THE IRISH CHURCH BILL.

Disraell on the Compromise Between the Lords and Commons.

In the House of Commons, on the evening of July 28, after Mr. Gladstone had moved that the House do now agree to the amend-

ments of the Irish Church bill as made by the Lords. Mr. Disraeli, who was received with cheers, said: I think it is quite unnecessary and certainly inconvenient, that, on an occasion like the present, we should enter into any discussion of the principle of this bill. (Hear, hear.) My opinions on the subject remain the same, but it does not appear to me that this is an occasion that requires an expression of opinion from any honorable member on that important point. If there was a difference between the two houses as to the principle of the measure, I could easily understand, though the consequences might be of a very grave character, that a delay in the settlement or furconsideration of this question might have been advisable, and not only expedient, but, upon the whole, most wise and But, when the difference between the two houses has resolved itself into what we must all acknowledge to be mere matters of detail, I must say that I have always felt that delay in the settlement of this question, while bringing with it very doubtful advantages, might lead to difficulty and disaster to no inconsiderable extent. We must, therefore, remember that we are called on to consider to-day, when differences between the two branches of the Legislature have taken place on this question of the Irish Church, whether it is possible to come to an agreement with respect to details, and not in the least with respect to any principle involved in the bill. Both the House of Lords and the House of Commons have accepted that principle. Now, I hear some talk of unconditional surrender, instead of amicable compromise in this instance; but I cannot help thinking that those who use expressions of that kind must really associate the acceptance of these amendments with the acceptance of the principle of the bill. I can easily understand that if an honorable member is of opinion that by dissenting in some very small points of detail the defeat of the measure might be secured, he should wish that course to be taken: but it can be owing only to a confusion of ideas of that character that the phrase "unconditional surrender" can be applied to the settlement which is proposed for our consideration to-day. Let us see whether this is a just view of the case. The points of difference between the two houses were really reduced in number to four. Considerable modifications have been agreed to by the Government in three of these-modifica tions, indeed, in a very important proposal, which amount, I may say, almost to a total exchange of its character. If that be the case; if, when there are only four points of difference between the houses, points of detail, her Majesty's Government have consented to a scheme which in three of these points introduces very considerable modifications-I cannot understand how any honorable gentleman can be satisfied in describing an arrangement of that kind as one of unconditional surrender. (Hear, hear.) It appears to me, on the whole, to be a wise and conciliatory settlement of the points of disagreement-(hear, hear)-and although I do not wish to introduce my own opinion upon the subject—for it is not necessary—if I had really to decide which party had the best of the arrangement, I should think it, for the purposes of debate, more prudent to hold my tongue. (Cheers and laughter.) Very likely the same feeling may influence gentlemen on either side, and if, therefore, there is a reciprocal feeling of that nature respecting the settlement, I think we may arrive at this conclusion-that the compromise is a fair and just one. (Hear, hear.) If the differences between the two houses involved, as I ventured to observe before, the principle of the measure, I could understand honorable gentlemen expressing, in terms of becoming indignation, their opinion of what they considered an unconditional surrender. But, even from their own view, it could only be an unconditional surrender of points of detail, not of policy: and when you come to examine into the terms of arrangement, you find at least, to use the mildest phrase, that as many of these points of controversy are conceded to us as have been conceded to us by the Government. If any arrangement was to take place upon this matter, I cannot understand how it could have been brought about in any other way. Iknow there are some who very much regret that the point as to the glebe-houses has not been insisted on. (Hear.) But allow me to say that that has been considered by some of the best judges at all times a very questionable demand, and that, if conceded, it might involve conditions as regards the future right of the State to interfere with the general property of the disendowed Church, which might be very inconvenient and perhaps very dangerous hereafter. (Hear, hear.) There is no doubt whatever that the strong feeling that exists upon the subject of glebe-houses, and the necessity of that concession being made to the disendowed Church of Ireland, arose from the expressions of the right honorable gentleman and some of his colleagues upon that subject during their canvass. They have frankly admitted that those views were held by them and those expressions nsed, and I have no wish whatever to enlarge upon the subject further than to repeat what on another occasion I did mention, merely because it is a political truth which ought not to be forgotten-that I trust this will be the last occasion on which political questions will be dealt with on abstract principles. If the right honorable gentleman had not laid down so broadly and abstractedly the principles on which he would settle this business, he would have been able to settle it more easily and in a manner which would have conciliated the feeling of powerful classes now much-I won't say outraged, but certainly much pained and offended, and we might have brought about this settlement in a way that would have been infinitely more satisfactory and more advantageous to the country. It must be remembered that there is not a single principle on which this legislation was to take place from which in practice the right honorable gentleman has not been obliged to deviate. It is not merely that in certain cases, contrary to his principles, he has been obliged to do something for the disendowed Church Take, for example, the case of vested interests. Every vested interest and every personal position was to be respected in this settlement. But what was the first thing you did : You were obliged to attack some of the most important vested interests, and to deprive individuals of some of their most important offices, such, for instance, as the ecclesiastical baronies. I do not say you were not justified in doing it. I do not say it would have been a wise thing to leave the bishops of the disestablished Church in the House of

