

yielded to the request urged upon him from all sides, and will attend the General Anglican Council. He is to preach the opening sermon of the Council. About twelve Bishops from the United States are expected to be present.

*Latest by "China,"*—"Our congratulations last week on the anticipated passing of the maimed measure for increasing the Episcopate, were premature. The Premier and the Prelates refused to sanction new Bishops without incomes partially provided by the Ecclesiastical Commission, and without succession by rotation in the House of Peers. Sir Roundell Palmer has, therefore, withdrawn the Bill."—*Guardian*.

"The Ritual Commission has agreed on its first report, which is to be submitted to the Queen, and then, with Her Majesty's permission, published. It is supposed to be unfavorable to the expediency, if not the legality, of vestments, incense, &c.; but if we may guess anything from the exhibition of temper displayed by Lord Shaftesbury on Monday night, it is probably couched in terms of moderation like to the report of the Lower House of Convocation of Canterbury. The noble Lord was gently rebuked by the Primate and the Bishop of London for his intemperate speech. It is not improbable that there may be more than one report, as it is no secret that the members of the Commission were on some points divided, and some were not always present."—*Guardian*.

#### A PLEA FOR OPEN CHURCHES

The annexed plea, from one of our most gifted female authors, for an open church, where those who have no real home, and no place or chance for retirement, may go, each day or any day, for a moment's rest or worship—is very suggestive. The first difficulty to be overcome is the want of *free* churches, our Protestant system giving each place of religious worship the character of a private establishment, designed chiefly, if not solely, for the few who have contributed to build and embellish it, or who pay an annual rent for its privileges. There is ample food for reflection in this outcry of one who writes from a heart experience of what she utters:—

NEW YORK, March 8, 1867.

*Editors of the Journal of Commerce :*

We are all apt to think and feel that our country, in most particulars, is better than any other. But we must admit that there are, in other lands, some points of excellence superior to some in ours. The habit of keeping open the churches, which is common in many countries, is, most certainly, far better than our habit of keeping them fast shut, at all times except when they are needed for public worship, or other meetings. This cannot be a *right* custom. It is not in accordance with the needs of the people. The Temple of God's "peculiar people" was never closed to them. Week-days as well as Sabbaths they continually resorted there, and although they *did* at last profane its holy courts by *brokers' offices*, this would have been a poor argument, and one not regarded, for the closing of its gates against those who loved to frequent it for better purposes. No wonder that David, and Simeon, and Anna, and all devout Jews, so loved the "Courts of Zion;" no wonder that they thought "a day in Thy courts is better than a thousand;" they were the very children of the temple. It was a mother, a consoling mother to them. Into it they could run as to a refuge when the world oppressed or distressed them; it was to