

THE MONTH.

THE second reading of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill has been carried by a majority of 101. The *Times* says:

By this division the Irish people are brought appreciably nearer the moment of their deliverance from one of the most cruel and destructive tyrannies under which a country ever groaned. Arbitrary Governments sometimes oppress a people by excessive taxation; but we should have to go to the proceedings of some conquering Eastern tribe to find a parallel to the wanton dislocation of the framework of society and the ruinous assaults upon the very springs of social prosperity by which the National League seeks to consolidate its power. . . . Mr. Gladstone is in an essentially false position . . . his desperate efforts to establish his consistency broke down deplorably.

Mr. Chamberlain has made a remarkable political tour in Scotland. The *Scotsman* says: "The work set before us all is to maintain the Union, and to show that the British people will have nothing to do with revolutionary doctrines and apologies for crime."

The Archbishop of York is forming a fund for the help of such of the clergy in his diocese as may be suffering from exceptional distress in the present Jubilee year.

Many letters in the *Times* and *Guardian* have sharply criticized the Ministerial Tithe Bill. "An Ecclesiastical Official," *e.g.*, wrote:

It allows tithe-payers to redeem, or "discharge their land from tithes," by paying twenty times the apportioned amount. As the present rent-charge is only about £90, it is true that twenty times the apportioned amount means something over twenty-two times the present rent charge. But the purchase-money is to be invested in Government or municipal debentures, neither of which can be bought to pay much over 3 per cent. Moreover, the municipal debentures, generally 3½ per cent., are mostly redeemable at par in a few years, which means that they will be redeemed and the parsons will get something still less, unless the rate of interest rises again, which is very unlikely. The Bill does not even allow railway debentures, though I know that the Ecclesiastical Commission has accepted them for some endowments, and Queen Anne's Bounty accepts even preference stocks of good railways. What is the result? Why, that every tithe-owner, lay as well as clerical, will lose from a quarter to a third of his income as soon as he is "redeemed," and probably more in a few years.

The presidency of the Church Missionary Society, we gladly record, has been accepted by Sir John Henry Kennaway, Bart, M.P.

The consecration of Dr. Blyth took place in the chapel of Lambeth Palace. The sermon was preached by the Dean of Lichfield.

To the memory of Bishop Titcomb we desire to pay a sincere tribute of respect.¹

One of the most notable Members of Parliament in our time, Mr. Newdegate, universally respected, has passed away.² References to the character and career of the late Archdeacon Harrison and Chancellor Burton have been read with interest.

An interesting report on the foundation of the Primate's Mission to the Syrian Church in 1886 has been published.

¹ The Right Rev. J. H. Titcomb, D.D., formerly Bishop of Rangoon, recently coadjutor to the Bishop of London. We may refer to the article (CHURCHMAN, vol. xiii., p. 254), on the work of the esteemed Bishop in Europe, by the Rev. T. Teignmouth Shore.

² The *Record* says: "By his death Warwickshire loses a squire, Protestantism a champion, political life a personage, and England a loyal son. He entered Parliament in 1843, and kept his seat against all comers till 1885. Then he retired, solaced, but not completely reconciled to the vast changes which the latest arrangements of reformers had made in the constituencies, by finding himself sworn of the Queen's Privy Council. That most honourable body contains no members more worthy of a place in her Majesty's Councils than such men as Mr. Newdegate."