Lords, but their expulsion from that House

was a complete violation of the principle of

rights. It shows you, therefore, that you could not adhere strictly to your abstract propositions, and that being so, I wish the right honorable gentleman had deviated from them a little more, and had been a little more liberal to the clergy and laity of the disestablished Church of Ireland. He would have made a more satisfactory settlement if he had not been hampered by the enunciation of abstract principles by which practically he has not been able to abide. I only wish to impress upon the House that we really were on the eve of circumstances in our political life which we should all wish to avoid—namely, collision and misunderstanding between the two branches of the Legislature, and that at a moment when both houses had so comported themselves that they really deserved and possessed the respect and confidence of the country. (Hear, hear.) We have assembled here to-day to sanction and ratify upon matters of detail the settlement proposed by the government, which will terminate these differences not by sacrificing any principle, not by giving up any great doctrines in politics which we have supported under difficult circumstances in the face of the majority that has asserted them, but by assisting in a conciliatory and, I hope, satisfactory adjustment of points of detail which on the whole have, I think, been arranged with due consideration to the claims of both parties. Hear, hear.) Let us view what we are doing in that light. Do not let us consider what we are sanctioning this morning under the perverted and erroneous supposition that we are settling and deciding great principles of policy, and particularly the principles upon which this measure is founded. That is finished. The House of Commons has agreed to disestablish and disembody the Church of Ireland. I regret it. The House of Lords has agreed to it, and by no mean majority, and the affair is at an end. But when honorable gentlemen regard what, after all, should be looked upon by both sides of the House, under the circumstances, as a wise and statesmanlike and satisfactory settlement of a most difficult question, from an erroneous and perverted point of view-namely, that we are now settling the principles of the measure. whereas we are only arranging in an amicable and conciliatory manner for all parties certain details of the measure—they may believe with my honorable friend that there has been an unconditional surrender of principle, although there has only been, I repeat, a satis factory and statesmanlike settlement of detail. (Hear, hear.)

VOLCANIC.

A New Theory of Earthquakes and Volcanoes. An original and highly ingenious theory of earthquakes and volcanoes is propounded at great length in Blackwood for July. The substance of it may be thus briefly stated:-The author assumes, on the strength of numerous ascertained facts, that the earth has a zone, or, more accurately speaking, a shell of electric action, extending all around the globe, to a depth of several miles. (The sun is the great source from which the electricity of the earth is derived, and the weakness or intensity of the latter depends on the solar action, but the laws which govern the variations are not yet understood.) This zone corresponds to an electric zone of six or eight miles thickness in the atmosphere, and the interplay of the two causes some of the most brilliant lightning effects of thunder storms, in the severest of which the flashes are chicily sent upwards from the earth itself. But as the atmosphere has its own electrical agitations, in the form of distant thunder clouds, which, becoming overcharged | What is the exact meaning of the phrase with electricity, regain their equilibrium by lightning flashes or sharp electrical discharges; so has the earth its own electrical phenomena, the effects of which are mainly confined to its own bosom. Earthquakes, the author claims, are results of the grander electrical disturbances which from time to time take place in the zone of rocks immediately subjacent to the earth's surface. They are "thunderstorms in the earth." In ordinary circumstances the electric currents which regularly circulate in the earth's crust, ebb and flow as quietly and noiselessly as similar currents usually do in the atmosphere. But, occasionally, when electric action to an unusual extent is developed in the crust, the steady flow of the currents is broken, and violent disturbances necessarily follow. The conductive power of the rocks becomes

