

# The Monthly Record.

NOVEMBER, 1868.

## NOTES OF THE MONTH.

The British papers are filled with election news, much of which is amusing and none of which is so alarming as gloomy seers predicted. The working classes employ their newly acquired privileges with as much propriety as on former occasions but not with as much gratitude, if they oust Disraeli and install Gladstone, the Liberals calculating on a majority of thirty. But when were the multitude grateful? When did the Democratic monster cease to cry: Give Give, or say: It is enough? Politics have split the Church Union, a High Church society, Dr. Pusey having declared for Gladstone and announced his belief that establishments are doomed. Gladstone has always been extremely "High Church," as it is foolishly phrased. The true friends of the English Church hold that the honesty of the Romanists is as low as their assumptions are high. It is to be remembered that the same party have a hankering for "spiritual independence." They exalt the idea of "the church." The civil law also hampers their movements. Their zeal is great and the dearer these principles are to them, the more willing are they to gnaw at the crusts of voluntarism instead of large state loaves and fat fishes, in the hope of becoming fatter in the end. We cannot, however, defend the Irish Church, the revenues of which are about £630,000, and the number of adherents the same—that is, they receive from the state a pound apiece for being Protestants and trying without success to convert R. Catholics. Dr. Killen, an able Irish Presbyterian divine, the author of some scholarly and edifying books, writes a pamphlet to show, that Presbyterians who support the views of the Westminster divines against popery and prelacy cannot maintain the cause of Episcopacy in Ireland. Upon the whole, we are glad that our General Assembly, in terms of Mr. Cumming's motion, simply petitioned against the disestablishment of the Irish Church, without assigning reasons, as Mr. Campbell's, Swinton's and Principal Tulloch's motions would have had them do. It is said that Gladstone has not a very good chance of carrying South Lancashire.

The Pope has called a great Council at Rome in 1869, to which he has invited Protestants and the Bishops of the Eastern Church. It is not likely that the Eastern bishops, who, while holding a corrupt form of christianity, repudiate papal authority, will attend. The Eastern Church, with all its faults, is a noble protest against the assumption of the Pope to be universal bishop. The Protestants, who may attend, are expected to join the papal church, "out of which there is no salvation." The invitation is a curious

sign of the times. What if some of the n should attend! There is a certain class of Protestants who should have been in Rome long ago. They have the principles of Romanists without their honesty. The fact appears in these wonderful times, that for the first time in the history of the world, the Pope invites to a Council those whom he has ever denounced, whose principles he abhors, and whom he is bound to persecute and destroy, classing them with pagans, infidels, Jews and Turks. Is the infallible old man penitent for the past? Are his troubles in Mexico, Spain, Austria and Italy humbling the head that has never bowed or abated its claims? Let none of us so think. Popery changes her attitude but not her spirit. By reason of the dogma of infallibility, her corruptions may increase but not diminish. By the way the *Sicde* asserts that the Pope is a Free Mason, though he has denounced that, and all other secret societies.

The obituary of the past month announces the death of Dr. Longley, Archbishop of Canterbury. Disraeli, a Jew by descent, will thus have the appointment of the highest bishop in the English Church. Whom will he appoint? Will the future Archbishop be high or low?—will be interesting questions for a few days. Dean Milman is also dead, at the age of 78—a most distinguished author and an ornament to the Church of England. The *Pall Mall Gazette* says of him: "It would be difficult to mention among his survivors any man, who combines in anything like the same degree, learning, genius and piety." His works are poetical and historical. "The history of Latin Christianity is the most effective exposure to be found in modern literature of the superstitions which are again beginning to lift their heads so boldly among us. There was a charm in his society, which it is difficult to analyze or describe." On the other hand a High Church paper, the *Record*, whines over his fate and declares not obscurely that he is now paying up in another world for his opposition to high and dry Christianity in this! The Dowager Duchess of Sutherland, who was thought the Queen of English beauty in her day—a woman of magnificent appearance and address, of high talents and social influence, has gone the way of all the earth. Her three daughters were married to the Duke of Argyle, Lord Blantyre and the Duke of Leinster. Her son is the present Duke of Sutherland. Thus death spares neither beauty nor fashion, learning nor piety. Churchmen, noblemen, scholars and beauties must die. When the world agitates our minds, let us say with Job: "If I wait, the grave is mine house."

Mr. Disraeli has made two excellent appointments, Dr. Magee, an evangelical divine, to be bishop of Peterborough, and Dr. Mansell to be dean of St. Paul's.

Dr. Colenso is still bishop of Natal and Dr. Gray has returned to Capetown without a