

The Church-rate and Abolition Bill has passed its second reading in the House of Commons, by the help of many members who dislike it in its present shape and expect to make something very different of it in Committee.

The Rev. R. W. Guinness has been dismissed from the curacy of Cheltenham for extempore preaching. His style was considered rather too impassioned, as it was seen that in one of his sermons he exclaimed—"Good God, what fools these ritualists are!" and in another he consigned the said "fools" to an uncomfortable place, the name of which begins with a capital H.

Many of the English clergy advocated the devout observance of Good Friday, in their sermons on the fifth or sixth Sunday in Lent.

In the matter of Ritual the Convocation of York has followed the example of that of Canterbury. It deprecates extreme Ritual as an innovation, but expresses a distinct opinion in favor of surplice, hood and stole. Much now might be expected to result from these decisions if Convocation more largely represented the working clergy. Diocesan Synods in which the whole body of the Church—clergy, and laity—are duly represented, should take the initiative in questions like this, revising the action of Rural Deaneries or Church Meetings, and having their own decisions revised and confirmed or rejected by Convocation. As it is,—of those not consulted—some will continue to offend the moderate decisions of Convocation by excess and others by defect,—the one thus furnishing the excuse for and consequently strengthening the hands of the other, until Truth emerges from contradiction.

The Bishop of London is about to proceed by law against the ritualism of St. Alban's. The Ritualists are therefore commencing law-suits against some of the London clergy who break the Rubric by defect.

The Bishop of Rochester, a good, kind-hearted man of moderate Evangelical opinions, has died suddenly, whilst exercising that charity which is the Christian's best passport to heaven. He was with an invalid relative on Saturday evening, when the latter feeling faint, the Bishop assisted him upstairs on to a couch, and sat down on a chair by his side. Presently the invalid, recovering himself, turned to his companion, and, observing him to look pale, said, "I think we ought to change places." The Bishop did not hear,—he had gone to his rest.

SOUTH AFRICA.—Dr. Colenso relying on the support of the Privy Council and encouraged by the late decision of the Master of the Rolls, compelling christians of the Church of England to pay his salary as a bishop after his excommunication, now comes out with a circular to the clergy of Natal advising them as to his intended course regarding them. As to the doctrine to be held by them, a comfortable latitude is to be allowed. They may preach whatever they like "within the wide limits allowed by the Church of England." But let them beware of any "acts of disorder, insubordination and schism." In such case their licenses will be at once withdrawn.

In other words the authority of Christ and His Church are to be treated as mere matters of opinion, but the authority of "the Bishop of this Diocese, appointed by Her Majesty" is to be held sacred.

Having already introduced into his diocese a new hymn-book which contains no hymn to Christ, Dr. Colenso concludes his circular as follows:—"I am yours faithfully, in Christ,
J. W. NATAL."

UNITED STATES.—The subdivision of the larger dioceses seems to be the order of the day. An earnest effort is now being made to divide Virginia, and another bishop will soon be labouring there, with the inevitable result of new churches, new parishes, new clergy and new life generally.