

Among the Visitors were Miss Temple, Miss C. Temple, Mrs. Burrows, Mrs. Sidgwick, Mr. and Mrs. A. Powlett, Mr. and Mrs. Lee-Warner, Mr. Robertson, and Mr. Cotterill.

But the most exciting debate by far was that raised by the motion of Mr. Kough, who, on Saturday, 20th February, argued,—

“That the dis-establishment of the Irish Church is a necessary act of justice to Ireland.”

After premising that Ireland should be treated as a sister, and taking a slight historical survey, he combated the objections that the wrong was merely sentimental, or that the abolition would be a surrender to the Pope. He insisted strongly on the right of the State to regulate corporate trusts, and all Church property. He concluded by an earnest appeal for justice.

Mr. WARNER was suspicious about the safety or justice of the proposed remedy. He ably argued that all England was equally concerned in the question, that nine-tenths of the soil was Protestant, that the real causes of annoyance were not religious, and that the measure was a blow at all establishments.

Mr. SHIRLEY followed, and in a speech of surpassing eloquence, interrupted by the heartiest cheering, described the ill state of Ireland, the standing grievance of the establishment, which wounded a sensitive nation in its tenderest point, and replied to Mr. Warner's fears by welcoming the overthrow of all State Churches.

After a few remarks from Mr. KENNEDY, ascribing the evils of Ireland (from personal knowledge) to other sources,

Mr. VICARS rose, and pleaded the Conservative cause with a humour and vigour which called forth enthusiastic applause. The Church, he argued, would be lowered in position and tone by the measure proposed. There was no more objection to a Protestant Church for Ireland than to a Protestant Queen. The issue of the proposal to the English Church was not fairly looked in the face. The legislation had proceeded by steps which had all been foreboded, though at the time denied by the Liberal party. He ended by eloquently depicting the greatness of the cause.

Mr. EASTWICK argued that the Irish converts were mostly converts in the second

generation. Also that the State had no right to take away what private persons give.

Mr. POTTS criticised Mr. Vicars' speech, remarking that the “proselytism” argument was invalid in itself and obscured the real issue.

Messrs. WARNER and KOUGH having replied, the votes were taken amid much excitement. There were found

For the motion.....	15
Against	17

The motion was lost by 2

Messrs. Whitelaw, Robertson, Wilson, Potts, Burrows, Gray, and Tobin, voted on the question; and among the visitors were 14 ladies, Mr. Vicars, Mr. Powlett, and Dr. Farquharson.

At a private business meeting held on Wednesday, 24th February, three new members were elected, viz.:—Mr. Allison, Mr. Stevenson, and Mr. Warrington.

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

This Society met on February 20th. Presents of books were received from Dr. Oldham and Mr. Lloyd, both Old Rugbeians, and more notably a collection of New Zealand Ferns, on which we comment elsewhere.

Among other exhibitions, the Rev. T. N. Hutchinson showed some splendid specimens of Mica, in connection with a piece of Mica which had been found at the new buildings of the Rugby Bank.

N. Masterman then read a paper “On Snakes, and the Slow-worm,” to which the Society have awarded their prize for an essay embodying original observation.

J. M. Lester then read a paper “On Traces of Glacial Action at Conway, N. Wales,” as seen by him last summer.

Mr. Wilson will furnish all members and associates with tickets for his two lectures at the Town Hall on Monday, the 1st, and 15th of next month.

The Society's Report for 1868 will soon be ready, at Tait's; the price will be 2s. 6d. to the public, and 1s. to members and associates.

HONOURS AT THE UNIVERSITIES.—J. Eastwick, Scholar of University College, Oxford; F. G. Cholmondeley, Studentship at Christchurch.