

THE MONTH.

PARLIAMENT was on the 5th prorogued until October. The Irish Land Purchase Act, the Tithe Rent-Charge Act, and the Free Education Act tell of a successful session. The Clergy Discipline Bill failed to pass. Nothing has been done in the way of "Church Reform."

The result of the Wisbech election affords matter for serious thought. How will the agricultural labourers, as a rule, give their votes at the next election? About the Home Rule question they seem to care very little.

The Birmingham Bishopic scheme is, perhaps, making good way. The late Bishop of Worcester, Dr. Philpott, has offered to resign £500 a year of his pension that it may go towards the stipend of the proposed see. Meantime a suffragan Bishop of Coventry is appointed.

Representatives of the Order of Foresters assembled in London were invited to attend in a body the Morning Service in St. Paul's, and the Archbishop of Canterbury preached the sermon. Comments in some newspapers seem to show ignorance of the fact that a "Church parade" of Friendly Societies has been common enough in rural parishes the last few years.

The *Daily News*, in "Life in our Villages," points out that "the agricultural labourer is abandoning the land he was born on, and making his way into the towns." The movement is indeed all too plain. The Census shows that while the towns and mining districts are increasing fast, the rural counties have stood still or fallen off. What is to be done?

A donor, who does not wish his name to be mentioned, has sent the Bishop of Carlisle £10,000 for the augmentation of ten poor benefices.

The Dean of Bristol, Dr. Elliot, appointed by Lord John Russell in 1850, has passed away, at the age of ninety-one.—At a special service held in Westminster Abbey on the 16th, Archdeacon Farrar paid a tribute to the memory of Mr. Russell Lowell.

Canon Barlow, we gladly note, has been elected to the see of North Queensland.—Bishop Stanton has been cordially received in his new diocese.

In the *Church Pastoral Aid Magazine* appears the report of an interview with Dr. Blakeney, the honoured Vicar, as to the very successful work of the Church in Sheffield.

In the *Times* have appeared letters from "A Suffering Layman," protesting against the long sermons preached by deputations. That the Incumbent should preach the sermon is one suggestion. The mistake, as we think, is this: A deputation preaches a sermon of the usual kind and usual length, and then takes ten or fifteen minutes more for the work and claims of his society.