

A SHORT time ago Dr. Magee was only known to those earnest religionists who make it a duty to seek anywhere and everywhere for that eloquence in the pulpit which is usually held to be so superfluous in advocating the truths of the Protestant religion, and many a one has been unable to find so much as a corner whence he or she might be roused into piety by the burning words of the preacher. But now the name of the Bishop of Peterborough is on every lip, and his reputation has suddenly eclipsed that of every other member of the House to which he has been elevated, and is familiar even to those reprobates who attach more importance to political discussions than to religious exertions. He sprang into public notice in a single night, by a speech which at once showed how bad was the cause he set himself to defend, and how well fitted he was to make the best of it. Leaving all the sophistries and cobwebs that had been woven about the Irish Church, he came down to the statesman's ground, and grappled with the real arguments of the case. He was not successful in the struggle, except to this extent, that he exposed the want of consistency involved in it as a mere half-measure of justice. He only proved that the bill ought to have been twice as bold, and twice as revolutionary; but he moved the cold assembly he addressed to unwonted warmth, and sat down confessed the greatest orator in the House. Yet, the key-note of his discourse was but a feeble and discordant one to come from a successor of the Apostles. "The Established Church," he said "is no more its endowments than a man can be said to be his purse; and yet it is a great inconvenience to a man to be deprived of his purse." If it had occurred to the Bishop to remember who kept the bag among the Apostles, he might have himself felt the suspicion which attaches to the anxiety displayed to keep a hold upon purses; if it had occurred to him to remember that the purse in this instance is that of the country, and not that of the Church, he might never have made his speech. But that would have been a loss to all of us, for eloquence is rare now-a-days, and if eloquence could justify injustice, he would have saved the Irish Church.

JEHU JUNIOR.