

NETHERLANDS.

THE Dutch Old Catholic Seminary at Amersfoort having lost by death its President, Dr. Karsten, the Rev. J. J. Van Thiel has been installed as his successor by the Archbishop of Utrecht and Bishops of Haarlem and Deventer.

IRELAND.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

THE elections are engrossing all attention and driving away almost every other consideration. Up to this date twelve Conservatives or Loyalists have been returned and thirty-four Nationalists or Separatists. Two Protestant clergymen have taken a prominent step; the Rev. R. Anderson, rector of Drinagh, co. of Cork, has joined the National League in his neighbourhood, and the Rev. Joseph Galbraith, a Fellow of Trinity College, proposed one of the National candidates for the city of Dublin. With these exceptions, and of course Mr. Parnell, it may be broadly stated that the National party are members of the Roman Catholic Church, whilst the Loyalists are Protestants. In the north of Ireland, however, not a few Presbyterians belong to the National League. In the city and county of Dublin the Roman Catholic priesthood have been very active with their Archbishop at their head. They frequented the polling-booths day after day. In some of our own churches there were references made to the elections, and in a few the National Anthem was played.

A prominent Roman ecclesiastic, Dr. Dorrian, Bishop of Down, has just died. He was known as the 'Restitution Bishop.' The sums of money which he received from time to time from defaulters all over the world was almost incredible. To one firm in Belfast for a long period his lordship paid a monthly visit, giving instructions to place five pounds, ten, and sometimes twenty pounds to the credit of the 'penitent thief,' and when asked from whom this was, with a smile the only disclosure he would make would be, 'Be grateful, and let me have a receipt.' He died possessed of property value over a quarter of a million.

A writer in the *Irish Ecclesiastical Gazette* says:

'A movement is on foot in the Roman Catholic Church in Dublin to abolish the "high falutin" style of Church music that has prevailed so long in favour of more sober and devotional services. Archbishop Walsh, who is at the head of this effort, while President of Maynooth (his Grace is a skilled musician), brought Gregorian music to a very high pitch of perfection, the chapel services there being in all respects unique, and noted for their solemnity and impressiveness. The Archbishop desires to introduce a similar improvement into the worship of the Roman Catholic churches of his diocese, and possibly we shall hear no more of the wonderful things done by public and paid singers.'

The Cork correspondent of the same journal, noting church work in that southern diocese, says:

'The last week in October was a busy week for Cork Churchmen. In addition to the Bishop's visitation of his clergy on Tuesday, and to the meeting of the Diocesan Synod on Wednesday and Thursday, and to the many concerts, services, and social gatherings, a choir festival was held in St. Fin Barre's Cathedral on Friday afternoon, at which about 400 singers were present, representing thirty-seven choirs. The Lord Bishop took part in the service, and the cathedral was well filled by a congregation including many clergy, synodsmen, and country visitors. In addition to members of the Cork Chapter, the Dean of Cloyne, the Archdeacon of Cloyne, and several Canons of Cloyne, as well as the Dean of Ross and several Canons of Ross, joined in the procession and were accommodated with stalls in the chancel. The service was intoned by the Dean of Cork, Rev. Canon Emerson, D.D., and Rev. Minor Canon Conolly; and the special Lessons were read by the Dean of Cloyne and the Dean of Ross. Canon Warren, incumbent of Fermoy, for many years the accomplished and popular precentor of Cork, preached the sermon, his general subject being the duty and the joy of offering thanksgiving to God in His sanctuary. The singing of the 100th Psalm at the close of the service, alternate verses in unison, had a very grand effect, the organ, although played at full power, being inaudible in the organ gallery, owing to the volume of sound rolling up from 1000 voices. Previous to the service the clergy and choirs were entertained at luncheon by a committee of ladies, who, aided by many generous friends, had prepared in Christ Church Schoolroom a very tasteful and plentiful repast, the tables being ornamented with flowers and rare plants. At the conclusion of the luncheon the Bishop, who presided, thanked the ladies very heartily for their kindness, and spoke some words of welcome to the choirs, many of whom had travelled very long distances in order to be present at the service on that day. The rehearsals were conducted by Dr. Marks, who presided at the great organ, and a tune to Hymn 295, "The King of Love," by Mr. J. C. Marks, Jun., was sung, and proved one of the chief features of the service. The anthem was Gounod's "Send out Thy Light," and the Canticles, *Cantate Domino*, and *Deus Misereatur*, were sung to Dr. Bunnett's setting in F.'

The Rev. Dr. Seddall, Rector of Vastina, Diocese of Meath, has just published *A Historical Sketch of the Church of Ireland*, very useful as a book of reference on the subject, and bringing up our history to the present moment; and Dr. Maguire, Professor of Moral Philosophy in Trinity College, has published a volume of *Prælections* which must be prized by all students.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

EDITORIAL.

WITH the opening of a new volume of *Church Bells* an opportunity seems to present itself of saying something as to the lines which we propose taking for our guidance in the conduct of the ringing column. We hope to be enabled to enlarge our sphere of action. Hitherto, under the heading of 'Bells and Bell-ringing,' the bell-ringing has had the chief say, and the *Bells* have been left out in the cold—or, perhaps, they have left themselves there. Cannot they be brought in and induced to speak? Surely they have much to say in many ways. To come to matter-of-fact language, the whole subject of bells and ringing has received so much attention of late years, both from a literary and from a practical point of view, the ramifications of everything connected with bells have spread so widely into all Church machinery, that there must be much to be said on many points as yet very casually touched upon. Such are archaeological points, and points historical; matters relating to the condition of towers, their fitness for rings of bells or otherwise; to bell-hanging, belfry rules, the dedication of new bells, the operation of the law as regards bells, and the many other circumstances governing the mutual action of the clergy and their ringers, or of either separately. On all these branches of the subject discussion is invited. In the meanwhile let the ringing world bear in mind the premiss from which we started. Our object is to enlarge our sphere, not to exchange one sphere for another. The bell column will still be just as open as ever for bell-ringing, records of peals, doings of societies, and for correspondence as to bell-hanging, bell-frames, bell-casting; in short, for everything which it has contained till now. In one particular only shall we draw in our horns, and that in a very decided manner. While welcoming all contributions as to the capabilities of the various methods, proof of peals, &c., we must refuse admission to the ordinary class of 'compositions.' Endless peals of Treble and Plain Bob Major with 5 and 6 so many times 'wrong' and 'right,' have really no interest whatever, and, as has happened very lately, are often false. Accordingly, unless a composition has some strongly marked traits of excellence we shall be constrained to pass it over.

In conclusion, notice is given that, excepting only reports of peals and official notices of forthcoming business from the officers of Societies and Associations, all matter for insertion must reach our office on Tuesday. Space admitting, peals and notices will be inserted up to time of going to press.

Beddington Bells, Surrey.—A Question.

SIR,—In the *Church Bells of Surrey* by Mr. J. C. L. Stahlschmidt, published last year, under the heading 'Beddington' I find this note: 'A peal of ten bells by Mears, stated to be dated 1868. Access to belfry refused.' Why was this? Who refused admission? Was it the vicar, the churchwardens, the steeplekeeper, or who? Why should admission have been refused here and nowhere else? I have by me nearly all the county bell histories that have ever been published, but have never seen such a note before.

Salisbury.

J. R. JERRAN.

Dedication of a new Ring of Eight Bells at Hagley, Worcestershire.

ON Saturday, the 28th ult., a new ring of eight bells, which has been hung in the tower of the above church as a memorial to the late Rector, the Rev. Canon Lyttelton, was dedicated to the service of God. Evensong was sung at 3 p.m., by the present Rector, the Rev. W. C. Gibbs. After the anthem, the clergy and choir proceeded to the tower, where an office of dedication was sung. While the procession was returning to the chancel a course of *GRANDSIRE TRIPLES* was rung by the St. Martin's Society, Birmingham, who, in the evening, rang Thurstan's Five-part peal of *STEDMAN'S TRIPLES*, in 2 hrs. 55 mins. J. Buffery, 1; S. Reeves (conductor), 2; H. Bastable, 3; T. Reynolds, 4; W. R. Small, 5; A. Thomas, 6; H. Johnson, junr., 7; F. H. James, 8. Tenor, 9 cwt. The bells, which are very sweetly toned, were cast and hung by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank. The ringers were kindly entertained by the Rector, for which they desire to tender their best thanks.

The Royal Cumberland Society.

TO-DAY (Friday, the 4th) at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Westminster, London, the bells will be half muffled for ringing practice, as a mark of respect for the memory of the late Mr. Jasper W. Snowdon.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. Mary's, Diss, Norfolk.

ON Monday, the 23rd ult., eight members of the Diss Company started for a 5040 of Bob MAJOR, with the bells muffled at handstroke, as a mark of respect to the late Mr. J. W. Snowdon. After ringing 3500 changes in 2 hrs. 23 mins., 'Stand!' was called as two bells changed places. E. Francis (composer and conductor), 1; J. Rudd, 2; W. Matthews, 3; E. Hayward, 4; C. Webster, 5; W. Ireland, 6; A. Hart, 7; J. Souter, 8. Tenor, 24 cwt., in D.

Muffled Peal at St. Martin's, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

A MUFFLED PEAL was rung on Saturday, the 21st ult., at St. Martin's, as a mark of respect to the memory of Mr. Jasper W. Snowdon. After ringing the age of the deceased in whole-pulls round, the age was again repeated on the tenor bell alone, after which five six-scores of DOUBLES were rung J. Short, 1; J. R. Jerram, 2; C. A. Clements, 3; R. T. Taylor, 4; W. W. Gifford, 5; W. E. Ramshaw, 6. Messrs. Jerram and Clements are members of the Yorkshire Association.

At the Parish Church, Nutfield, Surrey.

ON Monday, the 23rd ult., was rung, with the bells deeply muffled as a mark of respect to the late Mr. Jasper W. Snowdon, a peal of 720 OXFORD TREBLE BOB MINOR. C. Sendall, 1; J. Basford, 2; E. Fuller, 3; T. Boniface, 4; J. Burkin, 5; W. Hawkins (conductor), 6. Also a peal of GRANDSIRE MINOR. C. Sendall, 1; J. Skinner, 2; E. Fuller, 3; T. Boniface, 4; J. Burkin, 5; W. Hawkins (conductor), 6.

At All Saints', Sudbury, Suffolk.

ON Tuesday evening, the 24th ult., the following members of the Sudbury Company of Change-ringers rang a touch of BOB MAJOR. B. Ransom, Esq., 1; J. Campin, 2; G. Brown, 3; C. Sillitoe, 4; H. Brackett, 5; W. Howell, 6; W. Bacon, 7; H. Harper, 8. A touch of 672 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES was also rung. F. Tolliday, 1; J. Campin, 2; G. Brown, 3; C. Sillitoe, 4; W. Bacon, 5; H. Harper, 6; A. Scott, 7; H. Brackett, 8. Tenor, 28 cwt., in D. Both touches were conducted by Mr. Sillitoe. The above were rung with the bells half muffled, as a mark of respect to the late Mr. J. W. Snowdon of Leeds.

At St. Dunstan's, Stepney, London.

ON Wednesday, the 25th ult., eight members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang a peal of 5002 STEDMAN'S CATERS, with the bells deeply muffled, in memory of Mr. J. W. Snowdon, in 3 hrs. 32 mins. J. Pettit (conductor), 1; E. E. Clarke, 2; W. D. Smith, 3; E. Horrex, 4; J. W. Rowbotham, 5; J. Martin-Routh, 6; F. E. Dawe, 7; A. P. Heywood (Duffield Bank, Derby), 8; J. M. Hayes, 9; W. H. George, 10. Composed by Mr. H. W. Haley. Tenor, 32 cwt., in D.

At St. John's, Waterloo Road, London.

ON Wednesday, the 25th ult., eight members of the Waterloo Society rang a muffled peal (the usual whole-pull and stand) as a last token of respect to the late Mr. J. W. Snowdon, who was for many years a member of this Society. W. Baron (conductor), 1; C. E. Malim, 2; H. J. Davies, 3; E. F. Strange, 4; W. H. L. Buckingham, 5; E. E. Vinen, 6; R. T. Woodley, 7; W. Coppage, 8. Afterwards some STEDMAN and GRANDSIRE TRIPLES were rung.

At St. Nicholas', Witham, Essex.

ON Thursday, the 26th ult., was rung a half-muffled peal of 720 BOB MINOR, as a mark of respect to Mr. J. W. Snowdon. J. Butler, 1; A. Chalk, 2; A. Fryatt, 3; W. G. Richards, 4; E. Garnett, 5; H. Sayer (conductor), 6.

At St. Mary's, Sheffield, Yorkshire.

ON Friday, the 27th ult., eight members of the Yorkshire Association and the St. Peter's Amalgamated Society rang in 3 hrs. and 8 mins. a peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (Holt's Original). The bells were muffled in memory of Mr. Jasper W. Snowdon, the late President of the Association. J. Mulligan, 1; E. Woodward, 2; J. Taylor, 3; J. Goucher, 4; T. Hattersley (conductor), 5; J. A. Dixon, 6; A. Brearley, 7; W. Midgley, 8. Tenor, 25 cwt.

At St. George-the-Martyr, Southwark, London.

ON Sunday, the 27th ult., eight members of the St. James's Society rang Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 57 mins. B. E. Battrum, 1; R. French (conductor), 2; W. Jones, 3; H. Langdon, 4; E. F. Strange, 5; J. Barry, 6; W. H. George, 7; G. Woodage (first peal), 8. This was rung on the occasion of the 167th anniversary of the bells. Tenor, 18 cwt., in E.

At St. Andrew's, Derby.

ON Saturday, the 28th ult., eight members of the St. Andrew's Society of Change-ringers, rang a quarter-peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 54 mins., with the bells half muffled, as a token of respect to Mr. Jasper W. Snowdon. W. Shardlow, 1; T. Alton, 2; C. Hart, 3; W. Midgley, 4; W. H. Found, 5; G. Mottashaw, 6; A. E. Thompson (conductor), 7; J. W. Thompson, 8. Tenor, 20½ cwt., in E flat.

At Southover, Lewes, Sussex.

ON Saturday evening, the 28th ult., four members of the Brighton Branch of the Sussex Association of Change-ringers, assisted by four members of the Eastbourne Branch, attempted Holt's Ten-part peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, but failed after ringing 2520 changes in 1 hr. 28 mins. C. E. Golds, 1; G. F. Attree (conductor), 2; H. P. Bennett, 3; C. Tyler, 4; N. Harding, 5; J. Searle, 6; S. Hart, 7; T. Lewis, 8. Tenor, 18 cwt.

At St. Mary's, Islington, Middlesex.

ON Tuesday, the 1st inst., eight members of the Islington Society of Ringers rang a muffled peal in memory of Mr. Jasper W. Snowdon. W. Spicer, sen. (conductor), 1; C. Spicer, jun., 2; C. Spicer, 3; F. Bennett, 4; F. Thomas, 5; W. Williams, 6; D. Liven, 7; F. Tingey, 8.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Election Statistics.

SIR,—Probably my suggestion has already been anticipated by many, but I venture, nevertheless, to remark that statistics of the following kind would be extremely valuable after the elections are over. Thus: (1.) A column of the number of voters throughout England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland. This probably must be somewhat exaggerated, owing to the same person being registered frequently in two places where, however, he could vote only once. (2.) A column of the aggregate number voting for the Conservatives. (3.) A column of the aggregate number voting for the Liberals. (4.) The same for Radicals. (5.) The number of spoiled votes. It is probable that these will be not a few. Pressure is brought on voters to vote contrary to their own wishes, and I suspect that they sometimes purposely render their vote void. I do not suppose either side to be immaculate, but I know of some shameful cases of pressure by the Liberals, forcing men to vote contrary to their wishes. H. G. O.

The National Church.

SIR,—As many persons are inquiring for information respecting the Church and her claim to be called 'National,' &c., I think it only right to mention a work which you are perhaps already acquainted with, and which certainly fills a place that no other book does. I refer to *Lectures on the Church of England and other Communion*, by Rev. R. Howard. We were privileged to hear the lectures at first hand, as they were delivered in our parish church last autumn and spring, and were published at the request of the parishioners. No one will fail to learn much from them. They are published by Kegan Paul, Trench, & Co.

A PARISHIONER OF HOLY TRINITY, CLAPHAM.

Church Reform.

SIR,—I do trust that Churchmen will not persuade themselves that the present reaction will last for ever. We must stoutly press the question of Church Reform. I am prepared to maintain in the presence of my good friends, the religious Nonconformists, that an Established Church, which retains the sympathies of a large majority of the nation, and is administered with a wise, conscience-clause spirit, is the best security for (1) Religious equality, (2) National morality, (3) Intellectual freedom, (4) Spiritual life.

But if we are to retain the sympathies of a large majority, we need a reform which shall give to the whole Church (1), Control and equitable adjustment of all endowments and property; e.g. power to sell large vicarages. (2), A decisive will in the appointment of the clergy. Give these powers to a diocesan council. (3), Parochial councils with well-defined statutory powers as to ritual, &c., acting as a check on the present autocracy of the vicar; also (with protection against its arbitrary use) to displace him if inefficient. These are privileges which Voluntaryism would never give 'the people.' The real difficulty is, What is the whole Church? This Mr. Burkitt, whose letter I rejoice to see, ignores. It is not the nation, for some, e.g., are Secularists, but it must be such an order as is consistent with loyalty to Christ. It is not the converted, for the Lord alone knows the heart. It cannot be communicants. The Test Acts settle this. For the same reason, though it does not apply so strongly, I would not have the confirmed. Nor can it be a money qualification. I have suggested baptized men and women of full age (opinion would, I think, protect this franchise from misuse). Yet though I have a reluctance to suggest subscription, if there must be one, let us have the Apostles' Creed. I may add that our Colonies employ a declaration of *bonâ fide* membership, and some advocate a declaration of assent to the Book of Common Prayer, but these are all fancy franchises compared with baptism. C. E. ESCRETT.

St. Andrew's Vicarage, Stockwell.

Disestablishment distinct from Disendowment.

SIR,—As so much is being written now about Disestablishment (of which I enclose a specimen) it will be as well if the Church papers occasionally publish information on the subject that Church people may know how to refute the statements which are often cast at them. It may soon be a question for the Church to consider whether she would not be stronger by having the sole management of her own affairs instead of being under political control and a Parliament which includes so many non-Churchmen. As Disestablishment seems to be quite distinct from Disendowment it would be better to have it so, and, by giving up the former, the endowments may be saved from spoliation. The Church of England appears to have been established as the sole and exclusive form of religion by Elizabeth; but of course the endowments existed long before. The Church seems to have been a national body till 1828, when the Constitution was not any longer exclusively a Church of England one, but only a Protestant one. Formerly, I find the bishops were elected by the clergy and the people. Another good thing of the past which has been abandoned was that the Dean and Chapter used to work for the Church by educating candidates for Holy Orders. Now many of them seem to have been ill prepared. AN OLD SUBSCRIBER.

A Philosophic Statesman on Church Establishment.

SIR,—Pray grant me space to strongly advise your readers, and especially my lay brethren, at a time when so many discordant sounds are in the air, to read, or re-read, Burke's *Reflections on the Revolution in France*. This English Classic was written in 1790, but it is pregnant with suggestive thoughts under present difficulties. It may be recommended alike to our Dissenting friends and to those Churchmen who may, as some say they do, and as a certain noble Lord does, despair of 'adequate' internal reform without Disestablishment. Although a motley array is gathered against

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

IN MEMORIAM.

LET comrades muster round the old church tower,
To tell the tidings sad with bated breath;
Then let the bells ring out in muffled power
Their solemn requiem for untimely death.

List to the mighty steeples of the North
Re-echoing their distress from shore to shore;
Mark how each tenor chants her sorrow forth,
The master-hand that changed her is no more.

And we shall miss him sadly, one and all;
E'en those who ne'er in friendship grasped his hand,
Have each some kindly action to recall,
Some point obscure he bade them understand.

In search of truth, through unconnected lore
He traced arrangement with a ready pen;
The veil from seeming mystery he tore,
Bequeathing knowledge to his fellow-men.

Chosen as ringers' leader through the land,
Acknowledged arbiter for common weal,
While crowning merit with unsparing hand,
He crushed imposture with an iron heel.

What though the deeds in which he played his part
Are not inscribed on England's roll of fame?
As long as future ages prize our art,
So long shall reverence be for SNOWDON'S name.

J. M. R.

A New Peal-book for the Ancient Society of College Youths.

ON Tuesday, November the 24th, A. Percival Heywood, Esq., of Duffield Bank, near Derby, presented the Society with a new peal-book. The volume, which is similar in appearance to its predecessor, is handsomely bound in red morocco leather, with brass edges and clasps, and carries the names of the donor, and those of the officers of the Society both for the present and last years, in gilt lettering on its covers, which enclose 450 leaves of the finest hand-made paper, suitable for ornamental writing and illumination. The new book is the fourth volume; the third was presented by C. A. W. Troyte, Esq., of Huntsham Court, Devonshire, and the first peal in vol. i. is 5060 GRANDSIRE CINQUES, which was rung at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, City of London, in 1724.

In presenting it to the Master (J. M. Routh, Esq.), on behalf of the Society, Mr. Heywood said, that having observed in a printed report that the pages of the existing peal-book were nearly exhausted, and that a new one would shortly be required, he had made an offer to defray the cost of the latter, which he was glad to say had been accepted, for it afforded him the opportunity of showing his appreciation, not only of the work the Society of College Youths was doing in the ringing science, but also of the manner in which the members had treated him during a former visit. It was an honour which he felt strongly to be allowed to add another volume to the long roll of existing records of the Society, which embraced a period of 250 years; a roll such as few, if any, corporate bodies in London, with the exception perhaps of some of the City companies, could boast. He hoped that the records would always be kept up in a manner suitable to the position of the Company as the head ringing society in England—a position which it was likely to hold as long as the Church existed, whether Established or otherwise.

In receiving the book on behalf of the Society, the Master thanked Mr. Heywood for the grand gift which he had just bestowed upon them; and observed that the fact that it had come unsolicited from a country member was doubly gratifying to them, as it evidenced the interest taken by the provinces in the Society's well-being at head-quarters and in its records. With regard to the latter, they were, as Mr. Heywood had said, unique in the history of bell-ringing; a result due to the zeal and pertinacity with which former officers and members clung to their duty, often, no doubt, in times of great difficulty and danger. Those men had handed to the present age those records as a precious legacy, coupled with a sacred trust; viz., to pass them on to future generations of ringers in as bright, untarnished, and worthy a condition as they were in when they received them. Mr. Heywood's generosity in this instance allowed them to do this without dipping into their funds, and the book would take its place as another stone in that monument built up to the honour of those who had deserved so well of the Society in times gone by, and which served as an incentive to themselves and future generations to emulate their zeal. He congratulated Mr. Heywood on his rapid success in the art of change-ringing, and hoped he would ere long make some valuable additions to its science; and concluded by re-echoing the wish of every member present, that the donor's name might be frequently recorded in that and future volumes.

Mr. Heywood having replied in a genial and amusing speech, the proceedings shortly afterwards terminated.

Opening of a New Ring of Bells at Ringmer, Sussex.

TUESDAY, December 1st, was a red-letter day in this picturesque village, which is situated about four miles to the north-west of Lewes, the county-

town of Sussex. The parish church is an ancient structure, the tower of which was destroyed by lightning in the year 1600. Through the generosity of Mr. W. L. Christie, late M.P. for the now defunct borough of Lewes, a new tower has been erected at his expense. It is built of brick and flint, and is of the Norman style of architecture, being about seventy feet high. A new ring of eight bells has been placed therein, cast by Messrs. Mears & Stainbank, and exhibited by them at the recent International Exhibition held at the Crystal Palace. Six were the gift of Mr. Christie, one the gift of Mr. J. W. Mudge, a gentleman resident in the neighbourhood, and the other by the parishioners, at the cost of nearly 600*l.*, being called the 'People's Bell.' The bells were dedicated to God's service in February last, but the ringing of them was deferred on account of the new state of the tower. December 1st being the birthday of Miss Christie, daughter of the donor, who takes great interest in everything concerning the welfare of the church, was considered a suitable day for the opening of the bells. The Brighton Branch of the Sussex Association of Change-ringers were invited to send a band of eight change-ringers for that purpose, and were successful in ringing a true peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (Holt's Ten-part), 5040 changes, in 3 hrs. 9 mins., the ringers standing as follows: W. Palmer, 1; G. F. Attree, 2; J. Searle, 3; C. E. Golds, 4; G. King, 5; C. Tyler, 6; J. Jay, sen. (conductor), 7; E. Butler, 8. All the ringers, with the exception of the treble ringer, are members of the Royal Cumberland Society of Change-ringers. Weight of tenor, 14½ cwt., in the key of F. The bells possess splendid tone, and are considered by some to surpass any in Sussex. Previous to starting for the peal, the ringers, together with a number of friends interested in bell-ringing, to the number of about forty, were entertained to a sumptuous luncheon, under the presidency of Mr. Christie, at the residence of the Rev. H. F. Fisher, the curate of the church, the room being decorated for the occasion. A band of local ringers has been formed, twelve in number, and, with the Rev. Mr. Fisher at their head, bid fair to make rapid progress in the art of change-ringing. A word of praise is due to the above-named reverend gentleman for making all the necessary arrangements, which were carried out without a hitch of any kind.

St. Andrew's Society of Change-ringers, Derby.

ON Friday evening, the 4th inst., the above Society held their first peal supper, which was provided by our worthy sexton, Mr. W. Shardlow, along with two or three other kind friends, who for some time past have expressed their desire to assist in celebrating the first peal rung by the Society, in which they take a great interest. The cloth being removed, the company indulged in handbell ringing, which consisted of a few courses of BOB MAJOR, &c., and afterwards a few songs. The first, given by Mr. Sidley, was a very laughable one, and several others by Mr. Found, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Mottashaw, and Mr. Gilbert, and other friends, were well rendered. Mr. Shardlow, in a few closing remarks, said it had been his intention to make each one of the ringers a suitable present in remembrance of the first peal; but as he had been prevented on this occasion, not through any want on his own part, he hoped before long to have an opportunity of doing so. A vote of thanks was afterwards accorded to Mr. Shardlow for his kindness, and also to those friends who had taken an interest in the surroundings.

Stoke-upon-Trent Archidiaconal Association.

A COMMITTEE Meeting will be held in the church-room, Stoke, on Saturday, December 19th, at three o'clock.

E. D. POLLOCK, Hon. Secs.
E. GLOVER,

The Lancashire Association of Six-bell Ringers.

THE usual Quarterly Meeting will be held at the Parish Church, Leyland, on Saturday, December 12th. The bells will be open for ringing from two o'clock; business meeting at four o'clock in the schoolroom.

57 Chorley Road, Blackrod.

JAMES HIGSON, Secretary.

Death of Mr. John Cook.

WE regret to have to announce the death of Mr. John Cook, on Tuesday the 1st inst. The deceased had been for fifteen years foreman for Messrs. John Taylor & Co., of Loughborough, and had superintended amongst other large works the fixing of the ring of twelve bells at St. Paul's Cathedral, London, being consequently well known amongst ringers. The remains were interred at the Cemetery on Friday, and, as a mark of respect, all the men who were at home followed the corpse to the grave. The funeral service was impressively read by the Rector of All Saints' (Rev. Thos. Pitts), by whose kind permission, after the ceremony, a peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, which is duly recorded in its proper place among this week's performances, was rung in 3 hrs. 25 mins., with the bells half muffled; all the ringers, with the exception of Joseph Hardy, being fellow-workmen of the deceased. It is perhaps worthy of notice that this is the first peal rung by Loughborough ringers exclusively for forty-four years, when Mr. Taylor, sen., rang the third.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. George's, Gravesend, Kent.

ON Tuesday, the 24th ult., 2520 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, being the first half of Holt's Ten-part peal, were rung in 1 hr. 31 mins. W. J. Reeves (Bexley), 1; W. Harper (conductor), 2; H. D. Davis, 3; W. Martin, 4; F. Hayes, 5; B. Spinner, 6; J. W. Aitkin, 7; G. Hayes, 8. All the above, except Mr. Reeves, are members of the Kent County Association.

At Barnwood, Gloucestershire.

ON Tuesday, the 1st inst., six members of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association rang a peal of 720 OXFORD TREBLE BOB MINOR in 26

mins. H. Barnes, 1; J. Yates, 2; G. Miles, 3; W. Sevier, 4; H. Mitchell, 5; A. A. Waite (conductor), 6. Tenor, 14 cwt., in G.

On Tuesday, the 8th inst., six members of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association rang a peal of 720 CANTERBURY PLEASURE MINOR (16 bobs and 2 singles) in 26 mins. H. Barnes (first in the method), 1; J. Yates, 2; G. Miles, 3; W. Sevier, 4; H. Mitchell (composer and conductor), 5; A. A. Waite, 6. Tenor, 14 cwt.

At SS. Peter and Paul's, Milton-next-Gravesend, Kent.

On Tuesday, the 1st inst., six members of the Gravesend Society and the Kent County Association rang a peal of BOB MINOR in 26 mins. W. Royston, 1; W. Harper, 2; F. Hayes (conductor), 3; G. Hayes, 4; H. D. Davis, 5; B. Spinner, 6.

At All Saints', Loughborough, Leicestershire.

On Friday, the 4th inst., the Midlands Counties Association of Change-ringers rang Holt's Original Six-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 25 mins. A. Cresser, 1; C. Smith, 2; J. Hardy, 3; J. W. Taylor, sen., 4; S. Smith, 5; C. D. Taylor, 6; J. W. Taylor, jun. (conductor), 7; E. Wightman, 8. Tenor, 24 cwt., in D. The bells were rung half-muffled, as a tribute of respect to Mr. Cook, whose death is recorded in another paragraph.

On Tuesday, the 8th inst., the Loughborough band of change-ringers, assisted by the Rev. W. Pearson of Syston, rang for practice a quarter-peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. A. Cresser, 1; E. D. Taylor, 2; C. Smith, 3; J. W. Taylor, sen., 4; S. Smith, 5; Rev. W. Pearson, 6; J. W. Taylor, jun. (conductor), 7; E. Wightman, 8. Tenor, 24 cwt., in D.

At St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, Suffolk.

On Saturday, the 5th inst., twelve members of the Ancient Society of College Youths (also of the Norwich Diocesan Association) rang a peal of 5007 STEDMAN'S CINQUES in 3 hrs. 39 mins. W. L. Catchpole (conductor), 1; J. Motts, 2; F. S. Alexander, 3; A. R. Aldham, 4; E. Pemberton, 5; C. Mee, 6; W. Motts, 7; R. H. Brundle, 8; F. Tillet, 9; S. Tillet, 10; F. G. Newman (London), 11; E. Reeve, 12. Tenor, 32 cwt.

At Basingstoke, Hants.

On Saturday, the 5th inst., several members of St. Lawrence's Society of Change-ringers, Reading, in conjunction with Mr. H. White of Basingstoke, rang Taylor's Six-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 7 mins. A. E. Reeves, 1; H. White, 2; R. T. Hibbert, 3; W. Johnson, 4; W. H. Holloway, 5; W. J. Williams (conductor), 6; W. Goselint, 7; J. Kirby, 8.

At Malsmore, Gloucestershire.

On Sunday, the 6th inst., five members of the Upton St. Leonard's Society paid a visit to the above parish, and, assisted by Mr. Brunsdon, rang a peal of 720 PLAIN BOB MINOR in 26 mins. W. Brunsdon,* 1; H. G. Gardner, 2; W. Sevier, 3; J. Baldwin, 4; H. Mitchell, 5; R. A. Barrett (conductor), 6. Afterwards a course of KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR. W. Brunsdon,† 1; J. Baldwin,‡ 2; W. Sevier, 3; H. G. Gardner, 4; H. Mitchell, 5; R. A. Barrett, 6. Tenor, 11½ cwt., in G. [* First 720 in the method. † First attempt.]

At Haddenham, Cambridgeshire.

On Monday, the 8th inst., two 720's of BOB MINOR were rung in 27 and 28 mins. respectively. J. Ellis, 1; W. King, 2; J. R. Vincent, 3; J. Davies, 4; A. Pilgrim (conductor), 5; J. Vail, 6. Tenor, 18 cwt. The above are the ringers of St. Mary's, Ely.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Church Reform.

SIR,—By way of comment on Canon J. Erskine Clarke's letter to the *Times*, quoted in your issue for this week, I may ask the attention of your readers to the following dialogue concerning the recent election of rural-decanal representatives for the parish from which I write.

Parishioner A.—'What was done at the Church meeting last night? Of course you were there?'

Parishioner B.—'Oh! There were about half-a-dozen people present, and the meeting was soon over. The old representatives were re-chosen. One of them said he had nothing to report about his doings in the past year of office, and the other said nothing.'

A.—'You might as well have chosen two walking-sticks.'

B.—'Ha! ha! That's too bad.'

A.—'But I suppose they fairly represent the Churchmanship of the parish—I mean the ignorance, indifference, and pretentiousness of our most correct Churchgoers?'

B.—'You are not far wrong.'

As to the correctness of the views of my two worthy fellow-parishioners regarding the rural-decanal representatives so complimentarily appraised I pronounce no opinion; but I say without hesitation that very many of the laymen who are now chosen to represent the Church at the rural-decanal and diocesan conferences of the diocese of Liverpool may be truly described as representing and exemplifying not *bonâ fide* Churchmanship, but 'ignorance, indifference, and pretentiousness,' and possibly this diocese is not singular in the matter. And would not 'Church Reform,' which would give to men of this sort 'a substantial share in the control of Church affairs,' be a worse evil than Disestablishment?

E. R.

The Church's Great Blunders.

SIR,—I was much pleased to read the letter of 'A Lay Reader,' in your number for 27th November. It would be well for our beloved Church if the clergy looked at Defence now in his light. Undoubtedly Churchfolk need to be informed on the subject of Church History, but we want something else of infinitely more value; viz., to humble ourselves in the dust before God for our apathy, indolence, and neglect of duty in the past, yea, and at the present also. What do the masses cry out just now when we talk of our parochial system, &c. &c.? 'Oh,' they say (as has been said several times to me within the last few days), 'what is the parochial system to us? I have lived in the same house for over three years, within a stone's-throw of the parish church; and yet no clergyman has ever called to see whether I was a heathen or a Christian.' There are three or four clergy attached to the church referred to, which is surrounded by a by no means dense population. This is no isolated case, but an example of too many cases that one has brought before one in 'house-to-house' visitation. True it is in many parishes that the clergy have too much to do; but it is not to these I now speak, but to those who have a greater attachment to their drawing-rooms, personal ease, and comfort, than attending to the neglected parts of their parish. Is it surprising that so many are in favour of Disestablishment? I think not. If each parish was visited throughout *once only in a year*, that would do more to stem the torrent of Disestablishment than twelve months' preaching against it. It would show the hundreds of people who never enter a church that we are a live and not a dead Church. ANOTHER LAY READER.

Magic Lanterns for Church Defence.

SIR,—It seems a good suggestion of 'J. H. T.' to use magic lanterns for this purpose. But allow me to suggest something further. Country clergy cannot call at a shop and select fitting slides for this subject. My suggestion is, that the Church Defence Institution should take up this branch of the subject, and lend out lanterns, slides, and well-printed lectures, to any clergyman applying for the same. Church Defence work would then penetrate among the working class in the best possible manner, and in such a form as never to be forgotten. The clergyman applying to pay all carriage. F.A.S.

Manual of Church History.

SIR,—Let me thank Canon Venables and your other correspondents who have kindly answered my query as to a Manual of Church History. I am using Mrs. Toogood's *Sketches from Church History* (Heywood, 1s.), which is very clear and to the point. It needs a little extempore expansion here and there. C. D. P. DAVIES.

District Visitors.

SIR,—In reading the report of the discussion at the Church Congress upon Women's Work, one cannot help being struck by the utter absence of all notice of the great body of *District Visitors*, by whom the house-to-house visiting of the poor has now been carried on, under the direction of the parochial clergy, for more than half a century. Long before there was a Sister or a Deaconess in the Church of England, hundreds of these visitors were devoting their time and strength and means to this great work; yet I have never, in any report of Church Congress or Diocesan Conference, or other meeting of the kind, seen the slightest recognition of the existence even of this great body of voluntary female workers, by whom, nevertheless, half the work of most parishes is carried on. The tendency of the present day is to supersede them by Sisters or Deaconesses, and a very fatal mistake I believe it will prove. I will venture to point out three dangers, at least, that it will entail:—

(1.) It will tend to increase that habit of 'parasitism,' whose fatal effects Drummond has so well pointed out in his admirable essays on *Natural Law in the Spiritual World*,—the habit of getting our worship and our work done for us by clergy, choirs, or sisterhoods, which is already so fatally eating out the spiritual life and vigour of half the worshippers in our churches. It has been hard enough to stir people up to any sense of their individual responsibility for work in God's vineyard and for the souls of their brethren. Transfer the responsibility to Sisters and Deaconesses, and the result will be what it has been in Roman Catholic countries, where intercourse with the poor is almost entirely confined to the clergy and the religious orders, while the ladies of the community have scarcely any knowledge of their poor neighbours at all. And this (2) will destroy a most valuable link between the higher and lower classes, at a time when such a link is more urgently needed than it ever was. No doubt organized bodies of women are specially suited for some special kinds of work; but I greatly doubt whether women living in the narrow routine of a community are as well fitted to enter into all the varied needs and cares and interests of their poorer neighbours as those who are living the freer and more varied life of home, with all its changes and chances, and sorrows and joys.

One other danger I would point out, and that is the growing tendency to separate the so-called 'religious' from the secular life—a distinction which finds no sanction in Scripture nor in our Scriptural Church; a distinction which fosters an overweening spiritual pride in those who are leading what they call the 'religious life,' which is often merely a following of their own inclinations, and not really half so 'religious' as the quiet daily round of one who is training up her children for God, or devoting herself to the care of aged parents, or perhaps quietly sacrificing nerves and health, and the whole spring of life, to the care of some poor 'black sheep' of the family, or some hopeless and fretful and exacting invalid. E. W.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.—'Rev. H. E. Jephson.'—We receive such a large number of appeals for aid for church building and kindred objects that we are unable to insert them except as advertisements.

RECEIVED ALSO.—C. G. Curtis; C.; Madeleine Worsley; E. R.; W. Macsally Toole; E. W.; and others.

Channel to listen to, which is saying a good deal.' Of the two sermons she heard preached by Dr. Reichel, the Bishop of Meath, then the Dean of Clonmacnois, she says:—'Irish preaching is popularly supposed to be full of sound and fury, signifying nothing. But Dean Reichel has apparently added German depth and solidity to his native force. Brief, terse, vivid, a clear skeleton of thought, clothed with the bone and muscle of language—very muscular language, too; no mincing of matters in the smallest degree. The sermons were a treat to listen to.' The behaviour of the congregation did not impress her favourably. 'Before service they chattered, stared about, and smiled in a most objectionable way.' It is a matter for the deepest regret that Irish Church people expose themselves to such criticism, and have not yet realised as they should the solemnities of Divine worship, especially in our two Cathedrals. A general reverence of tone, kneeling where it is required, and a heartier joining in the responses, are much to be desiderated. A great improvement has doubtless taken place, but the curse of our Puritanism in the past is on us still.

A Church that banished by statute the symbol of our redemption from the most prominent part of our places of worship will feel the effects of this in other ways.

The Bishop of Cork, preaching lately at the fifteenth anniversary of the consecration of the new cathedral of St. Finbarre, delivered a remarkable allocution. Speaking at the end of his sermon his lordship thus expressed himself:—

'Probably we shall see ere long further great political and social changes in this country, and we shall be forced to consider what shall be the attitude of the Protestants of Ireland; certainly it should not be that of sullen indifference, or of an obstinate adherence, to the forms and phrases of bygone years. In these days of restless change, no man of energy can afford to disregard the shifting conditions of surrounding circumstances. When the Church was disestablished, the Protestants of Ireland acted with vigour and resolution in their altered position. The unanimity of their proceedings extorted the praise of their opponents. They have need now, and shall in the future have need, of the same spirit—a determination to abide by the old rule of life; a determination to allow no petty differences, nor the persuasion of wily opponents, to cause disunion, to separate brother from brother, or to entangle in wrong-doing the weak or unsuspecting. Then, as there is mutual forbearance and goodwill, and the friendly brotherhood of a common faith, it will be found that freedom of religious thought, nourished upon the truths of the Divine word, has produced a race of men filled with the love of country, whose influence will be a power in this now divided and distracted land, for the glory of God, and for the good of their fellows of every class and creed.'

COLONIAL AND FOREIGN CHURCH NEWS.

CANADA.

THE Montreal Church Guardian laments, 'When our Church, in Provincial Synod assembled, constituted herself a Missionary Society as a Church, it was expected that this assertion of the duty of every member would evoke a liberality far exceeding anything she had known in the past. The actual results have not at all fulfilled our reasonable expectations. It is discouraging that the income for Domestic Missions during the first two years of the present Board's administration amounts to a total of only \$16,344, whilst that under the simpler system it replaced amounted for 1883 alone to \$16,611, and for 1882 and 1883 to \$26,929.'

UNITED STATES.

Among recent accessions to our Communion from the Roman is that of the Rev. R. L. Knox, in the diocese of Missouri. At his reception by Bishop Robertson the sermon was preached by Mr. Lechner, who had preceded him with a like step.

INDIA.

THE Bishop of Calcutta has returned to his see after completing a visitation tour through the North-west provinces. At Allahabad he found the new and very handsome church advancing to completion, which already begins to be called the 'cathedral of the North-west.'

GERMANY.

THE very excellent Hebrew version of the New Testament lately put forth by Dr. Delitzsch is arousing a spirit of inquiry among the German-speaking Jews throughout Central Europe. A society of Christian Jews is about to be formed—according to the Berlin *Ev. Kirch. Anzeiger*—which will maintain the Jewish nationality of the new converts to the Gospel.

THE body of St. Paulinus, sometime Bishop of Trier (or Trèves) has been discovered at that city. In a sarcophagus hewn out of a single stone was found a coffin made of some foreign wood, in wonderful preservation. The coffin is adorned with one gold and two silver plates, on each side of which are engraved the initials of our Saviour, with the Alpha and Omega; on another silver plate are two plastic representations. The whole seems to be of the fourth century.

SCANDINAVIA.

It is stated that the Pope's dispensation for the marriage of Prince Waldemar of Denmark with the Roman Catholic Princess Marie of Orleans cost 5000*l*.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

The Society of Royal Cumberland Youths.

A MEETING of special interest to all members of this Society will take place at the 'Green Man,' St. Martin's Lane, Charing Cross, W.C., this evening, December 18th. The usual ringing practice will take place at eight o'clock, at St. Martin's Church, previous to the business meeting. Members' attendance urgently requested.

H. DAINS, Hon. Sec.

Photographs of the late Mr. Jasper W. Snowdon.

THE Committee of the Yorkshire Association of Change-ringers have made arrangements whereby they can supply photographs of their late President at the following rates:—Large size (12 in. by 10 in.), cut mounts on cardboard ready for framing (to fit frame about 18 in. by 15 in.), 5*s*. each. Cabinet size, 1*s*. 6*d*. each. Carte-de-visite size, 1*s*. each. The photos are very good ones, and can be had from W. Whitaker, 3 Hilary Street, Leeds, or Robt. Tuke, Marlborough Road, Manningham, Bradford.

St. Andrew's Society of Change-ringers, Derby.

At our first peal supper, held a few weeks ago, Mr. Shardlow, our sexton, expressed his desire to present us with something in remembrance of our first peal; but being prevented at that time, he has at length taken the opportunity of fulfilling his promise on Sunday last, the 13th, it being his fifty-fifth birthday. On several previous occasions he has marked successful events in our ringing career by a supper; but this time he has extended his usual generosity beyond that limit, by presenting each one with a silver scarf-pin in the shape of a bell, bearing their initials and 'First 5040 by the St. Andrew's Society.' The Secretary, on rising, said it was his duty, at the request of all the ringers present, to express their sincere thanks to their worthy and esteemed sexton, who had, beyond doubt, been the means of the first peal being rung, by the kind manner in which he had always endeavoured to draw them on. He should also like to congratulate him on the able manner in which he rang, notwithstanding his age, and the fact that it was his first peal. He hoped that this was only the first of many which they might be spared to ring together. Mr. Shardlow, in responding, said he had always taken great pleasure in what he had done, and should continue to do for the Society whatever lay in his power to promote such an interesting art as change-ringing.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At Lichfield Cathedral.

ON Monday, the 23rd ult., Harrison's peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES was rung in 3 hrs. 8 mins., by eight members of the Society of Change-ringers for the Archdeaconry of Stafford. F. J. Cope (conductor), 1; H. Meacham, 2; A. E. Greenwood, 3; J. Key, 4; A. Whitby, 5; R. Annis, 6; W. Fearneyhough, 7; E. Galimore, 8. The bells were half muffled as a mark of respect to the late Mr. J. W. Snowdon. Tenor, 29 cwt., in D.

At St. Anne's, Highgate, Middlesex.

ON Tuesday, the 1st inst., eight members of the Royal Cumberland rang, for practice, 1024 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR. J. Page, 1; B. Foskett, 2; G. Newton (conductor), 3; J. Hannington, 4; T. Titchener, 5; A. Jacob, 6; E. Chapman, 7; J. Barrett, 8.

At St. Mary's, Lichfield.

ON Thursday, the 3rd inst., Thurston's peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES was rung in 3 hrs. 1 min., by members of the Society of Change-ringers for the Archdeaconry of Stafford. H. King, 1; A. E. Greenwood, 2; J. Key, 3; H. Meacham, 4; A. Whitby, 5; F. J. Cope (conductor), 6; W. Fearneyhough, 7; E. Galimore, 8. Tenor, 20 cwt., in E.

At Twickenham, Surrey.

ON Saturday, the 5th inst., eight members of the Surrey Association rang a peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (Holt's Original) in 3 hrs. 3 mins. G. Naish (first peal), 1; C. E. Main, 2; A. B. Carpenter, 3; E. F. Strange (conductor), 4; G. Welling, 5; J. Strutt, 6; G. Gray, 7; J. Wright, 8. Tenor, 21 cwt.

At St. Mary's, Hitchin, Herts.

ON Monday, the 7th inst., eight members of the Society rang the first part (518) of Reeves's Variation of Holt's Ten-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. J. Randall, 1; H. Buckingham, 2; J. Hare (conductor), 3; A. Squires, 4; G. F. Scott (Sutton), 5; F. Furr, 6; W. Allen, 7; S. Hare, 8.

Also on Monday, the 14th inst., for practice, 350 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. J. Randall, 1; H. Buckingham, 2; F. Furr, 3; A. Squires, 4; W. Allen (conductor), 5; S. Hare, 6; J. Hare, 7; W. Kitchener, 8. Tenor, 28 cwt. And 504 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES on hand-bells; the same, excepting J. Foster, 8.

At All Saints', Benilton, Surrey.

ON Thursday evening, the 10th inst., during the practice, a 720 of GRANDSIRE MINOR, half muffled, was rung in 30 mins., as a token of respect to Mr. J. W. Snowdon. G. Heather, 1; W. Walter, 2; T. Gaiger, 3; S. Smithers, 5; H. Bryant, 5; J. Trendell (conductor), 6. Tenor, 19½ cwt., in E.

At St. Peter's, Walworth, Surrey.

ON Friday, the 11th inst., eight members of the St. James's Society rang a peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (Holt's Original) in 2 hrs. 41 mins. B. E. Battrum, 1; W. Jones, 2; J. Barry, 3; H. Langdon, 4; R. French (conductor), 5; A. Hayward, 6; W. H. George, 7; H. W. Flower (first peal), 8. Tenor, 14 cwt., in F. The above was rung as an introductory peal to the new Rector, the Rev. J. H. Hazell, M.A.

At St. Peter's, Great Totham, Essex.

On Friday, the 11th inst., five members of the All Saints' Company, Maldon, assisted by Mr. C. Hounslow of Oxford, rang a peal of 720 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE in 26 mins. C. Tabor, 1; R. Hutson, 2; T. Mansfield, 3; C. Hounslow, 4; W. Chalk (conductor) 5; W. Mansfield, 6. Tenor, 7½ cwt. The above peal is the first in the method on the bells.

At All Saints', Datchworth, Herts.

On Saturday, the 12th inst., the Bengoe Society of Change-ringers paid a visit to the above church, and rang a peal of 720 PLAIN BOB MINOR (18 bobs and 2 singles). W. Childs, 1; W. Bennett, 2; J. Pomfret, 3; W. Odell, 4; J. Channer, 5; H. Phillips (conductor), 6. Tenor, 10 cwt., in A flat.

At St. George's, Camberwell, Surrey.

On Saturday, the 12th inst., eight members of the St. James's Society made an attempt to ring Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES; but, owing to illness near the church, it had to be abandoned after ringing about 4500 changes in 2 hrs. 28 mins. F. G. Newman (conductor), 1; J. Barry, 2; A. E. Church, 3; H. J. Davies, 4; H. Langdon, 5; R. French, 6; W. H. George, 7; E. Rogers, 8. Tenor, 14 cwt.

At Upton St. Leonard's, Gloucestershire.

On Sunday, the 13th inst., a peal of 720 BOB MINOR was rung in 27 mins. J. Middlecote, 1; H. Mitchell (conductor), 2; J. Yates, 3; J. Baldwin, 4; A. A. Waite, 5; H. Gardner, 6. Composed by Mrs. A. Waite. Second the observation for this peal. Tenor, 18½ cwt.

At St. Leonard's, Gloucestershire.

On Monday, the 14th inst., eight members of the Gloucester and Bristol Association rang a peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (Holt's Original), in 3 hrs. 5½ mins. H. G. Gardner (conductor), 1; J. Yates, 2; H. Mitchell, 3; G. Miles, 4; W. Sevier,* 5; J. Baldwin, 6; A. A. Waite,* 7; R. A. Barrett, 8. [*All middle-bell ringers, first peal.] The above peal was rung in honour of William Sevier reaching the twenty-first year of his age. Tenor, 18½ cwt., in F.

At St. Mary's, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

On Monday, the 14th inst., a peal of 5088 Kent TREBLE BOB MAJOR was rung in 3 hrs. 16 mins. J. Belcher (conductor), 1; W. Morris, 2; F. E. Ward, Esq., 3; Rev. C. D. P. Davies, 4; H. Karn, 5; W. T. Pates, 6; F. Musty, 7; G. H. Phillott, Esq., 8. Composed by the late W. Estcourt of Palnswick. Tenor, 23 cwt.

At Clyst St. George, Devon.

On Monday, the 14th inst., the following members of the Clyst St. George Band of Change-ringers rang a peal of three six-scores of GRANDSIRE DOUBLES. Rev. C. R. Chope, 1; F. Smith, 2; E. Beaves, 3; H. Steer, 4; J. L. Steer (conductor), 5; J. Potter, 6. This is the first complete peal of half-pull changes ever rung by the ringers of Clyst St. George.

CORRESPONDENCE.**Church Reform.**

SIR,—Among the various suggestions made for Church reform the Bishop of Chichester seems to have mentioned the only reform which would really affect the working classes in town and country—free and unappropriated seats. We wonder why the labourers are so bitter against the Church; but have we not, in alliance with the churchwarden, squire, and farmer, deprived the poor of their rights? We tell them in our sermons that the Church is their Church, that the doors are open, the place free for all parishioners; and the few old people and dependants, who sit crowded together under a gallery or in some remote corner, dare not press forward to fill up the half-empty well-cushioned pews of the principal inhabitants. It is bad enough in the country, but it is generally worse in town. And I cannot help thinking that a pew-ridden church is a strong argument in favour of Disestablishment.

CLEMENT ALFORD.

SIR,—Your issue of December 11th contains the opinions of the Primate and of the Bishop of Rochester as to the urgent need of Church reform. I subjoin an utterance of the Bishop of Liverpool, made when he was addressing his Diocesan Conference early in November:—“I must turn, however, from this branch of Church defence to another, which appears to me of equal, if not superior importance. If we wish to resist the Disestablishment movement successfully, we must set our own house in order. We must resolve that Church reform shall accompany Church defence. We must try to rectify known abuses, to stop the sale of livings, to revive ecclesiastical discipline, to simplify our Prayer-book services, and to proportion revenues to duties, to provide pensions for aged or infirm clergymen, to organize aggressive evangelisation of overgrown or neglected parishes, and to give the laity their rightful place in all the councils of the Church, both great and small; and above all we must close our ranks, and take care that we have no weak points in our position.” To those of us who have for years been labouring to make our fellow-Churchmen see the pressing need of internal reforms, such as the total suppression of both the wholesale and retail traffic in livings, it is a matter of great thankfulness to Almighty God that there has been such a marked increase of feeling in favour of Church reform during the last two months. Better late than never. A NORTHERN LAYMAN.

Lay Help.

SIR,—I shall be glad if you will allow me space for half-a-dozen lines, just to say how entirely I agree with every letter, syllable, and word of Canon Erskine Clarke's letter to the *Times*, quoted in last week's *Church Bells*, with every fact stated in it, and with every conclusion drawn from

such. I only wish it might help to disabuse the mind of the public of the erroneous impression most widely entertained. No doubt there are not a few individual exceptions here and there; but they are only enough to draw attention to the fact, the rule is all the other way. F. O. MORRIS.

The Clergy and House-to-House Visitation.

SIR,—“Another Lay Reader” complains that the clergy of a parish which he knows do not visit. I distinctly, as a ‘visiting parson,’ say that it is the fault of the laity. I have had many kindnesses, and much friendly help and appreciation. I say this to show that, in my own case, the fault is not with myself. I think I am welcomed by all my poor and most of my better-class people. But on the other hand, many, who are perfectly acquainted with the usages of society, act so that their clergyman feels it impossible to call again. I have known a seat-holder send a servant into the drawing-room with a rude message to the waiting parson. Not one in ten ever dreams of returning his visit, even if he has called when the family are absent and has left a card. And if the master or mistress of the house are at home it is easy to see by their manner that they wonder what their clergyman wants. Have the people who say they are not visited ever called on their clergyman or his wife? GEORGE FARMER.

Lower Sydenham.

Disestablishment, Literature, and the Official Year-Book of the Church of England.

SIR,—It is our intention to furnish in the next volume of the *Official Year-Book* a carefully selected list of books, pamphlets, sermons, &c., bearing upon the Disestablishment controversy. I shall be glad to receive from the authors of any such publications a specimen copy, that I may have it before me in compiling our proposed list. We are also preparing a short record of Church institutions, workmen's clubs, and reading-rooms, with a view of showing what the Church is doing to provide for the social improvement and recreation of the people. I have already issued a form of inquiry with the object of obtaining this information, but as my acquaintance with such institutions is somewhat limited, I should be thankful to hear from those who may be connected with them, and to whom no application has hitherto been made. FREDERICK BURNSIDE, Hon. Secretary and Editor.

Hertfordbury Parsonage, Hertford.

Home Reunion.

SIR,—As one who takes an interest in the subject of Home Reunion, may I be allowed to draw the attention of your readers, more especially the readers of the ‘Home Reunion’ column, to a remarkable and most interesting article in the *Century* magazine for November? It is written by Professor Charles W. Shields, a Congregational minister, and is entitled *The United Churches of the United States*. Certainly, if it is any index of the feeling in the United States, the friends of Home Reunion there need not despair. We frequently find that certain movements first arise in the United States, and are then transferred to England, and so it may be in this matter. At all events the article on its own merits is well worth perusal. The problem set before the writer is, how it would be possible to join together on one common basis the Christian Churches of the United States, and so do away, as far as possible, with ‘our unhappy divisions.’ The author, after tracing the tendencies towards union at present discernible, proceeds to point out what he considers the most hopeful way in which he thinks unity might gradually be brought about. I can best show the views of the author, however, by giving a few quotations:—

‘It would seem that the first step towards true Church unity must be liturgical, rather than doctrinal or strictly ecclesiastical. Christians who differ cannot begin to agree until they come together in the region of devout feeling, and are thus predisposed to brotherly concord. The people, not content with having the choicest literature and oratory in the sermon, are calling for the aids of music and architecture in the service, and secretly revolting from a mode of worship in which a theological lecture is the one all-absorbing feature, and by which feeling has been divorced from expression, devotion from art, and doctrine from every-day life.

‘We need not renounce existing Protestantism as a failure; we cannot accept existing Catholicism as a success; but surely we may look somewhere between these extremes for the path of wisdom and safety.’

After condemning in a passage too long to quote what he calls ‘the incongruous mixture’ sometimes made of liturgical with extemporaneous worship, the author proceeds to say,—

‘This brings us to the other practical question as to the issue of the liturgical movement, and the answer is already at hand—it must have its logical conclusion in the English Prayer-book, as the only Christian Liturgy worthy of the name. The English Liturgy next to the English Bible is the most wonderful product of the Reformation. There is no other extant formula which is so well fitted to become the rallying-point and standard of modern Christendom.

‘Not long since an association of City ministers devised “a non-episcopal observance of Lent.” Presbyterians have been adopting the liturgical uses, which once kindled the wrath of Jennie Geddes into a revolution of the three kingdoms, whilst Episcopalians have been admitting the lay elements which brought Archbishop Laud to the scaffold.

‘In a word, if we are ever to have anything answering to the grand conception of the *United Churches of the United States* it must come through that spirit of Protestant Catholicism, of which the English Liturgy, properly amended and enriched, would be the best conceivable endowment.’

There are many other passages which I should have liked to have quoted, but if you can find space for the above I must refer your readers for them to the article itself, which is a most cheering one to all friends of Home Reunion. I have only to add that other articles on the same subject are promised for future numbers of the *Century*, and certainly I for one shall look forward to them with much interest. C.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

The late Mr. J. W. Snowdon.

At a Committee Meeting of the Yorkshire Association, held at the headquarters, Bradford, on Thursday, December 3rd, and attended by ten members of the executive out of a possible fifteen, the following resolutions were passed unanimously:—

‘That this Committee places on record the great and inestimable services rendered to the Yorkshire Association by their late President, Jasper Whitfield Snowdon, Esq. It acknowledges with thankfulness Mr. Snowdon’s indomitable zeal and energy in building up the Association, which will ever be a monument to his perseverance and abilities.

‘That this Committee, while recording the incalculable loss it has suffered by the death of its devoted and beloved President, tenders to Mr. Snowdon’s family its heartfelt sympathy with them in their bereavement, and trusts that it will in some measure tend to alleviate their sorrow by knowing how deeply he was esteemed by his brother-ringers, not only in our County Association, but throughout the whole country.

‘That these resolutions be entered in the minute-book of the Association, and an engrossed copy be sent to Mr. Snowdon’s family.’

Also, ‘That the Hon. Sec. (Mr. W. Whitaker), and the Hon. Treasurer (Mr. Robert Tuke), be requested to wait on William Snowdon, Esq., brother of the late President, asking him to take the office of President during the unexpired term of the office.’

In accordance with the last resolution, Messrs. Whitaker and Tuke waited on Mr. William Snowdon on Friday, the 11th inst., and after a thorough consideration of the matter, and taking fully into account the responsibilities of the office, Mr. Wm. Snowdon accepted the presidency for the remainder of his late brother’s term, which expires on July 31st, 1887, expressing himself gratified at the unanimous manner in which the Committee had passed the resolution. He assured them that he would endeavour, to the best of his ability, to fulfil the duties of his office, and to continue the work on the same lines as his late brother would have desired.

A Supper to Ringers.

THE Mayor of Basingstoke, Hants, lately gave a supper to St. Michael’s Guild of Ringers. After the cloth was cleared the captain of the band, Mr. G. Capron, proposed the toast of the evening, ‘Our worthy Mayor, the Donor of the Feast, Major May,’ which was received with great enthusiasm. The next toast, given by the captain, was ‘Mr. Neville,’ and Mr. H. White, secretary, then proposed ‘The health of our captain, Mr. G. Capron.’ The evening passed very pleasantly, and there were some capital songs and handbell ringing.

The Bells at Sherborne, Dorset.

THE bells were opened on Wednesday, the 9th inst., by the College Youths. They have been rehung in a new frame by Messrs. Warner & Sons; the four largest bells are hung with Goslin’s patent stocks and hangings; and the whole of the bells (eight in number) are mounted upon Goslin’s bearings, which are not let into the woodwork, so that the frame is left to its full strength in the top rails. The tenor is 48 cwt., and is easily rung by two men. The ‘go’ of the bells was good, excepting, to a small degree, the 7th, which is a very old and long bell, hardly suitable for scientific ringing. It is left intact, with its old cannons, which stand very high, necessitating a very deep stock, which militates against the sound being brought out, and the setting of the bell. The architect and the committee highly approve of the manner in which the work was carried out by Messrs. Warner and Sons, and of the system adopted for hanging. The frame stands entirely free from the tower, so that there is ample space for freely passing round the frame, between the frame and the walls. When all the bells were being rung there did not appear to be the slightest vibration in the tower, and hardly any perceptible in the frame. It is strongly tied together by massive wrought ironwork, where the strain is thrown in ringing. The College Youths gave a variety of changes and touches during the day, and the local ringers rung in rounds for the service.

North Lincolnshire Association of Change-ringers.

THE next Quarterly Meeting of this Association, for the purposes of ringing and the transaction of business, will take place at Gainsborough on Saturday, the 2nd January. Through the kindness of the clergy, the church bells at Lea (6), Gainsborough (8), and Corringham (5), will be at the disposal of members that day. All members and persons interested in change-ringing are earnestly invited to attend. Societies or individual ringers intending to be present will please communicate at once with the Hon. Sec., W. LUNN, Market Rasen.

The Sussex County Association.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the next District Meeting will be held at Chichester during the month of January. GEO. F. ATTREE, Hon. Sec.

The Ely Diocesan Association.

OWING to the fact that it is inconvenient for the ringers of Wisbech to meet their brethren on New-year’s Day, the place of meeting is changed with the sanction of the Committee, and by the kind invitation of the Vicar will take place at Mildenhall, Suffolk, on January 1st, 1886. Members of the Association intending to be present are requested to send in their names without delay to the Hon. Secretary, K. H. SMITH, Cambridge Road, Ely.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. Mary’s, Woodbridge, Suffolk.

ON Thursday, the 10th inst., eight members of the Norwich Diocesan Association rang a peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (Holt’s Original) in

3 hrs. 14 mins. J. Fosdike, 1; W. Ward, 2; J. T. Howard, 3; W. P. Garrett, 4; E. Sherwood, 5; A. Acfield, jun., 6; C. Ward, 7; Peto Meadows (conductor), 8. Tenor, 28 cwt.

At St. John the Baptist’s, Erith, Kent.

ON Saturday, the 12th inst., eight members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang a peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (Taylor’s Bob-and-Single Variation) in 2 hrs. 59 mins. G. Hayes (first peal), 1; G. Conyard, 2; W. Martin, 3; F. Hayes (first peal), 4; B. Spinner (first peal), 5; F. French, 6; W. Harper (first peal), 7; J. Garard, 8. Tenor, 19 cwt.

At All Saints’, Fulham, Middlesex.

ON Saturday, the 12th inst., ten members of the Royal Cumberland Youths rang a peal of 5003 GRANDSIRE CATERS in 3 hrs. 10 mins. W. Baron, 1; C. E. Malin, 2; J. Rogers, 3; W. Coppage, 4; H. Swain, 5; N. Alderman (first peal of Caters), 6; H. Hopkins, 7; H. S. Thomas, 8; H. Dains, 9; J. Mansfield, 10. Composed by Mr. J. Cox and conducted by Mr. Baron. Tenor, 21 cwt., in E.

At St. Agnes’, Rotherham, Yorkshire.

ON Monday, the 14th inst., a peal of 5105 Stedman’s Caters was rung in 3 hrs. 27 mins. G. Briggs, 1; C. H. Hattersley, 2; F. Coates, 3; J. Atthey, 4; T. Whitworth, 5; T. Lee, 6; J. Hale, 7; W. Coates, 8; A. Rodgers, 9; W. Hurst, 10. Tenor, 32 cwt. [This peal is a corrected one of that which was rung on the 21st of November last.]

At All Saints’, Hertford, Herts.

ON Thursday, the 17th inst., eight members of the Hertfordshire Association (also of the Hertford Society of College Youths) rang a peal of 5120 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 23 mins. J. Cull, 1; J. G. Crawley, 2; W. A. Tyler, 3; M. Ellsmore, 4; H. Phillips, 5; S. Knight, 6; H. Baker, 7; H. J. Tucker, 8. Tenor, 22 cwt., in E flat. Composed by T. Day of Birmingham, and conducted by H. J. Tucker. [* First peal in the method.]

At St. Mary the Virgin, Baldock, Herts.

ON Thursday, the 17th inst., a quarter peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (1260 changes) was rung. T. Webb, 1; J. Phillips, 2; J. Cawdell, 3; J. Smith, 4; Robt. Jackson, 5; Richd. Jackson, 6; J. Roslyn, 7; G. Gentle, 8. Composed by W. A. Tyler, and conducted by J. Phillips. This is the longest length by any of the above, and also on the bells, which were opened in 1882. [Neither weight of tenor nor time given.]

At St. John the Evangelist, Wicken, Northamptonshire.

ON Friday, the 18th inst., a peal of GRANDSIRE DOUBLES was rung. G. Green, 1; A. Tyrrell, 2; M. Read, 3; E. Read, 4; D. Read, 5. It was rung under the direction of J. Read, and it is half a century since the village ringers rang a similar peal.

At St. Peter’s, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire.

ON Saturday, the 19th inst., a peal of 5088 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, composed by John Thorp, was rung in 3 hrs. 6 mins. J. Hopwood, 1; J. Harrop, 2; J. Sidebotham (conductor), 3; W. Smith, 4; T. Moss, 5; I. Schofield, 6; B. Broadbent, 7; G. Longden, 8. Tenor, 20 cwt.

At St. Mary’s, Bedford, Beds.

ON Saturday, the 19th inst., it being the first anniversary of the re-opening of the bells, six of the local members of the Beds Association rang a peal of 5040 changes, viz. 720 in each of the following methods:—WOODBINE, TREBLE BOB, KENT TREBLE BOB, OXFORD TREBLE BOB, COLLEGE SINGLE, OXFORD BOB, GRANDSIRE, and PLAIN BOB, in 2 hrs. 55 mins. S. J. Cullip, 1; J. N. Frossel, 2; T. Foote, 3; J. Atkins, 4; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 5; I. Hills, 6. Tenor, about 8 cwt.

The following is a summary of the complete 720’s rung on the bells, including the above, since Dec. 20, 1884:—PLAIN BOB, 13; GRANDSIRE, 6; OXFORD BOB, 7; COLLEGE SINGLE, 5; YORKSHIRE COURT, 1; COLLEGE LITTLE, 1; DOUBLE COURT, 1; OXFORD TREBLE BOB, 11; KENT TREBLE BOB, 11; WOODBINE TREBLE BOB, 5.

At Basingstoke, Hants.

ON Saturday, the 19th inst., several six-scores of GRANDSIRE DOUBLES were rung by the local company of St. Michael’s, with 6, 4, 8 covering, and the bells half muffled in token of respect to the late W. L. Selater, Esq., of Hoddington, aged 97 years. T. Higgins, 1; W. Tiller, 2; W. Sugg, 3; H. Poland, jun., 4; G. Capron, 5; H. Stocker, 6; H. White (conductor), 7; T. Wheeler, 8.

At St. Mary’s, Wimbledon, Surrey.

ON Sunday, the 20th inst., for morning service, a peal of 720 KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR was rung. G. Hyde, 1; E. F. Cole, Esq., 2; C. Hyde, 3; B. E. Battrum, 4; A. Garratt, 5; S. Frost (conductor), 6. Tenor, 11 cwt.

At All Saints’, Carshalton, Surrey.

ON Monday, the 21st inst., eight members of the Surrey Association rang Holt’s Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 58 mins. W. Burkin, 1; A. B. Carpenter, 2; E. Bennett, 3; W. States, 4; J. Ploverman (conductor), 5; C. E. Malin, 6; J. Harris, 7; J. Cawley, 8. Tenor, 12½ cwt., in G sharp.

At St. Clement Danes, Strand, London.

ON Monday, the 21st inst., ten members of the St. James’s (London) Society and the Yorkshire Association rang with the bells half muffled a peal of 5160 KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL in 3 hrs. 34 mins., as a last tribute of respect to the late Mr. J. W. Snowdon. J. W. Rowbottom, 1; F. E. Dawe, 2; C. F. Winney, 3; W. Hovord, 4; W. Baron, 5; G. Newson, 6; R. French, 7; H. Swain, 8; H. Dains, 9; J. M. Hayes, 10. Composed by Mr. Harrison and conducted by Mr. Hayes. [* Mr. Hovord was made a member of the Yorkshire Association before starting for the peal.]

THE CONVOCATION ELECTIONS.

The elections of the representatives of the clergy in the two Convocations are still proceeding. We give the results as far as they have been recorded, putting the names of the proctors for the Cathedral bodies in italics.

PROVINCE OF CANTERBURY.

CANTERBURY.—*Canon Rawlinson*, Canon Jeffreys, Canon Puckle.
LONDON.—Canon Cadman, Prebendary Brook.
BATH AND WELLS.—*Canon Bernard*, Prebendary Ainslie.
CHICHESTER.—Prebendary Stephens (for Archdeaconry of Chichester), Canon Campion (for Archdeaconry of Lewes).
ELY.—Canon Hopkins, Canon Macaulay.
EXETER.—Prebendary Kempe, Prebendary Sadler.
LICHFIELD.—J. T. Jeffcock, M. H. Scott (for Archdeaconry of Stafford), Prebendary Lloyd, C. W. A. Feilding (for Salop).
LINCOLN.—*Sub-Dean Clements*.
NORWICH.—*Canon Nisbet*, Canon Hinds Howell.
OXFORD.—*Canon Bright*, Canon Savory, Canon Freeling.
ROCHESTER.—*Canon Burrows*.
ST. ASAPH.—*Canon Howell Evans*, Canon Richardson, Canon Thomas.
SALISBURY.—*Chancellor Swayne*.
SOUTHWELL.—Canon Hole (for Notts), T. H. Freer (for Derbyshire).
WORCESTER.—Canon Douglas, Canon Bree (for Archdeaconry of Worcester).

PROVINCE OF YORK.

YORK.—*Canon E. J. Randolph*, *Canon G. Trevor*, T. J. Monson, Canon Machell (for the East Riding), H. A. Favell, W. W. Ware (for Archdeaconry of Sheffield), Canon Raine, F. W. Peel (for Archdeaconry of York), Canon Cumidge, J. Palmes (for Archdeaconry of Cleveland).
DURHAM.—J. Grey, Canon Tristram (for Archdeaconry of Durham), Canon Fletcher, Chancellor Espin (for Archdeaconry of Auckland).
CARLISLE.—Canon Ware, Canon Knowles (for Archdeaconry of Kendal).
CHESTER.—Canon Cooper, Canon Dodd (for Archdeaconry of Chester).
RIPON.—Canon Owen, Canon Ellison (for Archdeaconry of Richmond).
MANCHESTER.—W. Champneys, J. Rogers (for Archdeaconry of Blackburn), Canon Birley, Canon Hornby (for Archdeaconry of Manchester), S. Hastings, H. B. Hawkins (for Archdeaconry of Lancaster).
NEWCASTLE.—Canon Lloyd, Canon Dwarria.
LIVERPOOL.—Dr. Clarke, Canon Jones (for Archdeaconry of Liverpool).

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

The Surrey Association.

A QUARTERLY Meeting will be held at Mitcham on Monday, January 11th. The tower of the parish church will be open from four o'clock, and also the tower of Christ Church (6 bells). Tea will be served at 6 p.m., at the 'Bull Inn,' ringing members free; all others, 1s. 6d. a-head. It is particularly requested that all those who intend to be present at the tea will give in their names beforehand to their local secretaries, or to the Hon. Sec., not later than Wednesday, January 6th, in order that proper provision may be made. Members are reminded that their subscriptions for the year 1886 become due at this meeting.

ARTHUR B. CARPENTER, Hon. Sec.

34 Dingwall Road, Croydon.

On Thursday, the 24th ult., a meeting of this Association took place at Thames Ditton, members attending from the following places: Dr. A. B. Carpenter, Croydon, Streatham, Wimbledon, Norwood, and E. F. Cole, Esq., London; for the purpose of giving the young members of Thames Ditton a trial. After taking them through several six-scores, a company was formed and rang a peal of 720 KENT TREBLE BOB in 27 mins. H. Laffin, 1; R. Moss, 2; C. Hyde, 3; Dr. A. B. Carpenter, 4; D. Springall, 5; S. Greenwood (conductor), 6. Also 240 changes of CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE. H. Laffin, 1; R. Moss, 2; C. Hyde, 3; J. Strutt, 4; E. F. Cole, Esq., 5; S. Frost (conductor), 6.

Society of Change-ringers for the Archdeaconry of Stafford.

The next Quarterly Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 9, at Perry Barr. Members to assemble at the church at 2.30 p.m. The names of all who wish to attend should be sent as soon as possible to Mr. S. Reeves, 10 Bull Street, West Bromwich.

J. R. KEBLE, Hon. Sec.

Hertford County Association.

MEMBERS are requested to take notice that the next Quarterly Meeting will be held at Bishop's Stortford on Monday, January 11. Arrangements as usual. Dinner Tickets, 2s. each, to be had from the Local Secretaries. Certificates of Membership to be shown at the Railways. Subscriptions for 1886 become due on 1st January.

W. WIGRAM, General Secretary.

West Middlesex Association.

ALL Members are kindly requested to attend the Meeting on Saturday, the 9th inst., at 7.30, in the Schoolroom adjoining the church, Isleworth. Ringing in the tower at 6.30.

HENRY S. THOMAS, Hon. Sec.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. George's, Gravesend, Kent.

ON Tuesday, the 15th ult., eight members of the Kent County Association rang a quarter-peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 46 mins. W. Royston, 1; B. Spinner, 2; H. D. Davis, 3; W. Martin, 4; F. Hayes, 5; J. W. Aitkin, 6; W. Harper (conductor), 7; J. Allen, 8.

Also on Sunday, the 20th ult., after evening service, a peal of 720 BOB MINOR, with 6-8 behind. W. Royston, 1; H. D. Davis, 2; W. Martin, 3; G. Hayes, 4; B. Spinner, 5; J. Aitkin, jun., 6; J. Aitkin, sen., 7; W. Louth, 8.

At St. Peter's, Aylesford, Kent.—Dedication of a new Ring of Eight Bells.

ON Saturday, the 19th ult., the bells of this church, which were originally five, and have been augmented to eight at the expense of H. A. Brassey, Esq., of Preston Hall, were reopened. The work of recasting the third and tenor, and the addition of three new trebles, with new frame-fittings, &c., have been carried out by Messrs. Gillett & Bland of Croydon. The service commenced at 4 o'clock with a processional hymn. Lesson, Exod. xxviii. 31-37; Ps. 122; a short prayer being then read by the Rev. C. Grant, the vicar. In the interval before the sermon the following members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang a course of STEDMAN'S TRIPLES: J. Pettitt, 1; C. F. Winny, 2; G. Mash, 3; R. French, 4; E. Gibbs, 5; J. M. Hayes, 6; F. G. Newman, 7; E. Horrex, 8. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Canon Jelf of Rochester. After the sermon a touch of KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR was rung and the bells were fired. The Rev. C. Grant kindly invited the ringers and choir to an excellent meat tea at the 'George Hotel.' After partaking of the good things provided, the ringers were excused from the table, and the tower was again visited, when an excellent peal of 5088 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR was rung in three hours by the above-named ringers. It was composed by Mr. S. Wood and conducted by Mr. Newman.

At St. Mary's, Lewisham, Kent.

ON Tuesday, the 22nd ult., the following members of the St. James's Society, London, rang Taylor's Bob-and-Single peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 52 mins. C. E. Freeman, 1; W. Pead, 2; W. Weatherstone, 3; W. H. Freeman, 4; T. Taylor, 5; F. W. Thornton, 6; A. G. Freeman, 7; S. Gibbs, 8. Tenor, 22½ cwt., in E flat. Conducted by A. G. Freeman, and rung to celebrate his twenty-seventh birthday.

On Tuesday, the 29th ult., eight members of the St. James's Society rang Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 50 mins. F. G. Newman (conductor), 1; W. Pead, 2; W. Weatherstone, 3; A. G. Freeman, 4; F. W. Thornton, 5; T. Taylor, 6; W. H. Freeman, 7; W. H. Bowles, 8. This peal is the quickest on the bells, and was rung to celebrate the forty-eighth birthday of Mr. Thomas Taylor.

At SS. Peter and Paul, Milton, Gravesend, Kent.

ON Tuesday, the 22nd ult., six members of the Kent County Association rang a peal of 720 OXFORD TREBLE BOB MINOR in 26 mins. B. Spinner, 1; H. D. Davis, 2; F. Hayes, 3; W. Martin, 4; J. W. Aitkin, 5; W. Harper (conductor), 6. First in that method except J. W. Aitkin.

At St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol.—Muffled Peal.

ON Tuesday, the 22nd ult., a muffled peal of 1007 GRANDSIRE CATER was rung as a mark of respect to the late C. F. Hare, Esq., J. P., whose funeral took place on the above date. G. Stadon, 1; J. R. Jerram, 2; J. York, 3; C. A. Clements, 4; F. Price, 5; E. Duckham, 6; G. Morgan, 7; E. Beake, 8; J. Hinton (conductor), 9; J. Palmer and G. Daltry, 10. Tenor, 50 cwt. Messrs. Jerram and Clements are from Salisbury.

At St. Michael's, Sittingbourne, Kent.

ON Tuesday, the 22nd ult., eight members of the Sittingbourne Society rang a peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (Holt's Original) in 3 hrs. 10 mins. E. Gover,* 1; J. G. Elliott,* 2; E. White,* 3; J. M. Cooper,† 4; E. J. Bottle,* 5; S. Snelling,† 6; W. H. Judd† (conductor), 7; H. Sutton,* 8. [* First peal. † College Youths.] Tenor, 21 cwt., in E. The above peal was rung in honour of the wedding of F. Grayling, Esq., and is the first performed by the local society.

At St. Mary's, Walthamstow, Essex.

ON Thursday, the 24th ult., eight members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang Holt's Original peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 54 mins. W. Cookham, 1; J. H. Wilkins, 2; G. Grimwade, 3; T. Maynard, 4; R. Maynard, 5; J. Cullen (first peal), 6; F. G. Newman (conductor), 7; W. Crockford, 8. Tenor, 19½ cwt.

At St. Mary's, Tichmarsh, Northamptonshire.

ON Christmas Eve, at 9 a.m., two bells—first treble, 6 cwt.; second treble, 7 cwt., completing the octave—were added to the ring of six. The bells were dedicated by the Rector; the wardens, choir, and parishioners assisting at the service. The bells bear the inscription:—

‘In Mem. Florence Augusta Stopford,
Anici mei dedicaverunt. 1885.’

The first—‘Pax vobiscum.’ The second—‘Et cum spiritu tuo.’

The memorial includes a clock for the tower and Westminster chimes, to be fixed in January, the work of Messrs. Smith, Midland Iron Works, Derby. The bells are from the foundry of Messrs. Taylor, Loughborough. The re-adjustment of the ring and mounting of the new bells have been ably executed by Mr. George Eaton, Church Bell-hanger, Tichmarsh.

At St. Peter's, Brighton, Sussex.

ON Christmas morning eight members of the Brighton Branch of the Sussex County Association of Change-ringers rang a quarter-peal (1260 changes) of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 48 mins. E. Marshall, 1; J. Searle, 2; C. E. Golds, 3; H. Marshall, 4; C. Tyler, 5; G. F. Attree (conductor), 6; H. Parkhouse, 7; W. Vernon, 8. Tenor, 10½ cwt.

At St. Mary's, Old Battersea, Surrey.

ON Tuesday, the 29th ult., Holt's Original One-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES was rung in 2 hrs. 45 mins. by members of the Royal Cumberland Youths. W. Baron (conductor), 1; A. G. Thomas, 2; W. Coppage, 3; J. W. Mansfield, 4; H. S. Thomas, 5; H. Swain, 6; C. W. Ludwig, 7; W. Ambrose, 8. Tenor, 15 cwt.

NOTICE.—Several communications are unavoidably postponed.

Universities, the resemblance becoming greater as they grew into seats of learning. The monastery of St. Andrew at Rome, the institution which trained our missionary Augustine, who will form the subject of our next chapter, was a missionary college, and a place of training and education for the clergy. It was the monastery of Pope Gregory the Great, a Bishop of much zeal, who planned, and organized, and despatched to England a mission to the Saxons. This Gregory, well deserving of his title of 'Great,' was Bishop of Rome; and as it is common to speak of him as Pope, it is needful here to inquire into the meaning then attached to the word.

The title of Pope in those days conveyed a very different idea from that which now belongs to it. It was not then intended to represent one man claiming superiority over the whole Church—that was an invention of later times; the title was at this time, and for many centuries, given to all bishops alike, and simply meant 'Father.' Rome in the time of Gregory the Great was the chief city of the world, and its bishop was regarded with the utmost respect; yet when an attempt was made to designate him 'Universal Bishop,' setting him over all other bishops, and so over the whole Church, Gregory, as another had done before him, refused the title as un-Christian. Some seventy years after the death of Gregory, when, to decide a controversy, a Bishop of York appealed to a Bishop of Rome, the Archbishop of Canterbury, with the King and nobles of Northumbria, refused to acknowledge the right of the Pope to interfere in the affairs of the English Church, and punished the Bishop who had appealed to him. The title had, in the early ages of the Church, no such meaning as it afterwards acquired.

Another thing which it may be as well to note is, that we shall read of more kings than one in England, reigning at one and the same time, and over separate kingdoms in the one country. We must, therefore, bear in mind that the Saxons established in England seven kingdoms, each having its own independent king. Kent, for instance, of which we shall shortly be reading, was one of these kingdoms, and Northumbria, of which mention has just been made, was another; and the seven were not united for nearly two centuries and a half—not, indeed, until the year 827, two hundred and thirty-one years after the mission to the Saxons reached our shores.

