

STATESMEN. No. 38.

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THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.

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A BISHOP who is at once pious and liberal, who is earnest himself in furtherance of his own views, and yet charitable towards those of others, is not so common a product of the times as might be wished; and the pleasure of finding all these qualities in the Primate is therefore all the greater. He is regarded not only with public respect, but also with a personal affection very different from the official regard usually meted out to Church dignitaries, so that his recent illness was the cause of real sorrow in the country, as his recovery has been the source of hearty rejoicing. He has passed a life of hard work, first as a college tutor, then as head-master of Rugby School, and now for the last thirteen years in the bishopric which he has distinguished by an unwonted energy. He has freely—too freely, as all but himself would think—given his health and strength to the service of the Church, and given them wisely—for he has ever been found to promote the broad and liberal views upon which alone the Church can permanently stand.

In the anomalous character of legislator, which is in this country attached to his position, he displays a power, rarely found in a priest, of treating public affairs from a statesman's point of view. In the case of the Irish Church Bill, he played the part of moderator between political necessity and religious bigotry, and he has more recently stood between Bishop Temple and an ignoble persecution. There are those who pretend to connect with a disposition to receive religious equality and the discussion of Scripture a failing of attachment to the Church; but the Archbishop has left a tangible monument of his belief in her ministrations among the "spiritually destitute" of the metropolis, and he may be relied upon to work throughout with a single eye to her true interests.