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THE MONTH.

MR. GLADSTONE has spoken in Midlothian upon Disestablishment, and it seems probable that his pronouncement with regard to Scotland will conciliate neither section of Scottish Liberals who had appealed to him.

At the Guildhall banquet Lord Salisbury drew a lesson from the recent elections for the London School Board. That election confirmed an appeal brought "against the extravagance of a large body, elected by the whole metropolis, by the representatives of the smaller areas," and the moral of it is that municipal areas should not be so large "as to diminish the interest which each man may feel in the success of the organization."

At a meeting in South London, the Prime Minister said:—

"What we wish to know is what part men of political leading are about to take in the great issue of the day, and I am glad to see in this morning's paper that many of the best known names upon the moderate Liberal side have stepped courageously forward, and, without renouncing in the least degree their own political opinions, have proclaimed that this matter stands in the front rank, and that they will not sanction by their assistance or support any Parliamentary candidate who will not promise to support the Church, be he Liberal or be he Conservative; and that, on this subject, is the spirit which I wish to see adopted."¹

In an able article on "The Liberals and Disestablishment," referring to Mr. Gladstone's reply to the letters of Mr. Bosworth Smith, the *Guardian* (Nov. 11th) says:

"It is not by the Liberals [writes Mr. Gladstone], or even by the Radical portion of the Liberals, that the great subject of English Disestablishment is at this moment forced forward; it is forced forward by the Tories." *At this moment*, perhaps; but what was the case some six weeks ago, before Tory speakers had taken up the question, before even the great body of Churchmen had become seriously alarmed, when the National Liberal Federation, which represents the most eager and highly organized section of the Liberal party, unanimously declared that the "Disestablishment and 'Disendowment of the English, Scotch, and Welsh Churches are urgently 'demanded," and when an amendment recommending that "Disestablishment should not be made an issue at the approaching General Election"

¹ Mr. Gladstone's Manifesto, said Lord Salisbury, could not be interpreted by the ordinary rules of the English language. "Gladstone must be interpreted by Gladstone." The noble Marquis quoted Mr. Gladstone's utterance with regard to the Irish Church in 1865. "The question is 'remote,'" said Mr. Gladstone, "and apparently out of all bearing on the 'practical politics of the day,' and he expressed a hope that his correspondent "would see and approve reasons for not wishing to carry my own "mind further into a question lying at a distance which I cannot measure." Arguing by analogy, Lord Salisbury remarked that by the "dim and distant courses of futurity" must mean "two years and three quarters."

could not even find a seconder? Who again, we may ask, was it who published the *Radical Programme*, with its proposal not only for the Disestablishment, but for the disintegration of the Church of England? And, finally, was it the Tory party that induced some four or five hundred Liberal candidates to pledge themselves to Disestablishment?"

The *Record* (Nov. 6th) says:—"What are the facts? The whole agitation dates from the publication on September 11 of the *Record Returns*, showing that a vast majority of Liberal candidates were in favour of Disestablishment."

Lord Hartington has at length spoken on the question of Disestablishment. He is distinctly opposed to the Disestablishment of the Church of England in the next Parliament. The Church, he said, is firmly rooted in the affections of the people, and is doing a work which could be performed by no other existing agency. But he declined to pledge himself for the future.

In a remarkable letter from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, in view of the General Election, appears the following passage:—

"Our desire is to urge upon all electors the plain duty of thinking for themselves, the impossibility of transferring their responsibility for their several votes to a party or association, and the duty of considering the lessons which the history of our own country and the condition of foreign countries impress on us as to the great issues, religious, social, political, which are now before us. We purposely avoid dealing with party questions. One indeed tempts us, and it has scarcely passed into the domain of politics—the question as to the Disestablishment and Disendowment of the Church. But we have other opportunities of expressing our opinion upon that subject, and we will only say here that amongst social questions it is perhaps highest in importance.

Due tributes to the memory of the Bishop of Manchester (Dr. Fraser) and the Bishop of Ely (Dr. Woodford) have appeared in the leading journals.

The lecturers of the Church Defence Institution, we are glad to hear, have been exceedingly busy, and enthusiastic meetings have been held in urban and rural parishes, and in the great towns throughout the country.

Against Free Education several interesting letters have been published. Mr. Courtney's speech at Devonport is specially welcome.

The Archbishops have issued a letter touching the Day of Intercession for Missions.

We have to record the death of Bishop Anderson and Canon Babington. An "In Memoriam" of the venerated Canon, written for the *CHURCHMAN* by the Rev. C. F. Cobb, is unavoidably postponed.