The last thing to be noted here is one which needs, we will hope, but very few words of explanation: the mention of different Churches—as, for instance, the Eastern and the Western; or again, the Celtic and the Italian—as if they were distinct and unconnected bodies.

We must be careful not to fall into the error of supposing the Church of Christ to be actually divided, though in many points the various branches may differ from each other, and though some may fall into such deep and deadly error that they must needs be regarded as separated from others which have kept the truth. It is, as it were, like one family scattering over the face of the earth, one in kinship and in name, though the many members prefix to their own various additional names suited to the various countries of their adoption. Some members of this family, we will say, may have so departed from right that the others, while owning the relationship and feeling the tie of kindred, can hold no fellowship with them.

When we speak of the Church of the East and the Church of the West, we mean Christ's Church in those particular parts of the world; or now, rather, those whose customs and peculiarities are those of the East and of the West: while again, by the Celtic Church, we mean that portion of the Western Church which comprised the Celts; and by the British Church, that portion of the Celtic Church which was established in Britain. The error most common amongst us in this matter is, however, that which regards the word 'Catholic,' which means 'Universal,' and which properly signifies the whole great Church of Christ, East and West—the family name, in short, which belongs of right to the English Church as much as to any other, but which has been taken to itself by one, the Roman Church, as especially its own; while, on the other hand, other Churches—our own, for instance—seem

sometimes to have dropped this, their family name. So when we read in a former chapter of the good Bishops Germaunus and Lupus, who came over from France into Britain, confirming the Catholics, it meant what the word truly implies—members of the great Catholic or Universal Church of Christ.

There is another word, the word 'Priest,' which, strange to say, is by some regarded as a word belonging peculiarly to the Church of Rome; but on this point also we must clear our minds, as we shall frequently meet with the expression, and must remember that it is throughout the whole Church, and not in any one branch of it exclusively, in the English as well as in the Roman, the Scriptural title of a fully-ordained clergyman or minister of Christ.

Having concluded these needful remarks, we will pass on now to the next important point in our story—namely, the second Christian mission to Britain, the mission to the Saxons, which happily resulted in the permanent establishment of the Church in Britain.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

Brighton (St. Nicholas) Society of Change-ringers.

THE Annual Dinner of this Society took place at Brighton on Tuesday evening, the Rev. E. Riley (Curate of St. Nicholas) presiding. At the conclusion of the repast, letters of apology were read. The usual loyal toasts having been given and duly honoured, the Chairman gave 'The Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces,' to which Sergeant Wells and Mr. James Curtis (of 1st Sussex Rifles) responded, the latter remarking that he could not help thinking of one who had gone forth with great hope in the Master's cause, and who was now in great peril, Bishop Hannington; and he knew they all hoped that, with God's blessing, he might be spared as a member of the church militant to bring his cause successfully before a savage people. The Vice-chairman gave 'The Vicar, Clergy, and Churchwardens of St. Nicholas' in appropriate terms. The Rev. Chairman responded, and said the words of Mr. Curtis, with reference to Bishop Hannington, would live in his memory for many years; he greatly appreciated them, and was sure the feeling was shared throughout the Church. Mr. H. Boniface proposed 'The Sussex County Association of Change-ringers,' coupling with it the name of the Hon. Secretary (Mr. G. F. Attree), who, in reply, said that during the past twelve months the science of change-ringing had made more progress in Sussex than it had since the year 1800. They still had plenty of scope, for there were a hundred peals of bells in the county, and he saw no reason why three-fourths of these should not be put to their proper uses. They now had instructors teaching in places where change-ringing had not been practised for half a century, and with good results. The financial position of the Association was good, as they had nearly 50*l.* in hand. In point of numbers they were now the third largest Association in the kingdom. Mr. E. Tebbs proposed 'The Brighton Society of Change-ringers,' and Mr. Boniface replied. He said their Society was established when the bells in the tower were hung, in the year 1777, and the first peal was rung on Wednesday, December 31st, 1777. He hoped the time would come when a record of the peal would be placed in the tower. He acknowledged with thanks the kindness extended to the Society by the Vicar. Mr. Searle (the Captain) also responded, and said he hoped to bring the Society to a considerably higher state of efficiency. Other toasts followed, and the proceedings, which were of a most enjoyable character, closed at a late hour. Vocal music and hand-bell ringing were rendered by some of the company during the evening.

North Lincolnshire Bell-ringers' Association.

THE General Quarterly Meeting of this Association took place on Saturday last, at Gainsborough. The neat village of Lea was reached shortly after ten o'clock, and the six bells in the church tower were at once raised in peal, after which two 720's and peals of GRANDSIRE DOUBLES and BOB DOUBLES were rung. About twelve o'clock the bells were lowered and the company had a pleasant walk of a couple of miles to Gainsborough, where, after partaking of refreshment, they repaired to the fine old belfry of All Saints', where they met with a cordial reception from the Gainsborough brethren. The eight musical bells were raised, and touches of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES were rung at intervals by mixed bands. At three o'clock a company was despatched by road to the church at Corringham, whither the Association had been kindly invited by the Rev. W. F. W. Westbrook, vicar of the parish. Here again the new ring of five bells (by Taylor of Loughborough) were raised in peal, and several six-scores of GRANDSIRE and BOB DOUBLES were completed, some of the local band, as at Lea, visiting the belfry during their ringing. When the bells had been 'settled' the visitors adjourned to the Vicarage, where they partook of the Vicar's liberality, and subsequently entertained their worthy host and his wife with some handbell change-ringing: a course each of BOB MINOR, GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, and BOB MAJOR was rung, in which three of the Market Rasen brethren rang double-handed. The detachment then returned to Gainsborough for the business meeting, when they found the company had been augmented by arrivals from Lincoln and other places. After Divine service at the parish church, and an excellent tea, the Vicar of Gainsborough took the chair, and was supported by Sir Charles H. J. Anderson, Bart., of Lea

Hall, and other gentlemen. The Vicar said he was always pleased to welcome ringers, and to hear the bells, especially since they had been put in tune. He was sure that the people of Gainsborough were much pleased to welcome Sir Charles Anderson. He also spoke of the improvements that had taken place in his belfry since he had known it. Sir Charles Anderson said that he took great interest in bells, and was pleased to be present. He spoke with regret of the breaking up of the 'Lady Bells,' formerly hanging in the 'Lady' or 'Rood Tower' of Lincoln Cathedral, which ring of bells was the sweetest he had known. They were rung by chorister boys, and the ropes were brought down to the floor of the nave, and there fastened to rings in the piers supporting the Rood Tower. These rings had ignorantly been described as those to which the horses of Cromwell's troops had been tied after the siege of Lincoln in 1644. He also mentioned 'Old Kate,' a very handsome bell now hanging in the tower of St. Mark's, Lincoln; and also the disused chapel (formerly called 'Peal Altar') of the 'Ringers of the Guild of Our Lady,' in St. Hugh's Tower, and suggested its use as a centre for the ringers of the diocese. The Rev. C. E. Cockin remarked that the interest taken by Sir Chas. Anderson in bells was shown by his having presented Lea Church with what was practically a new ring of six bells. He spoke of the influence exercised by bells, the memories of youth they awakened in after-life, and he related a beautiful story he had heard told by Canon Morse. The Rev. A. G. Musson proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar and Churchwardens, Sir Charles Anderson, and the Rev. C. E. Cockin, for the honour their presence had conferred upon the Association. This was carried with acclamation. The Rev. A. G. Musson (vice-president) then took the chair, and the business of the Association was transacted. After a number of letters had been read, and the minutes of the last meeting confirmed, it was resolved that the General Annual Meeting be held at headquarters (Lincoln) on the 1st of May, unless another date were selected by the Committee, who should meet three weeks prior to that day. Mr. James Harris was unanimously elected a member of the Association. It was further resolved that the accounts should be audited, and a balance-sheet printed to be presented to all members of the Association, honorary subscribers, and the clergy. The Lincoln and Market Rasen brethren, with Mr. Harris, on their arrival at Lincoln, were enabled, through the kindness of the Rev. A. G. Musson, to ring a 720 of PLAIN BOB on the St. Peter's-at-Gowts bells; the peal was completed in a little over twenty minutes, and then the bells were lowered in peal.

Dedication of a Ring of Eight Bells at St. Peter's, Aylesford, Kent.

THE original ring of five has been increased to eight by adding three smaller bells; the sixth and tenor have been recast. The whole of them have been hung in an entirely new oak frame, with fittings, &c., by Messrs. Gillett and Bland, Croydon. The 'go' of the bells is excellent, and at the finish of the peal Mr. G. Oliver, the bell-hanger employed by the above firm, was highly complimented upon the work he had done.

The following is a copy of the inscriptions upon the bells (on the two recast the original inscriptions have been reproduced):—Treble, 'Henry. Arthur. Brassey. gave me, 1885' (new). 2nd, 'Cyril. Grant. Vicar' (new). 3rd, John. Manson. 5. Shaw, James. Cole, Churchwardens' (new). 4th, 'Michael. Darbie. made me, 1652. T. Madgin' (original). 5th, 'Michael. Darbie. made me, 1652. J. Bocherst' (original). 6th, 'R. Phelps fecit. Thomas. Goodman, John Taler, Churchwardens, 1708 (recast). 7th, 'Robert Kemsley, Philip Graye, Churchwardens. God save King Charles ye 2nd. 1661' (original). Tenor, 'Anthony. Bartlett made mee, 1666 (recast) Capt. Ward. Lieutenant Long, two of His Majesties Hoymen.' Tenor, 13 cwt. 2 qr. 7 lbs., in F.

The Birthday of an old Ringer at Rochdale, Lancashire.

A PARTY met at the Parish Church on Saturday, the 19th ult., to ring a peal of KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR in honour of Mr. Thomas Bamford, whose birthday was on the following day, when he reached eighty-two years. He had been a ringer sixty years. J. T. Lucas, 1; A. E. Wreaks, 2; J. Hoggard, 3; G. Hoyle, 4; S. Wood (composer and conductor), 5; A. Hurst, 6; F. Birtwhistle, 7; J. Harrison, 8. It was completed in 3 hrs. 18 mins. Mr. Bamford rang at the meeting-house the fifth and sixth bells in a course of GRANDSIRE CATERERS. On the following day, for morning service, the first half of Reeves' peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (2520) was rung in 1 hr. 25 mins. F. Birtwhistle, 1; J. T. Lucas, 2; T. Bamford (aged 82), 3; G. Hoyle, 4; J. Hoggard, 5; A. Hurst, 6; A. E. Wreaks (conductor), 7; J. Butterworth (aged 67), 8. Mr. Bamford was not fatigued with his exertions, and the ringers wished him many happy returns of the day. He is in full possession of his faculties, rings often for service, has a remarkable memory, and is active for his years.

The writer of this paragraph remembers Mr. Bamford, and conducted a peal in which he rang. The following is an account from the papers of the day:—*St Chad's, Rochdale, Lancashire.*—On Saturday, the 11th of July, 1857, a Friendly Company ascended the tower of the above church, and rang Holt's Ten-part peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, consisting of 5040 changes, in two hours and fifty minutes. The following were the performers:—Isaiah Clegg, 1; Thomas Ashworth, 2; J. R. Haworth, 3; Thomas Bamford, 4; Benjamin Clegg, 5; Robert Hampson, 6; Joseph Butterworth, 7; Thomas Ogden, 8. Conducted by J. R. Haworth. Tenor, 17 cwt.

Mr. S. Boby, of Lavenham, Suffolk.

MR. SAMUEL BOBY, who was a respected ringer of the above town for half a century, died on Saturday, December 5th, 1885, aged eighty-one years. He was buried on Friday, his bearers being ringers; and other members of the company, as a mark of respect, followed. Mr. H. Symonds, of Preston, who

was one of the company in the early ringing days of the deceased, of whom there are only three left, attended at the ceremony. After the funeral, at the church of SS. Peter and Paul, the local company rang a touch of BOB MAJOR, with the bells deeply muffled. T. Bruce, 1; C. Fisk, 2; W. Bruce, 3; A. Symonds, 4; H. Smith, 5; W. Snell, 6; J. Smith (conductor), 7; W. Moore, 8. Mr. Boby will be long remembered for his attention and kindness when ringers met at Lavenham, especially at the anniversary meetings, which Squire Proctor, of Benington, Herts, with ringers from London, Ipswich, and other places, have attended for many years.

An Incident at Henlow, Herts.

A RATHER curious incident happened in the Parish Church on Christmas Day. The parishioners were assembled for afternoon service, and the Vicar was about half-way through the Prayers, when suddenly, much to the astonishment of everybody, one of the large bells in the tower began to ring out quite cheerily; of course every one was immediately on the alert, wondering what had happened. The Vicar quietly went on with the service, and one of the ringers went up in the tower to see what was the matter, thinking, perhaps, that one of his company had fallen asleep and been left behind, and suddenly awaking had thought it to be his duty to ring the bell; but when he came up he found nobody there, the bell was steadily pealing away and no human hand was near it. If bells could think and reason, perhaps, it might have thought it was doing its duty, and helping to keep the Christmas Festival. The Vicar, at the close of his sermon, told the people there was no one found in the belfry, and that the bell was ringing of itself. The fact was, the bell had been left raised, the stay which supported it had given way, and the bell thus liberated had rung out of its own accord.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. Mary the Virgin, Stanstead, Essex.

ON Tuesday, the 15th ult., six of the local company rang a peal of 7:0 COLLEGE SINGLE MINOR in 25½ mins. J. Cavill (first 720 in the method), 1; J. Luckey, 2; H. Prior, jun., 3; G. Gray, 4; Isaac Cavill, 5; C. Prior (conductor), 6.

Also, on the 25th ult., a peal of 720 PLAIN BOB MINOR (14 singles and 4 bobs) in 26 mins. G. Prior, 1; W. Prior, 2; J. Luckey, 3; G. Gray, 4; H. Prior, jun., 5; C. Prior (conductor), 6.

Also, on New-year's Eve, a peal of 720 PLAIN BOB MINOR in 26½ mins., and 860 of OXFORD TREBLE BOB MINOR. W. Prior, 1; J. Luckey, 2; H. Prior, jun., 3; G. Gray, 4; Isaac Cavill, 5; C. Prior (conductor), 6. Tenor, 13 cwt.

The following is a summary of the complete 720's rung on the bells in 1885:—PLAIN BOB, 11; DOUBLE OXFORD, 6; OXFORD TREBLE BOB, 5; DOUBLE COURT, 4; KENT TREBLE BOB, 2; COLLEGE SINGLE, 2; in all of which H. Prior, jun., has taken part.

At Bishop Waltham, Hants.

STEDMAN'S DOUBLES and GRANDSIRE DOUBLES have been the order of the day and night at the above town, this Christmas and New Year. On Christmas morning, at 6 and 10.30, good striking was prevalent, and on New-year's Eve this branch of the Winchester Diocesan Guild rang a half-muffled peal, and welcomed the New Year afterwards with 'firing' and two well-struck GRANDSIREs, the bells being taken in the various peals by E. N. Garnett, sen.; E. N. Garnett, jun. (conductor); Mr. C. Brock (3rd and tenor in another peal); T. Shorney, 2;—Shorney, 4; W. Cook, 5; Hale, 6; W. Savage, treble, &c., and—, Whiteman, tenor, &c. The ringers partook of the usual one-o'clock 'breakfast' in the Rectory kitchen, and future hand-bell quartette-fixtures for the current year were settled. Mr. Chapman and G. Reeves, jun. (an Upham 'five-bell' ringer) were the guests.

At St. Giles's, Ashstead, Surrey.

ON Saturday, the 26th ult., eight members of the Surrey Association rang Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 59 mins. W. Webb, 1; G. Welling, 2; J. Plovman, 3; A. B. Carpenter (conductor), 4; W. States, 5; W. Marks, 6; T. Verrall, 7; A. Bruce, 8.

At Christchurch Cathedral, Oxford.

ON the 26th ult., a touch of 701 GRANDSIRE CATERERS was rung by J. R. Jerram, 1; W. Smith, 2; C. A. Clements, 3; J. Howes, 4; C. Hounslow, 5; S. Hounslow, 6; W. Baston, 7; T. Payne, 8; W. Washbrook (conductor), 9; A. Barney, 10. Tenor, 42 cwt.

Also, at St. Peter-in-the-East, a peal of 720 OXFORD TREBLE BOB MINOR. W. Finch, 1; C. Hounslow, 2; C. A. Clements, 3; J. R. Jerram, 4; W. Washbrook, 5; W. Baston (conductor), 6. Tenor, 11 cwt.

On the 27th ult., at St. Cross, Holywell, a peal of 720 KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR. J. R. Jerram, 1; C. A. Clements, 2; W. Baston, 3; T. Payne, 4; S. Hounslow, 5; W. Washbrook (conductor), 6. Tenor, 12 cwt.

Also, at St. Thomas ye Martyr, a peal of 720 OXFORD TREBLE BOB MINOR. W. Wakelin, 1; W. Washbrook, 2; J. R. Jerram, 3; C. A. Clements, 4; O. Thomas, 5; W. Baston (conductor), 6. Tenor, 8 cwt.

Notice.

In the change-ringing reports for last week we saw mention of the bells, in some cases having been 'fired.' We earnestly hope that we shall soon hear the last of this inharmonious and unscientific practice. In sound its result is simply a crash, and, from a practical point of view, the concentrated strain cannot be otherwise than most deleterious to the bell-frame.—Ed. C. B.

NOTICE.—Several communications are unavoidably postponed.

Churchmen, and its sittings had been protracted over four years. The agreement attained among its members encourages the expectation that their recommendations will be generally accepted by the Church in Ceylon.

THE Rev. H. Williams, C.M.S. Missionary at Krishnagar, complains that the *C.M.S. Intelligencer* condemns as a 'fatal error the attempting to amalgamate English Christians with native Christians in one common Church.' He objects to the formation of a separate native Church, and asks 'How far would the C.M.S. bind it down to the doctrine and discipline of the Church of England?' also how far the Society would extend support to the proposed Church, seeing that the C.M.S., by a fundamental law, binds its missionaries to establish among their converts the 'Gospel according to the doctrine and discipline of the Church of England?' He points out, moreover, that in Ceylon the C.M.S. missionaries are so far from advocating such a separate Church that they have just joined with the rest of the Diocesan Synod of Colombo in a declaration of resolve to maintain 'unchanged the doctrine, discipline, and formularies of the Church of England.' Mr. Williams thinks, however, that this declaration was too stringent, and that 'liberty will be lost if the Church of India binds itself with the same fetters as the Church in Ceylon.' Yet he might be comforted by reflecting that, as the Bishop of Colombo is canonically subject to the Metropolitan at Calcutta, so the Diocesan Synod is subordinate to the Provincial, and that therefore the declaration alleged is still liable to review.

THE most valuable of the Vedas, the *Rig-Veda*, is being translated into Bengali by Romesh Chunder Dutt. But the *Indian Witness* says that other champions of Hinduism have expressed a 'fear that the unveiling of the secrets of this mysterious book will destroy the veneration in which, as unknown, it is enshrouded.'

MADAGASCAR.

THE French have not succeeded in their attempts to conquer the great African island. They have, however, exacted a treaty which gives them—at least they say so—a 'protectorate,' and the same very questionable advantage has been conferred by them on the Comoro group. Meantime, non-Roman Christianity has been steadily advancing in Madagascar in its three forms—Anglican, Lutheran, and Congregationalist. Bishop Kestell-Cornish writes, 'We have in Antanrivo four schools, one of which acts as a feeder to the Theological.'

EAST AFRICA.

BISHOP HANNINGTON, who was consecrated for the oversight of the C.M.S. stations in East Africa, has been seized by the King of Uganda when within two days of that country. A rumour having come to Sir J. Kirk, British Consul at Zanzibar, that secret orders had been given for the Bishop's execution, he has sent an European with a caravan to prevent violence. It is said that the Uganda King suspected the Bishop of complicity in German schemes of further aggrandisement in those parts.

SOUTH AFRICA.

A LETTER from the eastern part of Cape Colony states: 'Although the political horizon is clearer, Church work here is still in many respects sorely tried. Drought, famine, scarcity of employment, increased taxation, outbreaks of smallpox and cattle disease, all combine to render this a critical time as regards both the outward well-being of the people and the success of missions.'

AMONG recent grants by the S. P. C. K. in aid of church building, has been one for Christianity in the struggling diocese of Pretoria (Transvaal). A medical man in practice started services there two years ago; he is now a candidate for ordination, and his congregation have bought a site, and are raising funds for a church.

EGYPT.

THE Association for furtherance of Christianity has decided to send out to Cairo the Rev. G. Greenwood and Mr. J. Sidley (recently a master at Lancing), in order to start the 'Gordon College' for education of Copts.

TURKEY.

THE Evangelical Alliance is acting usefully in calling attention to the persecution of Christians still continued by the Porte. Their Secretary states that the Turkish professor and his fifteen pupils, who for openly embracing Christianity were imprisoned, have since August last wholly disappeared. Another case is that of the Nusariya tribe in the mountains near Latakia. A large number of these had of late received the Gospel, but the Pasha of Damascus refused to register any change of religion, so that such of these as have been drafted into the Turkish army are forced to observe the rites of Islam. The Marquis of Salisbury has directed the British Ambassador to make inquiries and interfere for the sufferers.

THE *Jewish Intelligencer* says:—The Jews of Bagdad constitute one of the oldest communities. They are unquestionably descendants of the captives who, in the days of Zorobabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah, preferred the land of their exile to the home of their fathers: they still style themselves Jews of Babylon. At one time they had several famous schools and Rabbis, but gross ignorance prevails among them now. They retain a remnant of their former high position in the person of the Nazi, or Prince of the Captivity, though he possesses no more authority than any other rich Jew, but merely enjoys this title of courtesy as the head of the community. There are 16,000 Jews at Bagdad. Their number was larger at the beginning of this century, but in 1831 they suffered from the plague; besides which some hundreds of families emigrated to India (among them the Sassoons). However, nearly the whole trade of the town is under their control. The C. M. S. has recently renewed the former Mission of the Jewish Church Society here.'

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

Surrey Association.

A QUARTERLY MEETING was held at Mitcham on Monday, the 11th inst., the tower of the parish church of SS. Peter and Paul being open for ringing, and also that of Christ Church. The meeting was well attended, ringers being present from Ashted, Beddington, Croydon, Epsom, Kingston, Leatherhead, London, Mitcham (two churches), Streatham, Sutton, Thames Ditton, and Wimbledon.

During the afternoon at the parish church, besides shorter touches, a quarter-peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES was rung. G. Naish, 1; C. Slade, 2; J. Parslow, 3; A. Brockwell, 4; G. Gray, 5; A. Bruce, 6; J. Wright (conductor), 7; E. Milton, 8. While at Christ Church a 360 of BOB MINOR and a 360 of GRANDSIRE MINOR were performed, and also a 720 of OXFORD TREBLE BOB MINOR. J. Hawkins, 1; T. Miles, 2; J. Strutt, 3; J. Palmer, 4; A. Garrott, 5; S. Frost (conductor), 6. Tea was served at six o'clock at the 'Bull Inn,' after which the usual business meeting took place, E. F. Cole, Esq., occupying the chair. At this meeting twelve ringing members and three hon. members were elected.

After the meeting another visit was paid to the bells. At the parish church a touch of TREBLE BOB MAJOR and some GRANDSIRE TRIPLES were rung; and at Christ Church 360 of CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR. G. Bide, 1; J. Strutt, 2; C. Bide, 3; J. Parker, 4; A. Garrott, 5; S. Frost (conductor), 6.

ARTHUR B. CARPENTER, *Hon. Sec.*

The Lancashire Association of Change-ringers.

A QUARTERLY Meeting of the Association will be held at Heywood on Saturday, January 30th. The bells of St. Luke's Church (eight) will be at the disposal of the members from 2.30 p.m. The business meeting will take place in the Schoolroom connected with the Church, under the presidency of the Rector, at 6 p.m. Friends of members will be welcomed. Tea can be obtained at the 'Heywood Coffee Tavern.'

A. E. HOLME, } *Hon.*
J. REDFORD, } *Secs.*

Society of Change-ringers for the Archdeaconry of Stafford.

THE winter Quarterly Meeting of this Society was held on Saturday, the 9th inst., at Perry Barr. The following bands were represented:—Darlaston, Lichfield Cathedral, Lichfield (St. Mary), Perry Barr, Sedgley, Tamworth, Tettenhall, West Bromwich (All Saints), West Bromwich (Christ Church). A short service was held in the church at 3 p.m., after which the afternoon was spent in ringing. Tea was served in the coffee-house at 6 p.m. Many then returned to the tower, while some remained for hand-bell ringing. In addressing the members after tea, the Vicar, the Rev. J. R. Koble, spoke of the great loss which the Society had sustained by the death of its Treasurer, the Rev. J. J. Serjeantson, rector of St. Michael's, Lichfield; and the following resolution was unanimously passed at the Committee Meeting:—'That the members of this Society desire to record their deep regret at the loss which the Society has sustained by the death of its late respected and esteemed Treasurer, the Rev. J. J. Serjeantson, and to express their sincere sympathy with his widow and family in their bereavement.' Mr. Serjeantson was one of the original members of the Society, and from the first acted as Hon. Treasurer, and took a great interest in all its work and progress. It is proposed to hold the next meeting at Tamworth on May 1.

Waterloo Society, London.

THE election of officers for the ensuing year will take place on Wednesday, January 20th. Members' attendance requested.

H. J. DAVIES, *Secretary.*

West Middlesex Association.

MEETINGS arranged for the following Thursdays at 7.45 p.m. *Acton*: January 21. February 4; 18. March 4. April 29. May 6; 20. June 3; 17; 24. Also on the following Saturdays at 7.15 p.m. *Isleworth*: January 23. February 13; 20. March 6; 20. April 3; 17; May 1; 15; 29. June 19; 26.

A Question Asked.

SIR,—The opinion of those experienced in such matters is 'earnestly desired as to how much a church tower should vibrate or rock from side to side during the ringing of a set of ten bells; tenor, 33 cwt. During some restorations now going on in a well-known tower serious cracks have been found. These are attributed to the ringing, and I fear that consequently bell music may be silenced for ever, as the parish is a poor one.

58 Pitt Street, Peckham.

ALBERT JONES.

[Our correspondent does not mention the height of the tower or the position therein of the bells, both very important data.—*Ed. C. B.*]

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. Paul's, Walkden, Lancashire.

ON Christmas Day a peal of 720 BOB MINOR (18 bobs and 2 singles) was rung for morning service in 26 mins. W. Denner (conductor), 1; S. Oakes, 2; J. Welsby, 3; J. Williamson, 4; J. Potter, 5; J. Brookes, 6. Tenor, 13½ cwt. This is the first 720 for J. Potter, he only having been engaged in the art of change-ringing since June 1885. All are installed members of the Lancashire Association.

At Twickenham, Middlesex.

ON Saturday, the 26th ult., eight members of the Waterloo Society rang Hollis's Five-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 53 mins. W. H.

Manning, 1; W. J. Williams (conductor), 2; W. H. Fussell, 3; J. Barry, 4; A. C. Fussell, 5; A. Hayward, 6; W. H. George, 7; R. J. Williams, 8. Tenor, 21 cwt., in E flat. Messrs. Manning and George are from Pinner; Fussell (brothers), Slough; Williams (brothers), Richmond; Hayward and Barry, London.

At St. Kentigern's, Crosthwaite, Cumberland.

On Monday, the 28th ult., a peal of PLAIN BOB MINOR (18 bobs and 2 singles) was rung in 25 mins. on the six front bells. A. Wilson, 1; J. Nicholson, 2; I. Nicholson, 3; G. Nicholson, 4; W. Telford, 5; S. Hogarth (conductor), 6. This is the first peal for all who rang, and was accomplished without any other instructor than the valuable work of Mr. J. W. Snowden, which has enabled them to do this in a few months.

At All Saints', Duffield, Derbyshire.

On Monday, the 28th ult., eight members of the St. Paul's Society of Change-ringers, Burton-on-Trent, rang N. J. Pitstow's One-part peal of 5056 SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR in 3 hrs. 3 mins. J. Jaggard, 1; C. Hounslow, 2; J. Griffin, 3; J. Field, 4; H. Wakley, 5; A. P. Hleywood, 6; J. W. Washbrook, 7; W. Wakley (conductor), 8. Tenor, 17 cwt. This peal, which has never been previously performed, contains the fourth and sixth the extent in sixth's place, the fourth being twelve and the sixth nine course-ends there, the second never being in that place. All the above are also members of the Midland Counties' Association of Change-ringers.

At St. Andrew's, Litchurch, Derby.

On Tuesday, the 29th ult., eight members of the St. Paul's Society of Change-ringers, Burton-on-Trent, rang N. J. Pitstow's Three-part peal of 5088 SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR in 3 hrs. 16 mins. J. Jaggard, 1; E. T. Stone, 2; J. Field, 3; J. Griffin (conductor), 4; J. W. Washbrook, 5; C. Hounslow, 6; T. Holmes, 7; W. Wakley, 8. Tenor, 20½ cwt. This peal has never been previously performed.

At St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire.

On Wednesday, the 30th ult., eight members of the St. Paul's Society of Change-ringers, Burton-on-Trent, rang a Three-part peal of 5056 SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR in 3 hrs. 23 mins. H. Wakley, 1; J. Field, 2; A. Wakley, 3; J. Griffin, 4; C. Hounslow, 5; J. W. Washbrook, 6; T. Holmes, 7; W. Wakley (conductor), 8. Tenor, 26 cwt. This peal was composed by N. J. Pitstow, and has never been previously performed. It is the twenty-second peal on record, fourteen of which have been rung by the St. Paul's Society, Burton-on-Trent.

On Saturday, the 2nd inst., eight members of the St. Paul's Society of Change-ringers, Burton-on-Trent, rang J. Jaggard's Two-part peal of 5088 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 25 mins. H. Wakley, 1; W. Wakley, 2; H. Bastable, 3; J. Jaggard (composer and conductor), 4; J. W. Washbrook, 5; E. T. Stone, 6; T. Holmes, 7; A. Thomas, 8. Tenor, 26 cwt. This peal, which has never been previously performed, contains the fourth twenty-two times and the sixth twenty-four times in sixth's place, and is the first ever composed or rung with these properties in this number of changes. All the above are also members of the Midland Counties' Association of Change-ringers.

At St. Mary the Virgin, Putney, Surrey.

On Wednesday the 30th ult., eight members of the St. James' Society, London, rang Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 50 mins. W. Bidwell,* 1; B. D. Battrum,* 2; J. Basden, 3; C. W. Porter,* 4; C. F. Winny (conductor), 5; A. H. Taber,* 6; F. G. Newman, 7; S. How,* 8. Tenor, 16½ cwt. [* First peal. † First peal with a bob bell.]

At St. Mary's, Beddington, Surrey.

On Thursday, the 31st ult., the following members of the Surrey Association and of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang in 3 hrs. 18 mins. a peal of 5040 BOB MAJOR, composed by the late H. Hubbard C. Martin,* 1; J. Branch, 2; E. Bennett, 3; A. B. Carpenter,* 4; J. Trappitt, 5; C. Bance, 6; W. Burkin (conductor), 7; J. Plowman, 8. Tenor, 20½ cwt., in E flat. [* First peal of Bob Major.]

At St. Mary's, Hitchin, Herts.

On Saturday, the 2nd inst., eight members of the Ancient Society of College Youths and the Hertfordshire Association of Change-ringers attempted a peal of BOB MAJOR; but, after ringing two hours and a half, it was a failure. W. Allen, 1; J. R. Haworth, 2; N. Hills, 3; F. Furr, 4; H. Baker, 5; J. Pettit, 6; J. Hare, 7; F. G. Newman (conductor), 8. Messrs. Haworth, Pettit, and Newman were elected members of the Association before starting. Tenor, 28 cwt.

On New-year's Eve eight members of the Hitchin Society rang 224 and 336 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. J. Randall, 1; H. Buckingham, 2; J. Hare, 3; F. Furr, 4; A. Squires, 5; S. Hare, 6; W. Allen (conductor), 7; J. Foster, 8. Also, with the bells half muffled, for the departure of the old year, 350 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. The same band, J. Hare conducting.

At St. Peter's, Walworth, Surrey.

On Monday, the 4th inst., eight members of the St. James's Society, London, rang Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 43 mins. F. W. Thornton, 1; F. G. Newman (conductor), 2; J. Basden, 3; A. J. Keit, 4; H. Langdon, 5; T. Taylor, 6; J. Barry, 7; D. Newton, 8. Tenor, 14½ cwt.

At All Saints', Loughborough, Leicestershire.

On Tuesday, the 5th inst., the All Saints' Company rang a date touch of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (1886), composed by Mr. J. Carter of Birmingham. F. Farrow, 1; A. Cresser, 2; E. D. Taylor, Esq., 3; W. Durkinshaw, 4;

S. Smith, 5; J. W. Taylor Esq. (conductor), 6; J. Hardy, 7; E. Wightman, 8.

At Christ Church, West Bromwich, Staffs.

On Thursday, the 7th inst., the following members of the Association of Change-ringers for the Archdeaconry of Stafford rang a date touch of 1886 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 1 hr. 7 mins. S. Reeves, 1; B. Hill, 2; T. Horton, 3; J. Hall, 4; R. Hall, 5; W. R. Small, 6; C. Price, 7; C. Timms, 8. Tenor, 23 cwt., 3 qrs., in E flat. The touch, which has the 6-7 together for more than 1600 changes, was composed by Mr. H. Johnson, sen., of Birmingham, and conducted by Mr. Reeves.

At St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, London.

On Saturday, the 9th inst., eight members of the St. James's Society rang Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 58 mins. M. A. Wood, 1; J. G. Shade, 2; J. Gobbett, 3; R. French (conductor), 4; J. Barry, 5; A. Hayward, 6; W. H. Doran, 7; J. H. Monday, 8. Tenor, 14 cwt.

Also, at the same church on Sunday, the 10th inst., for morning service, a Quarter-peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (1260 changes) in 44 mins. C. Beech, 1; J. Barry, 2; M. A. Wood (composer and conductor), 3; H. Langdon, 4; T. Dupen, 5; A. Hayward, 6; J. West, 7; J. Dupen, 8.

At St. Michael's, Tylehurst, Berks.

On Monday, the 11th inst., the Reading branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild rang a peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (Holt's Original) in 3 hrs. 9 mins. J. M. Routh, Esq. (conductor), 1; G. Gibbard, 2; W. J. Williams, 3; T. Newman, 4; H. Egby, 5; the Rev. G. F. Coloridge, 6; W. Newell, 7; T. Harvey, 8. Tenor, 19 cwt., in E. This is the first peal on the bells, to which two trebles were added in 1885.

At St. Albans, Herts.

On Tuesday, the 12th inst., eight members of the Ancient Society of College Youths, being also local ringers and members of the Hertfordshire Association, rang Holt's Ten-part peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 9 min. T. Grant (first peal), 1; H. Lewis, 2; A. Godman, jun. (first peal inside), 3; W. H. L. Buckingham, 4; G. W. Cartmel, 5; A. Godman, sen., 6; N. N. Hills (conductor), 7; W. Battle, 8. Tenor, 30 cwt., in E flat. The above was rung to celebrate the conductor's birthday, and is the first peal he has called. It is also the first peal by a local band for nearly seventy-six years.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A Tower wanted for a Ring of Bells.

SIR,—Church Bells must surely be the proper organ for making known the want above stated. Great efforts are being made to rearrange, improve, and, if possible, enlarge by a chancel, the at present miserably inadequate church of Holy Trinity, Tredegar Square, E. The parishioners are very anxious about it, and are doing what they can; but they have little wealth among them, and we fear the much-needed chancel is a dream of the impossible. But a gentleman has offered a ring of bells if any one will build a tower to put them in. Now there is a chance for the readers of *Church Bells*. I shall be glad to give any information, and so will the Vicar, the Rev. T. Greaves.

W. WALSHAM BEDFORD, Bishop-Suffragan for East London.
Stainforth House, Upper Clapton, E.

Faringdon Churchyard, Berks.

SIR,—I should not have offered any remarks on the engraving of Faringdon Church which appeared in your issue of the 1st, had it not been for 'Nemo's' letter of last week, which has just been brought to my notice. I am not surprised to find that the engraving has conveyed to strangers a wrong impression. I never remember seeing the churchyard in such a neglected state as it is represented to be in the engraving. In time long gone by, it was a play-place for children, and for many years the grass was kept down by sheep. To many the system was objectionable, and I brought the subject forward at successive vestries, until an arrangement was made to cut the grass. Since then the graves in the old portion of the churchyard, now unused for burials, have been levelled, the grass is kept mown all the summer, several trees have been planted, and instead of being in a deplorable condition, I can safely say that very few parishes in England possess a more beautiful or better cared for churchyard than Faringdon. C. LUKER.

SIR,—In your issue of January 1st you gave an engraving of Faringdon Church. The church is one of the finest in the diocese of Oxford, and the churchyard, which is spacious and beautifully situated, is maintained at all times in good order. The grass is kept mown, flowers are cultivated over many of the graves, and strangers frequently express their admiration of its pleasant and cared-for appearance. You may imagine our surprise and regret, therefore, when your engraving appeared, representing long rank grass and weeds, and children gathering wild flowers as in a field. Then followed, in your last week's issue, the letter of 'Nemo,' who, referring to the engraving, says, 'The aspect of the grass, and the tumble-down condition of the grave-stones, lead to the conclusion that the graveyard at Faringdon must be in a deplorable state.' I assure him that it is by no means the case, as any one who knows the neighbourhood will be aware. Two friends at a distance, who sometimes visit me, have written in reference to the injustice which the engraving has done us in this respect. And I am sorry that it leaves wholly out of view the avenue of chestnuts leading from the churchyard gates to the principal door of the church. I have been in the parish five years, and have never seen the churchyard in the condition represented. I suppose

THE NORTHERN CONVOCATION.

THE following is a list of the two Houses as they are now constituted, under their various dioceses and archdeacons. The Proctors for the Cathedral bodies are printed in italics, and an asterisk is put to the names of new members:—

YORK—Archbishop Thomson.

Dean, Purey-Cust; Archdeacons, Crosthwaite (York), Blunt (East Riding), Yeoman (Cleveland), Blakeney (Sheffield); *Canons Randolph and Trevor*. YORK.—Canon Raine, Rev. F. W. Peel.* EAST RIDING.—Rev. T. J. Monson, Canon Machell. CLEVELAND.—Canon Camidge,* Rev. J. Palmes. SHEFFIELD.—Rev. H. A. Favell,* Rev. W. W. Ware* (new Archdeacons).

DURHAM—Bishop Lightfoot.

Dean, Lake; Archdeacons, Watkins (Durham), Long (Auckland); *Canon Evans*. DURHAM.—Hon. J. Grey, Canon Tristram. AUCKLAND.—Canon Falconer, Chancellor Espin (new Archdeacons).

CARLISLE—Bishop Harvey Goodwin.

Dean, Henderson; Archdeacons, Prescott (Carlisle), Cooper (Westmoreland), Crosse (Furness); *Canon Chalker*. CARLISLE.—Revs. T. Phillips* and W. H. Matthews.* WESTMORELAND.—Canons H. Ware and Knowles. FURNESS.—Canon Bardsley,* Dr. Hayman* (new Archdeacons).

CHESTER—Bishop Stubbs.

Dean (vacant); Archdeacons, Darby (Chester), Gore (Macclesfield); *Canon Hillyard*. CHESTER.—Canons Cooper* and Dodd. MACCLESFIELD.—Revs. J. E. Colyer and W. H. Lowder.

LIVERPOOL—Bishop Ryle.

Archdeacons, Jones (Liverpool), Bardsley (Warrington). LIVERPOOL.—*Canon Jones**, Canon Clarke. WARRINGTON.—Canons Carr and G. W. Warr.

MANCHESTER—Bishop (designate) Moorhouse.

Dean, Oakley; Archdeacons, Anson (Manchester), Hornby (Lancaster), Rawstone (Blackburn); *Canon Crane*. MANCHESTER.—Canons Birley and Hornby. LANCASTER.—Revs. H. B. Hawkins* and S. Hastings. BLACKBURN.—Revs. W. Champneys and J. Rogers.*

NEWCASTLE—Bishop Wilberforce.

Archdeacons, Hans Hamilton (Northumberland), Martin (Lindisfarne). NORTHUMBERLAND.—Canons Dwaris and Lloyd. LINDISFARNE.—Hon. F. Grey, Canon Ainger* (new Archdeacons).

RIPON—Bishop Boyd Carpenter.

Dean, Fremantle; Archdeacons, Cust (Richmond), Boyd (Craven); Canon Holmes. RICHMOND.—Canons Owen and Ellison. CRAVEN.—Canons Brooke* and Jackson.

SODOR AND MAN—Bishop Rowley Hill.

Archdeacon Moore and Rev. W. Kermode.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

A New Bell at Haughley, Suffolk.

ONE of the bells in the church tower having been cracked for some years, it has been recast, and lately men were employed in raising and rehangng the new bell. When finished a company of ringers rang some merry peals. The funds to defray the expense were raised by the friends of the late Mr. William Ebdon, who was forty-three years a surgeon in the parish, to whose memory the restored bell is inscribed. The conclusion of the year 1885 was celebrated by the ringing of the old year out and the new one in by a young company of ringers, assisted by one or two other ringers. From the inscription on the old bell it is presumed that it was given to the church by the then parishioners of the parish.

The Yorkshire Association.

THE February Meeting of the Yorkshire Association will be held at Rotherham, on Saturday, Feb. 6th. The Rotherham branch will provide tea for all members who signify their intention of being present at the meeting to Mr. John Hale, 'Three Cranes' Inn, High Street, Rotherham, not later than Feb. 1st.

W. WHITAKER, Hon. Sec.

The Sussex County Association.

THE next District Meeting will be held at Chichester, on Saturday, January 23rd. The Campanile will be open for ringing at eleven o'clock; luncheon at two; meeting at three; service in the Cathedral at four.

G. F. ATTREE, Hon. Sec.

CHANGE-RINGING.

The Ringers of Sudbury, Suffolk.

A SUPPER to the Sudbury bell-ringers was given on New-year's Eve at the 'Anchor' Hotel by a friend of Mr. R. Ransom. Mr. B. Ransom, Dr. Mason, and Mr. G. L. Andrewes, called in during the evening and had some hand-bell-ringing. The company of ringers afterwards adjourned to the tower of St. Gregory's, and rang the old year out and the new year in with 460 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES:—F. Tolliday, 1; W. Griggs, 2; J. Campin, 3; C. Sillitoe (conductor), 4; H. Harper, 5; A. Scott, 6; W. Howell, 7; H. Brackett, 8.

AT All Saints' on Sunday, the 3rd inst., before evening service, 504 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES were rung, and after service 704 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, F. Tolliday, 1; W. Campin, 2; C. Brown, 3; C. Sillitoe (conductor), 4; M. Bacon, 5; W. Howell, 6; A. Scott, 7; H. Harper, 8. Tenor, 28 cwt., in D.

At Colwall, Herefordshire.

ON Wednesday, the 6th inst., was rung a Date Touch of 1886 changes, consisting of 4 six-scores of PLAIN BOB, 8 of EXTREME, 3 of GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, and 86 extra changes. E. J. Beatty, 1; J. T. Horton, 2; Rev. G. M. Custance, 3; Rev. C. D. P. Davies, 4; A. F. M. Custance, 5; C. Pedlingham, 6. Tenor, 13½ cwt. Arranged and conducted by A. F. M. Custance.

At SS. Mary and Nicholas, Leatherhead, Surrey.

ON Friday, the 8th inst., ten members of the Winchester Diocesan Guild rang a peal of 6048 GRANDSIRE CATERS in 4 hrs. 4 mins. W. Messam,* 1; G. Sayer,* 2; H. Wood,* 3; C. Want,* 4; H. Newnham, 5; J. Hewett, 6; W. Marks, 7; E. Hall,* 8; S. Brooker (composer and conductor), 9; J. Lisney, 10. [* First peal of Caters.]

At Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford.

ON Tuesday, the 12th inst., eight members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild rang a peal of 5040 STEDMAN'S TRIPLES (Thurstan's composition) in 3 hrs. 21 mins. H. J. Castle, 1; F. A. Castle, 2; S. Hounslow, 3; C. Hounslow, 4; W. Finch, 5; T. Payne, 6; J. W. Washbrook (conductor), 7; J. Baker, 8. Tenor, 42 cwt., in C.

At St. James's, Weybridge, Surrey.

ON Saturday, the 16th inst., four clergymen and four laymen, of the Winchester Diocesan Guild, started for Holt's Original peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, but after ringing about 800 changes the peal was lost. As the time allowed for ringing was limited, it was too late to make a fresh start. They then rang a quarter-peal (1260 changes), which was brought round in 47 mins. G. H. Barnett, 1; Rev. W. S. Willett, 2; Rev. F. E. Robinson, 3; Rev. A. du B. Hill, 4; Rev. H. A. Spyers, 5; G. Williams (conductor), 6; J. W. Whiting, 7; G. Carter, 8. Tenor, 12½ cwt.

At the Church of St. Mary-the-Virgin, Old Eastbourne, Sussex.

ON Saturday, the 16th inst., four members of the Eastbourne Branch the Sussex County Association of Change-ringers, assisted by four members of the Brighton Branch, attempted Hollis' Five-part peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, but the attempt proved futile after ringing 4970 changes in 2 hrs. 57 mins. J. Searle, 1; F. Harding (conductor), 2; G. F. Attree, 3; C. Harfley, 4; C. E. Golds, 5; J. Jay, 6; T. Hart, 7; T. Lewis, 8. Tenor, 16½ cwt.

At the Parish Church, Olney, Bucks.

ON Saturday, the 16th inst., six members of the Bedfordshire Association rang a peal of 720 BOB MINOR in 33 mins. M. Warwick, 1; J. Atkins, 2; S. J. Cullip, 3; I. Hills, 4; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 5; J. N. Frossell, 6. Tenor, in E flat, said to be 36 cwt. Its dimensions are: width, 52½ ins.; depth, 41 ins.; thickness of sound-bow, 3½ in.

At St. Peter's, Palgrave, Suffolk.

ON Thursday, the 16th inst., six of the Diss Company rang a peal of 720 OXFORD TREBLE BOB MINOR in 26 min. E. Francis (conductor), 1; J. Rudd, 2; W. Matthews, 3; E. Hayward, 4; G. Webster, 5; J. Souter, 6. Also touches in the above method, in which E. Bertram and A. Hart took part, conducted by W. Ireland and J. Souter. Tenor, 9 cwt. in A.

At the Priory Church, Great Malvern, Worcestershire.

ON Monday, the 18th inst., a peal of 720 KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR was rung in 27 mins. E. J. Beatley, 1; J. Perks, 2; A. F. M. Custance, 3; W. Sprague, 4; Rev. C. D. P. Davies (conductor), 5; G. H. Phillott, 6. Tenor, about 17 cwt. This is the first 720 ever rung upon the bells.

At All Saints', Fulham, Middlesex.

ON Monday, the 18th inst., ten members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang a peal of 5079 STEDMAN'S CATERS in 3 hrs. 14 mins. J. Pettit, 1; J. M. Hayes, 2; E. Horrex, 3; C. Beech, 4; F. E. Dawe, 5; H. Reeves, 6; J. W. Taylor,* Esq. (Loughborough), 7; H. Baker, 8; C. F. Winny, 9; S. How, 10. Tenor, 21 cwt., in E flat. The peal has the 6th, 4th, 3rd, and 5th behind the 9th, and was composed by Mr. Johnson, sen., of Birmingham, and conducted by Mr. Dawe. [* First peal in the method. † First peal on ten bells.

At Carshalton, Surrey.

ON Monday, the 18th inst., the following members of the Surrey Association of Change-ringers rang a peal of 5088 TREBLE BOB MAJOR in the Kent variation in 2 hr. 58 mins. A. B. Carpenter, 1; E. Bennett (conductor), 2; J. Branch, 3; J. Harris, 4; J. Plowman, 5; J. Fayers, 6; C. Bance, 7; W. Burkin, 8. Composed by the late H. Hubbard. This peal was rung to commemorate the birthday of the conductor.

present dimensions could hardly have been foreseen, and now if the movement to reduce the interest on mortgages on landed estates prove successful, it must be a very serious matter. I believe this subject is engaging the anxious attention of the leading members of the Representative Body.

A special ordination was held in the Cathedral of St. Canice, Kilkenny, on Sunday last, January 24th, by the Lord Bishop of Ossory, Ferns, and Leighlin, when the following were admitted to the Holy Order of Deacon:—Vernon William Russell, A.B., T.C.D.; James Leyfrod Dwyer, A.B., T.C.D.; Sheffield Serrell Empson, A.B., T.C.D.; James Frazer Pillor, R.U.I. and Cam. Theol.; Lorenzo Hartstrong Weld, A.B., T.C.D.; John Theobald Trotter, A.B., T.C.D. The ordination sermon was preached by the Rev. Canon G. W. Rooke, A.M. (Precentor), and the candidates were presented by the Ven. the Archdeacon of Ossory, A.M. In the examination, which began on the previous Wednesday, the Bishop was assisted by his chaplains, the Archdeacon of Ossory and Leighlin, and the Rev. Canon Rooke.

Irish theological literature has just been enriched by the publication of several new volumes. First in importance are the *Ecclesiastical Lectures of the Right Rev. Dr. Fitzgerald*, late Bishop of Killaloe, in two volumes. These will be found a very valuable and substantial addition to the study of Church history. Then we have three volumes of sermons by the late Ven. William Lee, D.D., Archdeacon of Dublin, and Archbishop King's Lecturer on Divinity, T.C.D., the late Lord O'Neil, and the Right Rev. Dr. Alexander, Bishop of Derry, all of which deserve a large circle of readers.

The Rev. H. Kingsmill Moore, Principal, speaking at the distribution of prizes on Monday week to the successful pupils of the Church of Ireland Training College Practising School, drew attention to the great success these schools had attained. He said that within the space of one year the boys' school had gone up in numbers from 96 to 150, the girls' from 97 to 206, and the infants' from 73 to 128—a very remarkable increase. At the examination held under the Board of Religious Education the boys gained 100 per cent, being the largest gained by any large school in the diocese; the girls 83 per cent, being the third of the large schools. This shows what can be done in religious training in the half-hour allowed by the National Board. In the secular examination the percentage of passes and the amount of result fees were very large.

The day has not yet been announced for the meeting of the Armagh and Clogher Synods to make arrangements for the election of a Bishop. Several names are mentioned, but the probability is that the choice of the Synods will fall on the learned Dean Reeves, and that he will be chosen Primate by the bishops.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

St. Paul's Cathedral, London.

The bells will be rung on all Sundays throughout the year 1886 at 10 a.m. and 2.45 p.m. Also on the following days:—

Friday, Jan. 1 (New-year's Day)	9 to 10 a.m.
Monday, Jan. 25 (Dedication Festival)	9 to 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Wednesday, May 12 (Festival of the Sons of the Clergy)	2.30 p.m. & 5 p.m.
Monday, May 24 (Queen's Birthday)	9 to 10 a.m. & 7 p.m.
Thursday, June 3 (Ascension Day)	9.30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Sunday, June 20 (Queen's Accession)	9.30 to 10.30 a.m., 2.45 & 6 to 7 p.m.

Monday, Oct. (Harvest Thanksgiving Service—date not fixed) 6 to 7 p.m., and after the service.

Monday, Nov. 1 (All Saints' Day)	9 to 10 a.m. & 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 9 (Lord Mayor's Day)	1 p.m. & 6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 25 (Christmas Day)	9.30 to 10.30 a.m.
On Christmas Eve and New-year's Eve	11.15 p.m.

On the following Tuesday evenings at 8 p.m., for practice:—Jan. 26, Feb. 23, May 18, June 15, July 13, Aug. 10, Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 2, Dec. 28.

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association.

The Anniversary Meeting of this Association took place on Monday, the 11th inst., at Tewkesbury, when, owing to the snowy weather, only some thirty members attended. Divine service was held in the Abbey Church at 10.30, when the Rev. Canon Robeson (the Vicar) gave a suitable address, after which the business meeting was held in the vestry, the Rev. C. D. P. Davies presiding. Before dinner 168 of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, and some six-score of GRANDSIRE DOUBLES were accomplished. The dinner was at 'The Bell,' under the presidency of Canon Robeson, who was supported by the Revs. C. D. P. Davies (Master of the Association), F. E. Broome Witts (Hon. Treasurer), Pitt Eykyn (Hon. Secretary), F. Carbonell (senior curate of the Abbey), &c. The loyal toasts were duly honoured at the conclusion of the repast, and the healths of the various officers of the Association were then

given and received with much warmth. The Master notified that the Duke of Beaufort had preferred their Secretary, Rev. Pitt Eykyn, to a better living beyond the limits of the Diocese, though within easy access of Bristol, and that the rev. gentleman had spoken to him of resigning his connexion with the Association on that account, but had, at his desire, signified his willingness to still carry on the work of hon. secretary. An adjournment to the belfry was then made, where some excellent attempts were made at TREBLE BOB MAJOR and STEDMAN'S TRIPLES, the latter very good till within a few sixes of the end. Afterwards a start was made for a quarter-peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, and as our correspondent was wending his way homewards they were still going well, three quarters of an hour after the start. Members were present from Tewkesbury, Upton St. Leonards, Brockworth, Barnwood, Newnham-on-Severn, Tredington, and Deerhurst. Subscriptions for 1886 may be sent as usual to the Hon. Secretary, Rev. Pitt Eykyn, Ashton Gate, Bristol, who does not leave Bristol till Easter.

Midland Counties Association.

On Monday evening, the 18th inst., the ringers of the St. Andrew's Litchurch Society of Change-ringers met for their annual dinner at the Midland Hotel. There were present several of the clergy and other gentlemen, and after dinner the Chairman (Rev. R. Hey) said they were glad on that occasion to express their appreciation of the voluntary services of the ringers during the past year. He had to congratulate them on the progress they had made in the art of change-ringing during that time, and on their having accomplished, besides many shorter quarter-peals and touches, a complete peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 13 mins. He had no doubt that St. Andrew's belfry would continue to be in all respects a model of what a church belfry and a church society of ringers should be. Mr. Allen, Mr. Sutherland, and Mr. Osborne also gave suitable addresses. Mr. Shardlow, sexton, responded, after which touches of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES and BOB MAJOR were given upon the hand-bells.

The Waterloo Society, London.

The election of officers for the ensuing year took place at the Society's meeting-house on Wednesday, January 20th. The Master, Treasurer, and Secretary (Messrs. Baron, Malim, and Davies respectively) were re-elected, and Mr. Albert E. Church was elected Steward. HENRY J. DAVIES, Sec.

Kent County Association.

A DISTRICT Meeting is fixed to be held at Staplehurst on Monday, Feb. 15th. Members wishing to attend are requested to communicate with the Hon. Sec., Rev. R. K. Hugessen, 30 Cadogan Terrace, S.W.

Surrey Association.

THE Report for the year 1885 will shortly be published, price 4d., containing the balance-sheet, list of members, and records of performances. Members are hereby requested to inform the Hon. Secretary, through their representatives, whether they will require copies of the above.

34 Dingwall Road, Croydon.

ARTHUR B. CARPENTER, Hon. Sec.

Stoke Archidiaconal Association of Change-ringers.

MEETINGS for February:—6th, Uttoxeter; 20th, Stoke.

E. D. POLLOCK, Hon. Sec.

Royal Cumberland Society.

ALL Members will kindly oblige the Master by attending St. Martin's ringing-chamber, at 7.45 p.m. this evening, Friday, January 29th, or at the meeting-room, at 8.30 precisely. HENRY DAINS, Hon. Sec.

CALNE TOWN HALL, WILTS.—A large clock has just been erected here, which strikes the hours, chimes the quarters, and shows time on one five-foot dial. There is automatic apparatus to turn the gas up and down. It is fitted with all the latest improvements, and is a fine specimen of workmanship. The work was carried out by John Smith & Sons, Midland Clock Works, Derby, Mr. Baker, of Calne, acting as their agent.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At Cheddleton, Staffordshire.

THE following were rung by six members of the Stoke-upon-Trent Association as a last token of respect to the late J. D. Hargreaves, Esq., The Woodlands, near Leek, who was interred at Southport on Friday, January 15th. On Friday evening, the 15th inst., at the general practice, 1440 changes of BOB MINOR, comprising a peal of 720, with 16 bobs and 2 singles; and 720, with 9 bobs and 6 singles. The bells were deeply muffled. On Sunday, the 17th inst., for morning service, with the bells half muffled, a peal of 720 BOB MINOR, with 18 bobs and 2 singles; and for afternoon service a peal of 720, with 8 bobs and 6 singles. H. James, 1; E. Spower, 2; J. Gilbert, 3; H. Birch, 4; F. Clowes, 5; J. Renshaw, 6. The first three peals were conducted by F. Clowes, the last by J. Gilbert.

At Ash, Kent.

On Saturday, the 16th inst., six members of the Swanscombe Society visited the parish church and rang 720 GRANDSIRE MINOR in 26 mins., to celebrate the eighty-sixth birthday of Mr. G. Elcombe, who is the oldest inhabitant of the parish, and was sexton for many years. A. Cornford, 1; J. Brown, 2; W. Martin, 3; G. Hayes, 4; G. Martin, 5; W. Harper (conductor), 6.

At St. Peter's, Walworth, Surrey.

On Tuesday, the 19th inst., eight members of the St. James's Society rang Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 40 mins. W. H. Fussell, 1; J. Barry, 2; R. French, 3; W. Jones, 4; H. Langdon, 5; F. G. Newman (conductor), 6; H. Randall, 7; H. W. Flowers, 8. Tenor, 15 cwt.

At Christ Church, Spitalfields, London.

ON Wednesday, the 20th inst., a quarter-peal of STEDMAN'S TRIPLES (Thurstan's composition) was rung in 49 mins. W. Cecil, 1; G. McLaughlin, 2; Rev. F. J. O. Helmore (Canterbury), 3; E. Wallage, 4; C. F. Winny, 5; W. Greenleaf, 6; J. Pettit (conductor), 7; St. Joyce, 8.

At St. John's, Perry Barr, Staffordshire.

ON Saturday, the 23rd inst., the following members of the Association of Change-ringers for the Archdeaconry of Stafford rang Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 54 mins. S. Reeves (conductor), 1; R. Hall, 2; E. Cashmore, 3; T. Horton, 4; Rev. J. R. Keble, 5; W. R. Small, 6; T. Reynolds, 7; W. Cooper, 8. This peal was rung with the bells half muffled, as a last token of respect to the late Rev. J. J. Serjeantson, M.A., rector of St. Michael's, Lichfield, and also treasurer to the above Association since its commencement.

At St. Giles's, Camberwell, Surrey.

ON Saturday, the 23rd inst., ten members of the St. James's Society (London) rang a peal of 5147 GRANDSIRE CATERS in 3 hrs. 25 mins. T. Gover, 1; R. French, 2; H. Langdon, 3; E. Scott,* 4; E. Gibbs, 5; W. Jones, 6; J. Barry, 7; G. T. McLaughlin, 8; W. H. George,† 9; H. W. Flower,* 10. Tenor, 25 cwt., in E flat. Composed by Mr. R. Williams of Liverpool, and conducted by Mr. French. [* First peal of Caters. † First peal of Caters with a bob bell.] The ringers wish to thank the Vicar and Churchwardens, through *Church Bells*, for the use of the bells.

At St. John the Baptist's, Croydon, Surrey.

ON Monday, the 25th inst., eight members of the Surrey Association rang a peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (Reeves's Variation) in 3 hrs. 20 mins. W. Burkin, 1; E. Bennett, 2; H. C. Haley, 3; Arthur B. Carpenter (conductor), 4; W. States, 5; J. Trappitt, 6; T. Verrall, 7; S. Fisk, 8. Tenor, 32 cwt., in E. This peal was rung with the tenor clogged, as it is unringable. First peal on the bells by the Surrey Association.

At St. Matthew's, Kingsdown, Bristol.

ON Monday, the 25th inst., was rung several six-scores of GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 4-6 covering. A. Morgan, 1; T. Haddon, 2; W. H. Thomas, 3; — Andrew, 4; G. Stowell, 5; — Bendaw, 6; W. Sevier (conductor), 7; W. Hill, 8. Tenor, 21 cwt.

At All Saints', Fulham, Middlesex.

ON Tuesday, the 26th inst., eight members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 1 min. F. W. Kelley,* 1; J. W. Kelley,* 2; B. E. Battum, 3; C. F. Winny (conductor), 4; W. Weare,* 5; J. W. Driver,* 6; J. M. Hayes, 7; S. How, 8. Tenor, 21 cwt., in E flat. [* First peal.] All the above persons, with the exception of Messrs. Hayes and Winny, are members of the Fulham Voluntary Society of Change-ringers.

At St. Lawrence's, Barnwood, Gloucester.

ON Tuesday, the 26th inst., were rung 360 of ASSOCIATION EXERCISE MINOR, 884 of PLAIN BOB MINOR (part of the date touch), 120 STEDMAN'S. H. Barnes, 1; J. Yates, 2; G. Miles, 3; W. Sevier, 4; H. Mitchell, 5; A. Waite (conductor), 6. Tenor, 14 cwt.

RECEIVED ALSO:—H. Stokes (thanks—next week).

CORRESPONDENCE.

Church Reform and Diocesan Boards of Patronage.

SIR,—It is a source of great thankfulness to Churchmen, who see the gravity of the dangers around them, to notice how large a proportion of the clergy have come to believe that the immediate suppression of the sale of livings, of advowsons as well as merely of next presentations, is an absolute necessity, if the Church is to continue to retain her endowments. We see in London letters in the provincial press, in 'Notes and Comments,' in leading articles, and elsewhere in the columns of the newspapers of the great provincial towns (papers, by the way, which are quite equal to the London press, though Londoners may not think so), that Lord Salisbury's Government proposes to include in its programme a measure for the abolition of the sale of livings. We can only say that such a measure has been immensely needed, and that we did hope that Lord Beaconsfield's Government would have moved in the matter ten years ago, in which case the English Church would have been far more able to meet its enemies to-day.

But the question arises, Who is to exercise patronage? I suppose Diocesan Boards, somewhat as in the Irish Church, will be authorised to take over the advowsons which private patrons wish to dispose of. This is a natural suggestion, and in accordance with the late Report of the House of Commons Committee on Church Patronage. In the Irish Church, however, there are three parochial to three diocesan nominators, and in making the appointments the latter have not as much influence as might be desired.

In any such Boards of Patronage in the English Church, I trust that we shall have a Board for each archdeaconry, a diocese being too large an area, whereas in a smaller area the diocesan nominators would have a real acquaintance with the clergy. If the Diocesan Conference or Synod elects two laymen and two clergy for diocesan nominators, these, with the Bishop at their head, would form a Board of five. When a vacancy occurred in a parish, the churchwardens would be the representatives of the parish on the Board of Nominators, which would thus consist of seven. Of these seven, two would represent the parish to which an appointment was to be made, so

that the parish would have a voting power of two out of seven. Such a system would produce a rapid change in the feelings with which the people would regard both their incumbent and the Church of which he was a minister.

In Ireland the diocesan nominators, being only equal in number to the parochial nominators, have not sufficient power; as the latter hold the purse-strings, and are sure—all three of them—to attend the meetings for making the appointment. By such an arrangement as is here suggested for each archdeaconry, the parochial representatives would have a sufficient, and yet not an undue, influence. The Church of England is quite ripe for such a change as this, and the churchwardens will represent the parishioners very fairly well.

THETA.

P.S.—We Northerners often think you southern folk scarcely realise the greatness of the North, or the importance of public opinion there. 'What Lancashire thinks to-day, England will think to-morrow,' said the far-seeing Disraeli.

Laymen in Church Councils.

SIR,—Referring to the letter addressed by the Rev. J. Erskine Clarke to the *Times*, and quoted in your impression of the 4th instant, permit me to say that his opinion is not confirmed by our experience in the Irish Church. I do not say that the majority of our laymen are found ready to help in Church work, but I do say that there are many ready and willing to do so. Since Disestablishment some of the most leading men in Dublin have given, and continue to give, their time purely to the work of the Board of the Representative Church Body and the Diocesan Council of the Diocese. Amongst such laymen we have peers, judges, Queen's counsel, merchants, solicitors, &c., all working together, with the bishops and clergy, for the good of the Church. In our own Parish Councils, too, *i.e.*, the Select Vestries, we have laymen attending regularly to consult with the parish clergyman upon parish matters.

AN IRISH CHURCHMAN.

Attachment of the Working Classes to Religion.

SIR,—Having read the letter of Mr. C. Lloyd Engström, I merely desire to say that I adhere to my statements.

G. V.

The Late Charles Page Eden.

SIR,—J. R. C., in his most interesting sketch, which I read with much pleasure, intimates that C. P. Eden was a contributor to the *Tracts*. I will not in any way contradict this, but I remember his once stating that he had never read one of them. Of course, each statement may be true. I recollect his humour when, coming up Oriel Lane talking seriously with me, he burst into laughter as he pointed to a very black sweep purchasing a cake from a cake-woman, whose dress and whose cake-basket were very white and clean. The contrast as the black arm and hand were stretched out to the basket pleased his humour immensely. I would have sent this privately, but know not whom to address.

S. E. H.

The Church's Great Blunders.

SIR,—I cordially agree with the opinion of your correspondents that it is the duty of every clergyman to call upon, and make the acquaintance of, all his parishioners. But how can this be done in such a parish as this, which contains over 1150 houses, with a population, I believe, of more than 5000? Most of the people are poor or of the working class; a few are well-to-do, but we have, so far as I know, no rich or wealthy residents, and I, the Vicar, am singlehanded, and have been so since I entered upon this charge, fourteen years ago. We are in sore and urgent need of a curate, but are ourselves too poor to raise the whole sum required for his stipend. I have applied for help to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, to our Bishop, and to the Church Societies, but they cannot help us. My New-year's Address, which I enclose, will show that we are not afraid of hard work; but much work needs to be done, which I cannot even attempt for lack of power. Could not some system be organized whereby the rich churches should help the poor? Such help I know is given in many instances, and such help I earnestly desire for my own poor parish; not that I may be thereby relieved, or work less hard, but that the Church's work in this parish may be efficiently and thoroughly done. But who will help us, or to whom may I apply for help?

A LONDON PARSON.

Churchyards.

SIR,—When living in the seaside town of B., in the parish of B., on the South coast, I and others lamented the sad state in which our parish churchyard was kept. It was as much like as could be to what Faringdon is represented to have been when the photograph was taken—untended, unweeded paths, docks and thistles everywhere; headstones leaning in all directions, mixed up with handsome modern monuments, forming a scene of desolation and neglect. On making inquiry with one of the then churchwardens (only lately appointed), we were informed that the sexton was held responsible and ought to keep it tidier. With the venerable and much-loved vicar's consent, a small committee was formed. We found that the sexton's average earnings for digging graves, tolling the bell, and giving what time he could to the churchyard, averaged twelve shillings a-week. Instead of this we decided upon giving him eighteen shillings a-week all the year round for his whole time. For this he was to dig all graves, level down and fill up all unsightly inequalities, attend to all flowers planted on the graves, and, in fact, keep the churchyard as neat as a garden. In order to raise funds for this difference between twelve and eighteen shillings, the committee proposed that those who had an interest in a tidier state of things should make an annual subscription to a general fund. Five shillings a-year was the highest amount paid, half-a-crown and penny subscribers were more plentiful, but enough and more than was required was raised. The usual sexton's fees for bell-ringing and grave-digging were received by the com-

IRELAND.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

THERE is an absolute dearth of Church news at present. The interest in the political situation is overshadowing everything else. We feel, of course, that our Church is occupying a critical position, owing to the increased hostility manifested towards the landlords, the bulk of whom represent Protestant interests in this country. If the landlords are driven out of the country by any system of expropriation the Church can hardly survive the blow. Archbishop Walsh does not disguise that he has this cherished object in view, and it will not be the fault of the Romish hierarchy in Ireland if the plot does not succeed. Already not very obscure hints are thrown out that they will soon have the ancient ecclesiastical buildings, now in the possession of the Church of Ireland. Your readers may believe that the religious question in Ireland everywhere underlies the political one, Mr. Parnell notwithstanding. I believe I am correct in stating that this was the frequently expressed opinion of Lord Spencer when in Ireland. Of course there are optimists like Lord Plunket, but on the whole the most gloomy apprehensions are prevailing. It is a time when the General Synod of the Church might well be called together to consider the situation; but nothing has been done as yet in this direction. In the absence of united counsels individual Bishops have spoken out, and notably the Bishop of Meath.

The Committee of the Diocesan Board of Education, appointed to carry out a system for Sunday-school teachers, has co-opted six clergymen nominated by the Sunday School Society. In Dublin the afternoon course will be at four p.m. on Mondays, commencing on the first Monday in February, and the lectures will be:—Old Testament (February), Rev. James H. Walsh, D.D.; New Testament (March), Rev. A. W. Leet, D.D.; Church Formularies (April), Rev. C. F. Wilkinson, B.A.; Art of Teaching (May), Rev. H. Kingsmill Moore, M.A. The evening course of lectures will be on Tuesday evenings at eight o'clock, commencing on Tuesday, 2nd February, and the lecturers will be:—Old Testament, Rev. S. Hemphill, B.A.; New Testament, Rev. Dr. Leet; Church Formularies, Very Rev. the Dean of the Chapel Royal; and the Art of Teaching, Rev. H. K. Moore. The Committee of the Training College, Kildare Place, have kindly given the use of the schoolrooms for the lectures.

The fourth meeting of the present session of the Dublin Clerical Association was held at 37 Dawson Street on Monday, the Dean of the Chapel Royal, President of the Association, in the chair. After the usual study of the Greek Testament an interesting paper was read by the Rev. Dr. Poole, F.T.C.D., on 'The Relation of St. Luke's Gospel to St. John's, in which he developed the highly ingenious hypothesis that St. Luke derived his knowledge of the events of our Lord's life, which formed the basis of his Gospel, during a residence at the home of the Blessed Virgin and St. John in Galilee. He fortified his position by several very acute pieces of reasoning. The paper was afterwards discussed, mainly with approval, by the Revs. G. H. Garrett, S. Hemphill, S. L. Scott, Canon Russell, Dr. Carr, Dr. Carmichael, and the Chairman, &c. The paper is likely to be published.

The Archbishop of Dublin has consented to become the President of the Bruey Branch of the Irish Society in the room of the late Earl of Shaftesbury. This branch was founded by the late Frances Ridley Havergal.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

CHURCH BELLS AND BELFRY REFORM.

In the *Guardian* of January 27, the Editor has devoted two columns and a half to an able and interesting article by 'T. L. P.' in advocacy of church bells and belfry reform. We hail, it need hardly be said, with every feeling of satisfaction this 'new departure' on the part of our contemporary, and sincerely trust that it may be productive of much good to the Church, to ringers, and to the mutual relations between the Church at large and this branch of her service. The article is too long to quote fully, but our readers will doubtless be glad to be put in possession of, at least, an epitome of its contents. The writer begins by calling attention to the fact that in many places the belfry is still left in an unreformed condition, owing very possibly to the ill-repute in which ringing was formerly held. He then goes on to insist on the paramount importance of the clergyman (or other leading person in the parish) taking a practical part in the tower; and he mentions the facilities which exist at both Universities for acquiring the art. After speaking of the difficulty of forming a new company of ringers, and of getting rid of the old ones where they are not all that could be desired, he comes to the question of pay, and here we quote his remarks in full, as any contribution to the solution of this is always acceptable:—

'This question of payment is a difficult one, and I have not experience enough to offer a definite opinion. On the one hand, if the ringers are paid, you have more hold over them, and can enforce regularity of attendance, orderly behaviour, and obedience to rules by a system of fines; and it is better, perhaps, that they should be paid by the church authorities and on a definite system than that they should go round the parish at Christmas collecting money on their own account. On the other hand, a body of paid ringers are apt to become jealous and exclusive, and unwilling to admit younger men who may eclipse them; and as, if once

appointed, they cannot be dismissed except for misconduct, you may some day find yourself burdened with a set of old ringers who will neither learn anything themselves nor teach others. Upon the whole I incline to unpaid volunteers if they are to be had; and an annual outing or supper will help to keep them together. But no bond of union will be so effective as love of their art and ambition to make progress. Where none but men of the labouring class are available, it may be absolutely necessary to hold out the inducement of regular pay; but I would say, Do without it, if possible; and certainly begin without it.'

His comments upon the duty of the authorities in regard to the towers under their charge, though perhaps containing nothing new to many of our readers, are well and forcibly put. Advice of this sort cannot be too often repeated, and accordingly, we quote again:—

'The condition of belfries and bells is another matter which claims more attention from clergy and churchwardens (and, it must be added, from architects) than it sometimes receives. The belfry is too often dirty, dark, and inaccessible; the bells and their fittings are never looked at from one year's end to another. It is not necessary that a belfry should be carpeted and hung with pictures, as I have heard of in one case; but it should at least be kept clean and tidy, and a few texts or suitable couplets upon the walls will do no harm and may do good. And if the gear of the bells were oftener looked to, the bearings kept oiled, the fittings screwed up, and the ropes occasionally shifted an inch or two, there would be fewer complaints of the "bad go" of bells, and fewer catastrophes in a peal through the untimely breaking of a rope. These are matters which the steeple-keeper or head ringer should attend to; but if he is old, he will not climb-up to the bells oftener than he can help; and if a clergyman or churchwarden wishes to be sure that things are done, he had better give a look to the bells himself. But if anything serious is the matter, or a bell wants rehanging, beware, oh! beware of local talent. It is easier, no doubt, and cheaper to call in the neighbouring wheelwright or blacksmith, but unless he has had special apprenticeship in bell-hanging, the work may all have to be done over again. I heard some time back of a parish in which, when the church tower had been rebuilt and a ring of bells procured, their hanging was entrusted to the village blacksmith, in order to save the expense of employing a professional bell-hanger; but when hung, it was impossible to ring them, and the larger expense had to be incurred after all, in addition to the smaller. Bell-hanging, in fact, is a special trade; and though ordinary repairs, such as screwing up fastenings or mending pulleys, can be very well entrusted to a local workman, when it comes to rehanging a bell, professional and technical skill must be employed.'

The rest of the article is occupied with a brief but clear statement of the first elements of the science. A plain course of Grand sire Doubles is picked, with an explanation and definition of hunting up and down, place-making and dodging, whereby is proved that ringing is—

'(1) a mental as well as physical exercise, and (2) that its rules are not such as need overburden the memory. It is an art that is not unworthy the attention of cultured and educated minds, and yet it can be mastered, and is very thoroughly mastered, by comparatively uneducated men.'

A few treatises on ringing are named, together with the *Bell News*. 'Handbells are indispensable.' When, however, the writer says, 'In the Oxford diocese, and I believe, in some others' (the italics are ours), 'there is a Diocesan Guild or Association' (from which a qualified instructor may be procured), he evidently seems to be somewhat badly posted up in regard to what has been done, and to the exertions of those interested in this question for some years past. But enough has been said to show that he has not only hit the right nail upon its head, but has hit it well, and has quite made good his contention that 'Change-ringing is worth aiming at by any clergyman who finds himself in charge of a church with a good ring of bells, and that it is not to be learnt in a day; also, that the belfry and the bells still want more encouragement.'

Death of Mr. H. W. Haley.

Our readers will learn with regret that Mr. H. W. Haley died on the morning of the 29th ult. No name has been better known in the exercise for many years past than that of Mr. Haley, to whom we owe many good compositions in various methods; but whose fame rested even in a greater degree upon his exceptional powers as a practical ringer and conductor, whether in the tower or on the handbells. During the closing years of his life he laboured under the great weight of gradually increasing privation of sight, which prevented his taking any very active part among his brethren. But his name has been a power to the last, and the ringing fraternity has lost by his death both a good ringer and a good friend. He will be buried at Ilford Cemetery to-morrow, Saturday, the 6th, about 4 o'clock.

Dedication of Church Bells at Harpford, Devon.

THE little village of Harpford, situate one mile from Tipton St. John and about four from Ottery St. Mary, was recently *en fete*. The occasion was the dedication of a ring of five bells recently hung in the tower of the parish church (St. Nicholas), and it will long be recognised as a 'red-letter' day in the annals of Harpford. Formerly there were three bells in the tower, two of which were cracked, and the machinery was also in a very dilapidated condition. For a considerable time it has been the desire of the parishioners to have a respectable ring of bells, but no one cared to 'set the ball a-rolling,' or to bear the responsibility. In April of last year the project was mooted by Mr. and Mrs. C. James and Mr. W. Channon, who have now seen the consummation of their indefatigable efforts. The promoters of the project appealed for subscriptions, which were liberally responded to. Among those who rendered pecuniary assistance were Sir John Kennaway, Bart., M.P., Lieut.-Colonel Walrond, M.P., the Bishop of London, Sir Henry Peek, Bart., Mr. W. R. Coleridge, Mr. H. H. Peppin (Harpford), Mr. S. H. Peppin (Exeter), and Mr. G. G. Peppin (London). It was first of all contemplated to repair the three bells in the tower and add two more, but after reconsideration it was thought far more advisable to dispense with the old and have a new ring.

The bells, which were cast by Messrs. John Warner & Sons, Cripplegate, London, weigh as follows:—1st, 5 cwt. 2 lb., cast in E; 2nd, 4 cwt. 3 qr. 24 lb., D; 3rd, 5 cwt. 1 qr. 19 lb., C sharp; 4th, 6 cwt. 8 lb., B; tenor, 7 cwt. 1 qr. 27 lb., A. The contract, including the ordering of the bells and hanging them, construction of the cage, &c., was efficiently carried out by Mr. H. Stokes of Woodbury. About noon six of the Honiton Cyst ringers, under Mr. Broughton, arrived in the village and gave the opening peal. The bells were taken as follows:—S. Broom, 1; W. Reed, 2; G. Arscott, 3; T. Culley, 4; A. P. Broughton, 5. An adjournment was then made to Mr. James's house, where a large party partook of luncheon. On the removal of the cloth Mr. J. Yelverton, in the absence of the Vicar, proposed the healths of Mr. and Mrs. James and Mr. Channon, and on behalf of the parishioners thanked them very cordially for the trouble they had taken in bringing about such a memorable event. The campanologists again repaired to the belfry, and resumed ringing until three o'clock, when the Dedication Service was held. All the seats were occupied. The officiating clergy were the Very Rev. the Dean of Exeter, the Rev. C. E. Littleale (vicar), the Rev. R. Hardy, the Rev. T. Lowe (Colaton Raleigh), and the Rev. C. Rees-Price (Budleigh Salterton). Special Psalms were sung, and the hymns (*A. & M.*) were appropriate to the occasion. The Dean read the Dedication Prayers, and also preached the sermon, selecting as his text the first verse of the 122nd Psalm: 'I was glad when they said unto me we will go into the house of the Lord.' The very rev. gentleman said bells were in the first place intended to summon men together for the worship of God, and secondly for certain secular purposes. He regretted that bells were not rung for a short time before the administration of the Sacraments and Baptism, to give people notice that the great Sacrament of their Redemption was about to be celebrated. If there was a fashionable marriage the bells were rung, but he was of opinion that this should be done in the case of the poorest person. When he (the Dean) first came to Exeter many people complained of the Cathedral bells not being rung at Easter and other great festivals, but he was happy to say that these occasions were now greeted with merry peals. There was one person among them who had been to the great trouble of getting the bells for the parish, and he hoped they would be very munificent that day to show their sympathy with him, and not allow him to be inconvenienced by the trouble he had taken. Their aims would be given to reduce the debt on the bells, and he wished he could see them more than extinguish it.

The Society of Royal Cumberland Youths.—Peal-Book Presentation.

ON Friday evening, the 15th ult., the members in response to the notice in this paper attended in full force. Mr. Dains stated, that at the annual dinner recently held at Enfield it was mentioned (although not in the Report) that the Society would soon require a new peal-book. Mr. Henry S. Thomas, who takes a deep interest in St. Mary's belfry, Old Battersea, at once promised the required book—a promise which was cordially accepted by the members. That gentleman, with his usual promptness, at once put the work in hand, the result of his kindness now lying on the table in front of them. In presenting the book (containing 300 leaves and handsomely bound in olive-green morocco, with clasp and outer leather cover), with the following inscription, 'This peal-book was presented to the Royal Cumberland Society by Henry S. Thomas, January 1886,' Mr. Thomas said he desired to assist the Society as far as possible, not only in the advancement of the favourite art, but in finance also, by saving the Society's funds; and he trusted the members who possessed the necessary ringing power would all pull together in the future, and continue in the book the long and illustrious history of peal-ringing of which the Company can boast. The Master received the gift with many expressions of good will, not only to the donor, but to the Society also. Mr. George Marriott, thought to be the oldest member, proposed, Mr. John Rogers seconding, a vote of thanks for the handsome present which Mr. Thomas had come forward with that evening; a proposition in which Mr. W. Baron, Mr. G. Newson, and other members heartily joined. In response, Mr. Thomas said he was well pleased with the reception with which his present had met, and trusted he might be spared to ring many peals with the Society, so as to forward the filling of the pages. If these were completed during his lifetime, and he were then able to do again as he had just done now, he would be most happy, if the Society would accept it, to give them yet another peal-book for the insertion of their records. In conclusion, Mr. Thomas said he was anxious to see the Society's valuable records more secure in the future: although he well knew copy peal-books were kept, still the originals could never be reinstated; and no doubt at the next meeting he would tell them that perfect safety, through the kindness of a few members, would be secured to the Society's documents. After another hearty vote of thanks the meeting terminated.

The Sussex County Association.

