

Rainy to grapple with cultured and conceited Anglican Broad Churchism.

In England there is much excitement in connection with proposed reforms in the Established Church. An earnest agitation for disestablishment is being conducted by Dissenters, led by Mr. Miall. On the other hand a "Church Defence Association" has been organized under the patronage of leading lords, spiritual and temporal. Convocation has met and has had under consideration some changes in the Prayer Book; but no definite conclusion has been reached. An effort will be made to legalize the shortening of the services. An attempt is also being made to get rid of the so-called Athanasian Creed, especially its damnatory clauses. The best friends of the English Church are eager to reform it; for it cannot long stand as it is. The reformers ask for greater liberty in the use of the Prayer Book—for lay representation in the government of the church—for the abolition of simony and other crying abuses. Parliament has rejected a bill proposed by the Earl of Shaftesbury to facilitate church discipline.

The Romeward movement among the High Church section of the English Church is as notable as ever; and there appears no power to correct it. The Judgments of the Privy Council are generally treated with contempt. The "Broad Church" movement is as lively and strong as ever,—Dean Stanley being its leader. His theory, and that of his school, is that an Established Church should comprehend the whole nation whatever the diversity of beliefs—Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Baptist, Independent, Socinian, Mahomedan.

The most impressive religious service of the century took place on the 27th February. All through the British Isles the people offered up Thanks to God for restoring to health the Prince of Wales. The Queen and the representatives of the nation worshipped in St. Paul's Cathedral, and the day was observed in London with unusual demonstrations of popular good will. "We thank God for a Queen who thanks God, and for all in every place who thank God with her. Would only the whole

nation partook of their spirit! Britain would not be less great if all her people knew and assumed their fit attitude before Him who doeth according to His will in the armies of Heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth."

In Ireland the Presbyterians are engaged in earnest missionary and church extension efforts. No branch of the church shows greater vigor in the cause of evangelization at home and abroad. They have risen nobly in defence of national education and in opposition to the arrogant demands of the Church of Rome. The Episcopal Church in Ireland is becoming more decidedly Protestant since it has been disestablished.

In France there is a movement that promises to be of great importance. M. Michaud, Vicar of the Madeleine, has revolted against the Archbishop of Paris and taken the same stand with Fathers Dollinger and Hyacinthe. The Archbishop is an Ultramontane of the strictest type, and he insisted that all the clergy should not only acknowledge publicly the dogma of the Papal Infallibility but should believe it in their hearts. M. Michaud found that he could not believe the dogma. Others sympathize with him, but it is still doubtful if more than very few will have the courage to take their stand with the Vicar. However the defection of two such men as Fathers Hyacinthe and Michaud, is itself significant and encouraging. Evangelical movements in France are meeting with encouraging success.

In Germany there has been a very sharp contest between the civil authorities and the Ultramontanists. Bismarck has with rare and refreshing boldness met the enemy right in the front and denounced the schemes of the priests. In Bavaria, the centre of the "Old Catholic" movement, the Government has managed to defeat the Ultramontane party. Several new churches have been opened for the use of the excommunicated followers of Dr. Dollinger.

In Spain there are symptoms of progress and revival. Evangelical work in Rome has suffered by the sudden death of Rev. Dr. Lewis, who long laboured in that city,