

is a practice now utterly unknown. . . . Congregational churches have become so radically and jealously suspicious of all external interference, that they might adopt the Scotch thistle for their symbol, and with it the Scotch motto : *Nemo me impune lacessit*. That this isolation is a condition of degeneracy, . . . is now the clear conviction of many, and the consequence is a very manifest tendency to return to the better modes of our fathers. . . . The progress of this movement is more rapid than those of us who have been working towards it for many years could have dreamed of."

On another point of much present interest, he says : "There is a disposition among us to make the mode of admission to our churches still easier than it is. Those who plead for the disuse of the old practice of visitation of candidates by deacons or others—a practice which they not very wisely or fairly characterize as an 'inquisition'—profess to have no wish to break down the barrier between the church and the world, but consider such 'visitation' as of no avail to keep out the world, while they think it keeps out not a few who are of the church in spirit. But I for one look with some concern on the tendency in this direction, and dread its landing us in a hereditary membership such as virtually exists in some other communions, and for which (apart from all other objections) the Congregational, of all forms of government, is the least suited."

Now that the mists are clearing away after the great battle, we can see how the fortunes of war have left the Irish University question, better than in the heat of the fight. The following points are established, and the net result is on the whole of good omen. First, it is something to have the Ultramontane position clearly defined, and to see the meek petitions for the redress of legal disabilities succeeded by the bold demand for absolute supremacy over the education of Catholics now made by the Romish Hierarchy. The only "liberty" and "justice" they acknowledge, is for the priests to do as they will with the children of the people, at the nation's expense ! Secondly, Mr. Gladstone, in closing the debate, made a most solemn and earnest declaration of the impossi-

bility of "concurrent endowment" of various denominations educationally, inasmuch as this would be utterly at variance with the policy so deliberately affirmed by Parliament and the country, in the Disestablishment Act. From this position, he will not recede. Thirdly, Mr. Disraeli has also declared that it will be impossible for him to enter into political alliance with Cardinal Cullen and his brother-prelates, and the "country gentlemen" cheered this announcement to the echo. Fourthly, this emphatic endorsement of the non-denominational principle in education for Ireland, will make its adoption in England also so much the more rapid and complete. And thus, though the balance of power being in the hands of the "Pope's Brass Band" (as Lord Russell called the Irish Catholic members) in the House of Commons, so that they can give either side a majority by their votes, is an ugly feature in the case, the situation, on the whole, has improved. The University question must now be left to another Parliament, but the Government, meanwhile, are assisting Mr. Fawcett to pass his bill removing all tests from Trinity College.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.—The Senate of this University have passed a resolution, to take effect at the matriculation examination of June next, that Greek be no longer compulsory on candidates at the examination, but be ranked as optional with French and German ; so that it shall be sufficient for any candidate to pass in any one of these three languages.

Mr. Beecher's Plymouth church is a great monied institution. The receipts last year were \$76,000—\$60,318,46 from the pews. Of this sum \$14,000 went to the "Navy Mission," and for Mr. Beecher's salary \$20,000.

The international Y. M. C. Associations have wisely changed their mind, and decided to hold their next meeting at Poughkeepsie, instead of San Francisco. Reason, the unreasonable expense of going to the Pacific slope. It is expected that Mr. Williams, of London, the founder of Christian Associations, will be present.