A MEETING of this Association was held at Chichester on Saturday, the 23rd ult., when about sixty members were present, including the Rev. R. A. Hiel, M.A., rector of Parham; Rev. C. A. Clarkson, M.A., vicar of Amberley; Rev. R. F. Tompkins, vicar of Tortington; and the Rev. H. A. Spyers, B.D., of Weybridge. Luncheon was served at the 'Anchor Hotel,' after which a business meeting was held, Mr. Councillor C. Bartlett, Mayor of Arundel, presiding. After the transaction of some purely local business, it was determined to hold the next meeting at either Eastbourne or Cuckfield on March 6th, the final selection being left to a sub-committee. The certificate of membership was submitted, approved of, and ordered to be printed. This is really a work of art, consisting of sketches of nearly the whole of the churches in union with the Association, forty-six in number, tastefully arranged. The Right Hon. W. T. Marriott, Q.C., M.P., late Judge-Advocate-General, Mr. D. Smith, M.P. for Brighton, were unanimously elected honorary members of

the Association, as were also about twenty active members from Maresfield, Goring, Steyning, &c. This concluded the business, a hearty vote of thanks being accorded the Dean and Chapter of Chichester Cathedral for granting the use of the bells in the Cathedral campanile, and to the Chairman (the Mayor of Arundel) for presiding. The latter, in acknowledging the vote, spoke of the great pleasure it gave to occupy the position he did that day, but regretted that the Lord Bishop was unable to occupy the chair, as he was unexpectedly called to town. He was himself an active ringer, and hoped when his municipal cares were over to make still further progress in the science. Various touches of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, and a 720 BOB MINOR, were rung on the bells in the old campanile during the day. Weight of tenor, 24 cwt., in E flat. The belfry is a model of what a ringing-chamber should be; it is large, clean, and warm, and the walls are adorned with views of cathedrals, churches, and photos of the present and past Bishops of Chichester; a bookcase, containing many works on ringing, including several volumes of *Church Bells*, handsomely bound. The 'go' of the bells also is highly satisfactory, and reflects great credit on the steeple-keeper. A word of praise is due to Mr. G. F. Attree, the Hon. Secretary of the Association, for his indefatigable exertions to make the meeting a success, all his arrangements being carried out without a hitch of any kind. The number of ringing members is now nearly four hundred. [See *Church Bells*, vol. xv., No. 829.]

At St. Lawrence, Mereworth, Kent.

ON Monday, the 25th ult., six members of the Kent County Association rang seven peals of BOB MINOR, each called differently (5040 changes), in 2 hrs. 47 mins. A. Brooker, 1; G. Bell, 2; W. Eldridge, 3; G. Newman, 4; W. Bellingham, 5; F. G. Newman (conductor), 6. This is the greatest length rung on the bells. Tenor, 12 cwt.

At All Saints', Fulham, Middlesex.

ON Saturday, the 30th ult., ten members of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths rang a peal of 5039 GRANDSIRE CATERS in 3 hrs. 24 mins. W. Baron, 1; J. W. Mansfield, 2; H. J. Davies, 3; W. Coppage, 4; A. E. Church, 5; A. G. Thomas, 6; C. E. Malim, 7; H. Swain, 8; H. Dains, 9; J. Barry, 10. Tenor, 21 cwt., in E flat. Composed by W. Shipway and conducted by M. Baron. [* First peal of Caters.]

At Holy Trinity, Bolton, Lancashire.

ON Thursday, the 28th ult., a date touch of 1886 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES was rung in 1 hr. 5 mins. H. W. Jackson (conductor), 1; H. Bentley, 2; J. Walsh (composer), 3; T. E. Turner, 4; J. W. Critchley, 5; Mr. Russell, of Nottingham, 6; W. Hamer, 7; R. Lindley, 8. Tenor, 16 cwt., in F.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Choice of Canticles.

SIR,—‘E. F. W.’ writes to ask why, in many churches the Old Testament Canticles appear to be ignored, and speaks of them as ‘of equal beauty and help with the other Canticles.’ Is it not the case that many feel the New Testament Canticles of greater beauty and help? Perhaps it is wrong to draw comparisons between inspired compositions, but we always have a due portion of Psalms in our service, and I confess I feel it is better as a rule to add a new element, namely, a Christian Canticle, rather than add another Psalm to those already used. Certainly the service always seems to me overloaded with Psalms when both the Canticles are Psalms. I can hardly understand any one wishing at any time to exclude both the *Magnificat* and the *Nunc Dimittis* from evensong. One or other, if not both, should always be used.

W. W. B.

SIR,—In answer to ‘E. F. W.’ as we have the Old Testament Psalms for the day in the earlier part of the service, the New Testament hymns are more generally chosen for the Canticles.

G. B.

The Church of England.

SIR,—We want reform in the Church. It occurs to me that an immense evil exists in the obstinacy of the rule which enables our Bishops to reject those candidates for ordination who possess practical ability and zeal, combined with all necessary qualifications, simply, forsooth! because they lack the ‘B.A.’ or the ‘testamur’ of some theological college. What on earth has a degree in arts to do with the work of the ministry? The Nonconformists are wiser in their generation, for they ‘call’ men who have given proof of their power to preach the Gospel and to teach men without having these wonderful initials attached to their name.

Now, what is the result of our short-sightedness? Why, we get these ‘B.A.’ ministers as teachers who require to be taught by others, and over and over again we have to deplore the fact of a worldly or incompetent young man (but a B.A.) vainly trying to assume the pastor over ‘fathers in Israel!’ It will not do, depend upon it, and our Church will not successfully compete with the Dissenters in their power and method of attracting the masses. We show to a vast disadvantage. The Dissenting minister is an earnest and able man, with the gift of speech as an essential qualification, bent upon forwarding his cause religiously and politically to the very utmost, whilst the Church clergyman very frequently has neither the will nor the ability to make any great exertion for his Church and profession, notwithstanding his ‘B.A.’ If I were a Bishop I would refuse the higher ordination to any clergyman who could not stand up and deliver his message at a moment's notice. The deacons might read in church, but should not preach unless they had the gift of speech and possessed the power of attracting the attention of and interesting the congregation. This rule would have the effect of shutting the door to the heavy, apathetic, and indifferent aspirant to orders, and opening it to men who may see that the Church offers her hand to those

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

The Late Mr. H. W. Haley.

As we announced last week, Mr. Haley was buried on Saturday, the 6th inst., at Ilford Cemetery, about seven miles from London, on the Great Eastern Railway. Many ringers and friends were present: Mr. Dunn, and others, from Messrs. Warner and Sons; Mr. Waskett, late of Messrs. Mears and Stainbank; Messrs. Marriott, Gobart, Doran, and Randall, of the Cumberland Society; and Messrs. Dwight, Haworth, Cooter, Pettit, Routh, Hayes, Horrex, Jones, Dorrington, Winny, Clarke, Sewell, and Davis (from Barking, Essex), Hayward, Davidson (who brought a beautiful wreath of flowers), Rowbotham, &c., of the College Youths. After the service, Messrs. Rowbotham, Pettit, Cooter, Winny, Haworth, and Dwight—three on each side of the grave—rang a course of *GRANDSIRE CINQUES*, which made a deep impression on the large assembly. In the evening a muffled peal was rung at St. Michael's, Cornhill, by Messrs. Pettit, Cecil, Dawe, Jones, Haworth, Routh, Dorrington, Winny, McLaughlin, Clarke, Hayes, and Horrex; and afterwards three courses of *STEDMAN'S CINQUES*. Mr. Haley was in his sixty-seventh year, having been born in February 1819.

It is a curious coincidence, considering the mutual relation for nearly fifty years between the two ringers, with regard to composing, conducting, and ringing peals, that Mr. Haley should die on the same day of the month as Mr. Cox did exactly one year ago, the 29th of January.

Usually, when Mr. Haley took part in a long peal, he preferred to be the conductor and to call a composition of his own. As an instance of this may be cited a peal of *STEDMAN'S CATERS*, 5079 changes (his first of any method), performed at All Saints', Fulham, in 1842, by Messrs. Haley, Fairbairne, Goozee, Mash, Stockham, Haworth, Lobb, Golding, Tolladay, and Pratt. Of this band Mr. Haworth is the sole survivor, and well remembers this and many like incidents in Mr. Haley's career.

Besides the above muffled peal the following were rung:—

At St. Mary's, Whitechapel, on the 6th inst., by eight members of the College Youths.

At St. Dunstan's, Stepney, on the 7th inst., by ten members of the College Youths.

At St. Clement Danes, Strand, on the 8th inst., by ten members of St. James's Society. G. T. McLaughlin (conductor), 1; W. Chew, 2; J. Comb, 3; J. Basden, 4; H. Langdon, 5; W. H. George, 6; C. F. Winny, 7; H. Dains, 8; G. R. Banks, 9; J. M. Hayes, 10. Afterwards, a touch of *GRANDSIRE CATERS*. The above peal was rung for Mr. Haley and Mr. D. Newton, who was the Secretary of St. James's Society, and died on Monday, the 8th inst.

At St. Giles's, Cripplegate, on the 9th inst., by twelve members of the College Youths. J. Pettit (conductor), 1; A. Cutmore, 2; W. Cecil, 3; S. Joyce, 4; C. F. Winny, 5; W. Cooter, 6; J. R. Haworth, 7; G. T. McLaughlin, 8; E. Vinen, 9; W. Jones, 10; J. M. Hayes, 11; E. Horrex, 12. Afterwards, one course of *STEDMAN'S CINQUES*, for Haley and Newton.

Essex Association of Change-ringers.

A District Meeting will be held at Barking on Saturday, Feb. 27th. The belfry will be open at noon. A six-bell tower will be secured if possible. Tea at 4.30. Business meeting immediately after the tea. Members will be admitted to the tea at 6d. each, provided that they send in their names to the Secretary before Monday, Feb. 22nd. Return tickets to Forest Gate will be issued by the G. E. R. at a single fare and a quarter to all members who inform the Secretary before Feb. 22nd from what station they travel. Any ringers who wish to join the Association will be welcomed.

Raleigh, S. O., Essex, Feb. 11th, 1886.

H. A. COCKEY, Hon. Sec.

Society of Royal Cumberland Youths.

In response to previous notice, there was a large muster of members at the usual fortnightly meeting on January 29th. The chair being taken by the Master, Mr. A. H. Gardom, Mr. H. S. Thomas addressed the meeting. The members, he said, were well aware that extracts and copies of the older documents were kept, but for some time past the want of proper security for the originals themselves had been a source of anxiety. He had, therefore, much pleasure in drawing attention to the new iron safe which they saw standing before them, and which bore the following inscription engraved on a brass plate affixed to it:—This Safe was presented to the Royal Cumberland Society of Change-ringers by Messrs. A. H. Gardom, C. E. Malin, R. A. Daniel, E. F. Cole, H. A. Hopkins, Henry S. and A. G. Thomas. January 29th, 1886. John Tann, Maker, Newgate Street, E.C. The members who responded on behalf of the Society said that they had every reason to be proud of the very useful present that had just been given to them. It would secure safety for the Society's records, dating from the year 1745, and preserved whole and intact up to the present time. He hoped and firmly believed that the Society would fully maintain, if not increase, the efficiency which they had displayed for so long, and would never cease to occupy a position well to the fore in the art and science of ringing. After an inspection of the safe by those present, Mr. Dains, the Secretary, proposed a cordial vote of thanks to the donors, remarking that anything taken in hand by Mr. Thomas was sure of being brought to a speedy and successful issue. The Rev. B. Utten Todd, rector of Dunster, Somerset, was then duly proposed and seconded for election as a member of the Society. Mr. Todd, on being elected amid cheers, briefly responded, and thanked the members for the privilege they had conferred upon him. Later on Mr. Dains, the Secretary, on behalf of the Society, begged Mr. Thomas to accept a life-size picture of himself as a mark of their appreciation of the kindness he had always

shown them. In accepting this, Mr. Thomas said he hardly knew how to thank them. All his interests connected with ringing were wrapped up in the Cumberland Society, which might safely reckon on him to do anything in his power for its welfare in the future. Mr. Thomas resumed his seat amidst loud applause, and, after some business of a more private character the remainder of the evening was spent in music and singing.

Anniversary Gathering of the Oxford University Society of Change-ringers.

THE Anniversary of this Society was held on Tuesday, the 9th inst. By kind invitation from the Rev. F. E. Robinson, it had been arranged to start for a peal at Drayton, Berks, in the morning; and accordingly the Master (C. W. H. Griffith, C. C. C.), the Secretary (A. F. M. Custance, B. N. C.), and eight or nine other members met at the Vicarage between ten and eleven a.m. About noon a start was made for a peal of *STEDMAN'S TRIPLES*, which was well and successfully accomplished in 2 hrs. 56 mins. Rev. G. F. Coleridge (Keb. Col.), 1; Rev. F. A. H. Du Boulay (Keb. Col.), 2; Rev. W. Saltren Willett (Or. Col.), 3; Rev. C. D. P. Davies (Pem. Col.), 4; G. H. Phillott (Ch. Ch.), 5; J. Martin Routh (Magd. Col.), 6; Rev. F. E. Robinson (Ex. Col.), conductor, 7; A. F. M. Custance (B. N. C.), 8. On coming out of the church the band were met by Rev. G. M. Custance, rector of Colwell, Herefordshire, one of the guests of the day, who had arrived during the ringing of the peal. After lunch at the Vicarage, a long touch of *GRANDSIRE TRIPLES* and one or two short touches of *UNION TRIPLES* were rung. Particulars of these, as also of some ringing in Oxford in the afternoon of the previous day, will be forwarded for insertion in the next issue. The members present then walked to dinner at the 'Crown and Thistle,' at Abingdon, where they were joined by Rev. Dolben Paul, Hon. Sec. of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, who had been invited to be present, and by about a dozen other members. After dinner, the following toasts were proposed:—'The Queen,' proposed by the Master; 'The Church,' proposed by Mr. Phillott and responded to by the Rector of Colwell; 'The Army, Navy, and Auxiliary Forces,' proposed by Mr. Coleridge and responded to by the Secretary; 'The University Society and the Diocesan Guild,' proposed by Mr. Robinson. The first of these was responded to by Mr. Davies, and the second by Mr. Paul. The Master then proposed the health of Mr. Robinson, who had been the host of the Society in the morning, and had for so many years shown them much kindness. Mr. Robinson expressed the great pleasure it gave him at all times to help forward the Society. The tables were then removed. The rest of the evening was spent in handbell ringing, in the course of which were accomplished a course of *GRANDSIRE CATERS*, in hand, and a course of *STEDMAN'S CATERS*. A touch of *GRANDSIRE TRIPLES* was brought very nearly to a conclusion, as was also a course of *KENT TRIPLE BOB MAJOR*. During dinner a telegram was received from Dr. Carpenter, who had been invited, expressing his regret at being unable to be present. In the morning a letter had come to the same purpose from Captain Acland-Troyte, the founder of the Society in 1872.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. John's, Birmingham.

On Tuesday, the 2nd ult., a peal of 5088 *GRANDSIRE MAJOR* was attempted, but after ringing 2 hrs. and 5 mins. it came to grief, owing to a change course. J. Carter (conductor), 1; J. Parry, 2; H. Porch,* 3; G. Townsend, 4; W. Sevier,* 5; — Carmell, 6; A. Hackley, 7; J. Hinton,* 8. Also 360 of *BOB MAJOR*. F. H. Jones, 1; J. Parry, 2; H. Porch, 3; W. Small, 4; C. Barnacle, 5; J. Hinton, 6; J. Carter (conductor), 7; W. Sevier, 8. [* Members of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association.]

At St. Dunstan's-in-the-East, London.

On Monday, the 23rd ult., eight members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang Brooke's Variation of Thurstan's peal of 5040 *STEDMAN'S TRIPLES* in 3 hrs. 18 mins. S. Joyce, 1; W. Cecil, 2; H. Springhall, 3; E. Wallage, 4; E. E. Clarke, 5; J. Pettit (conductor), 6; W. Greenleaf, 7; J. Jones, 8.

At St. Peter's, Syston, Leicestershire.

On Monday, the 25th ult., eight members of the Midland Counties Association rang a peal of 5056 *KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR* in 3 hrs. 9 mins. A. Cresser, 1; J. W. Taylor, jun., Esq., 2; J. Howe, 3; E. D. Taylor, Esq., 4; Rev. W. W. Baker, 5; J. Ward, 6; Rev. W. C. Pearson, 7; A. P. Heywood, Esq. (conductor), 8. Composed by Mr. Dains.

At St. Peter's Mancroft, Norwich.

On Monday, the 25th ult., ten members of the Norwich Diocesan Association rang on the ten back bells 5000 changes of *KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL* in 3 hrs. 46 mins. J. Motts, 1; W. Motts, 2; F. Fiddament, 3; P. Sadler, 4; E. Pemberton, 5; J. Smith, 6; F. Knights, 7; J. Skinner, 8; A. Thomas, 9; Capt. A. P. Moore, 10. Composed by the late Mr. Jeremiah Miller and conducted by Mr. Motts. Tenor, 41 cwt. Messrs. J. & W. Motts came from Ipswich, Mr. Thomas from Birmingham, and Captain Moore from Redenhall; the rest are St. Peter's Mancroft ringers. [Which Mr. Motts was conductor? —Ed. C. B.]

On Saturday, the 23rd ult., Mr. Thomas and the Ipswich Company tried for a peal of *STEDMAN'S CINQUES* at St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, but broke down after ringing 4850 changes in 3 hrs. 37 mins., owing to a trip in the slow work.

At the Parish Church, Shenstone, Staffordshire.

On Saturday, the 30th ult., Vicars' six-part peal of 5040 *GRANDSIRE TRIPLES* was rung in 3 hrs. 5 mins. by members of the Society of Change-ringers for the Archdeaconry of Stafford, the bells being muffled as a last

mark of respect for the late Rev. J. J. Seargeantson, treasurer of the Society. E. Gallimore, 1; H. Meacham, 2; J. Key, 3; A. E. Greenwood, 4; R. Anniss, 5; F. J. Cope (conductor), 6; W. Fearneyhough, 7; C. North, 8.

At St. Michael's, Lichfield.

On Sunday, the 31st ult., a peal of KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR was rung in 27 mins., the bells being muffled as a mark of respect for the late Mr. J. Coxon, who was for many years churchwarden. F. Cope, 1; H. Meacham, 2; R. Anniss, 3; J. Key, 4; A. E. Greenwood, 5; W. Fearneyhough, 6.

At St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire.

On Tuesday, the 2nd inst., eight members of the St. Paul's Society of Change-ringers, Burton-on-Trent, rang T. Brook's Variation of Thurstan's peal of 5040 STEDMAN'S TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 8 mins. W. Wakley, 1; S. Gretton, 2; A. Wakley, 3; J. Griffin, 4; E. T. Stone, 5; T. Holmes, 6; J. Jagger (conductor), 7; H. Wakley, 8, Tenor, 26 cwt.

Also on Thursday, the 4th inst., eight members of the St. Paul's Society of Change-ringers, Burton-on-Trent, rang the same peal of 5040 STEDMAN'S TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 13 mins. C. H. Hattersley, 1; H. Wakley, 2; A. Wakley, 3; J. Griffin (conductor), 4; E. T. Stone, 5; T. Holmes, 6; W. Wakley, 7; Rev. J. Fish, 8.

Also on Tuesday, the 9th inst., eight members of the St. Paul's Society of Change-ringers, Burton-on-Trent, rang the same variation of 5040 STEDMAN'S TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 10 mins. H. Wakley, 1; J. Howe, 2; A. Wakley, 3; T. Griffin, 4; W. Wakley, 5; T. Holmes, 6; J. Jagger (conductor), 7; Rev. J. H. Fish, 8.

All the above are also members of the Midland Counties' Association of Change-ringers.

At St. John's, Perry Barr, Staffordshire.

On Saturday, the 6th inst., a peal of 5120 TREBLE BOB MAJOR in the Kent Variation, composed by the late Thomas Day, was rung by the Holt Society in 2 hrs. 8 mins. W. Cartwright,* 1; W. Kent, 2; H. Bastable (conductor), 3; J. Plant,* 4; B. Wicheell,* 5; M. Murphy, 6; C. Stanbridge, 7; H. Reynolds, 8, Tenor, 13½ cwt. in F sharp.

This is a one-part peal, and may be found in Mr. Snowden's *Treatise on Treble Bob*, Part II., page 52. 2w 2H are substituted for the sixth course to produce this number. [* First peal in the method. Thomas Reynolds' fiftieth peal.]

This is the second peal in the method on these bells, the first being March 29th, 1869. First peal in the method by the Holt Society.

At Holy Trinity, Stalybridge, Lancashire.

On Saturday, the 6th inst., a peal of 7200 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR was rung in 4 hrs. 32 mins. W. Smith, 1; H. Shaw, 2; E. Schofield, 3; J. Mellor, 4; B. Broadbent, 5; J. Schofield, 6; G. Longden, 7; S. Wood (conductor), 8. This peal is the greatest length yet obtained in twenty courses in a five-part peal. Composed in 1864 by Mr. R. Williams of Stalybridge, and now rung for the first time.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Unbeneficed Clergy.

SIR,—We hope you will be kind enough to publish the following list of names of unbeneficed licensed clergy, which have been sent to us to be appended to the petition claiming the right to vote at the election of Proctors to Convocation; which petition you inserted in your paper a short time back. It will be seen that the matter has not been taken up locally only, but has been in circulation throughout the Southern Province. As we wish this to be a really representative petition from the whole body of curates in the Province of Canterbury, we earnestly hope that signatures will be sent to us without delay, as the petition can be open for names but a short time longer. W. E. LAYTON, Curate of St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich.

A. H. HAYES, Curate of St. Matthew's, Ipswich.

C. H. EVELYN WHITE, Curate of St. Margaret's, Ipswich.

G. Allen, curate of Kelsale-with-Carlton, Saxmundham; A. S. Altham, curate of Holy Trinity, Taunton; Hugh J. Dunkensfield Astley, curate of Somerleyton-with-Ashby; Albert H. Ashwell, curate of Titchborne, Hants; H. Lowry Barnwell, curate of Holy Trinity, Taunton; Anthony Bathe, curate of St. Thomas', Regent Street, London; A. L. Becker, curate of Copdock and Washbrook, Suffolk; Richard Bond, senior curate of St. Peter's, Plymouth; W. Boyce, curate of All Saints', Ipswich; L. H. Bradford, curate of St. Peter's, Eaton Square, London; F. D. Brown, curate of Withnessam, Suffolk; J. Harry Buchanan, curate of Holy Trinity, Ilkeston; H. W. Barnaby, curate of St. Peter's, Eaton Square; Basil Burrows, curate of Weston-super-Mare; Richard H. Cantley, curate-in-charge of All Saints', Ipswich; George M. Clibbon, curate of St. Luke's, Old Street, City; W. J. Clapp, curate of Sidbury, Devonshire; W. Howard Coates, curate of Christ Church, Hampstead; W. T. Cobb, senior curate of Adlestone, Weybridge; A. M. Collett, senior curate of St. Mary's, Dover; E. Bathurst Cotton, curate of Portsea; G. A. Caxson, curate of Gillingham, Eye; H. Darling, curate of Holbrook, Suffolk; D. Davies, curate of Maesywmmr; J. Borbridge Doyle, curate of Eynsford, Kent; A. W. M. Drew, curate of Gainsborough; S. G. Edwards, curate of Leiston, Suffolk; Reginald H. Fison, curate of St. Peter's, Plymouth; J. R. Garrett, curate of St. Michael's, Ipswich; Augustus Gathercole, curate of Fulmodeston, East Dereham; Alec F. de Gex, curate of Lower Brixham; E. H. Grain, curate of St. John the Baptist, Eltham; Alfred Griffiths, curate of Ardleigh, Essex; S. T. Gwilliam, curate of Great Glomham, Saxmundham; R. H. Haddon, curate of St. Botolph's, Bishops-

gate; W. T. Haildsworth, curate of St. Peter's, Eaton Square; H. N. G. Hale, curate of Whitechapel; Arthur Hawkins, curate of St. George's, Kidderminster; T. Herbert Harvey, curate of Portsea; E. D. L. Harvey, curate of Croydon; Alfred E. Booker Hill, curate of All Saints', King's Lynn; E. B. Hill, curate of Ringwood; James Hipwell, curate of St. Augustine's, Kilburn; G. F. Holden, curate of St. Peter's, Eaton Square; E. W. Holmes, curate of Westhorpe, Stowmarket; Gerald M. Isaac, curate of Kidderminster; John Isabell, curate of Padstow; A. Osborne Jay, curate of Holy Trinity, Stepney; Walter Jenkins, chaplain of H.M. Prison, Ruthin; G. Harris Jones, curate of Portsea; W. J. Kendle, curate of Eye, Suffolk; W. E. Lane, curate of Belton, Great Yarmouth; G. A. Lewis, curate of Croydon; Lewis Lewis, curate of Aberystwith, Monmouthshire; J. Herbert Light, senior curate of Abingdon; Godfrey A. Littledale, curate of New Swindon; T. F. Lloyd, curate of Bligh Apton, Norwich; E. C. Lulley, curate of Oake, Taunton; C. Stewart Miller, curate of St. Peter's, Eaton Square; W. E. Mole, senior curate of St. Mary's, Crown Street, Soho; H. Moody, curate of Whittington, Oswestry; Walter Murcott, curate of St. George's, Kidderminster; J. B. Parker, curate of Chiselhurst; R. Ernest Payne, curate of Portsea; Rees C. Price, curate of East Budleigh with Budleigh Salterton; S. Sidney Pearce, curate of Woodbridge; R. S. Perry, curate of Dogmersfield, Winchfield, Hants; Augustine J. Pulling, curate of Cranbourne, Windsor Forest; D. C. R. Randolph, curate of Orford, Suffolk; L. H. Ransom, curate of Framlingham; Daniel Reakes, curate of Whitechapel; Oswald Rigby, curate of St. Giles', Cambridge; C. J. Stuart Rotten, curate of St. Barnabas', South Kensington; W. Russell, curate of St. Ives, Cornwall; H. A. Seres, curate of Aneley; T. M. Shaw, curate of Farley; J. Geo. Shotton, curate of Hagbourne, Berks; G. A. K. Simpson, curate of Kidderminster; Francis W. Small, curate of St. Peter's, Eaton Square; W. Morley Smith, curate of St. Cross, Harlesdon, Norfolk; J. E. Smithson, curate of St. John's, Leicester; F. de Soyns, curate of Clifton; J. F. Swann, senior curate of Tittishall, Wellingham, Norfolk; P. F. Syree, chaplain, Chatham Down Asylum, Canterbury; A. Scott Thompson, curate-in-charge of Saxted, Framlingham; G. H. Tremenheere, curate of All Hallows, East India Docks; J. M. Tucker, senior curate of Monmouth; Zouch H. Turton, curate of Horton-with-Piddington, Northants; Geo. S. Tyack, senior curate of Alford, Lincolnshire; W. M. Warlow, lecturer of Jones' Almshouses and chaplain to the Union, Monmouth; Wykeham H. Whiting, curate of Great and Little Chesterford; A. P. Wickham, curate of Rickingham, Diss; Francis W. Wigan, curate of Luddersdown, Rochester; W. Joell Wood, curate of Honiton; H. H. W. Wyndham, curate of St. Paul's, Southsea; Oswald P. Yerburch, curate of St. Peter's, Eaton Square; Gabriel Young, curate of Coddensham, Suffolk.

The Church's Great Blunders.

SIR,—Would that all our clergy would emulate the life and practice of the late Canon Eden, as noticed in your impression of the 22nd ult.; then half the difficulties attending Church Reform would disappear, and there would have been no need for the unhealthy, spasmodic efforts which were made a few months ago to 'educate' the new electorate. A parish under the care of such a man would not lack faithful defenders of the Church.

I can thoroughly sympathise with the young man mentioned by your correspondent, 'Rector,' being a clerk myself and similarly situated; and although it may appear like fault-finding to point out these defects, still we cannot shut our eyes to what we see around us. 'Happy are they that hear their detractions, and can put them to mending.' I had a conversation on the above subject recently with an old friend in a neighbouring parish. He said, 'I have been a reader of *Church Bells* from its commencement. It is a capital paper, and must be doing a great amount of good. It avoids extremes, and goes in for what is practical. I have been very much interested in reading the correspondence on the "Church's Great Blunders." We want plenty of men like Canon Eden.' A correspondent does well to say that the clergy who only visit the sick are teaching a dangerous lesson; and I have often wondered at what stage in sickness a man is expected to have arrived, before he is eligible for a visit. I have frequently been confined to the house for a month or more at a time. During such times, if the vicar or his curate have called, it has been usually on business, or, at the best, an ordinary 'morning call'; the topic of conversation being just such as you would expect to be started by any friend who might drop in, or even your grocer or your tailor; and yet I have lived in this parish nearly five-and-twenty years, been a regular attendant at church when my health permitted, a communicant, and Sunday-school teacher. One finds it hard to believe that a man really has the love of Christ in his heart, when it is never on his lips except in the pulpit.' I will only add with your correspondent, 'Rector,' 'Comment is needless.'

J. C.

Choice of Canticles.

SIR,—Have not your correspondents, 'A. F. W.', 'W. W. B.', and 'G. B.', overlooked the fact that a careful reading of the Rubric preceding the *Benedictus* shows that its use is not intended to be optional? On the contrary, it is distinctly ordered to follow the Second Lesson, 'except when it shall happen to be read in the Chapter for the Day, or for the Gospel on St. John Baptist's Day;' so that on these two occasions only is it proper to substitute the *Jubilate Deo*. There are undoubtedly very many churches where the latter has the preference, probably on account of its brevity; but this, I think, is unfortunate, both for the reason above stated, and also because the connexion between the *Benedictus* and the New Testament Lesson which it follows, is so complete and suggestive, and should not be lost sight of.

The *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis* are, as 'W. W. B.' and 'G. B.' remark, more suitable for Christian worship than the alternative Psalms, which, it should be remembered, were not inserted in their present position

The Rev. William Jameson intends to resign the incumbency of St. Philip, Miltown, near the city of Dublin, at the end of next month. Mr. Jameson has been in holy orders over fifty years, for forty-four years of this period in the united diocese of Dublin, and incumbent of the parish he is now about to resign since 1871.

The Bishop of Cashel (the Right Rev. Dr. Day) has been ordered by his medical advisers to proceed to the shores of the Mediterranean for his health. During his lordship's absence the diocese will be administered by the Bishop of Ossory.

The death is announced of the Rev. Samuel Green, Rector of Enniskillen.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

Guild of Devonshire Ringers.

Sir,—The Guild of Devonshire Ringers have undertaken to assist the Dean and Chapter to collect subscriptions to rehang the bells of Exeter Cathedral, in memory of the late Canon Ellacombe. This ring is the finest in the world, and it is at present so badly hung that it cannot be properly rung. About 800*l.* will be required to put the bells in proper order, without making any alteration to the present ring, or adding to their number. We venture to solicit the assistance of your readers for this important object. Subscriptions are payable to the Hon. and Rev. J. S. Northcote, or to the Cathedral Bells' account at the Exeter bank.

CHARLES A. W. TROTTE, *President G. D. R.*

JOHN S. NORTHCOTE, *Hon. Sec. G. D. R.*

[We heartily commend this. The Exeter bells, the heaviest in the kingdom, have surely a claim upon us all.—*Ed. C. B.*]

Surrey Association of Change-ringers.

WE have been favoured with a copy of the Third Report of this Association, being that for the year 1885. It opens with a list of the Officers and the Committee. The next page is devoted to a notice of the times of practice at the towers in union with the Association. This is a most useful piece of information, and doubtless proves itself of great advantage to the members. Then follow the Rules, and these are succeeded by the Report proper. From this we gather with much pleasure that the Association is in a very flourishing condition. New members, both honorary and performing, have joined, and, with one exception, the meetings have been very successful. Financially, too, the balance is at present well on the right side. We congratulate the Association on its progress in the number of peals. And some of these we note with particular pleasure are outside the common trio of methods; to wit—BOB MAJOR and UNION TRIPLES. One peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES was Holt's Six-part—a peal that would stand ringing oftener than is the case at present. We concur with the Hon. Secretary in thinking that a peal of Stedman's is a great desideratum. The remainder of the Report is occupied with the records of the peals, printed in all due form, the cash accounts, and list of members. We should like to suggest first one improvement, which is, that it is well to give the calling of all peals which are not thoroughly well known, and certainly of those which are rung for the first time. On the whole, we much congratulate the Surrey Association on their position and achievements, and the Hon. Secretary on his excellent Report.

New Chimes at St. Mary's, Hitchin, Herts.

THE contract for the new chimes has, through Mr. Robert Street, been placed in the hands of Messrs. Gillett & Co., of Croydon, who, we understand, are making good progress with the work. It is hoped that they will be erected by Lady Day. The contract for fourteen tunes, lasting a fortnight, one playing every three hours each day, amounts to about 290*l.* The legacy was 800*l.*, and would be reduced by Government duty to 270*l.*; but the difference has been generously made up by Mrs. Clarkson of Molesworth, the sister and administratrix of the deceased Mr. Pierson, under whose bequest the chimes are being restored.

The present arrangement is to be as follows:—Sunday, 'St. Oswald, 274;' Monday, 'Barbara Allen;' Tuesday, 'Robin Adair;' Wednesday, 'Sicilian Mariners' Hymn;' Thursday, 'The Last Rose of Summer;' Friday, 'Hazel Dell;' Saturday, 'There's nae Luck about the House;' Second Sunday, 'Psalm 104' (as before); Monday, 'Blue Bells of Scotland;' Tuesday, 'Drink to me only;' Wednesday, 'The Bailiff's Daughter of Islington;' Thursday, 'The Minstrel Boy;' Friday, 'My lodging is on the cold ground;' Saturday, 'Home, Sweet Home.'

A hole is to be made in the ceiling of the belfry that the weight may pass through in its daily descent to the floor of the church.

[We trust that this hole, and all the rest of the machinery, will be so planned as not in any way to interfere with the ringing.—*Ed. C. B.*]

Kent County Association.

A DISTRICT Meeting of this Society was held on Monday, the 15th inst., at Staplehurst, and attended by seventy-two members. A short service in the parish church began the day, after which a Committee Meeting was held at the Rectory, by kind permission of Dr. Reyner. The towers of Cranbrook, Wittenen, Headcorn, and Chart Sutton, were visited by various members of the Association during the day; and there, as well as at Staplehurst itself, ringing was kept up with spirit. It was decided at the meeting of Committee that the Annual Meeting should be held this year at Gravesend.

York Minster Bell-ringers.

THE members of the above Society kept their anniversary on Tuesday. In the afternoon they assembled at the Minster and rang the bells, and later

in the afternoon they journeyed to Acomb and sat down to dinner at the house of their conductor, Mr. G. Breed, the 'Sun' Inn. Mr. W. H. Howard occupied the chair and Mr. T. Hague the vice-chair. After the cloth had been removed various toasts were proposed. During the evening several songs, recitations, and tunes on the hand-bells, were well rendered by members of the company. It was also proposed to ask the Yorkshire Association of Change-ringers to hold their next meeting in York.

Muffled Peals in Memory of Mr. H. W. Haley and Mr. D. Newton.

At St. Mary's, Battersea, Surrey.—On Saturday, the 6th inst., eight members of the St. James's Society rang Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 52 mins., all their Christian names beginning with 'Henry.' H. Bright, 1; H. A. Hopkins, 2; H. Langdon, 3; H. J. Davies, 4; H. Swain, 5; H. S. Thomas, 6; H. J. Tucker (conductor), 7; H. Dains, 8. Rung for Henry Haley.

At St. John's, Waterloo Road, London.—On Wednesday, the 10th inst., eight members of the Waterloo Society rang the usual whole-pull and stand. W. Coppage, 1; W. W. Thorne, 2; H. J. Davies, 3; W. Tyack, 4; W. H. Buckingham, 5; A. Hayward, 6; W. H. George, 7; A. E. Church, 8. Afterwards, several touches of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.

At St. Peter's, Walworth, Surrey.—On Thursday, the 11th inst., eight members of the St. James's Society rang a peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (Holt's Original) in 2 hrs. 51 mins. W. Jones, 1; H. Langdon, 2; W. W. Thorne, 3; R. French (conductor), 4; A. Hayward, 5; J. Barry, 6; W. H. George, 7; H. W. Flower, 8. Tenor, 15½ cwt.

At St. Michael's, Cornhill, London.—On Saturday, the 13th inst., twelve members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang a peal of 5001 STEDMAN'S CINQUES in 4 hrs. 10 mins. J. Pettit (conductor), 1; W. Cecil, 2; F. E. Dawe, 3; W. Jones, 4; C. F. Winny, 5; J. M. Routh, 6; G. Dorrington, 7; W. Tanner, 8; R. French, 9; E. Gibbs, 10; J. M. Hayes, 11; E. Horrex, 12. Tenor, 41 cwt. Mr. H. W. Haley composed and conducted the same, being his last peal, on March 14th, 1885.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. Paul's, Woburn, Bucks.

On Saturday, the 6th inst., eight members of the St. James's Society rang Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 7 mins. G. Newson (conductor), 1; A. C. Fussell, 2; W. H. Fussell, 3; W. A. Garraway, 4; W. Wilder, 5; J. Barry, 6; W. H. George, 7; T. Woolford and J. Perryman, 8. Tenor, 18 cwt. The last peal rung on these bells was on June 15, 1843, by the same Society, when Holt's Ten-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES was rung in 2 hrs. 52 mins. by Messrs. Rogers, Clay, Stockham, Haworth, Tolladay (conductor), Burton, Hill, and Wall. The ringers thank the Rev. A. Woodin, vicar, through *Church Bells*, for the use of the bells.

At St. Gregory's, Sudbury, Suffolk.

On Saturday, the 6th inst., eight members of the Sudbury Company of Change-ringers rang a quarter-peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (1260 changes) in 50 mins. F. Tolliday, 1; W. Howell, 2; M. Silvester, 3; H. Harper, 4; W. Bacon, 5; C. Sillitoe, 6; W. Cross, 7; A. Scott, 8. Composed by Mr. E. Barnett of Monmouth, and conducted by Mr. C. Sillitoe.

At St. Martin's, Ruislip, Middlesex.

On Sunday, the 7th inst., eight members of the St. James's Society rang Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 58 mins. W. H. Manning, 1; A. C. Fussell, 2; G. Newson (conductor), 3; W. Wilder, 4; W. W. Thorne, 5; J. Barry, 6; W. H. George, 7; W. H. Fussell, 8. Tenor, 15½ cwt., in F. The ringers wish to thank the Vicar, the Rev. T. M. Everett, M.A., through *Church Bells*, for his kind permission to ring. Messrs. Manning and George belong to Pinner, Fussell Brothers and Wilder to Slough, and the other ringers to London.

[Personally, we have always upheld Sunday ringing; but it should be in moderation. Without attempting to say exactly where the line should be drawn, we may safely affirm that a peal of Triples is well beyond it. We regret to record this performance.—*Ed. C. B.*]

The Ringers of Clyst St. George at St. Thomas', Exeter.

On Monday, the 8th inst., the members of the St. George's band of Change-ringers visited the tower of St. Thomas and rang several six-scores of GRANDSIRE DOUBLES on the beautiful ring of six bells. The party consisted of the Rev. C. R. Chope, W. Greenslade, F. Smith, E. Beavis, H. Steer, J. L. Steer, and J. Potter, jun. The ringers were met at the tower by Mr. T. J. Lake, whose kind attention added much to their comfort and pleasure.

At Holy Trinity, Hurstpierpoint, Sussex.

On Thursday, the 8th inst., the parish branch of the Sussex County Association of Change-ringers rang a peal of 720 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES in 30 mins. A. Pierce, 1; T. Mansbridge, 2; H. Reeves, 3; T. Leney, 4; W. Lander, 5; J. Gander, 6; W. B. Davey, 7; H. Sayers, 8. The bells were rung half-muffled as a tribute of respect to Bishop Hannington, who was curate of St. George's, Hurstpierpoint, up to the time of his consecration as Bishop.

[In saying DOUBLES, our correspondent surely means TRIPLES.—*Ed. C. B.*]

At St. Mary's, Hitchin, Herts.

On Monday, the 15th inst., for practice, eight members of the Hitchin Branch of the Hertfordshire Association rang 1008 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 40 mins. J. Randall, 1; H. Buckingham, 2; J. Hare, 3; A. Squires, 4; F. Furr, 5; S. Hare, 6; W. Allen (conductor), 7; J. Foster, 8. Tenor, 28 cwt. This is the longest length by the local Company.

Dean of Dromore, and the Rev. A. C. Buchanan, were appointed treasurers, and a Committee was formed to receive subscriptions for the purpose.

The Rev. E. T. Lambart points out, in a letter to the *Daily Express*, that on the consecration of the *ad interim* Bishop of Armagh there will be no Archbishop to whom the new Bishop can make the declaration of obedience as required in the Form of Consecration of our Prayer-book.

It has been proposed to elect the Bishop of Peterborough patron of Trinity College Historical Society, as successor to the late Earl Cairns. The Bishop held the office of auditor during the year in which the Society came back to College after its period of enforced exile in consequence of taking up a strong political attitude. He was elected a Vice-President in 1867.

It cannot be a matter of wonder if the present agitated condition of the country is attracting the anxious attention of Church people. We really do not know what is about to fall on us. It is generally felt that the Home Rule Government in Ireland would be strongly antagonistic to Protestant interests. At a largely attended meeting of the parishioners of Sandford, an important suburb of the city, on Friday night, several resolutions were unanimously adopted protesting against any change in the government of the country that would place the minority of the people at the mercy of the majority. One of the resolutions so carried was the following:—'That in view of the trying position occupied by the Church we are of opinion that the Synod of the Diocese of Dublin should be convened to consider the attitude of the Church with reference to the present political changes, and we respectfully desire to bring the same under the notice of the ecclesiastical authorities.'

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

Surrey Association.

A DISTRICT Meeting of this Association will be held at St. Mary's, Battersea, on Saturday, March 6th. The tower will be open for ringing from five to eight o'clock.

ARTHER B. CARPENTER, *Hon. Sec.*

34 Dingwall Road, Croydon.

The Cathedrals of Dublin.

SIR,—For the information of your readers I wish to state, that of the two Cathedrals in Dublin (one of which, Christ Church, is supposed to have the finest ring of bells in Ireland) the bells are thirteen in number, and altogether weigh ten tons. The other Cathedral, St. Patrick's, has a ring of eight bells. The Roman Catholic pro-Cathedral does not possess a ring of bells. The assertion of a correspondent of yours some time back, stating that it possessed a ring, is therefore incorrect.

JAMES BUTLER.

18 Rutland Square North, Dublin.

Proposed Association for the Diocese of Hereford.

THE first meeting will be held in the College Hall, Hereford, on Tuesday, March 2nd, at 2 p.m. All ringing friends and others interested in the exercise are invited to attend. For further particulars of the proposed Association apply to the Rev. G. M. Custance, Colwall Rectory, near Malvern.

The Appleton Society, Berks.

THE members of this society intend to hold their anniversary, as usual, on March 4th. A peal of STEEDMAN CATERERS will be attempted at 10 a.m. Friends at a distance who wish to take part in it, are requested to communicate with Mr. G. Holifield, Appleton, Abingdon. Touches in various methods from 2 to 4 p.m. Dinner at the latter hour at Besselsleigh.

The Parish Church, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire.

A SHORT time ago the workmen engaged in taking down the tower of the parish church came upon a stone on which were the letters 'LE' and the figures '1413.' As nothing could be made of this inscription, no more was thought about it till another stone was found containing what proves to be the first part of the inscription. This consists of the name carved in Old English letters of Alexander Hyle, with the date 1413. Before the Christian name there is a representation of a butcher's cleaver, and between the Christian name and surname an imitation of a 'five-of-spades' playing-card. The local antiquarians think it confirmatory of a tradition connected with the building of the first tower in 1413. One form of this tradition is that, during that erection, a butcher bearing the above name was on one occasion playing cards with some companions near the church, and vowed that he would himself build a foot of the tower if the dealer turned up the 'five-of-spades.' This having been done, Hyle performed his vow, and had his name and the emblem of his trade carved upon one of the stones.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. George's, Gravesend, Kent.

ON Saturday, the 13th inst., eight members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 58 mins. W. J. Reeve, 1; G. Conyard, 2; F. Hayes, 3; G. Hayes, 4; F. French (conductor), 5; B. Spinner, 6; W. Harper, 7; G. Martin, 8.

At All Saints', Duffield, Derbyshire.

ON Saturday, the 13th inst., eight members of the Midland Counties Association rang a peal of 10,000 BOB MAJOR in 6 hrs. 1 min. G. Dawson, 1; S. Johnson, 2; J. Howe, 3; H. C. Woodward, 4; G. Hingley, 5; R. Bosworth, 6; R. Johnson, 7; A. P. Heywood, Esq. (conductor), 8. Tenor, 17 cwt., in P. It is the longest peal yet accomplished by the Association, and is believed to be the first exact 10,000 of BOB MAJOR on record.

At St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, London.

ON Monday, the 15th inst., eight members of the St. James's Society rang Holt's peal of 5040 BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 15 mins., being the first peal in the method by the Society, and by all the band. J. Davidson, 1; J. Waghorn, jun. (conductor), 2; W. Weatherstone, 3; B. Lucas, 4; E. E. Vinen, 5; J. Waghorn, 6; T. Taylor, 7; W. P. English, 8. Tenor, 22 cwt.

At All Saints', Loughborough, Leicestershire.

ON Tuesday, the 16th inst., a peal of 5056 TREBLE BOB MAJOR, in the Kent variation, was rung in 3 hrs. 25 mins. A. Cresser, 1; C. Smith, 2; R. Lane, 3; J. Hardy (first peal in the method), 4; S. Smith, 5; Rev. W. C. Pearson, 6; W. Birkenshaw, 7; J. W. Taylor, Esq., jun., 8. Composed by J. Lockwood, and conducted by J. W. Taylor, Esq., jun.: this was his first peal as conductor in the method.

At St. Peter's, Bradford, Yorkshire.

ON Tuesday, the 16th inst., the Bradford Amalgamated Branch of the Yorkshire Association of Change-ringers rang a peal of 5000 KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, in the Kent Variation, in 3 hrs. 20 mins. A. Moulson, 1; H. Raistrick, 2; J. Angus, 3; R. Tuke, 4; J. Broadley, 5; T. Pollett, 6; H. Needham (first peal in this method), 7; J. H. Harcastle, 8; J. B. Jennings, 9; W. Dartry, 10. Tenor, 27 cwt. Composed by J. Riley, and conducted by J. H. Harcastle.

ALSO on Saturday, the 20th inst., by members of the same Association, a muffled peal of 5000 TREBLE BOB ROYAL, in the Kent Variation, was rung in 3 hrs. 20 mins., in memory of the late H. W. Haley, a member of the Yorkshire Association of Change-ringers. A. Moulson, 1; J. Naylor, 2; H. Raistrick, 3; R. Tuke, 4; J. Broadley, 5; T. Pollett, 6; J. Fisher, 7; J. H. Harcastle, 8; J. B. Jennings, 9; W. Dartry, 10. Tenor, 27 cwt. Composed by C. H. Hattersley of Sheffield, and conducted by J. H. Harcastle. All members of the College Youths excepting W. Dartry.

At St. Michael's, Benington, Herts.

ON Tuesday evening, the 16th inst., the undermentioned members of the Benington (Herts) Change-ringing Society, and members of the Herts County Change-ringing Society, rang upon their musical ring of eight bells (Tenor, 14 cwt., in key of F sharp) an excellent touch of 1008 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, which was struck in admirable style. N. Warner, 1; J. Kitchener, 2; L. Proctor, Esq., 3; L. Chapman, 4; W. Hobbs, 5; J. Warner, 6; C. Shambrook, 7; S. Page, 8. The musical touch was ably conducted by Mr. S. Page.

A short time ago Mr. S. Page, one of Squire Proctor's cleverest ringers, passed away, leaving his band one short for ringing about ten methods; but we are pleased to know that two young men—Messrs. Warner and Hobbs—have joined the village company, and besides ringing the above touch are about to practise CAMBRIDGE and SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE.

At Sowerby, Yorkshire.

THE Society of Change-ringers of Christ Church, Little Town, Liversedge, paid a visit to St. Peter's, Sowerby, Yorkshire, and rang a peal of 5280 TREBLE BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 10 mins., with the 6th twelve times wrong and ten times right in 5-6, and the 5th ten times wrong and twelve times right in 5-6. G. Thornton, 1; J. Kott, 2; J. W. Lang; S. Goodall, 4; H. Brook, 5; T. Goodall, 6; L. Illingworth (conductor), 7; M. Ramsden, 8. Tenor, 15 cwt. Composed by Wm. Sottanstill, December 12th, 1885, in his 86th year, and rung on Saturday, February 20th, 1886.

[When a composition, not published before, is rung for the first time, we shall be always glad to give it side by side with the report of the peal.—*Ed. C. B.*]

At the Meeting-house, Derby.—Hand-bells.

ON Saturday, the 20th inst., at the meeting-house of the Derby Society, seven members of the Midland Counties Association rang a peal of 5040 PLAIN BOB TRIPLES on hand-bells, retained in hand, in 2 hrs. 40 mins. W. Shardlow, 1; T. Alton, 2; C. Hart, 3; A. E. Thompson, 4; G. Mottashaw, 5; J. W. Thompson, 6; H. C. Woodward, 7-8. Composed by Henry Hubbard and conducted by H. C. Woodward. Referee, Mr. Reuben Bosworth. The band met with the intention of starting for a peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES at St. Andrew's Church, but were prevented on account of illness in the neighbourhood.

Notice.

WE are informed that the peal of 7200 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, rung at Stalybridge on the 6th inst., was unfortunately a false composition. By an alternative calling in the first course in each part it may be rendered true. It is intended to attempt the performance of this true variation shortly. We heartily wish the ringers success.—*Ed.*

	2	3	4	5	6	M.	W.	H.
—	5	2	3	6	4			2
—	2	4	3	6	5	1		2
—	4	5	3	6	2	1		2
—	5	4	2	6	3			2
—	6	2	4	5	3			2
—	2	6	3	5	4	2		2
—	6	4	3	5	2	1		2
—	6	4	5	2	3			2
—	4	6	3	2	5			1
—	3	6	2	4	5	1		1
—	2	6	4	3	5			1
—	6	2	5	3	4	2		2
—	4	3	5	2	6			2
—	4	5	2	3	6			1
—	2	5	3	4	6			2
—	2	3	4	5	6			1

HEREFORD DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION OF CHURCH RINGERS.

A MEETING well attended by both clergy and ringers, amounting in all to somewhere near eighty, was held in the College Hall, Hereford, on Tuesday, March 2nd, to establish a Guild of Ringers for the diocese. The chair was occupied by the Rev. Canon Musgrave, Canon-in-residence.

After having briefly opened the meeting, the chairman called on the first speaker, *Rev. G. M. Custance*, rector of Colwall. In a very able speech, Mr. Custance put clearly before those present the objects of the proposed Association. These were, first, the greater glory and honour of Almighty God; promoted by, secondly, improvement in the ringing and ringers of the diocese, and a drawing closer of the bonds that bind them to the church, to the clergy, and to one another.

The next speaker, *Rev. F. E. Robinson*, vicar of Drayton, Berks, and Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, commenced by congratulating his hearers upon the goodly number that had mustered there that day—about ten times as great as that which met in Oxford, five years ago, to establish the Oxford Guild. This latter, he said, could now point to a roll of close upon 800 members, with ramifications all over the diocese. He could speak from experience of what had been done there, and of the vast amount of good that had been accomplished. The size and tone of the meeting to-day gave promise of an equal amount of fruit in the diocese of Hereford.

Mr. Robinson was followed by *Rev. C. D. P. Davies*, Master of the Gloucester and Bristol Association, who dwelt warmly upon the benefits gained by the clergy themselves being frequent visitors in their belfries, and, better still, by their becoming practical ringers, if possible.

G. H. Phillott, Esq., the next speaker, drew notice to the fact that ringers had it in their power to do good service to the Church in these dangerous days. In their constant communication with the clergymen they would have opportunities of gaining an insight into Church work, if not Church history, which would enable them to do much to counteract the pernicious pervasions of truth so sedulously spread abroad by the enemies of the Church.

The *Rev. Prebendary Phillott* proposed the first resolution,—‘That an Association of Church Change-ringers be formed for the diocese of Hereford.’ He spoke of the superiority of change-ringing compared with the monotony of rounds. The motion was seconded by the *Rev. D. Seaton*, and carried unanimously.

The next motion—‘That Prebendary Phillott’ (who had to go to the train immediately after speaking) ‘be requested to write and ask the Bishop to accept the office of President’—was proposed by *Rev. G. Curtis*, seconded by *Rev. W. Hulme*, and carried unanimously.

The *Rev. W. Stanhope* then proposed, and the *Rev. C. Wilton* seconded, a resolution: ‘That a Committee (whose names, about twelve in number, were read out) be appointed to nominate officers and formulate rules for adoption by the Guild.’—Carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks was then proposed by *Rev. J. F. Marvillier*, and seconded by *Rev. A. C. Lee*, to Canon Musgrave, for having taken the chair, and to Mr. Robinson and Mr. Davies for having come to address the meeting.

In acknowledging this, *Canon Musgrave* said that it had given him great pleasure to be present; but he thought that the chief thanks were due to Mr. Custance, who had initiated the whole plan, and had taken the labour of it from the first. These words, it need scarcely be added, were enthusiastically applauded by all.

C. D. P. D.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

The Lancashire Association.

A RINGING meeting of the above Association will be held on Saturday, March 6th, at St James' Church, Birch, Rusholme, Manchester. The belfry (eight bells), will be opened from four o'clock. It is hoped that as many as possible will make it convenient to be present.

A. E. HOLME, } Hon. Secs.
J. REDFORD, }

The West Middlesex Association.

THE meeting of the above Society, that was announced for March 20th, is unavoidably postponed till March 27th, and will take place in the old Isleworth belfry.

St. James's Society, London.

MR. J. BARRY, of 27 Arlington Street, N., has been appointed Secretary to the Society, in the room of the late Mr. D. Newton, deceased. All communications respecting the Society to be sent to his address, or to the meeting-house, ‘The Crown Hotel,’ Essex Street, Strand, London.

Aylsham, Norfolk.—A Dinner to the Ringers.

THE churchwardens gave their annual dinner to the ringers and chimers on the 19th ult. Previous to the dinner a touch of BOB MAJOR, consisting of 686 changes, was rung on the church bells. The company then adjourned to the ‘Black Boys’ Hotel, where, besides the wardens, the Vicar (the Rev. R. Hake), the Curate (the Rev. A. Law), and a few other friends, partook of an excellent dinner. The usual loyal toasts were given and heartily responded to, some amusing songs were sung, and a few touches of GRANDSIRE CATERS were rung on the hand-bells; altogether a very enjoyable evening was spent.

The Roman Catholic Churches of Dublin.

SIR,—The only two Roman Catholic churches in Dublin having a ring of bells are the churches of SS. Augustine and John (St. John Street) and St. Paul's, Arran Quay. Each of these churches possesses a ring of eight bells. I am indebted for my information to the courtesy of the Priests-in-charge.

—CAMPANOLOGIST.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire.

ON Thursday, the 18th ult., eight members of the St. Paul's Society Change-ringers, Burton-on-Trent, rang T. Brooke's Variation of Thurstan's peal of 5040 STEDMAN'S TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 7 mins. E. I. Stone, 1; H. Wakley, 2; A. Wakley, 3; J. Griffin, 4; W. Wakley (conductor), 5; T. Holmes, 6; J. Jaggar, 7; Rev. J. H. Fish, 8. Tenor, 26 cwt.

ON Tuesday, the 2nd inst., eight members of the St. Paul's Society of Change-ringers, Burton-on-Trent, rang T. Thurstan's peal of 5040 STEDMAN'S TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 13 mins. E. I. Stone, 1; A. Wakley, 2; W. Wakley, 3; J. Griffin (conductor), 4; A. P. Heywood, 5; T. Holmes, 6; J. Jaggar, 7; Rev. J. H. Fish, 8.

[All the above are also members of the Midland Counties Association of Change-ringers.]

At St. Peter's, Drayton, Berks.

ON Friday, the 19th ult., eight members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild rang a peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (Penning's One-part), in 3 hrs. 2 mins. H. E. Bright (first peal), 1; H. G. Finn (first peal), 2; J. H. Viner (first peal), 3; W. Sandell, 4; H. Sheard, 5; T. Short, 6; J. W. Washbrook (conductor), 7; A. Burgess (first peal), 8.

At St. Swithun's, Hempsted, near Gloucester.

ON Sunday, the 21st ult., three six-score GRANDSIRE DOUBLES were rung. H. E. Gardner, 1; W. Roberts, 2; A. Smart, 3; W. T. Pegler,* 4; Wm. Sevier, 5; J. Wilkins,* 6. On Thursday, the 25th ult., three six-scores. W. T. Pegler, 1; H. E. Gardner,* 2; W. Roberts, 3; A. Smart, 4; G. Taylor, 5; H. Harris,* 6. Afterwards six six-score GRANDSIRE. H. E. Gardner, 1; W. Roberts, 2; A. Smart, 3; F. Hart, 4; Wm. Sevier (conductor), 5; J. Wilkins, 6. Tenor, 12½ cwt., in G.

[Those members thus marked * have only been under instruction during the last year, and are still making great progress in the art.]

At Upton St. Leonards, Gloucestershire.

ON Sunday, the 21st ult., eight members of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association rang for morning service 504 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. J. Middlecote, 1; J. Yates, 2; H. Mitchel, 3; H. E. Gardner (conductor), 4; D. Aston, 5; W. J. Sevier, 6; R. A. Barrett, 7; G. Miles, 8. Also 160 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES conducted by H. Mitchel.

ON Wednesday, the 24th ult., 672 STEDMAN'S TRIPLES were rung. A. A. Waite, 1; J. Yates, 2; H. Mitchel, 3; G. Miles, 4; D. Aston, 5; W. Sevier, 6; R. A. Barrett (conductor), 7; J. Middlecote, 8. Tenor, 18 cwt. Also 504 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. J. Middlecote, 1; J. Yates, 2; H. Mitchel, 3; G. Miles, 4; D. Aston, 5; Wm. Sevier, 6; R. A. Barrett, 7; A. A. Waite, 8.

At St. Martin's, Dorking, Surrey.

ON Monday, the 22nd ult., eight members of the Winchester Diocesan Guild rang a peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (Holt's Ten-part) in 3 hrs. 9 mins. C. Boxall, 1; H. Robinson (first peal with a bob bell), 2; A. Mills (first peal of Triples), 3; R. Jordan (first peal of Triples), 4; H. Boxall, jun., 5; E. Jordan (first peal of Triples), 6; G. Williams (conductor), 7; C. Dudley, 8. Tenor, 25 cwt.

At St. Andrew's, Hertford, Herts.

ON Wednesday, the 24th ult., eight members of the Hertfordshire Association (also of the Hertford Society of College Youths) rang a peal of 5040 BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 17 mins. J. Cull, 1; W. A. Tyler, 2; J. Staples,* 3; H. Phillips,* 4; M. Ellsmore, 5; S. Knight, 6; T. Gathard,* 7; H. Baker, 8. Tenor, 16 cwt., in F. Composed by the late H. Hubbard and conducted by H. Baker. [* First peal in the method.]

At St. Peter's, Sheffield, Yorkshire.

ON Saturday, the 27th ult., the Yorkshire Association of Change-ringers rang a peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (Holt's One-part) in 3 hrs. 3 mins. G. Holmes, 1; E. Mason, 2; H. Raistrick, 3; R. Tukey, 4; W. Lomas, 5; W. Smithson, 6; T. Hattersley (conductor), 7; J. Styles, 8. Tenor, 14 cwt. The above peal was rung half-muffled in memory of the late H. W. Haley, a member of the Yorkshire Association.

At St. Mary's, Reading, Berks.

ON Saturday, the 27th ult., eight members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild rang Thurstan's peal of 5040 STEDMAN'S TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 10 mins., being the first peal in that method ever rung in Reading. W. J. Washbrook (conductor), 1; W. H. Fussell, 2; H. Egby, 3; Rev. F. E. Robinson, 4; T. Newman, 5; C. Hounslow, 6; Rev. G. F. Coleridge, 7; T. Harvey, 8. Tenor, 30 cwt.

At Holy Trinity, Stalybridge, Lancashire.

ON Saturday, the 27th ult., a peal of 7200 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR was rung in 4 hrs. 23 mins. G. Longden, 1; H. Shaw, 2; E. Schofield, 3; J. Mellor, 4; B. Broadbent, 5; J. Schofield, 6; J. Thorp, 7; S. Wood (conductor), 8. Composed by R. Williams.

At St. Albans Cathedral, Herts.

ON Sunday, the 28th ult., for divine service, a quarter-peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES was rung in 44 mins. J. C. Mitchell, 1; R. T. Kent, 2; R. Fowler, 3; W. F. L. Buckingham (conductor), 4; W. Battle, 5; G. W. Cartmel, 6; N. N. Hills, 7; E. A. Fulks, 8. This is the first quarter-peal by the treble, third, and fifth men, and longest touch called by the conductor.

priesthood. The question, however, of the value of Buddhism, as it is in present practice, is largely distinct from discussions about the life and aims of Gautama, and it may be feared that such eulogists of him as Mr. Arnold are doing disservice to the cause of Christianity.

EAST AFRICA.

BISHOP SMYTHIES, the successor of Bishop Steere in the oversight of the Universities' Mission, has visited the grave of Bishop Mackenzie on the Zambesi river. The cross was found standing, with the brass plate inscribed, 'Here lieth Charles Frederic Mackenzie, Missionary Bishop, who died Jan. 31, 1862; a follower of Him Who was anointed to preach redemption to the captives, and to set at liberty them that are bruised.' The grave would be soon lost sight of in the thick grass were it not kept constantly clear. Bishop Smythies recommends the fixing of a new station on the island of Dicombo, four miles from the continental coast, ruled over by the friendly chief Chitesi. Here a school might be established, to which the chiefs would send their children, and there would be less danger from the jealousy of the chiefs and the raids of the Manguanguara. Sub-stations would be subsequently fixed on the mainland, and the mission steamer could convey missionaries about and procure necessary supplies.

ITALY.

THE Pope is taking steps to 'canonise' Joan of Arc, the maid of Orleans. Some newspapers satirically suggest that like honour be paid next to Savonarola.

IRELAND.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

HIS Excellency the Lord Lieutenant attended Divine service in the Presbyterian Church, Rutland Square, last Sunday evening. In the absence of the regular pastor, the Rev. J. T. Hamilton, M.A., the Rev. George McFarland, of Belfast, officiated. Nothing could be stronger, or more definite, than the attitude taken up by the Presbyterian Church in Ireland against Home Rule, and the feeling on the subject of a denomination of Christians in Ireland numbering over half a million, and representing a most loyal and prosperous portion of the community, must necessarily have great weight in the deciding of this momentous question.

Arrangements are likely to be made for holding a Presbyterian service in Dublin Castle, for the use of the members of the Kirk attached to the household of his Excellency. I understand that Professor Henry Drummond, the author of the popular work entitled *Natural Law in the Spiritual World*, is about to marry a sister of our Viceroy. On the occasion of the recent deputation of the General Assembly, the Earl of Aberdeen went out of his way to greet Mr. Drummond, the uncle of the above-named gentleman, and the head of the Dublin branch of the firm of Drummond and Sons, of Stirling.

A Special Meeting of the Bishops of the Church of Ireland, on the summons of the Archbishop of Dublin, was held on the 2nd instant. There were present the Archbishop (in the chair), and the Bishops of Down, Limerick, Cork, Ossory, Killaloe, and Kilmore. The Bishop of Derry was absent owing to diocesan business, and the Bishops of Meath, Tuam, and Cashel, owing to ill health. The following resolution was unanimously passed:—'That we hereby request the Archbishop of Dublin to summon a special meeting of the General Synod for the purpose of taking counsel as to the present crisis in its relation to the welfare and responsibilities of the Church of Ireland, and of adopting resolutions in reference thereto. And that we suggest the 23rd of this month as a suitable day for such meeting.' The Archbishop expressed his desire to comply with the request.

The Standing Committee of the General Synod met on the following day for the purpose of considering a draft representation to Her Majesty's Government in relation to the present crisis in the country. The following members were present:—The Archbishop of Dublin (in the chair), the Bishop of Limerick, the Bishop of Down, the Bishop of Killaloe, the Bishop of Cork, the Bishop of Kilmore, the Bishop of Ossory; Rev. C. King Irwin, D.D.; Dean of Clonmacnois, Very Rev. J. Gwynn, D.D.; Rev. Samuel E. Hoops, D.D.; Archdeacon of Dublin, Canon Murdoch, Dean of Cashel, Archdeacon of Cloyne, Canon M. W. Jellett, Provost of Trinity College; Major W. E. Scott, D.L.; Colonel Ffolliott, D.L.; Dean of Dromore; Right Hon. R. R. Warren, Henry A. Hamilton, Esq.; J. H. Nunn, Esq.; W. Graham Brooke, Esq.; Dean of the Chapel Royal, and T. Chamberlain, Esq. The Most Rev. Chairman having announced to the Committee the resolution came to by the Bishops on the previous day, a resolution was unanimously passed that it was now not necessary for that meeting to proceed any further with the matter.

It is announced that the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Down, Senior Bishop in standing, will, owing to the illness of the Premier Bishop of the Northern Province, the Most Rev. the Lord Bishop of Meath, preside at the election of the Bishop of Armagh in that city on the 18th inst.

The late Lord Primate left directions to his executors to present the Dean and Chapter with a copy, by a competent artist, of one or other of the two paintings of him which existed at the time of his death.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

The Parish Churches of Dublin.

SIR,—The only two parish churches in Dublin (of the Church of Ireland) having a ring of bells are St. George's and St. Bartholomew's; both these churches possess a ring of eight bells,

CAMPANOLOGIST.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At Barnwood, Gloucestershire.

ON Monday, the 16th ult., a peal of 720 KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR was rung in 27 mins. H. Barnes, 1; J. Yates, 2; A. A. Waite, 3; R. A. Barrett, 4; H. Mitchell (conductor), 5; G. Miles, 6. The 720 of PLAIN BOB composed by T. Yates.

At All Saints', Loughborough, Leicestershire.

ON Friday, the 26th ult., the bell-foundry band of change-ringers, before evening service, on the occasion of the visit of the Bishop of Peterborough to open a united mission in all the three parishes of the town, rang a 396, and, after service, a quarter peal of STEDMAN'S TRIPLES. A. Cresser, 1; C. Smith, 2; R. Lane, 3; *J. W. Taylor, Esq., jun., 4; S. Smith, 5; W. Billingham, 6; *J. W. Taylor, Esq., jun., 7; E. Wightman, 8. Conducted by J. W. Taylor, Esq., jun.

[*This must be a mistake, but it is according to the MS.]

At St. Gregory's, Sudbury, Suffolk.

ON Saturday, the 27th ult., the following mixed band rang a peal of 5184 BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 15 mins. J. Campin (Sudbury), 1; W. Griggs (Sudbury), 2; G. Hammond (Melford), 3; P. C. S. Scott (Melford), 4; C. Sillitoe (Sudbury), 5; S. Slater (Glemsford), 6; W. Howell (Sudbury), 7; H. Harper (Sudbury), 8. It was composed by Mr. J. J. Brierley of Saddleworth, Yorkshire, and conducted by Mr. C. Sillitoe. Tenor, 16 cwt., in F. This is the first peal in this method on the bells, and also the first in the method by Messrs. Campin, Griggs, Scott, and Howell.

At St. Peter's, Brighton, Sussex.

ON Sunday, the 28th ult., for afternoon service, by the St. Peter's Amateur Society, a quarter-peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (1260 changes) was rung in 47½ mins. E. Marshall, 1; J. Jay, sen., 2; C. E. Golds, 3; H. Weston, 4; A. Marshall, 5; G. F. Attree, 6; A. W. S. Parkhouse, 7; D. Ross, 8. Tenor, 10½ cwt. This is the longest length yet rung by the Society unaided. [No conductor mentioned.]

At St. Clement Danes, London.

ON Monday, the 1st inst., eight members of the St. James's Society and two of the Yorkshire Association rang a peal of 5079 STEDMAN'S CATERS in 3 hrs. 32 mins. C. F. Winny, 1; H. Dains, 2; R. French, 3; G. Horrex, 4; H. Swain, 5; J. W. Rowbotham, 6; E. E. Vinen, 7; F. E. Dawe, 8; J. M. Hayes (conductor), 9; J. M. Routh, 10. Tenor, 24 cwt., in E. This peal was rung with the bells half muffled as a mark of respect to its composer, Mr. H. W. Haley, the composition being the first 5000 he took part in, on which occasion (at All Saints', Fulham, on May 19th, 1842) he was the conductor.

At St. Paul's, Walkden, Lancashire.

ON Tuesday, the 2nd inst., a peal of 720 BOB MINOR (14 bobs and 2 singles) was rung in 25 mins. W. Denner, 1; S. Oakes, 2; J. Worthington (conductor), 3; J. Brookes, 4; A. Potter, 5; J. Welsby, 6.

Also a 720 BOB MINOR (22 singles), in 25 mins. W. Denner (conductor), 1; J. Welsby, 2; J. Worthington, 3; J. Williamson, 4; A. Potter, 5; J. Brookes, 6.

Also a 720 BOB MINOR (28 bobs and 18 singles), composed by Penning, being the largest number of calls possible in a peal of Bob Minor. J. Welsby (conductor), 1; J. Worthington, 2; S. Oakes, 3; J. Williamson, 4; A. Potter, 5; J. Brookes, 6. Time, 25 mins. Tenor, 13½ cwt.

At St. Mary's, Old Battersea, Surrey.

ON Tuesday, the 2nd inst., Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES was rung in 2 hrs. 45 mins. W. Bacon (conductor), 1; Rev. J. Utten Todd, 2; E. F. Cole, 3; W. W. Thorne, 4; A. G. Thomas, 5; H. S. Thomas, 6; H. Swain, 7; W. Ambrose, 8. [Weight of tenor omitted.]

At Christ Church, West Bromwich.—Date Touch.

ON Tuesday, the 2nd inst., the following members of the Association for the Archdeaconry of Stafford rang a date touch of 1886 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 1 hr. 5 mins.: H. Hipkiss 1; W. R. Small, 2; T. Horton, 3; F. Hall, 4; R. Hall, 5; S. Reeves, 6; C. Price, 7; C. Timms, 8. The touch has the 6-7 together for more than 1600 changes. It was composed by Mr. Johnson, sen., of Birmingham, and conducted by Samuel Reeves. It was rung on the occasion of the marriage of the Vicar, the Rev. C. H. Joberns, on that day at St. Paul's Church, Kingston Hill, Surrey.

At St. Lawrence's, Barnwood, Gloucester.

ON Wednesday, the 3rd inst., six members of the Gloucester and Bristol Association rang in 28 mins. the following 720, composed of 240 of KENT TREBLE BOB, 240 of CANTERBURY PLEASURE, 240 of PLAIN BOB, and afterwards a peal of 720 KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR in 26 mins. W. Sevier, 1; J. Yates, 2; A. A. Waite, 3; G. Miles, 4; H. Mitchell, 5; R. A. Barrett (conductor), 6. Tenor, 14 cwt.

On the 21st ult., a peal of 720 PLAIN BOB MINOR. H. Barnes, 1; J. Yates, 2; G. Miles, 3; R. A. Barrett, 4; H. Mitchell (conductor), 5; A. A. Waite, 6.

At St. Nicholas's, Gloucester.

On Thursday, the 4th inst., on occasion of the Annual Tea at the Corn Exchange, a date touch of 1886 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES was rung in 1 hr. 5 mins. D. Dix, 1; G. Hearn, 2; P. Daniels, 3; A. Smart, 4; W. Sevier (conductor), 5; J. Merchant, 6.

At St. Peter's, Walworth, Surrey.

On Thursday, the 4th inst., eight members of the St. James's Society attempted Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, in honour of the thirty-fourth birthday of Mr. W. H. George, his brother-ringers wishing him many happy returns; but after ringing 4844 changes in 2 hrs. 32 mins. a mistake occurred. W. W. Thorne, 1; R. French (conductor), 2; W. Jones, 3; H. Langdon, 4; A. Hayward, 5; J. Barry, 6; W. H. George, 7; H. W. Flower, 8. Tenor, 15½ cwt.

At St. Lawrence's, Long Eaton, Derbyshire.

On Friday, the 5th inst., a peal of 5088 TREBLE BOB MAJOR in the Kent Variation was rung in 2 hrs. 55 mins. R. Lane, 1; W. Billingham, 2; J. Ward, 3; J. Hickman, 4; W. Gilson, 5; Rev. W. C. Pearson, 6; A. Widdowson, 7; J. W. Taylor, Esq., jun. (conductor), 8. Composed by the late H. W. Haley. Tenor, 10½ cwt., in A flat. Messrs. Ward, Gilson, and Widdowson belong to the local company. The Rev. W. C. Pearson hails from Syston, Mr. Hickman from Nottingham, and Messrs. Lane, Billingham, and Taylor, from Loughborough.

At SS. Peter and Paul's, Aston-juxta-Birmingham.

On Saturday, the 6th inst., a peal of 5160 KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL was rung in 3 hrs. 32 mins., by members of the Holt Society. T. J. Hemming (first peal in the method), 1; J. Carter, 2; H. Bastable (conductor), 3; B. Witchell, 4; T. Reynolds, 5; C. Stanbridge, 6; J. Plant, 7; W. Kent, 8; M. Murphy, 9; H. Johnson, jun., 10. Composed by H. Johnson, sen. This peal, which has not been previously performed, contains the 6th, the extent in all positions, and may be found in Snowdon's *Treatise on Treble Bob*, Part II., page 110. Tenor, 23 cwt., in D. This is the first peal of ROYAL in this method by the Holt Society.

At Upton St. Leonard's, Gloucestershire.

On Sunday, the 7th inst., eight members of the Gloucester and Bristol Association rang for morning service a quarter-peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (1260 changes) in 46 mins. A. A. Waite, 1; J. Yates, 2; H. Mitchell, 3; H. G. Gardner, 4; D. Aston, 5; W. Sevier, 6; R. A. Barrett (conductor), 7; J. Mills, 8. Tenor, 18½ cwt.

At Quedgley, Gloucestershire.

On Sunday, the 7th inst., ten six-scores of GRANDSIRE DOUBLES were rung in 38 mins. T. Brown (conductor), 1; R. A. Barrett, 2; W. Brown, 3; H. Mitchell, 4; W. Sevier, 5; R. J. Wilkins, 6. Tenor, 11 cwt., in D.

At St. Michael's, Basingstoke, Hants.

On Tuesday, the 9th inst., the local band rang a date touch of 1886 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES on the front six in 1 hr. 5 mins. T. Higgins, 1; F. Bicknell, 2; W. Tiller, 3; G. Capron, 4; H. White (conductor), 5; T. Wheeler, 6. With the exception of the conductor, this is the longest touch of the band.

RECEIVED:—E. Dennes; Wellingborough; Northants.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Religion and Bad Times.

SIR,—So terrible are the conditions of our kingdom at this time, and so threatening our prospects, and (worst of all) so prevailing the vices and derelictions of religion and morality now corrupting our nation, that earnest demands have been made by good men for a special day of humiliation and prayer. The time has now come, not for one day, but for forty days of humiliation, repentance, and prayer, during the fast of Lent. If we repent not heartily, and with full purpose of amendment of our evil ways, 'the men of Nineveh will rise up in the day of judgment with the men of this generation and will condemn them,' for when Jonah proclaimed 'yet forty days and Nineveh shall be overthrown, they repented at the preaching of Jonah.' Now we have not one lonely prophet of the Lord in a nation of penitent heathens, but many thousand prophets in a stiff-necked and impenitent nation still professing itself Christian, although far drifted towards apostasy. What can be more according to the revealed heart of God our Father, than the noble Communion service so shamefully misunderstood as 'cursing'? Whereas it is, in fact, the loving and pleading voice against the curses which are the self-incurred punishments of 'such vices for which we affirm with our own mouths the curse of God to be due.' We remind ourselves of the *fact*, 'Cursed is' such and such a transgressor.

'God's loudest threatenings speak of love and tenderest care, For who, that wished His blow to light, would say, Beware?'

There are some impressive coincidences of days this year. I do not refer to those which have been revived from an old 'prophecy'—so called—written in the year 1566, which apply to other years since past, when Good Friday has fallen on St. George's Day, &c.; but I do note with interest that Ash Wednesday begins our Lent on the wedding-day of the Heir to the Throne, and the last great Festival of this Church-year, Trinity Sunday, will be the forty-ninth anniversary of 'the day on which Her Majesty began her happy reign,' and the dawn of our Queen's jubilee.

While we keep Lent and commemorate all the terrible events of Holy

Week—the Agony, the Betrayal, the Denial, the choice of Barabbas, and the condemnation 'under Pontius Pilate' but by the nation, the Crucifixion, Death, and Burial; then the Rising from the dead, the Forty Days, the Ascension, the ten days' waiting, the day of Pentecost; and, last of all, the solemn Festival sacred to the great foundation-truth of all the Church's teaching—Trinity Sunday—let us by God's grace mean what we say, and pray, and sing, and (as Sir Thomas More well said) 'endeavour to get those things for which we are to pray.'

I entreat every head of a house to use Family Prayers, and in so doing to include the Collect for Queen and subjects in the Communion service, and that for the High Court of Parliament when sitting. If Christian folk will so do, surely we shall see better times, because we shall be a nation fearing God and working righteousness.

Weston-super-Mare,

Ash Wednesday, 1886.

HENRY GEORGE TOMKINS,

Late Vicar of Branscombe.

The Church's Blunders.

SIR,—I would not venture to ask for a little more space in your paper but that I have felt for many years that the want of a better system of house-to-house visitation, and, as a consequence, a closer and more personal intercourse with the people on the part of the clergy, has been a great source of weakness to the Church, and one of our greatest 'blunders.' I thoroughly endorse the opinion of 'J. C.' that but for this defect events would have been very different at the last election. Your correspondent, 'Z. Z. Z.', says there are 'very many' clergymen like Canon Eden. I know it, and in my former letter acknowledged it with thankfulness: all honour to them! But I repeat, 'are they not the exception?' And why should it be so? Granted that it is the duty of all baptized Christians to seek and apply to their clergy for the instruction which they need, is it not unhappily true that there are many, *very many*, who never feel that need, who after having, it may be, spent their childhood and early youth in our Sunday Schools, and having even come to Confirmation, have wandered away from the fold, and are living in carelessness and indifference—are they to be left to perish, and no effort made to seek them out and bring them back again? It may be that a little kindly recognition and sympathy might have kept them in the right path; but whether this be so or not, they are, though wanderers, God's children, dedicated to Him in holy baptism; and to say that 'if all who wish to know their clergyman attended the services of their parish church, there are few who would not be helped by his teaching,' does not remove the obligation to seek after and bring back those who have so wandered. Does not the warning of God to the 'shepherds of Israel' in some sense apply (Ezek. xxxiv. 6)? These, though wanderers, were still His 'sheep,' His 'flock.' Every priest at his ordination is exhorted to 'seek for Christ's sheep that are dispersed abroad, and for His children who are in the midst of this naughty world.' And how can this be done effectually but on Canon Eden's plan? 'I must deliver my message to each one individually, and so must catch each one at home.' Do 'the Apostles of our Lord in the nineteenth century,' who habitually visit the 'houses' of their people, find as a rule that they will not receive them? Ask those who have fairly tried it, and if there should be one amongst them whose efforts have failed, whose fatherly care and solicitude have been spurned and rejected, he will still not repent the effort, he has 'delivered his soul.' And then, how came these people so to wander from the Church of their fathers? What is it which has in past years driven so many, especially of the working classes, into the Dissenting chapels, or something far worse, but this—that whilst the man went to church nobody took any notice of him, but no sooner had he entered the chapel than the minister called upon him, and the congregation recognised him, and he began to feel for the first time that he was actually a living member of a visible body? He has felt that 'touch' of sympathy and brotherhood which he never experienced before, and he does not stop to look too curiously into the orthodoxy of the teaching, but concludes that he has found the right way, and therefore the other must be wrong. And would that even this were the worst! Suppose the man, instead of seeking sympathy in the Dissenting chapels, comes to the conclusion that nobody cares for him, that the clergyman, who never speaks to him except from the pulpit, only preaches because it is his business and is well paid for it, and begins to doubt whether, after all, there is any good in a religion which appears so cold and indifferent to his welfare and interests, and thinks he can do just as well without it; he will not be long before he meets with some 'mate' in the mill or workshop ready to 'give him a lift' by urging him to throw off all childish restraint and be a 'man' and 'think for himself,' which means generally not really to think at all, and so he gradually falls into practical infidelity; and all this while the clergyman whom he once knew in the Sunday School, but who since he left it has never called upon him or spoken to him, is lamenting sincerely the spread of dissent and infidelity, and preaching to regular church-goers the duty of attendance on public worship, whilst those to whom his words apply are not there to hear him. Is this a picture of the imagination, unknown and unreal? Is it not unhappily an everyday occurrence? I have been a Sunday-school teacher for nearly forty years, and had charge of a Bible class composed of working men for about twenty-five, and I have found this defect in the Church's system the greatest hindrance to its usefulness and efficiency. I may be told that my experience has been an exceptional one. I wish I could believe it.

R. W.

Missions to Jews.

SIR,—An important article has appeared in the January number of the *Westminster Review*, which is calculated to damage seriously the reputation of the London Society for promoting Christianity among the Jews, unless that Society take some steps to answer or explain the facts and figures of the article. As a clergyman of a parish which has hitherto supported the

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

Essex Association of Change Ringers.

A DISTRICT Meeting of the above Association was held at Barking on Saturday, the 27th ult. There were about fifty members present, including representatives from Chelmsford, Romford, Ilford, Gallywood, Rayleigh, Stanford-le-Hope, St. Albans, Tottenham, Great Bentley, Springfield, Ipswich, Widford, Little Heath, West Ham, Woodford, Walthamstow, Norwood, and London. The fine ring of eight bells at St. Margaret's Church are in good going order, and gave great satisfaction to the numerous members of the Association who assembled on this occasion. The belfry also of this church is well cared for by the local ringers, who have done much to make it look more like part of the house of God than what we remember it to have been some years ago. Ilford and Dagenham towers were open during the day, but no ringing was reported from either of these places.

