

## THE MONTH.

THE Church Congress of Wakefield is generally said to have been a very successful gathering.<sup>1</sup> The Bishop (Dr. Carpenter) proved, as everybody expected, an admirable President. The speakers were earnest, well-informed, and practical, and the audience was sympathetic. Last year, at the Portsmouth Congress, the leading thought was *Church Defence*; in the proceedings at Wakefield it was *Church Reform*. And the tone of the speeches, in several important meetings, was most encouraging. As to Patronage, *e.g.*, the *Record* says :

The details of the Patronage Bill naturally called forth a good deal of criticism, but we do not attach much significance to that. The best part of the matter was the firm appeal to Churchmen, made by almost all the speakers, to support the Bill.

The Bishop of Rochester's paper on the "lapsed Masses," and the Bishop of Exeter's on "Polygamy in relation to Foreign Missions," will repay very careful reading. The *Spectator* says that the Bishop of Liverpool's treatment of the question before him—rural parishes—was "altogether admirable." A valuable paper on the Church and Social Questions was read by Canon Straton, the esteemed Vicar of Wakefield, to whose tact and energy much credit is due.

In the Education debate Archdeacon Norris remarked of the portion of Mr. Matthew Arnold's report which deals with the abolition of school fees, that Mr. Arnold's "conclusions were strictly opposed to all his premises."

The Diaconate question was worthily discussed. To another reform which for years we have urged in the *CHURCHMAN*, *viz.*, the union of small contiguous benefices, attention was invited by Canon Bullock.

Lord Randolph Churchill, in a welcome speech at Dartford, announced that the Government, early next Session, will bring in a Bill throwing the payment of tithe upon the landlord,<sup>2</sup> and another Bill to facilitate the sale of glebes.

The Rev. F. F. Goe, a vigorous speaker and a pastor of high rank, has been nominated, we gladly note, to the See of Melbourne.

At Ramsgate, at the fifteenth annual gathering of the South-Eastern Lay and Clerical Alliance, the President, the Dean of Canterbury, made an admirable address on the National Church. Of the South Eastern College, Ramsgate, the Junior as well as the Senior branch, a most gratifying report was given by the Rev. E. d'Auquier, head-master.

<sup>1</sup> The *Guardian* of the 13th says, "The Congress was, notwithstanding, an emphatic success." "It proved at any rate that Church work in itself, and for its own sake, can command the deepest sympathies and attention of multitudes of people even when it is not commended to them by any special attractions of eloquence or eminent authority. It proved also that the Evangelical principles and policy of the day, for it was Evangelical Churchmanship which predominated—perhaps too much predominated—everywhere at Wakefield, are by no means narrow or unprogressive." The *Record* of the 15th says: "There appears to be a consensus of opinion on two points with respect to the Church Congress held at Wakefield, *viz.*, it was the most Evangelical Congress ever held, and it was one of the most successful of the whole series."

<sup>2</sup> At the Oxford Diocesan Conference, a resolution (moved by the Chancellor, Mr. Cripps, Q.C.) was passed unanimously: "That it is desirable in the best interests of the Church of England that the tithe rent-charge should be paid by the landowner, and that the present remedy of distress on the property of the occupier should be put an end to."