

The following extract gives a summary of what the late Parliament did and did not do in Church matters:—"In Church matters the annals of the late parliament are almost a blank. Church Rates, which it threatened at the outset to abolish, are still untouched, even by a compromise. The various schemes presented to it, for opening churchyards to Dissenters, banishing religion from endowed schools, lowering the doctrine and ritual of the prayer-book, degrading the legal state and estimation of holy orders, have indeed been successfully resisted. But on the other hand no measures for good, if we except the Clerical Subscription Bill passed in its expiring hours, have become law. The crying need for an increase of the Episcopate, which all populous parts of the country attest, has been almost unheeded. Reform of the Cathedrals, so long asked for and so well sketched out by the Royal Commission of 1852, has not been taken in hand. The Irish Church has been more than once attacked; the religious government of the University of Oxford has been more seriously menaced; but in these and kindred matters, whether for good or evil, nothing has been *done*."

There are many accounts of Church buildings, restorations, endowments and other such events in England. They are so numerous that we cannot attempt to take particular notice of them, and happily we may say that they are most of such common occurrence, that to tell of them is not news.

It is encouraging to see a notice of two Societies formed, one in the North and the other in the South of Italy, having the common object of freeing the Italian Church from Papal usurpation and errors. One of them includes among its members 971 priests and 852 laymen, among whom are 3 ex-Ministers, 36 Members of Parliament, and 11 Senators; the members of the other are not mentioned. They demand, among other things, the free circulation of Holy Scripture in Italian, the Liturgy to be in the vernacular, confession to a priest to be voluntary, and compulsory celibacy of the priesthood to be abolished, and the ancient rights of bishops to be respected. Connecting this with the complete failure of the negotiations between the King of Italy and the Pope—the breach between the Mexican and Papal Governments, and the long-delayed recognition of the Kingdom of Italy by Spain, we may see signs of some great change in the condition of the Continental Churches, if indeed we might not even extend our hopes and imagine that the long-looked-for downfall of the Papacy may take place in a way and at a time little expected.

There are a few scraps of news which may be interesting, but could not well claim a place in the Summary. The son of the Prince of Wales was baptized on 7th ult. His names are George Frederick Ernest Albert.—The result of the English elections seems decidedly in favor of the Government, who expect a majority of 70 instead of 20. John Stuart Mill has been returned for Westminster. Mr. P. Peel has lost his seat. Among the candidates is a clergyman, Rev. J. Pratt, who offers himself to the electors of Lynn, being desirous, he says, of establishing the principle that clergymen may sit in Parliament.—A case of poisoning, almost exceeding in atrocity Palmer's, has been tried in Edinburgh: Dr. Pritchard was accused of slowly poisoning his wife and mother-in-law, he was found guilty and sentenced to death, and has since confessed.—Constance Kent pleaded guilty and was sentenced to death, but probably will be relieved.—Lord Westbury made a speech in the House of Lords announcing his resignation; it made a favourable impression.—A French paper, which invariably blunders when treating of any English subject, caused some confusion in the money circles by gravely an-