Touches of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, STEDMAN TRIPLES, KENT TREBLE BOB, and BOB MAJOR, were rung during the afternoon and evening at St. Margaret's by mixed bands. At 4.30 the members sat down to tea at Smythers' Coffee Tavern in Heath Street, under the presidency of the Vicar, the Rev. John Richardson, Mr. E. A. Davies, who was acting secretary in the unavoidable absence of the Rev. H. A. Cockey, being in the vice-chair. Ample justice having been done to the good things provided, an adjournment was made to the Town Hall, where the business meeting was held, the Vicar again occupying the chair.

After the usual office, the minutes of the last meeting were read by the Secretary *pro tem.*, passed, and signed by the Chairman. Proceeding to address the meeting the Chairman gave the Association a hearty welcome, and said he regarded ringers as a very important body of Church workers, and therefore greeted them as brethren trying to do their duty in promoting the service of the Church. Having referred to the past condition of belfries, the rev. gentleman said ringers had now been taught, and they knew that the belfry and the bells were just as much consecrated to the service of God as any other part of the church. He would express a hope that they, as ringers, would always find their places among the congregation after they had called others to the house of God.

A letter was read from the Rev. H. A. Cockey, hon. sec., expressing regret at his inability to attend, suggesting the appointment of an assistant secretary, and intimating his intention of resigning the secretaryship at the forthcoming annual meeting on Whit Monday next. He was about to leave the country for the sake of his health.

In reply to the Chairman, Mr. Davies, while expressing his willingness to give the honorary secretary as much assistance as his engagements would permit, considered it desirable that some one else should be elected. The names of Mr. Savell (Barking), and Mr. De Lisle (Gallywood), having been suggested and both declining, the matter was left in the hands of Mr. Davies, for him to make arrangements with Mr. Cockey.

It was proposed by Mr. Keeble and seconded by Mr. J. Mumford, and unanimously resolved, that a vote of sympathy be accorded to the Rev. H. A. Cockey as to the cause of his absence from the meeting, and also the general expressions of regret of those present at the prospect of the Association losing his valuable services at Whitsuntide.

The following were elected honorary members:—Rev. H. B. Barnes, vicar of Ilford; Mr. W. Ashmore, churchwarden of Ilford; Mr. J. W. F. Mumford, churchwarden of Ilford; Rev. John Richardson, vicar of Barking. Ringing members: Messrs. W. Mead, W. F. Mumford (Ilford), J. W. Smith (Dedham), John Gobbett (West Ham), W. Lebbon (Loughton), Geo. Smith (Rayleigh), J. Gadam (Barking), Cowell, Eves, Halls, Howell, Land, Lewis (Stanford-le-Hope), Easter, Knock, Kamplin, Aldis, Huff, Brewster, Peackey, Green (Harwich). Distinguished ringers: T. Grant, G. W. Cartmell, J. C. Michell (St. Albans), N. Hammond (Long Melford). Probationers: Herbert Smith, Frederick Strugwell (Rayleigh), G. Brazier (Stanford-le-Hope). The election of N. J. Pitow in the tower of Saffron Walden, Nov. 2nd, 1885, was confirmed.

Messrs. Doran and Randall gave notice of motions for the annual meeting respecting the term 'distinguished ringer.'

Mr. Davies, in moving a vote of thanks to the Vicar and Churchwardens of Barking, Ilford, and Dagenham, for the use of the towers, and to the Chairman for presiding, referred to the opening remarks of the Vicar, said he believed that the former condition of belfries was not so much the fault of the ringers as of the church officials, and expressed an opinion that it would be to the advantage of both clergy and ringers if the former made more frequent visits to the belfry. The reverend gentleman having replied, the proceedings terminated.

E. A. DAVIES, *Sec. pro tem.*

Linton Road, Barking.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. Peter's, Drayton, Berks.

On Thursday, the 4th inst., eight members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild rang Thurstan's peal of 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 56 mins. H. D. Betteridge, Esq., 1; Rev. F. E. Robinson, 2; F. Field, 3; J. W. Washbrook (conductor), 4; H. Castle, 5; F. Castle, 6; C. Hounslow, 7; S. Hounslow, 8. Tenor, 9½ cwt. This peal was rung to commemorate the Appleton Anniversary, which could not be held at that place.

At St. Lawrence's, Long Eaton, Derbyshire.

On Friday, the 5th inst., eight members of the Midland Counties Association rang a peal of 5088 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR in 2 hrs. 55 mins. R. Lane, 1; W. Billingham, 2; J. Ward, 3; J. Hickman, 4; W. Gilson, 5; R. W. C. Pearson, 6; A. Widdowson, 7; J. W. Taylor, junr., 8. Composed by E. W. Haley and conducted by J. W. Taylor.

At Lee, Kent.

On Saturday, the 6th inst., eight members of the Society of Royal Cumberlands rang Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 3 hrs. W. Baron (conductor), 1; W. Coppage, 2; T. Deal, 3; C. E. Malim, Esq., 4; J. W. Mansfield, 5; G. R. Banks, 6; H. Dains, 7; E. Albone, 8. Tenor, 15 cwt., in F. The first peal rung in Lee.

At St. Michael's, Tylehurst, Berks.

On Saturday, the 6th inst., eight members of the St. Lawrence Society, Reading, rang Annable's Three-part peal of 5040 BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 12 mins. R. T. Hibbert, 1; J. Potter, 2; A. C. Fussell, 3; W. H. Fussell, 4; J. E. Willshire, 5; A. Thomas (first peal in the method), 6; W. J. Williams, 7; J. M. Routh, Esq. (first peal in the method), 8. Tenor, 19 cwt. This is the first peal of MAJOR on the bells.

At St. Ann's, Stamford Hill, Stoke Newington, London.

On Saturday, the 6th inst., the bells of the above church were rung by the following persons, on the visit of her Royal Highness the Princess Christian to lay the foundation-stone of St. John's Church. Merry peals were rung at her arrival and departure. J. Davidson, 1; W. Spooner, sen., 2; H. M. Spooner, 3; T. Clear (conductor), 4; R. Banham, 5; W. P. Luscombe, 6.

At St. John-the-Baptist's, Crawley, Sussex.

On Saturday, the 6th inst., by the kind permission of the Vicar, eight members of the Winchester Diocesan Guild rang a peal of 5088 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 7 mins. G. Holloway, 1; R. Jordan, 2; A. Mills, 3; E. Moses, 4; E. Jordan, 5; F. Wickens, 6; D. Jordan, 7; G. Williams, 8. Composed by Mr. Dains, and conducted by Mr. G. Williams. Tenor, 14 cwt. The ringing-chamber is fitted up with all that is required for the comfort of the ringers. The peal was rung at the third attempt, the band having only met twice before for TREBLE BOB MAJOR. The band take this opportunity of thanking the Vicar for the use of the bells, and the steeple-keeper, Mr. J. Newnham, for getting everything in readiness for them.

At St. Sidwell's, Exeter.

On Sunday, the 7th inst., for Divine service, eight members of the St. Sidwell's Society of Change-ringers rang Mr. J. Carter's date touch of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (1886 changes) in 1 hr. 6 mins. T. Townsend, 1; E. Pitt, 2; W. G. Goss, 3; W. Richardson, 4; J. Moss, 5; E. Shepherd (conductor), 6; A. Shepherd, 7; W. Mundy, 8. Tenor, 24 cwt.

At St. John the Baptist's, Croydon, Surrey.

On Tuesday, the 9th inst., being Shrove Tuesday, eight members of the Surrey Association rang Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 32 mins. H. C. Haley (conductor), 1; U. Holman, 2; H. Dudley, sen., 3; S. Fisk (first peal), 4; A. B. Carpenter, 5; A. Bruce, 6; T. Verrall, 7; G. Rosier, 8. The tenor had to be clogged as usual.

At St. Lawrence's, Reading, Berks.

On Tuesday, the 9th inst., eight members of the St. Lawrence Society rang a peal of 5040 BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 19 mins. G. Talbot, 1; W. H. Fussell, 2; R. T. Hibbert, 3; Rev. G. F. Coleridge, 4; J. Potter, 5; W. J. Williams (conductor), 6; W. Newell, 7; J. Willshire, 8. Tenor, 23½ cwt.

At St. Mary's, Wimbledon, Surrey.

On Tuesday, the 9th inst., a peal of 720 KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR was rung in 26 mins. G. Hyde, 1; R. Moss, 2; C. Hyde, 3; G. Welling, 4; B. E. Battrum, 5; S. Frost (conductor), 6.

Also on Sunday, the 14th inst., a 720 of OXFORD SINGLE BOB MINOR. B. E. Battrum, 1; E. F. Cole, 2; C. Hyde, 3; J. Parker, 4; G. Garriet, 5; S. Frost (conductor), 6. Also 360 of WOODBINE TREBLE BOB. G. Hyde, 1; B. E. Battrum, 2; C. Hyde, 3; J. Parker, 4; G. Garriet, 5; S. Frost (conductor), 6. Tenor, 12 cwt.

At St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, London.

On Saturday, the 13th inst., eight members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rung Thurstan's peal of 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 56 mins. C. Beech, 1; S. E. Joyce, 2; W. Cecil, 3; M. A. Wood, 4; H. J. Shade, 5; I. G. Shade (conductor), 6; A. Hayward, 7; J. West, 8. Tenor, 14 cwt.

At St. Saviour's, Southwark, London.

On Tuesday, the 16th inst., a peal of STEDMAN CINQUES was attempted by the Ancient Society of College Youths to commemorate the twenty-fourth birthday of Mr. Dave, but, unfortunately, had to be abandoned, through the illness of one of the ringers, after ringing exactly 3 hrs. J. R. Haworth, 1; W. Cecil, 2; C. F. Winny, 3; E. Horrex, 4; G. Mash, 5; W. Tanner, 6; J. M. Hayes, 7; R. French, 8; J. M. Routh, Esq., 9; F. G. Newman, 10; W. Greenleaf, 11; F. E. Dave (conductor), 12. Tenor, 52 cwt., in B flat.

At St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, London.

On Wednesday, the 17th inst., eight members of the St. James's Society rang Holt's Ten-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 6 mins. W. Jones, 1; H. Langdon, 2; S. E. Joyce, 3; J. Barry, 4; M. A. Wood (conductor), 5; A. Hayward, 6; W. H. George, 7; W. J. Williamson (first peal), 8. Tenor, 20 cwt., in E.

'PARISH CLERK'S ASSISTANT' asks the following questions:—1. Is there any regular rule as to ringing or non-ringing during Lent and Advent? 2. Is there any regular rule as to the curfew-bell? 3. How did Sunday ringing originate? In his parish the customs are, as to (2). Curfew begins after Michaelmas and ends on March 24, but is not rung from December 24 to January 16, nor on saints' days, nor on November 22 and 23, which are fair days. As to (3), the treble is raised at 7 a.m.; the second is raised at 8 a.m., except when there is a celebration at that time, and then it is raised at 1 p.m.

There is really no cause for such anxiety as these returns evidence, and we have every reason to hope that things will gradually right themselves after the present crisis is over.

We can now point to the fact that the Protestants of Ireland, at least, have spoken out with no hesitating or doubtful voice against the repeal of the Union. First of all, we have had the Methodist body, then the Presbyterians, through their General Assembly in Belfast, gave expression to the views of some 500,000 Irishmen on the subject, and yesterday the Church of Ireland in its General Synod added an emphatic protest against any tampering with the legislative union of the two countries. Thus we have over a million and a quarter of the Irish people, representing the wealth, culture, and civilisation of the entire island, protesting against Home Rule; and if we add, as a reasonable estimate, half a million of loyal Roman Catholics who are precluded by priestly domination from speaking out their mind, we have nearly two millions of the population averse to this great political and social revolution.

The gathering in our Synod Hall yesterday was in every sense representative. So full was the attendance that numbers were obliged to stand during the proceedings, the Hall not being large enough to accommodate them all with seats. It was a thoroughly representative meeting, every class of the community, from the peer to the country farmer, being present. A wonderful solemnity and earnestness characterised the proceedings throughout. The resolutions printed in your last issue were carried, and the *Te Deum* having been sung and the benediction given, the Synod adjourned.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

Supper to Choirs and Ringers.

TOUCHES OF DOUBLES and TRIPLES, interspersed with some well-struck firing on the parish church bells, formed a fitting prelude to the third of those pleasant social gatherings which took place on Friday evening, March 5th, at Wellborough (Northants). Enjoyable as they have been in the past, this was certainly a success beyond all others, for the supper was hot and well served, the songs, &c., given by the choirmen were of the right sort and well rendered, whilst the ringers gained hearty applause by their excellent tune-playing, &c., on hand-bells. The Vicar, the Ven. Archdeacon Lightfoot, occupied the chair, being supported by W. Davis, Esq., and J. T. Parker, Esq., churchwardens, and several of the sidesmen. The Revs. L. T. Jones and J. D. Best were also present. The usual toasts were warmly and loyally received. The toast of 'The Three Choirs' was proposed by Mr. Davis, who said that they owed much to their choirs. As churchwarden he was well satisfied with the way in which they carried out their duties. Mr. Beeby, who has been connected with the choir for twenty-four years, responded. In giving the toast of 'The Ringers,' Mr. Jackson stated that their ringing and chiming were a credit to the town and county. Mr. Dennes (belfry sidesman), in replying for the ringers, said they were much gratified by the way in which the parishioners appreciated their services. They were proud of their grand ring of bells. Thanks to the care taken of them by their steeple-keeper, Mr. Turnell, they went easily and well, despite their weight. The attendance of chimers during the past year had been most punctual and regular. They had lately formed a local society. Dr. Clark kindly favoured the company with two songs, and Mr. J. T. Smith gave that well-known hunting-song, 'John Peel.' The singing of the National Anthem brought this social gathering to a close shortly after midnight.

The Church Bells of St. Mary Cray, Kent.

THIS is one of the many churches in the rural villages of Kent having five bells where the art of change-ringing has probably never been introduced, and perhaps never heard of. Such was the case at St. Mary Cray till a short time ago, when a young man with some practical knowledge of the art came and settled in the village. He at once joined the Bell-ringers' Guild, of which he soon after became conductor, with a view to instruct the members in change-ringing. After many tedious efforts he has so far been successful that on Friday evening, the 12th inst., their first peal of six six-scores of PLAIN BOB DOUBLES was rung in 30 mins. by the following members:—S. B. Welsh (captain), 1; W. Smith, 2; R. Wise, 3; T. Harford, 4; B. Blackwell (conductor), 5. Tenor, 17 cwt. This is the first peal by either of the above except Mr. Blackwell, and doubtless the first on the bells by a local band, nothing but 'Churchyard Bob' having been rung within the recollection of the oldest inhabitants. Two of the bells are among the oldest in Kent. On the treble and second it reads, 'John Mott made me, 1583.' The other three were made by the old firm of F. Hodson, dated 1747. They are in very good going order, having been rehung by Messrs. Gillett & Bland of Croydon in 1882, under the superintendence of the late Mr. Boswell, who expressed the opinion that they were about the best ring of five he had seen or heard, considering their mixed ages. The same firm put a very nice clock in the tower last year, with three dials, at a cost of nearly 130l. The old clock had only one dial, and bore the inscription that it was made at Bromley, Kent, in 1726. A fund has been started to add another treble, to make the ring of six. The amount required is only 50l., as there is a frame in the tower ready for another bell, from which one of the others was taken when they were rehung. 15l. has already been raised by entertainments towards this object, and the ringers trust they may not have to wait very long before such a valuable addition will be made to their bells, so as to encourage them in their perseverance in the art of change-ringing. Contributions will be

thankfully received by the Vicar, Rev. A. Welch, The Vicarage, St. Mary Cray, Kent.

The Society of Royal Cumberland Youths.

The Annual Supper will take place at headquarters this evening (March 26th), at the 'Green Man,' St. Martin's Lane.

The Rev. J. U. Todd has lately presented a set of twelve mats for the ringing-room of St. Martin's belfry.

The St. James's Society, London.

MEMBERS are requested to attend the Meeting on Monday, April 5th, at the 'Crown Hotel,' Exeter Street, Strand, when the business will commence at 9.30 p.m. precisely, to receive the Report of the Committee for the Revision of the Rules, &c. J. BARRY, Secretary.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At the Cathedral, Manchester.

ON Thursday, the 11th inst., ten members of the Lancashire Association rang a peal of 5000 KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL in 3 hrs. 18 mins. T. Thorp, 1; C. Cash, 2; G. E. Turner, 3; J. E. Pollitt, 4; J. Barratt, 5; E. Cash, 6; S. West, 7; J. Thorp, 8; A. E. Wreaks (conductor), 9; J. Eachus, 10. Composed by J. Riley of Cheltenham. Tenor, 25 cwt.

At St. Alphege's, Greenwich, Kent.

ON Monday, the 15th inst., a deeply muffled peal was rung as a tribute of respect to the memory of the late Mr. William Burgess, a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths, and for many years a ringer at the above church, whose death took place on March 8th, after a short illness. W. Weatherstone, 1; J. J. Lamb, 2; J. Foreman, 3; W. Davis, jun., 4; R. Shade, 5; G. Thatcher, 6; W. G. Davis (conductor), 7; W. Thornton, 8. Tenor, 25½ cwt.

At St. Mary's, Lewisham, Kent.

ON Tuesday, the 16th inst., eight members of the St. James's Society rang Holt's Ten-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 55 mins. C. E. Freeman, 1; W. Pead, 2; T. Taylor, 3; W. Weatherstone, 4; F. W. Thornton, 5; A. G. Freeman (conductor), 6; W. H. Freeman, 7; J. E. Eastgate (first peal), 8. Tenor, 22½ cwt.

At the Parish Church, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire.

ON Tuesday, the 16th inst., the members of the Gainsborough branch of the North Lincolnshire Association of Change-ringers rang the first half of Holt's Ten-part peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (2520 changes), in 1 hr. 36 mins. T. Pattison, 1; T. W. Atkinson, 2; W. W. Bust, 3; J. C. Tinker, 4; W. Pattison, 5; C. Brewin, 6; W. D. Tinker (conductor), 7; W. H. Wilson (17 years old), 8. Tenor, 20 cwt. This is the first half peal by any of the company, but they hope to ring a 5000 after Easter.

At St. Olave's, Hart Street, City of London.

ON Saturday, the 20th inst., a peal of 720 GRANDSIRE MINOR (34 bobs and 2 singles) was rung by the following members of the St. James's Society in 28 mins. J. Barry, 1; J. Waghorn, junr. (conductor), 2; H. J. Davies, 3; E. F. Cole, Esq., 4; W. H. George, 5; A. E. Church, 6. Several other touches were also rung, in which the steeple-keeper (Mr. A. Read) took part. Tenor, 16 cwt., in F.

At St. Peter's, Brighton, Sussex.

ON Saturday, the 20th inst., eight members of the Brighton Branch of the Sussex County Association of Change-ringers rang Holt's Ten-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 56 mins. A. Marshall (first peal), 1; G. F. Attree (conductor), 2; J. Searle, 3; A. W. L. Parkhouse (first peal), 4; C. E. Golds, 5; G. King, 6; J. Jay, sen., 7; W. Palmer, 8. Tenor, 10 cwt. 1 qr. 2 lb. This peal was rung with the bells half muffled as a mark of respect to the Right Hon. the Earl of Chichester, Lord Lieutenant of Sussex. This is the first muffled peal of 5040 changes ever rung in Sussex.

The usual muffled peal, 'whole-pull and stand,' was also rung on the bells of St. Nicholas' Church, Brighton, on Saturday evening, followed by some short touches of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.

At St. Mary's, Walthamstow, Essex.

ON Saturday, the 20th inst., eight members of the St. James's Society rang Holt's Ten-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (reversed) in 3 hrs. 1 min. W. Nash, 1; A. G. Keit, 2; G. B. Lucas, 3; J. Nunn, 4; R. Maynard, 5; A. J. Perkins (conductor), 6; L. Hayes, 7; W. Crockford, 8.

At St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, London.

ON Saturday, the 20th inst., eight members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang Holt's Ten-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 55 mins. J. Bonny, 1; H. A. Barnett (conductor), 2; W. Cecil, 3; J. Barrs, 4; S. G. Bower, 5; M. A. Wood, 6; J. West, 7; A. Hayward, 8.

At St. Mary's, Old Battersea, Surrey.

ON Sunday, the 21st inst., for Divine Service, a quarter peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES was rung in 40 mins. S. Baker (first quarter peal), 1; W. Baron (conductor), 2; H. A. Hopkins, 3; A. G. Thomas, 4; W. W. Thorne, 5; H. S. Thomas, 6; C. W. Ludwig, 7; W. Ambrose, 8.

At St. Clement Danes, Strand, London.

ON Monday evening, the 22nd inst., a muffled peal was rung (whole-pull and stand) by the following members of the St. James's Society, as a mark of respect to the late Joseph Dyer, Esq., R.I.P., father of Mrs. Lindsay, wife of the Rector, Dr. Lindsay. E. F. Strange, 1; W. W. Thorne, 2; A. E. Church, 3; H. J. Davies, 4; E. Richards, 5; J. Waghorn, jun., 6; J. Waghorn, sen., 7; H. A. Barnett, 8; W. S. Smith, 9; R. T. Woodley, 10.

WHITE CROSS MOVEMENT.

At Glossop, on Tuesday evening, March 23rd, the inaugural meeting in connexion with the formation of a branch of the White Cross Movement was held in the schoolroom. There was a very good attendance. The Rev. T. Horton presided, supported by the Rev. H. Morrison, Rev. J. Kirby, the Rev. Alexander Holland, Councillor T. P. Hunter, &c. The Chairman stated that the meeting was the outcome of a gathering recently held in the Town Hall.

At the close of an address given by Mr. G. S. S. Vidal the Rev. H. Morrison said that after the subject had been approached in such a calm and thoughtful way the White Cross Movement must commend itself to the mind and heart of every man present, and would become a power for God and good in the town of Glossop.

The Church Army of St. Philip's, Manchester, were specially gathered on Thursday, March 25th, for an address on the above movement. The rector, the Rev. R. Catterall, having opened the meeting with prayer, addresses were given by Mr. Vidal, Mr. McGill, secretary Manchester City Mission, and Mr. F. W. Crossley of Bowdon, Cheshire.

CHURCH KNEELINGS.

It is to me an interesting truth, that in my first curacy, now many years ago, I devised a plan for 'kneelings,' which plan two circumstances caused me to abandon. A very trifling modification of these two circumstances enables me now to describe through your columns what is, *I incline to believe*, the best practicable way of providing comfortable kneelings, which *need not* be rendered dirty by people putting their feet upon them. A hassock of sufficient height is costly, and in many ways objectionable. A 'pad' is very trying to people as they advance in life; and indeed all who kneel ought to have the knee about as far from the ground as the front of the foot is long (*i.e.*, about seven or eight inches). Accordingly, I provided kneeling-boards of the length of the whole sitting, about seven inches from the ground in front, and sloping upwards to about nine inches at the back. Elderly people do not like to bend lower than this height requires. But, of course, this is only a hard piece of wood, however well rounded it is made on the edge. The devout will place a handkerchief on the board and kneel on it, but then *few are devout!*

In my curate days, I had put stuffed leather pads on the wood for kneeling upon, *intending* that the pads should be thrown back when not needed for kneeling, so that the people could put their feet on the board without dirtying the kneeling-pad. But I was beaten, (1), by the cost of the leather pad; and (2), by the fact that the said pad would tumble forward, and the ruthless ploughman would then '*clap his foot on tot.*' Since then I have tried every scheme I could see or hear of (and they are not few), but all appear to fail practically in one way or another, either on account of costliness, or from not fulfilling what is requisite. But a simple suggestion by a builder, who has often worked with me in church work, together with the substitution of a woollen pad (I used Jones and Willis'), or even a piece of very thick felt for the pad, has enabled me to realise the thing I longed for some thirty-five years ago, and for which I have been looking ever since then.

The simple difference of fastening the pad to the kneeling-board on the *under* side of the pad instead of the *upper* side just makes all the difference also, in the pad leaning back against the front of the sitting when the pad is not needed. And the cost of a pad of stuffed woollen is far below that of my original leather pad. I venture then to offer the following as a good, practicable 'kneeling,' for any church:—1. A kneeling-board the whole length of the sitting, well rounded at the entrance to the sitting, and also well rounded on its front edge. The board to be seven or eight inches wide. I prefer eight inches if the sittings are of not less than thirty-three inches pitch. The board to be (say) eight and a half inches high at the back and seven and a half at the front. 2. Upon the top of this board fasten the pad, with three or four broad-headed nails, from the *under* side of the pad. Thus a kind of hinge is formed, inclining the pad so that it will continue back and out of the way of the feet, when not needed, and when turned back. 3. Fasten the pad *fully* two inches from the back of the kneeling-board. It then covers the front of the kneeling-board in such a way that one can kneel quite comfortably. And if any wish to place their feet on the board when not kneeling, the foot easily catches the front of the pad thus projecting beyond the kneeling-board, and throws the pad back, where it remains.

If any one chooses to make the experiment carefully, with these directions, he can soon judge for himself whether or not the great practical difficulty of providing suitable 'kneelings' at a reasonable cost, and in a practicable manner, has been solved or not.

Great Yarmouth Vicarage.

GEORGE VENABLES.

P.S.—A piece of carpet will do instead of a pad. I have employed poor people to make me some good pads by stitching two pieces of even thin felt or drugget together, placing four or five thicknesses of brown paper, in small separate sheets, between. Some of these have lasted well for many years when kept flat. Perhaps, however, they may not do so well where they are liable to be put *on edge*.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

The Church Bells at Braughing, Herts.

In the year 1745 Braughing tower contained a fine ring of five bells, and in that year W. Freeman, Esq., of Hamels Park, completed the octave by adding three new bells. At the same time the five old bells were quartered, and rehung with new fittings in an excellent new frame of English oak, which after 140 years' wear is as good as ever. The inscriptions on the bells are as follows:—On the first three, 'Robert Catlin fecit, 1745.' The gift of William Freeman, Esq.' On the 4th, 'William Harbert me fecit, 1628.' On the 5th, which is a very old bell with large canons, is a Latin inscription which appears to be, '*Deus in adiutorium meum.*' followed by two illegible words; the date is 1562. On the 6th, 7th, and tenor, 'Miles Graye made me;' with the respective dates of 1615, 1653, and 1631. The weight of the tenor is about 19 cwt., the key E. In Mr. Freeman's time a company of ringers was formed, who were called the Braughing Youths; and their principal peals are recorded on four tablets in the belfry. The first of these records a 5040 of TRIPLES, dated Sept. 25, 1746. The second a peal of BOB MAJOR, containing 10,080 changes, dated April 23, 1778. The third a peal of BOB MAJOR of 12,240 changes, rung in 7 hrs. 34 mins. on the 10th of May, 1779. The tablet bears this couplet:—

'Twas long each man did stand with zeal,
An ardent Union performed the peal.'

In memory of this peal a ringing festival has been held ever since on the 10th of May. And the fourth tablet records a peal of 6160 BOB MAJOR, rung on the 10th of May, 1829. For the last forty-five years, on the 10th of May, the tower has been visited by L. Proctor, Esq., of Bennington, and his noted company of ringers, with many other well-known ringers from London and other parts of the country; but, owing to the bad state of repair of the fittings of the bells, no peals have been attempted for some years. They are now, we are glad to say, undergoing complete repair under the care of Mr. J. Gray, of Little Mundon, Herts, who hopes to have them all rehung and in first-rate going order in plenty of time for the approaching 10th of May, when some remarkable ringing may be anticipated.

The Braughing bells are of singular beauty of tone and in perfect tune. Mr. Proctor of Bennington writes of them as follows:—'It gives me much pleasure to hear that so able a bellhanger as Mr. J. Gray should be rehanging your fine ring of eight bells. For now many years past I have always considered that your ring at Braughing is the best ring that I have ever heard of their weight; it is only a marvel that long before this they have not been broken to pieces, but the hanging and frame have survived all that I have known of its various treatment for over forty years. Your ring has never been heard, from the improper blows of the several clappers upon the sides of the bells. I look forward with much pleasure to the change of sound when they are finished.' The money needed for the rehanging of these beautiful bells, including new ropes and a chiming apparatus, which it is proposed to add if funds can be raised, is 76l., of which only about 47l. has yet been collected; and the Vicar (Rev. P. G. Ward, Braughing Vicarage, Ware) would very thankfully receive contributions from any lovers of bell-ringing who might feel disposed to aid in their restoration.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. Michael's, Bishops Stortford, Herts.

ON Thursday, the 18th ult., eight members of the Bishops Stortford branch of the Hertfordshire Association, rang a quarter-peal of 1260 OXFORD BOB TRIPLES in 43 mins. T. Newman, 1; G. Brand, 2; A. Tucker, 3; W. H. Tucker, 4; H. Prior, jun., 5; H. J. Tucker (conductor), 6; H. N. Doughty, 7; J. Sampford, 8. Composed by Mr. H. Johnson, sen. This is the first quarter-peal in this method rang in the county of Herts. Also the same evening, 448 GRANDSIRE MAJOR. T. Newman, 1; G. Brand, 2; C. Martin, 3; A. Tucker, 4; H. Prior, jun., 5; W. H. Tucker, 6; H. N. Doughty, 7; H. J. Tucker (conductor), 8. Tenor, 20 cwt. The above was rung to celebrate the erection of a board which is to record a peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (Holt's Original), which was rung at the above church, with the bells deeply muffled, on November 26th, 1885, in memory of the late Mr. J. W. Snowdon.

At St. Anne's, Bagshot, Surrey.

ON Thursday evening, the 18th ult., six members of the company rang their first 720 of DOUBLES, three six-scores of GRANDSIRE, and three six-scores of PLAIN BOB, in 28 mins. H. Stapleton, 1; H. Houlton, 2; E. Spooner, 3; T. Gould, 4; E. Lee (conductor), 5; R. Wicks, 6. Tenor, 21 cwt., in F. St. Anne's is a new church, built in the Gothic style, with red facings and Bath stone dressing, and the spire is 120 feet high. The foundation-stone was laid by H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught, in April 1883, and the church was opened by the Bishop of Winchester on April 25th, 1884. The bells are from the foundry of Messrs. Warner and Sons, of Cripplegate, and were given by the late Mrs. Eliza Waterer in memory of her husband, Michael Waterer, Esq., of Bagshot. The members of this company are highly honoured in having H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught, as their President, who subscribes liberally to their funds, and through whose instrumentality the church was built. The Duke has lately put in a fine stained-glass window in memory of his brother, the Duke of Albany.

At St. Mary's, Beddington, Surrey.

ON Saturday, the 20th ult., eight members of the Surrey Association rang Holt's Original Peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 8 mins. J. Branch, 1; A. B. Carpenter (conductor), 2; E. Bennett, 3; J. Harris, 4; W. Burkin, 5; J. Cawley, 6; C. Gordon, 7; J. Trappitt, 8. Tenor, 20½ cwt., in E.

At St. Michael's, Cornhill, City of London.

ON Saturday, the 20th ult., twelve members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang a touch of 1318 STEDMAN CINQUES, taken from an original peal of the late Mr. J. Cox, in 1 hr. 4 mins. J. Pettit (conductor), 1; S. E. Joyce, 2; G. Mash, 3; C. F. Winny, 4; E. Horrex, 5; J. M. Routh, 6; G. T. McLaughlin, 7; W. D. Smith, 8; A. P. Heywood (Duffield, Derbyshire), 9; J. M. Hayes, 10; W. Greenleaf, 11; W. Prime, 12. Tenor, 41 cwt.

At the Cathedral, Manchester.

ON Saturday, the 20th ult., eight members of the Lancashire Association rang a peal of 5024 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 8 mins. T. Thorpe, 1; T. G. Downs (twenty-six years old on the same day), 2; G. E. Turner, 3; J. E. Pollitt, 4; T. Heald, 5; J. Thorpe, 6; A. E. Wreaks (conductor), 7; J. Eachus, 8. Composed by Mr. C. H. Hattersley. Tenor, 25 cwt., in E.

At All Saints', Dewsbury, Yorkshire.

ON Saturday, the 20th ult., eight members of the Yorkshire Association rang a peal of 5056 TREBLE BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 3 mins. B. A. Dodson, 1; G. Taylor, 2; W. Stainthorpe, 3; W. Bolland, 4; J. A. Idle, 5; G. H. Hardy (composer and conductor), 6; G. Bolland, 7; J. Haley, 8. Tenor, 14 cwt.

At All Saints', Sudbury, Suffolk.

ON Monday, the 22nd ult., eight members of the Sudbury Company of Change-ringers rang a touch of 2030 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 1 hr. 28 mins. J. Campin, 1; W. Bacon, 2; G. Brown, 3; M. Silvester, 4; C. Sillitoe, 5; H. Harper, 6; A. Scott, 7; H. Brackett, 8. Composed by Mr. J. Reeves and conducted by Mr. Sillitoe. Tenor, 28 cwt., in D.

At St. Giles's, Cripplegate, City of London.

ON Monday, the 22nd ult., twelve members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang a peal of 5014 STEDMAN CINQUES in 3 hrs. 57 mins. J. Pettit (conductor), 1; S. E. Joyce, 2; J. M. Hayes, 3; C. F. Winny, 4; W. Tanner, 5; J. M. Routh, 6; G. T. McLaughlin, 7; W. D. Smith, 8; A. P. Heywood (Duffield, Derbyshire), 9; F. G. Newman, 10; W. Greenleaf, 11; E. Horrex, 12. Composed by Mr. H. W. Haley. Tenor, 36 cwt. [* First peal of Cinques.]

RECEIVED ALSO.—W. Whitaker—next week.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Church Music and Music in Church.

SIR,—Referring to the article in your last issue, signed 'C. M.,' I venture to draw attention to a point in the little service which is suggested for use. If 'the first prayer in the Communion Office' and 'the Lord's Prayer' are synonymous terms, I have nothing more to say on that head. If by 'the first prayer' is intended the prayer preceding the Ten Commandments, then I would remind 'C. M.' and your readers that in the 'third service for Sundays,' suggested in the Uniformity Amendment Act, it is forbidden to use any prayer in the Communion Office which is not to be found elsewhere in the Prayer-book. The prayer preceding the Commandments is so specially a Communion prayer that it seems very improper to use it, except at the Lord's Supper. It is this circumstance which makes me, in fact, allude to 'C. M.'s' article, that I may draw your attention, Sir, to what I consider a most serious question, viz., whether the so-called 'Ante-Communion Office' (wherever did it get its name?) should ever be heard in our churches. There is a section in our Church which totally objects to what they call 'Table Prayers;' and, although not one of that party (for I do not believe in *Consubstantiation*), yet I go heartily with them in their aversion to the mutilation of the 'Holy Communion Office.' When we consider that that prayer begs of God that we may 'worthily magnify' His Holy Name, *i.e.* not unworthily eat and drink the Lord's Supper, and then that so many deliberately stop short in the middle of the Office, and never magnify His Name at all in the manner intended; then it is, to my mind, one of the saddest blots in the Church's customs, introduced probably at some lamentable period of Rubrical changes (when was it?), or through some misunderstanding of the present Rubrics. Yes, indeed, Sir, I venture to ask the question, Whether the Rubrics do admit of such interpretation as to allow the minister to conclude with 'the Prayer for the Church militant, one or more Collects, and the Blessing,' unless he has not received notice of a convenient number to communicate with him, according to his discretion, which would appear to be 'four, or three at the least,' out of every 'twenty persons of discretion,' in the parish?

This is a subject, Sir, which I should be most thankful to see thoroughly discussed in your columns. It amounts simply to this—Can a priest undertake of his own arrangements to say, 'On such a Sunday there will be no Communion,' and then deliberately go up to the table and go through half 'The Order of the Administration of the Lord's Supper, or Holy Communion?' or must he not wait until he find that there is not a convenient number to communicate with him? Whichever way the question is settled, I think the inquiry will be a profitable one; and 'C. M.' will, I hope, excuse me when he sees that this is the question to which the *doubtful* sentence in his article has gradually led me. X.

Which is Right?

SIR,—Canon Hole, in his excellent sermon on the Lord's Prayer in a recent issue, adduced 'one of our greatest lawyers' as an instance of holy dying, and of the benefit to be derived from 'getting by heart the daily services of our Church, and the greater part of the Psalms,' and says that his last words were that he died 'happy, yea, supremely happy.' In a note, he says he refers to the blind Lord Lyndhurst. On referring to *Biographical*

Studies, by the late Walter Bagehot, edited by Richard Holt Hutton, under Lord Lyndhurst, I find he says, 'Few men led a laxer life, few men to the very end of their life were looser in their conversation.' He further describes him as 'a man of small principle and few scruples,' and says 'he played the game of life for low, selfish objects.' Now setting aside the latter remark as due to a political bias, I should like to know which of the two authorities is right as to the former part. The author is hardly likely to have made such an assertion without good authority, nor an editor like R. H. Hutton to have passed it without verification. Surely greater caution is necessary on the part of the clergy in bringing forward their edifying examples, or we may be having another late 'eminent Lord Chancellor,' to whom we are indebted for a new Bankruptcy Law, instanced as an example of piety.

DE MORTUIS NIL NISI VERUM.

Parochial Councils.

SM,—*Church Councils*.—Mr. Albert Grey's proposal for the formation of Parochial Councils to be elected by ratepayers is a far more serious matter than is supposed by those who object to it merely as a proposed 'Episcopate of the laity.' At the present time the protest of the Church against evil is much weakened through the dominance of the State-power and the lack of discipline, but how could it be said to make any protest at all if it allow every ratepayer, be he infidel, thief, liar, fornicator, or brothel-keeper, to claim and exercise the power of voting on its affairs? Whoever heard of a ratepaying qualification for membership in the Church of Christ? Would not the smallest sect which exercises discipline in His Name be more worthy to be called a Church? I hope it will be understood that it is not a question of Clergy *versus* Laity, but of Christ against Antichrist. Surely Churchmen will insist on the severance of Church and State if this shameful proposal pass.

Patronage.—It scarcely seems reasonable to talk about abolishing patronage, and of restoring their rights to the laity, unless the said laity are willing to hand over to the patron the value of the advowson. If the endowment of a church is to be found by one family, it is to be expected that the patronage should be in their hands. I noticed that in Mr. Mumby's lecture on tithes, as reported by you, he speaks of the moral law of tithes as being as ancient and binding as the keeping of the Sabbath day holy. Of course, if Churchmen could be brought to see this, it would settle the whole difficulty of Church and State. It cannot be said that the present system of tithe-payment by unwilling tenant-farmers is any keeping of this moral law.

The House of Lords.—Is not 'G. S. O.' under a misapprehension when he says the House of Lords can vote by proxy? He quotes Paley as showing that one of the uses of the House of Lords is to enable the King to reward public servants. Very good and proper, certainly, if the reward were a life-peerage; but these peerages are hereditary, and it is no argument in their favour. The son of one of these public servants may be either a rogue or fool, and what right has he to make our laws because his father had brains?

A reasonable reform of the House of Lords would allow the present peers to send a certain number of representatives, the Bishops a certain number, to which should be added life-peers and *ex-officio* peers. The life-peers might include the public servants of Paley's theory, men of science, &c.; and the *ex-officios* the President of the Wesleyan Conference, and the chief officials of similar religious organizations. A second chamber so formed would be more worthy of reverence than the present House of Lords.

Revenues of the Church.

J. P.

SIR,—It is notorious that the value of Church property in England and Wales has long been grossly overstated, and still more egregiously so by the enemies of the Church, who never scruple at any amount of falsehood to injure or destroy her, if they could. I have for some time wished to say that it seems to me that it would be a very useful thing if our Archbishops and Bishops would send a circular to each of their clergy, to ask for a statement of the gross and of the net value of each benefice; the latter after the deduction of taxes, rates, fee-farm rents, tenths, &c., with also the Income tax, the last-named going to the benefit of the nation. I fancy that the result, especially now that the value of all agricultural property has gone to such a very low level, will open the eyes of some, and shut the mouths of others against the falsehoods they have so long been in the habit of most unscrupulously indulging in, in the spirit of envy and hatred of the Church, as the mainstay of religion in the land. The value of the endowments of the sects should, at the same time, be also thoroughly published.

Nunburnholme Rectory, Hayton, York.

Patronage.—A Survival.

SIR,—I see in *Church Bells* of the 26th of March a letter on this subject, from 'Henry Hayman, D.D.' The letter bears no address, but I presume the writer is the Rector of Aldingham, the late Head-master of Rugby, and one, therefore, whose opinion as a calm thinker is entitled to the utmost respect. I would ask him, however, whether he does not take an unduly despondent view? It seems to me that both clergy and laity are slowly—very slowly it may be—coming to see that patronage is scarcely consistent with the ideal of the Christian Church, viz., that of a great Brotherhood—a great Democracy, if we use this latter term in its highest sense. I think this is evident from the general tenor of the Church Patronage Bill, which the Primate and the Bishop of Peterborough have prepared with a view to its early introduction into Parliament.

As to the general idea of Dr. Hayman's letter, perhaps I may mention that the Hulsean Lectures of the Rev. Joseph Foxley, in 1881, contained

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

CHURCH BELLS.

HINTS AS TO PARISH RINGERS.

I.—FORMATION OF THE BAND.

1. *Age of the men chosen as ringers.*—In forming a band of ringers it will be generally found best to choose lads of fourteen to sixteen or seventeen years of age, where such may be had, in preference to fully grown men. Among reasons for this are:—(1.) Greater tractability of young lads. (2.) There is with them less to unlearn. (3.) Having come more recently from school their minds have not had time to grow torpid. (4.) Manual dexterity in the management of a bell is rarely to be so perfectly acquired by an adult as by a lad—if ever. (5.) The age above indicated is one at which the Church not unfrequently loses her hold on her children. The only disadvantages to be urged against this course are, first, the levity of boyhood—which soon passes off; secondly, that youths as yet unsettled in their plans of employment go elsewhere to better themselves just when they are becoming efficient change-ringers. It must be allowed that this is a real difficulty, but (1) no band, of whatsoever age the members may be, is exempt from it, and (2) it is more than doubly counterbalanced by the advantages enumerated above.

2. *In case of the previous existence of a band of unscientific ringers.*—In most cases where the formation of a new band of scientific change-ringers is contemplated, difficulties arise as to how the old round-ringing set are to be treated. Usually it will be found best to allow them to remain *exactly as they are*, assuring them that on all occasions of *paid* ringing they shall have the preference, and merely stipulating that the regular weekly practice of the new society shall not be interfered with. There is no reason why individual members of the old set should not be also members of the new.

II.—RULES TO BE IMPOSED BY THE CLERGY.

The fewer the rules so much the better.

The following will, except in special cases, be found sufficient:—

1. *Character and Conduct.*—We, the ringers of the Church, recognise in our office a position of trust and responsibility, to be used to the glory of God and the benefit of His Church. We look upon ourselves as ministers of the Church. We will accordingly endeavour, both on Sunday and in the week, to set a good example in all things. In particular, we will, as far as possible, be regular in our attendance at church, and above all at the Holy Communion.

2. *Punctuality.*—We will be regular and *punctual* in coming to ring, or chime, for the services and at the ringing practice.

3. *Festival Ringing.*—In addition to ringing (or chiming) for the usual Sunday services we engage to ring early in the morning on these four feasts at least, viz., Christmas Day, Easter Day, Ascension Day, Whitsun Day.

4. *The authority of the Incumbent.*—We promise to submit in all things to the authority and ruling of the Rector (or Vicar), from whom we have received our office, and who may at any time call upon us to vacate it.

III.—VOLUNTARY RULES.

The ringers will generally find it convenient to supplement these rules with some of their own, which will naturally treat of (1) Government, (2) Funds, (3) Hours of practice.

1. *Government.*—There may be a master, secretary, and treasurer. As to the first, it will often be well to leave the office open for a while, as only time will show who is most qualified for it. The clergyman may with advantage occupy the post of treasurer. All these three offices to be annually vacated and refilled.

2. *Funds.*—Under this head comes division, or other application, of money received for ringing. This, and the question of fines for late or non-attendance at practice, are very different in various places, but usually settle themselves in a short time. (Punctuality of attendance at service-ringing is best ensured by the clergyman on the same plan as that adopted for the choir.)

3. As to hours of practice, the only caution to be given is, Avoid Saturday night.

The question of payment for ringers is a difficult one, on which it would scarcely be advisable to give any very decided opinion. Usually it is better, at least at the commencement, to stipulate that their services shall be freely given. In a year or two, if they have shown steadiness and determination, and have become good change-ringers, an annual collection in church might be made on their behalf, as much for the people's good as for that of the ringers.

Lastly, if we may be allowed to do so, we would warmly recommend the clergyman to become a ringer himself, if possible.

We shall be glad of any additional hints from our readers. It is proposed to publish these hints separately before long.

Jasper W. Snowdon's Memorial Fund.

SIR,—I have pleasure in informing your readers that the preliminary arrangements have been made towards the erection of a suitable stained-glass window, in Ilkley Parish Church, to the memory of the late Mr. Snowdon, and I have received a letter this morning from the Vicar of the church offering to afford every facility for our so doing, and expressing a wish to subscribe to the fund, in case non-ringers are permitted to do so. Mr. William Mitton, the manager of the Bradford Old Bank at Ilkley (and a personal friend of the late Mr. Snowdon), has expressed his willingness to act as treasurer to the fund, so that all subscribers can send their subscriptions direct to him; and Mr. William Whitaker and myself will be very glad to do what we can to carry out the scheme by acting as joint secretaries,

We thought it would be unnecessary to acknowledge receipt of each subscription excepting through the columns of the ringing papers. I may say that action would have been taken earlier in this matter, only we wished to hear suggestions from the exercise.

ROBT. TURK.

Manningham, near Bradford, Yorkshire.

The Oxford Diocesan Guild.

AFTER several years of silence, the bells of the Parish Church of St. Mary, Winkfield, Berks, are again put to use; and in December 1885 a meeting was called by the Vicar, the Rev. J. Dulbany, when several of his parishioners attended, and Rules were drawn out and a band was formed. It was resolved to endeavour to cultivate change-ringing, and in a few weeks, at the Vicar's instigation, a local company was formed, the members of which at once joined the Oxford Diocesan Guild. After obtaining the services of an instructor (Mr. W. A. Garraway) arrangements were made until Easter, as it was thought that after that time some of the band would not be able to attend, and on January 28th they received their first lesson. After some well-attended meetings once a week, five members, with their instructor, succeeded in ringing their first 120 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES. E. Brant, 1; W. A. Garraway, 2; A. Grinstead, 3; G. Worsfold, 4; F. Brant, 5; R. Brant, 6.

INSCRIPTIONS ON THE BELLS.—*Treble*: Original Bell cast by Phelps, 1723, recast by Mears & Stainbank, 1874. *2nd*: 'Richard Clark gave me, 1630; recast by William Eldridge, 1707. T * E * * *.' *3rd*: 'This Bell was made 1591.' *4th*: 'George Boulton & George Wyford, Churchwardens, 1795. Thomas Mears of London fecit.' *5th*: 'Exceolois 1633. Gloria * Dea * B * L *.' *6th*: 'Thomas Mears, Founder, London. Rev. W. L. Rhamm, Vicar. Thomas Duce, Thomas Pitt, Churchwardens, 1839.'

[Surely our correspondent has begun to read the inscription on the 5th bell in the middle of it. It looks as if it ought to be 'Gloria in Excelsis Deo. 1633. B * L *.'—Ed. C. B.]

CHANGE-RINGING.

At Fairfield Parish Church, Buxton, Derbyshire.

ON Sunday, the 21st ult., a muffled peal was rung in memory of Miss Jane Hunt, to whose exertions the erection of the present beautiful ring of bells was due. On the 18th ult. she passed away at a ripe age, as we gather from the parish records and the inscription on No. 6 bell—'This peal of bells was procured chiefly by the exertions of Matilda Wainwright and Jane Hunt, 1867. Taylor & Co., Loughborough.' It is said that the ring cost over 500l., and by the energy and earnestness of the deceased and other promoters this sum was raised, and the bells were ordered and hung in the tower within twelve months.

A muffled peal was also rung on Thursday, when the remains of the deceased lady were laid to rest in the family vault in the beautiful churchyard of Fairfield. The bells (six in number) form one of the finest rings in the north of Derbyshire, and the church being situated on a high hill, probably at a greater elevation than any other church on the Peak, they can be heard for a considerable distance. No doubt visitors to Buxton are familiar with their well-known sound—there being three choral services every Sunday—and the bells are rung for thirty minutes prior to each service. The Vicar, the Rev. F. W. A. Wilkinson, in his sermon on the above occasion, made a very apt and touching allusion to the deceased and her efforts, the effects of which will long survive her; and he based his remarks upon the use of 'bells,' as recorded with reference to the High Priest. The peal was rung by T. Barton, 1; E. Clayton, 2; G. Barton, 3; E. Barton, 4; J. Perrin, 5; A. Fox and G. Hawley, 6. Tenor, 11 cwt., in F.

At Sittingbourne, Kent.

ON Friday, the 26th ult., the following persons rang 644 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, taken from Holt's Original:—P. Boyle, 1; J. G. Elliott, 2; P. Simms, 3; J. M. Cooper, 4; S. Snelling, 5; Captain Wood, 6; W. H. Judd (conductor), 7; E. Gower, 8; and 280 in the same method, with Captain Wood conducting. On Sunday, the 28th ult., for Divine Service in the morning, 504 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES by the same company as on Friday, with J. Jordan, instead of Captain Wood, and 448 for evening service. On Monday, the 29th ult., 447 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES by the same company, conducted by S. Snelling.

At the Cathedral, Canterbury.

ON Monday, the 29th ult., the following persons rang, with the bells half muffled, the last 700 of Holt's Original peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, and also the usual whole-pull and stand, as a last token of respect to Mr. G. Stancombe, a member of the Cathedral company. F. Davison, 1; A. A. Andrews, 2; J. H. Small, 3; Rev. F. G. O. Helmore, 4; C. Luery, 5; R. Goodbourn, 6; H. G. Fairbrass (conductor), 7; C. Austen and A. Allen, 8. Tenor, 36 cwt. A muffled peal was also rung at St. Dunstan's Church after the funeral.

At Holy Trinity, Staleybridge, Cheshire.

ON Monday, the 29th ult., the following persons rang Brooke's Variation of Thurstan's peal of 5040 SREDIAN TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 1 min. T. Moss, 1; W. Smith, 2; J. Wood, 3; C. H. Hattersley (conductor), 4; B. Broadbent, 5; G. Longden, 6; S. Wood, 7; J. Scholefield, 8. First peal of SREDIAN on the bells. [* First peal in the method.]

At St. Mary's, Lewisham, Kent.

ON Tuesday, the 30th ult., eight members of the St. James's Society, rang the Rev. C. D. P. Davies' Five-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 52 mins. H. W. Grout, 1; W. Pead, 2; W. Weatherstone, 3; W. H. Freeman, 4; F. W. Thornton (conductor), 5; W. H. Bowles, 6; A. G. Freeman, 7; S. Gibbs, 8. This peal has never been previously rung at Lewisham. Tenor, 22½ cwt., in E flat.

At St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, London.

ON Saturday evening, the 3rd inst., ten members of the Royal Cumberland Youths rang a peal of 5000 TREBLE BOB ROYAL in 3 hrs. 37 mins., being the anniversary of the longest peal of ROYAL ever rung by this Society. G. Newsom (composer and conductor), 1; A. Jacobs, 2; T. Titchener, 3 (first peal of ROYAL); A. J. Perkins (Romford), 4; J. Hannington, 5; H. Swain, 6; G. Harvey, 7; H. Hopkins, 8; H. Dains, 9; G. Barrett, 10. This peal is in ten courses, the first six of which are in the Tittum position, and the last four at Home. Tenor, 31 cwt. [We have to inform our correspondent that our Office is No. 12 Southampton Street, Strand, and not Southampton Buildings.]

At St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, London.

ON Saturday, the 3rd inst., eight members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang Holt's Ten-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 57 mins. A. Hayward, 1; H. Langdon, 2; A. Cutmore, 3; I. G. Shade, 4; J. West, 5; M. A. Wood (conductor), 6; W. Prime, 7; J. Monday, 8. The above peal was rung as a mark of respect to Messrs. Forrest and Loveday, the churchwardens.

Notice.

THE bells of St. Helen's Church, Abingdon, lately augmented from eight to ten by Messrs. Mears & Stainbank, will be opened by members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild on Saturday, May 1st. Service, with sermon by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, at eleven o'clock. A peal of STEDMAN CATERS will be attempted in the afternoon.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Curfew Bell.

From the CHESTER SHEAF, March 1879.

'575. *The Curfew*.—The Curfew Bell is still rung every evening at eight o'clock at Cheadle, Wilsow, Bowdon, Prestbury, and Macclesfield (St. Michaels). Can any one of our correspondents give the names of other Cheshire churches where this ancient custom is still kept up?—P. M. HEREFORD, *Gatley Road, Cheadle*.'

'601. *May*, 1879.—The Rev. Edward Hinchliffe, in his work on Barthomley Parish, states that the Curfew is tolled there from Michaelmas to Lady Day, at eight. After the big bell has tolled the knell of parting day the little bell counts out the day of the month. In addition to the Curfew another bell is tolled annually at Barthomley on Shrove Tuesday; very significantly demonstrated in this neighbourhood on Guttet Tuesday, at eleven o'clock, to tell housewives to fry their pancakes.—P. M. HEREFORD, *Cheadle*.'

'Some years ago the so-called Curfew Bell was rang at four churches in Chester—St. Michael's, morning and evening, at six o'clock; Holy Trinity, every evening at seven o'clock; St. Peter's, every evening at eight o'clock; and the Cathedral at nine o'clock. This is the only one now continued.'

In the *Cheshire Sheaf*, April 9th, 1879, there is a long list of other places in Cheshire where the Curfew is rung, but the above may be enough for the present. G. P.

Queen's Park, Chester, March 30th. 1886.

Abstaining from Communion.—A Question for the Clergy.

SIR,—I shall be glad if you will kindly allow me, through the medium of the *Church Bells*, to elicit information and arguments respecting the reason of clergy abstaining from communicating when administering a second time, or oftener, the same day. I should be glad if it were clearly stated as to whether it is authority, or custom, or reasonableness, or the combined power of two or more of these, which dictates this practice? This question has been brought very forcibly to my mind by the following circumstance:—I celebrated and communicated at my own church at an early service; I then preached at another church, and afterwards assisted at the Communion, but did not communicate. I felt a strong desire to do so, especially as it was the first time of being in that church, and I was a perfect stranger to the communicants. I felt by abstaining I was denying myself the privilege of enjoying the Communion with my fellow-believers, and of showing by that ordinance we are all of one Body and of one Spirit in Christ Jesus. Moreover, I could not but think what would be the feeling amongst those who were partaking, when not only I but the other clergy also (for they, too, had been at an early celebration) did not partake of that same bread and wine, and receive together with them. Is there not here something alien to Communion?

VERITAS.

Which Way?

SIR,—'G. V.,' who is usually so fair and liberal, is quite mistaken in accounting the believers in the Identity of the Anglo-British race with Israel to be a *Sect*. As a matter of fact they are mostly Church-folk, including some clergy, and I think two or three Bishops, one of whom is Dr. Titcomb, whose work among the Continental chaplaincies has been praised in your columns. If our 'Rulers and scribes,' generally, reject the Identity, it is quite in keeping with their treatment of other great movements in the early stages—Temperance, for instance. The Identity has unwise advocates, doubtless; and the whole subject is condemned on that account.

The proof lies in the unchangeableness of God, the unconditional nature of His promises to the Patriarchs and their chosen seed, and the exactly corresponding position of our own Empire and people.

If you will allow me, Sir, in another letter I would indicate some of these

fulfilments; meanwhile let me say that the Identity affords the best arguments for Church Defence, for Home Reunion, for Foreign Missions, for the Monarchy and Imperial protection of the 'Cheaper' races; and it gives the death-blow to Papalism and Atheism, while it harmonises Holy Writ.

Battersea, March 31st, 1886.

GEO. ALFRED CATFORD.

Reunion.

SIR,—To those interested in the subject of Reunion two important communications appeared in *Church Bells* of April 2nd, to which I should like to be permitted to direct attention, and also to make one or two remarks thereon. Of these there is:—(1.) The words of the President of the Evangelical Alliance (quoted in 'Home Reunion Notes'); and (2.) The Report (in 'Colonial and Foreign Church News') of the Secession of 'a prominent Presbyterian pastor' at Chicago, and his 'resolve to seek Episcopal ordination.'

As to the first, the President of the Alliance, with a view to bring about union in foreign mission work, advocates the competitive system, which is destitute of Scriptural warrant, as well as being in itself repulsive and degrading to the cause of Christianity. This seems, notwithstanding, to be the one 'foundation stone' of what we may call the great Puritan party—Puritan in ritual and discipline, Presbyterian in views of Church government, and Calvinistic in doctrine,—and presents the main point of difficulty in the path of progression toward the attainment of unity. The whole conglomeration of Protestant Christianity by whatsoever name or ism known, according to the scheme propounded by the President of the Alliance, is 'to have the fullest scope for its energies. Let the measure of zeal for work be measure of opportunity; let work well done be guarantee of possession (i.e., of the mission field).' In other words, it matters not what the foundation may be on which the stronger in 'enthusiastic zeal' is made to rest, the weaker, in respect of such zeal, although possessing the Catholic characteristics of Evangelical truth with Apostolic order, must go to the wall! The scheme of the President may be imperfectly comprehended, but, as disclosed, it stands self-condemned, and its rottenness has been justly exposed by Lord Nelson in his notes upon it.

As to the second, the following are the four reasons given to his congregation for the step he has taken, viz.:—

'Time and again I have talked to you of the thought of bringing together again all the scattered fragments of the Church of Jesus Christ established. My tendencies have always been away from Denominationalism. I can see no hope for a unity of Christendom save in a return to Apostolic thought and Apostolic custom—the creed and the practice of that which during three centuries and over of blessed and united life, undiminished by the selfishness of human thought, was the Catholic Church of Christ. My second reason is a Sacramental one. Conviction has always led me to what I may call the Sacramental idea of the Church. I have never been able to rid myself of the conviction that our Saviour in the two supreme hours of His life would not have established a Sacramental feast and commissioned His disciples to administer Holy Baptism, unless they were a very vital and real part of Christian life and character. My third reason is a "ritualistic" one: I believe in a service in which all the people shall join in both prayer and praise. My final reason is, that I find myself unable to abide by those rules of Christian casuistry that are recognised as part of the practice and the faith of the Church of which I have been a minister.'

Number two is a striking commentary on number one; and suffice it to say, that the object of our hopes shall no longer be in the dim and distant future, when men shall have taken the trouble to inquire for themselves and arrive at the conclusion (in spite of their prejudices) to which this 'prominent Presbyterian pastor' has arrived.

A MEMBER OF THE H. R. S.

Parochial Missions to the Jews Fund.

SIR,—May I ask you kindly to allow me some space in your much-valued paper for the purpose of making known to your numerous readers the aims and methods of the above Society? Putting the whole matter as briefly as possible, I may say that it is the aim of the Society to provide Incumbents, who have large numbers of Jews in their parishes, with specially fitted missionary Curates to the Jews. The Church of England, as being responsible for the spiritual welfare of the Jews in our midst, must of necessity provide efficient agencies for bringing the Gospel within their reach; and the best method of fulfilling this great duty is undoubtedly to place Jewish missions on a permanent and firm basis as a necessary branch of our diocesan and parochial organizations. This the above fund endeavours to do. Jews resident in a parish are so many souls committed to the charge of the parochial clergy, and as only men who have been properly trained for it can do this branch of the Church's work efficiently, the Society sends out special missionaries, who, under the direction of the respective incumbents, make it their duty to preach 'to the Jew first.' One somehow feels that a work of this kind needs only to be properly known in order to receive a large amount of support from Churchmen. On Good Friday the committee makes special efforts to obtain alms in various churches in aid of its work, and it is to be hoped that a large number of offertories will be sent in this year. No one who reads the names of those who form the committee, with the Dean of Lichfield as president, can fail to place the utmost trust in the administration of the funds which may be placed at the disposal of the Society. If all Churchmen, both clergy and laity, were only to make a grand effort on the Fund's behalf, by offertories, donations, and subscriptions, the blessings arising from its efforts would soon be felt all over the country.

Arundel House, Thames Embankment,
London, W.C.

GEORGE MARGOLIOUTH,
Organizing Secretary.

EASTER.

THE following comment on the method of determining Easter Day is taken from *Knowledge* (edited by the eminent astronomer, Mr. Procter), April 3, 1885, and will show that it is not so simple a matter as it would seem to one who only regarded the simple rule in the Prayer-book calendar and thought that the astronomical full moon was meant:—

‘Our present mode of determining Easter Day dates from A.D. 325, when the Council of Nice decided that it was “to be kept on the Sunday which falls next after the first full moon following March 20th,” i.e., the date of the vernal equinox. Now, any person possessing merely ordinary common sense might imagine from this that we had nothing to do but to look at the almanac for the first full moon sequent on the sun entering Aries, to find that the Sunday following that must be Easter Day. Oh, dear, no! Pope Hilarius, in A.D. 463, took care that no such obvious interpretation as this should be placed upon the rule. That “infallible” potentate decreed that the paschal moon should be the fourteenth day of the moon by the “Metonic cycle.” This cycle was discovered by Meton, at Athens, B.C. 432, and consists of 235 lunations (or periods from full moon to full moon again). 235 lunations occupy 6939.69 days, an interval so very close to 19 years of 365½ days each that 322 years must elapse before the cycle gets a whole day wrong. But quite evidently in 19 years there may be either four or five leap-years whence a day’s difference may arise: hence the real cycle is 4 times 19, or 76 years long. But practically we may say that the full moon falls on the same days of the same months every 19 years. Hence it will be seen that there are only 19 out of the 30 days subsequently to March 20 on which the equinoctial moon can be full, and the “golden number” in the Prayer-book indicates that the day against which such number is placed is the day of full moon next before Easter Sunday. Moreover this paschal moon is not the real full moon, but, as I have previously said, the 14th day in the Metonic cycle, and as this does not exactly coincide with any number of years, the Ecclesiastical moon and the real one may differ by a day or two, and Easter may be five weeks earlier, or later, than it would be if determined by the actual moon we see in the sky. And even an appeal to the phases of our own satellite would not help us much under certain circumstances; for suppose the (real) moon to be full at Greenwich two minutes after midnight on March 20, i.e., in the very beginning of the morning of March 21, then, using this real moon, March 22 would be Easter Sunday at Greenwich. But in Dublin the moon would be evidently full at 11 h. 37 m. p.m. on March 20, so that, following this precept, the Irish Easter Day would not be celebrated until April 26!’ As any attempt to determine Easter from lunar phenomena lands us in a hopeless muddle, the writer says he advocates that Easter Day should be made a fixed festival, as he considers that there is an insuperable difficulty in recovering the date on which the momentous event occurred which Easter is intended to commemorate.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

Bell-ringing Competition.

Northampton, April 10, 1886.

SIR,—The following advertisement, cut from the *Northampton Herald* of to-day’s date, ought not to pass unnoticed. I refrain from making any comment myself, feeling that the subject will be handled better by you than by, yours obediently,

ROYAL CUMBERLAND.

BELL-RINGING.—A Competition for Bell-ringing on five bells will be held at Courteenhall in the month of June. Further particulars will be shortly published. Entries to be sent as soon as possible to Rev. G. B. Hooper, Courteenhall Rectory.

[We deeply regret the information conveyed in this letter, and more deeply still do we regret that the clergyman, who should be the jealous guardian of the sacred character of everything in God’s House, not merely permits, but actively promotes, such desecration of instruments solemnly dedicated to the service of Almighty God. What would the Rector of Courteenhall say if it was proposed to hold a meeting of clergy in his church to give a prize to the one that could read best from the lectern?—ED. C. B.]

A Long Peal.

EIGHT members of the United Counties’ Association purpose attempting to ring (all being well), on Saturday, the 24th inst., the long peal of 17,760 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, composed by Mr. W. Sottanstill of Sowerby, Yorkshire. It will be at the church of All Saints’, Old Glossop, in the county of Derby.

* The writer seems to forget that the Popes had not begun to claim infallibility at that early date.

Surrey Association.

THE next Quarterly Meeting of this Association will be held at Carshalton (by the kind permission of the Rector) on Easter Monday, April 26th. The business meeting will be held in the schoolroom at 6 o’clock; and all ringing members attending at that hour will be allowed the sum of 1s. 6d. for expenses. The tower will be open for ringing from 4 to 5, and from 7 to 8 p.m. The ring of ten at Beddington will also be open for ringing by the kind permission of the Rev. Canon Bridges. Further particulars next week.

ARTHUR B. CARPENTER, *Hon. Sec.*

The South Lincolnshire Association.

THE next Annual Meeting of this Association will be held at Bourne, on Easter Monday. Dinner will be provided at the ‘Nag’s Head,’ at two o’clock, 2s. each. Members intending to be present must send in their names to the Hon. Sec. on or before Saturday, the 17th inst., or the usual allowance will not be granted them. The annual subscription will be then due, when members are respectfully requested to pay the same.

Monks’ Lane, Spalding.

R. CREASEY, *Hon. Sec.*

The Midland Counties’ Association.

THE Fourth Annual Meeting of this Association will be held at Derby on Easter Monday, April 26th, and the following towers will be open for ringing from 10 a.m.:—All Saints’, ten bells; St. Andrew’s, eight bells; St. Luke’s, eight bells; St. Werburgh’s, eight bells; and St. Alkmund’s, eight bells. Visitors, on arrival, are requested to proceed to St. Andrew’s School (near Midland Railway Station), where the local Committee will be in attendance to assist in forming bands to proceed to the various towers. Committee Meeting in the above school at 3 p.m. Service in St. Andrew’s Church at 4 p.m., during which time all towers will be closed. Tea in the schoolroom at 5 p.m. General Meeting and election of Officers for the ensuing year at 6 p.m. All ringers and friends are earnestly invited to attend.

377 Rostlison Road, Burton-on-Trent.

JOSEPH GRIFFIN, *Hon. Sec.*

Worcester and Adjoining Districts Change-ringing Association.

THE next Annual Meeting of the above Association will be held on Easter Monday, April 26th, in the Chapter House, Worcester Cathedral, at two o’clock prompt. The Rev. Canon Melville, D.D., rector of Great Witely, has kindly consented to preside. All members who arrive at Worcester earlier (and all are specially invited) are requested to meet at St. Helen’s Church, and to note that all contributions not yet paid are due at this meeting, and each Society in union is asked to present a copy of their own belfry rules. The towers of All Saints’, St. Helen’s, St. John’s, St. Martin’s, and St. Swithin’s, will be open for ringing.

Order of Business.—Confirming (or otherwise) minutes of last meeting. To propose new members. To receive contributions. To take into consideration minutes 5 and 7 of meeting held at Worcester, September 19th, and minute 2 of meeting held at Bewdley, November 21st, 1885.

Notice of Motion from Dudley.—That three Trustees be appointed. Notice of motion from the Rev. W. R. Carr, St. John’s, Worcester, to bring forward a set of belfry rules for adoption by the Association. Election of President in the place of Lord Alwyne Compton, bishop of Ely, resigned. Election of Lay Vice-presidents, Committee of Management, including Master, Secretaries, and Treasurer, in the place of the late Mr. William Duffill. Members to take this as a proper notice should they receive no other.

JNO. SMITH, *Hon. Sec.*

25 Simon’s Lane, Netherton, near Dudley.

Hereford Diocesan Guild.

At a Committee Meeting held in Hereford on Thursday, the 1st inst., the following officers were elected:—Master, G. H. Phillott, Esq.; Treasurer, Rev. Preb. Phillott; Secretary, Rev. G. M. Custance, Colwall Rectory, Malvern. J. W. Washbrook, of Oxford, has been appointed as Chief Instructor to the Guild.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At SS. Mary and Nicholas, Spalding, Lincolnshire.

ON Saturday, the 20th ult., on the occasion of the restored chapel of SS. Mary and Thomas by the Bishop of Lincoln, which has been used as a Grammar School for three hundred years, and the erection of two new bells lately added, completing the restoration of this grand old church, eight members of the Eastern Counties Guild rang 518 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. R. Jarvis, 1; J. W. Jarvis, 2; J. S. Wright, 3; C. Neaverson, 4; G. L. Richardson, 5; R. Mackman, 6; J. Brown, 7; R. Peck, 8. On Sunday, the 21st ult., for morning service, 518 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, and for evening service, 672 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. After service, 863 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. R. Jarvis, 1; G. Skeef, 2; J. S. Wright, 3; C. Neaverson, 4; G. L. Richardson, 5; R. Mackman (conductor), 6; J. Brown, 7; J. W. Jarvis, 8.

At St. Andrew’s, Cambridge.

ON Thursday, the 25th ult., eight members of the Ely Diocesan Association rang 559 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. J. Jackson (conductor), 1; J. Taylor, 2; Rev. A. H. F. Boughey (Trinity), 3; I. Rockett, 4; H. J. Elsee (St. John’s), 5; M. C. Potter (Peterhouse), 6; G. Taylor, 7; E. L. Holmes (St. John’s), 8. Also Penning’s 720 BOB MIXON, with forty-six calls, in 25 mins. J. Taylor, 1; J. Jackson, 2; H. J. Elsee, 3; M. C. Potter (conductor), 4; G. Taylor, 5; I. Rockett, 6. Tenor, 10 cwt.

At SS. Peter and Paul, Lavenham, Suffolk.

On Saturday, the 27th ult., the following ringers from Sudbury and Melford paid a visit to the above town, and rang a touch of 630 **GRANDSIRE TRIPLES**. F. Tolliday, 1; J. Campin, 2; W. Howell, 3; W. Bacon, 4; W. Cross, 5; C. Sillitoe, 6; H. Harper, 7; W. Moore (Lavenham), 8. Also a touch of 672 **BOB MAJOR**. J. Campin, 1; W. Howell, 2; C. Sillitoe, 3; W. Bacon, 4; G. Hammond, 5; J. Bird, 6; H. Harper, 7; G. Moore, 8. The touches were conducted by Mr. C. Sillitoe. Tenor, 24 cwt. Messrs. Campin, Harper, Tolliday, Sillitoe, Howell, Bacon, and Cross, came from Sudbury; Messrs. Bird and Hammond from Long Melford.

At St. Albans Abbey, Herts.

On Tuesday, the 30th ult., eight members of the Abbey Society rang the first part of Reeve's Variation of Holt's Ten-part peal of 5040 **GRANDSIRE TRIPLES**, and the usual whole-pull and stand, as a mark of respect to Mr. N. Turner, Sexton of the Abbey, who was buried that day. J. C. Mitchell, 1; W. H. Buckingham, 2; W. H. L. Buckingham, 3; G. W. Cartmel, 4; H. Lewis, 5; E. Hulks, 6; N. N. Hills (conductor), 7; W. Battle, 8.

At All Saints', Sheffield.

On Saturday, the 3rd inst., eight members of the St. Peter's Amalgamated Society and the Yorkshire Association rang Holt's Original peal of 5040 **GRANDSIRE TRIPLES** in 2 hrs. 54 mins. W. Gardiner, 1; S. Seed, 2; F. Willey, 3; T. Hattersley (conductor), 4; C. H. Hattersley, 5; H. Thompson, 6; W. Smithson, 7; I. Lloyd (first peal), 8. Tenor, 15 cwt.

At Rayleigh, Essex.

On Sunday, the 4th inst., Mr. A. S. Barrell, of the Norwich Diocesan Association, now resident at Prittlewell, with Mr. W. Dowsett of Prittlewell, visited Rayleigh, and rang with the local company a peal of 720 **BOB MINOR** in 28 mins. W. Dowsett, 1; F. Haslam, 2; J. Johnson, 3; H. Deal, 4; A. S. Barrell, 5; Rev. H. A. Cockey (conductor), 6. For afternoon service, eighteen-score of **GRANDSIRE MINOR** and a shorter touch in the same method were rung, F. Brewer ringing the 4th and H. Deal the 2nd. Before the evening service, 720 **COLLEGE SINGLE** was attempted, but it was not successful. Messrs. Barrell and H. Dowsett hope to be elected members of the Essex Association at the next meeting.

At St. Peter's Cathedral, Liverpool.

On Monday, the 5th inst., ten members of the Liverpool Youths' Society rang a peal of 5000 **KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL** in 3 hrs. 25 mins. R. Williams,* 1; G. Helsby,* 2; J. R. Pritchard,* 3; C. H. Hattersley* (composer and conductor), 4; W. Booth, 5; C. Williams,* 6; T. Hammond, 7; G. Fisher, 8; W. Davies, 9; R. Williams, 10. [*College youths.] Tenor, 25 cwt., in D. The ringer of the treble is in his seventy-sixth year, and this is his third peal within five days.

At All Saints', West Bromwich, Staffordshire.

On Monday, the 5th inst., eight members of the All Saints' Society rang a date touch of 1886 **GRANDSIRE TRIPLES** in 1 hr. 7 mins. T. Danks, 1; W. Cooper, 2; B. Hill, 3; R. Jones, 4; E. Cashmore, 5; S. Smith, 6; S. Reeves (conductor), 7; G. Griffiths, 8. Composed by Mr. Johnson, sen., of Birmingham. The longest touch rung by any of the above except Messrs. Reeves and Cashmore.

At All Saints', Glossop, Derbyshire. *

On Tuesday, the 6th inst., eight members of the United Counties Association rang a peal of 5952 **KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR** in 3 hrs. 33 mins. S. Harrop, 1; D. James, 2; W. Harrop, 3; C. Brooke, 4; S. Knott, jun., 5; J. Maloney, 6; H. Cooper, 7; J. Pye, jun., 8. Composed by Mr. Sottanstell and conducted by Mr. S. Knott. Tenor, 15 cwt. The above is the first part of Mr. Sottanstell's peal of 17,760.

At St. Andrew's, Derby.

On Thursday, the 8th inst., eight members of the Midland Counties Association and St. Andrew's Society, rang 576 **BOB MAJOR** in 21 mins. W. Shardlow, 1; G. Mottashaw, 2; T. Alton, 3; W. Midgley, 4; J. W. Thompson, 5; C. Hart, 6; A. E. Thompson, 7; W. H. Found, 8. Also 532 **BOB TRIPLES** in 20 mins. G. Mottashaw, 1; T. Alton, 2; J. W. Thompson, 3; W. B. Midgley, 4; W. H. Found, 5; C. Hart, 6; A. E. Thompson, 7; W. Shardlow, 8. Conducted by A. E. Thompson. Tenor, 20½ cwt., in E flat.

At St. Peter's, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire.

On Saturday, the 10th inst., eight members of the Ashton Society rang a peal of 6000 **BOB MAJOR** in 3 hrs. 48 mins. H. Heap, 1; J. Leigh, 2; W. Jakeman, 3; J. Hopwood, 4; C. Willocks, 5; T. Moss, 6; G. Longden (composer and conductor), 7; J. Mellor, 8. Tenor, 20 cwt.

At St. Andrew's, Hertford.

On Sunday, the 11th inst., for Morning Service, eight members of the Hertford Society of College Youths rang a quarter-peal of 1260 **GRANDSIRE TRIPLES** in 45 mins. J. Jauncey, 1; M. Ellsmore, 2; H. Baker, 3; W. Goodchild, 4; W. A. Tyler, 5; J. Cull, 6; J. G. Crawley, 7; F. George, 8. Tenor, 16 cwt. in F. Composed by John Wright of King's Norton, and conducted by Jasper G. Crawley.

CORRESPONDENCE.

'Which is Right?'

SIR,—I was an undergraduate at Cambridge when Lord Lyndhurst was a candidate for the honour of High Steward. I was taking tea at Rev. Dr. Spence's. A fellow-undergraduate expressed his opinion that Lord Lyndhurst ought not to be supported, on account of something reprehensible in his past conduct. What the discreditable or culpable thing was, was not specified. Dr. Spence replied something to this effect:—'How long a time do you think ought to transpire before a man's repentance may be believed and his ill-conduct condoned?' I cannot vouch for Dr. Spence's precise words. Dr. Spence was a very intelligent and high-principled man. I infer that Dr. Spence at that date thought favourably of Lord Lyndhurst. I think now it was five-and-forty years ago. I am acquainted with a near connexion of the late Mr. E. Winslow, who was private secretary on three different occasions to Lord Chancellor Lyndhurst, and my friend told me, years since, that the precise words 'supremely happy' were used by Lord Lyndhurst on his death-bed. I think Canon Hole's statement is right; I trust, and I think, that Mr. W. Bagehot's is not right. Surely, at any rate, his painting is too dark. Nothing is more mischievous than treating immorality lightly. We are aware also that superior religious light means increased responsibility; still, may we not take the words of St. Paul, in respect to converted heathen, as an antidote to despair? 'Such were some of you, but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified, in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.'

X. Y. Z.

Lay Rights.

SIR,—In the wide area of time which the Church covers, the parochial system, as known in vague outline from the seventh century in England, more strictly formulated since the Conquest, and consolidated on permanent lines since the twelfth century, is by no means the oldest arrangement. But it ought to have carried over from the older arrangement the rights of the laity in their entirety, or have left room for them whenever the laity should be fitted to exercise them. It did neither. It left those rights in abeyance. It could not annul or permanently supersede them. Let us see from Bingham's testimony what those rights were. He says, IV., ii. 10, 'St. Jerome says expressly, that presbyters and the other clergy were as much chosen by the people as the bishops were' (he has already amply shown the people's share in episcopal elections just before). 'And Possidius notes this to have been both the custom of the Church and St. Austin's practice in the ordinations of priests and clerks, to have regard to the majority or general consent of Christian people.' He further adduces evidence, that in the Roman Church the 'presbyter or bishop' was 'first to be chosen both by the clergy and the people.' He goes on to combat the notion that the Nicene Council abridged this right, and adduces a Canon of Carthage (Fourth Council), 'that no bishop shall ordain any clergyman without consulting with his clergy, and asking the consent, approbation, and testimony of his people.' This all refers to ordination only. But under the parochial system as known to us, a man is never ordained to a plenary jurisdiction and responsibility as in the ancient time he was. He enters on his ministry as priest merely as a secondary or assistant. But surely equity and analogy require that when his plenary jurisdiction accrues, the people over whom it is to be exercised should have the same share in electing him, otherwise the most important part of that elective suffrage is lost, and the right is forfeited just at the point where its practical value is greatest. From what did this right of the laity originate? I answer, from the precedent of the first-chosen Church-officers after the gift of the Holy Spirit, that of the seven deacons in Acts, vi. There we see popular election from below, expressing the confidence of those on whose behalf they were to act, concurrent with apostolic ordination from above. I believe that, as in the Gospels typical actions of our Lord are selected from the 'many things which Jesus did,' so in the Acts a similar selection guided the record. Points of departure are marked involving permanent principles, and such we have in the first recorded ordination, albeit of deacons only. Assume that this principle was liberally interpreted and generally applied, and we have a key at once to the subsequent practice as traced by Bingham. Of course, the practice presupposes what we know to have been the fact, the general prevalence of a due measure of discipline among the laity. This last condition is only a particular case of the universal principle that rights go hand in hand with duties. During all the earlier and many of the later stages of the conversion of the Celtic and Teutonic tribes, there was, properly speaking, no laity. The wholesale baptisms of which we read show plainly that the conversion, broadly speaking, was at first only nominal, and that the people, or tribesmen, were necessarily catechumens still, were liable to frequent relapses, and only slowly matured into the condition in which they could exercise these lay rights, which are apostolic in their origin, and are, I believe, as sacred, in expressing popular confidence from below, as are those of the Bishop and clergy in conferring ordination from above. Meanwhile patronage had everywhere stepped into possession. The parochial system, as it grew through centuries into what we now experience, was trained upon its lines, and no room was left for the development of that inherent right of the people to a voice in the election of their pastor, which, safeguarded by discipline, is as scriptural and primitive as ordination itself. For centuries in England the Eucharistic Cup was withheld from the laity. It has been restored. Sacred truth always carries in itself the seed of its own reproduction. I therefore live in the hope that other lay rights will, in God's due time, effect their own resurrection too, although buried now beneath the rubbish of centuries of desuetude. But the laity must realize the fact that the restoration of a due measure of

contains a *résumé* of the Bishop's march from Rabai, on July 23rd, to Sakwas, not far from the north-east corner of the lake, on Oct. 6th. The Missionaries in Uganda were still in a precarious state, though the King had permitted the Rev. P. O'Flaherty to leave for the south end of the lake. One other convert has been burned alive on a charge of insulting the King. Mr. Mackay adds: 'The devotion and courage of the young Christians are wonderful.'

THE LEVANT.

THE Patriarch of Constantinople has received from the Archbishop of Canterbury a communication explaining the intended English Mission to Kurdistan, and has readily sent him letters commendatory to the Patriarch of Antioch for the two clergy selected to conduct it.

SCANDINAVIA.

THE *Almindedig Kirketidende* describes the Schartau School in the Swedish Church: 'The diocese of Gothenburgh, comprising Bohus, Halland, and part of West Gothland [hence equivalent to the home of the old Vikings], is now the chief seat of the Swedish Church party, named after Schartau, a priest of Lund in the first quarter of the present century. In their zeal for purity of doctrine the adherents of this school are sometimes too ready to charge error on others; their attachment to the letter is sometimes lacking in the life of the spirit. Evangelistic efforts in supplement of the Church's shortcomings they regard with apprehension, lest they infringe the rights of incumbents. The clergy of this school will not preach extempore, holding the written sermon to be the safest mode of teaching. Appeals to the feelings they do not attempt; their aim is simply to instruct. Their discourses are lengthy, marked by formal divisions, and too objective to be practical enough: there is no declamation in the delivery. Nevertheless such preachers are attentively listened to by crowded congregations; even young lads may be seen contentedly standing in church during the whole of the service.'

