

for the ark of God; but in occurrences of this kind we see how easily the great God, if He were but to arise and shake terribly the earth, could call back the mammon-loving multitudes to a consciousness of their obligation to Him, and compel them to feel the importance of securing to themselves something more enduring than the perishing things of this world.

THE BEECHER-TILTON TRIAL.

This miserable trial, which has attracted a larger share of attention, probably, than any other judicial investigation which has occurred during the present generation, after having "dragged its slow length along" through nearly six months, has come at last to a lame and impotent conclusion. The jury, failing to agree after eight weary days of anxious deliberation, has been discharged, and the question of the guilt or innocence of the great preacher has been thrown back upon the public. The fact is, the matter rests precisely where it did six months ago. Those who believed him guilty then have probably had that opinion confirmed; while those who held the opposite view at that time have scarcely found cause in subsequent developments to change their minds. If the evidence produced against Mr. Beecher in the course of this trial had been brought against him twenty years ago, or if his early life had been stained by moral delinquency cognate to what

has been charged upon him in this instance, there can be little doubt that the public verdict would have been against him; but the nobility of his character, the self-sacrificing devotion with which he has supported everything which tended to the elevation of man, and the spotless reputation which he has maintained during a lifetime spent largely in the eye of the public, have been a tower of strength to him in the day of his adversity and trial. It is impossible to forget the record of the last thirty-five or forty years—especially of the last twenty-five years, during which the name of Henry Ward Beecher has been as familiar to every reader of current literature "as household words"—it is impossible to forget all this even amid the din and clamour, "the rebuke and blasphemy" if you will, of the present hour. There are spots upon the sun, and this great man has had his weaknesses; he has possessed through life an exuberance of spirit which has often caused him to act more like a great playful mischievous boy than a serious earnest man with a mind freighted with the weightiest thoughts. There might be a time to dwell upon his foibles, to criticise the peculiarities of some of his people, and to point out how much more prudently and wisely he might have acted in given instances of his career, but there are plenty ready to do that kind of work just now; we shall therefore beg to be excused.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

THE IRISH CONFERENCE.

THIS important ecclesiastical gathering was held in Belfast, and was presided over by Dr. Punshon, who was accompanied by other noted Wesleyan Ministers from England. Dr. Curry, of the New York *Christian Advocate*, was also present as a

visitor. Great interest was felt in the proceedings of the Conference. The Mayor of the town gave a breakfast to the President and many of the members of the Conference. The membership of the Church suffers greatly from emigration—still an increase of 254, with 979 on trial,