

Church News.

ENGLAND.—In the late debate in the House of Lords, on the Irish Church question, Lord Cairns clearly showed that five-sixths of the glebe lands in Ireland are situate in Ulster and never belonged in any way to the Roman Catholic Church. They were estates forfeited not by the R. C. Church but by individual land owners. By the Act of settlement sixty out of every thousand acres of these forfeited lands were allotted to the support of the Protestant Church in Ireland.

But the amusing part of the matter was that, as Lord Cairns showed, this same Act of settlement confirmed the title to the estates of a large proportion of the nobility and gentry of Ireland, and its repeal now attempted by the English Liberation Society, was but a preliminary step towards an attack on the English Church by that Society, and a portion of the Roman Catholics, but will if successful reach much further than many may wish. The fall of the house will not kill Sampson but will grievously maim some of his tormentors. Besides Dr. Stevin, an eminent professor in the Roman Catholic College of Maynooth, says:—I consider that the present possessors of Church property in Ireland, of whatever description this may be, have a just title to it. They have been *bona fide* possessors of it for all the time required by any law for prescription, even according to the pretensions of the Church of Rome, which required one hundred years.

Lord John Russell who introduced the bill for a Royal Commission to enquire into the state of the Irish Church with a view to disturbing the titles of the properties, was reminded in the course of the debate, that the title of the noble house of Russell to Woburn Abbey and Covent Garden, is not so good as that of the Irish Church to her properties. He was thereupon willing to withdraw his motion, but the Royal Commission was agreed upon.

The Bishop of Down and Connor is out with a proposition for the reduction of the number of Irish bishops, and a surrender of a portion of the revenues of the Church. Nice successor of Jeremy Taylor!

The Archbishop of Canterbury having in answer to an address stated that the report of the Royal Commission on the English Church in the matter of Ritual, would be submitted to convocation before its final adoption by the Government, the Earl of Shaftesbury in high indignation demanded the Primate's reason for this statement. The Archbishop in reply showed that the alteration in or additions to the Prayer Book had hitherto been submitted to Convocation, and he had merely stated his conviction that such would still be the rule. Lord Shaftesbury in contending for the right of Parliament to alter the rites of the Church without her consent, is but fighting the battle of Popery, or Neology.

Dr. Higgins, bishop of Derry, died on the 12th ult.

The *Owl* confirms the announcement that Dr. Alexander, Dean of Emly, is likely to get the see of Derry, vacant by the death of Dr. Higgins.

A conference of members of the house of Commons agreeing in the principle of free churches has been held in the tea-room of the house, at the instance of the National Association for Freedom of Worship. Mr. Bazley, M. P., presided, and resolutions were adopted in favour of joint action for preventing the further extension of the pew system, and for remedying, as far as possible, the existing evils.

CLERICAL VESTMENTS.—The clergy of Windsor last Sunday, the 12th, adopted the surplice in the pulpit, in the place of the University gown. This alteration is in accordance with the Bishop of Oxford's recommendation in his pastoral letter,