IRELAND.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

THE Archbishop of Dublin has arranged for a Quiet Day for the clergy of the diocese, to be held in the Cathedral Church of Christ Church on Easter Tuesday. His Grace will give the address at the early celebration at 8 a.m., and the subsequent addresses will be delivered by the Ven. George Robert Wynne, Archdeacon of Aghadoe, and Rector of Killarney.

The Lent Confirmations are now nearly over; they will conclude with a Confirmation in St. Columba's College Chapel for the boys attending that school and for any children that may be present from the parish of Whitechurch.

The Bishop of Down has notified that he will hold the triennial Confirmations for the united diocese of Down, Connor, and Dromore, during the months of June and July.

The Passion Music of Bach is being sung at St. Patrick's Cathedral every evening during the present week. The special preachers at these services are the Revs. W. B. Stillman (Succentor), Canon Weldon, R. B. Stoney, and Canon Wynne.

The Rev. T. L. F. Stack, of Drumginn, Co. Tyrone, the Secretary of the Derry Marriage Law Defence Union, has recently forwarded for presentation to Parliament fifteen petitions, with 1476 signatures attached, against the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill now before the House of Commons. These petitions include two numerously signed ones from the Diocesan Synod of Derry and Raphoe, headed by the signature of the Bishop, who also earnestly recommended these petitions to the support of the Synod and of the Church.

One of the most important suburban parishes is that of the Holy Trinity, Rathmines. On the death of the late rector, Archdeacon Lee, the parish was separated from that of St. Peter's, and the Rev. S. M. Harris, curate of Harold's Cross, was appointed by the Board of Nomination its first independent Rector. Since his incumbency began the congregation has increased to such an extent that it was found necessary to enlarge and almost rebuild the church. The foundation-stone of the new building was laid on last Thursday week by the Archbishop of Dublin. The entire cost of the improvements will be £4000, of which there is a net amount in hand of 2088*l.* At the close of the proceedings 'The Church's one Foundation' was sung, after which the Benediction was given by the Archbishop. The Board of Nomination for the vacant benefice of St. Philip's, Milltown, held its first meeting at the Palace on Monday last.

The Bishop of Down has presented the Rev. Charles Leaver, rector of St. John's, Belfast, to the Archdeaconry of Connor, vacant by the appointment of the Ven. J. W. Murray, LL.D., to the Deanery of Connor, in succession to the late Dean Bull.

The Easter Vestries will be held next week, and it is likely that at most of them resolutions will be passed deprecating in the strongest manner any attempt to legislate for Ireland in the direction of separation from England. The resolutions passed and speeches delivered at the recent meeting of the General Synod are now being circulated in pamphlet form among English Church people. Copies have been sent to all the Bishops, and many of the leading clergy.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

North Lincolnshire Bell-ringers' Association.

At a Special Committee Meeting of this Association, held in St. Peter-at-Gowts Schoolroom, at Lincoln, on the 10th inst., the Rev. A. G. Musson presiding, it was resolved that the Annual Meeting be held at the headquarters (Lincoln) on Saturday, the 1st of May. It was decided to have Divine Service at 3 o'clock, business meeting at 4 o'clock, and tea (in St. Peter-at-Gowts Schoolroom) immediately after. The details of the arrangements were left in the hands of the local Reception Committee. The retiring President (F. A. Dorrington, Esq.) having signified his inability to act as President again, it was unanimously resolved that the Rev. A. G. Musson be requested to wait upon the Dean of Lincoln with a view to his becoming President of the Association. The Dean has lately manifested great interest in the Cathedral ringing, and since the meeting on Saturday he has consented to become President, and will honour the Annual Meeting with his presence. It was decided to recommend the Annual Meeting to reduce the annual subscription to 1*s.* 6*d.*, efficient and probationers to pay the same amount. The Committee agreed to invite the presence of members of the South and East Lincolnshire Associations to the Annual Meeting. The Bishop of the Diocese (Dr. King) is to be invited to become Patron of the North Lincolnshire Association, and it is proposed to have Vice-Presidents at the various centres of the Association, instead of only two, as the rules specify.

The General Annual Meeting of the Members of this Association will (D.V.) take place at the city of Lincoln, on the Saturday in Easter week, viz. May 1st. The appointments of the day include special divine service in St. Peter-at-Gowts church at 3 o'clock p.m., business meeting at 3.45 p.m., and tea at 4.45 p.m. The latter meetings will, through the kindness of the Vicar of St. Peter-at-Gowts parish, take place in the Victoria Schoolroom. All members are urgently requested to attend, in order to welcome the Very Rev. the Dean of Lincoln as the new President. Several steeples in the city will be open for ringing throughout the day. The Committee will be glad to see any ringers from other Associations. Intending visitors will please communicate at once with the Rev. A. G. Musson, 22 Altham Terrace, Lincoln.

W. LUNN, Hon. Sec.

The Ely Diocesan Association.

THE Quarterly District Meeting, by the kind invitation of the Vicar and Churchwardens, will be held at All Saints', Newmarket, on Easter Monday, at 12 noon. Dinner and business meeting afterwards. Members intending to be present will oblige by communicating with the Hon. Sec., Cambridge Road, Ely.

St. Peter's Mancroft Society—Norwich Scholars.

THE Annual Dinner will take place on Easter Tuesday, April 27th, when the following churches will be opened for ringing:—St. Peter Mancroft, 12 bells; St. Giles, 8; St. Gregory, 6; St. Lawrence, 6. Dinner at 2 o'clock at the 'White Hart,' near St. Peter's Church. Tickets, 2*s.* 6*d.* each. Any friends wishing to attend the dinner must send word on or before April 22nd. Heigham Street, Norwich.

F. KNIGHTS, Master.

The Lancashire Association.

A QUARTERLY Meeting of the above Association will be held on Easter Monday, April 26th, at Blackpool. A train leaves Victoria Station, Manchester (platform No. 6), at 7.10 a.m., reaching Blackpool at 9.10 a.m., and returns from Blackpool at 7.15 p.m. The bells of St. John's church (eight) will be at the disposal of the members. The business meeting will be held at the schoolroom connected with the church at 5.30 p.m. Return fare from Manchester, 2*s.* 6*d.*

A. E. HOLME, } Hon. Secs.
J. REDFORD, }

Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford.

THE next Quarterly Meeting will be held at Tamworth on Saturday, May 1st. Members to assemble at the church at 2.30 p.m. The names of all who wish to attend should be sent not later than April 28th to Mr. S. Reeves, 10 Bull Street, West Bromwich.

REV. J. R. KEBBLE, Hon. Sec.

The proposed Long Peal at All Saints', Old Glossop.

THE notice in our last issue as to the proposed long peal at All Saints', Old Glossop, on Holy Saturday, did not reach our office until late, and, according to a standing arrangement with our printer, was inserted by him in our columns. Had it previously come to our notice, it is scarcely necessary to say that it would not have passed without comment.

Surely our friends of the United Counties' Association had forgotten the great solemnity of the day intervening between the Death and Resurrection of the Lord—the great 'Sabbath rest' of the Christian year—when the whole Church is held by a solemn stillness between her greatest sorrow and her greatest joy? Surely, not to mention their own feelings, they were sadly oblivious of the chastened feelings of all earnest Churchmen? Where will be the freshness and joy of the bells on Easter morning to the inhabitants of Old Glossop? And all this intensified by the fact, that by waiting for forty-eight hours they might ring to their hearts' content!—[*Ed. C. B.*]

CHANGE-RINGING.

At the Cathedral, Oxford.

ON Saturday, the 3rd inst., eight members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild rang a half-peal of STEDMAN TRIPLES (2520 changes), in 1 hr. 37 mins. F. Payne, 1; F. Castle, 2; C. Hounslow, 3; J. Field, 4; C. W. H. Griffiths, Esq., 5; W. Finch, 6; J. W. Washbrook (conductor), 7; A. Barney, 8. Tenor, 42 cwt.

At Headington, Oxfordshire.

On Wednesday, the 7th inst., the following members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild rang several six-scores of **GRANDSIRE DOUBLES**:—Rev. F. Du Boulay, Messrs. G. Tolley, C. Tolley, J. Powell, C. Dalloway, W. Jacob, C. Halton, of Headington, assisted by Messrs. H. J. Castle and J. W. Washbrook (conductor), of Oxford; also some plain courses, and a short touch of **GRANDSIRE MINOR**:—J. Powell, 1; G. Tolley, 2; Rev. F. Du Boulay, 3; C. Tolley, 4; J. W. Washbrook, 5; H. J. Castle, 6. On handbells, a six-score of **STEDMAN DOUBLES**:—Rev. F. Du Boulay, 1; J. W. Washbrook, 2-3; C. Tolley, 4; H. J. Castle, 5-6.

At St. James's, Whitfield, Derbyshire.

On Saturday, the 10th inst., eight members of the United Counties Association rang a peal of 5184 **KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR** in 2 hrs. 58 mins. E. Haigh, 1; E. Rostron, 2; W. Marsden, 3; A. Rangeley (first peal), 4; S. Wilkinson, 5; S. Lever, 6; J. Bradbury, 7; S. Stafford, 8. Composed by S. Wood of Ashton, and conducted by E. Haigh. Tenor, 12½ cwt.

At St. John-the-Baptist's, Croydon, Surrey.

On Saturday, the 10th inst., eight members of the Surrey Association, after the Confirmation Service, rang a quarter-peal (Johnson's Six-part) of **GRANDSIRE TRIPLES** in 54 mins. W. Dndley, 1; G. Russell (conductor), 2; H. C. Haley, 3; M. Holman, 4; A. B. Carpenter, Esq., 5; W. States, 6; T. Verrall, 7; G. Rosier, 8. The tenor clogged, not being ringable.

At St. Michael's, Bishop Stortford, Herts.

On Saturday, the 10th inst., eight members of the Hertfordshire Association rang a peal of 6384 **GRANDSIRE MAJOR** in 4 hrs. 12 mins. T. Newman, 1; A. Theaker, 2; M. Ellsmore, 3; H. Baker, 4; F. Sworder, 5; S. Knight, 6; H. N. Doughty, 7; H. J. Tucker, 8. Composed by J. Carter and conducted by H. J. Tucker. Tenor, 20 cwt. The above is the longest peal on the bells, the first peal of **GRANDSIRE MAJOR** by all the band, and is believed to be the first rung in the county of Hertfordshire.

At St. Lawrence's, Great Waldingfield, Suffolk.

On Sunday, the 11th inst., was rung, after the afternoon service, a peal of 720 **KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR** in 30 mins. P. C. S. Scott (conductor), (Melford), 1; W. Howell (Sudbury), 2; C. Sillitoe (Sudbury), 3; A. Symonds (Lavenham), 4; G. Hammond (Melford), 5; J. Bird (Melford), 6. Also a peal of 720 **PLAIN BOB MINOR**. A. Symonds (Lavenham), 1; A. Bowers (Waldingfield), 2; H. Smith (Lavenham), 3; C. Sillitoe (Sudbury), 4; G. Hammond (conductor), (Melford), 5; H. Diggins (Waldingfield), 6. A half-peal of **GRANDSIRE MINOR** (360 changes) was also rung by the following ringers from Sudbury:—T. Tolliday, 1; J. Campin, 2; G. Brown, 3; M. Silvester, 4; W. Howell, 5; C. Sillitoe (conductor), 6. This is the longest touch in this method by all the above ringers, and the first on these bells. Tenor, 14 cwt.

At the Parish Church, Wakefield, Yorkshire.

On Monday, the 12th inst., eight members of the Yorkshire Association rang Hollis's Five-part peal of 5040 **GRANDSIRE TRIPLES** in 3 hrs. 30 mins. R. Wrigley, 1; J. Firth, 2; W. Firth, 3; T. Prince, 4; J. T. Hollis (conductor), 5; T. Ormond, 6; T. Moorhouse, 7; J. Styles, 8. Tenor, 32 cwt. The above is the first peal of Triples on the bells, and is supposed to be the first in any method on the heavy eight.

At the Parish Church, Hull, Yorkshire.

On Monday, the 12th inst., eight members of the Yorkshire Association, after the Confirmation Service by the Archbishop of York, rang 1312 **KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR**, 504 **GRANDSIRE TRIPLES**, and a course of **STEDMAN TRIPLES**. C. Bennett, 1; T. Stockdale, 2; W. Southwick, 3; H. Jenkins, 4; H. Cutter, 5; I. Dixey, 6; F. Drabble, 7; C. Jackson (conductor), 8.

At St. George-the-Martyr's, Southwark, London.

On Thursday, the 15th inst., eight members of the St. James's Society rang a peal of 5056 **DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR** in 3 hrs. 12 mins. E. Gibbs, 1; T. Tichener, 2; C. F. Winny, 3; H. Dains, 4; A. Jacob, 5; B. M. Hayes, 6; G. Newton, 7; F. G. Newman (conductor), 8. Tenor, 18 cwt. This is the first in the method on the bells.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Blended Services.

DEAR SIR,—‘F. W.’ seems to have not apprehended the gist of my letter of April 2nd. It doesn't matter what ‘the whole course’ of my trouble is, neither do I think ‘the blending’ is the cause. An un mutilated communion office might have been added to mattins and litany if the compilers had been possessed with the feeling that it was wrong to shorten it. But my question is, ‘Do the rubrics indeed admit of it being shortened, except on one condition?’ I do not think ‘F. W.’s letter is very clear. What is meant by ‘Very laudable for all that?’ my ‘trouble,’ or ‘the blending?’ The sentence beginning ‘In this case,’ &c., is not quite intelligible, and the last question, ‘Has he never felt the same over the litany?’ is quite incomprehensible. I was not writing about ‘blended services’ or separate services, but simply a mutilated ‘communion office.’ Does ‘F. W.’ mean ‘Have I never felt the same over a mutilated litany?’ I did not know it ever was mutilated. I have heard of a shortened litany for ‘children's services’ allowed by the Bishop. To this there is not the same objection as to halved communion, ‘ante-communion,’ office, so-called because, as I said, ‘the prayer before the Commandments,’ and for that matter the Commandments themselves, and ‘the title,’ all imply a celebration except too few present themselves. I hope ‘F. W.’ will re-study my letter and reply. X.

The Parish Churches Bill in the House of Lords.

SIR,—I observe by numerous articles and comments, in the provincial press especially, which daily reach me, that a very erroneous impression has been formed of the debate on the Second Reading of this Bill in the House of Lords. The remarkable omission in the *Times*, and other newspaper reports of Lord Selborne's speech, of his emphatic approval of the preamble of the Bill, has led to the unfortunate assumption that Lord Grimthorpe's law was allowed to go uncontradicted. I therefore trust that you will allow this letter to appear in your paper.

I was in the House during the debate and heard Lord Grimthorpe's speech, or rather those portions of it which were audible, and a remarkable utterance it certainly was in more ways than one. I will, however, only trouble you with criticism upon two out of several very dogmatic but nevertheless incorrect statements contained in it, viz., that the preamble was a misrepresentation, the law being that the parish church was free only for such use as the churchwardens in common with the parishioners chose to decide upon, and that the word ‘free’ as thus used meant ‘free from payment.’ To deal with the latter first. His Lordship was trying to ridicule the recital in the preamble that parishioners had a common law right to the free use in common of their parish church. Now, considering that the first Church Building Act was passed in 1818, which is, therefore, the date when payment for seats legally began, it is clear that to apply such a meaning to the word ‘free’ when speaking of a right at common law is absurd, and one can but marvel at his Lordship's spirit of adventure. In support of the first statement, his Lordship quoted the well-known dictum of Sir John Nicholl in the case of Fuller v. Lane; but if, instead of citing statements in ecclesiastical text-books and the dicta of ecclesiastical judges, Lord Grimthorpe would substantiate his view of the law by references to common law authorities, it would be more to the point, as, after all, it should be remembered that the rights of parishioners in their parish church are common law, and not merely ecclesiastical rights. It is, as I have said, much to be regretted that Lord Selborne's words were not reported. I heard his Lordship say, and I have no doubt that *Hansard* will report him correctly, that he considered the preamble of the Bill could be defended and substantiated as a true statement of the common law, and that it should go out from the House of Lords that parishioners had not a common law right to the free use of their churches. It will certainly be instructive if Lord Grimthorpe can be induced to give evidence before the Select Committee, and tell us a little more of his three or four years' knowledge and experience in this branch of ecclesiastical law as Chancellor of York.

T. BOWATER VERNON, Secretary.

The Incorporated Free and Open Church Association,
24 Bedford Street, Strand, W.C., March 30th, 1886.

‘Easter tide.’

SIR,—The choir connected with this college are practising the service of which a review has appeared recently in *Church Bells*. Probably one remark of the writer of that notice may deter some from sending for a copy, under the idea that the music is too difficult for ordinary choirs, for the writer says, ‘The music is such that only a properly trained choir would be able to render it adequately,’ and, ‘The hymns and anthem certainly need an organ accompaniment.’ No doubt all such services should be rendered adequately, but I think it will be found that ‘Easter tide’ music is within the reach of ordinary choirs, and in this opinion I am supported by the judgment of the choirmaster here. Provision has been made by the editors for the omission of the anthem (if considered too difficult) by a selection from the Psalter for chanting. They have also, as I consider wisely, made provision for the congregation to take a share, even in the anthem, by closing it with a verse of a well-known Easter hymn. As it is very desirable that such services should be known to your readers, and as there appears to be a demand for them at the present time, may I recommend through your columns any clergy whose services are musically rendered to send for a specimen-copy of ‘Easter tide’ from Pitman, 20 Paternoster Row, 3d. post free.

The Training College, Exeter.

J. G. DANGAR, Principal.

Sunday School.

SIR,—In days when so much, we may almost say the future of England, depends on the Sunday Schools, perhaps you might think it well to allow a discussion on them in your valuable paper, which might bring some useful matter before the Church folk of the whole Christian world. I have had much experience in Sunday Schools for the last eighteen years, and feel sure the Sunday Schools of England are doing a mighty work amongst God's little ones; but might not more still be done, if the clergy thought more of the vast power their Sunday-school teachers exercised in, or might exercise in their parish, if guided by their spiritual pastors? Should not each vicar have weekly teachings of his Sunday-school teachers? Should not he himself inquire into the ideas of each teacher as to what Christ's little ones should be taught, when they undertake the influencing of these young lives for good or evil during the time which is the seed-time of their lives? Would it not tend to increase the spiritual power for good in Sunday-school teachers, if when admitted to the holy task, their vicar inquired into their powers of teaching, their ideas of what is necessary to salvation; and then, finding that their ideas coincided with his, admit them to the holy (must it not be so?) office in his church or chapel, with a few prayers, so as to consecrate, as it were, them and their work to God, so that His Holy Spirit might sanctify and strengthen them? I have known young girls of sixteen or seventeen entrusted with large classes, who had no knowledge of any spiritual life, never thought of the awful responsibility they undertook when the hour had passed that God's child was given to them to bring nearer to Him, and the hour had been spent in telling it to sit quiet, hearing a text, collect, or

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

The Midland Counties' Association.

THE fourth Annual Report of the Midland Counties' Association has reached us. From a perusal of its pages we rejoice to learn that the Association is in a most flourishing condition as regards members, money in hand, and work done. In the last-mentioned particular the Association takes the lead for the year over all other similar bodies of ringers, and can point to a list of no less than sixty-eight peals accomplished during twelve months. We congratulate the Association most warmly, and we do so with all the greater pleasure as the peals are not comprised within the limits of two or three methods, but embrace a variety of seven. The Society of St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, is, as is well known, one of the most active local companies extant, and it is to them that the Association owes many of its best peals. On turning to the Register of the peals, we note that the first (No. 55) is described as 'the original Bob-and-Single.' We venture to think this a misnomer, as a comparison with peal No. 64 will show that the peal is 'Taylor's Bob-and-Single,' which is a variation of an older peal, and therefore not the 'original.' Peals Nos. 100, 101, 102 were rung on three consecutive days during the visit of some ringers from Oxford. Peal No. 113 is a performance worthy of special notice—10,000 BOB MAJOR. The ringing of a peal of this length reflects the greatest credit on all taking part in it; but in this case exceptional praise is due to Mr. Heywood, the composer and conductor, as he is, comparatively speaking, a new convert to the science. Though the Midland Counties' Association is not essentially connected with any ecclesiastical division of the country, it is a staunch ally and supporter of the Church.

Surrey Association.

A QUARTERLY Meeting was held in the National Schoolroom, Carshalton, by the kind permission of the Rector, on Easter Monday, April 26th. At six o'clock the Rector, the Rev. Lord Victor Seymour, addressed a few words of kindly welcome to the assembled Members, but was unfortunately obliged to leave immediately on account of business elsewhere. Mr. E. E. Vinen was voted into the chair. Thirteen new Members were elected. The Secretary announced that he had received on behalf of the Association the current Reports of the Oxford Diocesan Guild and the Midland Counties' Association. He also reported that there were ten peals to be entered in the peal-book, and after some discussion it was agreed that they should be entered. On the motion of the Hon. Sec., an amendment to Rule X. was carried. The District Meeting was fixed to take place at Leatherhead on Whit Monday, and the Annual Meeting at Bletchingley on Monday, July 19th. The meeting was attended by fifty Members coming from the following places:—Beddington, Bletchingley, Croydon, Cheam, Epsom, Kingston, Leatherhead, London, Mitcham, Nutfield, Reigate, Streatham, Sutton, and Wimbledon. Short touches of MINOR, TRIPLES, MAJOR, and CATERS, were rung in various methods at Carshalton and Beddington during the afternoon and evening.

A. B. CARPENTER, Hon. Sec.

Rochdale and District Association.

THE Quarterly Meeting of the above Association will be held at Todmorden on Saturday, May 1st. The bells will be open for ringing at 1, the meeting at 4. The Todmorden ringers have placed their splendid ring of hand-bells, eighty in number (Mears and Stainbank), for the use of ringers, members and non-members, and will play selections during the evening.

Winchester Diocesan Guild.

A DISTRICT Meeting will be held at Alton, Hants, on Monday, May 10th. There will be a Committee Meeting at the Vicarage at 4.30 p.m., at which important business will be transacted. The belfry will be open to members from 5 to 9 p.m. Members wishing to be present are requested to communicate with the Secretary before Saturday, May 8th.

A Peal of 10,030 Stedman Cinques.

ON Easter Monday, the 26th inst., twelve members of the Ancient Society of College Youths—Pettit, Joyce, Dawe, Winny, Gibbs, McLaughlin, Routh, Mash, Greenleaf, Newman, Horrex, and Hayes—met at St. Michael's, Cornhill, City of London, to ring the above peal; but after ringing one hour part of the wheel of the fifth bell broke, and they could proceed no further.

A New Ring of Bells at Eastbourne, Sussex.

A RING of eight bells (tenor, 25 cwt., in the key of D flat) has just been hung in the tower of St. Saviour's Church, Eastbourne. They were formally opened on Easter morning, but no dedication service was held. The work was executed by Messrs. Warner and Sons of London.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At Christ Church, Southgate, Middlesex.

ON Thursday, the 15th inst., eight members of the Society of Trinity Youths rang Taylor's Bob-and-Single Variation of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 10 mins. H. W. Grout, 1; W. Pead, 2; T. Taylor, 3; W. Weatherstone, 4; F. W. Thornton, 5; W. H. Freeman, 6; A. G. Freeman (conductor), 7; J. S. Eastgate, 8. Tenor, 26 cwt. The ringers wish to thank the Vicar for his kindness in granting them the use of the bells.

At St. Paul's Parish Church, Walkden, Lancashire.

ON Easter Sunday, the 25th inst., the bells of the above church were ringing out melodiously at 5.15 in the morning. A 720 BOB MINOR (14 singles and 4 bobs) was rung in 26 mins. W. Denner, 1; S. Oakes, 2; J. Worthington (conductor), 3; J. Williamson, 4; J. Welsby, 5; J. Brookes, 6. Tenor, 13½ cwt. Touches of different lengths were also rung at the morning, afternoon, and evening services.

At St. Mary-de-Lode's, Gloucester.

ON Easter Sunday, the 25th inst., being the date fixed for the reopening of the above parish bells, which have been at rest for eighteen months (the tenor having been rehung and the others put in ringing order by Sevier & Hart of this city), the following members of the Society met to ring for afternoon service, when eight six-scores of GRANDSIRE DOUBLES were rung. W. Arkell, 1; A. Smart, 2; F. Hart, 3; W. Sevier (conductor), 4; R. Allen, 5; W. Pegler, 6. Tenor, 14 cwt., in G.

At St. Nicholas', Gloucester.

ON Easter Sunday, the 25th inst., for morning service, several six-scores were rung. D. Dix, 1; E. Smith, 2; P. Daniells, 3; A. Smart, 4; W. Sevier (conductor), 5; H. Merchant, 6. Tenor, 17½ cwt., in F.

At St. Peter's, Brighton, Sussex.

ON Easter Sunday, the 25th inst., eight members of the Brighton Branch of the Sussex County Association rang for morning service a quarter peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (1260 changes) in 46 mins. G. Fuller, 1; J. Searle, 2; C. E. Golds, 3; E. Marshall, 4; A. W. L. Parkhouse, 5; G. F. Attree (conductor), 6; J. Jay, sen., 7; W. Vernon, 8. Tenor, 10½ cwt.

ON Wednesday, the 28th inst., members of the Brighton Branch, on the occasion of the marriage of the daughter of the Mayor of Brighton, rang a quarter-peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (1260 changes) in 45½ mins. G. Fuller, 1; J. Searle, 2; H. Weston, 3; A. W. L. Parkhouse, 4; C. Tyler, 5; G. F. Attree (conductor), 6; C. E. Golds, 7; E. Marshall, 3.

At the Parish Church, Cradley, Worcestershire.

ON Easter Monday, the 26th inst., the following members of the Association for the Archdeaconry of Stafford, and also members of the Christ Church Society of Change-ringers, West Bromwich, rang Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 51 mins. H. Hipkiss, 1; S. Reeves (conductor), 2; T. Horton (first peal inside), 3; J. Hall, 4; W. R. Small, 5; C. Price, 6; R. Hall (first peal), 7; C. Timms, 8. Tenor, 12 cwt.

At St. Mary Magdalen's, Bolney, Sussex.

ON Easter Monday, the 26th inst., a party of the Brighton Branch of the Sussex County Association visited Bolney, and rang Holt's Ten-part peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 48 mins. E. Marshall (first peal), 1; G. F. Attree (conductor), 2; C. Tyler, 3; J. Searle, 4; A. Marshall, 5; H. Weston, 6; J. Jay, sen., 7; C. E. Golds, 8. Tenor, 15 cwt. The church is an ancient structure, evidently of Saxon origin, with a massive square tower. The bells are of exceptionally sweet tone, and are somewhat interesting; the 5th was cast in the year 1594, and the remainder in 1740. Bolney is a picturesque village, situated about fourteen miles to the north-west of Brighton; the excursion was made by road in a well-appointed brake, and the weather being gloriously fine, was much enjoyed. It is many years since a peal was rung on these bells. The ringers tender their sincere thanks to the Vicar for permission to ring.

At St. James's, Trowbridge, Wilts.

ON Easter Monday, the 26th inst., the first half of the Bob-and-Single peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (2520 changes) was rung in 1 hr. 30 mins. J. R. Jerram, 1; C. A. Clements, 2; W. W. Gifford, 3; J. Hayward, 4; W. McCaffrey (conductor), 5; T. Blackburn, 6; J. E. Willshire, 7; J. Cooper, 8. Tenor, 23 cwt.

At All Saints', Emscote, near Warwick.

ON Easter Monday, the 26th inst., the following members of the Holt Society, Aston-juxta-Birmingham, paid a visit to Emscote, near Warwick, and by the kind permission of the Vicar rang a peal of 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES (Brooke's Variation) in 3 hrs. 10 mins. H. Bastable (conductor), 1; J. W. Cartwright, 2; C. Stanbridge, 3; J. Plant, 4; T. Reynolds, 5; M. Murphy, 6; J. Buffery, 7; P. Conlon, 8. Tenor, 17½ cwt., in F sharp.

At St. Peter's, Great Berkhamstead, Herts.

ON Easter Monday, the 26th inst., eight members of the St. James's Society rang a peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (Holt's Original) in 3 hrs. 2 mins. W. B. Manning, 1; R. French (conductor), 2; A. C. Fussell, 3; W. H. Fussell, 4; J. Barry, 5; A. Hayward, 6; W. H. George, 7; E. Elburn (first peal), 8. Tenor, 17 cwt., in F. After refreshment the little party walked to Hemel Hempstead, a distance of five miles, through pretty scenery, for another peal: but the bells were not in order, and the attempt was abandoned. Some short touches were rung. Elburn came from Amersham, Bucks; the brothers Fussell from Slough; Manning and George from Pinner; the rest from London.

At St. Stephen's, Rochester Row, Westminster.

ON Easter Monday, the 26th inst., eight members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang Thurstan's peal of STEDMAN TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 7 mins. F. E. Dawe (conductor), 1; J. M. Routh, Esq., 2; G. T. McLaughlin, 3; C. F. Winny, 4; G. Longden, 5; J. M. Hayes, 6; F. G. Newman, 7; T. Coxhead, 8. Tenor, 24 cwt. 18 lbs., in D.

At St. James's, Clerkenwell, London.

ON Easter Tuesday, the 27th inst., eight members of the St. James's Society rang Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 3 mins. E. E. Vinen, 1; H. J. Davies, 2; A. E. Church, 3; F. G. Newman (conductor), 4; J. Nelms, 5; W. H. Fussell, 6; W. H. George, 7; J. Barry, 8. Tenor, 22 cwt.

At Belmont Villa, Salisbury, Wilts.—Handbell Performance.

ON Saturday, the 17th inst., 720 BOB MINOR, with the bells retained in hand. C. A. Clements, 1-2; W. W. Gifford, 3-4; T. Blackburn (conductor), 5-6.

RECEIVED ALSO,—Charles Hammond, whose report is not sufficiently legible; L. Bullock (answer next week); St. Albans; and others.

GERMANY.

THREE old Catholic graduates at Bonn were ordained last month by Bishop Reinke.

In reference to the vacancy in the Anglo-Prussian Bishopric at Jerusalem, Mr. Gladstone has stated in the House of Commons: 'It is the turn of the King of Prussia to nominate, but his Majesty desires that the arrangement made in 1841 should be either modified or abrogated altogether. I believe that the Archbishop of Canterbury, as representing the British trustees of the endowment, has consented to that arrangement being abrogated. What is to be put in its place I cannot yet say.'

NOTES OF TRAVEL IN NEW ZEALAND.

(Continued from page 445.)

Two days' steaming from Auckland brings the New Zealand tourist to Napier, a pretty little town with a population of 7000. Frozen meat is its principal export trade. As at Auckland, most of the buildings are of wood, and call for no special remark. The Rev. D. B. Hovell, vicar of St. John's, has done a good work here; he enlarged his church and built a parsonage and two district churches; now, finding that the accommodation afforded was still insufficient, he has started a fund for the erection of another church, which is to serve as the pro-Cathedral. The Bishop of Waiapu resides at Napier, but was away on a Confirmation tour when I was in the town. He is a brother of Sir Alexander Stuart of New South Wales, and was formerly an Indian missionary; he is master of several languages. The large majority of his flock are Maories.

Those who think of the Maories as uncivilised savages form quite a wrong conception of them; they have made such advances that their position in New Zealand is now not unlike that of the Gaels in Scotland. A Maori chieftain near Napier, lately celebrating the marriage of his son, invited 600 of the inhabitants of the town to the festivities, when everything was as correctly done as if white people of the same means were the hosts. The town of Napier is largely sustained by Maori wealth. Maories represent their nation in both houses of the New Zealand legislature, elected not on account of lineage or rank, but for their educational acquirements. The Maories are granted both ordinary and exceptional representation in Parliament, but in the former case they prefer to return white men where, from mere point of numbers, they could return those of their own race. There are some Maories articulated to lawyers at Auckland; there are plenty of Maori clergy. Every regiment of volunteers has Maori soldiers serving in its ranks. Last, but not least, at the end of 1882 there were sixty-nine native Government schools with 1381 Maori scholars on the books, besides 193 half-castes; sixty-six Maori children were also receiving advanced education at the cost of Government. Because they see the evils which the vices of the whites have brought upon their race they have refused to open up the King Country; and only lately have consented to railways being carried through that territory, making, however, a stipulation that all the employes should be of Maori race. They refuse to sell any more land. They are hospitable to a fault, but they are not the drunkards they are reported to be: there are many total abstainers among them. Neither are the Maories now decreasing. A gentleman who for many years had an intimate acquaintance with them expressed to me his conviction 'that the two races in New Zealand will gradually amalgamate, and that a hundred years hence many white men will be proud to trace their descent to Maori forefathers.' This same gentleman condemned the policy adopted by Bishop Selwyn and the early missionaries in regard to the aborigines; he said that the Maories should have been permitted to mix freely with the whites, instead of being kept apart.

In eighteen hours the steamer will take the traveller from Napier to Wellington. We were not fortunate in our first view of the 'empire city' of New Zealand, but it seems few people are so. It is always raining at Wellington, say some; it is always blowing at Wellington, say others. Yet the Wellingtonians have good reason to be proud of their harbour, and it is impossible not to admire the picturesqueness of the place. The Government Offices, Parliament House, and Governor's residence, are all of wood, and the first-named is said to be the largest wooden building in the world. The Church is hardly so strong here as one could wish. I attended services at St. Paul's Cathedral, a wooden building holding 900 persons; the incumbent is Mr. J. Still, formerly a Melanesian Missionary. It has good stained-glass windows, and I can bear witness to the excellent congregations present on the first Sunday of the New Year. St. Mark's and St. Peter's are the two other Anglican churches in Wellington; these also have surplised choirs. Taking the population of Wellington at 26,000, our Communion cannot be said to be adequately represented by three churches. It is true there is a mission service held on Sunday evenings in a schoolroom in St. Paul's parish, but no spiritual provision seems to be made for the sailors and dock labourers. On the other hand, both the Roman Catholics and Presbyterians are strong. But our Bishop is old and not in the enjoyment of good health.

In my next I shall go to the South Island, to Christchurch, the city of the plains, where, in contrast to Wellington, the Church of England is—what it might naturally be expected to be—very strong. P. R. P. D.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

The Midland Counties' Association.

THE above Association held its fourth Annual Meeting in Derby, on the 26th of last month (Easter Monday), when representatives attended from Burton-on-Trent, Duffield, Loughborough, Nottingham, Leicester, Long Eaton, Birmingham, Wombourne, Derby, and surrounding districts. A committee meeting was held in St. Andrew's Parish-room at 3 o'clock; this was followed by a service in St. Andrew's church at 4 o'clock, when the Rev. J. H. Fish, Vicar of St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, and President of the Association, gave an address to the members. About sixty sat down to tea in St. Andrew's schools at 5 o'clock, and the General Meeting of the Association was held immediately afterwards. The Report for the year, together with the treasurer's accounts, was adopted; and the retiring President proposed Mr. A. Percival Heywood as President, Mr. William Wakley as Hon. Treasurer, and Mr. J. Griffin as Hon. Secretary for the ensuing year. This was seconded by Mr. Picker (Nottingham), and carried unanimously. Before the conclusion of the meeting the President-elect, Mr. A. Percival Heywood, presented the retiring President with a handsomely fitted travelling-bag on behalf of the Association. A silver plate near the handle bore the following inscription:—Presented to the Rev. James H. Fish, Easter 1886, by the Members of the Midland Counties' Association of Change-ringers, as a mark of appreciation of services rendered as their President since the formation of the Society. One honorary member and 16 ringing members were elected, including Miss Muriel Heywood, Miss Ella Heywood, and Miss Dorothy Heywood. The ringing during the day was chiefly done on the ten bells of All Saints' church, and was confined to STEDMAN CATER, several touches being brought round in good style. The bells of St. Alkmund's, St. Werburgh's, and St. Luke's churches, were also in request during the afternoon and evening; general regret, however, was expressed that, owing to illness near the church, the fine ring of eight at St. Andrew's were not available for ringing. A unanimous vote of thanks was passed to the Rev. James H. Fish for his address, together with a request that it be printed in next year's Report of the Association; and also to the Vicars and Churchwardens of the Derby churches for the use of their bells. It was resolved that the first quarterly meeting of the year be held in Burton-on-Trent in July next.

On Saturday evening, the 1st inst., the yearly vestrymeeting for the election of churchwardens was held at St. Andrew's Church, Derby. On the two churchwardens being re-elected the following band adjourned to the tower, and rang a quarter peal of BOB TRIPLES in 51 mins. W. Shardlow, 1; R. Bosworth, 2; A. Taberer, 3; J. W. Thompson, 4; H. C. Woodward, 5; W. H. Found, 6; A. E. Thompson, 7; C. Sidley, 8. Tenor, 20½ cwt., in E flat. This was also the thirtieth birthday of Mr. W. H. Found.

West Riding of Yorkshire Change-ringers' Association.

ON Saturday last the half-yearly meeting of the above Society was held at Holy Trinity Church, Queensbury, when the following companies were represented:—Haley Hill, Lightcliffe Parish and Lightcliffe Congregational, Low Moor, Halifax (late Parish), Brighouse, Sowerby, Queensbury, and Denholme. The welcome peal was rung by the Low Moor ringers. During the afternoon and evening short peals in various methods were rung by the different companies upon the lower bells. At 5.30 tea was provided at the 'Granby Inn.' Afterwards a meeting was held, the President of the Society, Mr. Henry Wilson of Brighouse, who ably presided, in the chair, when the minutes of the previous meeting were passed as read. It was also decided to hold the annual meeting at Sowerby in October next. Selections in different methods were given in good style upon the hand-bells, some of which were warmly applauded. A vote of thanks to the chairman brought a most successful meeting to a close, after which ringing was resumed until a late hour. 66 Booth Town Road, Halifax. G. D. E. MERCER, Hon. Sec.

[We should be glad of an explanation of 'Halifax (late Parish).'] From the mention of Lightcliffe 'Congregational' we suppose that the Association is not in any way connected with the Church.—ED. C. B.]

Bedfordshire Association of Change-ringers.

THE annual reunion of this Association was held in Bedford on Easter Monday, and the members were generously entertained at luncheon by the Mayor (Mr. E. Ransom) at the Assembly Rooms. In the morning the members rang a touch of BOB MAJOR (766 changes) on St. Paul's bells. The Mayor presided at the luncheon, the vice-chair being filled by Mr. T. G. E. Elger. There were also present the Rev. R. E. R. Watts, the Rev. J. Copner, the Rev. E. J. Hillier (Cardington), Mr. C. Herbert (the Hon. Sec.), and many other performing members. After luncheon the Woburn men, with handbells, rang a plain course of BOB MAJOR, and the Bedford company a plain course of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES double-handed. The Chairman said that the Bishop on receiving an application from him with reference to his taking the position of the previous prelate as their patron, had signified his great pleasure in assenting to the request. Mr. Herbert then read the Report for the year. Mr. Elger read the statement of accounts for the year. They started with the balance in hand of 10l. 10s. 7d., and after meeting the expenditure of the year there was a balance in hand of 14l. 9s. 4d.

The Rev. J. Copner proposed the adoption of the report and statement of accounts. The Report was satisfactory, and the financial statement more than satisfactory. When any of the churches in the neighbourhood were inclined to set up new bells he thought they might safely come to the Society for help. The Rev. E. J. Hillier had great pleasure in seconding. He thanked them for the kind expressions towards him in the Report for the little he had been able to do in furthering the purposes of the Association in Cardington.

The following officers were elected:—Patron, the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Ely; President, the Venerable the Archdeacon of Bedford; Vice-Presidents, the Rev. R. E. R. Watts, vicar of St. Paul's, Bedford, the Rev. Canon Brereton, vicar of St. Mary's, Bedford, the Rev. J. Copner, vicar of Elstow, Beds.; Committee, the Rev. C. J. E. Smith, vicar of Bromham, Beds., the Rev. E. J. Hillier, vicar of Cardington, Mr. Edwin Ransom, Mr. I. Hills, Mr. J. N. Frossell, Mr. S. Cullip, Mr. T. Foote, Mr. C. W. Clarke; Hon. Auditors, Mr. T. Bull and Mr. H. Thody. The Rev. R. E. R. Watts then proposed the re-election of Mr. Elger as treasurer. The Rev. J. Copner, in seconding, said whatever society Mr. Elger took in hand succeeded. The motion was carried with acclamation, and Mr. Elger, in responding, expressed his gratification at the vote of confidence they had passed in him. Before he sat down he should like to propose the re-election of a gentleman who was the real backbone of the Society—Mr. Charles Herbert, their secretary. Mr. Clarke seconded. Mr. Herbert expressed his thanks for his re-election, and said that, so far as his humble services were of use to them, they were welcome. Mr. Elger drew attention to the peal-boards alluded to in the Report. They recorded a feat which he believed, at all events during the last 100 years, had not been performed in the town of Bedford. Mr. Herbert then tendered to the Mayor the thanks of the members for his kind hospitality. The Rev. R. E. R. Watts, in seconding, expressed their indebtedness to the Mayor, as did also the Rev. E. J. Hillier. The Mayor said it had been a pleasure to meet them. The gathering then broke up. At five o'clock a short service was held at St. Paul's church, at which the Vicar gave a short address.

Association for the Archdeaconry of Stafford.

THE Quarterly Meeting in connexion with the above Association was held on Saturday last, at Tamworth, when members from the following towns were present:—Burton-on-Trent, Lichfield, Old Swinford, Perry Barr, Tamworth, Wednesbury, Wombourn, and West Bromwich. Ringing commenced at one o'clock, when a mixed band rung Holt's Original Peal of Grandsire Triples. At five p.m., there was a short service in the church, when an excellent address was delivered by the Rev. H. Dale, curate of Tamworth. Tea was served at the coffee house, when the Hon. Secretary, in making a few remarks, announced that there had been five new members elected, and that it was decided to hold the Annual Meeting at Lichfield, on Saturday, June 26th. A vote of thanks having been passed to the donor of the address, the ringers again visited the tower and rung some touches of Grandsire Triples, &c.

West Middlesex Bell-ringers' Association.

THE two meetings of the above Association, advertised for May 15th and 29th, have been unavoidably postponed to May 22nd and June 5th respectively, and will be held as usual in the Isleworth Parish Church belfry.

The Anniversary at Sawbridgeworth, Herts.

On Easter Monday the usual gathering of ringers took place, the following places being represented:—London, Waltham Abbey, Bennington, West Ham, Bishops Stortford, Stanstead, and Loughton. L. Proctor, Esq., with his band, did some excellent ringing, and during the day a quarter-peal of STEDMAN TRIPLES was rung in 50 mins. J. Barker, 1; G. Thurgood, 2; J. Waghorn, 3; W. Lebbon, 4; E. Wallage, 5; W. Doran, 6; W. A. Alps (conductor), 7; C. Warner, 8. Mr. G. Rochester kindly entertained the party to a substantial breakfast; he also prepared a capital dinner, at which thirty-two sat down. The Rev. F. W. Newman (curate), in the unavoidable absence of the Vicar, presided, supported by H. Rivers, Esq., and L. Proctor, Esq.; after which some tunes were played upon the handbells by the latter and one of his men, which were well rendered. Ringing at the church then became the order of the day. The ringers wish to express their deep sense of gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Rochester in providing for their comforts on this as on previous occasions.

A Clever Performance on the Handbells.

On Wednesday, the 28th ult., at the Abbey National School, St. Albans, Herts, four members of the Ancient Society of College Youths and the Herefordshire Association rang, on handbells retained in hand, Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 45 mins. H. Lewis,* 1-2; C. F. Winny (conductor), 3-4; N. N. Hills,* 5-6; G. W. Cartmel,* 7-8. [* First peal on handbells.] Umpires—Messrs. Battle and Hulks, who had every change written down, and marked off the treble-leads as they came up. The above party met three times:—on the first occasion, 1568 changes were rung, the next 4060, and the third the peal. This is the first peal on handbells by the Hertfordshire Association. C. F. Winny came from London, and the rest are members of the Abbey Society.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. Lawrence, Darlaston, Staffordshire.

On Saturday, the 17th ult., eight members of the Birmingham and District Association rang Brooke's Variation of Thurstans' peal of 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 4 mins. J. Callaghan, 1; R. Hall, 2; T. Horton, 3; J. Jones, 4; J. Tinsley, 5; J. Carter (conductor), 6; W. Smith, 7; T. Small, 8. Tenor, 20 cwt. The first peal of STEDMAN on the bells.

At St. Mary-de-Lode's, Gloucester.

On Sunday, the 2nd inst., was rung four six-scores of GRANDSIRE DOUBLES. R. Allen, 1; J. Hearn, 2; W. Pegler, 3; W. Arkell, 4; W. Sevier (conductor), 5; E. F. Hart, 6. Tenor, 14 cwt., in G.

RECEIVED ALSO:—L. Bullock (we cannot find any account of the peal); North Lincolnshire Association; J. Smith; and others.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The One Man Policy.

SIR,—The Archbishop of York wisely says, 'He has confidence in the people which he should not always be able to extend to the person whom the people might happen to elevate,' and his grace enlarged upon that idea in one direction. But does not the present tendency of hero-worship, the inevitable tendency of democracy, afford an opportunity which the preachers of the gospel of Christ have never before had in England? Would not Charles Kingsley have seized it eagerly? Are not the young men of this generation in a mind to believe in the Man Christ Jesus, and if, by *man* came the resurrection of the dead, should not this fundamental article of the faith be at this time vigorously enforced? A LAYMAN.

Poor Clergy Holiday Fund.

SIR,—In reference to the question which is now engaging the attention of your correspondents, may I say that it is just ten years ago since the then vicar of Kensington—the present Bishop of Lichfield—pleaded, by your courtesy, in *Church Bells* for funds to enable the poorer clergy of the diocese to enjoy an occasional holiday free from the great anxiety of having to pay for it? The 'Poor Clergy Holiday Fund' was founded in response to Bishop MacLagan's letter; and year by year since 1876 you have kindly allowed either Dr. Hessey, Archdeacon of Middlesex, or myself, as hon. treasurer, to plead for the cause in your columns. The fund on the whole has been well supported, and has certainly been of untold comfort to the many hard-working pastors to whom its benefits have been extended.

I venture to ask you kindly to insert our appeal again this year. The plan of the fund is very simple. It is as follows:—The Archdeacons of London and Middlesex are the trustees, and make all grants. They make these grants in most cases from personal knowledge of the circumstances of the recipients and without requiring them to answer any inquisitorial questions, or to make any 'formal application.' They simply drop down on the selected clergyman with 10*l.* or 15*l.* or more, as his circumstances may need, and say, 'You have worked hard, you need rest. For the sake of your people, your family, and yourself, you must take it; and sympathising friends enable us to tender the means by which you may obtain it.' One, and that not the least, of the values of this considerate and graceful act is that it inspires the encouraging thought, 'Well, after all, though I do work in a depressing and out-of-the-way district, I am not passed over and forgotten'—such sympathy gives fresh heart to the worker. My own part in the work—and I esteem it a great privilege—is simply to act as the Archdeacon's representative in the collection of funds. We have no office or clerk, so that, beyond the cost of postage and advertisements, there are no expenses. Further information will be found elsewhere. ARTHUR J. INGRAM, Hon. Treasurer.

St. Margaret's, Lothbury, Rectory, 20 Finsbury Square, E.C., May 1, 1886.

Bell-ringing Societies.

SIR,—Having seen in your issue of April 9th, a paragraph relating to the best method of organizing a class of bell-ringers, and inviting further hints on the subject, I venture, as one who has acted as secretary for some years to a society of voluntary ringers to offer the following suggestions, if you think it worth your while to insert them.

The great difficulty, according to my experience, is not of making a beginning, but of continuing satisfactorily. It is comparatively easy to get men to join the Society, but quite another thing to keep them to it when the novelty of the thing has worn off. The difficulty is increased of course in the case of lads of the age at which you recommend they should begin. In a town-parish especially, the variety of amusements and counter-attractions are likely to prove a serious obstacle to young men in the way of regular attendance at practice and steady application. Something may be done towards making the Society more attractive, if, as has been done here, a set of hand-bells could be procured, which might be made a source of amusement and occasionally of profit, and also be a valuable acquisition at parochial entertainments. I should also suggest the advisability of training up a second class to take the place of those who have already become efficient to take their place as they fall out. But so far as I can see, there is only one true way of meeting the difficulty of unsteadiness inherent in voluntary Associations, and that is to inculcate the necessity of acting from a sense of duty. Those who have the management of the Society should endeavour to get a real hold of the men from the first, and bring religious influence to bear upon them, so as to raise them above the terrible 'nought for nought' principle, which is at the bottom of the mischief. Let the members of the Society be taught to feel their responsibility and regard their position in something like its proper light; looking on themselves as fellow-labourers together with the ministers and choir, and all other church workers, for the glory of God. Of course it is hard to instil such ideas into young men; but I believe much might be done if the clergyman, or some other competent person in the parish, would himself become a ringer and undertake to form the young men into a Bible-class on Sundays,—meeting say in the ringing-room previous to ringing the bells for service. I have not been able to see this realised amongst us yet, though it has long been a cherished ambition of mine. It is desirable, too, that the congregation should be encouraged to take more interest in the ringing and look with a more favourable eye on the ringers. There is still a good deal of that feeling abroad which has given rise to the saying, 'From singers and ringers, good Lord deliver us.' A little cold water thrown on the Society from without will soon extinguish any little sparks of enthusiasm their leader may have succeeded in kindling amongst its members, whereas a little encouragement goes a long way in

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

Bell-Ringing Societies.

SIR,—I quite agree with your correspondent, Mr. H. Seddon, as to the easiness of forming a society of ringers, and the difficulty of keeping it together when formed. I do not agree with him, though, in most of his other remarks. I strongly disapprove of a clergyman simply taking up ringing as a sort of parochial duty, without any real love for the science of change-ringing. I am happy to say we have at the present time a few of the clergy who really go in for the art thoroughly; otherwise the peal of STEDMAN TRIPLES rung by the clerical company in 1884, at Drayton, would never have been accomplished. But, on the other hand, we have a host of 'clerical dabbles' in the art, some of whom can just ring rounds, whilst others can just manage to tumble through a six-score of DOUBLES or a short length of MINOR or TRIPLES. Now I do not want to say a word against any clerical beginner in the art who really aspires to attain to greater proficiency; but I do most strongly condemn the idea that it is the duty of a parish priest to take up ringing just to give countenance to the thing without having any real taste for it. So much for the subject, looking at it from a change-ringing point of view. Now, as regards the provision for the bells being rung on all occasions when they ought to be heard apart from the science altogether; to ensure this you must have a regular paid company (change-ringers by all means, if you can get them; but if not, you must put up with 'stoneys'). A voluntary company is all very well where you can secure regularity. But the case is just this: if you pay for a thing it becomes a legal contract, and you can have it done when and how you please. If you employ volunteers, it is only reasonable to suppose that they will work only when and how they please. As regards payment for ringing-days, this must vary in amount according to circumstances. In the case of a town where there are several churches with rings of bells, it is better that one company should serve all the churches, as the amount paid by each church separately is generally not enough, by itself, to compensate the men for loss of time in attending to ring. The list of ringing-days must also depend upon local circumstances, but generally in every place these should include the four great Church festivals, Christmas, Easter, Ascension Day, and Whit Sunday, and one or two loyal occasions, such as the Queen's Birthday, Coronation, &c. To sum the matter up: payment will never further the art of change-ringing, but it will secure ringing of some sort on all occasions when required. As regards rules, the fewer the better. A list of ringing-days should be included therein. It is an insult to a body of respectable men to stick up rules as to conduct in the belfry. Of course it would be an understood thing that a man smoking or drinking in a belfry, or otherwise grossly misconducting himself, would be dismissed at once. J. R. JERRAM.

Worcester and adjoining Districts Change-ringing Association.

THE Annual Meeting of this Association was held on Monday, the 26th ult., in a large room belonging to the old Rectory House of St. Helen's Church, Worcester, where a good number of members from Worcester, Bromsgrove, Hagley, Wollaston, Kidderminster, Wolverley, Arley Kings, Dudley, Netherton, &c., were present. The chair was occupied by the Rev. Canon Melville, D.D., rector of Great Witley, who was supported by the Revs. W. R. Carr, T. Chaytor, B. Arthur (Worcester), C. D. P. Davies (Redmarley), W. C. Gibbs (Hagley), &c. Before the commencement of business, prayer was offered by the Secretary of the Worcester Branch, the Rev. T. Chaytor, rector of St. Helen's, after which the Chairman made a few remarks as to his being placed there that day. He would have liked the new Dean, Dr. Gott, to have taken the chair, but owing to a previous engagement that gentleman could not possibly attend. He now called on the Secretary to read over the minutes of the meetings held during the year. This was done, and they were confirmed. A code of rules, submitted to the meeting by the Rev. W. R. Carr, was accepted for use in the different belfries, the same to be printed on card-board, and a copy sent to each Society in union, but not to take the place of local rules, where such already exist. It was unanimously resolved that a peal-book be obtained for the use of the Association; and also that an annual report be made and printed in book-form, the same to contain the names of all officers (clerical and lay), all performing members, list of all churches and all peals rung, balance-sheet, &c. A letter having been read by the Secretary, containing the resignation of the President, Lord A. Compton, D.D., owing to his elevation to the Bishopric of Ely, it was resolved that the new dean, Dr. Gott, be President of the Association, and that the Revs. Canon Cattley and W. R. Carr be re-elected Vice-presidents. Messrs. W. W. Frost (Netherton), T. Brown (Worcester), Lay Vice-Presidents; Mr. S. Spittle, Master, and Mr. J. Smith, Secretary, were re-elected. Mr. E. Crump (Bromsgrove) was appointed Treasurer; Messrs. E. Fellows (Dudley), W. Blanford (Worcester), and J. Crane (Kidderminster), were appointed Trustees. The Committee of Management consists of the Rev. S. J. Marriot (Netherton), E. J. Hall (Bromsgrove), T. Chaytor (Worcester), W. C. Gibbs (Hagley), B. Arthur (Worcester), and one representative from each company in union. A Report was read by the Secretary, showing the great evils the Association had had to contend with since its formation, but that things were at last improving. It is gratifying to know that out of over thirty names submitted at this meeting as performing members, twenty-two were from Worcester. A vote of thanks to the Chairman for presiding was unanimously passed. In responding, the Rev. Canon Melville thanked the members of the Association most heartily for the same, and said he felt great pleasure in being there to take a part in such a good work, and he should be always pleased to help the Association in every way possible. During the day the bells of the different churches in the City were rung at intervals, but it was very dis-

heartening to the members when it became known that the officials at the Cathedral had prevailed upon the Dean to stop the use of the bells to the members of the Association, owing to its being Easter Monday. We hope this will be remedied in future.

North Lincolnshire Association of Church Bell-ringers.

THE members of this Association held their second Annual Meeting on Saturday the 1st inst. at Lincoln. According to rule the Annual Meeting should have been held during April, but owing to the Saturdays in that month falling within the season of Lent it was postponed: this arrangement slightly interfering with the attendance. The Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral, the Rector of St. Peter-at-Arches, the Vicar of St. Peter-at-Gowts, and the Vicar of St. Botolph's, kindly placed their bells at the disposal of members of the Association for the day. At three o'clock in the afternoon a shortened evensong was held in St. Peter-at-Gowts church, which was attended by members of the four city companies of ringers, and by brethren from Gainsborough, Market Rasen, Brantson, and other places. At the conclusion of the service, which was conducted by the Rev. A. G. Musson (one of the vice-presidents), the meeting for business purposes took place in the schoolroom. After the minutes of the last quarterly meeting had been read and confirmed, the Hon. Secretary (Mr. W. Lunn, of Market Rasen) presented the Report for the past year. The next business was the election of officers; the retiring president (F. A. Dorrington, Esq., of Nettleton, Caistor) having expressed his inability to fulfil the duties of the office, it was unanimously resolved that the Very Rev. the Dean of Lincoln, Canon Butler, D.D., be the president for the ensuing year. The newly elected President a few minutes afterwards entered the room, and met with a most cordial greeting from the forty brethren assembled. The very rev. gentleman at once took the presidential chair amid cheering. Before proceeding with the election of vice-president it was resolved, on the recommendation of the committee of management, that Rule 3 be altered to the following: 'That a President, and for each local centre a Vice-President, shall be elected, and that for the purposes of this rule, Lincoln, Gainsborough, and Market Rasen, be considered local centres.' The Rev. A. G. Musson was then re-elected Vice-President for Lincoln; F. F. Linley, Esq., Vice-President for Gainsborough (re-elected); and the Rev. S. W. Andrews, rector of Claxby, the Vice-President for Market Rasen. Mr. H. Gadd, of Market Rasen, was re-appointed Hon. Treasurer; and Mr. W. Lunn, of the same place, Hon. Secretary. On the proposition of Mr. Linley, seconded by Mr. J. C. Tinker, it was resolved that in future the annual subscription of efficient members be 1s. 6d., and probationers 1s. Several new members were duly proposed and enrolled. The discussion on the subject of an Association Peal-book was cut short by the President generously volunteering to present the Association with one. The company then adjourned to an adjoining room, where a capital tea had been provided out of the Association funds. Just as this part of the proceedings was commencing the Rev. Precentor Venables, of Lincoln Cathedral, arrived upon the scene, and was heartily welcomed. After tea the President addressed the meeting. He first thanked them for the warm reception which had been accorded to him, and said he took great interest in bell-ringing, especially scientific bell-ringing, because it was a purely English science. Mr. F. F. Linley expressed the great pleasure it afforded the members of the Association to see amongst them that day the Dean, the Precentor, and one of the Churchwardens of St. Peter-at-Gowts. The Precentor said the Dean had remarked upon the pleasure it had given him to be present, and he (the Precentor) might say he had equal pleasure in being here also. He was sorry there were not more rings of bells in Lincoln; formerly there was a ring of bells in the old St. Swithin's church: but there were times when bells were looked upon as marketable commodities, and if anything wanted doing at the churches they used to sell the bells. He greatly lamented the demolition of the 'Lady bells,' which formerly hung in Lincoln Cathedral, and which were used in the re-casting of 'Big Tom' in 1834.

Bath and Keynsham United Deaneries Association of Bell-ringers.

THE usual Monthly Meeting of the above was held at Twerton parish church on Monday, the 3rd inst. Tea was provided through the kindness of the Vicar, the Rev. Stokes Shaw, and there was a very fair muster of ringers. Some good change-ringing was done by the members present, including GRANDSIRE TRIPLES and SIX-SCORES. This is the first time the Association has met at Twerton since the rebuilding of the church, when two new bells from Messrs. Taylor's foundry at Loughborough were added, making a ring of eight. A meeting was held at seven o'clock for the purpose of passing the report and treasurer's statement for 1885, at which the Rev. W. Stokes Shaw took the chair. The report and treasurer's statement, which showed a balance in hand of 17l. 4s. 2d., were read by the Secretary, Mr. Rupert Lewis, and were, on the motion of Mr. J. B. Blackmore, seconded by Mr. C. Bendall, passed unanimously.

The Waterloo Society, London.

MEMBERS are requested to notice, that the meetings at St. Margaret's, Westminster, will be discontinued until further notice. Also, that the meeting-time for St. John's, Waterloo, is 8 o'clock precisely.

H. J. DAVIES, Secretary.

Change-ringing at St. Peter's, Drayton, Berks.

ON Wednesday, the 28th ult., a peal of 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES was rung in 3 hrs. 4 mins. Rev. F. E. Robinson, 1; W. H. Wood, 2; C. W. H. Griffiths, Esq., 3; H. D. Betteridge, Esq., 4; H. J. Castle, 5; C. A. Clements (first peal in the method), 6; J. W. Washbrook (composer and conductor), 7; F. Clinch, 8. C. A. Clements came from Salisbury.

. Many valuable communications are unavoidably postponed.

been needed in Zululand if duty had been done after the Zulu war. Now the 10,000 lives sacrificed to British weakness since Cetywayo was sent back cry loudly to the British conscience. Let some M.P. ask to be informed how much money has been spent on troops in Zululand since January 1, 1883, and the British taxpayer will stand aghast.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

DOUGLAS, Bishop for Zululand.

'Hatfield Road, St. Albans, May 7.'

OLD CATHOLICISM IN SWITZERLAND.

THE Old Catholics of Lucerne have held their first service. The community was organized in September 1883, and has spent the intervening two years and a half in trying to get a church to hold service in, there being a prejudice on the part of its members against holding service in a room, even if licensed for Divine Service. First they applied as a religious denomination for the use of the Mariabühl Church. This was granted them by the magistrates, but the permission was annulled by the Cantonal Assembly. Then application was made for the Protestant church, but this was engaged by the English at 8 and 11, and used by the Protestants themselves between 9.30 and 10.30. The English chaplain declared it impossible to give up his early communion; and so the Old Catholic service, which consisted of the communion service only, could not be held. Appeal was next made to the Federal Assembly, which declared the appeal to have been sustained. But fresh legal difficulties were started, and numbers of propositions were made for settling the matter, all of which came to naught. At last it was resolved to ask the committee of the Protestant Church for permission to use the building on Easter Sunday between 7 and 8.30 a.m. The result was a complete success. Every seat was filled. An altar was fitted up in the chancel, a choir of male voices rendered the music, and the Mass was said in German by Bishop Herzog, assisted by Dr. Steiger, one of the oldest members of the Old Catholic body. The latter used a chalice which had been presented to the Church in memory of his father's steady efforts on behalf of freedom of speech in the Swiss Catholic Church. The *Katholik*, from which these particulars are taken, states that when the *Bussakt*, or general confession, a ceremony new to most of those present, had been gone through, many who had come with no intention of communicating, felt themselves no longer able to resist the invitation to 'eat of that Bread and drink of that Cup.' A person present estimated the number of communicants at 320 men and 200 women. The impression produced by the service, adds the *Katholik*, is one that can neither be described nor forgotten.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

Annoyance from Church Bells.

SIR,—Will any of your readers kindly send me a line or two giving me information on the following subjects?

1. The name of any church containing a ring of bells in which, from whatever structural or other causes, the sound of the bells strikes the houses in the immediate vicinity with so great an effect as to be in the nature of a nuisance to the inhabitants, and even in cases where the bells and their music are admired.

2. What mechanical or structural plans, if any, have been adopted in the bell-chamber to prevent the annoyance, and with what success?

Any information will be gladly received by
GEORGE SUTHERLAND,
St. Andrew's, Derby. Churchwarden.

An Ancient Inscription.

SIR,—I have just returned from visiting the little church of St. Gregory at Morville, near Bridgenorth, Salop. It is of very ancient foundation and mixed styles of architecture, and in the tower a ring of six bells. In the vestry (which is also the ringing-chamber) is the following inscription on a black board:—

'when to ring you doe come here
you must ring well with hand and ear.
For if this law you break indeed
your forfeit must be paid with speed.
he that a bell doe over throw
must pay his groat before he goe.

he that suddenly checks a bell
two pence must pay all men can tell,
and he that rings with spir or hatt
two pence is there to pay for that.
These laws are old, they are not new,
Therefore kind debtor pay thy due.'

The absence of capitals at the commencement of each line (in most cases) is noticeable. The bells are not ancient, being all by one firm in Bristol, about 1750.

E. POWELL.

Begbury Rectory, Shifnal.

Anniversary at Braughing, Herts.

THE Annual Ringing Festival was observed here as usual on the 10th inst., a day which has been kept as a festival for over one hundred years, in commemoration of the famous peal of BOB MAJOR rung here in 1779. As has recently been stated in these columns, the Braughing bells have been going through a course of repair at the able hands of Mr. J. Gray, of Little Munden, Herts, who has rehung and restored them in the most excellent manner. It was generally agreed among the many celebrated ringers assembled on Monday, that it would be hard to find anywhere in the country a more perfect ring of eight than the Braughing bells. Ringing commenced

at 7.55 in the morning, when eight members of the Herts County Association rang Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 7 mins. W. Goodchild, 1; M. Ellsmore, 2; W. A. Tyler, 3; F. Sworder, 4; H. J. Tucker (conductor), 5; J. Cull, 6; H. Baker, 7; J. Gray (first peal), 8. Tenor, 19 cwt., in F sharp. This is the first peal that has been rung on the bells for many years. L. Proctor, Esq., and his team from Bennington; Mr. Rochester (Sawbridgeworth); Mr. Smith, Mr. J. R. Haworth, Mr. Chapman (London), and others, had arrived in time to hear the bells come round, and to congratulate the ringers on their success. During the day the following methods were rung by Squire Proctor and his band, including Messrs. Rochester, Haworth, and Chapman: STEDMAN TRIPLES, 504 and 252; DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 448 and 224; SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 224; and KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 576. Dinner was provided in a tent near the 'Bell Inn,' Canon Wigram presiding, and about sixty sat down to it. After dinner the Vicar of the parish, the Rev. P. G. Ward, in a few words congratulated the ringers upon the success of their peal; and said it was owing to the excellence of Mr. Gray's work, to whom all the parish, and lovers of ringing in general, were deeply indebted for the perfect manner in which he had restored their beautiful ring of bells.

In the afternoon Mr. Proctor and his band, with Messrs. Haworth and Chapman, drove over to the neighbouring village of Aspenden, where they were welcomed by the Rector, and rang—DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 572; STEDMAN TRIPLES, 504; and GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 224; while other ringers kept the Braughing bells busy till long after dark. Altogether, it was one of the most successful ringing days that has ever been held in the parish.

Visit of the Hughenden (Bucks) Ringers to London.

ON Wednesday, the 12th inst., the ringers of Hughenden visited London, and were met by J. R. Haworth. Their first visit was to Westminster Abbey, on the road to which they took special notice of the statue of the late Lord Beaconsfield, whom they had all known so well at home. They then proceeded to St. Paul's Cathedral, where they attended the service of the Festival of the Sons of the Clergy, and at the close of which they ascended the tower and witnessed the ringing of the bells—first in the belfry, and then above in the bell-room itself. After this they went to the Guildhall. In the evening they rang several six-scores of GRANDSIRE DOUBLES at St. John's, Waterloo Road. W. Hussey (captain), W. Goodchild, J. Evans, W. Shrimpton, H. Stratford, and F. Free. This was succeeded by some ringing on the eight bells, in which Mr. Haworth and Mr. Barry assisted. The day was a very busy and pleasant one to all concerned.

West Middlesex Association.

THE Meeting of the above Association, advertised for June 5th, will be held in the belfry of St. Paul's Church, Hounslow.

The Sussex County Association.

THE second Annual General Meeting of this Association will be held at Brighton to-morrow week (the 29th inst.). G. F. ATTREE, Secretary.

Death of Ringers at Brighton.

THE St. Paul's (Brighton) Society of Change-ringers have, during the past week, lost two of their members by death. On Tuesday, 11th inst., William Nash, aged 17, died, and his remains were interred in the Extra-Mural Cemetery, Brighton, on Saturday last. His death was very sudden, the immediate cause being inflammation of the brain. He was a promising young ringer, and took part in the longest touch yet rung by the Society—504 changes of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, on the 2nd inst. On Saturday evening, George Short, who has been associated with the Society for three years, entered into his rest, at the early age of 23 years. The usual muffled peals were rung.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. Mary's, Wimbledon, Surrey.

ON Tuesday, the 20th ult., a peal of 720 OXFORD TREBLE BOB MINOR was rung in 24½ mins. C. Hyde, 1; R. Moss, 2; B. E. Battum, 3; J. Cooley, 4; A. Garrott, 5; E. F. Strange (conductor), 6.

Also on Tuesday, the 4th inst., a 720 of WOODBINE TREBLE BOB. J. Cooley, 1; R. Moss, 2; C. Hyde, 3; B. E. Battum, 4; A. Garrott, 5; S. Frost (conductor), 6. Also a 720 of BOB MINOR. G. Hyde, 1; R. Moss, 2; C. Hyde, 3; J. Cooley, 4; A. Roots, 5; S. Frost (conductor), 6.

At St. Sidwell's, Exeter, Devon.

ON Good Friday, the 23rd ult., with the bells half muffled, a touch of 1050 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES was rung. W. Mundy, 1; A. Shepherd, 2; E. Shepherd, 3; W. Richardson, 4; E. Pitt, 5; J. Moss, 6; F. Shepherd (conductor), 7; T. J. Lake, 8.

ON Thursday, the 29th ult., a touch of 504 STEDMAN TRIPLES. E. Pitt, 1; A. Shepherd, 2; F. R. Shepherd, 3; W. Richardson, 4; W. G. Goss, 5; E. Shepherd, 6; F. Shepherd (conductor), 7; J. Moss, 8.

ON Sunday, the 9th inst., for Divine service, a touch of 504 STEDMAN TRIPLES. J. Moss, 1; E. Pitt, 2; A. Shepherd, 3; E. Shepherd, 4; W. Richardson, 5; W. G. Goss, 6; F. Shepherd (conductor), 7; W. Mundy, 8. Tenor, 24 cwt.

At St. Andrew's, Hagbourne, Berks.

ON Thursday, the 29th ult., Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES was rung in 3 hrs. 10 mins. E. Napper, 1; J. R. Jerram, 2; F. Napper, 3; C. A. Clements, 4; H. J. Castle, 5; W. Napper, 6; J. W. Washbrook (conductor), 7; D. Napper, 8. Tenor, 23½ cwt. Messrs. Jerram and Clements came from Salisbury.

* Many valuable communications are unavoidably postponed.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

Essex Association.

THE Annual Meeting will be held on Whit Monday, June 14th, at Chelmsford. Divine service, with an address, 12.30; dinner, 1.30; business meeting, 2.30. The tower of St. Mary's will be open from 9 a.m. to 12.20 p.m., and from 4 to 9 p.m. The belfries of Galleywood (8), Springfield (6), and Widford (6), will be open from 9 to 11.30 a.m., and 4 to 9 p.m.; Writtle (8), from 4 to 9 p.m. Members will be able to travel at reduced fares on the G. E. R. provided that they show their E. A. C. R. receipts for 1885-86 at the booking-office, and inform the Secretary *before Tuesday, June 8th*, from what station they travel. Dinner tickets may be obtained from the Secretary at 1s. each up to June 8th, after that date the price will be 2s.

Bitton, Bristol.

H. A. COCKEY, Hon. Sec.

St. Michael's Society, Sittingbourne, Kent.

THE Annual General Meeting of this Society was held in the ringing-chamber on Thursday, the 29th ult., the Rev. H. Venn, the president, in the chair. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, and the accounts, showing a balance in hand, were passed; several alterations in the rules and bye-laws were made, the chief being the substitution of the word 'Master' for the word 'Conductor.' The officers for the ensuing year elected were: Mr. F. Grayling, master; Mr. W. G. Gordelier, deputy-master; Mr. S. Snelling, steeple-keeper; and Mr. J. G. Elliott, hon. sec. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. J. M. Cooper and Mr. W. Judd (who were about to leave Sittingbourne) for the great services they had rendered the Society.

On Thursday, the 6th inst., the Annual Supper in connexion with the above meeting was held at the 'Shakespeare Hotel,' in the absence of the Rev. R. B. Knatchbull-Hugessen, secretary of the Kent County Association, who had been invited to take the chair, Mr. G. Payne kindly presided, while Mr. F. Grayling, Master of the Society, acted as vice-chairman. There was a good attendance of members and friends. A very pleasant evening was spent, the proceedings being enlivened by vocal music. A course of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES on hand-bells was rung by Messrs. Elliott, Snelling, Cooper, and Simms.

The Sussex Association.

THE Meeting originally fixed to be held at Brighton to-morrow is postponed until Whit-Monday, June 14.

Hand-bell Performance at Salisbury.

ON Tuesday, the 18th inst., at the house of Mr. Jerram, Salisbury, 720 BOB MINOR, with 22 singles, was rung in 20 mins., with the bells retained in hand. C. A. Clements, 1-2; W. W. Gifford, 3-4; T. Blackburn (conductor), 5-6.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire.

ON Thursday, the 29th ult., a muffled peal of 5056 SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, in the Burton Variation, was rung in 3 hrs. 40 mins. by the following members of the St. Paul's Society of Change-ringers:—S. Gretton, 1; E. I. Stone, 2; J. Jagger, 3; J. Griffin, 4; H. Wakley, 5; A. P. Heywood (composer), 6; T. Holmes, 7; W. Wakley (conductor), 8. Tenor, 26 cwt. This peal is the first ever rung in the above variation, and contains the 6th twelve times and the 4th eleven times in sixth's place in 23 courses, and no other bell there. It was rung with half-muffled bells to commemorate the second anniversary of the death of M. T. Bass, founder of the church and donor of the bells. All the above are also members of the Midland Counties' Association of Change-ringers.

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6 3 2 5 4	- - -	5 3 2 4 6	- - -
5 6 2 3 4	- - -	2 4 5 3 6	- - -
2 3 5 6 4	- - -	5 2 4 3 6	- - -
5 2 3 6 4	- - -	4 3 5 2 6	- - -
3 5 2 6 4	- - -	5 4 3 2 6	- - -
2 6 3 5 4	- - -	3 5 4 2 6	- - -
3 2 6 5 4	- - -	4 2 3 5 6	- - -
6 5 3 2 4	- - -	3 4 2 5 6	- - -
3 6 5 2 4	- - -	2 3 4 5 6	- - -
5 3 6 2 4	- - -		
2 5 6 3 4	- - -		

At St. Bartholomew's, Quorndon, Leicestershire.

ON Thursday, the 29th ult., a peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (Holt's Ten-part) was rung in 3 hrs. 7 mins. A. Cresser, 1; W. T. Billingham, 2; R. Lane, 3; J. W. Taylor, Esq., sen., 4; C. Smith, 5; E. W. Taylor, Esq. (conductor), 6; J. W. Taylor, Esq., jun., 7; J. E. Wightman, 8. Tenor, 14 cwt. 2 qrs. 18 lbs., in F sharp. This is the first peal on the bells, which were opened on Tuesday, April 27th, after the addition of a treble and tenor to complete the ring of eight. All the performers in the above peal are engaged at the Loughborough Bell-foundry, and it is presumed to be the first peal ever rung by representatives of one firm.

ON Wednesday, the 12th inst., the following members of the Midland Counties' Association rang a peal of 5120 TREBLE BOB MAJOR, in the Kent Variation, in 3 hrs. 20 mins. A. Cresser, 1; C. Smith, 2; R. Lane, 3; J. Hardy, 4; Rev. W. C. Pearson, 5; E. D. Taylor, Esq., 6; S. Smith, 7; J. Ward (conductor), 8. Composed by J. Fleming. Tenor, 14 cwt. 2 qrs. 18 lbs.

This is the first peal in the method on the bells. The Rev. W. C. Pearson came from Syston; J. Ward from Long Eaton; all the rest from Loughborough.

ON Thursday, the 20th inst., a peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES was rung in 2 hrs. 50 mins. A. Cresser, 1; C. Smith, 2; J. Hardy, 3; J. W. Taylor, Esq., sen., 4; S. Smith, 5; Rev. W. C. Pearson, 6; J. W. Taylor, Esq., jun. (conductor), 7; E. Wightman, 8. Tenor, 14 cwt. 2 qrs. 18 lbs. Mr. Snowden's variation of J. Hollis's Five-part peal. The Rev. W. C. Pearson comes from Syston; the rest belong to the Loughborough Branch.

At St. Clement Danes, Strand, London.

ON Friday, the 30th ult., the election of churchwardens (Messrs. Twining and Barber, who were re-elected) took place, and during the day the bells, as customary, were rung at intervals by the parochial ringers. In the evening, by the kind permission of the Rev. J. Lindsay, the rector, an attempt for a 5039 of GRANDSIRE CATER was made, but came to a stop through the 9th bell-casting rope after 1008 changes had been well struck by the following members of the St. James's Society:—W. H. Manning, 1; W. W. Thorne, 2; W. Wetherstone, 3; R. French (conductor), 4; H. Langdon, 5; T. Barry, 6; R. Hopkins, 7; W. H. Fussell, 8; W. H. George, 9; C. F. Winny, 10. An adjournment was made to the Meeting-house of the Society, where a quiet hour was spent, and a course each of KENT TREBLE BOB and STEDMAN TRIPLES were rung by Messrs. Fussell, French, Winny, and McLaughlin.

At St. Editha's, Tamworth, Staffordshire.

ON Saturday, the 1st inst., the following members of the Association for the Archdeaconry of Stafford rang Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, in 2 hrs. 57 mins. E. Cashmore, 1; T. Horton, 2; H. Slaney, 3; H. Meacham, 4; S. Reeves (conductor), 5; W. R. Small, 6; W. Ferenough, 7; G. Woods, 8. Tenor 22 cwt., in E flat. Messrs. Woods and Slaney came from Tamworth; Meacham and Ferenough from Lichfield; and the rest from West Bromwich.

At St. Mary's, Coleorton, Leicestershire.

ON Saturday, the 1st inst., a peal of 5056 TREBLE BOB MAJOR, in the Kent Variation, was rung in 3 hrs. 1 min. A. Cresser, 1; C. Smith, 2; E. W. Taylor, Esq., 3; J. W. Taylor, Esq., sen., 4; R. Lane, 5; Rev. W. C. Pearson, 6; W. T. Billingham, 7; J. W. Taylor, Esq., jun. (conductor), 8. Composed by J. Lockwood. This is the first peal of TREBLE BOB on the bells. The Rev. W. C. Pearson came from Syston; all the rest are the Bell-foundry Company, from Loughborough.

At St. Mary's, Woolwich, Kent.

ON Saturday, the 1st inst., eight members of the St. James's Society rang a peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (Holt's Original) in 2 hrs. 45 mins. H. Bright (aged 77), 1; J. Barry (50th peal), 2; R. French (conductor), 3; H. J. Davies, 4; A. E. Church, 5; E. E. Richards (first peal), 6; W. H. George, 7; W. W. Thorne, 8. Tenor, 13 cwt., in G. The ringers wish to tender their thanks to the Rector and Churchwardens for the use of the bells.

At the Parish Church, Chertsey, Surrey.

ON Saturday, the 1st inst., eight members of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths rang a peal of 5088 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 8½ mins. E. Chapman, 1; A. C. Fussell, 2; W. H. Fussell, 3; E. F. Cole, 4; G. Griffin, 5; N. Alderman, 6; A. Jacob, 7; G. Newson (composer and conductor), 8. Tenor, 20 cwt. 14 lbs. This is the first peal rung on the bells, which were made a ring of eight in 1859, and were opened by the Kingston-on-Thames ringers. The cost of adding two new trebles and recasting the tenor, by Messrs. Mears & Stainbank, was defrayed by the generosity of the Baroness Burdett-Coutts. The Fussell Brothers came from Slough, the remainder of the band from London.

At St. Mary's, Hitchin, Herts.

ON Saturday, the 1st inst., in 3 hrs. 23 mins., eight members of the Ancient Society of College Youths, through the exertions and liberality of Mr. W. Allen, rang a peal of 5008 BOB MAJOR. W. Allen, 1; J. R. Haworth, 2; F. E. Dave, 3; F. Furr (first peal of any kind), 4; C. F. Winny, 5; J. M. Hayes, 6; J. Hare, 7; F. G. Newman, 8. Composed by Mr. Harrison of Mottram, and conducted by Mr. Newman. Tenor, 28 cwt., in D. This is the first peal of BOB MAJOR on the bells, and the first by all except Messrs. Haworth and Newman. It was rung in honour of the new chimess, which have been erected by Messrs. Gillett and Bland of Croydon, the gift of T. G. Pierson, Esq.

At St. Swithin's, Hempstead, near Gloucester.

ON Sunday, the 2nd inst., for evening service, six six-scores of GRANDSIRE DOUBLES were rung. W. Pegler, 1; H. Mitchell, 2; W. Sevier, 3; E. Smith, 4; R. A. Barrett, 5; J. Wilkins, 6.

And after evening service six six-scores of GRANDSIRE DOUBLES. H. E. Gardner, 1; W. Pegler, 2; E. Smith, 3; W. Sevier, 4; R. A. Barrett (conductor), 5; A. Harris, 6. Tenor, 12 cwt., in G sharp.

At St. Lawrence's, Barnwood, near Gloucester.

ON Sunday, the 2nd inst., six members of the Gloucester and Bristol Association rang a touch of BOB MINOR and some STEDMAN DOUBLES. J. Yates, 1; A. A. Waite, 2; G. Miles, 3; R. A. Barrett, 4; H. Mitchell (conductor), 5; W. J. Sevier, 6. Tenor, 14 cwt., in G.

Also on Wednesday, the 5th inst., at the same place, the following members rang in 26 mins. a peal of 720 KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR. H. Barnes, 1; J. Yates, 2; A. A. Waite (conductor), 3; G. Miles, 4; H. Mitchell, 5; W. J. Sevier, 6.

Afterwards a 720 of BOB MINOR in 28 mins. A. A. Waite (conductor), 1;

J. Yates, 2; G. Miles, 3; H. Mitchell, 4; A. Smart, 5; W. J. Sevier, 6. Also a number of STEDMAN SIX-SCORES. The ringing on May 5th was on the occasion of a wedding at the above church.

At Winterbourne Earls, Wilts.—Date Touch.

On Monday, the 10th inst., a DATE TOUCH of 1886 changes was rung in 1 hr. 7 mins., made up as follows: six changes on the three front bells with 4 and 5 covering; 80 and ten six-scores of GRANDSIRE, and five six-scores of BOB DOUBLES by J. Judd, 1; J. R. Jerram, 2; W. W. Gifford, 3; C. A. Clements, 4; T. Blackburn, 5. Tenor, 10 cwt.

At St. Nicholas's, Witham.

On Monday, the 10th inst., a half-muffled peal of 720 BOB MINOR was rung as a mark of respect to the late Miss Bramston on the day of her funeral. J. Butler, 1; A. Chalk, 2; E. Chaplin, 3; W. G. Richards, 4; A. Fryatt, 5; H. Sayer (conductor), 6.

At St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, City of London.

