

a large majority of the Lower House, is an anomaly and a nuisance, and must be got rid of. Another noticeable feature was the admission by more than one speaker that the present state of things could not be continued, and the hints that a compromise might be effected. Thus Lord Derby, "If it were possible to come to any arrangement, he should be ready to take any step which might be the means of relieving conscientious, honest Dissenters, beyond the maintenance of their own places of worship" again, "He could not pledge the Government to introduce any measure on the subject, but he should be glad to perceive the slightest indication on the part of Dissenters to meet the Church half-way." So also the Archbishop of Canterbury, "He admitted that church-rates could not remain as they were, and he would cheerfully assent to any compromise that was not wholly concession." Too late, my Lords, too late! On the whole we think there is no cause for discouragement; that thirty-six should vote for such a measure in the Upper House, is a great fact, it is a beginning, and a beginning that is the earnest of a successful ending.

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We have lost an old friend! For years past we have watched the regular introduction of the Jew Bill into the Imperial Parliament, until we had almost come to regard it as part of the routine, and an indispensable adjunct of every session, and now the matter is settled! As we anticipated in a previous number the Lords have acceded to the motion of Lord Lucan, and while the oath remains ostensibly unaltered, the Commons are allowed to dispense with the phrase which has been the source of so much contention, "On the true faith of a Christian." Henceforth Jews can take their seats in that assembly by a simple resolution of its members, which we do not suppose will ever be refused. The practical results involved are but small, as it is not at all likely that many Jews will stand an election; the great thing was to vindicate the principle of toleration, and this has been accomplished though in somewhat an oblique fashion. One consolation our friends who oppose Church Rates derive from this result is, that whereas the Jews have failed nine times and have succeeded at the tenth trial, so they will ultimately succeed although they should fail nine or ninety times. Since the foregoing was written we learn that Baron Rothschild presented himself for admission to the House of Commons, that he declined, as before, to take the usual oath, whereupon Lord John Russell moved that he be allowed to take the oath he considered most binding; this was carried, complied with by the Baron, and he took his seat amid loud cheers. So ends the Jew Question.

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An attempt to abolish the Irish *Regium Donum* has been defeated in the House of Commons by a large majority.

A Bill to legalize marriage with a deceased wife's sister has passed the House of Commons, and awaits the sanction of the Lords. A similar measure has just passed the legislature of Victoria.

Our readers will be aware long before this meets their eye, that the Atlantic Telegraph Cable is laid, and that there is now instantaneous communication between England and America. It has been suggested that a day be set apart for a public holiday to celebrate so great an event, and we suppose that such will be the case. Need we hint to our Christian brethren the propriety of assembling together on that day, and asking the blessing of God upon the undertaking, that it may be a means of binding together in lasting peace and unity the great Protestant Anglo-Saxon Nations, sprung from the same stock, speaking the same language, holding the same faith and loving the same Bible; and that it may tend in an eminent degree to realize the angelic song, "Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good will toward men."

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One more vestige of intolerance has been swept away. The English Peers supported (*mirable dictu*) by the Bishops, have recommended the abrogation of three services heretofore sanctioned by the English Church, for the 5th November, being "for the happy deliverance of King James the First, and the three estates of England, from the most traitorous and bloody-intended massacre by gunpowder,