

from which it appeared that the total cost of the building and ground had been over £75,000, of which all had been met but £4000. A valuable addition had been made to the library, by a gift of about 10,000 volumes from the widow of the late Mr. Joshua Wilson.

On Tuesday morning the Union met in Westminster Chapel the body of which was filled with ministers and delegates, the galleries being devoted to visitors, among whom were hundreds of ladies. Mr. H. Richard, M.P., on entering, was received with hearty cheers, and, after the usual devotional service, proceeded to deliver the

INAUGURAL ADDRESS,

a synopsis of which we give from the *Christian World*. The topic selected was "The Relations of the Temporal and Spiritual Power in the Different Nations of Europe," and the chairman passed in review the condition of affairs in several Continental countries where attempts of a very varied character for the solution of this problem are now in course of development. He told of the humiliating position accepted by the Roman Catholic priests in France under the Concordat made between Napoleon I. and Pius VII., and of the fulsome adulation heaped upon that despot. It was true that the First Consul restored to the Roman Catholic Church in that country much of its former outward splendour, but the price which had to be paid was to make religion an accomplice in the most degrading despotism that ever cursed the earth, and the result of which had been an exaltation of the power of the Papacy. Mr. Richard referred to the series of letters from M. de Pressensé published in the *Christian World*, and stated, on the authority of M. Laboulaye, that the question of the separation of Church and State was fast ripening for settlement. In Germany, whatever opinion may be formed as to the character of the Falk laws, one thing was evident, that they were unsuccessful. The resistance with which they had been met had resulted in dis-endowment in certain districts, and if the process were continued, "a free Roman Catholic Church in the midst of the Evangelical empire" might yet be witnessed. Austria, since the defeat of Sadowa, had abolished the Concordat of 1855, which was strangling its civil and political life, and now the schools were conducted on a system which Baron Worms describes as having a striking similarity to the Birmingham League; and "the cemeteries are no longer to be closed to Dissenters"—a palpable contrast to the principle involved in the Government Burials Bill, which was duly noted by the assembly. The mention of Italy called forth sympathetic cheers, which were renewed with increased enthusiasm when a passing reference was made to Mr. Gladstone. Mr. Richard explained the character of the Laws of Guarantee, and found in the recent proceedings at Mantua the probable "germ of a sort of Congregational Roman Catholic Church, the priest elected by the people and supported by their voluntary contributions." In Switzerland they witnessed the evil effects of "a church absolutely dependent upon the suffrages of the citizens," irrespective of any religious condition; while in Belgium they had the State divested of all control over the Church, for which, nevertheless, endowments had to be provided. But even here the very extravagance of clerical tyranny was producing reaction, and M. de Laveleye and a considerable number of writers and professors at Brussels have resolved to give in their adhesion to Protestantism. Everywhere the attempt to combine the temporal and spiritual power in close relation with each other, involves Governments in trouble and embarrassment, rends asunder the national unity, caricatures Christianity, and degrades and dishonours the Church. "Cut asunder," said Mr. Richard, in concluding his address, "that chain of gold, fling away those meretricious worldly ornaments, tear off the Babylonish garments which only tend to fetter her free movements and mar her Divine beauty! Loose her and let her go, and, instead of thus trailing in the dust in the wake of earthly conquerors, she will rise and spread her wings, and be seen, like the vision that John saw, as an angel flying in