On Monday, the 10th inst., eight members of the St. James's Society rang Hubbard's Five-part peal of 5040 BOB TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 7 mins. Jos. Davidson, 1; Jos. Waghorn, jun. (conductor), 2; W. Weatherstone, 3; G. B. Lucas, 4; E. F. Vinen, 5; Jos. Waghorn, 6; T. Taylor, 7; W. Pye-English, 8. Tenor, 22 cwt.

This and the peal of BOB MAJOR rung by the same band here on the 15th February are the only peals in the method by the St. James's Society. This is also the first peal of BOB TRIPLES by all the band. The ringers take this opportunity through *Church Bells* of thanking the Rector for his kindness in placing the bells at their disposal, and wish to add that much credit is due to Mr. D. Living, steeple-keeper, for the manner in which he keeps the bells, belfry, &c.

At St. John's, Perry Barr, Staffordshire.

On Tuesday, the 11th inst., a peal of 5024 BOB MAJOR was rung in 3 hrs. 2 mins. J. Sanders, 1; C. H. Hattersley, 2; H. Bastable, 3; J. Plant, 4; B. Witchell, 5; T. Reynolds, 6; C. Stanbridge, 7; J. Buffery (conductor), 8. Composed by G. W. Baldwin in 1869, being the first peal in the method by the Holt Society, and the first peal in the method on the bells. This peal has not been previously performed. Tenor, 13½ cwt., in F sharp.

5024 BOB MAJOR.

2 3 4 5 6	W. M. H.	3 4 2 5 6	W. M. H.
5 2 3 6 4	- -	2 5 3 4 6	- -
3 5 2 6 4	- -	3 2 5 4 6	- -
2 5 4 6 3	- -	5 3 2 4 6	- -
3 4 5 6 2	- -	2 4 5 3 6	- -
5 4 2 6 3	- -	5 2 4 3 6	- -
3 2 4 6 5	- -	4 3 5 2 6	- -
4 3 2 6 5	- -	5 4 3 2 6	- -
2 4 3 6 5	- -	3 5 4 2 6	- -
5 3 4 6 2	- -	4 2 3 5 6	- -
4 5 3 6 2	- -	4 3 2 5 6	8
2 3 5 6 4	- -		

Repeated. 6th 22 times each way.
G. W. BALDWIN.

On Tuesday, the 25th inst., eight of St. Martin's Society, Birmingham, rang for the first time, in 3 hrs. 3 mins., 5080 changes in four different methods; namely, 1280 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 1280 BOB MAJOR, 1260 STEDMAN TRIPLES, 1260 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. S. Reeves, 1; H. Bastable (conductor), 2; J. W. Cartwright, 3; T. Reynolds, 4; J. Sanders, 5; W. R. Small, 6; B. Witchell, 7; J. Buffery, 8. Tenor, 13½ cwt., in F sharp. Composed by H. Johnson. This is the only peal known to have been rung in these four methods on eight bells.

The Midland Counties' Association, and the St. Andrew's Society of Change-ringers, Derby.

On Wednesday, the 12th inst., on the occasion of the marriage of Miss Ethel Hey with the Rev. F. D. Brock, M.A., vicar of Kirklevington, Yorkshire, the following ringers, after ringing the wedding peal in the afternoon, rang a quarter-peal of 1260 BOB TRIPLES in 47 mins. W. Shardlow, 1; T. Alton, 2; G. Mottashaw, 3; W. B. Midgley, 4; J. W. Thompson, 5; W. H. Found, 6; A. E. Thompson (conductor), 7; C. Hart, 8. Tenor, 20½ cwt., in E flat.

At St. John's, Beeston, Nottinghamshire.

On Saturday, the 15th inst., the following members of the Midland Counties' Association rang a peal of 5088 TREBLE BOB MAJOR, in the Kent Variation, in 3 hrs. 4 mins. S. Burton, 1; J. C. Dickens, 2; Rev. W. W. C. Baker, 3; J. Hickman, 4; Rev. W. C. Pearson, 5; J. Ward, 6; H. W. Abbott, 7; J. W. Taylor, jun. (conductor), 8. Composed by J. Thorp. Tenor, 19 cwt. The Rev. W. C. Pearson came from Syston; Mr. Taylor, from Loughborough; Rev. W. W. C. Baker and Messrs. Burton, Hickman, and Abbott from Nottingham; Messrs. Ward and Dickens from Long Eaton.

At St. John's, Mersham, Kent.

On Saturday, the 15th inst., a peal of 720 PLAIN BOB MINOR was rung in 26½ mins. S. Finn (aged 14 years, first peal of Minor), 1; G. Finn, sen., 2; G. Finn, jun., 3; E. Ruck, jun., 4; F. Finn (conductor), 5; E. Finn, 6. Tenor, 13 cwt. S. Finn and G. Finn, jun., came from Brabourne.

At St. Gregory's, Sudbury, Suffolk.

On Saturday evening, the 15th inst., a touch of 560 BOB MAJOR was rung. T. Tolliday, 1; W. Griggs, 2; J. Campin, 3; W. Howell, 4; W. B. Ransom, 5; H. Harper, 6; W. Cross, 7; A. Scott, 8. This was rung with the bells half

muffled as a token of respect to the memory of the late A. H. White, Esq., who was buried on the previous day.

At St. Peter's, Brighton, Sussex.

On Sunday, the 16th inst., seven members of the Brighton Branch of the Sussex County Association, with Mr. J. Golds of Bromley, Kent, rang, for afternoon service, a quarter-peal of 1260 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 47 mins. J. Golds, 1; J. Searle, 2; C. E. Golds, 3; A. Marshall, 4; A. W. L. Parkhouse, 5; G. F. Attree, 6; H. Weston (conductor), 7; W. Vernon, 8. Tenor, 10½ cwt.

At St. Lawrence's, Ardeley, Herts.

On Monday, the 17th inst., six members of the Herts County Ringing Association, residing at Benington, Herts, visited the above-named village, and on its musical ring of six bells (Tenor, B minor) rang two peals of KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR and four peals of GRANDSIRE MINOR: together, 1920 changes. N. Warner, 1; J. Kitchener, 2; L. Proctor, Esq., 3; L. Chapman, 4; C. Shambrook, 5; S. Page (conductor), 6.

At St. George's, Camberwell, Surrey.

On Monday, the 17th inst., eight members of the St. James's Society rang Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 46 mins. J. Davidson, 1; J. Barry, 2; R. French (conductor), 3; W. W. Thorne, 4; H. Langdon, 5; A. Hayward, 6; W. H. George, 7; H. W. Flower, 8. Tenor, 14 cwt. The above peal was rung on the twenty-third birthday of Mr. Thorne, many happy returns being wished him by his brother-ringers. Thanks are tendered to Mr. Churchwarden Sugden for the use of the bells; and also to Mr. H. Windley for having the belfry ready at a minute's notice.

At St. James's, Trowbridge, Wilts.

On Saturday, the 22nd inst., a peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (Cox's Bob-and-Single-peal) was rung in 3 hrs. 10 mins. W. Alley (first peal), 1; C. A. Clements, 2; J. R. Jerram, 3; J. Hayward (first peal), 4; W. McCallery (first peal, conductor), 5; T. Blackburn, 6; W. W. Gifford, 7; J. Cooper (first peal), 8. Tenor, 23 cwt. This is the first peal rung by all members of the Salisbury Guild, and the first in Wiltshire by local men since 1826.

[The composition of this peal is unknown to us.—Ed. C. B.]

At St. Paul's, Walkden, Lancashire.

On Monday, the 24th inst., being the anniversary of the Queen's birthday, the ringers of the above church showed their loyalty by firing and QUEENS in the evening, also by ringing a peal of 720 BOB MINOR in 25½ mins. W. Denner (conductor), 1; J. Worthington, 2; S. Oakes, 3; A. Potter, 4; J. Potter, 5; J. Williamson, 6. Tenor, 13½ cwt.

At St. Peter's, Brighton, Sussex.

On Monday evening, the 24th inst., eight members of the St. Peter's Society, also members of the Sussex County Association, rang in honour of the Queen's birthday a quarter-peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (1260 changes) in 46 mins. A. Fuller, 1; A. Marshall, 2; E. C. Attree, 3; J. Jay, sen., 4; A. W. L. Parkhouse, 5; G. F. Attree (conductor), 6; H. Weston, 7; W. Vernon, 8. Tenor, 10½ cwt.

At All Saints', West Bromwich, Staffordshire.

On Monday, the 24th inst., the following members of the Association of Change-ringers for the Archdeaconry of Stafford rang in 2 hrs. 52 mins. Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, with two doubles in the last four leads. W. Cooper,* 1; E. Cashmore, 2; B. Hall,* 3; R. Hill, 4; W. R. Small, 5; S. Smith,* 6; S. Reeves (conductor), 7; G. Griffiths,* 8. Tenor, 14 cwt. This peal was rung to celebrate the fortieth birthday of the conductor. [* First peal.]

At All Saints', Loughborough, Leicestershire.

On Monday, the 24th inst., in honour of the Queen's birthday, a peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES was rung in 2 hrs. 56 mins. A. Cresser, 1; C. Smith, 2; J. Hardy, 3; J. W. Taylor, Esq., sen., 4; S. Smith, 5; E. D. Taylor, Esq., 6; J. W. Taylor, Esq., jun. (conductor), 7; E. Wightman, 8. Tenor, 24 cwt. Mr. Snowden's variation of J. Hollis's Five-part peal.

[We shall be obliged if our correspondent will cease from writing on tissue paper.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

'Look Ahead!'

SIR,—The thanks of Churchmen are due to your correspondent 'G. V.' for his excellent article in last week's *Church Bells*. I firmly believe, as he states, that if the Church does not awake to her responsibilities very shortly, and inaugurate essential reforms, Disestablishment must come. I quite agree with his remarks, and, from my own experience, believe that there are hundreds of country clergymen who, as myself, would willingly and gladly take up town work, could they do so. They are set down in country villages consisting of two or three hundred people, with not half enough to do to employ time and energies, and at the same time yearning for work. The remedy is, as your correspondent states, the grouping of parishes, and thus the setting free of a large number of the clergy and, at the same time, of funds, for the work in densely-populated districts. Let me instance my own parish. Here is a population of 400; within two miles north is a small parish of 300; within one and a half miles north-west is a small parish of 200—three parishes within a triangle of two miles each way, with a gross population of 900. One clergyman could well do the work, especially with a little intel-

with blank date, like that always now imposed on quasi-incumbents in France. The same writer remarks of Roman Catholic journalism, that the paper of largest circulation, the *Unità Cattolica*, is published at Turin; the Jesuit organ, the *Civiltà Cattolica*, appears at Florence. The oldest Church journal in Rome is the *Osservatore Romano*; the *Voce della Verità* is the organ there of the 'Union for Catholic interests.' In the 'eternal city' is also the *Moniteur de Rome*, the subscribers to which are strangely few in spite of the Pope's special patronage; while the *Liberal Rassegna* regularly inserts 'Vatican Notices,' signed 'Simmaco,' from the pen of high ecclesiastics, but of a satirical character.

GERMANY.

At Munich, the Old Catholics have gradually increased so much—we learn from the *Deutscher Merkur*—that they have resolved to erect a second church in the opposite quarter of the city: a fund for the purpose is already begun. Mannheim is another place from which a large Old Catholic increase is announced.

NETHERLANDS.

The Bishop of Haarlem consecrated, on the 12th of May, the new church of the Dutch Old Catholics at Egmond-on-Sea. The Bishop of Deventer was among the clergy present.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

The Midland Counties' Association.—Burton-on-Trent District.

A GENERAL Meeting of the members of the Burton-on-Trent district was held in St. Paul's Institute, Burton-on-Trent, on Thursday evening, 20th ult., at 8.30 o'clock. The chair was taken by the Rev. James H. Fish, vicar of St. Paul's, who explained that in accordance with a new rule passed at the Annual Meeting of the Association, held in Derby on Easter Monday last, it would now be necessary to elect a Vice-President for the Burton district, in addition to a local Hon. Secretary and two members of the Local Committee. Mr. Griffin proposed, Mr. Robinson seconded, and it was carried unanimously, 'That the Rev. James H. Fish, vicar of St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, be requested to accept the post of Vice-President of the district for the ensuing year.' Mr. Robinson proposed, Mr. Orme seconded, and it was carried unanimously, 'That Mr. J. Jaggard, 145 Shobnell Street, Burton-on-Trent, be requested to act as Local Hon. Secretary.' Mr. Jaggard proposed, Mr. Stone seconded, and it was carried unanimously, 'That Mr. A. Wakley, 156 Waterloo Street, Burton-on-Trent, Mr. G. Robinson, 37 Wood Street, Burton-on-Trent, be re-elected to serve on the Local Committee.' The Chairman also drew the attention of the members present to a resolution passed at the Annual Meeting, to the effect that the first quarterly meeting of the year be held at Burton-on-Trent, the date of the same being left to the decision of the Burton-on-Trent district. On the motion of Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. W. Wakley, it was unanimously resolved that Saturday, July 3rd, be fixed, subject to the President's approval, as a suitable day for the meeting. One ringing member was elected, and a vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the business of the meeting.

Axminster Bell-ringing Guild.

The Annual Meeting of this Guild was held at the old schoolroom on Saturday evening, the 29th ult., the Vicar (the Rev. Arthur Newman) presiding, and there was a good attendance. The accounts for the past year were passed, and the rules were read and adopted. Mr. S. Griffin, the Secretary and Treasurer, owing to other duties, has been compelled to resign, much to the regret of the members. The following officers were then elected:—President, the Rev. A. Newman; Captain, Mr. W. J. Jefferd; Deputy-Captain, Mr. G. R. Stevens; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. W. E. P. Chapple. The Committee are:—Messrs. W. Forward, J. S. Bucknole, A. P. Reece, J. E. Guy, Tom S. Henley, A. Henley, and S. Griffin.

The Lancashire Association.

A RINGING Meeting of the above Association will be held, by kind permission of the clergy, on Saturday, June 5th, at Worsley. The tower will be opened from 3.30 p.m. It is hoped that as many members as possible will make it convenient to attend.

A. E. HOLME, } Hon. Secs.
J. REDFORD, }

The Eastern Counties Guild.

THE Annual Meeting of the above Guild will be held on Saturday, June 19th, at Spalding, when punctual attendance is requested. Business: To pass the accounts; To elect the officers for the year; To elect new members and to transact any regular business of the Guild. A dinner will be provided at the 'White Hart,' at 2 o'clock, for all members who send in their names not later than the 16th June.

BENJAMIN MATHEWS, Sec.

Essex Association of Change-ringers.

THE Annual Meeting will be held at Chelmsford on Whit Monday, June 14. Divine service at St. Mary's at 12.30, with an address by the Rev. T. L. Papillon. Dinner, 1.30; business meeting, 2.30. St. Mary's Tower will be open for ringing from 9 a.m. to 12.20 p.m., and from 4 to 9 p.m. The towers of Galleywood (8), Springfield (6), Widford (6), will be open from 9 to 11.30 a.m. and 4 to 9 p.m., and Writtle tower (8) will be open from 9 to 9 p.m. The G. E. R. Co. will issue return tickets to Chelmsford at reduced fares to members showing their E. A. C. R. receipts for 1885-1886, provided that they inform the Secretary before Tuesday, June 8th, from what station they travel. Dinner tickets may be obtained from the Secretary at 1s. each up to June 8th; after that date the price will be 2s. All communications

must be addressed to the Rev. H. A. Cockey, Bitton, Bristol. The following notices of motions have been given: Mr. S. Hammond will propose an alteration of the Rule under which non-resident ringers are admitted to the Association as 'Distinguished Ringers' (Notice, May 25, 1885). Mr. Doran will propose 'That the term "Distinguished Ringer" be discontinued' (Feb. 27, 1886). Mr. Randall, 'That in Rule V. the word "Distinguished" be omitted, and before the words "Each Ringing Member" the following clause be inserted, "Such Ringers to be called Non-resident Members"' (Feb. 27, 1886). Mr. Cockey, (1), 'That an Assistant-Secretary be appointed.' (2), 'That the Association shall, as far as its funds will permit, assist in providing instruction for companies who are willing to join the Association as probationers. And that members of the Association who are willing to act as instructors be requested to send in their names to the Secretary at once, in order that a staff of ten instructors may be appointed by the Committee.'

H. A. COCKEY, Hon. Sec.

Kent County Association.

THE Annual General Meeting will be held at Gravesend on Monday, the 21st inst. Committee meeting at 11, at Mr. Drawbridge's Offices in New Road. Service in the Parish Church at 12. Dinner at the 'New Falcon Hotel,' at 1. Members wishing to attend the dinner must apply to me for tickets. Those who desire application to be made for reduced railway fare must let me know not later than June 15th. It is necessary they should state the number of passengers, the station they start from, and the trains they mean to go and return by. We hope to ring at Gravesend, Milton, Swanscombe, Cliffe, Shorne, and Dartford.

R. B. KNATCHBULL-HUGESSEN, Hon. Sec.

Wrinsted Court, Sittingbourne.

Cox's Peal.

SIR,—Referring to your note at the foot of the report of the peal of Grandsire Triples rung at Trowbridge, May 22nd, I beg to inform you that the composition is a reverse variation of Taylor's peal, arranged by the late Mr. John Cox, and called by him at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, March 12th, 1835. See *Bell News*, vol. ii. pp. 244 and 279.

J. R. JERRAM.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At the Parish Church, Ormskirk, Lancashire.

ON Tuesday, the 18th ult., eight members of the Ormskirk Society rang Holt's Ten-part Peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 5 hrs. 52 mins. T. Prescott, 1; J. Scholcar (first peal as conductor), 2; H. Ellis, 3; W. Ellis, 4; W. J. Taylor, 5; H. Winrow (first peal), 6; G. Prescott, 7; W. B. Lloyd, 8. Tenor, 25½ cwt.

At the Parish Church, Eccles, Lancashire.

ON Thursday, the 20th ult., eight members of the Lancashire Association rang, with the bells half muffled, in memory of the late Mr. James Barrett, Taylor's Bob-and-Single Variation of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 35 mins. C. Cash, 1; J. Barrett, 2; T. Yates, 3; E. Cash (conductor), 4; S. West, 5; R. Ashcroft (aged seventy-two), 6; A. E. Wreaks, 7; W. Ashcroft, 8. Tenor, 13½ cwt.

At SS. Peter and Paul, Eye, Suffolk.

ON Saturday, the 22nd ult., Holt's Ten-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES was rung in 2 hrs. 5½ mins. C. Hawes, 1; G. Murton (conductor), 2; W. Gooderham, 3; F. Wright, 4; J. Bamstead, 5; G. Ford, 6; H. Torble, 7; J. Smith, 8. Tenor, 24 cwt.

At the Parish Church, Debenham, Suffolk.

ON Saturday, the 22nd ult., eight members of the Norwich Diocesan Association rang a peal of 5088 OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 16 mins. W. Ward,* 1; A. S. Wightman, 2; H. Baldry, 3; W. C. Garrett, 4; A. E. Ackfield, 5; D. G. Wightman, 6; C. Ward,* 7; P. Meadows,* 8. Tenor, 20 cwt. Composed by J. Thorp and conducted by W. Ward. [* College Youths.]

At St. John-the-Baptist, Crawley, Sussex.

ON Saturday, the 22nd ult., eight members of the Sussex County Association rang a peal of 5040 UNION TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 6½ mins. G. Williams,* 1; J. Newnham,* 2; T. Smith, Esq., 3; E. Moses,* 4; W. Collinson, 5; F. Wickens, 6; A. F. Hillier, 7; J. Collison, 8. Composed by Mr. A. B. Carpenter, of Croydon, and conducted by Mr. Williams. Tenor, 14 cwt. Williams and Moses came from Reigate, the others are local men. [* Cumberland Youths. + First peal in the method, and the conductor's first attempt at calling UNION TRIPLES.]

At All Saints', Duffield, Derbyshire.

ON Monday, the 21st ult., eight members of the Midland Counties' Association rang a peal of 5088 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 6 mins. J. Howe, 1; G. Dawson, 2; S. Johnson, 3; A. Robinson, 4; G. Hingley, 5; W. Hickling, 6; R. Johnson, 7; A. P. Heywood, 8. Composed by Mr. W. Harrison and conducted by Mr. A. P. Heywood. The above peal was rung in honour of her Majesty's birthday.

At the Cathedral, Manchester.

ON Monday, the 26th ult., eight members of the Lancashire Association rang a peal of 5088 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 20 mins. T. Thorpe, 1; T. G. Downs, 2; J. E. Pollitt, 3; G. E. Turner, 4; S. Webb, 5; J. Thorpe, 6; A. E. Wreaks, 7; J. Eachus, 8. Composed by Mr. Johnson, sen., of Birmingham, and conducted by Mr. Wreaks. Tenor, 25 cwt. The above peal was rung to celebrate the sixty-seventh birthday of the Queen, and also for the enthronement of Dr. Moorhouse, the Bishop of Manchester.

At St. Bartholomew's, Quorndon, Leicestershire.

ON Saturday, the 29th ult., a peal of 6336 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR was rung in 3 hrs. 50 mins. S. Burton, 1; A. Cresser, 2; J. W. Taylor, Esq., senr., 3; Rev. W. C. Pearson, 4; J. Hardy, 5; E. D. Taylor, Esq., 6; J. Hickman, 7; J. W. Taylor, Esq., junr. (conductor), 8. Tenor, 14 cwt., 2 qrs., 18 lbs. Composed by Mr. T. Lockwood. This is the longest length yet rung on the bells. The Rev. W. C. Pearson comes from Syston, Messrs. Hickman and Burton from Nottingham, the rest belong to the Loughborough branch.

At St. Helen's, Abingdon, Berks.

ON Saturday, the 29th ult., a peal of 5079 STEDMAN CATERS was rung in 3 hrs. 32 mins. H. D. Betteridge, 1; J. W. Washbrook, 2; C. Hounslow, 3; H. J. Castle, 4; F. Castle, 5; S. Hounslow, 6; Rev. F. E. Robinson (conductor), 7; W. Smith, 8; Rev. G. F. Coleridge, 9; W. Jeffery, 10. Tenor, 20 cwt., in E. Composed by Mr. H. Johnson, sen. The first peal on the augmented ring of ten.

At St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire.

ON Monday, the 31st ult., eight members of the St. Paul's Society of Change-ringers, Burton-on-Trent, rang a peal of 5024 NEW CUMBERLAND SURPRISE MAJOR in 3 hrs. 31 mins. J. Austin, 1; E. I. Stone, 2; A. Wakley, 3; J. Griffin, 4; H. Wakley, 5; J. Jaggar (composer), 6; T. Holmes, 7; W. Wakley (conductor), 8. Tenor, 26 cwt. This peal, which is the first ever rung in the method, contains the 4th and 6th respectively eleven times in 6th's place, and neither the 2nd nor 3rd bells there. The above are also members of the Midland Counties' Association of Change-ringers.

5 0 2 4

	2	3	4	5	6	B.	M.	W.	H.
5	2	3	6	4					2
6	3	2	5	4				2	2
2	5	6	3	4				1	1
3	6	5	2	4				2	2
3	4	6	2	5				1	1
6	4	2	3	5		1	B	1	
4	5	2	3	6			1		2
3	2	5	4	6				2	2
5	4	3	2	6				1	1
2	3	4	5	6				2	2

RECEIVED ALSO.—G. D. E. Mercer; A. B. C.; and others.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Church Defence.

SIR,—The advice of your correspondent, 'H. H. M.' is very well meant, and is in itself very good; but he seems to me to have overlooked the fact that the machinery he recommends to be got ready against another attack on the Church is already in existence; and ample stands of arms, ready to be brought out and burnt up, not only at a 'month's,' but at a day's notice. I refer to the publications of the Church Defence Association, the *Banner Leaflets*, and various others, which did such untold and invaluable service the other day to the Church, to the utter rout of the Liberationists and their Infidel and motley crew, when they came on, as they thought, conquering and to conquer; but instead of the 'promenade to Berlin' which they had calculated on, they found the Church Army, though somewhat, for that once, taken at unawares, more than a match for them. 'When the wicked, even her enemies and her foes, came upon her to eat up her flesh, they stumbled and fell.'

Not a few of the Members of Parliament who just managed to be returned there will never see the floor of the House of Commons again, for their votes gained by the help of such allies. Nothing can be better than each and all of the leaflets, &c., I have spoken of; nor can anything be cheaper,—at the rate, if I remember right, taking them generally, of a shilling per hundred. The only improvement in them that can be suggested is, that they might, some of them at all events, be printed in larger type, and on somewhat larger paper, and some of them as handbills; and that none of them should be printed on both sides of the leaf, but so as to be able to be posted upon church doors, in blacksmiths' and carpenters' shops, and a variety of other such places, where they will do unspeakable good, especially those of them which show the whole history of the Church, long before Augustine's time, and the others which enlighten the parishioners as to the fear that if the Liberators were to succeed in their schemes they themselves would be the sufferers; the money that is now, and would be otherwise, spent among them for their own spiritual and temporal good, being then seized on by the hired and paid agents of the Liberationists, and taken away to be spent in London and elsewhere.

F. O. MORRIS.

Numbered Prayer-book.

SIR,—In these days it becomes all Churchmen to do everything that will aid Church work. I am satisfied that very great aid would be secured if, whether by the use of my numbered Prayer-book (which I firmly believe to be the one practical and practicable scheme) or by any other method, we could secure the interest of all the congregation in Divine worship. Speaking of the majority of congregations, there is room for a very great improvement in this respect. Any one who will carefully notice the proceedings of congregations generally will probably be painfully convinced that this statement is accurate. A clergyman writing from Canada to me shows how greatly the difficulty of finding the portions necessary in the Prayer-book hampers the work amongst the people. He states that one energetic Bishop had sent him an edition printed with the services in consecutive order, but the clergyman stated that he preferred the 'paged Prayer-book,' a plan suggested by me many years ago. This is now rendered useless in consequence of Prayer-books of all sizes and editions having their pages 'numbered,' so that what is on page 40 in one book may be page 60 or 18 in another. My method equally applies to all sorts, sizes, and editions of Prayer-books.

Thousands are kept away from church because they can take no interest

in seeing other people going through certain forms in which they themselves can take no part whatever. I am convinced that if only we can get the folk to take an intelligent and hearty share in the services, we shall get the men to church, and shall soon raise the tone of religion amongst us. It is of very great importance that attention be paid to this object.

Great Yarmouth Vicarage.

GEORGE VENABLES.

P.S.—I have just received a letter from the Bishop of Barbados, who regards the plan as admirable, and who states that 'both there and in the diocese of the Windward Islands he makes known the good object.' Men love a thoroughly hearty service in which they take a part.

Mission Districts.

SIR,—Will you allow me, as a humble layman, to support in the strongest manner the admirable idea set forth by your correspondent in last week's *Church Bells*, 'Country Vicar,' of amalgamating under one clergyman the spiritual charge of such adjacent parishes as their proximity to his and number of parishioners will admit of, without serious inconvenience to such parishioners, or detriment to any parochial work; thereby liberating for work elsewhere the vicars and rectors who would thus be no longer required? How wasted are their energy, time, and talents, with a curacy of from 200 to 400, or perhaps 500 souls, when, if transferred to a city or town, they could have spiritual charge of thousands who now scarcely ever see a clergyman! This capricious distribution of clergymen's services has often struck me, and I dare say hundreds of others, as a serious blot in the administration of our dioceses. The question is how it can be remedied. It is undoubtedly beset with very great difficulties, but it is surely not irremediable. Sentiment would be a formidable opponent, for there would be few parishes whose inhabitants would like the idea of giving up the services in their old time-honoured house of God, and going to a neighbouring one to worship, even though some remote city would be so much the gainer. Would some kind friends of the Church, whose ecclesiastical, official, or legal positions qualify them to do so, favour us with their opinion how such a reform could be carried out? It behoves the Church of England to put its house in order in view of the energy and malignity of its enemies, as well pointed out by 'G. V.' It must be prepared for any criticism, and if it were challenged it could not justify a distribution of its forces, whereby so many parts of the country have spiritual food enough and to spare, and other more numerous parts perish with hunger.

F. C. B.

Blended Services.

SIR,—Very likely I did not read 'X.'s' letter aright, and I have not got it at hand to refer to. But what I thought he meant was, that the rubrics did not allow anybody to depart without being a partaker; that 'when there is a Communion, all were obliged to remain to partake.' What I meant was, that I believed this to have been the case formerly, but that when matins, litany, and ante-communion were annexed (a thing I thought 'laudable,' considering the distances people had to come to worship), then arose the rubrics, 'Notice to Curate,' 'Collects when no Communion,' and the one in King Edward the Sixth's first: 'all other shall depart out of the quire,' which last is singularly omitted from our present rubrics, apparently having become so established a custom. As regards the litany, it had nothing to do with mutilation; only how is a member of the congregation not to join in it, unless he leaves after the third collect, when matins, according to our present Prayer-book, is not finished? And there is no rubric to allow him to depart, nothing but the custom, that here in King Edward the Sixth's first matins ended, and the litany was a separate service.

F. W.

Sunday Afternoon Musical Services.

SIR,—There appeared in your valuable paper a short time ago an excellent and beautiful suggestion of the *Times*, relative to musical services in our churches on Sunday afternoons. In my opinion they would be more appreciated by the working classes than would the opening of the museums and picture-galleries. Carried out in the manner Sir George Grove suggests, I believe they would be productive of a great deal of pure and wholesome pleasure, besides leading many to seek God, and to learn to worship Him in the beauty of holiness. As a working man, I have had the privilege of seeing some of our museums and art-galleries, along with many others of my fellow working men. We have had an excursion up to London each year for about five or six years past, and I have observed that the men spoke very little about pictures, but much about the buildings, such as the Abbey, St. Paul's, and the Houses of Parliament. I believe few men, unless they have been educated in those things, can thoroughly appreciate pictures and statues, and other things that are to be seen in those places. I quite believe that gazing on a fine picture, or a similar object, will have a good influence on any mind with the least taste and refinement; yet, at the same time, I do not think it will improve a man's morals, or add any lasting good or nobleness to his character. I am afraid that the good done by opening these places would be outweighed by the temptation there would be to form jovial parties, and to treat the day as a time merely for pleasure and amusement. I think we ought to try to preserve our Sabbath in all its inexpressible sacredness and glory. I think it gives stability and strength to us, both individually and as a nation; and that we ought to guard it carefully and zealously. I have heard the subject discussed by some of the most thoughtful and sober-minded of the men whom I know, and they strongly oppose the opening of these places, on the ground that it would do away with that sacred feeling with which many regard the Sabbath, although they take no part outwardly in public religious worship. I believe there is great unwillingness on the part of many of the working class to interfere with the present way of keeping this day, and that they are apprehensive of evil coming from any meddling or alterations. I hope the musical scheme will be put into operation, as I believe it would be free from the drawbacks which the Sunday

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

'Halifax (late Parish).'

SIR,—I have been unable to write you before and explain, as you requested, two things in the report which you inserted in *Church Bells* on May 7th, respecting the West Riding of Yorkshire Change-ringers' Association. The first was 'Halifax (late parish).' Halifax parish church of late years has not been noted for the harmonious relations between the ringers and the Vicar; in fact, at one time there were three sets—one in possession of the tower, and two sets in the unfortunate position of 'late ringers.' Since then one has dissolved, and now the set in is known in ringing circles in the West Riding as the 'Halifax Parish,' and the other as the '(late Parish).' When any dispute arises the 'outs' become the 'ins,' so that the 'late Parish' of last meeting may be the 'Parish Ringers' of the next. In regard to 'Lightcliffe Congregational,' I may state that the Association is connected with the Church, an exception being made in regard to Lightcliffe. A similar one is made in the Rochdale and District Association, where Todmorden Congregationalists are members. I would also point out that in the West Riding some of the Church of England Temperance Societies are joined to the Dissenting Bands of Hope. I hope this will fully explain.

66 Booth Town Road, Halifax. G. D. E. MERCER, Hon. Sec. W.R.Y.C.A.

The Sussex County Association of Change-ringers.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Annual General Meeting of this Association will be held in the Saloon at the 'Royal Pavilion,' Brighton, on Whit Monday, June 14th, at 5 p.m., for the election of officers, honorary and active members, and general business. Your attendance is particularly requested. A dinner will be held at Page's Restaurant at 1.30. Tickets, if ordered through your local secretary by Thursday, June 10th, half price, 1s. 3d. each; if paid for at time of dinner, 2s. 6d. will be charged. A special service will be held at 12 o'clock at St. Nicholas Church, and a short address delivered by the vicar, the Rev. J. J. Hannah, M.A. (hon. member). All members are especially requested to attend.

Geo. F. ATTREE, Hon. Sec.

Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association.

A MEETING will be held on Monday, June 14th (Whit Monday), at Hexham, when the bells of the Abbey (ring of eight; tenor, 21 cwt.), will be at the disposal of the ringers. A dinner will be provided at 1.30, at the 'Grey Bull Hotel,' at 1s. per head to members, 2s. 6d. to non-members. Members requiring dinner are requested to send in their names to the Secretary not later than Monday, June 7th. Members of the Committee will meet at the Hotel at 12.30.

G. J. CLARKSON, Hon. Sec.

16 Finkle Street, Stockton-on-Tees.

The Surrey Association.

A DISTRICT MEETING of this Association, for ringing only, will be held at Leatherhead, by the kind permission of the Rev. F. E. Utterton, on June 14th (Whit Monday). The tower, which contains a good ring of ten, will be open for ringing from 3 p.m.

ARTHUR B. CARPENTER, Hon. Sec.

Midland Counties' Association of Change-ringers.

THE First Quarterly Meeting will be held at Burton-on-Trent on Saturday, July 3rd, full particulars of which will appear in *Church Bells* of the 26th inst. As this will be the first meeting held under the presidency of A. Percival Heywood, Esq., it is particularly requested that all members will make an effort to attend.

JOSEPH GRIFFIN, Hon. Sec.

5 St. Paul's Street East, Burton-on-Trent.

Yorkshire Association of Change-ringers.

THE General Meeting of this Association was held at Keighley on Saturday last, when nearly 200 members assembled from various parts of the county. In the morning a peal of 5024 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR was rung by members of Keighley, Gargrave, and Bradford Societies. In the afternoon a good substantial tea was provided by the Keighley friends, after which the meeting was held in the National School-room. Mr. William Snowdon (President) occupied the chair, supported by the Rev. H. J. Longsdon, M.A., rector of Keighley, and other gentlemen. After the usual routine business had been disposed of, it was decided to leave the selection of the place for the next meeting in the hands of the Committee. Messrs. J. McKell and J. Angus were elected auditors and returning officers. The President proposed, and Mr. W. H. Howard (Vice-President) seconded, a cordial vote of thanks to the rectors and churchwardens of Keighley and Haworth for the use of the bells, which was carried unanimously, and to which the Rev. H. J. Longsdon replied in a very felicitous speech, at the conclusion of which he expressed his desire to become an honorary member. A hearty vote of thanks to the Keighley company for the generous provision they had made for the wants and convenience of the members, and to the ladies who had presided at the tea, was upon the motion of Mr. B. T. Copley, seconded by Mr. C. H. Hattersley, carried with applause, and a vote of thanks to the President concluded the meeting. Throughout the day the bells of Keighley and Haworth were kept ringing by the visitors, and altogether a very successful and enjoyable outing was experienced by all who attended.

New Bells at Slough, Bucks.

ON Monday, the 17th ult., the two new trebles for St. Mary's Church arrived at Slough, and were hoisted externally on the west side of the tower the following Wednesday afternoon. The work of hanging them was entrusted to the skilful hands of Mr. J. Collier, by the founders, Messrs. Mears and Stainbank of London, who have given satisfaction in every way. On

Wednesday, the 26th ult., a trial touch was rung by the local ringers, numerous visitors and ringing friends meeting at the church, including the Vicar and Churchwardens. The opening performance was rung by the following: W. Leader (steeple-keeper), 1; W. Fussell, 2; R. Flaxman, 3; A. Fussell, 4; F. Simkins, 5; W. Wilder, 6; J. Perryman, 7; J. Hale, 8. Messrs. Woodley, Udell, and Hodges, also rang.

Oxford University Society.

ALL members who may have changed their residence since last June are requested to notify the same to me at once, in order that in the forthcoming Annual Report the addresses may be as accurate as possible.

B. N. C., Oxford.

G. C. JOYCE, Hon. Sec.

A Question.

SIR,—Can you kindly tell me what wood it is best to use for the head-stocks and wheels of a ring of bells?

A. B. C.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. John's, Newcastle.

ON Wednesday, the 26th ult., eight members of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association attempted a peal of STEDMAN TRIPLES, but having failed, a quarter-peal of KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR was brought round in 44 mins. F. Lees, 1; R. W. Wignell, 2; F. E. Dawe (conductor), 3; E. Wallis, 4; C. L. Routledge, 5; H. Ross, 6; T. Clark, 7; R. S. Story, 8. Tenor, 12½ cwt.

At Hexham Abbey, Northumberland.

ON Thursday, the 27th ult., eight members of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association attempted a peal of KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, which unfortunately came to grief after ringing 1 hr. 27 mins. F. Harrison (Jarrow), 1; C. L. Routledge, 2; R. W. Wignell, 3; E. Wallis, 4; T. Clark, 5; W. Story, 6; R. S. Story, 7; F. E. Dawe (conductor), 8. Tenor, 21 cwt.

At St. Gregory's, Sudbury, Suffolk.

ON Friday, the 28th ult., the following members of the local society rang, on the occasion of the opening of the new Masonic Hall, a touch of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (1540 changes) in 1 hr. 5 mins. F. Tolliday, 1; W. Griggs, 2; J. Campin, 3; W. Howell, 4; C. Sillitoe, 5; A. Scott, 6; W. Cross, 7; H. Brackett, 8. Also, two courses of KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR. F. Tolliday, 1; W. Griggs, 2; J. Campin, 3; W. Howell, 4; A. Scott, 5; F. Pitstow (Saffron Walden), 6; E. Pitstow (Saffron Walden), 7; C. Sillitoe, 8. Two other touches of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, one 630 changes and one 350 changes, were also rung—over 3000 changes having been rung during the day, which were conducted by C. Sillitoe. Tenor, 16 cwt.

At St. Mary's, Walter Belchamp, Suffolk.

ONE day last month the following band rang a peal of 5024 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR in 2 hrs. 55 mins. N. J. Pitstow (Saffron Walden), 1; W. Howell (Sudbury), 2; S. Slater (Glensford), 3; G. Slater (Glensford), 4; F. Wells (Glensford), 5; O. Garwood (Glensford), 6; C. Sillitoe (Sudbury), 7; H. Harper (Sudbury), 8. Tenor, 11 cwt. The peal, which contains the 6th the extent wrong and right, and has all the 8-6's, was composed and conducted by Mr. N. J. Pitstow, and has never been previously performed.

At All Saints, Duffield, Derbyshire.

ON Saturday, the 29th ult., eight members of the Midland Counties' Association rang Brooke's Variation of Thurstans' peal of 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES in 3 hrs. J. Howe, 1; S. Johnson, 2; A. P. Heywood, 3; A. Robinson, 4; W. Hickling, 5; R. Johnson, 6; J. Jagger (conductor), 7; G. Hingley, 8. Tenor, 17 cwt., in F. The first attempt for a peal of STEDMAN on the bells.

At St. Andrew's, Sonning, Berks.

ON Saturday, the 29th ult., eight members of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths rang a peal of 5024 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 19 mins. A. Jacob, 1; J. Leach, 2; A. C. Fussell, 3; G. Griffin, 4; E. F. Cole, 5; W. Alderman, 6; W. H. Fussell, 7; G. Newson (conductor), 8. Tenor, 22 cwt. The above is the first peal of MAJOR on the bells, the previous performances being GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. The careful attention of Mr. Ford as steeplekeeper was appreciated by the visitors, who came from London, excepting the Fussell brothers from Slough.

At St. Margaret's, Bodelwyddan, North Wales.

ON Monday, the 31st ult., the Wrexham Society of Change-ringers, assisted by Mr. Dawe of London, rang Holt's Ten-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 59 mins. R. Jones, 1; R. W. Evans, 2; F. E. Dawe (conductor), 3; C. Price, 4; E. Rowland, 5; T. Newell, 6; E. Evans, 7; J. Kendrick, 8. Tenor, 17 cwt., in F. This is the third peal as yet on the bells, and the quickest as regards time.

At St. George's, Gravesend, Kent.

ON Sunday, the 6th inst., for service, 1260 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES were rung in 45 mins. W. H. Royston, 1; J. W. Aitkin, 2; — Barrel (Pittlewell), 3; B. Spinner, 4; F. Hayes, 5; G. Martin, 6; W. Harper (conductor), 7; W. Louth, 8.

At St. John's, Perry Barr, Staffordshire.

ON Tuesday, the 8th inst., eight members of the Holt Society, Aston-juxta-Birmingham, rang Holt's Ten-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 1 min. W. Long,* 1; F. Banks,* 2; H. Bastable, 3; B. Mitchell, 4; J. Sanders, 5; T. Reynolds, 6; J. Buffery (conductor), 7; C. Flack,* 8. Tenor, 13½ cwt. in F sharp. [* First peal.]

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

The Sussex Association.—Annual Meeting at Brighton.

THE second Annual Meeting of the Sussex County Association of Change-ringers was held at Brighton on Whit Monday, the 14th inst., when about 120 members attended, representing the following places:—Angmering, Arundel, Billingshurst, Brighton, Crawley, Ditchling, Eastbourne, Fareham (Hants), Fletching, Henfield, Horsham, Hurstpierpoint, Ringmer, Steyning, Tunbridge Wells, and London. A special service was held in St. Nicholas' Church at noon, when the Rev. J. J. Hannah, the vicar (an hon. member of the Association) preached an eloquent sermon, basing his remarks on Zech. xiv. 20: 'In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, Holiness unto the Lord.' After drawing attention to the fact that there was nothing about bell-ringing in the Bible, and that bells were only mentioned twice in the Old Testament and not at all in the New, he reminded his hearers that bells were part of church furniture, and that the belfry was a portion of a consecrated building, and warned them to practise what they preached, otherwise they would be performing a secular duty in a sacred place. In conclusion the rev. gentleman said: 'Greatly throughout the county do we rejoice at the success of the Association. All kinds of church-work is being improved, and the belfry is no exception. Let me ask each one of you to say to yourselves, "I have joined the Association of ringers, and I have given up a certain portion of my time to the service and worship of Almighty God. Let me be very careful that while I perform those sacred duties I remember what their object is; that ringing is no mere healthy exercise or other form of amusement, but that I am taking my share in the service and worship of Almighty God." Remember, therefore, that "God is a Spirit, and that they who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth," and try and consecrate your work by making it a work for Him.'

The Business Meeting was held in the saloon of the Royal Pavilion, the Rev. R. F. Tompkins, vicar of Tortington, presiding. The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Chichester was re-elected president; and the vice-presidents, twenty-one in number, were re-elected in a body, with the addition of the Marquis of Abergavenny. Thirty new active members were then proposed; the Hon. Secretary (Mr. G. F. Attree) adding that a lady at Heene, near Worthing, wished to take an active part in the work of the Association. It was through her exertions that the Heene Branch had been started; and she had already rung a peal of DOUBLES on the church bells. The persons proposed, including the lady, with one exception were unanimously elected. The Annual Report, which was taken as read, stated that one of the most critical periods in the existence of an Association was the first year; for generally in that space of time it became firmly established or showed signs of failure. This Association was, in point of numbers, the third largest society of change-ringers in the kingdom. Six meetings had been held during the year, viz. three at Brighton, and one each at Eastbourne, Horsham, and Uckfield. Lessons had been given by the instructors appointed by the Association at Ditchling, Buxted, and Lewes, with great success; and ten or twelve other parishes had applied for like assistance. Seven peals of TRIPLES had been rung—four by members of the Brighton Branch, and one each by the Eastbourne, Crawley, Horsham, and Warnham Branches. Six were obtained in the GRANDSIRE method, and one was OXFORD BOB. In seven unsuccessful attempts upwards of 3500 changes were rung. Two half-peals and twenty-one quarter-peals were accomplished; while in MINOR methods seventy complete 720's were reported. Several additions to the bells of Sussex had been made, amongst them being a new ring of eight at Ringmer, eight at Lower Beeding. The grand ring of eight had been completed at St. Saviour's, Eastbourne, two new trebles at Buxted and Warnham—converting six into eight at each place—and a new ring of six at Fittleworth. The Report concludes: 'Attention has also been paid in a number of parishes to the condition of the belfries, a large number of which are now patterns of what a belfry should be; but, unfortunately, there are many still in such a dilapidated condition that it is difficult to believe that they form part of consecrated buildings.' The statement of accounts showed the expenditure to have been 65l. 1s., and the receipts 121l. 4s. 4d., thus leaving a balance in hand of 56l. 3s. 4d. Forty-seven Societies are affiliated to the Association, with a total of 414 ringing members. On the motion of Mr. Jay (Brighton) the report and balance-sheet were adopted. Mr. G. F. Attree was unanimously re-elected hon. sec.; the Rev. R. F. Tompkins hon. treasurer; and Mr. H. Welsford Smithers and Mr. W. Bennett auditors. Votes of thanks were accorded to the Hon. Sec., Rev. J. B. Lennard (Crawley), Mr. Burstow (Horsham), and the Rev. J. J. Hannah (vicar of St. Nicholas'), for receiving the members; also to the vicars and churchwardens of St. Peter's, St. Nicholas', and St. Paul's, Brighton, for allowing the use of the bells on that day. Touches of KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, STEDMAN and GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, and in a variety of MINOR methods, were rung on the bells in the towers of the above-named churches during the day.

Chipping Sodbury, Gloucestershire.

THE bells of the ancient Parish Church of St. John the Baptist having become much out of order and almost unringable, an effort was made to raise a sufficient sum to enable the Vicar and Churchwardens to thoroughly restore them. The estimated cost of rehanging the bells was 55l. To raise this sum, Miss Harvey (the Vicar's sister) arranged to hold a sale of work and gipsy encampment. Gifts came in from far and near, and the sale proved a great success, over 90l. being realised. The contract was placed in the hands of Mr. Stokes, Newbury, near Exeter, and has been executed with promptness and efficiency, and it reflects great credit upon him. With the

overplus the Vicar and Churchwardens have been able to do other necessary work. A new chiming apparatus on Ellacombe's principle has been fixed; a new wood ceiling, stained and varnished, has been constructed in the belfry; and the stone steps leading from the ringing-loft to the bells have been repaired. Mr. Stokes fixed the chiming apparatus, Mr. T. Tiley the steps, and Mr. J. Alsop the ceiling, the two latter being residents in the town.

Society of Change-ringers for the Archdeaconry of Stafford.

THE Annual Meeting of this Society will be held at Lichfield on Saturday, the 26th inst. Kindly let me know as soon as possible—(a) How many of your band will be able to attend; (b) The names of any new members to be proposed. The tea will be provided free of charge to those only who have paid their subscriptions, and whose names are sent in before the 21st inst.; to others it will be 1s. The following steeples will be open to members of the Society during the afternoon:—Cathedral (10 bells), St. Mary's (8), Shenstone (8), St. Michael's (6). Subscriptions are now due, and may be sent to the Rev. J. R. Keble, Perry Barr Vicarage, Birmingham; or paid at the meeting. S. REEVES, Hon. Sec.

10 Bull Street, West Bromwich.

The Lancashire Association.

A MEETING of the above Association for ringing purposes was held on Saturday, the 5th inst., at Worsley. About fifty members were present from Bolton, Eccles, Manchester, Pendlebury, Swinton, Walkden, and Worsley. Touches of PLAIN BOB, TREBLE BOB MAJOR, and of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, were rung by mixed bands in turn during the afternoon and evening. The weather and the condition of the bells were everything that could be desired, and the visitors, without exception, thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The thanks of all are due to the Rev. the Earl of Mulgrave (who was elected an honorary member), for his kind permission to use the bells, and to the local ringers for the excellent arrangements they had made for their fellow-members' comfort.

Holywell Church, Oxford.

A SCHEME has been set on foot for augmenting this musical ring of six, tenor about 9½ cwt., to eight, by the addition of two trebles. By this means Oxford will have what it greatly needs, a light and handy ring of eight bells, situated some little way out of the town, and thus especially suited for peal-ringing. The firm selected to undertake this work is that of Messrs. Mears and Stainbank. The estimated cost is 150l., which, including as it does the two bells and entirely new oak frame, and the carriage of the bells to and from London, is very moderate. Subscriptions will be thankfully received by any of the committee. All who are interested are earnestly invited to contribute to a scheme whereby the interests of the exercise will be so very much advanced. Committee: The Rev. Canon Freeling, Vicar of Holywell, Merton College, Oxford; the Rev. F. E. Robinson, Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, Drayton Vicarage, near Abingdon, Berks; A. F. M. Custance, B.N.C., Oxford; G. C. Joyce, B.N.C., Oxford.

A. F. M. CUSTANCE, Hon. Sec.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. Andrew's, Derby.

ON Tuesday, the 15th ult., the Society of St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, rang a peal of 5040 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 16 mins. as follows: H. Wakley, 1; A. B. Ward, 2; A. Wakley, 3; H. C. Woodward, 4; A. P. Heywood, 5; T. Holmes, 6; Rev. C. D. P. Davies, 7; W. Wakley, 8. Composed by Mr. Heywood and conducted by Mr. W. Wakley. Tenor, 20 cwt.

At St. Mary's, Willesborough, Kent.

ON Wednesday, the 19th ult., three of the Mersham Company and three of the Aldington Company (members of the Kent County Association) visited the above place, where a new treble has been hung by Messrs. Llewellyns & James, bell-founders of Bristol. They were met by the home band and two from Ashford. A peal of 720 BOB MINOR was rung in 27 mins., notwithstanding the fact that the new treble is hung between the fourth and fifth bells. F. Wanstall, 1; W. Jay, 2; W. Post, 3; F. Wanstall, 4; D. Paine, 5; G. Paine (conductor), 6. This is the first 720 on the bells. Also 216 BOB MINOR. F. Wanstall, 1; F. Wanstall, 2; C. Viggers, 3; E. Hoiles, 4; D. Paine, 5; G. Paine (conductor), 6.

At Holy Trinity, Hull, Yorkshire.

ON Saturday, the 29th ult., eight members of the Yorkshire Association rang a peal of 7008 BOB MAJOR in 4 hrs. 15 mins. R. Chaffer, 1; C. Bennett, 2; T. Stockdale, 3; H. Jenkins, 4; J. W. Stickney, 5; J. Dixey, 6; F. Drabble, 7; C. Jackson (composer and conductor), 8. Tenor, 25 cwt. The above peal was rung to celebrate the Queen's Birthday, and is the longest in the method by the Association.

At Great St. Mary's, Sawbridgeworth, Herts.

ON Saturday, the 29th ult., eight members of the Hertfordshire Association rang Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 10 mins. N. W. Tarling, 1; H. J. Tucker (conductor), 2; T. Saban, 3; A. Brown, 4; W. Morris, 5; H. Saban, 6; P. Springham, 7; T. Tarling, 8. Tenor 25 cwt. [* First peal. † First peal with a bob bell.]

At the Parish Church, Cliffe-et-Hoo, Rochester, Kent.

ON Saturday, the 5th inst., the following members of the Cliffe Society rang several peals of GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 120 changes (called differently), and two courses of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES:—E. Brenchley (captain, conductor), F. G. Osmotherly, Esq., A. Daly, J. Price, I. Ossenton, A. Couchman, H. Wilden, and F. W. Brenchley. Having achieved the above, they now will become Full Practising Members of the Kent County Association (Probationers for some time), and have their certificates marked accordingly.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

Kent County Association.

THE Annual General Meeting was held on June 21st at Gravesend, when eighty-five members from nineteen different parishes were present. The usual service was held in the parish church of St. George, and the sermon was preached by the Rev. R. Knatchbull-Hugessen, Secretary of the Association, from 1 Cor. xii. 14. Eighty-nine members and guests attended the dinner, which took place at the new 'Falcon Hotel,' Mr. Nettlingham, Churchwarden of St. George, occupying the chair, supported by his brother-churchwarden, Mr. Drawbridge, who had most kindly placed his offices at the disposal of the Society for the purpose of their Committee Meeting. After dinner the usual business of re-electing officers, &c., was transacted, and in the course of the day the churches of St. George, Milton, Swanscombe, Cliffe, and Dartford, were visited by various bands of ringers. It is wished to hold the next District Meeting at Quex Park.

At SS. Peter and Paul, 720 KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR was rung by E. Baldock, 1; J. W. Aitkin, 2; H. D. Davies, 3; W. Harper, 4; F. Hayes, 5; J. W. Leonard (conductor), 6. Also 720 OXFORD TREBLE BOB, by W. Martin, 1; J. W. Aitkin, 2; H. D. Davies, 3; F. Hayes, 4; J. W. Leonard, 5; W. Harper (conductor), 6.

North Lincolnshire Association of Bell-ringers.

THE next Quarterly Meeting of the members of this Association will take place at Market Rasen on Saturday, July 3rd. The Rev. S. W. Andrews, rector of Claxby and vice-president for the local centre, has promised to be present. The church bells of Market Rasen and Claxby have kindly been placed at the disposal of the members for the whole of the day. Arrangements will be made for visiting brethren to go to Claxby, and also the picturesque village of Tealby. Tea will be provided at Market Rasen. Ringers or Societies intending to be present at the meeting will please communicate at once with

W. LUNN, *Hon. Sec.*, Market Rasen.

The Surrey Association.

A DISTRICT MEETING of this Association was held at Leatherhead by the kind permission of the Vicar, on Whit Monday, June 14th. Ringing began about 4 o'clock and continued until about half-past eight. The following methods were practised: GRANDSIRE CATERS, STEDMAN, GRANDSIRE and UNION TRIPLES, and TREBLE BOB MINOR. Notwithstanding that the day and place were chosen by a very full meeting at Carshalton on Easter Monday, the attendance at Leatherhead was very poor indeed. This is the more surprising as the day was a general holiday.

ARTHUR B. CARPENTER, *Hon. Sec.*

Stoke-upon-Trent Archidiaconal Association.

THE Meeting of this Association was held at Kingsley on Whit Monday, where dinner and tea were given by the Rector. After which 720 KENT TREBLE BOB in 28 mins. Rev. A. Hitchcock, 1; E. Glover, 2; J. Morton, 3; J. W. Brough, 4; J. Baddeley, 5; S. Spencer (conductor), 6. Also touches of PLAIN BOB and OXFORD BOB were rung. After tea all went to Cheadle, where touches of OXFORD TREBLE BOB, PLAIN BOB, and GRANDSIRE, were rung.

The United Counties' Association.

THE Half-yearly Meeting of the above Association will take place at Saddleworth on Saturday, July 3rd. The bells of St. Chad's will be at the disposal of the ringers from 9 o'clock a.m. Dinner will be provided at the 'Church Inn' at 4 o'clock p.m.; tickets, 1s. 6d. each. The business meeting will take place at 6 o'clock p.m. Those intending to be present at dinner are requested to notify the same to Mr. Joseph Radcliffe, Pob Green, Saddleworth, near Oldham, on or before the 29th June.

JAMES S. WILDE, *Hon. Sec.*

St. Peter's Amalgamated Society, Sheffield.

THE practices at St. Peter's parish church are the first Tuesday in every month, at 7.30. At St. Marie's, the Monday following, at 7.30. At All Saints' on Saturday, the week following, 6.30. At St. John's, Ranmoor, on Thursday, the week following, at 7.30. These practices take place all the year round. Should any ringers visit Sheffield during these practices we would be very pleased to meet them, and be sure to have a touch.

JOHN MULLIGAN, *Sec.*

At Dowland, Devon.

THE bells of the parish church rang several merry peals on the evening of the Feast of Accession Day. After a long silence they have just been rehung, and the work has been entrusted to Mr. Henry Stokes of Woodbury, who has most successfully completed the undertaking, and in a manner which has given general satisfaction. The bells were in a very dangerous state, and not able to be rung. The Vicar, the Rev. N. W. Edwards, has been unwearied in his endeavours to raise the necessary sum of 511., which was required to complete the work, and he now only requires a few pounds to make up the amount. The Vicar deserves the thanks of his parishioners for the energy and perseverance he has shown in raising the requisite sum, as his parish is a very small and poor one, and his thanks are also due to those friends who have so kindly assisted him. The bells are five in number, and are a very musical ring.

Restored Bells at Shaugh Prior, Devon.

THE newly restored bells of Shaugh Prior Church were used for service on Tuesday in Easter week. The tenor had been recast by Messrs. Warner

of London, and rehung by the well-known church-bell hanger, Mr. Harry Stokes of Woodbury (whose skill was most thoroughly appreciated by the late Rev. H. T. Ellacombe, the celebrated campanologist). The services in the parish church were Holy Communion at 11 a.m., and Evensong at 3.45 p.m., with a sermon preached by the Rev. F. A. Sanders, B.A., vicar of Brixton, Plympton. At about 5 p.m. a public tea was held in the school-room, after which the usual amusements were joined in until 10 o'clock. On Whit Monday the bells, by permission of the vicar, were rung by the South Brent, Whitechurch, and Walkhampton ringers.

Bell-ringing in the Colonies.

SIR,—I have just shipped away a ring of six bells to one of the Colonies for a church with which I was formerly connected; and I want to send to my friends some instructions as to how the bells are to be rung at different times and occasions; as, for instance, before the Sunday services; at what intervals and for how long the bells should be rung as a peal; when the single bell should be rung, which bell is usually selected for this purpose, &c. I shall be very much obliged if you will inform me how and when to get this information, and perhaps you will reply in your 'Answers to Correspondents' in next week's *Church Bells*—under initials 'H. H. W.'

H. H. W.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At Barnwood, Gloucester.

ON Tuesday, the 7th inst., six members of the St. Laurence Company rang a peal of 720 ASSOCIATION EXERCISE MINOR (9 bobs) in 26 mins. W. Sevier, 1; A. White (conductor), 2; G. Miles, 3; J. Yates, 4; H. Mitchell, 5; R. A. Barrett, 6. Also 360 of PLAIN BOB MINOR (9 bobs) in 13 mins. J. Yates, 1; A. A. White, 2; G. Miles, 3; R. A. Barrett, 4; H. Mitchell, 5; W. Sevier (conductor), 6.

At St. Peter's, Drayton, Berks.

ON Monday, the 7th inst., eight members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild rang a peal of 5072 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 6 mins. T. Fulker,* 1; G. Jones,* 2; F. Field,* 3; C. Trinder,* 4; W. Warrick,* 5; H. D. Betteridge,* Esq., 6; Rev. F. E. Robinson, 7; J. W. Washbrook (composer and conductor), 8. Tenor, 9½ cwt. [* First peal in the method.]

ON Saturday, the 12th inst., eight members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild rang a peal of 5184 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 16 mins. T. Fulker, 1; G. Jones, 2; F. Field, 3; C. Trinder, 4; W. Warrick, 5; Rev. F. E. Robinson, 6; H. D. Betteridge, Esq., 7; J. W. Washbrook (composer and conductor), 8. Tenor, 9½ cwt.

At St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, Suffolk.

ON Tuesday, the 8th inst., twelve members of the Norwich Diocesan Association rang a peal of 5014 STEDMAN CINQUES in 3 hrs. 40 mins. R. H. Brundle, 1; A. R. Aldham, 2; W. L. Catchpole, 3; J. Motts, 4; I. S. Alexander, 5; R. Hawes, 6; C. Mee, 7; H. Bowell, 8; P. Sadler* (Norwich), 9; F. Tillett, 10; E. Pemberton, 11; W. Motts, 12. Composed by Mr. H. W. Haley and conducted by Mr. Mee. Tenor, 32 cwt. The above is the same peal as the one rung at St. Paul's Cathedral, London. [* First peal of STEDMAN CINQUES.]

Also on Tuesday, the 15th inst., twelve members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang a peal of 5232 KENT TREBLE BOB MAXIMUS in 4 hrs. E. Pemberton, 1; J. Motts, 2; W. Motts, 3; I. S. Alexander, 4; F. Tillett, 5; C. Mee, 6; R. Brundle, 7; A. R. Aldham, 8; R. Hawes, 9; P. Meadows, 10; W. L. Catchpole, 11; F. G. Newman, 12. Composed by Mr. H. Dains, and conducted by Mr. F. G. Newman.

At All Saints', Fulham, Middlesex.

ON Tuesday, the 8th inst., eight members of the St. James's Society rang Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 57 mins. J. Davidson, 1; J. Williams (Wrexham), 2; H. Langdon, 3; A. E. Church, 4; R. French (conductor), 5; J. Barry, 6; W. H. George, 7; A. Hayward, 8. Tenor, 21 cwt., in E.

[The above peal was rung to celebrate the marriage of Miss E. Lewis, which took place at All Saints' Church the same day. Mr. W. H. George of Pinner arranged everything to the satisfaction of all concerned.]

At St. Mary's, Coddensham, Suffolk.

ON Wednesday, the 9th inst., eight members of the Norwich Diocesan Association rang a peal of 5280 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 8 mins. C. Mee (conductor), 1; E. Pemberton, 2; J. S. Alexander, 3; W. Motts, 4; P. Saddler (Norwich), 5; R. H. Brundle, 6; J. Motts (composer), 7; A. R. Aldham, 8. Tenor, 16 cwt. First peal in this method on the bells.

At St. Nicholas', Gloucester.

ON Whit Sunday, the following members of the St. Laurence Company rang six six-scores of GRANDSIRE in 27 mins. D. Dix, 1; G. Herne, 2; E. Smith, 3; F. Hart, 4; H. Mitchell, 5; W. Sevier, 6. Also on Saturday, the 19th, the following attempted 720 KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR, but after ringing twenty minutes the treble rope broke: PLAIN BOB was then rung. G. Herne, 1; R. A. Barrett, 2; J. E. Herne of Newnham, 3; H. Mitchell, 4; W. Sevier, 5; A. A. Waite (conductor), 6. Tenor, 17½ cwt., in F.

At the Waterloo Tower, Quex Park, Birlingington, Kent.

ON Sunday, the 13th inst., eight members of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths rang Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 3 hrs.

4 mins. W. Baron (conductor), 1; L. Willshire, 2; J. Rogers, 3; C. E. Malim, 4; J. B. Reed, 5; J. Bristowe, 6; W. H. Doran, 7; J. W. Mansfield, 8. Tenor, 5 cwt.

At Christ Church, Southport, Lancashire.

On Whit Monday, the 14th inst., Holt's Ten-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES was rung in 2 hrs. 50 mins. J. R. Pritchard, Liverpool (conductor), 1; J. Aspinwall (Liverpool), 2; R. Hill (Southport), 3; R. Tuke (Bradford), 4; W. Booth (Liverpool), 5; D. Rimmer (Southport), 6; T. Hammond (Liverpool), 7; R. Diggle (Liverpool), 8. Tenor, 10½ cwt. It was intended to ring a peal of KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, but one of the Liverpool ringers failing to put in an appearance it was decided to ring the above.

At St. Paul's, Chippenham, Wilts.

On Whit Monday, the 14th inst., Cox's Variation of the bob-and-single peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES was rung in 3 hrs. 9 mins. J. R. Jerram, 1; C. A. Clements, 2; J. E. Willshire, 3; J. Hayward, 4; W. McCaffrey (conductor), 5; T. Blackburn, 6; W. W. Gifford, 7; J. Cooper, 8. Tenor, 16 cwt.

At All Saints', Duffield, Derbyshire.

On Monday, the 14th inst., eight members of the Midland Counties' Association rang a peal of 5040 DOUBLE OXFORD BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 2 mins. G. Dawson, 1; E. Moreton, 2; J. Howe, 3; A. Robinson, 4; G. Hingley, 5; W. Hickling, 6; R. Johnson, 7; A. Percival Heywood (composer and conductor), 8. Tenor, 17 cwt., in F. This peal, which is the third in the method, and the first by the Association, was rung at the first attempt, and contains in three parts the 4th, 5th, and 6th each twelve times in 6th's place without singles; the 2nd never dodging with the tenor in front or behind.

At All Saints', High Wycombe, Bucks.

On Monday, the 14th inst., eight members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild rang Thurstan's peal of 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 26 mins. S. Hounslow, 1; C. Hounslow, 2; H. Sheard, 3; J. W. Washbrook (conductor), 4; H. D. Betteridge, Esq., 5; W. C. Baston, 6; W. Smith, 7; W. Jeffrey, 8. Tenor, 24 cwt., in D. The above is the first peal in the method on the bells, and the first since 1792, for the last record is on a tablet in the tower:—On the evening of the 8th inst. [April 8th, 1792] was rung in this steeple a complete peal of GRANDSIRE CATERS, consisting of 5111 changes, by a party of the Society of London College Youths, which they completed in 3 hrs. 42 mins., in the masterly style for which they are famous. John Povey, 1; Jos. Holdsworth, 2; James Lance, 3; W. Wilson, 4; R. Wilson, 5; J. Woosler, 6; J. Inyill, 7; E. Sylvester, 8; D. Jenkins, 9; J. Lyford, tenor. Conducted by J. Povey.

At St. Hugh's Tower, Lincoln Cathedral.

On Whit Monday, eight members of the Midland Counties' Association rang a peal of 5280 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 24 mins.

5280									
	2	3	4	5	6	M.	B.	W.	H.
W. T. Billingham, 1; E. D. Taylor, Esq., 2; Rev. W. W. C. Baker, 3; Rev. W. C. Pearson, 4; J. Hickman, 5; H. W. Abbott, 6; J. W. Taylor, Esq., jun., 7; F. E. Dawe (composer and conductor), 8. Tenor, 20 cwt., in E. This is the first peal as yet achieved on the Cathedral bells, and the ringers take this opportunity of tendering their sincere thanks to the Dean and Chapter for so kindly granting permission.	5	2	3	6	4	2	2	2	2
	6	3	4	2	5	2	1	2	
	2	5	3	4	6	2	1	2	
	6	3	5	4	2	2	1	1	1
	3	4	2	5	6	2	1		

Twice repeated.

At St. Mary-de-Lode, Gloucester.

On Sunday, the 20th inst., the following members of the St. Laurence Society, rang six different six scores of GRANDSIRE DOUBLES. R. A. Allen, 1; P. Daniels, 2; E. Smith, 3; W. Arkell, 4; W. Sevier (conductor), 5; J. Wilkins, 6. Tenor, 14 cwt., in G.

At Upton St. Leonard's, near Gloucester.

On Sunday, the 20th inst., 504 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. G. Herne, 1 (first touch of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES); J. Middlecote, 2; H. Mitchell, 3; J. Yates, 4; W. Sevier, 5; A. A. Waite, 6; R. A. Barrett, 7; H. G. Gardener, 8. Also STEDMAN DOUBLES, and DOUBLE STEDMAN SLOW COURSE, and ASSOCIATION EXERCISE MINOR.

At St. Paul's, Fisherton-Anger, Salisbury, Wilts.

On Trinity Monday, the 21st inst., a peal of 720 BOB MINOR was rung in 29 mins. J. Judd, 1; T. Blackburn, 2; W. E. Tydeman, 3; W. W. Gifford, 4; J. R. Jerram, 5; C. A. Clements (conductor), 6. Tenor, 12½ cwt. (cracked).

At St. Mary's, Hitchin, Herts.

On Sunday, the 20th inst., being the forty-ninth anniversary of the Queen's accession, the Hitchin Society of Change-ringers rang for evening service 336 and 350 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. J. Randall, 1; H. Buckingham, 2; F. Furr, 3; J. Hare, 4; J. Foster, 5; S. Hare, 6; W. Allen (conductor), 7; G. Halsey, 8. Tenor, 28 cwt. Before the service commenced 'God save the Queen' was played on the fine organ and—the church being very full—all stood during its playing, which had a fine effect, and will long be remembered by many.

A CORRECTION.—Mr. Stokes writes to say that his address is Woodbury, near Exeter, not Newbury, as stated in our account of the Chipping Sodbury bells in the last issue.

RECEIVED.—A Visit to Broadchalke, Wilts (next week).

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Need of the Times.

SIR,—Under the heading, 'The Need of the Times,' a question is asked in *Church Bells* of June 4th, 'Are we, or are we not, living in perilous times?' and it is suggested that the present state of the nation is an occasion when the heads of the Church might well call its members together for a day of special humiliation and prayer. Be it so; but the prayers of the Church are full of special petitions, were our attention only called to them. Perhaps it would help us to realise this were the clergyman to announce before beginning the Litany that the prayers of the congregation are particularly desired for our country at this crisis, and were he then to make a momentary pause at such petitions as 'Remember not, Lord, our offences . . . neither take Thou vengeance of our sins. Spare us, good Lord,' 'Graciously hear us, that those evils which the craft or subtlety of the devil or man worketh against us be brought to nought.' 'For the glory of Thy Name turn from us all those evils which we most righteously have deserved.' Need we wait for other forms of prayer to be drawn up? We are all called to join in the special prayers appointed to be said on special days. Let it not be true in our day, 'Her foundations are cast down; and what hath the righteous done?' H.

'Wherewithal?'—A Plea for the Deaf.

SIR,—Yes, it is too true. I feel with 'I. R. V.' I know how the young may be passed, and it is indeed a responsible thing for the ministers who work for souls; they ought to be careful. I have experienced a most painful life through being overlooked, and have a desire for all the young who may be born deaf, and be, as I was, unable to speak; I never heard of God, being misunderstood and simply passed by from not hearing. I never touched my Bible for thirty years; then, from the horror of finding what I had lost, it worked on me so that I hardly knew what to do. I did not know whom to go to; I felt one by myself, knowing nothing. I was even a regular attendant at a church, and even tried being a district visitor and higher work. That only increased the horror of my ignorance. Yes, try and teach very early piety; be not afraid of speaking to people or children close to them.

Can people learn their Bibles by themselves? No. Why should Christ Jesus have sent out the disciples to teach? I want only to think of religious teaching—the Bible. Oh, I would ask, and beg and pray, for the future, of all parents and ministers, or Sunday-school teachers, if boys or girls should not happen to ask questions not to put it down to inattention, but see if they are afflicted with deafness; for I never spoke, and I was thought to be heedless and inattentive. Oh, do for the love of Jesus find out others who may not speak if it is so! M. WILSON.

Parke's Registry, Lichfield.

A New Archdeaconry of Stepney.

SIR,—In many dioceses new archdeaconries have been formed with advantage. The Bishop of Bedford is now the Bishop-Commissary for East London. May I submit that his episcopal district might be well formed into an Archdeaconry of Stepney under the Act of 1874? Under the Act of 4 & 5 Vict., ch. 39, sec. 9, the rectory of St. Andrew Undershaft, now held by the Bishop, could be legally annexed to the new archdeaconry as its endowment, just as the benefice of Eglington was so annexed to endow the new Archdeaconry of Lindisfarne some years ago. A CLERGYMAN.

Oxford and Church Defence.

SIR,—The Oxford Laymen's League, which was formed, as already announced, last term, has just produced its first literary effort, and your readers may do much worse with their shillings than by ordering copies before the first edition is exhausted. It is *Aggressive Irreligion: An Appeal against the Liberation Society*, by R. E. Prothero, M.A., Fellow of All Souls' College, Oxford. Published by W. R. Bowden, 59 High Street. Mr. Prothero, in a brilliant essay of forty pages, deals with the adhesion of Non-conformists to the Liberation Society on the three grounds of—(1.) The Inequality of State Establishment; (2.) The Inequality of State Endowment; (3.) The General Interests of Religion. His essay goes to show, from an examination of the design, tactics, and arguments of the Liberation Society, first, that Nonconformists no longer lead its ranks or guide its councils; and secondly, that its name has become a misnomer and a snare. The Liberation Society of 1886, in fact, imperils the existence of all religion and property; its cry has changed from "Liberate Religion from State control" to "*Écrasez l'infamie*," or "*La Propriété c'est le vol*." In other words, its object is not to release Religion from State bondage, but to free the State from the control of any religion whatever, and to scramble for the spoil.

Laymen have now a glorious opportunity; let them use it. Let them meet the Nonconformists on their own ground by assuming that Disestablishment and Disendowment is a just measure, but that, even assuming there would be no 'spoliation,' the results, so far as man can honestly and reasonably judge, would not make for the best interests of Religion. The 'Liberation' Society would then be completely abandoned to its Secularist and Socialist propagandists, and we should know who are really 'aggrieved parishioners' and who are 'men of Belial.'

J. F. HEYES.

12 Merton Street, Oxford.

Job's Comforters.

SIR,—Your correspondent, 'A Country Vicar,' is good enough to tell us of an instance he knows of where two rural parishes, with a moderate or small population in each, lie near to each other; and he says he could mention other similar cases. I have no doubt he could. So could I. So could any

shortly resigning the office of Bishop of London's Continental Suffragan. One result of these Conferences is the commencement—in October—of a new monthly, entitled *The Anglican Church Magazine for Northern and Central Europe*, edited by the Rev. J. Lomax of Montreux—costing one franc a number.

IRELAND.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

THE most auspicious event which has taken place in the history of the Church of Ireland for a long series of years came off on Tuesday last (St. Peter's Day), when two Bishops were consecrated in the Cathedral Church of St. Patrick, Armagh. It is sixty-four years since we had a previous double consecration. In 1822 Dr. Lawrence was consecrated to the Archbishopric of Cashel, and Dr. Bissett to the Bishopric of Raphoe, by the then Primate, Lord J. G. Beresford, the assisting consecrating prelates being the Bishops of Kildare and Down. The consecration came off in the Chapel Royal, Dublin Castle. The years 1772 and 1744, and 1714 also, saw double consecrations. The only instance of a triple consecration on record was that of Bishops Moreton, Sheridan, and Tenison, in 1682. When the Irish Episcopate was restored after the Rebellion, no less than twelve Bishops were consecrated together in St. Patrick's Cathedral. This historical event took place on January 27th, 1661. The fact that, by the Act of William IV., the Irish Bishops were reduced from twenty-three to twelve, makes such an event as a twofold consecration very unlikely.

The double consecration of Tuesday last saw the Very Rev. Dr. Reeves, Dean of Armagh, consecrated Bishop of Down, Connor, and Dromore, in succession to the Right Rev. Dr. Knox, elected by the Bishops to the Primacy, and consequently Archbishopric of Armagh; and the Ven. Dr. Maurice Stack, Archdeacon of Clogher, consecrated Bishop of the revived See of Clogher, held in conjunction with the See of Armagh, in virtue of the above Act, since the death of Lord R. Loftus Tottenham in 1850, till separated and re-endowed in the present year. Two hundred clergymen, representing the dioceses of Armagh, Down and Connor, and Clogher, were present on Tuesday, filling the sanctuary, while the body of the Cathedral was occupied by an overflowing congregation. The Primate, Bishops, and Bishops-elect, entered the Cathedral while the choir sang as a processional 'Onward, Christian Soldiers.' The anthem was, 'Hear my Prayer' (Mendelssohn). The sermon was preached by the Ven. Dr. Meade, Archdeacon of Armagh, who took for his text St. John, xx. 21. At the conclusion of the sermon the Bishops of Meath and Kilmore presented the Bishops-elect at the altar rails before the Primate, while the mandate for their consecration was read by the Registrar, Mr. Wood. After the consecration the Holy Communion was celebrated, a large number partaking of the holy rite. An address was subsequently presented to the Right Rev. Dr. Reeves, by the Archdeacon and clergy of the diocese of Armagh, in which the following passages occurred:—

'You have been for more than four-and-twenty years a clergyman of this diocese, connected with the ancient Cathedral of St. Patrick, living in the midst of us, and for the greater portion of that time holding a parish in the neighbourhood of the city of Armagh, and we have had full opportunity of observing the manner in which you discharged your duties as a minister of God. We only express the feeling of the entire diocese when we state, that by the kindness of your disposition on the one hand, and by your firm adherence to your own convictions on the other, as well as by your zeal and earnestness, you have won the love and respect of all who came in contact with you. At the Disestablishment of the Church our ancient Cathedral was deprived of the means by which, through the piety of our ancestors, the services were maintained; but, chiefly through your unwearied and long-continued exertions, sufficient has been recovered to provide that the voice of daily prayer and praise shall still be heard within these walls, and that the service of Almighty God shall be conducted with that beauty and solemnity which becomes the Mother Church of this diocese. We need not speak of the great work which you have accomplished as keeper of the Library, nor of the benefits which you have conferred on the Observatory as a governor and guardian of that institution. Others have borne witness to these things, and we will only add that the public Library and the Observatory of Armagh will ever bear the marks of your fostering care, of your wise judgment, and of your loving hand. And now we sorrowfully bid you farewell. By an almost unanimous vote at our Diocesan Synod we showed how highly we regarded you, and how fully qualified we believed you to be for the office of a Bishop; and, while we cannot but regret your departure, we feel assured that your promotion is for the good of the whole Church. We would ask you, before you leave us, to accept one mark more of our regard, and to take with you to your new diocese a slight token of the love and esteem of your friends in Armagh.'

The address was accompanied with a purse containing 300 sovereigns. The Bishop, who was much affected, read his reply, which was couched in similarly affectionate terms.

The Irish Methodist Conference have adopted the previous action of the Committee of Privileges, and have passed a unanimous declaration against Home Rule.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

The Sussex County Association.

WE have been favoured with a copy of the Report of this Association for the year ending Dec. 31, 1885. The book is well printed and well got up, both without and within. Immediately following the title-page is a complete index of contents, and in this respect the Secretary is well worthy of all praise. The arrangement of the book is much the same as that generally adopted. It is more usual to speak of the *dedication* than of the 'name' of a church—see the Report as to East Hoathly. We sincerely trust that the condition of Buxted Belfry—there may be others of the same class mentioned, but we do not chance to have lighted on them—may have improved, or may shortly improve. One hint we would give in the matter of the table of performances. We fail to see how an attempted peal can be chronicled at all, unless indeed the conductor deliberately calls the bells round at the number specified. A peal attempted but not performed is in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred a 'smash' of some sort or other, and therefore cannot even be considered a 'touch.' We might mention also the criticism of a young lady on this page: 'Why, these are all the things they *haven't* done!' With the above one or two small exceptions we think that the Sussex Association is most sincerely and heartily to be congratulated. It is scarcely a year old, and has already secured a large list of members, both honorary and practising; has rung seven peals; held seven meetings, at one of which a hundred members were present; and last, but not least, had over 50l. to its credit at the year's end. We heartily wish the Association a long career of life and usefulness.

Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell-ringers.

ANNUAL FESTIVAL, 1886—Preliminary Notice. Date, Monday, July 19th; Place, Abingdon; Service, with sermon by the Lord Bishop of Oxford, at 11.15 a.m., at St. Helen's Church; Annual General Meeting, after service, at 11.15 a.m. Return tickets will be issued from all stations on G.W.R. and L. & N.W.R. at one fare and a quarter. Free dinner-tickets will be issued for all change-ringing and probationary members, for which purpose the Secretary must know who requires them before July 10th.

Bearwood Rectory, Wokingham.

DOLBEN PAUL.

At St. Sidwell's, Exeter, Devon.

ON Saturday, the 12th ult., eight members of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers rang a Quarter-peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (1260 changes) in 45 mins. W. Mundy, 1; A. Shepherd, 2; E. Shepherd, 3; W. Richardson, 4; A. J. Perkins (conductor), 5; W. G. Goss, 6; F. Shepherd, 7; — Luscombe, 8. Also 504 and 223 on handbells (in hand). E. Shepherd, 1-2; F. Shepherd, 3-4; A. J. Perkins (conductor), 5-6; E. Pitt, 7-8. It was intended to ring a peal, but owing to the breaking of two ropes this had to be abandoned. The St. Sidwell's ringers, &c., also paid a visit to Plymouth on Whit Monday, and rang several touches at St. Andrew's and K. Charles' churches; also a 391 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES and a course of CATERS. A quarter-peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES and also a quarter-peal of STEEDMAN TRIPLES were attempted, but not brought home. Mr. A. J. Perkins begs to thank the ringers of Exeter and Plymouth for their courtesy towards him during his visit to Devonshire.

Anniversary at Lavenham, Suffolk.

ON Monday, the 21st ult., the annual gathering of ringers on the occasion of the anniversary of the church bells took place. The meeting was not so well attended as in former years. Ringers were present from Sudbury, Melford, Halstead, Bildeston, Monks Leigh, &c. A capital dinner was provided at the 'Cock Inn.' W. Biddell, Esq., formerly M.P. for West Suffolk, occupied the chair, supported by the Rev. E. Symonds, Capt. Parker, Mr. J. Boby, and other inhabitants. Change-ringing was commenced early in the morning by the local society ringing 1008 changes of BOB MAJOR by the following mixed band:—A. Symonds (Lavenham), 1; W. Fisk (Lavenham), 2; G. Hammond (Melford), 3; W. Cross (Sudbury), 4; W. Smith (Lavenham), 5; C. Sillitoe (Sudbury), 6; J. Boby (Lavenham), 7; W. Moore (Lavenham), 8. Also another touch of BOB MAJOR. A. Symonds, 1; W. Parker (Monks Leigh), 2; Rev. E. Symonds (Lavenham), 3; C. Sillitoe, 4; J. Bedingfield (Monks Leigh), 5; G. Hammond, 6; J. Boby, 7; W. Moore, 8. Conducted by Mr. C. Sillitoe. Tenor, 24 cwt., in D flat.

A Visit to Broadchalke, Wilts.

ON Saturday, the 19th ult., a party of ringers paid a visit to this place. Aubrey, in his *History of Wilts*, says, 'At Broadchalke is one of the tuneablest ring of bells in Wiltshire, which hang advantageously, the river running near the churchyard, which meliorates the sound. There were but four bells till anno 1616 was added a fifth, and in anno 1659 Sir George Penruddock and I made ourselves churchwardens, or else the fair church had fallen, from the niggardliness of the churchwardens of mean condition, and then we added a sixth.' Three of these bells were broken, and remained so for many years, but in 1874 they were recast and all rehung by Mears and Stainbank. The old inscriptions, with the names of John Aubrey and Sir George Penruddock, were reproduced on the new bells.

