds who resort to Victoria-park. But others followed the example and preached blasphemy and infidelity. The result was that Sir B. Hall interfered, and put a stop to the preaching altogether. The "ministers" are indignant, and pour forth their wrath upon the devoted head of that model of "unsectarian" Liberal politicians. He is reviled as a "patron of immorality," and "a ring-leader of sedition and sin." He is "a Jesuit and a smooth-tongued villain." The "infidels and blasphemers" are,

in reality, his tools and confederates, as are also the Tractarians, who are, of course, at the bottom of everything that is bad. He is implored not to add to his other sins that of hypocrisy, and the grand *finale* is a threat that all the "ministers" and "earnest Protestants" in London will unite to convert him, or, if he is too irredeemably bad for that, then to convert all his colleagues in order to get him ignominiously turned out of office. Seriously, we have here one of the inconveniences of the modern theory of religious liberty. That out-of-doors preaching may reach thousands in such a city as London, who can never be brought to enter a church, will hardly be denied. But then, in accordance with modern liberality, to deny the same privilege to infidel lecturers and spouters of blasphemy, would be a heinous breach of the fundamental laws of religious equality. If the office of preacher could, as formerly, be confined to those who have a license to preach from the bishop, or the parish-priest, great good might result from the revival of out-of-doors preaching; but the very mention of so intolerant a limitation would be tumultuously denounced. Religious liberty and the First Commissioner of Works know no distinction of creeds or unbelief. And so the preachers of atheism and vice can only be stopped by shutting the mouths of all preachers in one comprehensive edict.

The most popular preacher in England at the present moment is said to be the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, a minister of we really do not know what denomination. A volume of sermons from his pen has been published, and we have seen an American edition of the same, which is puffed with their accustomed liberality by our friends on the other side of the line. The London Daily News, a paper of extremely "liberal" tendencies in matters of religion, recently contained a leading article on the subject of his preaching, from which it appears that the great secret of his success is the violence of his manner and the utter recklessness of his language, which frequently amounts to positive profanity. He does not scruple to invent dramatic scenes, in which God and Christ and Adam and Mary Magdalen and himself are the leading characters. The Daily News speaks of his utter ignorance of any theology except that current among the sect to which he belongs, and of his ludicrous misinterpretations of Scripture, and sums up in