inadequate to pass the currents with sufficient rapidity to maintain the electric equilibrium, and the electricity accumulates at points where the resistance is greatest, until it acquires the power requisite to overcome the obstacle and then forces a passage explosively, or by a grand discharge more terrible, some times, than a volley from the concentrated artillery of the world. A vast heat is generated at the same time (electricity being the greatest heat-developer in nature), the rocks are in some cases actually fused, subterranean lakes and rivers are instantly converted into steam, and the result is a rupture of the subjacent rocky strata, the effects of which reach the surface, producing the various phenomena of the earthquake, including those of volcanoes, such as the outburst of molten lava, hot water, and clouds of steam. The known active volcanoes are only vents which the subterranean electric action has made for itself in regions or localities where the action is strongest and most permanent.

The author dispenses with the theory of a molten interior of the earth, adopted by Sir Humphrey Davy and other distinguished observers and philosophers to explain the same phenomena. (This is commonly known as the chemical theory. It supposes that potassium, sodium, magnesium, and the metallic bases of all the earths and alkalies exist below the crust in an isolated condition; ready to combine, with violent chemical action, with the oxygen of water or the atmosphere that might penetrate the fissures. The reaction of these elements would be attended with intense heat and the formation of highly explosive gases. Combinations of immense masses of sulphur various would various gases would pro-similar effects. On a sufficigases ently large scale these reactions would shake and upheave the earth and eject vast quantities of what is called lava from existing volcanoes, or make new volcanoes. There may possibly be tidal movements in the molten interior, caused by the attraction of the san and moon, like those of the ocean, and by those movements stupendous chemical reac-tions may be produced. Changes of temperature on the outside of the earth may also be followed by disturbances in the inside. The crust supposed to cover this molten sea is estimated to be thinner in some places than in others-its maximum thickness not being over 20 miles-and it is conjectured that at those parts of the earth most visited by earthquakes and volcanoes the crust is the thinnest,) He attributes to his shallow electric zone the subterranean heat observed in mines and in the waters of artesian wells-phenomena

usually explained on the hypothesis of a cen-

tral fire, the heating effects of which are sup-

posed to extend to within a short distance of

respecting all vested interests and personal | rent cesselessly passing to and fro would rights. It shows you, therefore, that you | necessarily develop heat, and in the metalliferous strata, where mines are sunk, more than in others. If this heat were caused by a central fire it would steadily increase with the depth, but the author asserts that in one very deep mine in Cornwall a point has been reached in which the temperature not only ceases to increase, but begins to decline. The theory of an electric earth zone is the only one, according to him, which explains the spiral and rotatory movement noticed in many earthquakes. Curvilinear and spiral motions are well-known characteristics of the electric force—as seen in dustwhirls, waterspouts, the sand-pillars of the desert, and the terrible cyclones of the tropics-all of which are due to the perturbed electrical action in the atmosphere. The author pushes his theory to explain the phenomena of what is commonly called "igneous action" in the formation of the earth

He thinks that the metallic veins in the rocky crust of the earth owe their origin to a long continued operation of magnetic currents; metals and gems too being, in his opinion, sublimations of the matter of rocks, whose atoms have been reorganized and their molecular structure altered into a higher form by electrical agency. The erystalline struc-ture of the old rocks, usually attributed to the action of fire, he explains by the intervention of his electric currents continually playing through the crust of the earth. He does not so much attempt to refute the theory of a molten interior, as to show that his hypothesis of electric action satisfies all the conditions of the problem better than that theory, He makes this point, however:-That if, as the central-fire philosophers assert, only two miles beneath our feet have a temperature ess than that of boiling water, and the heat steadily increases downward until at a depth of twenty miles every known substance would be in a fused state, then the slightest lurch or formation of tides in the central ocean of molten matter would burst the thin crust upon which we live as easily as if it were a kin of paper.

Such is a bare outline of this novel theory. It is ingenious and simple, and affords another illustration of the prevalent tendency to explain most of the phenomena of nature and life by the convenient hypothesis of electricity. It will probably provoke a storm of opposition from men of the igneous school, and its discussion will form an interesting chapter in the scientific history of the year.

The Sins of Shakespeare.