On arrival the visitors proceeded at once to the belfry and rang several six-scores of GRANDSIRE, HUDIBRAS, and BOB DOUBLES. They were afterwards kindly entertained to tea at the Vicarage by the Rev. T. N. Hutchinson. This is not the first time that ringers visiting Broadchalke have been hospitably received by the Vicar. The party returned home about 10 p.m.

[The visitors have not told us whence they came. We shall be glad of a head and bob of HUDIBRAS DOUBLES.—ED. C. B.]

Preliminary Meeting of the Northampton Archidiaconal Church Bell-ringing Association.

On Thursday, the 24th ult., the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, a meeting was held at Milton, under the auspices of the Ven. Archdeacon Thicknesse. Bands of ringers from Courteenhall, Milton, Blisworth, Gayton, Emberton, Stoke Bruerne, Brington, Brigbrook, Harpole, Northampton (St. Edmund's), Whittington, and Harlebury, were present. After the Office used by the Oxford Guild had been said the ringers tried their skill on the bells of the parish church from 9.30 a.m. to 4.15 p.m. The Rev. F. E. Robinson, Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, was present, and gave an account of his experience; and also put before the meeting the object of such Associations, viz., not only to improve the ringing itself, but to recognise the true position of ringers, and to teach them to ring not for self but for the glory of God. The meeting, at which over one hundred ringers were present, was also addressed by the Ven. Archdeacon and the Rev. G. B. Hooper, rector of Courteenhall, who was appointed Secretary and Treasurer. A Provisional Committee of six members was appointed, with power to add to their number, so it may be considered that the Association is fairly launched. Evensong, which was heartily rendered, followed at 7 o'clock. Great disappointment was felt in the neighbourhood of Courteenhall at the removal of the meeting to Milton; though the hearty welcome given by the Rector and Churchwardens and the beautifully kept church and churchyard of Milton were much appreciated by the visitors. The sermon was preached by the Archdeacon, who very ably dwelt on the use of church bells, as in themselves eloquent preachers to the outside world, as well as heralds of God's message to the faithful.

Beds Association.

A DISTRICT MEETING will be held at Toddington, Bedfordshire, on Saturday afternoon, July 17th. The Rector, the Rev. C. E. Haslam, has kindly given permission to ring the church bells, and will provide tea for such members as may attend. Particulars of C. HERBERT, *Hon. Sec., Woburn.*

The Society of Royal Cumberland Youths.

MEMBERS of this Society are earnestly invited to attend the next meeting at Head Quarters, the 'Green Man,' St. Martin's Lane, W.C., which takes place on Friday evening, July 2nd, when a discussion will take place interesting to all concerned. *HY. DAINES, Hon. Sec.*

147 Barnsbury Road, N.

The Ancient Society of College Youths. — (Established A.D. 1637.)

THE Annual Dinner of this Society will take place at the 'Gloucester Pavilion' Hotel, Greenwich, on Saturday, July 3rd.

G. A. MUSKETT, Hon. Sec.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At Holy Trinity, Staleybridge, Cheshire.

On Saturday, the 12th ult., a peal of 5024 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR was rung in 3 hrs. J. Pownall, 1; H. Shaw, 2; W. Lakeman,* 3; E. Schofield, 4; S. Hill,* 5; I. Schofield, 6; S. Wood (composer and conductor), 7; M. Pailthorpe,* 8. [* First peal of TREBLE BOB MAJOR.]

At St. Mary's, Titchmarsh, Northamptonshire.

	23456	M. W. H.
On Monday, the 14th ult., a peal of 5040 BOB TRIPLES was rung in 3 hrs. 20 mins. H. Stubbs, 1;	4 3 6 5 2	-
R. Dunkley, 2; R. Pendred, 3; W. J. Gilbert, 4;	6 3 2 5 4	-
C. W. Clarke (conductor), 5; J. Willmott, 6; F. Gilbert (composer), 7; F. Slade, 8. Tenor, 21 cwt.,	5 6 2 3 4	-
in E. This was the first peal in the method by all,	3 5 2 6 4	-
and the first peal rung on these bells. C. W. Clarke	4.5 2 3 6	S S
comes from Bedford, and is a member of the Beds	2 5 6 3 4	-
Association of Change-ringers; and the remainder	6 5 4 3 2	-
are members of the Raunds and Wellingborough	3 6 4 5 2	-
Society, and come from Raunds, Northamptonshire.	5 3 4 6 2	-
	4 2 3 5 6	S S -

5 times repeated. Single at the 3rd & 6th part-ends. *F. GILBERT, Raunds.*

At St. Andrew's, Derby.

On Tuesday, the 15th ult., eight members of the St. Paul's Society, Burton-on-Trent, rang a peal of 5040 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 16 mins. H. Wakley, 1; A. B. Ward, 2; A. Wakley, 3; H. C. Woodward, 4; A. P. Heywood (composer), 5; T. Holmes, 6; Rev. C. D. P. Davies, 7; W. Wakley (conductor), 8. Tenor, 20 cwt.

At Holy Trinity, Melford, Suffolk.

On Thursday, the 17th ult., the following band, consisting of six members of the Glensford Society, in company with Mr. C. Sillitoe of Sudbury, and Mr. G. Hammond of Melford, rang a peal of 5088 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 10 mins. J. Slater, 1; C. Honeybell, 2; C. Sillitoe, 3; Z. Slater, 4; S. Slater, 5; F. Wells, 6; O. Garwood, 7; G. Hammond, 8. The peal, which contains the 6th its extent in 5-6, was composed by Mr. W. Sottanstill of Sowerby, Yorkshire, and conducted by Mr. Hammond. Tenor, 16 cwt., in F.

At St. Giles', Wrexham, Denbighshire.

On Monday, the 21st ult., Holt's Ten-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES was rung in 3 hrs. 6 mins. R. Jones, 1; R. M. Evans, 2; J. Gibson, 3; G. Longden (conductor), 4; E. Rowland, 5; T. Newell, 6; E. Evans, 7; J. Kendrick, 8. Tenor, 28 cwt., in D. Mr. Longden's birthday, who comes from Ashton-under-Lyne; Mr. Gibson, Chester; the remainder belong to Wrexham,

At All Saints', Duffield, Derbyshire.

On Sunday, the 20th ult., eight members of the Midland Counties Association rang a peal of 5024 DOUBLE OXFORD BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 13 mins. G. Dawson, 1; E. Moreton, 2; S. Johnson, 3; A. Robinson, 4; G. Hingley, 5; W. Hickling, 6; R. Johnson, 7; A. P. Heywood, 8. Tenor, 17 cwt., in F. In honour of Her Majesty's accession.

At All Saints', Loughborough, Leicestershire.

On Tuesday, the 22nd ult., a quarter-peal of STEDMAN TRIPLES was rung in 45 mins. A. Cresser, 1; W. T. Billingham, 2; J. Hardy, 3; J. W. Taylor, sen., 4; C. Smith, 5; R. Lane, 6; J. W. Taylor, jun. (conductor), 7; E. Wightman, 8.

At St. Bartholomew's, Quorndon, Leicestershire.

On Thursday, the 24th ult., Holt's Six-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES was rung in 2 hrs. 49 mins. C. Smith, 1; W. T. Billingham, 2; J. Hardy, 3; J. W. Taylor, sen., 4; A. Millis, 5; R. Lane, 6; J. W. Taylor, jun. (conductor), 7; E. Wightman, 8. Tenor, 14 cwt. 2 qrs. 18 lbs., in F sharp. A. Millis comes from Leicester; the rest belong to the Loughborough Branch.

At Christ Church, Barlow Moor, Didsbury, Lancashire.

On Saturday, the 26th ult., the Ashton Society rang a peal of 5088 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 10 mins. T. Moss, 1; J. Hopwood, 2; J. Wood, 3; J. Mellor, 4; B. Broadbent, 5; G. Longden, 6; J. Thorp (composer and conductor), 7; C. Wood, 8. Tenor, 18 cwt., in E.

At Aspley Guise, Bedfordshire.

On Saturday, the 26th ult., 720 KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR (9 bobs) was rung in 25 mins. C. Herbert (Woburn), 1; J. Carwell-Cooke,* 2; W. Mynard,* 3; M. Lane, 4; J. Hills (Bedford), 5; W. Chibnall* (conductor), 6. Also 360 of OXFORD BOB. [* First 720 in the method.]

A CORRECTION.—The tenor at Quex Park is 15 cwt., not 5 cwt., as stated last week.

RECEIVED ALSO:—Saffron Walden; Boughton-under-Bean, Kent; and others.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Nuisance of Church Bells.

SIR,—I hope you will allow me a further small space for this interesting and popular subject. For an occasional high holiday, or a joyous season, a moderate amount of scientific ringing may not prove a nuisance even to near neighbours. At any rate it might be tolerated. For ordinary Church services, however, the chime, whether in sequence or in melody, is apparently to ordinary mortals more musical than peal-ringing; on account, perhaps, of its more rapid succession, as well as modified sound. If the tone can be modified by an improved form in the bell itself, this result will be all the more acceptable. But 'Othello's occupation is gone' if an embargo be laid upon the ardent lover of his peal, or upon the din of his constant practice. For constant practice the 'silent ringing' with lashed clappers, as suggested by Mr. Goslin, would, no doubt, be gratefully received. But, in many cases, with a clapper muffled both sides with leather, might not the 'noise' be sufficiently obviated to allay the nuisance, without wholly destroying the music, or abridging the liberty of the performer?

All this, however, is quite beside any question as to the bell itself, and how far its loudness, as well as its key-note, may depend upon its several proportions, apart from its mere weight. As regards the proportions of the bell, and especially the thickness of its metal at the waist, I hoped we might have had some more scientific and more practical information. But, so far as I understand it, the waist is now made of thicker metal than it was of old, this thickening not only allows of, but requires, a heavier clapper to bring out its (consequently louder) tone. At all events, I know that some years ago one of the three or four bell-founders best known in England persisted on two occasions in recasting the mediæval bell, against all expostulations, supported though they were by the advice and aid of my old friend Mr. Ellacombe, rather than take a little more trouble to harmonise the new bells with the old. The ostensible excuse was not at all that it would be difficult or impracticable, but merely, 'What is the good of keeping a nasty narrow-waisted thing like that, which cannot be heard outside the churchyard?'

This was, at least, a very simple and plain declaration, from a scientific source, that whatever sweetness, whatever mellowness, the old bell might possess, its unpardonable sin lay only in its lack of noise. Possibly also the founder would not like the evidences of ancient superiority to survive, to clash with his own work; and he would naturally regard as perfect and complete the traditional system under which he had for so many years, so satisfactorily to himself, produced new peals. The narrowness of which he spoke no doubt was meant to refer as well to the thinness of the metal as to the diameter of the waist of the bell; perhaps also to an unqualified and interfering stickler for antiquated forms.

The music of a bell is a compound of sounds from two separate sources. The key-note is determined by the thickness of the metal at the sound-bow in proportion to its circumference; and it is essential to the correctness of note that the sound at the waist should be similar to, or in harmony with, that at the rim. Upon this depends also the perfect resonance of the bell. If the waist be reduced, the substance of metal is proportionally reduced likewise. The weight of the bell is reduced also. It will not take so heavy a clapper, nor produce so loud a tone. I know that there is a bell-founder in England, perhaps the only one, whose musical instincts have led him (or misled him) to leave the beaten track of the traditional system, and enabled him to produce more musical and less costly peals. These peals may be less

At the last monthly meeting of the Larne Clerical Union, diocese of Down, the following congratulatory address to the new Bishop, Dr. Reeves, was unanimously adopted:—The members of the Larne Clerical Union, at this their first meeting after your appointment, tender to you their respectful congratulations. They rejoice that Divine Providence has restored you to a diocese which has largely benefited from your administration and scholastic labours. They earnestly pray that you may be long spared to promote such a continuous growth of the Church as marked the episcopate of your lordship's venerated predecessor. Signed on behalf of the members, THOMAS P. MORGAN, M.A., R.D., Chairman, Rectory, Larne, June 22nd, 1886.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

Annual Gathering of the College Youths.

ON Saturday, July 3rd, the Annual Dinner of the College Youths took place at Greenwich, and towards noon parties of members were seen to arrive in the neighbourhood. The more energetic looked over the College Hospital, and other places of interest; while others, with cooler aims and less ambitious hearts, sought shelter from the burning sun under the grand old trees of the Park. Shortly after three o'clock the Company dined at the 'Gloucester Hotel,' facing the Park gates. The kindly steeple-keeper, Mr. Davies, who had been present at dinner, then opened the St. Alphege belfry to those who wished to ring, and a merry touch of STEDMAN CATERS was the result, which at a short distance was thoroughly appreciated by the others.

The Master, Mr. Martin Routh, gave a *résumé* of the doings of the Society for the past year. He said that their parochial position was very satisfactory, the balance at their bankers being increased, while the treasurer, Mr. Pettit, assured him he had enough in hand to meet current expenses. Considerably over a hundred new members had been made, and when the worthy Vice-chairman (Mr. Mash) brought up eleven of his 'South-wark youths' in a body, a glance at these budding campanologists showed that they had no reason to complain of the quality of their recruits. He exhorted them to live up to the motto, '*Vivamus unanimiter*,' which was inserted in one of their old books; and, while deploring certain attacks which had been anonymously made upon the Society by certain members, remarked that, although inclined to be most lenient, they were forced to take the only course consistent with its dignity. A new peal-book had been presented to them by Mr. Heywood, and two new safes by Messrs. Bullett and Rees. The Chairman then alluded to the great loss the Society had sustained in the deaths of Messrs. Haley and Jasper Snowden, and subsequently proposed 'Prosperity to the Society of College Youths.' The company broke up at a late hour, and so ended a most successful gathering.

Bell-ringers' Anniversary.

ON Tuesday last the members of the Sudbury Society held their ringers' anniversary. The bells of St. Gregory's and All Saints' were rung at intervals during the day. Change-ringing commenced at 7 a.m. at St. Gregory's, where 576 changes of KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR were rung by F. Tolliday, 1; W. Griggs, 2; W. Howell, 3; C. Sillitoe (conductor), 4; W. Bacon, 5; A. Scott, 6; W. Cross, 7; H. Harper, 8. The ringers then adjourned to All Saints', where 504 changes of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES were rung. The following members met at St. Gregory's and attempted to ring a peal of BOB MAJOR, which unfortunately proved unsuccessful. J. Campin, 1; A. Scott, 2; G. Brown, 3; H. Harper, 4; H. Brackett, 5; N. Hawkins (Walter Belchamp), 6; W. Howell, 7; C. Sillitoe (conductor), 8. Some more ringing was indulged in at All Saints' till 2 o'clock, when the ringers and friends, to the number of twenty-two, sat down at the 'Bull Hotel.' The Rev. T. L. Green occupied the chair, the vice-chair being taken by Mr. C. E. Mauldon, in place of Dr. W. I. Mason, who was unfortunately called away at the last moment. The cloth being removed, the Chairman congratulated the company on having attained its twenty-fourth year of existence, and also on being in a high state of efficiency as ringers. The hand-bells were then brought out, and a course of GRANDSIRE CINQUES was rung by M. Silvester, 1-2; A. Scott, 3-4; C. Sillitoe, 5-6; F. Tolliday, 7; H. Harper, 8; W. Howell, 9-10; J. Campin, 11-12. Ringing was then indulged in on the tower bells till 8.30 p.m. The following methods were rung during the day: KENT TREBLE BOB, OXFORD TREBLE BOB, STEDMAN TRIPLES, GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, GRANDSIRE MAJOR, BOB MAJOR, and BOB TRIPLES. The tower ringing being over, the ringers adjourned to the 'Bull Hotel,' where they were met by Dr. W. I. Mason and W. Bailey Ransom, Esq., and some hand-bell ringing was done. A course of BOB ROYAL was rung by W. B. Ransom, Esq., 1-2; C. Sillitoe, 3-4; J. Campin, 5-6; W. Howell, 7-8; A. Scott, 9-10. Also a course of BOB MAJOR by J. Hume (Bures), 1-2; J. Morley, 3-4; S. Tolliday, 5-6; W. Cross, 7-8. The united ages of these four ringers amount to 283 years. Songs were sung, and some selections on the hand-bells by the Sudbury Company of Hand-bell Ringers brought a very pleasant day to a close about 11 p.m., all having thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Restoration and New Tenor at Boughton-under-Blean, Kent.

THE bells of this church having for a long time been out of order, an effort was recently made to put them in good repair; and with this idea a subscription-list was started, the result being that the money required was speedily collected, thanks to the exertions of Mr. Serjeant Spinks, Rev. H. M. Spooner (vicar), the churchwardens, and other gentlemen. The work was put into the hands of Mr. S. Snelling, of Sittingbourne; and it was not long ere the neglected belfry was again in first-class order, the tenor bell, which

was cracked, having been recast to tune with the other five, which were all rehung, a new chiming apparatus supplied, and some minor improvements made, the total cost amounting to about 90l. On Friday week the belfry was reopened. A special service was held in the church in the afternoon, during which an excellent address was given by the Rev. R. B. Knatchbull-Hugessen, Secretary to the Kent County Association of Change-ringers. Having congratulated the parishioners upon the restoration of their ring of bells to its proper state of efficiency, the reverend gentleman gave some sound advice to the band of ringers whom it is proposed shall manage these bells, and be responsible for the due use and proper care of them. He advocated that the band should consist of steady, church-going men who would appreciate the honour of the office and administration they were appointed to, and who would devote themselves earnestly to fulfil the duties thereof. Before and after the service the Rev. R. B. Knatchbull-Hugessen rang all the bells, and gave a very satisfactory opinion of them. The Faversham ringers, under Captain Wood, also rang changes for upwards of an hour, and subsequently they joined the Boughton ringers and a few other friends at dinner at the 'George Hotel.' The Vicar (Rev. H. M. Spooner) presided, and the vice-chair was taken by Mr. Burch (one of the churchwardens). During the evening the usual loyal and some complimentary toasts were duly honoured. The Boughton band of ringers intend joining the Kent County Association of Change-ringers.

Society of Change-ringers for the Archdeaconry of Stafford.

THE Third Annual Meeting of this Society was held at Lichfield on Saturday, the 26th ult., in glorious weather. There were over sixty members present, and nearly all the bands who belong to the Society were represented. After some ringing in the Cathedral belfry the Committee Meeting was held, the Ven. Archdeacon Iles in the chair. The Report and Balance-sheet were read and passed, and it was decided to receive applications for grants towards instruction at the next meeting. A short evening service was held at 5 p.m. in the Lady Chapel of the Cathedral, when a stirring address was given to the members by the Rev. A. F. W. Ingram, Bishop's Chaplain. A party of ringers was then conducted over the Cathedral by Archdeacon Iles. Tea was served in the coffee-house at 6 p.m. to over sixty of the members, and a very enjoyable day was closed with more ringing on the Cathedral bells. The following were elected as officers for the ensuing year:—Hon. Treasurer: Rev. C. H. Joberns, vicar of Christ Church, West Bromwich. Hon. Secretaries: Rev. J. R. Keble, Perry Barr Vicarage; Mr. S. Reeves, West Bromwich. The next meeting will be held at Wednesbury, on September 25th.

Anniversary at Saffron Walden, Essex.

ON Monday, the 28th ult., the most numerous and successful meeting ever known took place at the above town, Squire Proctor and his band arriving from Benington, and numerous ringers from London, Cambridge, Herts, Norfolk, and Suffolk. 7400 changes were rung, consisting of SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE, DOUBLE NORWICH, KENT TREBLE BOB, STEDMAN and GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. All the touches were brought round in fine style on the grand ring of eight bells.

The Bedfordshire Association.

A DISTRICT MEETING for practice will be held at Toddington, Beds, on Saturday afternoon, July 17th. The Rev. C. S. Haslam has kindly given permission to ring the church bells (eight), and will provide tea and recreation for such members as may attend. CHARLES HERBERT, *Hon. Sec.*

Worcestershire and adjoining Districts Association.

THE next Quarterly Meeting of the above Association will be held at St. Mary's Church, Kidderminster, on Saturday, July 10th. The tower will be open for ringing the whole of the afternoon. Business meeting at six o'clock. All Members and ringing friends are requested to attend.

JOHN SMITH, *Hon. Sec.*

The Ely Diocesan Association.

IN consequence of the sudden and lamented death of the Rev. Canon Scott, vicar of Wisbech, the meeting of this Association, originally fixed for July 12th, is unavoidably indefinitely postponed.

Ely, June 29th.

K. H. SMITH, *Hon. Sec.*

CHANGE-RINGING.

At Dedham, Essex.

ON Sunday, the 20th ult., being the forty-ninth anniversary of Queen Victoria's accession to the throne, six members of the Essex Association were invited by the Rev. C. A. Jones to ring for the services during the day. At 7.30 a.m. 720 BOB MINOR was rung at the first attempt; then before the eleven o'clock service, 720 OXFORD TREBLE BOB; after which another 720 OXFORD TREBLE BOB was rung; then before the three o'clock service, a 720 OXFORD TREBLE BOB, and after service 720 OXFORD TREBLE BOB; then at the seven o'clock service another 720 OXFORD TREBLE BOB; and after service another 720 OXFORD TREBLE BOB, making a total of 5040 changes, every 720 being rung at the first attempt. C. Ablitt, 1; J. Taylor, 2; J. Starling, 3; W. Smith, 4; W. J. Nevard, 5; J. W. Smith (conductor), 6. And on handbells retained in hand, 720 PLAIN BOB MINOR. W. Smith (conductor), 1-2; J. W. Smith, 3-4; W. J. Nevard, 5-6. During the afternoon service a walk was taken to Stratford St. Mary, where another 720 OXFORD TREBLE BOB was rung. C. Ablitt, 1; J. Taylor, 2; J. Starling, 3; W. J. Nevard, 4; W. Smith, 5; J. W. Smith (conductor), 6; making a total of nine 720's rung during the day. The ringers wish to return their sincere thanks to the Rev. C. A. Jones for inviting them to a day's ringing, but hope that next time they will have the pleasure of ringing the eight bells, for only the front six could be rung.

At St. Peter's Cathedral, Liverpool.

ON Wednesday, the 23rd ult., ten members of the Liverpool Youths' Society rang a peal of 5040 STEDMAN CATERS in 3 hrs. 25 mins. Richard Williams,* 1; G. Helsby,* 2; J. R. Pritchard* (composer), 3; C. Williams,* 4; W. Booth, 5; Robert Williams,* 6; G. Fisher, 7; W. Davies, 8; T. Hammond (conductor), 9; R. Diggle, 10. Tenor, 25 cwt. [* College Youths.]

At All Saints', Duffield, Derbyshire.

ON Wednesday, the 23rd ult., eight members of the Midland Counties' Association rang a peal of 5024 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 4 mins. G. Dawson, 1; S. Johnson, 2; A. B. Ward, 3; R. J. Turner (London), 4; G. Hingley, 5; R. Johnson, 6; H. C. Woodward, 7; J. Howe, 8. Composed by Mr. Pritchard of Liverpool, and conducted by Mr. Woodward. Tenor, 16½ cwt., in F.

At St. Giles', Ashted, Surrey.

ON Saturday, the 26th ult., eight members of the Winchester Diocesan Guild rang a peal of 5088 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 16 mins. G. Sayer, 1; A. Mills, 2; R. Jordan, 3; E. Jordan, 4; G. Williams, 5; F. Wickens, 6; D. Jordan, 7; S. Brooker (conductor), 8. Tenor, 14 cwt. [First peal of MAJOR on the bells.]

At St. Peter's, Bradford, Yorkshire.

ON Saturday, the 26th ult., ten members of the Yorkshire Association rang a peal of 5000 KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL in 3 hrs. 21 mins. A. Moulson, 1; T. Lockwood* (composer and conductor), 2; H. Raistrick, 3; R. Tukey, Esq., 4; H. Hubbard,* 5; T. Pollitt, 6; H. Needham,* 7; G. H. Hardcastle, 8; T. West,* 9; R. Binns,* 10. Tenor, 27 cwt. The peal consists of nine courses in the Tittum position, and was now rung for the first time. [* From Leeds.]

At the Parish Church, Warnham, Sussex.

ON Saturday, the 26th ult., eight members of the Sussex County Association rang Shipwreck's Six-part peal of 5040 OXFORD BOB TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 3 mins. F. Garman, 1; W. Short, 2; W. Wadey, 3; H. Cook, 4; T. Andrews, 5; H. Chandler (member of the Winchester Guild), 6; H. Burstow (conductor), 7; H. Wood, 8. First peal of TRIPLES on the Warnham bells, which have recently been increased from six to eight; also the first 5040 by the Warnham branch.

At St. Mary's, Walter Belcham, Essex.

ON Sunday, the 27th ult., a mixed band met after the afternoon service and rang a peal of 5040 BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. S. Slater (Glensford), 1; W. Howell (Sudbury), 2; W. Gridley (Foxearth), 3; J. Bird (Melford), 4; W. J. Nevard (Great Bentley), 5; G. Hammond (Melford), 6; J. Lee (Foxearth), 7; C. Sillitoe (Sudbury), 8. The above peal, which is in three parts, contains the 6th the extent at home, and was composed by Mr. S. Slater and conducted by Mr. C. Sillitoe. It has never been previously performed.

At the Parish Church, Ross, Herefordshire.

ON Monday, the 28th ult., eight members of the Hereford Diocesan Guild rang Penning's One-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 53 mins. H. Bird, 1; W. Honeyfield, Esq., 2; J. Atkins, 3; J. Wall, 4; E. Barnett, 5; A. Bird, 6; J. W. Washbrook (conductor), 7; R. Clarke, 8. Tenor, 25 cwt. [First peal achieved by this newly-formed Association.]

At St. Mary-the-Virgin, Baldock, Herts.

ON Thursday, the 1st inst., 364 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES were rung by eight members of the Hertfordshire Association. T. Webb (conductor), 1; H. Buckingham, 2; J. Cawdell, 3; J. Roslyn, 4; A. Squires, 5; Richard Jackson, 6; Robert Jackson, 7; G. Gentle, 8.

Also on Sunday, the 4th inst., for Divine Service in the morning, 350 in the same method. T. Webb, 1; J. Phillips, 2; A. Squire, 3; J. Roslyn, 4; Robert Jackson, 5; Richard Jackson, 6; J. Hare (conductor), 7; G. Gentle, 8. Also 112; T. Webb (conductor), 1; H. Buckingham, 2; J. Cawdell, 3; J. Smith, 4; A. Squire, 5; J. Hare, 6; Robert Jackson, 7; J. Roslyn, 8. Tenor, 28 cwt., in D.

At All Saints', Loughborough, Leicestershire.

ON Tuesday, the 6th inst., eight members of the Midland Counties' Association rang the first half of Thurstans' peal of STEDMAN TRIPLES in 1 hr. 35 mins. W. T. Billingham, 1; A. Cresser, 2; J. W. Taylor, sen., 3; J. Hardy, 4; C. Smith, 5; R. Lane, 6; J. W. Taylor, jun. (conductor), 7; E. Wightman, 8. Tenor, 24 cwt., in D. This is the first half-peal in the method on the bells. His brother-ringers wished E. Wightman many happy returns of the day, as on that day he completed his forty-seventh year. He has been a ringer at All Saints' for thirty-one years.

A CONNECTION.—Broadchalke, Wilts—a lead and bob; not head.

CORRESPONDENCE.

An Eirenikon.

SIR,—People, of course, have different ideas as to what constitutes an 'Eirenikon.' To my idea it involves something of the 'give-and-take' principle—in fact, mutual concession; but I fail to see anything of this character about Dr. Hayman's proposition. The Communion Office in the Second Prayer-book of Edward the Sixth is substantially that which has been used ever since, and has now, therefore, the authority of 300 years, while the Office in the First Book of Edward the Sixth, the adoption of which he suggests, has only the authority of *three years*. On what ground, then, are you to give this Communion Office a place in our Prayer-book and go back

300 years to find an Office for the use of the Church, which Office has only the use of three years to recommend it? Those who know the Office must be aware that it contains various things which would be very distasteful to many Churchmen of the present day, and its introduction into our churches would be anything but an Eirenikon. Your correspondent says that we cannot expect to eradicate either of the two Offices of Edward the Sixth from the national mind. I do not see how the first can exist in the national mind, having been more than 300 years out of use; and its existence even then was so brief that it really had not time to get into 'the national mind.' I am free to admit that (to my judgment) the Communion Office in the First Book had some advantages over our present Office, not regarding it from a party, but from a devotional standpoint; but I should be exceedingly sorry to see it substituted in its entirety for the present Office. ZENAS.

'O come, let us Worship, and fall down, and Kneel before the Lord our Maker.'

SIR,—I expose myself to some criticism in what I am about to write, but as my *personal* interest in the success of one of my two subjects is simply *nil*, and my possible pecuniary loss in the other, though rather more than I anticipated, is not altogether unprovided for, I must beg you to allow me to again press upon your readers an earnest consideration of what I have to say. I have good grounds for the conclusion which has long since been forced upon me, that very few causes have done so much to keep people from church, especially men, as the absence of worship there *so far as they are concerned*. They are told to kneel, but find cold stones for their knees, or a piece of dirty, hard board, or possibly a thin mat, so near the ground that for those who are advanced in years, and are 'a little rheumatic,' kneeling is impossible. They are told to join in the services, but a book is put into their hands the use of which distracts them. True, they can join in singing the hymn (if the time is not so composed that they cannot follow), but then every hymn has a 'number' attached to it, and the Parson 'gives out' the 'number' of the 'hymn,' or causes it to be printed or chalked up on one or two boards so that all can know the number. Many years ago I induced the S. P. C. K. of that day to print the number at the corner of every page of the 'square' book. I know, by very recent testimony, that this method proved very useful. But alas! shortly after, other editions appeared, numbered also, and the whole scheme was rendered useless. Not many hours ago I was trying to help two Sunday scholars to find the *Te Deum*, and was about to tell them the page, but though each had the 'square' book, the number of pages differed, and I was obliged to take the books and find the places for them. The 'numbered' Prayer-book, of which—I fear, a rather serious loss to myself—I have printed 20,000 copies, is most thoroughly successful wherever I have known it to be tried. It affords three ways, any one of which, if adopted, enables every person who can read to turn to every part of the Prayer-book required for Divine public worship. The method is also of very great use for many other purposes, and I feel little doubt that it will be universally adopted with all editions of the Prayer-book, by whomsoever published, before many years, and when the 'stocks' of Prayer-books now on hand shall have been considerably reduced. But I am satisfied that no reason any longer need exist to render our services unpopular to multitudes who hitherto have been unable to join in them. The type of my numbered Prayer-book is, unfortunately, rather small, but the same method of numbering can be applied to Prayer-books of any size, shape, and edition, as it will be the same in any and all of them. I am, of course, anxious to sell the whole of my edition (20,000), but I hope to hear before long of the same numbering being adopted by publishers generally in all Prayer-books.

Then, as to 'kneeling.' If better plans can be provided to facilitate kneeling, I earnestly hope that they will be proclaimed and come into general use; meanwhile I am most thankful to say that my scheme appears, upon trial, to be very satisfactory. [For description, see CHURCH BELLS of April 2, 1886, page 422.] The kneeling-pad is 8 to 9 inches above the floor. It affords a soft cushion for the knee. It leaves space on the kneeling-board on which to place the foot, if desirable. It is easily thrown back, and remains in that position, leaving the *whole* front of the kneeling-board for the feet when sitting, if desirable.

I believe that I can say, without any vainglory, that two very important helps in the promotion of true reverence and worship are thus provided. They are very simple, though they be the result of experiments and efforts extending over thirty-five years! If better and simpler plans be brought into practice I think that I shall rejoice in them. But it is to me a matter of very deep gratitude and satisfaction to feel thoroughly assured that henceforth, with the Prayer-book numbered, and with the kneelings and kneeling-pads made as mentioned, there is no cause why any one in church may not kneel when he ought, and no need why any one who can read may not take a personal and active part in the services. The two methods (for kneeling and for using the Prayer-book) mentioned in this letter thoroughly and easily meet both needs, and I therefore venture to beg the attention of the friends of the Church and of Christianity to these subjects. I am sure that they require attention, but I firmly believe that, by the adoption of the two methods suggested, every one in Great Britain (except the few who cannot read) can 'worship, and fall down, and kneel before the Lord our Maker.'

Great Yarmouth Vicarage, July 5th, 1886.

GEORGE VENABLES.

Sunday Observance.

SIR,—In your last you gave an excellent Prayer by the Bishop of Norwich, in which the following occurs: 'Incline us to love and keep Thy Sabbaths.' A few days before I saw in the daily papers that Sunday concerts had been started at the University of Oxford, and that they were largely patronised by the undergraduates. May I ask if those in training for clergymen are allowed to attend, as I gather from these words of the Bishop's, and also from the

THE unhappy Divorce Extension Bill we have previously noticed as introduced into the Legislature at Sydney has been meeting with opposition from Christians all round. Dr. Jefferis, the leading Congregationalist minister, has pronounced against it; the Wesleyans have joined suit with the Church of England; the views of the Roman Church are well known; and the Presbyterians were expected to declare corporately in a like sense.

JAPAN.

A MISSIONARY, describing a Christian funeral, says: 'Some would have considered it "ritualistic." The coffin, borne on a bier by six men for two miles through the city, was proceeded by a Japanese holding aloft a large wooden cross. You can always tell the graves of Christians in the Japanese cemetery, for they are all marked with crosses. Anglican, Congregational, Presbyterian, Roman, and Greek, all have the cross for a head-board.'

ITALY.

THE Rev. Dr. Nevin writes from Rome: 'Mgr. Savarese, worn out by his recent almost single-handed struggle (half of it lately against those who should have been his supporters), has made submission to the Pope, and fled to a convent near Naples. His Church committee, without flinching, completed their organization, and in Savarese's place elected Mgr. Antonio Renier *curato*. He is carrying everything on; he is not so learned as Savarese, but much cleverer as a man, and is not afraid of the laity, but easily works with them, and makes them work.'

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

Surrey Association.

THE Annual Meeting will be held at Bletchingley, by the kind permission of the Rector, on Monday, July 19th. Tea will be provided at the 'Red Lion,' at 6 p.m., and will be free to all ringing members who have paid their subscriptions for the current year; all others, 1s. 6d. each. The tower at Nutfield (six bells) will be open for ringing as well as Bletchingley. The election of Officers and Committee takes place at this meeting.

34 Dingwall Road, Croydon.

ARTHUR B. CARPENTER, *Hon. Sec.*

South Lincolnshire Association.

THE next Quarterly Meeting of the South Lincolnshire Association will be held at Deeping, St. James', on Saturday, the 24th inst. Dinner will be provided at the 'Rose and Crown' Inn, at 2 p.m., at 2s. each, with malt liquor. Members must send in their names to me on or before Saturday, the 17th inst., or the usual allowance of money will not be granted them.

R. CREASEY, *Hon. Sec.*

Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell-ringers.

ANNUAL FESTIVAL, 1886—Preliminary Notice. Date, Monday, July 19th; Place, Abingdon; Service, with sermon by the Lord Bishop of Oxford, at 11.15 a.m., at St. Helen's Church; Annual General Meeting, after service; Dinner at 2 p.m. Return tickets will be issued from all stations on G. W. R. and L. & N. W. R. at one fare and a quarter.

DOLBEN PAUL.

Bearwood Rectory, Wokingham.

The Hertfordshire Association.

MEMBERS are requested to take notice that the next Quarterly Meeting of the Association will be held at Baldock on Monday, August 2nd. The arrangements will be the same as on former occasions. Dinner tickets, 2s. each, will be supplied by the local secretaries, to whom applications should be made on Monday, July 26th. Railway tickets will be granted at reduced fares to members upon the production of their certificates.

W. WIGRAM, *General Secretary*.

A New Tenor at Shaugh Prior, Devon.

THE newly-restored bells of Shaugh Prior Church were used for service on Tuesday in Easter week. The tenor had been recast by Messrs. Warner of London, and rehung by Mr. Harry Stokes of Woodbury. The services in the parish church were Holy Communion at 11 a.m., and evensong at 3.45 p.m., with a sermon preached by the Rev. F. A. Sanders, B.A., vicar of Brixton, Plympton. At about 5 p.m. a public tea was held in the schoolroom, after which the usual amusements were joined in until 10 o'clock.

Presentation of an Electric Silver Inkstand.

ON the 19th ult., a presentation was made to the Rev. W. C. Pearson of Syston, Leicestershire, on his leaving, after being Curate four years; and, being a member of the Syston Society of Change-ringers, the members presented him with an Electric Silver Inkstand, bearing the following inscription:—'Presented to the Rev. W. C. Pearson, as a token of esteem, by the members of the Syston Society of Change-ringers, 1886.' The presentation was accompanied by a document bearing the following: 'To the Rev. W. C. Pearson. Dear Sir,—We, the undersigned, beg your acceptance of this small token of esteem, and regret the loss the Society will have by your removal from amongst them. J. North, J. Pickard, J. W. Freeman, E. Hicheox, G. Freeman, G. Walton, J. Hall, W. Bail, A. Swan, W. Freeman, T. Hubbard, W. Walton.'

CHANGE-RINGING.

At Llanarth, Monmouthshire.

ON Tuesday, the 16th ult., some members of the Monmouth Society visited the above place, being kindly invited by the Vicar, the Rev. J. Osman, and rang 720 Bob MINOR, being the first 720 known to have been rung on the bells. W. Honeyfield, Esq., 1; J. Brown, 2; W. Walters, 3; J. Priest, 4; T. H. Jones, 5; E. Barnett (conductor), 6. Also some touches of KENT TREBLE BOB, COURT BOB, GRANDSIRE MINOR, PLAIN BOB, and GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, in which H. Brown assisted.

At Cwmcavran, Monmouthshire.

ON Tuesday, the 22nd ult., six members of the Monmouth Society visited Cwmcavran, and rang at the parish church 720 GRANDSIRE MINOR and BOB MINOR. T. Jones, 1; W. Honeyfield, Esq., 2; J. Brown, 3; J. Priest, 4; T. H. Jones, 5; E. Barnett (conductor), 6.

At Trinity and All Saints', Winterton, Norfolk.

ON Sunday, the 27th ult., after Divine Service in the afternoon, five of the Yarmouth (St. Nicholas) Company, with W. Ireland, of Diss, rang 720 BOB MINOR in 24 mins. W. Ireland (conductor), 1; W. T. Blyth, 2; H. Ireland, 3; T. Tooley, 4; W. Matthews, 5; G. Crowe, 6. Afterwards, some touches with Mr. Empson, organist of the church. Tenor about 10 cwt., in B flat.

At the Parish Church, Monmouth.

ON Thursday, the 1st inst., eight members of the Monmouth Society rang Holt's Ten-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 59 mins. T. Dreece, 1; W. Honeyfield, Esq., 2; W. Walters, 3; J. Brown, 4; J. Priest, 5; T. H. Jones, 6; E. Barnett (conductor), 7; H. Brown, 8. Tenor, 20 cwt., in E. The above is the first peal in any method rung on the bells, and the second in the county, the first being rung at Chepstow by a company from Bristol many years ago.

At St. John the Baptist's, Capel, Surrey.

ON Thursday, the 1st inst., six members of the Winchester Diocesan Guild rang 720 WELLS SURPRISE MINOR in 25 mins. J. M. Stedman, 1; R. Jordan, 2; A. Mills, 3; G. Williams, 4; E. Jordan, 5; D. Jordan (conductor), 6. Also 720 LONDON SURPRISE. C. Weeden, 1; the rest as before. This is the first 720 of WELLS SURPRISE rung on the bells; also first in the method by all.

At Birmingham.—Hand-bell Performance.

ON Friday, the 2nd inst., six members of the Birmingham Amalgamated Society and the Birmingham and District Association rang a peal of 5037 GRANDSIRE CINQUES, on hand-bells retained in hand, in 3 hrs. 10 mins. T. Russam,* 1-2; J. Carter (composer and conductor), 3-4; T. Miller, 5-6; G. W. Townsend,* 7-8; J. T. Perry,* 9-10; R. Hackley, 11-12. Tenor, 17 size, B. [*First peal of CINQUES.] This is the first peal of GRANDSIRE CINQUES rung upon hand-bells, and was rung without any two bells lying still in the going off or coming round, which is often the case in CINQUES. The peal contains the 6th fifteen times right and twelve times wrong, and the 5th six times right and nineteen times wrong, with all the 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 9, 10's, and the 6, 5, 8, 7, 11, 9, 10's. Referee: Mr. B. Witchell, of Holt Society, Aston, who marked every course-end off as they were rung. Witnesses: Messrs. A. Hackley and J. Callaghan.

At St. Nicholas', Brighton, Sussex.

ON Sunday evening, the 4th inst., for Divine service, 756 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES were rung in 27 mins. J. Neves, 1; J. Searle (conductor), 2; H. Boniface, 3; J. Fox, 4; W. Palmer, 5; James Neves, 6; C. Tyler, 7; E. Butler, 8.

At St. Andrew's, Bishop Auckland, Durham.

ON Monday evening, the 5th inst., for practice, 720 BOB MINOR (18 bobs and 2 singles), with the tenor behind, were rung in 28 mins. C. Mayne, 1; J. G. Pratt, 2; J. Pallister, 3; F. Crastree, 4; F. Charlton, 5; J. W. Cleminson (conductor*), 6; A. J. B. Waldron, 7. [*First 720 as conductor.]

At Christ Church, Liversedge, Yorkshire.

ON Friday, the 9th inst., to celebrate the eighty-sixth birthday of Mr. William Sottanstell, 1886 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, composed by Mr. Sottanstell, were rung in 1 hr. 9 mins. J. Whitworth, 1; W. Goodall (conductor), 2; J. Illingworth, 3; T. North, 4; H. Brooke, 5; S. Goodall, 6; L. Illingworth, 7; M. Ransden, 8. Tenor, 16 cwt.

At Holy Trinity, Bengoe, Herts.

ON Sunday morning, the 11th inst., 720 OXFORD BOB MINOR (18 bobs and 2 singles) were rung in 26 mins. T. Barker, 1; W. Childs, 2; J. Channer, 3; J. Pomfret, 4; W. Bennett, 5; H. Phillips (conductor), 6. Also, in the evening, 720 DOUBLE COURT BOB MINOR (18 bobs and 2 singles) were rung in 25 mins. T. Barker, 1; M. Ellsmore, 2; J. Channer, 3; J. Pomfret, 4; W. Bennett, 5; H. Phillips (conductor), 6. Tenor, 7½ cwt., in A sharp.

RECEIVED ALSO:—Bath and Keynsham Association (the Report has arrived, and will be noticed next week, but not the 'Outing' mentioned by Mr. R. Lewis).

'WHAT can be more monstrous than the spectacle that may be witnessed any day in numerous West-End churches, where it is an understood thing that "Strangers" remain standing in the aisles until some arbitrarily selected point in the service is reached, when they may regard themselves as free to scramble for a seat? Surely it is nothing short of an indecency that such interruptions of the quietude and order of Divine service should be not only permitted, but actually ordained, and that by the officers of order, the Churchwardens. Such a spectacle would be a barbarism even in a Pagan temple or in a Moslem mosque, but in a Christian church it is worse—it is an outrage upon the first principles of our faith, and a downright sin. Surely it is time that all right-feeling people should demand in the name of mere Christian decency that our churches, and every part of them, shall be free to all from the moment the organ voluntary begins; and it would be well if it could also be arranged that this should begin two or three minutes, at least, before the appointed time of service. If people cannot find their way into church in good time, let them put up with what accommodation they may get, whatsoever they pay for their seats; but to arrange for the interruption of the service of God, in order to suit man's indolence or carelessness, is a refinement of man-pleasing that one cannot think of without indignation and shame.'—*The Rev. W. H. Hay Aitken*,

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. Martin's, Aldington, Kent.

ON Sunday, the 20th ult., after Divine Service in the afternoon, six members of the Kent Association rang 720 OXFORD TREBLE BOB MINOR (nine bobs) in 28 mins. W. Post, jun., 1; D. Hodgkin, 2; P. Hodgkin, 3; F. Wanstall, 4; W. Hyder (conductor), 5; W. Post, sen., 6. The above was rung in honour of Mrs. Blomfield's birthday (wife of the Rector), and the fiftieth accession of her Majesty the Queen.

On the 8th inst., 720 BOB MINOR (20 bobs and 10 singles) in 27 mins. C. Slingsby, 1; J. G. Elliot, 2; D. Hodgkin, 3; P. Hodgkin, 4; W. Hyder (conductor), 5; W. Post, sen., 6. Tenor, 14 cwt., in G. [J. G. Elliot comes from Sittingbourne (first 720). The Aldington ringers would be pleased to meet a visitor any evening, with a few days' notice, after seven o'clock.]

At St. Michael's, Betchworth, Surrey.

ON Tuesday, the 22nd ult., for practice, 720 GRANDSIRE MINOR, in 26 mins. F. Sanders, 1; R. Arnold, 2; F. Arnold, 3; F. Bridgers, 4; W. Sadler, 5; G. Williams (conductor), 6. Also on Tuesday, the 29th ult., 720 COLLEGE SINGLE. F. Arnold, 1; R. Arnold, 2; F. Arnold, 3; F. Bridgers, 4; W. Sadler, 5; G. Williams (conductor), 6. Also on the 6th inst., 720 BOB MINOR (42 singles). F. Sanders, 1; G. Williams (conductor), 2; F. Arnold, 3; F. Bridgers, 4; R. Arnold, 5; W. Sadler, 6. Also 720 COLLEGE SINGLES. F. Arnold, 1; R. Arnold, 2; G. Williams (conductor), 3; F. Bridgers, 4; W. Sadler, 5; E. Moses, 6.

At St. Stephen's, Bristol.

ON Friday, the 25th ult., 518 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES were rung. G. Staddon, 1; H. Tucker, 2; C. Waters, 3; H. Porch, 4; E. Duckham, 5; E. Beake, 6; J. Hinton (conductor), 7; J. Palser, 8. The above was rung on the occasion of the fiftieth birthday of Mr. G. Staddon; his brother-ringers wish him many happy returns, and congratulate him upon his attaining his jubilee.

At St. John the Baptist's, Mersham, Kent.

ON Tuesday evening, the 29th ult., eight members of the Kent Association rang 336 BOB MAJOR. W. Post, jun., 1; E. Ruck, sen., 2; G. Paine, 3; D. Hodgkin, 4; E. Hyder, 5; F. Wanstall, 6; W. Hyder (conductor), 7; P. Hodgkin, 8. Tenor, 13 cwt., in G. [E. Ruck and G. Paine are of the Mersham Band, the rest from Aldington.]

At Nuneaton, Warwickshire.

ON Sunday, the 4th inst., for early service, six 6-scores of GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, called differently, 7, 6, 8 covering. W. Adler, 1; W. Swain, 2; G. Pye, 3; H. Horwood (conductor), 4; T. Lingard, 5; E. Issard, 6; C. Draper, 7; T. Chapman, 8. Also on Tuesday, the 13th inst., five 6-scores in the same method on the back six. T. Chapman, 1; W. Swain, 2; W. Adler, 3; C. Draper, 4; T. Bates (conductor), 5; J. George, 6. Messrs. Pye and George come from Coventry.

At St. George's, Gravesend, Kent.

ON Saturday, the 10th inst., eight members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 50 mins. G. Hayes, 1; G. Conyard, 2; H. Davies (first peal), 3; F. French (conductor), 4; F. Hayes, 5; B. Spunner, 6; W. Harper, 7; G. Martin, 8. Tenor, 20 cwt. The band met to commemorate the erection of a tablet for the peal rung by the same band in February last; and, it also being the twenty-first birthday of G. Hayes, his brother ringers wish him many happy returns of the day.

At St. Padarn's, Llanbadarn, Cornwall.

ON Sunday, the 11th inst., seven of the local company, assisted by Mr. J. Comb of London, rang 120 BOB DOUBLES and a touch of BOB TRIPLES. J. Comb, 1; C. Clark, 2; J. Richards, 3; W. Edwards, 4; H. Hughes, Esq., 5; D. Jenkins, 6; F. Hoffman (conductor), 7; E. Jones, 8. Tenor, 18 cwt., in F sharp.

At the Parish Church, Shireoaks, Nottinghamshire.

ON Sunday, the 11th inst., for evening service, 720 OXFORD TREBLE BOB MINOR was rung in 25 mins. by the Anston and Shireoaks Company. D. Russell, 1; R. S. Fox, 2; R. Knowles, 3; C. F. Fowler, 4; W. Hargreaves (conductor), 5; T. Silvester, 6. Also 360 KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR. D. Russell, 1; F. S. Fox, 2; T. Silvester, 3; C. F. Fowler, 4; W. Hargreaves, 5; J. Hargreaves, 6. Messrs. Silvester, Fowler, and Fox, are from Anston, and are members of the Yorkshire Association.

At the Parish Church, Ross, Herefordshire.

ON Monday, the 12th inst., eight members of the Hereford Diocesan Guild rang Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 4 mins. H. Bird, 1; W. Honeyfield, Esq., 2; W. Atkins, 3; J. Wall, 4; Rev. F. E. Robinson (conductor), 5; A. F. M. Custance, Esq., 6; J. W. Washbrook, 7; R. Clarke, 8. Tenor, 25 cwt.

At St. Anne's, Highgate, Middlesex.

ON Tuesday evening, the 13th inst., eight members of the St. Anne's Society rang a deeply-muffled peal and a touch of 700 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES as a last mark of respect and esteem to the late Mr. Henry Driver, who had been a parochial ringer at the above church for about twenty years. S. Clarke, 1; J. Page, 2; B. Paine, 3; T. Glead, 4; T. Titchener, 5; J. Hannington, 6; G. Newton (conductor), 7; T. Monks, 8. Tenor, 15 cwt.

At St. Albans, Herts.—Handbell Ringing.

ON Wednesday, the 14th inst., 720 GRANDSIRE MINOR was rung by the Cathedral Society of Change-ringers in 22 mins. W. H. L. Buckingham (conductor), 1-2; W. Battle, 3; T. Grant, 4 (first 720 inside);

G. W. Cartmel, 5-6. Also 720 BOB MINOR in 28 mins. T. Grant, 1; W. Battle, 2; G. W. Cartmel, 3-4; W. H. L. Buckingham (conductor), 5-6. Also six members of the above Society visited the church of St. Helen's, Wheathamstead, and rang upon the fine ring of six 720 GRANDSIRE MINOR. T. Grant, 1; G. W. Cartmel, 2; E. A. Hulks, 3; W. H. L. Buckingham, 4; W. Battle, 5; N. N. Hills (conductor), 6.

Beds Association of Change-ringers.

IN accordance with the notice recently given in our columns, a District Meeting was held at Toddington on the afternoon of Saturday, the 17th inst. Upwards of twenty members attended. Owing, however, to the condition of the bells, it was impossible to ring anything creditably; rounds were struck with difficulty, and 168 of BOB MINOR on the middle six were rung after some delay in endeavouring to improve the 'go' of the bells. The Rev. C. E. Haslam, the Rector, who very kindly welcomed the ringers, had expended some pounds in repairs by local tradesmen, in the hope of making the bells more ringable than they were some three years ago when the Association paid a visit to Toddington, but with very 'sorry' results. The Rector generously invited all the ringers to tea at the Rectory. After tea, Mr. I. Hill, of Bedford, proposed that the next District Meeting should be held early in October next at Woburn; Mr. Foote seconded, and it was unanimously agreed to. Handbell ringing was then indulged in on the lawn, and at seven o'clock the Hon. Secretary, Mr. C. Herbert, thanked the Rector on behalf of the ringers for his kindness and hospitality; and as the members going home by the Midland Railway made a start, the Toddington local ringers, with much pride and great strength, fairly lowered the last seven bells in peal. Notwithstanding the disappointments in the tower, a pleasant day was spent.

St. Andrew's, Derby.

THE Society of Change-ringers had their usual summer outing on Saturday, the 17th inst. The Exhibition at Liverpool was selected as at once being useful to the ringers and accessible from Derby. The city was reached about 11 a.m. The *Great Eastern* steamship, lying a few miles up the river, was first visited. At two o'clock the band sat down to a capital dinner provided at the 'Angel Hotel.' The repast concluded, the 'Shippers' were next visited. The Exhibition was the source of great enjoyment to the ringers, the varied tastes of the Society being amply gratified. On returning to the city, a refreshing cup of tea gave new impetus to the party, who afterwards spent their spare time in securing little presents for the 'loved ones at home.' Derby was reached at 11.30, and all felt the better and the wiser for their trip. The Rev. John Allin, curate, and Mr. George Sutherland, one of the churchwardens, kindly escorted and catered for the party. It was unanimously resolved that the best thanks of the Society be given to the Vicar and Churchwardens for providing the very enjoyable excursion. Regret was expressed that unforeseen circumstances prevented Mr. J. Pritchard, the well-known ringer and composer, escorting the members to some Liverpool bellfries.

The Hertfordshire Association.

MEMBERS are requested to take notice that the next Quarterly Meeting of the Association will be held at Baldock on Monday, August 2nd. The arrangements will be the same as on former occasions. Dinner tickets, 2s. each, will be supplied by the local secretaries, to whom applications should be made on Monday, July 26th. Railway tickets will be granted at reduced fares to members on the production of their certificates.

W. WIGRAM, General Secretary.

Bath and Keynsham Association.

WE have been favoured with a copy of the *Report of the Bath and Keynsham United Deaneries Association of Church-bell Ringers*. It is neatly got up, and contains a list of members, report, rules, and statement of accounts. There is no record of any special touches or peals. 'The Committee are glad to note that the art of change-ringing has greatly improved since the formation of the Association.' We hope that the latter may prove the parent of a Diocesan Association before long.

The account of the 'outing' has not yet reached our office.

Surrey Association.

THE Annual Meeting was held at Bletchingley, by the kind permission of the Rector, on Monday, July 19th. There was a very poor attendance, only about twenty members sitting down to tea, a large proportion of these being the local ringers. After some GRANDSIRE DOUBLES had been performed, 720 GRANDSIRE MINOR was rung at Nutfield, conducted by Mr. W. Hawkins. After tea the usual business meeting was held, at which the officers and Committee were unanimously re-elected for the ensuing year. The party then repaired to the tower of Bletchingley Church, and rang several touches in the following methods:—GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, TREBLE BOB MAJOR, UNION TRIPLES, OXFORD BOB TRIPLES, BOB MAJOR, and BOB TRIPLES. The meeting passed a cordial vote of thanks to the Rector of Bletchingley, and also to the Rector of Nutfield, for kindly allowing the use of the bells.

34 Dingwall Road, Croydon.

A. B. CARPENTER, Hon. Sec.

Beddington, Surrey.

THE tower of St. Mary's, a ring of ten bells, will be open on Bank Holiday, August 2nd, to celebrate the sixteenth anniversary of the opening of the bells. All ringers invited. Tower open at two o'clock.

New Bells for Lancaster Parish Church.

MR. WILLIAMSON, M.P., has presented to the parish church of Lancaster a ring of eight bells, which was rung for the first time on Monday last, shortly before the arrival of Mr. Justice Smith to hold the Assizes. The tenor bell weighs 32 cwt. Mr. Williamson has also given a clock for the tower, the total cost of his benefaction being about 1000l.

EAST AFRICA.

THE Universities' Mission, set on foot in 1859, at the request of Livingstone, and which is now under its third Bishop in succession to Mackenzie and Steere, has now three great centres of operation—the island of Zanzibar; the Usambara country north of Zanzibar; and the Rovuma district, 400 miles south of Zanzibar, leading up to the district originally occupied by Bishop Mackenzie. The Mission has turned the old slave-market in Zanzibar into a place of Christian teaching; a church, mission-house, schools, and a native Christian colony, occupy the spot where, twenty years ago, 30,000 slaves were annually exposed for sale. Here the Church completes the work of freedom that the nation begins, by receiving the slaves that are intercepted by British cruisers, Christianising them, and in many instances then restoring them to their own country. For this purpose the Mission has a farm of 130 acres at Mbweni, outside the city of Zanzibar, for the reception of adults, on which the girls' school also stands, and a boys' school at Kiungani, also outside of the city, where there are workshops, and where released slaves have printed the New Testament, as translated into Swahili by Bishop Steere. There are now twenty natives, formerly slaves, employed in Zanzibar, and on the mainland, in the work of evangelisation, one of whom is in deacon's orders. The Bishop, the Archdeacons, the richest man or woman on the staff of the Mission, eat at the same table and lodge in rooms furnished on the same scale with the poorest: the community of feeling thus engendered has proved of the highest value. There are thirty-six Europeans on the staff at present, viz., fifteen clergy, eleven laymen, and ten ladies.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

The Bedfordshire Association.

A DISTRICT MEETING was held at Toddington, Beds, on Saturday, the 17th inst. There was a fair attendance of members. Owing, however, to the condition of the bells, no ringing could creditably be done. Rounds were with some difficulty and hard labour struck during the afternoon, and 168 Bob Minor was accomplished on the middle six. The Bedford ringers, accustomed to handle the heavy ring of St. Paul's, could not even manage the tenor, on repeatedly attempting short touches of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. The services of the bell-hanger are much needed in the Toddington tower. The Rector, the Rev. C. E. Haslam, who very cordially welcomed the members, had expended some pounds in improving the 'go' of the bells, by the aid of local talent, the result being very disappointing to the change-ringers who attended, and who some three years ago managed to ring several touches of BOB MAJOR and GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. At half-past five the Rector kindly invited the ringers, including the local company, to the Rectory, where tea was provided; after which an adjournment was made to the lawn, where the Toddington ringers rang tunes, and the county change-ringers rang touches of OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, &c., on the hand-bells. On the motion of Mr. I. Hills, seconded by Mr. T. Foote, the next District Meeting was arranged to be held at Woburn in October next. Mr. C. Herbert, Hon. Sec., on behalf of the company, thanked the Rector for his kindness and hospitality; and as the Bedford contingent had now to go to the railway station, the Toddington men lowered the last seven bells in peal. Although disappointed in the tower, the gathering was in other respects a pleasing one.

The St. James's Society, London.

ALL Members are requested to attend the meeting on Monday, August 9th, when the Annual Election of Officers will take place. The Revised Rules are now ready, and can be had by members at threepence a copy.
27 Arlington Street, N. J. BARRY, Hon. Sec.

The Yorkshire Association.

ALL Members of the Yorkshire Association who have rung peals during the past year, and have not sent them to the Secretary, are reminded that they should do so at once, as any peal received after the 31st of this month cannot appear in our next report. Also any obituary notice by the same date.
Covered Market, Kirkgate, Leeds. Wm. WHITAKER, Hon. Sec.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At the Parish Church, Pulford, Cheshire.

ON Saturday, the 3rd inst., five members of the local company, assisted by Mr. C. Price, rang 720 KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR (15 bobs), in 27 mins. J. Saladine, 1; G. Jones, 2; W. Morgan, 3; C. Price (conductor), 4; W. Thomas, 5; J. Morgan, 6. The above was the composition of the late Mr. J. Reeves, and is the first by all except the conductor. On Wednesday, the 7th inst., 720 in the same method, with M. Blezard at the 4th, and J. Morgan (conductor); the rest as before.

At St. Helen's, Wheathampstead, Herts.

ON Wednesday, the 7th inst., six members of the St. Albans Cathedral Society visited the above place, and rang 720 GRANDSIRE MINOR. T. Grant, 1; G. W. Cartmel, 2; C. A. Hulks, 3; W. H. L. Buckingham, 4; W. Battle, 5; N. N. Hills (conductor), 6. Also 120 STEDMAN and 120 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES. W. H. L. Buckingham, 1; G. W. Cartmel, 2; W. Battle, 3; E. A. Hulks, 4; N. N. Hills (conductor), 5; T. Grant, 6.

Hand-bell Ringing.—On Wednesday, the 14th inst., 720 GRANDSIRE MINOR (32 bobs and 22 singles). W. H. L. Buckingham (conductor), 1-2; W. Battle, 3; T. Grant (first 720 inside), 4; G. W. Cartmel, 5-6. Also 720

BOB MINOR. T. Grant, 1; W. Battle, 2; G. W. Cartmel, 3-4; W. H. L. Buckingham (conductor), 5-6.

At St. Mary's, Beddington, Surrey.

ON Thursday, the 8th inst., eight members of the Beddington branch of the Surrey Association rang for practice 1152 OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR. J. W. Trappitt (conductor), 1; E. Bennett, 2; E. F. Cole, 3; G. Wellen, 4; Dr. A. B. Carpenter, 5; C. Bance, 6; J. Ploughman, 7; C. Gordon, 8. This is the longest length in the method by any of the above.

At the Cathedral Church of St. Peter, Liverpool.

ON Sunday, the 11th inst., for Divine service, 543 STEDMAN CATERERS were rung. R. Williams, sen., 1; H. Meadows, 2; E. Booth, 3; C. Williams, 4; J. W. Moore, 5; J. Brown, 6; T. Hammond, 7; W. Booth, 8; R. Williams, jun. (conductor), 9; R. Diggle, 10.

Also on Thursday, the 15th inst., a meeting took place to ring Mr. H. Johnson's peal of TREBLE BOB CATERERS, but, owing to one of the company being detained, a quarter-peal of STEDMAN TRIPLES (1260 changes) was rung in 49 mins. R. Williams, sen., 1; G. Helsby, 2; J. Pritchard, 3; C. Williams, 4; W. Booth, 5; J. Egerton, 6; R. Williams, jun. (conductor), 7; W. Brooks, 8. Tenor, 25 cwt. The above was rung to commemorate the fiftieth birthday of Mr. J. Egerton, his brother-ringers wishing him many happy returns of the day.

At the Parish Church, West Malling, Kent.

ON Wednesday, the 14th inst., eight members of the Kent County Association rang a peal of 5040 BOB TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 51 mins. E. Baldock, 1; E. Bonner, 2; G. Bell, 3; W. Harden, 4; G. Newman, 5; D. Hall, 6; J. W. Leonard (conductor), 7; W. Bellingham, 8. Tenor, 12½ cwt.

At St. Mary's, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

ON Thursday, the 15th inst., a peal of 5003 GRANDSIRE CATERERS was rung in 3 hrs. 27 mins. J. Belcher, 1; W. T. Pates, 2; H. Hodges, 3; F. E. Ward, Esq., 4; H. Roberts (first peal in any method), 5; T. Hooper, 6; F. Musty, 7; H. Karn (conductor), 8; G. H. Phillott, Esq., 9; A. Humphries, 10. Tenor, 23 cwt.

At All Saints', Duffield, Derbyshire.

ON Friday, the 16th inst., eight members of the Midland Counties Association rang a peal of 5008 DOUBLE OXFORD BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 12 mins. G. Dawson, 1; E. Moreton, 2; S. Johnson, 3; A. Robinson, 4; G. Hingley, 5; J. Howe, 6; J. W. Taylor, jun., 7; A. P. Heywood (composer and conductor), 8. Tenor, 17 cwt. This peal, which is now rung for the first time, contains the 5th and 4th respectively twenty-four and twenty-two times in 6th's place, no other bell being ever there.

At Holy Trinity, Bengeo, Herts.

ON Friday, the 16th inst., for practice, 720 COLLEGE SINGLES were rung. J. Pomfret, 1; M. Ellsmore, 2; J. Channer, 3; W. Bennett, 4; W. Odell, 5; H. Phillips (conductor), 6.

ON Sunday, the 18th inst., 720 OXFORD BOB MINOR were rung. T. Barker, 1; J. Pomfret, 2; M. Ellsmore, 3; W. Childs, 4; W. Bennett, 5; H. Phillips (conductor), 6. Also for Divine service in the evening two 720's KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR. W. Childs, 1; H. Phillips (conductor), 2; M. Ellsmore, 3; J. Pomfret, 4; W. Odell, 5; W. Bennett, 6.

At St. Giles's, Cripplegate, City of London.

ON Saturday, the 17th inst., by order of the Churchwardens, twelve members of the Ancient Society of College Youths (also the parochial ringers)—Messrs. Pettit, Clarke, Cecil, Cooter, Jameson, Haworth, Dorrington, Dwight, Mash, Greenleaf, Hayes, and Horrex—rang a peal, with the bells deeply muffled, as a last token of respect to the Rev. P. P. Gilbert, the late Vicar, who was buried at Ealing on the same day. Afterwards two courses of STEDMAN CINQUES.

At St. Mary's, Coddensham, Suffolk.

ON Saturday, the 17th inst., eight members of the Norwich Diocesan Association rang a peal of 5088 OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 3 mins. W. Dye, 1; I. S. Alexander, 2; Rev. W. C. Pearson, 3; J. Mottis, 4; A. S. Wightman, 5; D. G. Wightman, 6; A. R. Aldham, 7; E. Pemberton, 8. Composed by Mr. N. J. Pitstow and conducted by Mr. W. Dye (Helmington). Tenor, 16 cwt. Messrs. Alexander, Mottis, Pemberton, and Aldham (Ipswich); Messrs. Wightman (Creetingham); and Rev. W. C. Pearson, late of Syston.

At St. Giles's, Shipbourne, Kent.

ON Sunday, the 18th inst., for Divine service in the evening, 720 BOB MINOR were rung in 23 mins. F. G. Newman (conductor), 1; G. Bishop, sen., 2; W. Bellingham, 3; G. Bishop, jun., 4; G. Newman, 5; G. Bell (conductor), 6. Also 720, with 18 bobs and 2 singles, in 23 mins. W. Bell, 1; G. Bishop, 2; G. Newman, 3; W. Bellingham, 4; G. Bell (conductor), 5; F. G. Newman, 6. Tenor, 11 cwt., in G.

At St. Lawrence's, Mereworth, Kent.

ON Sunday, the 18th inst., for Divine service in the morning, 720 BOB MINOR were rung in 24 mins. W. Bell, 1; D. Hook, 2; W. Eldridge, 3; G. Newman, 4; G. Bell, 5; F. G. Newman (conductor), 6. Also 720, with 42 singles, in 24 mins. Tenor, 12 cwt.

At St. Nicholas's, Nuneaton, Warwickshire.

ON Tuesday evening, the 27th inst., for practice, ten 6-scores of GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, called differently; 3 and 5 to the observation, 7, 6, 8 covering. W. Adler, 1; W. Swain, 2; C. Draper, 3; H. Horwood (conductor), 4; T. Bates, 5; T. Chapman, 6; J. George (Coventry), 7; J. Ballard, 8. Tenor, 14½ cwt. in E.

RECEIVED ALSO:—Oxford Diocesan Guild (next week); and others.

died, to be thrown into the same grave with him. But now all the natives, I believe, profess Christianity; there is good attendance at worship and a school in every village; since 1876 no act of cannibalism has been discovered in even the least accessible parts; and the general standard of morality is extremely good.'

AUSTRALIA.

In South Australia a church is erecting at Dublin, in a new outlying district. The Bishop of Adelaide's letter, asking the S.P.C.K. to make a grant towards this object, illustrates the circumstances in which Church work has to be carried on at such places:—'A working man said to me, when I laid the foundation-stone of this church, "Thank God for this day! For months together I have driven the mission parson thirty miles on the one Sunday a month he could come to give us a service; we had the loan of a little cottage, and we each of us carried a lamp to see our Prayer-books. There were only seven of us then; all the rest had gone over to Dissent; but now they are coming back, and we get thirty or forty people at our service, which is now in the Institute.'" The Bishop remarks, "When a church is built, a Sunday school is at once begun in it, and no doubt the Sunday school in these Colonies is the key to the whole position.'

An International Exhibition, to celebrate the Jubilee of the Queen and of the colony of South Australia, will be held at Adelaide next year. The Colonial Government has appointed a Royal Commission to further the objects of the Exhibition, and the London Committee of this body has the Duke of Manchester for its chairman.

PROBABLY the colonies now advancing most rapidly in population are Queensland and West Australia—the latter in consequence of the gold discoveries. Queensland is going forward with giant strides: its present population is estimated at 330,000, being an increase since 1881 of 117,500.

EAST AFRICA.

THE martyred Bishop Hannington's successor will be the Rev. H. P. Parker (at present missionary in the north of India, and previously curate of Holy Trinity, Exeter), the Archbishop of Canterbury having consented to consecrate him at the suggestion of the Secretaries of the C.M.S.

ABYSSINIA, according to the Massowa correspondent of the *Afret*, is now pervaded by 'Greek' priests from the Holy Land, Mount Athos, and Egypt. They are well off for money, and are doing much towards assimilating the Ethiopian Coptic service to the Eastern Orthodox rite.

THE Universities Mission has to lament the death from fever, at Magila, of the Rev. C. S. B. Riddell, who left Aylesbury for this work in 1884, and was much respected there.

SOUTH AFRICA.

THE Transvaal having suffered great material adversity since it—let us hope only temporary—abandonment by England, our Church there has had great difficulties thrown in her way. Bishop Bousfield, who first went to Pretoria as his see in 1879, returned thither from a visit to England in quest of aid at the beginning of last year. The recent death of his wife has been a public as well as a private loss, but he continues working on with all the energy that distinguished his Wessex incumbency at Andover. In May he met the fourth synod of the diocese; his Charge and the subsequent proceedings show a distinct advance in Church work, notwithstanding all adverse influences. The Kaap goldfields, now coming into note, have already got a priest-in-charge; two or three more clergy could have work found for them at once.

THE LEVANT.

THE second meeting of the 'Association in furtherance of Christianity in Egypt' has been held in the Jerusalem Chamber, Westminster, Archdeacon Harrison in the chair. The Secretary, the Rev. M. Blakiston, read the report of the three and a half years' existence of the Society. The visit to Egypt in 1884 of the Revs. H. G. Morse and A. T. Chapman had given encouraging hopes. Two envoys to England from Abyssinia became interested. To foster friendly relations with the Orthodox Greek and the Coptic Churches, the Rev. G. Greenwood went out to Egypt at the beginning of the present year, accompanied by Mr. J. Sidley from Lancing College. 'Gordon College' has been established by them at Cairo, the pupils already numbering twenty-eight; and they urge also the establishment of a superior day school for girls. The Patriarchs of the two Native Communions and the British rulers in Egypt alike wished these efforts well. The Bishop of Gibraltar, Bishop Titcomb, Sir Fred. Goldsmid, Dean Butcher, and Mr. Few, were speakers at the meeting. The funds of the Association show that interest in its object continues warm.

ITALY.

COUNT DI CAMPELLO writes to the *Record* announcing the relapse of Mgr. Savarese, who, it is said, has been won over by a rich offer from the Vatican, and protests against the insinuation that he himself might also make his submission. 'Having renounced a high position as Canon of the Vatican Basilica for the simple purpose of embracing the pure Gospel of Christ, I have dedicated my humble powers to the reformation of the Italian Church, and by God's grace will continue to the end faithful to my calling.'

GERMANY.

LISZT, the great musician just deceased, who was in Roman Catholic Orders, remarked after his last visit to England that there was so much congregational music in our churches that our people probably sang more than any on earth, but that there ought to be congregational practice—'the effect of a whole congregation singing together in good time being magnificent.' He regretted that among Roman Catholics it was impossible to get the people to sing.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

The St. James's Society, London.

ALL Members are requested to attend the meeting on Monday, August 9th, when the Annual Election of Officers will take place. The Revised Rules are now ready, and can be had by members at threepence a copy.
27 Arlington Street, N. J. BARRY, Hon. Sec.

Rochdale and District Association.

THE Quarterly Meeting of the above Association will be held at Milnrow to-morrow, August 7th. Meeting at 4. All members are requested to attend.

The Annual Holiday of the St. Nicholas' Company, Yarmouth.

ON Saturday, the 24th ult., the above company had their annual holiday. Leaving Vauxhall station for Aylsham (ten bells) they rang a short touch, and then proceeded to Marsham (eight bells). After ringing they returned to Aylsham station and took train for North Elmham (eight bells). Another touch, and on to Dereham; after handling the ropes a short time they proceeded to Norwich. Ringing a few touches at St. John's, Maddermarket, and St. Lawrence, the party returned home by the 10 p.m. train for Yarmouth, well pleased with their day's ringing.

Death of an Old Ringer at Plymouth.

MR. JOHN LEWIS, for fifty-six years a ringer at St. Andrew's and Charles' churches, was buried on Wednesday, the 28th ult., in his family vault in Charles' churchyard. There was a large attendance of relatives and friends. Six ringers acted as bearers. After the funeral the usual muffled peals were rung at Charles' Church, and afterwards the ringers assembled at St. Andrew's to pay a last tribute of respect to their departed friend by ringing a muffled peal, after which 'Auld Lang Syne' was played on the carillon. Mr. Lewis was seventy-one years of age.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. Benedict's, Wombourne, Staffordshire.

ON Wednesday, the 14th ult., six members of the Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford (St. Benedict's Society), rang a peal of 720 DOUBLE OXFORD BOB MINOR (18 bobs and 2 singles) in 24½ mins. G. Little, 1; H. Deans, 2; A. Little, 3; W. Devey, 4; J. E. Claridge, 5; R. Cartwright (conductor), 6. Tenor, 12½ cwt. [This is the first 720 in the method by the above, the first by the Association, also the first upon the bells.]

At St. Mary's, Walton-on-the-Hill, Lancashire.

ON Saturday evening, the 17th ult., 720 LONDON SINGLE BOB MINOR and 720 GRANDSIRE MINOR were rung in 58 mins. J. Nightingale, 1; C. J. Rodgers, 2; W. Short, 3; T. R. Somerville, 4; R. H. Barton, 5; C. E. Wilson (conductor), 6. This is the first 720 LONDON SINGLE by Messrs. Short and Barton.

ON Monday evening, 19th ult., 720 SINGLE BOB COURT MINOR in 26 mins. J. Nightingale, 1; C. J. Rodgers, 2; W. Short, 3; C. E. Wilson (conductor), 4; R. H. Barton, 5; W. Booth, 6. [This is the first 720 in the method by all the ringers.]

ON the 26th ult., 240 PLAIN BOB MINOR, 120 GRANDSIRE MINOR, and 120 OXFORD SINGLE BOB MINOR. J. Hurst, 1; C. J. Rodgers, 2; T. R. Somerville, 3; T. Rushton, 4; R. Stockley, 5; C. E. Wilson (conductor), 6. Messrs. Barton and Short belong to Bootle, W. Booth to Liverpool. Tenor, 9 cwt.

At the Parish Church, Deerhurst, Gloucestershire.

ON Sunday, the 18th ult., three members of the St. Lawrence's Company of Barnwood visited the above church, and, assisted by three of the local men, rang 720 KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR (9 bobs) in 26 mins. A. A. Waite, 1; C. Willis, 2; H. Roberts, 3; C. Roles, 4; H. Mitchell, 5; R. A. Barrett (conductor), 6. A 720 PLAIN BOB MINOR (9 bobs and 6 singles), in 26 mins. G. Hern, 1; R. A. Barrett, 2; C. Roles, 3; H. Roberts, 4; H. Mitchell, 5; A. A. Waite (conductor), 6. A 360 GRANDSIRE MINOR (18 bobs and 12 singles), in 13 mins. C. Roles, 1; G. Hern, 2; A. A. Waite, 3; H. Roberts, 4; H. Mitchell (conductor), 5; R. A. Barrett, 6. Several six-scores of STEDMAN and GRANDSIRE DOUBLES were also rung. H. Mitchell, A. A. Waite, and R. A. Barrett, from Barnwood; G. Hern, Gloucester; the rest are local men; and all belong to the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association.

At Abingdon, Berks.

ON Monday, the 19th ult., being the Annual Festival of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, a peal of 720 GRANDSIRE MINOR was rung at St. Nicholas' church in 20 mins. A. Garraway (conductor), 1; J. Wilkins, 2; H. Wright, 3; A. Fussell, 4; R. Hibbert, 5; W. H. Fussell, 6. Tenor, 7 cwt. At St. Helen's touches of GRANDSIRE and STEDMAN CATERES were rung, in which the following persons took part:—Rev. F. E. Robinson, Rev. J. R. Vincent, L. Proctor, Esq., H. D. Betteridge, Esq., C. Hounslow, J. Field, W. Newell, W. and A. Fussell, W. Robbins, W. Jeffery, W. Finch, and J. R. Haworth of London. Tenor, 20 cwt.

At the Parish Church, East Hagbourne, Berks.

ON Tuesday, the 20th ult., Taylor's Bob-and-single peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES was attempted; the treble rope stranded after ringing 46 mins. J. Pether, 1; R. Hibbert, 2; A. Fussell, 3; D. Napper, 4; E. Napper, 5; W. Napper (conductor), 6; W. Fussell, 7; A. Woodley, 8. Tenor, 23½ cwt. A pleasant day was spent here by the Fussell brothers, in company with the Nappers.

At Christ Church, Mitcham, Surrey.

ON Saturday, the 24th ult., six members of the Surrey Association rang, to celebrate the birthday of W. J. Harris, Esq., the donor of the bells, 720 BOB MINOR (18 bobs and 2 singles) in 24 mins. H. J. Schneider, 1; E. Burtenshaw, 2; D. Burtenshaw, 3; R. Reynolds, 4; G. Welling, 5; W. Burkin (conductor), 6. Also 720 OXFORD TREBLE BOB (9 bobs) in 24 mins. C. Martin, 1; J. Fayers, 2; C. Bance, 3; G. Welling, 4; W. Burkin, 5; J. Trappitt (conductor), 6. TOUCHES of STEDMAN DOUBLES, OXFORD TREBLE and KENT TREBLE BOB, were also rung.

On the 25th ult. 360 GRANDSIRE MINOR. H. J. Schneider, 1; J. Fayers, 2; D. Burtenshaw, 3; R. Reynolds, 4; G. Welling, 5; A. Nicholson (conductor), 6. And several six-scores of GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, in which C. Schneider took part in addition to the above. W. Burkin belongs to Nutfield; C. Bance, C. Martin, and J. Trappitt to Beddington; and J. Fayers and G. Welling to SS. Peter and Paul, Mitcham; the rest are Christ Church ringers. There is a friendly ringing meeting held in the Christ Church tower the first Saturday in each month, and any ringers are welcome. Ringing at 7.30 p.m.

At St. Peter's, Drayton, Berks.

ON Saturday, the 24th ult., eight members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild rang Thurstan's peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 2 mins. T. Payne, 1; G. Jones, 2; Rev. F. E. Robinson, 3; F. Field, 4; H. D. Betteridge, Esq., 5; J. Field (conductor), 6; C. A. Clements (Salisbury), 7; F. Clinch, 8.

At St. George's, Dunster, Somerset.

ON Saturday, the 24th ult., on the occasion of a visit from the Rev. Herbert A. Cockey, late hon. sec. of the Essex Association, seven members of the Guild of St. George with the reverend gentleman rang a quarter-peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 45 mins. E. Hole, 1; Rev. J. Utten Todd, 2; J. Grabham, 3; J. Tudball, 4; C. B. Craze, 5; W. W. Thrush, 6; Rev. H. A. Cockey (conductor), 7; J. Pain, 8. Tenor, 21 cwt.

At the Parish Church, Writtle, Essex.

ON Sunday, the 25th ult., for morning service, 336 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES were rung by H. Pamplin, 1; J. Everard, 2; R. Wood, 3; F. Radley, 4; G. E. Hilliard, Esq., 5; Rev. T. L. Papillon, 6; W. Lincoln (conductor), 7; C. J. Dennison, 8. Tenor, 18 cwt. [This is the first touch of this length by the local company without assistance from outside the parish.]

At St. Mary Magdalene's, Oxford.

ON Sunday, the 25th ult., a peal of 720 OXFORD TREBLE BOB MINOR was rung in 25 mins. A. Browning, 1; J. R. Jerram, 2; C. A. Clements, 3; W. Baston (conductor), 4; F. Castle, 5; H. J. Castle, 6.

Also on Tuesday, the 27th ult., a peal of 720 GRANDSIRE MINOR was rung in 30 mins. C. Tolley, 1; J. R. Jerram, 2; P. Hind, 3; A. Hind, 4; C. A. Clements, 5; C. Hounslow (conductor), 6. Tenor, 10 cwt.

At the Parish Church, Hull.

ON Tuesday, the 27th ult., eight members of the Yorkshire Association rang a peal of 5024 BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 2 mins. W. Southwick, 1; H. Cutter, 2; J. Pollard (Pontefract, first peal in the method), 3; H. Jenkins, 4; T. Stockdale, 5; J. Dixey, 6; F. Drabble, 7; C. Jackson (composer and conductor), 8. Tenor, 25 cwt.

At St. John's, Staveley.

ON the 31st ult. a peal of 5024 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR was rung in 3 hrs. 15 mins. A. Knights, Chesterfield, 1; H. Madin, Staveley, 2; J. Hunt, Staveley, 3; S. Wood, Ashton-under-Lyne, 4; C. H. Hattersley, Sheffield (composer), 5; J. Harris, Staveley, 6; A. Brierley, Bradfield, 7; T. Hattersley, Sheffield (conductor), 8. Tenor, 18 cwt. This peal has the fifth and sixth their extent in 5-6, and contains the greatest number of changes ever composed with the sixth and tenor together in fourteen courses. By using the alternative calling in the twelfth course it would be increased to 5088; if used in the eleventh and twelfth would be 5056, and if used in the tenth, eleventh, and twelfth courses would be reduced again to 5024. [County not given.]

	2	3	4	5	6	M.	R.	W.	T.
1	3	6	4	5	2	1			2
2	6	3	2	5	4		1	2	
3	5	2	3	6	4			2	2
4	2	5	4	6	3			1	2
5	2	4	6	5	3	1			2
6	3	2	5	4	6	2		1	2
7	3	5	4	2	6	1			2
8	2	4	5	3	6			2	2
9	4	2	6	3	5		2		2
10	3	6	2	4	5			2	2
11	5	3	4	6	2	2		1	2
12	3	2	4	6	5	1			2
13	3	4	6	2	5	1			2
14	2	3	4	5	6	2		2	2

At St. Philip's, Birmingham.

ON Sunday, the 1st inst., for morning service, a touch of 755 GRANDSIRE CATERS was rung in 31 mins. R. Bowkett, 1; T. Russam, 2; J. R. Jerram, 3; J. Callaghan, 4; J. Carter (conductor), 5; C. Barnacle, 6; C. A. Clements, 7; J. T. Perry, 8; A. Hackley, 9; C. Sparkes, 10. Tenor, 29 cwt.

