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THE MONTH.

MR. GLADSTONE'S speeches in Wales have been, with justice, severely criticized. "If words have any meaning," says the *Record*, "Mr. Gladstone holds it no crime to break the law in Ireland."

In a letter to the *Guardian*, Canon Reginald Smith, referring to the Bishop of Lincoln's case, says :

Let the Bishop of Lincoln be approached with the respect and sympathy to which one of his sincere convictions of personal piety is entitled, even when misguided, as many think. Let threats of legal prosecution cease, and let him be entreated, not by the menace of penalties, but for Christ's sake and for the peace of the Church, which he loves, to abandon all such novelties in ritual as were unknown in the use of his predecessor, whose example he reverences. . . . Let an affectionate entreaty be drawn up and signed by the multitudes of Churchmen who belong to neither extreme, of a reckless ritualism on the one hand, or a mere negative Protestantism on the other, who prefer the Church to party and religion to ritualism, humbly representing to the Bishop that by making a small concession (on points on which not even those who cling to them with a passionate devotion will seriously maintain to be essential to vital godliness) he may heal the bleeding wounds of the Church. If such concession does not at once extinguish litigation, it will at least make its continuance by those who prosecute inexcusable. . . . Why should not both Bishop King and his assailants signify to the Primate, as under Christ the spiritual head of the Church, that if he would recommend the ritual practice of the late Bishop to be accepted by both parties, they would consent thereto as an eirenicon over which they would shake hands and cease from strife? This would avert deplorable calamities from the nation as well as from the Church.

A correspondence on "open churches," initiated by Lord Carnarvon, has brought out many suggestive facts. More than 2,000 churches, it is stated, are open daily for private prayer.

Lord Mount Temple has done well in calling attention to the sale of pernicious literature. In a lecture on Novels, Sir Theodore Martin said :

He hoped that care would be taken never to admit any of those works of extravagant and debasing fiction of which a very torrent had of late been poured out to gratify perverted appetites. See what havoc the literature of the Boulevards has wrought upon the life and habits of the young men and women of France, and then let men ask themselves what toleration should be shown to Englishmen who make a trade of translating and propagating this poisonous trash among their countrymen.

At his annual Visitation the Bishop of Meath referred to the unhappy condition of Ireland, aggravated by a system of robbery carried out by terrorism.

The Rev. J. J. Lias, by three letters in the *Record*, has done good service to the "Extended Diaconate" movement.

The Rev. F. J. Jayne, Vicar of Leeds (sometime Principal of Lampeter) has been nominated to the See of Chester.

Mrs. Charles Turner, of Liverpool, has placed at the disposal of the Archbishop of York the sum of £20,000 towards the creation of a fund for assisting with pensions the clergy of the diocese who may have become unfit for the discharge of their duties through infirmity. Mrs. Turner made a similar gift to Liverpool some time ago.

At the Annual Conference of the Diocese of St. Asaph, at Corwen, an admirable sermon was preached in the parish church by Professor Ryle. Mr. Stanley Leighton, M.P., contributed a paper on "Clergy Pensions, and the efficient working of Parishes."