

THE MONTH.

THE seventh Session of the present Parliament opened on the 9th. Among the chief measures promised are the extension of Small Holdings; the completion of English Local Government; Local Government for Ireland; relief of public elementary schools in England from the present pressure of local rates; and the Church Discipline Bill.

Mr. Chamberlain, at a meeting in Devonshire House, was chosen leader of the Liberal Unionists in the House of Commons. The right hon. gentleman promised to "subordinate his opinions on the subject of disestablishment to the interests of the Union."

The election of a Gladstonian in the Rossendale Division (Lord Hartington's) by a large majority was a painful surprise.

At a conference of agricultural labourers, called together by Conservatives, remarks were made about the "parson" somewhat similar to those in the Radical conference lately held in London.

A Committee has been formed, we note with pleasure, for the purpose of raising a memorial to the late Ven. J. P. Norris, Canon and Archdeacon of Bristol, and Dean-designate of Chichester.

Rev. R. W. Randall has been appointed Dean of Chichester.

Professor Ince, in a forcible letter, in the *Guardian*, protested against the proposal to place a statue of Dr. Newman in Broad Street, Oxford.

With sincere regret we record the death of the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon;¹ a man greatly esteemed; eminent as a preacher, a writer, and administrator. The *Guardian* says:

Mr. Spurgeon's long fight with death is over. He was a man who combined an immense popularity with—what is not always united with popularity—very high claims to respect. He was thoroughly honest and thoroughly courageous. His theology was narrow, but it was genuine; and when, as in the so-called "Down-grade controversy," he thought the interests of truth demanded it, he could break away from every friend he had and dare to stand alone in defence of what he held to be the cause of God. He was no friend to the Church of England, but he was, what is perhaps rarer, a straightforward and even generous adversary.

The new chapel at Ridley Hall, Cambridge, was duly opened; the Bishop preached in the morning, and Canon Girdlestone in the afternoon.

¹ Such representative men as Canon Fleming, Dr. Maclaren, the President of the Wesleyan Conference, and the President of the Congregational Union, took part in the proceedings at the Tabernacle, and the Bishop of Rochester pronounced the Benediction at the grave. The Archdeacon of London (Ven. W. Sinclair), in St. Paul's Cathedral, said: "We cannot hear untouched that our country has lost its greatest living preacher. I use the words deliberately, because I do not believe that there are any of us who remain who, for thirty years, every Sunday during the twelvemonth, could gather together, morning and evening, more than 6,000 earnest, patient hearers, eager to receive from one untiring tongue the Word of Life. Who could help watching with strong sympathy the prolonged wrestling of such a man with death at the very brink of the pit? Analyze the gifts of that powerful evangelist as accurately as you can; measure, as closely as may be possible, the secret of his influence; but I do not believe that you will find any other teacher whose printed sermons would be read week after week, year after year, by tens and hundreds of thousands, not only all over England, Scotland, and Wales, but in the backwoods of Canada, in the prairies of America, in the remotest settlements of Australia and New Zealand, wherever an English newspaper can reach or the English tongue is spoken. The thing is absolutely unique."