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THE CHURCHMAN

A Monthly Magazine

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munity has been so helpless as the clergy, because they are disqualified both by their training and vocation from making the most of their means; they cannot go into markets to buy and sell; they cannot seek other employment; and if their lands are tenantless (in the year 1881 there were 4,000 acres of glebe land without a tenant in the Diocese of Ely alone), they have neither knowledge nor capital to keep them in cultivation.

THE MONTH.

THE Franchise Bill has been read in the House of Lords a second time without a division; and the prospects of a peaceful settlement of the Reform question have grown much brighter.

To pay the bill for the Soudan and Bechuana expeditions another penny has been put upon the income-tax.

Another letter from General Gordon has been received by the Government.

Touching the East London Mission, earnest prayers have been offered.

Several Diocesan Conferences have been held, with much of unanimity, and in a most practical temper. The Liverpool Conference seems to have been a signal success.¹

The Visitation Charges of the Bishops of London and Manchester, reported fully, have been read with interest.

Many tributes of respect have been paid to the Right Hon. H. Fawcett, M.P. (Postmaster-General), whose sudden death occasioned universal regret.

¹ In his opening address the Bishop of Liverpool thus spoke of *Aggressive Evangelization*: "Men of all schools in the Church of England agree in thinking that some special means must be used in order to reach the myriads of our countrymen among the working classes who now go to no place of worship. Few are prepared to maintain that it is sufficient to build and throw open fine churches with bright and hearty services. The 'masses' cannot appreciate such services, and will not come to such churches. The man who sits in his study and expects to catch fish by holding a rod and throwing a fly out of his window, would justly be called foolish. The fisherman must go after the fish, and not wait for the fish to come to him. The clergyman must not only throw open the church, but go down among the people, and approach them with friendly Christian aggression. But in what way this aggression is to be managed, whether by a Church Army, on the lines of the Salvation Army, or by habitual preaching in the open air, for which all men have not a gift, or by elementary services in rooms, are points which deserve discussion, and such discussion I hope we shall have. One thing at any rate is certain, when men like Moody or General Booth address the masses at irregular services, they never want hearers."