

THE MONTH.

THE C.M.S. SIMULTANEOUS MEETINGS in London, we thankfully record, have proved a singular success. There can hardly be a doubt that great and lasting benefit will be the issue. At the meeting in the Town Hall, Westminster, where the Dean of Westminster presided, Lord Northbrook, the Bishop of Salisbury, Archdeacon Farrar, Canon Westcott, Canon Elwyn, and Mr. Eugene Stock were the speakers. At the overflow meeting Mr. G. A. Spottiswoode presided.¹

The Convocation of Canterbury was opened on the 8th. Referring to a misapprehension, his Grace the President said that "it was not desirable that there should be a mere fusion or union of the two Convocations; each should preserve its integrity. A conference of the two Convocations would be very serviceable, and in such a conference there would be nothing to be gained by the separation of the Bishops into one conference and the presbyters into another."

The House of Laymen has had under consideration Church Patronage, Criminous Clerks, the Diaconate, and other subjects. By a large majority the House adopted a resolution moved by Mr. Sydney Gedge, M.P., seconded by Sir R. Temple, M.P. :

That, in the opinion of this House, it is desirable that all the legislative enactments which now prevent a Deacon from engaging in secular occupations be repealed, or greatly modified.

In King's College, London, at a social gathering of the C.E. Scripture Readers' Association, an admirable address was given by the Bishop of Bedford. The *Record* of the 4th gave an interesting account of work done by the Thames Church Mission Society.

In a visit to the "three towns" Deanery (Plymouth, Devonport, and Stonehouse), the Bishop of Exeter completed forty-seven engagements which had been previously arranged.

The Glebes Bill, introduced by Viscount Cross, has been read a second time.²

The Marquis of Hartington, in very able and statesmanlike speeches, has justified the "virtual coalition" between the Conservatives and Liberal Unionists. Mr. Parnell's amendment to the Address was rejected, on the 11th, by a majority of 108.

The letters which have appeared during the last two months in the *Guardian* on the sufferings of the clergy, due to the prolonged agricultural depression, have now been reprinted, with a preface by the writer, Mr. R. E. Prothero, Fellow of All Souls' College, Oxford.

¹ At the Blackheath meeting, the Bishop of Rochester presiding, a very interesting speech was made by the Chancellor of the Diocese, Mr. Dibdin.

² The Earl of Onslow said: "The present measure would remove one more of the obstacles in the way of transfer and sale of land, and would enable the owners of glebe lands to sell them as freely as others. If the edifice of land reform could be crowned by the passing of the measure introduced by the noble and learned lord on the Woolsack, it would enable the glebe lands to be transferred cheaply and readily. The objections which had been advanced would be overcome, and it would also remove a prejudice which appeared to be in the minds of many, to the effect that the members of their lordships' House were interested in obtaining a system of land tenure in order to prevent the masses from having a share in the property from which they derived their incomes. The Bill enabled the glebe lands to be sold to the labouring man in allotments, or to be sold to local authorities to be sub-let to the labouring man."