

THE MONTH.

THE Church Discipline Bill, introduced by the Archbishop of Canterbury, was read a second time on the 15th.

A petition from the Lord's Day Observance Society to the Upper House of Convocation, presented by the Bishop of Exeter, led to a discussion which may have a salutary influence.¹ In the Lower House, after a debate on the Extension of the Diaconate, the following amendment was carried by a large majority :

That this House is deeply persuaded of the urgent need of an increase of clergy, and commends this subject to the prayers of faithful Churchmen. That it will welcome the accession of qualified persons possessed of independent means who will offer themselves for the work of deacons ; but that it deprecates any alteration of the law and of the ancient usages of the Church which would involve the relaxation of the solemn obligations of holy orders.

Memorials on the proposed Surrey Bishopric were presented to the Archbishop of Canterbury at Lambeth Palace ; Archdeacon Burney reading the memorial of the clergy, Lord Midleton that of the laity. The noble lord said he had protested in his place in Parliament against the scheme for the formation of the new diocese of Rochester ; and all the evils which he had anticipated from the measure had been more than realized.

An influential deputation from the Yorkshire Clerical and Lay Union presented to the Archbishop of York a memorandum against the proposed "Supplement to the Catechism," and his Grace expressed his entire concurrence with the object of the memorialists.

The return of a Liberal Unionist at Doncaster is a welcome victory.—The new Rules of Procedure will check obstruction.

The Rev. Dr. Salmon has succeeded the Rev. Dr. Jellett, deceased, as Provost of Trinity College, Dublin.—The clerical obituary includes the names of W. H. Hoare, William Niven, Francis Storr, and Canon Hulbert.

Lord John Manners, M.P., has become (by the death of his brother) Duke of Rutland.

The death of the Emperor William, after a short illness, was announced on the 9th, and later in the day Prince Bismarck announced to the Reichstag that the Prussian Crown and the Imperial dignity had passed to his Majesty Frederick III. On the 10th the Crown Prince, now Frederick III., left San Remo for Berlin.

The celebration of the Silver Wedding of the Prince and Princess of Wales was shadowed by the mourning at Berlin.

¹ The resolution was carried unanimously, as follows :—"That, the attention of the Upper House of Convocation having been attracted to the relaxation of Sunday observance which appears to have increased of late years, even amongst those who have fullest leisure on other days, and to the great increase of Sunday labour, the House deems it to be its duty to appeal to the clergy, to all instructors of the young, and to all who exercise influence over their fellow-men, not to suffer this Church and country to lose the priceless benefit of the rest and sanctity of the Lord's day. Its reasonable and religious observance is for the physical, moral, and spiritual health of all ranks of the population, and to it our national well-being has been largely due."