It is greatly to be regretted that a writer in the Edinburgh Review, for July, should have seen fit to revive the business of setting the public to puzzling over the real meaning of ertain doubtful or misprinted words shakespeare. We had supposed that this ousiness was pretty much over some years igo, and to bring it up again at a time when the English journals are hard up for topics, and when the mammoth gooseberry is already going the rounds, is cruel. We foresee that all the commentators, un-commentators and would-be commentators on both sides of the Atlantic will be prompted to persecute as well as puzzle the public with new readings and romancings from and concerning Shakespeare.

Already the London News and one of the morning papers in New York present a few of the Edinbergh Review writer's conundrums, but decline to attempt a solution. Here are one or two of the freshly-presented puzzles: -What does Ophelia mean when she says to the Queen, 'You may wear your rue with a difference?' What was the precise significance of the crants laid upon Ophelia's bier ; used by Tranio, to 'balk logic?'

Now, unquestionably, Shakespeare's chief sin was that he wrote a villainously bad hand; and of this he was quite as conscious as his printers were. And no doubt he was exceedingly sensitive about it; else why did he take particular pains to destroy every scrap of his own handwriting, excepting the three extant autographs? which, by-the-by, are sufficiently indicative of what the rest of his copy must have been. Then, too, the printers of the period: what reckless as well as ignorant fellows they were! The folio of 628-there is a copy in the Astor Library, which can be seen, under certain restrictions, whenever the excellent institution is open to the public-is filled with what are palpably mere typographical errors, and the folio of 1632 is one mass of blunders. Of course, the earliest Shakespearian commentators corrected the errors in the first folio by the blunders in the second; and a nice mess indeed they made of it. The trouble, too, with commentators in all periods is, that they forget that-"A man's best things are nearest him, Lie close about his feet;"

and so, instead of accepting what is or may be made to seem perfectly plain and obvious, they soar after the indefinite and dive after the unfathomable, in labored search for something which is sure to make the possibly plain utterly incomprehensible. Many years ago a then celebrated clergyman in Connecticut printed a pamphlet to explain the meaning of a Hebrew "point," and came very near creating a dissension, if not a division, in his denomination-only, fortunately, a careful examination of the clergyman's copy of the Hebrew Bible showed that the doubtful and distracting "point" was, after all, only a flyspeck. In like manner, if Shakespearian commentators would only allow for Shakespeare's copy-his head and heart were all right, but his "hand," without doubt, was horrible-and assume that compositors in 1623 and 1632 were quite as careless as they are in 1869, what a world of worry and conundrum-making would be saved. Thus a little knowledge of German would tell anybody that the "crants" laid on "Ophelia's" bier was a wreath-German "Kranz;" and Tranio must have known, if modern commentators do not, that it is not difficult to "balk" some people's logic,

Some time ago, when the evil that now threatens us once more was epidemic, and the magazines and newspapers were punishing the public for the sins of Shakespeare and his printers, all England was puzzled over the precise meaning of Shakespeare's "cup of sheer ale." The nearest English approach to a satisfactory explanation was that it was particularly strong ale, the old October or "genuine stunning" of the time, which was given to the wet and over-worked men in sheep-shearing time. But thereupon turned up a Yankee who showed plainly enough that "sheer ale" in Shakespeare's day meant simple ale and nothing else, just "sheer nonsense" means simple nonsense. The word, like many others now obsolete in old England, has been preserved in its original use and meaning in New England, just as the provincial pronunciation of the New England States is a handed-down importation from England more than two hundred years ago, and is not indigenous to Down East soil, as many people suppose. The pronunciation of such words as down, round, blue, and the like, in this manner, "da-own," "ra-ound," "ble-ue," is quite common in some parts of England, and in this connection we have only to remind those the surface of the earth. The electric cur- who saw and heard the burlesque blondes at

Niblo's Theatre that several of them used this precise Da-own-East verenscular and pronunciation, thus betraying to practised ears their palpably provincial origin.

大学和自身出,并且自由的企业的主任和第二年基本的部分。1814年1915年18月五年一次日本任。第日日

It is quite true that the papers here, as well as abroad, are short just now of interesting subjects; but a total eclipse of the sun is promised to-morrow; Cuban independence, or annexation, is possible; and, in England, the mammoth gooseberry is inexhaustible For these reasons it would seem as if Shakespeare, or at least Shakespearians, might be let alone. Scripturally, we believe the sins of the fathers were not to be visited upon the children beyond the third or fourth generation, and the sins of Shakespeare, his compositors, and his earliest commentators, should be no exception to this merciful pro-

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