ARCHBISHOP MANNING.

THAT Dr. Manning should have become the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Canterbury is one of the most discouraging of all the discouraging facts that surround modern Protestantism in England. A man of signal ability and great acquirements, he might have aspired to the highest honours in the Anglican Church had he remained in it. He was trained in its ancient traditions, achieved distinction above his fellows in its most chosen school, and was already Archdeacon of Chichester, when, at an age which precludes all explanation of youthful flightiness or folly, he renounced the faith, and avowed himself a Roman Catholic. To have taken such a step in times like these, when any one faith is too commonly regarded as being as good as any other, is a striking proof of the religious turn of his mind, and of the earnestness with which he has addressed himself to a consideration of those differences between forms of Christianity in which Christianity itself is so often lost. He is, however, endowed with personal qualities which would make any profession he adopted respectable. Gifted with the powers that enable men to move their fellows at will by tongue or pen, and blessed with a physical constitution trained to a purely secondary place, he lives an intellectual and spiritual life, devoted to the ends he thinks essential, and scarcely vouchsafes to enter into those material sides of existence which others think all-important. He dines out to talk, but not to eat—he talks to convert, and not to shine; and he is thus become a spare, spiritual, intellectual, elegant ascetic, whom all respect, whom many fear, and whom none can clearly comprehend.

The Church of Rome has duly appreciated and rewarded so distinguished a pervert. He has passed rapidly through all the honours that Church assumes to bestow in England, and can aspire to all she may retain the power of bestowing in Rome. He is the present Archbishop of Westminster, and may probably be the next Pope—should there be a next.