

IN the British parliament, the absorbing question of the tenure of Irish land has taken precedence of education. Many of the Irish landlords are confined to their own houses from fear of assassination, and in some counties there exists a reign of terror. The people fancy that the land is so far their own that they hold it under an old feudal tenure and should pay no rent. It is said that the Government intend to push forward their land bill to a third reading before Easter. The leadership of the Conservatives in the House of Lords has been declined by the Earl of Derby. A motion<sup>\*</sup> been tabled in the Commons by Mr. Beaumont, that bishops be relieved from sitting in the Upper House. The motion of Mr. Gladstone, that, as O'Donovan Rossa could not take his seat in the House of Commons, a new writ be issued for Tipperary, was carried by a vote of 301 to 81. Leading statesmen in Britain have lately expressed themselves as opposed to any separation between England and her Colonies. They are viewed as specially important as a field of emigration for the masses of the over-peopled mother country. At a meeting held on Jan. 26, to promote national emigration, letters were read from several gentlemen on this subject. Mr. Tennyson, poet laureate, wrote:—"I cannot believe that ministers entertain for a moment the suicidal policy attributed to them; rather would I think that they are occupied with that vital question, how to make England and her Colonies one body and one soul." Mr. Froude and Mr. Mill expressed themselves still more strongly in the same sense. No one, who has lived for any length of time in a North American Colony, can fail to see that some plan of closer union is necessary to the preservation of the integrity of the empire. A colonist is neither a Briton nor an American. What is he? Define him: for he sadly wants definition. Mr. Bright has been alarmingly unwell from excess of work, but is reported better. Political agitation is hard work.

THE absorbing religious topic is the so-called Ecumenical Council. But no one can tell anything about it: as these plotters against this poor world's peace do their work in a secrecy guarded at every point. Dr. Dollinger, the ablest Roman Catholic divine in Germany, has refuted the infallibility-dogma. The Jesuit organs call him Anti-Christ. Assemblies are no authority upon truth which owes its discovery and maintenance to individual men. The council is a scene of plots and despotism. Many of the bishops complain that the arrangements deprive them of an independent voice. It is said that M. Bismark proposes a public condemnation of the Pope's famous Syllabus, in which modern culture is anathematised.

THE patronage Committee of the Church of Scotland have prepared their report, the principal points of which are: "1. That the claim for the abolition of lay-patronage has become hereditary in the Church; 2. That it is asked as a matter of justice; 3. That the present circumstances of the country make the request a reasonable one; 4. That the claim is urged in the interest of the whole community." The disputed settlement in Alloa gives occasion for the usual buffoonery in such cases.

THERE is much excitement in this province, owing to the dismissal of Mr. Rand, Superintendent of Education. The essential thing to be kept in view is, that no religious body has, under the present Constitution, a right to separate schools, and it should be at once thoroughly understood that no one denomination shall have them. Separate schools are a most dangerous religious establishment.

To all appearance a fearful calamity has come upon us in the disappearance of the steamship "City of Boston," which sailed from Halifax on the 28th Jan. Most deeply do we sympathise with anxious and weeping relatives, trusting that they may have "the consolations of God."

A GREAT man has fallen in the late Dr. Matheson of Montreal. Many will remember his visit here about fourteen years ago. He was a most uncompromising churchman, and enjoyed, at the same time, the deepest love and respect of all.