

THE MONTH.

THE two Irish measures of the Government, the Land Bill and the Crimes Bill, represent the main work of the Session. The waste of time has been deplorable, and several valuable measures (the Church Patronage Bill, *e.g.*) had "no chance." The loss of the Tithe Bill is serious. The Allotments Bill, it seems probable (the 20th), will pass.

The speeches of Lord Hartington, Mr. Bright, and Mr. Chamberlain show that the bye-elections have at all events failed to dishearten the Liberal-Unionist leaders.

The Government have decided to proclaim the National League.

The Bishop of Cashel (Dr. Day) in his diocesan synod has spoken strongly of the Union :

He trusted that they should ever hold fast to that union which had existed, and existed at present, between Great Britain and Ireland, and that they never would be driven by any excited feelings or by any painful feelings which might be called up in their minds, to desire so disastrous a thing as any meddling by any people whatever with the great bond of union between these countries. He believed that it was not merely Ireland that was concerned in it, but England as well as Ireland, and Ireland as well as England. He believed, and he was sure that he only expressed the sentiments of all here present, that any meddling with the great foundation of our United Empire would be not only doing the greatest injury—indeed irreparable injury—to Ireland, but that it would be such an injury to the British Empire, not merely to Great Britain, but to all its colonies, as would shake that mighty Empire to its very foundation.

In commemoration of the centenary of the Colonial Episcopate special services were held in St. Paul's and other Cathedrals.¹

The Hessian fly has appeared in several counties: a serious addition to the trials of "depressed" agriculturists.

The *Record* says :

We hear that Bishop Blyth has expressed himself in high terms of the C.M.S. mission to Palestine. Like every other visitor the Bishop seems to have been particularly impressed by what he saw of the schools, and, so far from deprecating any of the Society's work, he is said to recommend that its position should be strengthened.

In the *Sword and Trowel* Mr. Spurgeon remarks on the "broadening" of Dissent. He says :

A new religion has been initiated which is no more Christianity than chalk is cheese; and this religion, being destitute of moral honesty, palms itself off as the old faith with slight improvements, and on this plea usurps pulpits which were erected for Gospel preaching. At the back of doctrinal falsehood comes a natural decline of spiritual life, evidenced by a taste for questionable amusements and a weariness of devotional meetings. Let us not hide from ourselves the fact that the Episcopal Church is awake, and is full of zeal and force. Dissenting as we do most intensely from her Ritualism, and especially abhorring her establishment by the State, we cannot but perceive that she grows, and grows, among other reasons, because spiritual life is waning among certain Dissenters. Where the Gospel is fully and powerfully preached, with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven, our churches not only hold their own but win converts; but when that which constitutes their strength is gone—we mean when the Gospel is concealed and the life of prayer is slighted—the whole thing becomes a mere form and fiction. For this thing our heart is sore grieved.

The Select Committee on Sunday Postal Labour have recommended something in the way of Local Option.

¹ Dr. Inglis was consecrated August 12, 1787. (An article on the First Colonial Bishop, by the Hon. P. C. Hill appeared in a recent *CHURCHMAN*.)