

OUR LONDON LETTER.

(From our own Correspondent.)

The elections are practically ended, and the Liberals have an enormous majority. The enquiry of the moment is, "What will they do with it?" Are we to have a Radical Ministry, and a series of plunges into experimental legislation of the kind which prevailed in the 1868-74 period? People largely dread this possibility. But if the legislation of the experimental school is to continue, whose experiments are they to be? It is all very well for the followers of Mr. Gladstone to say that they only carry out the will of the people; but this is a palpable error. Only a small section of the people prompt such measures as the Irish Church and Land Bills. Those people, however, who prompted these measures happened to be those who have the gift of speech. It is the same faculty which has changed the Government. The Conservatives have been talked out of Court, and the same thing would have happened if their case had been ten times as strong as it was, if the relative oratorical powers of the two parties had remained the same! We live in fact under a tyranny of talk, a despotism of oratory. The best men and the wisest measures may be swept away by a torrent of invective. The party which now accedes to power as good as admits this.

Mr. Lowe, who is the *enfant terrible* of his party, who always blurts out unwelcome truths, naively declares that all the rough talk is at an end, because its object is attained, that object being to discredit your adversaries. When the historian comes to deal with the events of this day, and turns up these extraordinary statements, he will wonder what manner of men these could be who made the gravest possible charges against the Ministry in power, and as soon as they had obtained a vote against them, turned about, and, with a mocking grimace, declared their object was attained in obtaining the reversion of the places held by the men whom they had denounced as thieves, murderers, traitors and liars. These reflections occur to the mind as we attempt to forecast the immediate future. A writer in the *Standard* has pointed out that no less than fifty-eight Conservative seats has been lost by majorities of less than one hundred. Clearly, this points to a state of things which cannot admit of a very strong, practical re-action in the construction of the new Cabinet.

The Bishopric of Liverpool has been founded, and a selection has been made of the first Bishop. The Conservatives stole a march upon their successors in making the appointment. The *Times* says the clergyman appointed to this see will be called upon to prove not merely his personal competency, but the advantages of the episcopate in general. His exceptional and most formidable task will be to demonstrate to the wide circle of persons who have hitherto accepted passively the episcopal constitution of the Church in which they were born that the constitution would be worth creating were the thing to be done over again. If for any diocese the selection of a first Bishop is hard, it must be peculiarly hard for the diocese of Liverpool. Liverpool has as high a standard as Manchester and London of strictly clerical work. It will not be satisfied with any prelate who does not make his weight perceived in every department of ecclesiastical labor. Its bishop, however, and especially its first bishop, must be fitted to exercise, in addition, social influence in the largest sense of the term, as well as theological. He must be heard on platforms. He must be a student and a scholar who can interpret his learning to the popular understanding. It is easy to catalogue the qualities which ought to meet in a first Bishop of Liverpool. It is not impossible to discover English clergymen who would satisfy the conditions. But the question is whether Dean Ryle will come up to the standard. He is a man of learning, no doubt, and his attendance at Church Congresses has given him broader views of things, still it is difficult for a septuagenarian to adapt himself to circumstances different from those in which he has hitherto been placed, and the fact remains that he is a member of the Church Association.

Nothing has been heard at the Admiralty of the missing *Atalanta*, and as day after day passes away without any tidings, anxiety painfully increases. Still many nautical men cling to hope, and as nothing is expected to be known of the search of the Channel squadron until

Tuesday or Wednesday next the anxious friends of those on board must remain in sad suspense. A member of a London shipping house, who expresses an opinion that the *Atalanta* will never be heard of again, cites in support of his view the fact that the iron ship *Bay of Biscay*, which was spoken on the 7th day of February this year, and very nearly in the same latitude and longitude as the missing training ship would be about that time, has not been heard of since. Mrs. Stirling received a letter nearly a month back, in which her husband stated that he should arrive at Spithead before his communication reached her. On Wednesday last more than 150 telegrams were received at the Admiralty from various parts of the country from relatives of the crew and those on board, asking for information. More than 200 persons also made inquiries at Whitehall during the day.

Sir Arthur Guinness is consoled by a Peasage for his lost Dublin. His elevation is a proof that stout beats bitter beer. The Basses & Allsopps are still commoners, the representative of double stout has become a peer. He has done a great deal to earn his peerage. He owns a large number of public houses, and has helped to build, as a restitution, several churches. He restored St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Who is going to Ober-Amtegau? That is the question just now being asked. For the "Passionspiel" is again to be played this year. The first performance will be May 17. There will be six performances in June, four in July, five in August, and five in September. Christ is to be played by Joseph Meier; and in the new theatre thousands of people will be accommodated. Hundreds of people are going from London on purpose for it. Those desirous of knowing briefly what the play is like, will find a good account in Dean Stanley's Essays. But fuller accounts are given by the Rev. Malcolm McColl and Mr. Oxenham. Mr. MacColl wrote his descriptions for the *Times*, Mr. Oxenham wrote his descriptions for the *Guardian*. Rivington publishes both hand-books. Mr. MacColl's book is the more simply descriptive, Mr. Oxenham's the more inclined to moralizing. Mr. MacColl's is more of a guide; Mr. Oxenham's is more of a book. They are both very reverently written.

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