

## DAY OF HUMILIATION.

[The Queen having issued a Proclamation for the observance of Wednesday, 7th Oct. as a day of Humiliation with reference to the Indian Mutiny, religious service was generally conducted in the churches both of the Establishment and Dissenters at the time appointed. But the Rev. John Burnet of Camberwell, London, conscientiously disapproving of the terms of the Proclamation, preached to his people on the subject, on the preceding Lord's day, and the following is the account of his sermon given by the *Christian Times*. Mr. Burnet is a staunch Scotch Voluntary. We recollect well frequently hearing him at the May Meetings in London in 1829, when he was a minister in Cork. He was then the most popular speaker in the city. The Bishops could scarcely get through their speeches till irrepressible cries were heard in the meetings "Mr. Burnet, Mr. Burnet."]

On Sunday morning the 4th Oct., the Rev. J. Burnet preached, at Camberwell-green Chapel, a sermon applicable to the present position of public affairs from I Peter v. 6: "Humble yourselves, therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time." In opening his discourse, he stated his reasons for adverting to the subject then, instead of on the following Wednesday. A Proclamation had issued from the Crown strictly charging and commanding its subjects to observe that day by prayer and humiliation, as they tender favour of Almighty God. Now, it is a first principle with Dissenters, that the Crown has nothing to do with religious matters. Higher ground than that taken in this Proclamation could not have been taken by the Pope. A *recommendation* from the Crown to observe the day religiously, would have been only graceful and Christian-like, and would undoubtedly have met with universal compliance. On the last occasion of the kind, the adoption of such a tone for the future had been urged by a deputation of Dissenters upon the Secretary of State; but although he promised his attention to the subject, the present Proclamation came out in the old form. Now as a Proclamation is not law—and the last monarch (James II) who attempted to enforce a proclamation having lost his crown in consequence, the tone assumed might as well have been recommendatory as otherwise. These remarks were made because principle required it; not out of any feeling of disloyalty, for, said the preacher, in loyalty to the Crown and to the constitution we yield to none. We have thought it right, however, not to let the week pass away without showing some sympathy with the public calamity and with the intention of the Government, although we may conscientiously disapprove of the manner in which the latter has been carried out. The remainder of Mr. Burnet's discourse was divided into five heads—the blessings enjoyed by the nation; the guilt of the nation; the danger to which we are exposed; our duty for the future; and the reward graciously connected by God with duty. In the course of his observations he adverted with gratitude to the measure of religious liberty which permitted such remarks to be freely made, and also commented severely upon the manner in which missionaries had been in the first instance prevented from entering India.

## UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES OF FRANCE.

The Rev. Dr. F. Monod, of this denomination, has been in Canada preaching and holding public meetings. The account he gives of the position of the body is exceedingly interesting. His more immediate object is to raise funds for building a place of worship for his congregation in Paris. Mr. Henderson, of Glasgow, gave £1000 sterling last summer for purchasing a site, and a gentleman in New York gave \$5000. The U. P. Church in Scotland has frequently given liberal contributions to the Union.

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ERRATUM.—In our last it was incorrectly stated that the article relative to the late Rev. Joseph Scott, was the production of a member of the Presbytery of Brant. The honour belongs to a member of the Presbytery of Flamboro'.