

as a monarch, was inflicted by the hand of God. The lesson it reads to all mankind ought to bring her nearer to the hearts of her people. But the multitude want shows, the nobility entertainments, and London tradesmen sales of jewels and finery.

THE Irish Church Bill has passed by a large majority. A government with a large majority is a public monster much to be dreaded. Even though Gladstone's Government should retain power for many years, it will be much for the advantage of the public that his majority be much smaller than now. The property of the Irish Church is about sixteen millions, one-half of which will be required to protect existing interests, and the other for what the Premier calls "unavoidable misery," viz., lunacy, blindness, poverty, &c. So that now Ireland promises to be the happiest country in the world. Unavoidable evils are to be bought away with eight millions, and a reversion of the other eight when life interests have been exhausted. We must all go there! The bill goes into operation in 1871. Present Episcopalian and Presbyterian incumbents will be paid during their lives, or the Churches may commute for them, so that State connexion may end at once. Churches, parsonages and glebes will be left with the Irish Church, provided the Church will assume the burdens. Life interests in Maynooth and the Irish Colleges will also be protected. The change will be very great indeed. The Catholic and Protestant Churches will come out of the business with large funds, if commutation of life interests is agreed upon. Convocation will be authorized in the Episcopal Church, and for the first time for centuries Britain will behold the spectacle of a country without an established Church; and all bodies—Episcopalians, Presbyterians, &c.—holding their assemblies in complete independence. This will be a great revolution for Episcopacy. The High Church party have always wanted this. The Low Churchmen have favoured the Royal supremacy. Both parties will look on with divided feelings, but at least with interest. The effect of this measure upon other religious establishments must be strong and immediate.

THE question of Patronage is to be brought into Parliament by Sir Robert Anstruther. Some Free Church Presbyteries have been memorializing their General Assembly upon making a fresh declaration upon spiritual independence. A controversy has arisen among the Free Church leaders as to change of views since the Disruption. Drs. Begg, Gibson and Forbes claim to hold the old views, and charge Drs. Candlish, Buchanan, and all union men, with having changed. There is very little doubt, indeed, that the leading men of the Free Church do not now want endowment. They have fraternised very much with their old opponents, the Voluntaries, whom they fought so hard in 1833-34. The victory remains in every sense with the latter. The Free Church has far outstripped the old Dissenters in voluntary effort. Piety reared on the broad and deep soil of an established Church, when deprived of State support and roused into energy, has read the old dissenters of Scotland a lesson of voluntaryism that has amazed both pupils and teachers. No wonder the theory should die when the practice was so antagonistic.

PRESIDENT GRANT has pleased the world with his short and sensible inaugural speech. There is very little hope of reciprocity for the present. The taxes are so heavy upon the American people, and benefit so few persons in comparison with the number who suffer, that there cannot be a doubt that the object of the American Government is to promote annexation views among our people. And no wonder they should do so when they read some of our papers, and see the published sentiments which we tolerate and encourage.

AS MR. GOODWILL is about to visit our churches prior to setting out for the scene of his labours in the South Seas, it is to be hoped that our people everywhere will give him a hearty reception. He has been for some years useful and laborious in his own congregation and the Home Mission field, and