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THE MONTH.

THE most interesting event of the month has been the speech of Cardinal Vaughan at Preston on Reunion. The following passage, with its naturally complacent view of Cardinal Newman's counter-reformation within the Reformed National Church, is full of suggestion and warning: "There can only be two cases of reunion so far as doctrine and authority are concerned—compromise, that is, federation and mutual recognition, and submission, that is, individual or corporate absorption. The first is inconsistent with the Divine constitution of the Church. There remains only the second. Our hopes of a gradual submission by an ever-increasing number of Anglicans rest on the growing realization of the Catholic, and therefore of the non-national, character of the Church of Christ; the increasing distrust of national limitation in the idea of realization, the growing appreciation of Catholic doctrine and devout practices, and a sensible diminution of the difficulties and prejudices that have hitherto obscured them. Contrast the churches of the Establishment of sixty or seventy years ago, closed from week end to week end, with the present churches, which are often distinguished only with extreme difficulty from those belonging to the Church of Rome. The doctrines of the Catholic Church, which had been rejected and condemned as blasphemous, superstitious and fond inventions, have been re-examined and taken back, one by one, until the Thirty-nine Articles have been banished and buried as a rule of faith. All this speaks of a change, and a movement towards the Church, that would have appeared absolutely incredible at the beginning of this century, and the movement has been stronger than the rankest Protestant, stronger than the lawyers and the Legislature. A spasmodic protest, a useless prosecution, a Delphic judgment, and the movement continues and spreads, lodging itself in Anglican homes and convents, in schools, churches and even cathedrals, until it is rapidly covering the country. Has there ever been seen a more marvellous change than this in within half a century? I hope and believe that we are witnessing, at least in a very large measure, an instance of the marvellous ways of Divine grace. What, then, do we desire for those who seek reunion? Not that they should come over to us blindly. We could not receive them thus, even were they to offer themselves. All that we ask is, that they would break down the walls of prejudice, that they would examine our claims with an open mind, that they would freely take evidence from Catholic priests and laymen, and read Catholic books, that they would cease to be deluded by the enemies of the Catholic faith, that they would emancipate their souls from a servitude to individuals which hinders their approach to the Catholic Church. We ask nothing unreasonable. We know the force of invincible ignorance and insuperable prejudice. We judge no man finally. We beseech our Blessed Lady, whose dowry is England, again to hasten the time of her Son's miracles, and to obtain an outpouring of Divine grace upon souls such as may give not only light to see, but fortitude and courage to make all those needful sacrifices to flesh and blood, which in God's ordinary providence are required of those who are mercifully called by God to return to the Church of their fathers."

The annual report of the National Protestant Church Union states that the membership has reached nearly 4,000. Some 48,000 pamphlets have been sold or circulated, comprising 21,000 copies of Archdeacon Farrar's tract on "Undoing the Work of the Reformation." A Parliamentary sub-committee have been nominated, and the formation of a board of patronage has engaged the careful consideration of the council. The income reached the sum of £1,500.