

The condition imposed was, that the land should be subject to a tax for the support of the church, from which so much property was taken. Now, disestablishment is a simple matter upon just and honourable terms. Let Parliament return the Church Lands to the church, and, we have no doubt, the Churches of England and Scotland will gladly declare themselves well pleased with the change.

The motion of Mr. Miall was seconded by Duncan McLaren, of Edinburgh. He gave figures, showing as much unfairness as is customary in all his church-debates. His figures are merely private calculations, subject to private interpretation. He and his fellow-dissenters were the persons who prevented a census of the different religious bodies being taken on the last occasion when the census was taken. The Established Churches, and especially that of Scotland, were desirous of having a religious census, and sought the same, but they were disappointed, and no religious census was taken, because the dissenters did not wish the real and true strength of the Established Churches to be known.

The figures showing the contributions of the Free Church and the U. P. Church, were given from their several published reports, and are as such correct. But Duncan McLaren unfairly refrained from giving the contributions of the Established Church for the same or similar purposes. He further refrained from showing that the £10,250,000 of the Free Church contributed since 1843 would leave no trace behind, whereas the money contributed by the Church of Scotland, in the same time, was expended in endowments, so that the fruits of the movement will remain forever, even if the development of the activities of the same were to cease to-morrow.

Well, with such a mover and such a seconder, what was the result? Were the churches disestablished, disendowed and overthrown, so that there should be equality in religion, equality between Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Methodist, on the one hand, and Jew, Roman Catholic, Infidel, Atheist and Mormon, on the other? When the House divided, it voted for disestablishment, and 356 against it. So much for the disestab-

lishment of the Churches of Scotland and England.

Mr. Gladstone, in his speech on the subject, gave it as his opinion that thought was less free in Ireland since disestablishment than before it. And, to any unprejudiced observer, the Churches of Scotland and England were never more firmly rooted in the hearts of the people of the nation than at present. This is seen from the fact that, a year ago, Mr. Miall, on the same subject, could number 94 followers, and was defeated by a majority of 201. This year, he could gather up only 61, and found ranged against him a majority of 295.

C.

### "Laws of Nature" vs. Prayer.

Much has been written of late of the folly, if not impiety, of offering prayers for temporal blessings, seeing the "Laws of Nature" are so constant and uniform that no prayer or supplication of man can either change or modify them. There are "Laws of Nature,"—such as Gravitation, Motion, Light, Sound, Electricity, and those other laws on which the stability of the solar system depends; it would indeed be both foolish and impious to pray for their arrest or modification. But there are other "Laws of Nature," and they are those on which the existence and well-being of all life on this earth seems most to depend. These, as far at least as human science has yet discovered, are not governed by such rigid and inexorable laws. "The sun shineth, the rain falleth, the wind bloweth, as they list." Sickness comes and goes; death in its varied forms carries off the young and strong; famine and pestilence stalk abroad, and desolate one country, whilst its neighbour escapes untouched, but no known "Law of Nature" gives the slightest intimation of their coming.

The operations of some laws of nature are so uniform and constant, and now so well understood, that certain events may be predicted with the utmost precision hundreds of years before their occurrence, but no one can foretell the re-appearance of cholera, or when another shipwreck shall strew our shores with the dead bodies of men and of women. The astronomer, when a new comet ap-