At St. Clement Danes, London.

ON Sunday evening, the 1st inst., for Divine Service, ten members of the St. James's Society rang 1241 GRANDSIRE CATERS in 48 mins. G. T. McLaughlin, 1; W. Chew, 2; C. F. Winny, 3; H. Davies, 4; A. E. Church, 5; W. W. Gifford (Salisbury), 6; H. Langdon, 7; B. E. Battum, 8; J. M. Hayes (conductor), 9; E. Carter, 10. Tenor, 24 cwt.

At St. Chad's, Birmingham.

ON Monday, the 2nd inst., Holt's Six-part peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (5040 changes) was rung in 2 hrs. 52 mins. W. Saniger, 1; J. Callaghan, 2; J. R. Jerram, 3; J. Carter (conductor), 4; C. A. Clements, 5; T. Russam, 6; T. Miller, 7; A. Druce, 8. Tenor, 15 cwt. Messrs. J. R. Jerram and C. A. Clements come from Salisbury.

At St. Michael's, Sittingbourne, Kent.

ON Monday, the 2nd inst., the following mixed band rang Holt's Ten-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 57 mins. P. Boyles, 1; L. Willshire, 2; J. Waghorn, jun. (conductor), 3; P. Simms, 4; T. B. Reed, sen., 5; J. Waghorn, sen., 6; Henry G. Fairbrass, 7; E. J. Bottle, 8. Afterwards, later in the day, a quarter-peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, taken from Holt's Original, in 43 mins. P. Boyles, 1; — Elliott, 2; E. J. Bottle, 3; P. Simms, 4; H. G. Fairbrass (conductor), 5; J. Waghorn, sen., 6; J. Waghorn, jun., 7; J. Grenstead, 8.

At All Saints', Fulham, Middlesex.

ON Monday, the 2nd inst., ten members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang a peal of 5003 GRANDSIRE CATERS in 3 hrs. 15 mins. G. T. McLaughlin, 1; C. F. Winny, 2; H. Langdon, 3; B. E. Battum, 4; W. W. Gifford* (Salisbury), 5; S. Hayes,* 6; H. Pearce* (Maidstone), 7; E. E. Vinen,* 8; J. M. Hayes, 9; T. Coxhead, 10. Composed by Mr. H. Johnson, sen., and conducted by Mr. J. M. Hayes. Tenor, 21 cwt., in E flat. [* First peal of CATERS.]

At St. Barnabas', Great Tey, Essex.

LATELY, in July, the above village was visited by a party of change-ringers from the following places:—Sudbury, Long Melford, Glemsford, Bures, Walter Belchamp, and Foxearth. Two courses of BOB MAJOR were rung by F. Tolliday, 1; S. Slater, 2; W. Gridley, 3; J. Bird, 4; O. Garwood, 5; P. C. S. Scott, 6; H. Harper, 7; C. Sillitoe, 8. Afterwards a touch of KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR (1182 changes) was rung by F. Tolliday, 1; S. Slater, 2; O. Garwood, 3; W. Howell, 4; W. Nevard, 5; H. Harper, 6; G. Galley, 7; C. Sillitoe (conductor), 8. A novel feature in bell-ringing occurred during the afternoon, a touch of 336 BOB MAJOR being rung by eight men belonging to eight different parishes. C. Sillitoe (Sudbury, conductor), 1; J. Lee (Foxearth), 2; W. Nevard (Great Bentley), 3; J. Hume (Bures), 4; W. Galley (Great Tey), 5; P. C. S. Scott (Long Melford), 6; N. Hawkins (Belchamp), 7; O. Garwood (Glemsford), 8. Also a touch of 504 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. These bells were made into a ring of eight in 1671, being now 215 years old. The tenor weighs 15 cwt.

RECEIVED ALSO — Oxford Diocesan Guild (next week); and others.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Bishop Pelham's Charge.

SIR,—As one of his lordship's clergy, who was present at the delivery of the Charge, I was very glad to read your review of it, more especially that part in which you demur to the good Bishop's remarks on the omission of the exhortation to those intending to communicate. For I am one of the offenders in this respect, and I do not see how any of those who have a weekly celebration can be otherwise than offenders. His lordship could, I dare say, bear witness to the fact that this 'growing tendency,' of which he complains, is not to be found in parishes where the incumbent is inactive, and where Church work is more or less dormant. But I have another motive in writing, and I would say what I have to say further with all due respect to my diocese. There is another 'growing tendency' in the diocese, which must be a source of regret to all who love Church order, namely, to invite and allow the congregation to repeat the General Thanksgiving in conjunction with the Minister. I suppose that there is no doubt whatever that this practice owes its origin to a mistaken idea as to the meaning of the word 'General,' and that inasmuch as the General Confession is said by the congregation after the Minister, the same rule is to be adopted with the General Thanksgiving. But applying to this 'growing tendency' the same criticism as that applied by the Bishop to the other, can he tell us of any 'authority' for the practice, which he himself has directly encouraged? And does he not think that, without such authority, upon the same principle we may hear of the Prayer for all Conditions of Men, as well as other prayers, being repeated by the congregation in the same way? What is to be our guide if this sort of thing is once introduced? I wish some of my brethren, who have adopted this practice, would weigh the possible consequences of such 'lawlessness.' As you have well pointed out, there is excellent reason for the one 'growing tendency,' but there is absolutely none for the other, and the sooner it is discontinued the better.

A SUFFOLK RECTOR.

The Home Reunion Society.

SIR,—As a member of the Home Reunion Society, perhaps you will not mind my addressing a few lines on the subject. I could not help noticing in the No. for July 16th, side by side with Home Reunion Notes, one of the greatest libels on the name in the midst of our own Church, which is now so zealously pleading the cause of union with those outside her walls. Has she not much to do amongst her own baptized children in her own Communion to make her public worship and ritual sufficiently comprehensive to suit their various needs, at the same time firmly to draw the line where they are to stop, and which no toleration must allow them to overstep—appealing to their principles first, and afterwards holding the rod of law over any disloyalty to her authority? I am certain, until she has set her own house in order on that important point she will only breed disunion instead of healing the sores in her Master's Kingdom. Such is the humble opinion of

ONE WHO DAILY PRAYS FOR HOME REUNION.

SIR,—As I always take a deep interest in the question of Home Reunion, I have read carefully the extracts from the address of the Bishop of Adelaide and the discussion thereon in the Synod, as given in your issue of the 23rd ult. With some of the statements there reported, as well as with other

to meet the stipend charges by 356*l.*; showing the net saving on the whole to be 869*l.* The loss of commutation capital by payment of annuities during same period was 939*l.*, consequently the net loss of capital on the combined commutation and sustentation accounts was only 70*l.*

The Temperance Report showed that during the past year one new branch and 152 members had been added to the Temperance Society, making a total of 1982—1708 total abstainers, and 274 temperance members. In the Western Division and Kilfenora, there was also an increase in the number of members.

A motion to abolish the Deanery and Chapter of the diminutive diocese of Kilfenora was rejected, and the Synod shortly afterwards closed with the Benediction said by the Bishop.

The Annual Meeting of the Diocesan Synod of Leighlin was held in the County Club Room, Carlow, on the 4th inst., the Bishop of Ossory in the chair. His Lordship alluded in feeling terms to the retirement of the Rev. Charles Grogan, who has held the incumbency of the parish of Bagnalstown for over half a century. 'During all that time,' said the Bishop, 'he sustained the high character of a diligent and faithful pastor, a kind and courteous friend, and a generous supporter of every good work. Indeed, his liberality amounted almost to a fault, and he will be long missed, not only in his parish, but throughout this diocese, where he was always known as the warm and self-denying supporter of every charitable and useful project. Our good wishes and earnest prayers will follow him into the retirement of private life, and we trust that the evening of his days will be cheered and illuminated by the light of that blessed Gospel which he preached so lovingly, so faithfully, and so long.'

Speaking of the critical times they were passing through, his Lordship said: 'Already we can see rifts in the darksome clouds; and my deep conviction is that if we can tide over a few years of difficulty and anxiety, we shall find ourselves, with God's blessing, in even more hopeful circumstances than we are at present. I have ever held that the chief difficulties of our Church are neither of a political nor of a financial kind. If we are only true to truth, faithful to the principles we profess, and consistent in the life and character which become that profession, we need not fear that we shall be forsaken.'

'During the last week,' continued the Bishop, 'I received two most encouraging letters—one in reference to a landlord who, owing to peculiar circumstances, has sold his Irish property, but who has written to say that he will make up for his annual contribution to the parish where it lay by giving twenty years' purchase of that contribution, so as to secure it for ever to the benefit of the Church. The other case has been mentioned to me by one of my Archdeacons, who tells me that on Sunday last a farmer's widow handed him a little roll, hoping, as she said, that she was not breaking the Sabbath by giving him a donation which she had been keeping by her and gathering together for the benefit of the Church. On opening this roll it was found to contain twenty 5*l.* notes.'

The Right Hon. Henry Bruen submitted the Report of the Diocesan Council, and moved its adoption. The Report stated:—

'Since closing the accounts 31st December, 1886. 1*s.* 5*d.* was lodged with the diocesan treasurers, but this goes to the account of 1886. On the 31st December, 1885, our Commutation Capital was 48,019*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.*, being reduced from 49,559*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.* by 1540*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.* excess of annuities over interest. On same date the composition balance was 39,722*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.*, and the Stipend Fund 44,370*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.* In consequence of Rev. T. Pennefather having compounded since beginning of 1886, the Commutation Capital has been further reduced by 2268*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*, leaving it now 45,750*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*; but against this loss is to be put 884*l.* 1*s.*, added to the composition balance, and 221*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.* reduction of annuities, which are now 3231*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.* The composition balance now stands at 40,666*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.* The stipend fund is 44,370*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.*, and these sums together make our realised capital to be 84,977*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.* The estimate for this year is:—Debtor—Annuities, 3300*l.*; stipend, 6320*l.*; balance in favour of diocese, 7411*l.*; total, 10,271*l.* Credit—Assessment, 5023*l.*; interest commutation, 1834*l.*; interest composition, 1642*l.*; interest stipend fund, 1772*l.*; total, 10,271*l.*'

The Temperance Report stated that there were 700 total abstainers and 150 temperance members on the diocesan roll, and in the Queen's County division a total of 963 members.

The annual meeting of the Spanish and Portuguese Church Aid Society was held in Christ Church Parochial Hall, Kingstown, on the 4th inst., the Archbishop of Dublin, President, in the chair. The Annual Report was read by the Rev. H. E. Noyes, Hon. Sec. The cause of the Society was advocated by his Grace and the Revs. J. Verschoyle, R. B. Stoney, and S. Potter.

The Bishop of Killaloe has presented the Very Rev. R. Humphreys, dean of Kilfenora, to the Deanery of Killaloe, vacant by the death of the late Dean Robbins.

The Diocesan Synod of Fermis met in the Church Rooms, Enniscorthy, on Tuesday, the 10th inst., the Bishop of Ossory in the chair. The financial Report stated that the debt due on the assessment fund had been steadily reducing during the year past.

COLONIAL AND FOREIGN CHURCH NEWS.

CANADA.

The Theological College of Melbourne, Australia, has become affiliated to the University of Trinity College, Toronto, for the purpose of obtaining degrees in divinity.

The Bishop of Ontario in meeting his Synod urged the need of dividing the diocese.

At the Synod of Nova Scotia, the Bishop of the diocese welcomed as a visitor Bishop Perry, of Iowa, from the neighbouring republic. The latter delighted the Synod by stating that he had, on account of the largeness of British immigration, obtained the consent of the President to insert in the Prayer-book a prayer for the Queen of Great Britain.

MADAGASCAR.

ROMANISM is losing no time in turning to account the 'Protectorate' claimed by France, despite the protests of the Malaguese against her misinterpretation of the treaty which closed the late war. In April Mgr. Cazet, the Jesuit 'Vicar-Apostolic of Madagascar,' landed at Tamatave from a French frigate amid a salvo of all its guns, so 'that the great African island might know that its first pastor had arrived to take possession of it in the name of Christ.' However much the present French Government may assail Romanism, and indeed religion in any shape, at home, it is politic enough to maintain the traditional attitude abroad which even the Protestant Guizot adhered to with the saying, '*La France au-dehors, c'est le Catholicisme.*'

FRANCE.

M. HYACINTHE LOYSON has received a letter from M. Vilatte, Old Catholic missionary to the Belgian immigrants in Wisconsin, United States, acknowledging the receipt of copies of the reformed French ritual. M. Vilatte writes that he has with him an ex-Trappist, who preaches in German, and will minister to his neighbours speaking that tongue. The dedication of the new church was to take place this month. M. Vilatte, who studied in France and Canada, was forced out of the Roman Communion by the action of the Vatican Council. By M. Loyson's advice he obtained ordination from Bishop Herzog in Berne, and returned to conduct his American mission under the supervision of the Anglican Bishop of Fond-du-Lac. Many of his congregation come from a distance of fifteen miles to his services.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell-ringers at Abingdon.

THE sixth annual festival of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell-ringers was held on Monday the 19th July, at Abingdon, and the weather being fine, the gathering was very successful. At 11.15 a service was held at the newly-restored Church of St. Helen's. Appropriate hymns were sung, and the service was very hearty throughout. The choral portion of the service was admirably rendered. The first lesson was read by the Rev. D. Paul, and the second by the Rev. G. Marshall, rector of Milton, and Rural Dean. The Bishop of Oxford preached an eloquent sermon from the words 'They offered them before the Lord; therefore they are hallowed' (Numbers, xvi. 38). His Lordship dwelt on the fact that small gifts, if they were the best we could offer to God, were as good as the richest offerings we could make. It might be a few flowers out of the cottage garden to deck the House of God, or a poor, simple strain of music in the village choir, which we could offer, but we should not be ashamed of that which was our best; rather let us be ashamed of the richest and choicest, for all that we did was unworthy of Him. Some churches were poor little places, and some were noble, ancient fabrics which had been contributed to by benefactors; but still the little, poor church, if it was the best that could be offered, was as acceptable in God's eyes as the greatest. There were few things richer or more attractive than the music of a good ring of bells, on which the founders' care and the benefactors' wealth, and the skill of the ringers, were bestowed, and yet there might be some poor place, where there was nothing but one little tinkling sound, all that could be offered, which was as acceptable in His sight as the grandest peal they could have. 'Every devoted thing is most holy to the Lord.' It was a great part of religion to know where God revealed Himself, where His presence was, and what things belonged to Him, and good, religious people were pleased with the tokens which reminded them of God's presence. Amongst the things by which God spoke to them were the bells that pealed forth from their church towers with their rich music, and the sound going far beyond the walls from which it was produced, and falling sometimes on the ear of the lonely wanderer, and sometimes on the ear of a person on a sick bed. After referring to the purposes for which the bells were used, the Bishop spoke of those who rung the bells and those who were associated together in the work in which they were engaged, and said that God had consecrated them to His service, and they were His. The blessing was pronounced by the Bishop, and as the procession of the clergy and choir left the church, Hymn 274, 'Through the night of doubt and sorrow,' was sung.

After the service the members assembled in the Council Chamber, where a general meeting for the election of officers and other business was held, the Rev. F. E. Robinson (vicar of Drayton), Master of the Guild, presiding. Several alterations in the rules having been made, the new 'Peal Book,' which was last year presented by the Earl of Jersey to the Guild, was exhibited. The officers for the year were elected, the only changes being

that Mr. A. H. Cocks, of Great Marlow, took the place of the Rev. E. Barber (now Archdeacon of Chester), and Mr. J. W. Washbrook that of Mr. F. White. It was mentioned that nearly 200 members had been elected since the beginning of the year, the total number on the books being between 900 and 1000. Since the last report the following towers had joined the Guild:—St. Michael's, Oxford; Bodlicote, near Banbury; Dorchester; Cropredy, near Leamington; Drayton, Berks; Henley-on-Thames, Witney, and Fulmer. A donation of 5*l.* was made towards the addition of two new bells at Holywell Church, Oxford.

A dinner, to which about 300 sat down, took place at 2.30 in a large marquee placed in the beautiful grounds of the Abbey, the use of which was kindly granted by Mr. E. J. Trendell. The *Chairman* proposed the toast of 'Church and Queen,' which was duly honoured. The *Rev. A. Majendie*, in reply, said that they were all loyal subjects, and the better Churchman a man was the more loyal subject he would be.

The *Chairman* next gave 'Prosperity to the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell-ringers.'

The *Rev. F. E. Robinson* (Master of the Guild) first responded. After thanking them for the cordial reception of the toast, he remarked that the Guild was prospering to a great extent, both as regarded funds and members. A year ago at Bicester he was rash enough to say that they intended to accomplish another peal, and he could now tell them he had the greatest pleasure in conducting a peal of *SUPERLATIVE* last October on his own bells. Having accomplished that, they set to work to try and ring a peal of *CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE*, but they failed. He hoped they would get the team together again, and that before the next annual meeting they would accomplish the feat, which was a great one, because only one peal had been rung in the world. He thought they might congratulate themselves on their performances, their members, and their funds. Although they had been banded together for five and a half years, they had only got their shoulder to the wheel. Their great aim was to provide a good set of bells in the towers throughout the diocese. There were 900 towers in the diocese, and they not only tried to get ringers, but they tried to get God-fearing and brotherly-loving ringers, and to cultivate the art of change-ringing. The more they looked into the matter the more they would see how little had been done and how much remained to be done.

The *Rev. Dolben Paul* congratulated them on assembling in larger numbers than they had ever done before. He also congratulated them on having, for the first time in their history, the Bishop of the Diocese to come and preach to them. It had become proverbial that they never had a wet and gloomy day, and that day was no exception. Mr. Robinson in his speech had left out, and naturally so, one principal cause of the prosperity of the Guild. It could not have been so prosperous as it was if they had not secured for their master one of the best ringers in England. And not only was he one of the best ringers, but also a man who had the highest interests of bell-ringing at heart. In times gone by, bell-ringers used to be recruited not from the church, but from the public-house, and he was sure that this and other like institutions had been the principal means, under God's blessing, of reforming that state of things, and making their ringers feel, as choirmen and others, that they were God's ministers, doing His work and in His house. The more they felt that, the greater blessings would attend their Guild. In conclusion, he would ask them to drink the health of the *Rev. R. C. F. Griffith*, vicar of Abingdon, to whom they were indebted for the beautiful service in which they had taken part that day.

The *Rev. R. C. F. Griffith*, in responding, said that ringers should always have as their aim and object the honour and glory of God and the good of the Church. He trusted they would carry away with them very pleasant reminiscences of Abingdon. He invited them to drink the health of the Mayor, who had presided over the dinner, and that of Mr. Trendell, who had placed his beautiful grounds at their disposal.

The *Chairman* and Mr. Trendell suitably replied to the toast.

The bells of St. Helen's and St. Nicholas', Abingdon, were rung merrily during the afternoon. Breaks conveyed many of the members to Appleton, Cumnor, Oxford, Drayton (Berks), Drayton (Oxon), Appleford, and Dorchester, the towers of each of the churches being occupied by the visitors.

[A notice and picture of St. Helen's Church appeared in *C. B.*, No. 402.]

Three Days' Ringing at Benington, Ardeley, and Braughing, Herts.

ON Saturday, the 31st ult., two well-known ringers of Saffron Walden, Messrs. N. J. Pistow and F. Pistow, paid a visit to the picturesque village of Benington, and to its ringers, 'men worthy of their steel.' In the evening, a peal of 5040 *STEDMAN TRIPLES* was begun. F. Pistow, 1; S. Page, 2; N. J. Pistow, 3; L. Chapman, 4; W. Hobbs, 5; J. Warner, 6; C. Shambrook, 7; J. Gray, 8. After ringing 4600 changes in excellent style they came to a premature end.

ON Sunday morning, 2240 *SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR* was rung. In the afternoon, a walk to the fine ring of six bells at Ardeley was agreed upon, and an excellent peal of 720 *KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR* and two peals of 120 *STEDMAN DOUBLES* were rung (tenor, B Minor).

ON Monday morning, the 2nd inst., at eight o'clock, the ringing was resumed, Mr. Warner, sen., taking the place of Mr. Hobbs and J. Kitchener that of J. Gray, when a peal of 5040 *DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR* (composed by N. J. Pistow, conducted by F. Pistow), was rung and brought home at 10.45. In the afternoon, after ringing the peal of *DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB* and 440 *STEDMAN TRIPLES* (in celebration of the marriage of Mr. W. Hobbs, one of the Benington ringers), the same band proceeded to the fine ring of eight bells at Braughing (tenor, 18 cwt., in F.), recently rebung by Mr. Gray, and rang a peal of 5024 *KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR* in 3 hrs. 8 mins. Two peals were thus rung in one day by the same ringers. Between the

evenings of Saturday and Monday no less than 18,500 changes had been rung by the Society of Benington Ringers and their excellent ringing friends, who so kindly met them.

St. James's Society, London.

THE Annual Election of Officers took place last Monday, the 9th inst., when the following gentlemen were re-elected unanimously: Master, Mr. G. T. McLaughlin; Hon. Secretary, Mr. Barry; Treasurer, Mr. E. Albone; Senior Steward, Mr. H. Langdon. Mr. R. T. Woodley was chosen to fill the new post of Junior Steward.

The business of the Society will in future be transacted at the 'Shakespeare's Head,' Wych Street, Strand (the old Meeting House).

The fortnightly meeting at Lambeth Church will, in future, be at 7.30 instead of 8 o'clock, commencing next Monday, the 16th inst.

J. BARRY, *Hon. Secretary*.

Midland Counties' Association.

THE President (A. Percival Heywood, Esq.) invites the members of the above Association to a Garden Party at Duffield Bank, on Saturday, August 14th, from 2 till 7 o'clock. Tea at 5 p.m. The bells of the parish church (eight) will be open for ringing during the afternoon, and any friends of members of the Midland Counties' Association belonging to other Associations will be welcome.

JOSEPH GRIFFIN, *Hon. Sec.*

5 St. Paul's Street East, Burton-on-Trent.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. Peter's, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

ON Monday, the 2nd inst., eight members of the Kent County Association rang Holt's Six-part peal of 5040 *GRANDSIRE TRIPLES* in 2 hrs. 50 mins. J. Muggeridge, 1; H. Barefield, * 2; E. Baldock, * 3; R. Simmonds, * 4; A. H. Woolley, 5; W. Leonard, 6; A. Moorcraft* (conductor), 7; E. Mankelow, 8. Tenor, 144 cwt., in F. The first peal on the bells; also first peal by Messrs. Muggeridge, Barefield, and Mankelow. The ringers wish to thank Mr. Barefield and the Committee of the Temperance Society for their kindness. [*College Youths.]

At St. Peter's, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire.

ON Monday, the 2nd inst., a peal of 5024 *KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR* was rung in 3 hrs. 4 mins. G. Longden, 1; W. Smith, 2; J. S. Wilde (Hyde), 3; J. Rogers (Birmingham), 4; B. Broadbent, 5; A. Cross (Chester), 6; J. Thorp, 7; J. Moulton (Chester), 8. Composed by Mr. C. Price of Ecclestone, and conducted by Mr. Moulton. Tenor, 20 cwt., in E.

At All Saints', Loughborough, Leicestershire.

ON Monday, the 2nd inst., a peal of 5088 *KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR* was rung in 3 hrs. 16 min. A. Cresser, 1; W. T. Billingham, 2; E. D. Taylor, Esq., 3; R. Lane, 4; C. Smith, 5; G. Clayton (Halifax), 6; W. L. Catchpole (Ipswich), 7; J. W. Taylor Esq., 8. Composed by H. Dains and conducted; by J. W. Taylor. Tenor, 24 cwt., in D.

Also a peal of 5024 *KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR* was rung in 3 hrs. 11 mins. A. Cresser, 1; W. T. Billingham, 2; E. D. Taylor, Esq., 3; C. Smith, 4; S. Smith, 5; R. Lane, 6; J. W. Taylor, Esq., jun., 7; S. Wood, 8. Tenor, 24 cwt. in D. Composed by C. H. Hattersley, conducted by S. Wood. Mr. S. Wood comes from Ashton-under-Lyne. This peal has the fifth and sixth, their extent wrong and right.

At St. Andrew's, Kingswood, Epsom, Surrey.

ON Tuesday, the 3rd inst., by the kind invitation of the Vicar of Kingswood, a party of ringers assembled to meet the *Rev. F. E. Robinson*, Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, when the following ringing was performed:—720 *KENT TREBLE BOB*. J. W. Trappitt, 1; G. Sayer, 2; A. B. Carpenter, 3; *Rev. F. E. Robinson*, 4; C. Gordon, 5; S. Brooker (conductor), 6.

720 *OXFORD TREBLE BOB*. J. Hawkins, 1; J. Burkin, 2; A. B. Carpenter, 3; W. Burkin, 4; W. Webb, 5; *Rev. F. E. Robinson* (conductor), 6.

720 *PLAIN BOB MINOR*. W. Wood, 1; *Rev. F. E. Robinson*, 2; W. Webb, 3; S. Brooker, 4; J. W. Trappitt (conductor), 5; C. Gordon, 6.

And a Course of *COLLEGE EXERCISE*. J. W. Trappitt, 1; J. Burkin, 2; W. Webb, 3; W. Burkin, 4; G. Sayer, 5; S. Brooker, 6.

In the course of the afternoon the party was kindly entertained at tea by the Vicar on the lawn, the whole day being thoroughly enjoyed.

At St. Mary's, Beddington, Surrey.

ON Thursday, the 5th inst., ten members of the Surrey Association rang a peal of 5040 *KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL* in 3 hrs. 25 mins. J. Harris, 1; E. Bennett, 2; A. B. Carpenter, M.B., 3; G. Welling, 4; *Rev. F. E. Robinson*, 5; W. Burkin, 6; J. Ploverman, 7; C. Bance, 8; J. Trappitt, 9; C. Gordon, 10. Composed by J. Reeves and conducted by E. Bennett. Tenor, 20½ cwt., in E flat. This is the first peal of Royal by any of the above, and also the first by the Surrey Association.

At St. Michael's, Mottram-in-Longdendale, Cheshire.

ON Saturday, the 7th inst., a peal of 5088 *BOB MAJOR* was rung in 3 hrs. 2 mins. W. Jakeman, 1; J. Leigh, 2; J. Hopwood, 3; H. Heap, 4; J. Sidebottom, 5; W. J. Sevier (Gloucester), 6; G. Longdon, 7; J. Thorp (composer and conductor), 8. The above peal was rung for the first time.

At the Abbey Church, St. Margaret's, Barking, Essex.

ON Saturday, the 7th inst., eight members of the Essex Association rang a peal of 5040 *STEDMAN TRIPLES* (Brook's Variation) in 3 hrs. 6 mins. Y. Green, 1; R. Sewell, 2; J. Gobbett, 3; C. F. Winny, 4; S. Hayes, 5; J. Hayes (conductor), 6; W. Doran, 7; A. Wright, 8. This is the first peal on the bells since the sixth was recast by John Warner & Sons, the Crescent, city of London.

IRELAND.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

THE Bishop of Ossory, addressing the Diocesan Synod at Ferns, which met in Enniscorthy on the 10th inst., said it was exceedingly gratifying to find that, notwithstanding the difficult crisis through which they had been passing, and the results of which none of them could prophesy—that, notwithstanding all this, the Report was a favourable one with regard to the progress of the Church matters in the diocese, and also with regard to finance. The capital income of the diocese was reported to be 155,476l. The Report of the Diocesan Temperance Society announced an increase as most marked in the Total Abstinence section, which now musters 2079 members, as against 1845 last year. In the Non-abstaining section the increase is not so decided, though even in it there is an advance on last year, the total being 116 exclusive of the two branches referred to.

A memorial brass tablet is about to be placed in St. Peter's Church, Dublin, in memory of the late Archdeacon Lee, D.D., who was for many years Rector of the parish. The Archdeacon will be chiefly remembered for his elaborate work on the inspiration of Holy Scripture.

On Sunday week a shameful outrage was perpetrated in the county of Kerry, when the house of the Rev. W. D. Wade, rector of Ardfert, was attacked by Moonlighters, who, on being refused admission, fired into it, the bullet passing in the direction where Mr. Wade had been standing but a moment before. It is supposed that the men were looking for arms. The outrage took place within 200 yards of the Constabulary barrack.

According to the *Irish Ecclesiastical Gazette* :—

‘On Sunday, August 8th, being the seventh after Trinity, the Rector of Island Magee, Rev. J. Milner, at the request of some of the summer visitors to his parish, had a special service, and full choral celebration of the Holy Communion, with sermon, commencing at 11.30 a.m. The *Introit* was the hymn “Brief life is here our portion.” The celebration music was an easy chant service, sung in unison. The above is interesting to Churchmen as being the first service of the kind in this parish since the Reformation. A church was founded in Island Magee by St. Patrick, as we learn from the so-called *Tri-partite Life*, Part ii. cap. 133. An interesting relic of the ecclesiastical establishment founded here is a bronze altar vessel, with an Irish inscription, meaning “Pray for MacEthan, descendant of Brochan.” Dr. Petrie remarks that the workmanship of this vessel is of great beauty. It was found in the ruins of the old church, and is detailed and illustrated in the *Dublin Penny Journal*, vol. ii. p. 412.’

I regret to have to announce the death of the Rev. Dominick A. Browne, for many years the diligent and respected Secretary of the Association for Promoting the Knowledge of the Christian Religion in Ireland.

His numerous friends in Ireland rejoice at the elevation of the Rev. Dr. Dowden to the See of Edinburgh. The Bishop-elect is a native of the city of Cork, and brother of Mr. Edward Dowden, Professor of English Literature in the University of Dublin, and well known for his writings on Shakespeare. Dr. Dowden was likewise educated at the University of Dublin. In 1874 he was appointed to the Pantonian Professorship of Theology and Bell Lecturer in Edinburgh Theological College, and in 1880 he was elected to a Canonry in St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh. In 1884–5 he was Donnellan Lecturer in T.C.D.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At the Parish Church, Youlgreave, Derbyshire.

On Wednesday, the 14th ult., Thurstan's peal of 5040 STEADMAN TRIPLES was rung in 3 hrs. 13 mins. A. P. Heywood, Esq., 1; Rev. C. D. P. Davies, 2; J. Griffin, 3; Rev. W. Baker, 4; J. W. Taylor, jun., Esq., 5; T. Holmes, 6; W. Wakley (conductor), 7; J. Howe, 8. Tenor, 26 cwt., in A.

At the Parish Church, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham.

On Monday, the 26th ult., six members of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, accompanied by Mr. Day, jun., and Mr. J. Smith, from Eye, Suffolk, who are rehanging Prestbury bells, near this place, rang 720 KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR in 29 mins. W. T. Pates, 1; F. Day, jun. (conductor), 2; F. E. Ward, Esq., 3; H. Karn, 4; J. Smith, 5; G. H. Phillott, Esq., 6. Tenor, 23 cwt. The above was rung with the bells deeply muffled, as a token of respect to the late Mrs. Musty, whose husband is a well-known ringer in Charlton and Cheltenham.

At the Parish Church, Taunton, Somerset.

On Sunday, the 1st inst., six members of the local company met Mr. Foster of Corsham, and with him rang for evening service, on the first six of the grand ring of ten bells (tenor, 30 cwt.), a peal of 120 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES in 6 mins. G. E. Harbour, 1; R. J. Pearce, 2; W. G. Burge, 3; C. E. May, 4; S. Doble (College Youth, conductor), 5; E. A. Foster (College Youth), 6. Also several touches in the same method, with E. A. Foster at the 2nd and C. H. Venning at the 6th. The art is making steady progress here, as may be noted. When the bells were opened last year none of the Guild except the conductor knew anything of handling a church bell. The above 120 were rung at the first attempt, and is the first accomplished by a local band.

At All Saints', Ryde, Isle of Wight.

On Monday, the 2nd inst., eight members of the Winchester Diocesan Guild rang a peal of 1080 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. J. Hewett (Gosport, conductor), 1; J. Staples (Havant), 2; F. Hill (Fareham), 3; Rev. H. A. Spyers (Chalton), 4; H. Dains (London), 5; T. Newnham (Southampton), 6; J. W. Whiting (Fareham), 7; C. Grafham (Fareham), 8.

At St. Sidwell's, Exeter, Devon.

On Tuesday, the 3rd inst., eight members of the Devonshire Guild rang Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 57 mins. W. Mundy (first peal), 1; A. Shepherd, 2; E. Shepherd, 3; W. Richardson, 4; J. Moss (first peal with a bob bell), 5; R. French (conductor), 6; F. Shepherd, 7; T. J. Lake, 8. Tenor, 24 cwt.

At St. Mary Magdalene's, Reigate, Surrey.

On Wednesday, the 4th inst., Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES was rung in 3 hrs. 7½ mins. G. Croucher (first peal), 1; F. T. Hoad, 2; F. Linter, 3; Rev. F. E. Robinson (conductor), 4; W. Argent, 5; E. Moses, 6; W. Webb, 7; E. Kenward, 8. Tenor, 21 cwt., in E.

At St. Mary's, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

On Thursday, the 5th inst., an attempt was made for a peal of KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, but after ringing into the third part it unfortunately came to an end. J. Belcher (conductor), 1; G. Day, 2; F. Day, 3; W. T. Pates, 4; W. Morris, 5; F. E. Ward, 6; F. Musty, 7; J. Smith, 8; H. Karn, 9; G. H. Phillott, Esq., 10.

On Saturday, the 7th inst., at St. Mark's church, by the kind permission of the rector and churchwardens, on the ring of five bells lately hung there, some STEADMAN and GRANDSIRE DOUBLES. Messrs. Karn, Musty, Pates, and Hooper from Cheltenham, and the Messrs. Day, sen. and jun., and Smith from Eye.

At St. Thomas's, Dudley, Worcestershire.

On Sunday morning, the 8th inst., before Divine service, a date touch of 1886 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES was rung in 1 hr. 10 mins. F. Fellows, 1; J. Fellows, jun., 2; J. Mills, 3; J. Fellows, sen., 4; S. Spittle, 5; W. Micklewright (composer and conductor), 6; J. Goodman, 7; T. Hill, 8.

At St. Gabriel's, Pimlico, London.

On Sunday, the 8th inst., for Divine service in the evening, eight members of the St. James's Society rang 325 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR. G. T. McLaughlin, 1; F. E. Dawe, 2; E. Carter, 3; F. G. Newman, 4; H. Swain, 5; C. F. Winny, 6; J. S. Wilde (Hyde), 7; J. M. Hayes (conductor), 8. After which some touches of STEADMAN'S TRIPLES were rung. Tenor, 24 cwt.

At the Meeting-House, St. Paul's Churchyard, London.

Handbell Performance.

On Thursday, the 12th inst., four members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 42 mins. G. T. McLaughlin, 1–2; C. F. Winny (conductor), 3–4; J. S. Wilde, 5–6; J. M. Hayes, 7–8. Umpire, Mr. W. Baron (of the Royal Cumberland Society). Messrs. F. T. Gover, H. J. Shade, and R. T. Woodley, took off the peal. Several prominent members (and handbell ringers) of the College Youths and Cumberland Societies were present. Mr. Wilde comes from Hyde, Cheshire, and the above is his first peal upon handbells.

On Tuesday, the 10th inst., four members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang (previous to the monthly practice at the Cathedral) 1610 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 52 mins. G. T. McLaughlin, 1–2; C. F. Winny (conductor), 3–4; J. S. Wilde (Hyde), 5–6; J. M. Hayes, 7–8. This touch was rung for practice, previous to attempting a peal on the Thursday; also 377 GRANDSIRE CATERS and a course of TREBLE BOB.

At St. Stephen's, Westminster, London.

On Saturday, the 14th inst., eight members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang a peal of 5040 STEADMAN'S TRIPLES (Brooke's Variation) in 3 hrs. 6 mins. S. E. Joyce, 1; W. Greenleaf, 2; G. T. McLaughlin, 3; E. Horrex, 4; C. F. Winny, 5; J. M. Hayes (conductor), 6; H. J. Tucker, 7; J. Jones, 8. Tenor, 24 cwt., in D. H. J. Tucker comes from Bishop Stortford, Herts.

At Bramford, Suffolk.

On Saturday, the 14th inst., a peal of 720 OXFORD TREBLE BOB MINOR was rung in 27 mins. A. A. Pryke, 1; C. Mee (conductor), 2; F. Mee, 3; C. A. Clements, 4; J. R. Jerram, 5; T. Steward, 6. Tenor, 14 cwt.

Also, at Sproughton several six-scores of DOUBLES by the same party.

At St. Peter's, Brighton, Sussex.

On Sunday, the 15th inst., for afternoon service, eight members of the London Cumberland Society rang a quarter peal of 1260 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 46 mins. J. Jay, sen., 1; H. Weston, 2; C. E. Golds, 3; H. J. Davies (London), 4; J. Searle, 5; G. F. Attree (conductor), 6; J. Jay, jun., 7; E. Butler, 8. Tenor, 10 cwt. 2 qrs. 2 lbs.

At St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, Suffolk.

On Sunday, the 15th inst., for evening service, 396 STEADMAN CINQUES were rung. A. Aldham, 1; E. Pemberton, 2; J. Alexander, 3; W. Motts, 4; W. L. Catchpole, 5; W. Meadows, 6; J. Motts, 7; H. Howell, 8; E. Reeve, 9; G. A. Clements (Salisbury), 10; R. Hawes, 11; R. Brundle, 12. Tenor, 32 cwt.

At Coddensham, Suffolk.

On Monday, the 16th inst., Holt's Ten-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES was rung in 2 hrs. 54 mins. by members of the Norwich Diocesan Association. C. Mee (conductor), 1; F. Mee, 2; H. English, 3; J. R. Jerram (Salisbury), 4; T. Steward, 5; W. Motts, 6; C. A. Clements (Salisbury), 7; E. Pemberton, 8. Tenor, 16 cwt. Rung on the occasion of Mr. F. Mee's birthday.

The Bishop of Cashel, who has returned home much benefited in health by his prolonged tour in the Holy Land and Egypt, preached in his Cathedral in Waterford on Sunday week. His Lordship has conferred the Archdeaconry of Waterford, vacant by the retirement of Archdeacon Alcock, on the Rev. Canon Devenish, rector of Cahir.

The Diocesan Synod of the united dioceses of Killala and Achonry was held in the Pro-Synod House, Knox Street, Ballina, on the 19th inst., Archdeacon Jackson presiding, in the unavoidable absence through ill health of the Bishop of Tuam. The financial report showed an increase of 529% over the income of the previous year. On the other hand, the accumulated indebtedness of the diocese to its capital arising from annual deficits in the parochial assessments was represented by the large sum of 890%. On the motion of the Rev. Canon Heather, the following resolution was carried:—'That the attention of the Representative Body be called to the necessity for affording as early relief as possible to those parishes of our united diocese in which accumulations of debt have occurred, the instalments by which such debts are paid off being in most instances a heavy burden upon the stipends of the existing incumbents of those parishes.'

The second annual festival of the Girls' Friendly Society of the United Diocese of Ossory, Ferns, and Leighlin, was held in Kilkenny, on Tuesday, August 17. Between two and three hundred members and associates were present on the occasion. The day's proceedings commenced with a special service in the Cathedral of St. Canice at 12 o'clock. There was full choir service, with Tallis's responses. The Special Psalms were xlii. and lxix., and the hymns Nos. 327, 380, and 247. Garrett's anthem, 'The Lord is loving unto every man,' was sung after the third collect. The sermon was preached by the Bishop of Ossory, from Gal. vi. 2, 'Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.' After the conclusion of the Cathedral service an open-air conference was held in the grounds of the Palace, at which the Archdeacon of Ossory gave some statistics of the spread of the Society throughout the Diocese. Upwards of fifty parishes had formed branches, which now could number upwards of 350 members. The Rev. J. B. Crozier next addressed the meeting, and was followed by the Bishop, who, from the chair, gave an account of the Bible-women in Foo Chow supported by contributions from the Kilkenny G.F.S., and read a letter from Mrs. Stewart explaining the work as carried on in China. Mrs. Pakenham Walsh, President of the Society, also addressed the assemblage, and urged upon both members and associates earnestness and diligence in the Society's work. Luncheon was served in the Athenæum at half-past two o'clock, and the members and associates were then admitted by leave of the Marquis of Ormonde to the beautiful grounds of Kilkenny Castle, where the handsome picture-gallery was thrown open to the visitors. After partaking of refreshments in the Athenæum, the country branches started for home, having enjoyed a most agreeable day.

The Bishop of Killaloe has appointed the Very Rev. Robert Humphreys, Dean of Kilfenora, to the Deanery of Killaloe, vacant by the death of the late Dean Robbins.

A choral festival and organ recital was held at Lismore Cathedral, on Wednesday the 11th inst., at which the choirs of Waterford and Lismore Cathedrals took part. There was a very large attendance of the *élite* of Lismore and the surrounding country, and many came from Waterford and other districts. The programme of the choral service was a beautifully selected one, and contained some well-known anthems which were sung in a very clever manner by the choirs of the Waterford and Lismore Cathedrals, the order followed being that each choir sang an anthem alternately. 'Lord, how are they increased' (Stevenson), was sung by the Waterford choir; 'Blessed be the God and Father' (Wesley), was sung by the Lismore choir, who subsequently sang 'O taste and see' (Goss). A treble solo, 'As pants the hart,' with choral accompaniment, was sung very effectively by Master A. Chestnut of Waterford, whose training reflects much credit on Mr. Morland. The Waterford choir sang at the conclusion of the service the 'Hallelujah' chorus (Handel), the precision of time observed by the many youthful voices being much admired. During the service, Mr. John Morland, organist of Waterford Cathedral, and Mr. A. A. Hoey, organist of Lismore Cathedral, performed several pieces on the organ. The clergymen who took part in the service were the Dean of Lismore (the Very Rev. Dr. Brougham), the Dean of Waterford (the Very Rev. Dr. Morgan), and the Rev. W. T. Butler, Waterford. After the service the members of the Waterford choir were entertained at luncheon at the Devonshire Arms Hotel.

The Bishop of Down was enthroned in the Cathedral Church of Dromore, on Tuesday, the 17th inst. The service began with the hymn 'The Church's One Foundation,' during the singing of which the Bishop entered by the west door and was conducted to the chancel by the Dean (Dr. Stewart), the Archdeacon (Dr. Campbell), and the Revs. Canon W. Hayes, H. W. Lett, E. D. Atkinson, R. White, W. Ball Wright, E. H. Nunns, and W. Thompson. The bells of the Cathedral rang out merry peals during the day.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

Association Exercise.

SIR,—By referring to *Church Bells* of January 30, 1885, you will find the above method, which I sent to you. I pricked it on six bells, but have now extended it to eight, of which I enclose a plain lead and a bob.

To ring the plain course, a good rule, I think, would be the following:—When at lead, snap, whole pull, and snap again, then make 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th places. The same work behind in reverse order, namely: snap, lay a whole pull, and snap again, then make 6th, 5th, 4th, and 3rd places. All the bells do the same work, the treble included. Extra place-making in 3-4 and 5-6 all the while the treble is at the front, also extra dodging in 7-8. There being such a close resemblance of the same music throughout, and especially so while the treble is in front, makes it (to my mind) very interesting. At a bob the four back bells are undisturbed in their work. The bell the treble puts into 3rd's makes the bob, and does the same work as the bob bell in Kent TREBLE BOB, namely:—3rd's, long 4th's, 3rd's, and return to lead. The plain course contains seven leads of thirty-two changes each, being the same number of leads in the plain course of TREBLE BOB. By omitting every alternate pair of changes from the start we see the whole of the plain course of BOB MAJOR. The bells come round at five bobs.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1	1 3 5 2 7 4 8 6
2 1 3 4 5 6 8 7	7 8 6 5 4 3 1 2	3 1 5 2 7 4 6 8
1 2 4 3 6 5 7 8	8 7 5 6 3 4 2 1	1 3 2 5 4 7 8 6
2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7	7 8 5 6 3 4 1 2	3 1 2 5 4 7 6 8
2 4 1 6 3 8 5 7	7 5 8 3 6 1 4 2	3 2 1 4 5 6 7 8
4 2 1 6 3 8 7 5	5 7 8 3 6 1 2 4	3 5 1 7 2 8 4 6
2 4 6 1 8 3 5 7	7 5 3 8 1 6 4 2	3 1 5 2 7 4 8 6
4 2 6 1 8 3 7 5	5 7 3 8 1 6 2 4	Bob 1 3 5 2 7 4 6 8
4 6 2 8 1 7 3 5	5 3 7 1 8 2 6 4	3 1 2 5 4 7 8 6
6 4 2 8 1 7 5 3	3 5 7 1 8 2 4 6	1 3 2 5 4 7 6 8
4 6 8 2 7 1 3 5	5 3 1 7 2 8 6 4	1 2 3 5 7 4 8 6
6 4 8 2 7 1 5 3	3 5 1 7 2 8 4 6	2 1 3 5 7 4 6 8
6 8 4 7 2 5 1 3	3 1 5 2 7 4 8 6	1 2 5 3 4 7 8 6
8 6 4 7 2 5 3 1	1 3 5 2 7 4 6 8	2 1 5 3 4 7 6 8
6 8 7 4 5 2 1 3	3 1 2 5 4 7 8 6	2 5 1 4 3 6 7 8
8 6 7 4 5 2 3 1	1 3 2 5 4 7 6 8	

MATTHEW ELLSMORE,

Member of the Royal Cumberland, Hertford.

The Society of Royal Cumberland Youths.

NOTICE.—I am requested to give notice to members and friends of this Society that the Annual Dinner will take place on Saturday, the 11th prox. Further particulars will be announced in due course. Meantime all who have the welfare of the Society at heart are cordially invited.

Also at headquarters on this evening (Friday, the 27th inst.), two auditors will be elected to go over the Society's accounts for the past year. Those interested will attend and oblige

H. DAINS, Hon Sec.

147 Barnsbury Road, N.

The 'Cumberlands' at Buxted, Sussex.

On Saturday, the 21st inst., a party of the London Cumberland Society of Change-ringers visited Buxted, Sussex. They left Brighton at mid-day in a well-appointed waggone, and thoroughly enjoyed the drive of sixteen miles through some of the fairest of Sussex scenery. The church is beautifully situated in the midst of a splendid park, and is approached by an avenue of trees; a prettier spot it would be difficult to imagine. The sacred edifice, dedicated to St. Margaret, is an ancient stone structure built in the Decorated style of architecture: it has a chancel, nave, aisles, tower, and spire. There is a ring of eight bells, tenor, 16 cwt. in F, varying in date from 1686 to 1885, in which year Messrs. Warner & Sons added two trebles to the then existing six. At a quarter to six o'clock a start was made for Holt's Ten-part peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, the ringers standing as follows:—C. E. Golds, 1; G. F. Attree (conductor), 2; H. T. Davies, 3; J. Searle, 4; H. Hopkins, 5; J. Jay, jun., 6; J. Jay, sen., 7; E. Butler, 8. The task was successfully accomplished in 2 hrs. 54½ mins., the striking being of such a character as to merit the remark that the peal was rung in a 'masterly style.' A walk of two miles through the park and adjoining hop-fields brought the party to the town of Uckfield, where refreshments were taken, and the return journey was made, Brighton being reached about midnight. The thanks of the ringers are tendered through these columns to the Rector, the Rev. J. P. Gell, for granting permission to ring, and to the steeplekeeper, Mr. Wratten, for having things in readiness. Messrs. Davies and Hopkins came from London, and were on a visit to Brighton, in which town the remainder are residents. It might be mentioned that J. Jay, jun., is leaving for India shortly. This is the second peal on the bells.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At SS. Mary and Nicolas, Spalding, Lincolnshire.

On Sunday morning, the 8th inst., for Divine service, 518 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES were rung; also the same for evening service. G. Skeef, 1; J. R. Jerram, 2; J. S. Wright, 3; C. Neaverson, 4; G. L. Richardson, 5; R. Mackman, 6; C. A. Clements, 7; J. W. Jarvis, 8; J. W. Creasey, 9.

On Tuesday, the 10th inst., an attempt was made to ring Holt's Ten-part peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, which unfortunately came to an end by a shift of course before the halfway single. R. Jarvis, 1; J. S. Wright, 2;

G. Skeef, 3; J. R. Jerram, 4; G. L. Richardson, 5; R. Mackman (conductor), 6; C. A. Clements, 7; J. W. Jarvis, 8.

At St. George's, Dunster, Somerset.

On Tuesday, the 10th inst., 1260 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES were rung by eight members of the Dunster Guild of Change-ringers in 47 mins. R. S. Thorne, 1; Rev. J. U. Todd, 2; J. Pitts, 3; J. Tudball, 4; R. Hole, 5; J. Grabham, 6; C. B. Craze (conductor), 7; J. Payne, 8. Longest length by R. S. Thorne.

At the Parish Church, Tottenham, Middlesex.

On Tuesday evening, the 10th inst., 360 KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR were rung. A. Hubbard, 1; T. C. Grove, 2; G. B. Lucas (conductor), 3; J. Waghorn, jun., 4; J. Waghorn, 5; G. Griffin, 6. And 720 PLAIN BOB MAJOR, in 28 mins. T. C. Grove, 1; J. Langran, 2; H. A. Barnett, 3; J. W. Barrs, 4; G. B. Lucas (conductor), 5; J. Waghorn, jun., 6; J. Waghorn, 7; G. Griffin, 8.

On Sunday, the 15th inst., for morning service, 720 BOB MAJOR, in 29 mins. T. C. Grove, 1; A. Hubbard, 2; H. A. Barnett, 3; J. Langran, 4; J. Waghorn, jun., 5; J. Waghorn, 6; G. B. Lucas (conductor), 7; W. Pye-English, 8. And for evening service, the last 742 of Holt's Original, in 26 mins. A. Hubbard, 1; J. Waghorn, 2; H. A. Barnett, 3; J. Waghorn, jun. (conductor), 4; W. Pye-English, 5; J. Langran, 6; G. B. Lucas, 7; C. J. Davidson, 8.

At the Parish Church, Sedgley, Staffordshire.

On Tuesday, the 10th inst., six of the local company and two from Kingswinford rang a quarter-peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (1260 changes) in 45 mins. J. Goodman, 1; D. Bruce, 2; W. Jones, 3; S. Bunn, 4; R. Schofield (conductor), 5; Rev. T. F. Colom, 6; J. Devenport, 7; E. Screen, 8. Tenor, 20 cwt.

At St. Hilda's, South Shields, Durham.

On Thursday, the 12th inst., eight members of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association rang a peal of 5088 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 2 mins. J. Moffit, 1; R. Wignall, 2; W. Newton, 3; R. S. Story, 4; E. Wallis, 5; H. Ross, 6; W. Reed, 7; F. Harrison, 8. Tenor, 9½ cwt. Composed by Mr. Sottanstill and conducted by Mr. Reed. This peal, which was rung at the first attempt, is the first upon the bells, which are a new ring by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank. It is the first peal of MAJOR in the county of Durham; and the first peal of MAJOR by Messrs. Moffit (South Shields), Newton (Stockton), Ross (North Shields), and Harrison (Jarrow). Messrs. Wignall and Reed came from North Shields; Wallis from St. John's, Newcastle; and Story from Whitley.

At All Saints', Duffield, Derbyshire.

On Friday, the 14th inst., eight members of the Midland Counties Association rang a peal of 5008 DOUBLE OXFORD BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 7 mins. J. Howe, 1; E. Moreton, 2; S. Johnson, 3; W. Hickling, 4; G. Hingley, 5; Rev. C. D. P. Davies, 6; R. Johnson, 7; A. P. Hepwood (composer and conductor), 8. Tenor, 17 cwt. This peal, which was rung for the first time, contains the 4th and 6th respectively twenty and twenty-four times in 6th's place, the 2nd being never there.

At St. Gregory's, Sudbury, Suffolk.

On Saturday, the 14th inst., the following members of the local company, with Mr. J. Bonney of the Ancient Society of College Youths, London, attempted a peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (Reeves's Variation), but after ringing 3500 changes in 2 hrs. 17 mins., the tenor man was obliged to set his bell. C. Sillitoe (conductor), 1; J. Bonny, 2; W. Bacon, 3; J. Campin, 4; W. Howell, 5; A. Scott, 6; H. Harper, 7; H. Brackett, 8.

At the Parish Church, Cardington, Beds.

On Saturday, the 14th inst., eight members of the Bedfordshire Association rang a peal of 5040 BOB TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 20 mins. F. Keech (first peal), 1; W. Allen (first peal), 2; T. Foote, 3; W. Biggs, 4; R. Dunkley, 5; I. Hills, 6; C. W. Clarke, 7; H. Chapman (first peal), 8. Composed by Mr. Carter of Birmingham and conducted by Mr. Clarke. Tenor, 20 cwt. First in the method by all except the 5th and 7th men, and also the first on the bells. Richard Dunkley came from Bythorn; the rest are of the Bedford Company, who take this opportunity of thanking the Vicar and Churchwardens for the use of the bells; also to the Vicar for his kind hospitality after the peal.

At the Cathedral Church of St. John, Manchester.

On Monday, the 16th inst., ten members of the Lancashire Association rang a peal of 5000 KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL in 3 hrs. 21 mins. H. Heap, 1; J. Leigh (first peal of ROYAL), 2; J. Pollitt, 3; C. H. Hattersley, 4; A. Cross (first peal of ROYAL), 5; W. Sevier (first peal of ROYAL), 6; A. E. Wreaks, 7; J. Eachus, 8; J. Thorp (composer and conductor), 9; G. Longden, 10. Tenor, 25 cwt. Messrs. Heap, Leigh, Thorp, and Longden, came from Ashton-under-Lyne; C. H. Hattersley from Sheffield; A. Cross from Chester; and W. Sevier from Gloucester.

At St. Peter's, Fareham, Hants.

On Monday, the 16th inst., eight members of the Winchester Diocesan Guild rang Taylor's Bob-and-Single peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 2 mins. G. Hackett (first peal), 1; J. Staples, 2; H. White, 3; G. Grafham, 4; C. Privett, 5; F. Hill (conductor), 7; J. Whiting, 7; H. Carter (first peal), 8. Tenor, 14 cwt. H. White, from Basingstoke; J. Staples, from Havant; the rest are local men.

At St. John-the-Baptist's, Crawley, Sussex.

On Tuesday, the 17th inst., eight members of the Sussex County Association rang a peal of 5040 OXFORD BOB TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 59 mins. G.

Wickens, 1; F. Wickens, 2; W. Collison, 3; B. King, 4; H. Heffer, 5; A. F. Hillier, 6; H. Burstow (conductor), 7; J. Collison, 8. Tenor, 14 cwt. First peal in the method by all the band except the conductor.

At St. Peter's, Benington, Herts.

On Thursday, the 20th inst., eight members of the Hertfordshire Guild of Change-ringers attempted a peal of 5120 SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR; but after ringing eighteen courses out of twenty-five in about two hours and a quarter, it came to an end. J. R. Haworth, 1; Jos. Kitchener, 2; J. Kitchener, 3; L. Chapman, 4; F. Pitstow, 5; S. Page, 6; C. Shambrook, 7; Rev. F. E. Robinson (conductor), 8. Tenor, 14 cwt.

At St. Clement Danes, Strand, London.

On Sunday morning, the 22nd inst., for Divine service, 1565 changes of GRANDSIRE CATERS (containing the full extent of the 6th behind the 9th) were rung by members of the Waterloo Society in 1 hr. 4 mins. G. Wild, 1; W. Baron (conductor), 2; G. McLaughlin, 3; A. E. Church, 4; W. W. Thorne, 5; W. Bidwell, 6; W. Jones, 7; G. Banks, 8; W. H. George, 9; E. Albone, 10. This was the longest length of CATERS by G. Wilde and W. Bidwell.

At Handsworth, Staffordshire.

On Sunday evening, the 22nd inst., for Divine service, ten six-scores of GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, each called differently, were rung in 44 mins. W. H. Godden, 1; H. Bastable, 2; J. Buffery (conductor), 3; F. Workman, 4; S. McCulloch, 5; W. Verry, 6. Tenor, 14 cwt., in F sharp.

RECEIVED ALSO.—James Baxter (Westmoreland); and others.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Divorce Details.

SIR,—It is not the publication of disgusting details of crime, but the certainty of punishment to rich and poor alike, without fear or favour, that can ever conduce to the suppression of gross immorality. When the Divorce Bill was passed we were told that it was only in the interests of the poor. This kindly consideration professed by wealthy sinners for the interests of the poor man has entailed all this misery. It is now again the case in the pressing on of the Marriage Bill. Sins against domestic morality appear to be those which are the most readily condoned by Society. The rich and reckless breaker of the Seventh Commandment is to be treated with greater leniency and consideration, from a criminal point of view, than the poorer and weaker breaker of the Eighth. So far from publicity of detail being conducive to morality, it is more likely to tend to crime being treated with leniency and levity; and in some cases to a morbid and unenviable desire for notoriety; at all events, with those who are devoid of moral or religious principle. It was found that public executions did not really exercise the good influence which was at one time attributed to them, but were really demoralising. For furthering the ends of justice it may be absolutely necessary that perfect publicity of trial should be accorded. But for the ends of morality it is the contrary, and judges have often forbidden the publication of details which it was considered might have a contaminating effect upon some portions of the community. The sad misgivings which I had at the time of the passing of the Divorce Act have been again and again far more than confirmed. It may be difficult to provide a law which shall effectually protect the weak and punish the guilty, but to provide by legal enactment for the breaking of the most solemn and binding vows and responsibilities, by affording full and easy relief from the highest moral obligations, instead of punishing the crime, cannot surely conduce to morality. The retention of a high standard in the heart of the nation does not at all necessarily grow out of the publication of such details, though it may continue to exist in spite of, and in opposition to, such publication. It is fearful to think that offences against the rights of property should, by the penal code of a great nation, be treated with greater rigour than offences against those conditions of domestic life and of social intercourse which alone tend to make life, humanly speaking, endurable.

LONDON LAYMAN.

Registration.

SIR,—As an old correspondent permit me to throw two letters into one, under a single heading.

1.—As to our Parish Registers. Recently an account appeared in the daily papers of the loss of valuable registers; but the loss was greatly lessened by the forethought and pains of the Incumbent, who had copied them out afresh. I have written to my own Diocesan Registrars inquiring into the course necessary to be taken to insure the acceptance of these copies in a court of law, and have been promised an answer in course of time. The country clergy, at least (and they are custodians of registers most open to theft from a variety of causes, such as the isolated position of their churches and the unthief-proof state of their safes), not only have greater need to protect themselves, or rather their parishioners, from the serious loss of these parochial records, but have also the time, during long winter evenings, for remedying the possible mischief. Then, again, as to the planning out of grave-spaces. I heard only the other day of a neighbour who adopted this system in a long-used graveyard. Curiously enough, the first three interments after his plan had been declared were those of three leading farmers. Protests were made, but the Incumbent was firm. Now he has no difficulty in maintaining a due order in the interments. As I said in a previous letter, it is never too late to mend, even in the case of old churchyards. Then as to offertories and a list of confirmees. What a boon it would be to new-comers to be able to refer to the lists of past years, and

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

A New 720 of Bob Minor, with 32 Bobs and 2 Singles.

2 3 4 5 6	3 4 5 6 2 1
3 5 6 4 2 3	4 6 2 5 3 2
3 5 4 2 6 1	6 5 3 2 4 3
2 6 4 3 5 3	5 2 4 3 6 2
2 6 3 5 4 1	2 3 6 4 5 2
5 4 3 2 6 3	S 3 2 4 5 6 1
5 4 2 6 3 1	3 2 5 6 4 1
6 3 2 5 4 3	3 2 6 4 5 1
6 3 5 4 2 1	2 4 3 5 6 Plain lead.
3 4 2 5 6 2	

Repeated.

M. ELLSMORE, *Hertford.*

A New Touch of Grandsire Triples.

This peal consists of 3920 changes, in five equal parts, with 75 bobs.

3 9 2 0	6 5 2 4 3 7
2 3 4 5 6 7	4 5 6 7 2 3
3 4 2 5 6 7	5 6 4 7 2 3
7 5 3 6 4 2	7 6 5 3 4 2
6 5 7 2 3 4	6 5 7 3 4 2
7 3 6 5 4 2	2 3 6 4 5 7
3 6 7 5 4 2	4 3 2 7 6 5
5 6 3 2 7 4	5 7 4 6 3 2
2 6 5 4 3 7	

Repeated four times.

JAMES BAXTER, *Kendal.*

The Archdeaconry of Stafford.

THE Third Annual Report of the Society of Change-ringers of the Archdeaconry of Stafford, with a copy of which we have been favoured, forms a neat little pamphlet of seventeen pages. There is little contained in it that calls for special comment. We note with great pleasure the opening words of 'the Report' proper, viz., 'Your Committee are glad to record a steady and gradual progress.' One point—and it is mentioned in the Report—we would most strongly urge upon the Society: Let them endeavour to ring peals in other methods than GRANDSIRE. We should be glad to see the composition of T. Harrison's Six-part peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.

Visit of London Ringers to Bath and Bristol.

On Sunday, the 22nd ult., at St. Andrew's, Bath, for service in the evening, several touches of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES were rung. G. Hill, 1; J. Hinton (conductor), 2; W. Chew (London), 3; H. Wooton, 4; J. Barry (London), 5; J. Watton, 6; J. Smith, 7; H. Wyburne, 8. Tenor, 23 cwt.

On Sunday, the 22nd ult., after service at St. Michael's, Twerton-on-Avon, 630 and several touches of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES and GRANDSIRE MAJOR. J. Smith, 1; W. Chew, 2; W. Davis, 3; J. Hinton (conductor), 4; J. Blackmore, 5; J. Wotton, 6; J. Barry, 7; H. Wyburne, 8. Tenor, 14 cwt.

On Monday, the 23rd ult., at St. Michael's and Christ Church, touches of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. On Tuesday, the 24th ult., at St. James', Bristol, for evening service, and All Saints', after service, touches of GRANDSIRE and STEDMAN TRIPLES. J. Hinton, conductor.

The Surrey Association.

No Committee Meeting was held on August 25th, as there were not enough members present to form a quorum. The District Meeting is therefore abandoned.

A. B. CARPENTER, *Hon. Sec.*

A Meeting of Change-ringers at Braughing, Herts.

On Wednesday, the 18th ult., being the occasion of two or three gentlemen visiting Hertfordshire, a meeting of ringers took place at Braughing, and some splendid ringing was gone through. The first to reach Braughing was the Saffron Walden company, who arrived about 9 a.m. after a drive of sixteen miles. After partaking of breakfast they ascended the tower and rung a well-struck touch of 504 STEDMAN TRIPLES, the band standing as follows:—F. Pitstow (conductor), 1; J. Penning, 2; G. Martin, 3; C. Freeman, 4; N. J. Pitstow, 5; E. Pitstow, 6; C. Taylor, 7; S. Slater, 8. This was followed by another touch of STEDMAN TRIPLES, in which Mr. G. Rochester of Sawbridgeworth took the second in the place of Mr. Penning; also a touch of DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR by the first-named band. At this time it was known that the Squire of Benington, with his band, in company with the Rev. F. E. Robinson (of Drayton, Berks), the Rev. F. J. Helmore (of Canterbury), and J. R. Haworth (of London) had arrived, and were ready to ascend the tower: which they did, and, taking the ropes in hand, rang 504 STEDMAN TRIPLES. S. Page (conductor), 1; John Kitchener, 2; L. Proctor, Esq., 3; Rev. F. J. Helmore, 4; J. R. Haworth, 5; L. Chapman, 6; C. Shambrook, 7; J. Warner, 8. This was followed by a touch of DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB by the Benington people, after which the following band rang two courses (448) of SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR:—S. Slater, 1; J. Kitchener, 2; John Kitchener, 3; L. Chapman, 4; S. Page, 5; N. J. Pitstow, 6; C. Shambrook, 7; Rev. F. E. Robinson (conductor), 8. Also two courses of STEDMAN TRIPLES, conducted by the Rev. F. E. Robinson. The latter was S. Slater's first attempt at ringing STEDMAN with bobs. Afterwards a course of KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, the Rev. F. J. Helmore ringing the fourth, and the others standing as before. At this stage the worthy Squire of Benington gave the signal for dinner, which took place at the 'Old Bell' Hotel. The Rev. F. E. Robinson (chairman) informed the Benington party that the brake was ready to convey them to the neighbouring village of Aspenden, to ring upon the eight bells at that church. After a pleasant drive of five miles the Rev. A. P. Sanderson, the rector, gave the party a cordial welcome, and STEDMAN

TRIPLES, DOUBLE NORWICH, and SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE were rung. Afterwards some of the party took refreshment, and others—Squire Proctor, Rev. F. E. Robinson, Rev. F. J. Helmore, and J. R. Haworth—had tea at the Rectory (more than three hundred years old), at the kind invitation of the Rev. A. P. Sanderson. The Saffron Walden company again ascended Braughing steeple, and rang 5024 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 5 mins. F. Pitstow, 1; E. Pitstow, 2; S. Slater, 3; C. Freeman, 4; G. Martin, 5; G. Taylor, 6; J. F. Penning, 7; N. J. Pitstow, 8. Tenor, 19 cwt., in E. This being over, and the Benington company having returned from Aspenden, they again repaired to the 'Old Bell,' and after a friendly chat together, a hearty shake of the hand, and bidding each other good night, all journeyed homewards, well pleased with the day's outing. J. R. Haworth and F. Pitstow accompanied the party to Benington (ten miles) to attempt the 5120 SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR at St. Peter's, recorded last week.

The ring of bells at Braughing has lately been rehung by Mr. J. Gray of Little Mundon, Herts. They were augmented to eight by two trebles being added in 1745, cast by Robert Catlin, one of the College Youths of that day; and it has been thought that the College Youths rang the first peal upon the bells, as it is known that they rang peals here at a very early date.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. Chad's, Birmingham.

On Wednesday, the 18th ult., a peal of 5088 BOB MAJOR was rung in 3 hrs. 6 mins. C. Barnacle, 1; G. Day (Eye), 2; J. Carter (composer and conductor), 3; J. Callaghan, 4; F. Day (Eye), 5; J. T. Perry, 6; A. Hackley, 7; T. Miller, 8. Tenor, 15 cwt., in F.

At St. Albans, Herts.—Handbell-ringing.

On Friday, the 20th ult., 504 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. A. Barnes, 1; W. H. Buckingham, 2; G. W. Cartmel, 3-4; W. H. L. Buckingham (conductor), 5-6; A. Sibley, 7-8. On Saturday, the 21st ult., 251 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. J. C. Mitchell (conductor), 7-8. On Friday, the 27th ult., 360 COLLEGE SINGLE. J. C. Mitchell, 1-2; G. W. Cartmel, 3-4; W. H. L. Buckingham (conductor), 5-6. On Saturday, the 28th ult., 720 COLLEGE SINGLE, 720 BOB MINOR, and 720 GRANDSIRE MINOR. J. C. Mitchell, 1-2; G. W. Cartmel, 3-4; W. H. L. Buckingham (conductor), 5-6. First 720 of COLLEGE SINGLE by all.

At the Parish Church, Nuneaton, Warwickshire.

On Saturday, the 21st ult., eight members of the Birmingham Amalgamated Society and the Birmingham and District Association rang a peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 59 mins. J. Miller, 1; C. Barnacle, 2; J. Carter (composer and conductor), 3; J. Callaghan, 4; C. Carmell, 5; J. T. Perry, 6; A. Hackley, 7; C. Sparkes (first peal), 8. Tenor, 14½ cwt.

At All Saints', Ryde, Isle of Wight.

On Monday, the 23rd ult., the Crawley Branch of the Sussex County Association visited the above town. On their arrival at 11.30 they were kindly welcomed by the Vicar, the Rev. A. Poole, who placed the belfry at their disposal for the day. The following touches were brought round in good style. 424 OXFORD BOB TRIPLES. G. Wickens, 1; J. Newnham, 2; W. Wadey, 3; B. King, 4; T. Newnham, 5; M. Heger, 6; H. Burstow (conductor), 7; A. F. Hillier, 8. 504 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES by the same, with the exception of W. Parsons, who rang the treble. 574 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. W. Parsons, 1; F. Wickens, 2; W. Wadey, 3; J. Newnham, 4; Rev. H. A. Spyers, 5; T. Newnham, 6; H. Burstow (conductor), 7; A. F. Hillier, 8. 504 UNION TRIPLES. W. Parsons, 1; J. Newnham, 2; W. Wadey, 3; B. King, 4; T. Newnham, 5; A. F. Hillier, 6; H. Burstow (conductor), 7; M. Heffer, 8. A quarter-peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (1260 changes), in 49 mins. B. King, 1; W. Wadey, 2; W. Parsons, 3; F. Wickens, 4; Rev. H. A. Spyers, 5; A. F. Hillier, 6; H. Burstow (conductor), 7; M. Heffer, 8. Tenor, 26½ cwt.

At All Saints', Duffield, Derbyshire.

On Tuesday, the 24th ult., eight members of the Midland Counties' Association rang a peal of 5008 DOUBLE OXFORD BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 6 mins. J. Howe, 1; E. Moreton, 2; S. Johnson, 3; H. C. Woodward, 4; G. Hingley, 5; A. B. Ward, 6; W. Hickling, 7; A. P. Heywood, Esq. (composer and conductor), 8. Tenor, 17 cwt. This peal, which was now rung for the first time, contains the 4th, 5th, and 6th each twelve times in 6th's place.

At Heene Parish Church, West Worthing, Sussex.

On Thursday, the 26th ult., by the Royal Cumberland Society of Change-ringers, Holt's Ten-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES was rung in 2 hrs. 52 mins. J. Searle, 1; G. F. Attree, 2; H. A. Hopkins (London), 3; H. Weston, 4; C. Tyler, 5; C. King, 6; J. Jay, sen. (conductor), 7; W. Vernon, 8. Tenor, 10½ cwt. All the above, with the exception of Mr. Hopkins, are members of the Sussex Association.

At St. Margaret's, Barking, Essex.

On Sunday evening, the 29th ult., seven members of the Essex Association, with Mr. L. Green, rang for Divine service a Quarter-peal of STEDMAN TRIPLES (1260 changes) in 48 mins. A. J. Perkins (conductor), 1; J. Gobbett, 2; W. B. Manning, 3; L. Green, 4; R. Sewell, 5; S. Hayes, 6; W. Doran, 7; E. A. Davies, 8. Tenor, 22½ cwt.

At St. Peter's, Bournemouth, Hants.

On Sunday, the 29th ult., 1260 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES were rung in 50 mins. J. Bennett, 1; T. Scarlett, 2; C. A. Clements, 3; W. W. Gifford, 4; T. Green, 5; E. Vinen (conductor), 6; H. Garrett, 7; J. R. Jerram, 8. Also 1260 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, in 47 mins. H. Garrett, 1; J. R. Jerram, 2; C. Staden, 3; E. Vinen, 4; W. W. Gifford, 5; T. Scarlett (conductor), 6; C. O. Clements, 7; A. Grist, 8. Tenor, 20 cwt. Messrs. Vinen and Scarlett are from London; Jerram, Clement, and Gifford from Salisbury; and the rest belong to Bournemouth.

both of us strongly objecting to vows of celibacy. It is not the fact that I promoted or desired the separation of the two Houses. On the contrary, no one did so much to prevent it. I was not in Convocation at the time to which the Archbishop has ascribed the rise of his misgivings. He was in correspondence with the Prolocutor (Dr. Cowie) when I took my seat, and, having seen the letters, I advocated the arrangement suggested by his Grace. I drafted an amendment of the Standing Orders for that purpose, and it was settled in the Committee of Privileges, though not formally adopted, before Dr. Cowie's removal. The report had to wait for the new Prolocutor to be signed and presented. Then it passed the House unanimously, Archdeacon Blunt, among others, expressing his approval. In moving it I said that the amendment "was intended to facilitate their sitting together by avoiding the difficulties which caused a wish in certain quarters for the House to set separately. The committee's sole aim had been to promote the union of the two Houses."—(*Journal of Convocation*, 24th April, 1884, p. 99.) I had left the Convocation at the close of the session, believing that all was happily arranged, when the Archbishop announced the termination of the joint sittings. No one was more surprised and disappointed than myself. It is well known how long I have laboured for the revival of our Convocation, which even now hardly gets its due equality with the larger province in the counsels of the National Church. At the time of this unexpected dissolution I was chairman of the Committee of Privileges, and one of the Prolocutor's assessors. I had also obtained a committee from which I hoped for some important suggestions in restraint of the ritual litigation which we all deplore. It is for the Chapter to say whether my services shall be continued.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

The Lancashire Association.

THE Annual Meeting of the above Association will take place on Saturday, October 2nd, at Holy Trinity Church, Bolton. There will be a service at 3.30 p.m., at which the sermon will be preached by the Rev. Canon Davenport Kelly, M.A., rector of St. Matthew, Manchester. Tea will be provided in the schoolroom at 5 p.m., tickets 1s. each. The business meeting will be at 6 p.m., when the officers for the ensuing year will be elected. All those who intend to be present at the tea are requested to send in their names to Mr. J. Redford, 9 Portugal Street, Bolton (from whom tickets may be obtained), not later than September 25th. Ringers, not being members, will be cordially welcomed. The towers of the parish church of St. Peter, as well as those of Holy Trinity, All Saints', and St. George, will be open for ringing after the meeting. Members who have not paid their subscription for the past year are requested to send it as soon as possible to Mr. Redford, in order that the list of members may be complete for insertion in the Report.

A. E. HOLME, } Hon. Secs.
J. REDFORD, }

The Essex Association.

A DISTRICT MEETING will be held at Braintree (six bells) on Saturday, September 25th. Ringing to commence at 11.30 o'clock. The towers of Booking (six bells), two miles from Braintree; Rayne (a station on the Bishops Stortford line, six minutes from Braintree: six bells), two miles; and Stisted (six bells), three miles; will also be open to members; and the Schoolroom at Braintree will be open for handbell ringing during the day. Meat tea at the 'Wheat Sheaf Inn,' at 5 p.m. Business meeting immediately after the tea. Tickets (sixpence each to members) may be obtained from the Secretary up to Tuesday, September 21st, after which date the price will be one shilling. Return tickets will be issued by the G. E. R. at a single fare and a quarter, to members who show at the booking-office their E. A. C. R. receipts for the present year, provided they inform the Secretary before September 21st from what station they start. (Trains from Witham to Braintree at 10.29 a.m., 1.12, 3.46 p.m.; Braintree to Witham, 2.33, 4.22, 7.5 p.m.; Bishops Stortford to Braintree, 10.25 a.m., 12.47, 3.25 p.m.; Braintree to Bishops Stortford, 11.10 a.m., 1.55, 4.25 p.m.)

Writtle Vicarage, Chelmsford.

T. L. PAPILLON, Hon. Sec.

The Tewkesbury Abbey Society at Manchester.

On Tuesday, the 24th ult., the above Society visited Manchester. They made their way into the town by the tramcar; and after paying a visit to the Town Hall proceeded to the Cathedral, where they were met by Mr. J. Eachus, a member of the Cathedral Society, who kindly showed them round the Cathedral; thence to the ringing-chamber, where they rang the first part of Reeves' Variation peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. After dinner they returned to the Cathedral and rang a short touch of STEEDMAN TRIPLES. C. W. Dyson, R. H. Witherington, S. Cleal, F. J. Moore, J. Hale, J. Wathen, T. Devereux, W. Hampton, and Jos. Wathen. They tender their thanks to Mr. A. E. Wreaks and Mr. J. Eachus for their kind arrangements, which added greatly to their enjoyment throughout the day.

Re-opening of the Bells at Whitchurch, Salop.

On Tuesday, 31st ult., the ring of eight in the tower of St. Alkmund in this parish was reopened, after having been rehung and tuned by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, who had done their work most excellently throughout. There was a short opening service at 3 p.m., with address by the Rector, Rev. W. H. Egerton, who clearly and admirably set forth the sanctity of bells and belfries, and the duty incumbent upon the ringers of bringing

themselves into harmony with their sacred surroundings. After service some touches of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES were rung by the Whitchurch company, together with Rev. C. D. P. Davies, who was formerly assistant curate in the parish. In the evening 720 GRANDSIRE MINOR was attempted, but unsuccessfully.

Next day Messrs. Ball, Bethel, Gibson, and Griffiths came from Chester, and a start was made for Holt's ORIGINAL, which unfortunately broke down after some very excellent ringing for close on two hours' duration. T. Griffiths, 1; Rev. C. D. P. Davies (conductor), 2; G. Wright, 3; J. Gibson, 4; T. Bethel, 5; G. Woodhall, 6; F. Ball, 7; T. Barron, 8. In the evening the ringers were most kindly and hospitably entertained at supper by William Brookes, Esq., among the company being the Rector, the churchwardens, Mr. Bowden, through whose devotion to the cause, and through that of Mr. Jones (unavoidably absent), most of the necessary funds had been collected, Dr. Gwynn, and Mr. Joyce. Various toasts were drunk, some GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in hand were rung on the handbells, and, with a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Brookes for his kindness, the party broke up, having spent a most enjoyable evening.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire.

On Wednesday, the 18th ult., eight members of the Midland Counties' Association rang Thurstans' peal of 5040 STEEDMAN TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 15 mins. J. Jagger, 1; W. Wakley, 2; A. Wakley, 3; J. Austin, 4; H. Wakley, 5; J. Griffin (conductor), 6; T. Holmes, 7; G. Robinson, 8. Tenor, 26 cwt. The above was rung to celebrate the elevation of Sir M. A. Bass, eldest son of the founder of St. Paul's Church, to the Peerage; also in honour of the marriage of Mr. Wm. Reley, junr., a member of St. Paul's Church Choir, with Miss Louisa Chamberlain, daughter of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, builder, Burton-on-Trent.

At St. Andrew's, Halstead, Essex.

On Saturday, the 21st ult., the following members of the Sudbury Company paid a visit to the above place, and rang for evening service 360 BOB MINOR. F. Tolliday, 1; J. Campin, 2; W. Bacon, 3; W. Howell, 4; A. Scott, 5; C. Sillitoe (conductor), 6. Also after the service 720 KENT TREBLE BOB was attempted, but failed after ringing about 600 changes. F. Tolliday, 1; N. Hawkins (Walter Belchamp), 2; W. Bacon, 3; J. Campin, 4; W. Ward (Halstead), 5; C. Sillitoe (conductor), 6. Some touches of BOB MINOR, TREBLE BOB, and GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, were rung. Tenor, 20 cwt. The ringers then adjourned to the meeting-room, and a course of GRANDSIRE CATERS was rung on the handbells. F. Tolliday, 1-2; A. Scott, 3-4; C. Sillitoe, 5-6; W. Howell, 7-8; J. Campin, 9-10. Also a course of BOB ROYAL. C. Sillitoe, 1-2-3-4; J. Campin, 5-6; W. Howell, 7-8; A. Scott, 9-10. Touches of BOB MAJOR, GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, and some tunes by Messrs. Sillitoe, Howell, and Scott, brought a very pleasant evening to a close.

At St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, London.

On Saturday, the 21st ult., eight members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang, for practice, 1680 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 59 mins. T. Dupin, 1; S. Joyce, 2; W. Cecil, 3; H. Langdon, 4; J. West, 5; H. Springhall, 6; M. A. Wood (conductor), 7; A. Hughes (Whitechapel Foundry), 8.

At St. Peter's pro-Cathedral, Liverpool.

On Monday, the 23rd ult., the Liverpool Youths' Society, with Mr. C. H. Hattersley of Sheffield and Mr. G. Longden of Ashton-under-Lyne, started for 5079 STEDMAN CATERS, and all went on well for 2 hrs. 15 mins. (thirty-two courses having been rung), when, owing to the excessive heat, 'Stand!' was called. R. Williams, 1; J. B. Pritchard, 2; T. Hammond, 3; C. H. Hattersley (composer and conductor), 4; J. Brown, 5; G. Longden 6; G. Fisher, 7; R. Williams, 8; W. Davies, 9; W. Brooks, 10.

At St. Andrew's, Derby.

On Thursday, the 26th ult., eight members of the Midland Counties' Association rang a peal of 5040 BOB TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 3 mins. W. Sharlow, 1; A. E. Thompson, 2; J. W. Thompson, 3; W. B. Midgley, 4; G. Mottashaw, 5; W. H. Found, 6; H. C. Woodward (conductor), 7; F. Whiting, 8. Tenor, 20½ cwt., in E.

At the Cathedral of St. John, Manchester.

On Saturday, the 28th ult., ten members of the United Counties' Association rang a peal of 5080 KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL in 3 hrs. 38 mins. J. S. Wilde, 1; J. Lee, 2; S. West, 3; J. Wilde, 4; H. J. Shade, 5; A. Cross, 6; I. Shade, 7; S. Bennett, 8; J. Thorp (composer and conductor), 9; G. Longden, 10. Tenor, 25 cwt. Wilde Brothers came from Hyde; Lee, Thorp, and Longden, from Ashton; Shade Brothers from London; Cross from Chester; and West from Manchester.

At St. James's, Poole, Dorset.

On Saturday, the 28th ult., a mixed band paid a visit to the above town, and the following touches were rung. 518 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. J. Bennett (Bournemouth), 1; C. Clements (Salisbury), 2; C. Staden (Bournemouth), 3; H. Scarlett (conductor, Walthamstow), 4; T. Green (Bournemouth), 5; J. R. Jerram (Salisbury), 6; H. A. Garrett (Bournemouth), 7; A. Grist, (Bournemouth), 8. Also 794 in the same method. J. Bennett, 1; C. Clements, 2; E. E. Vinen (conductor, London), 3; W. W. Gifford (Salisbury), 4; T. Green, 5; H. Scarlett, 6; H. A. Garrett, 7; A. Grist, 8. A start was made for a quarter-peal, but came to an end within three leads of the finish. J. Bennett, 1; C. Clements, 2; H. Scarlett, 3; W. W. Gifford, 4; T. Green, 5; E. E. Vinen (conductor), 6; H. Garrett, 7; J. R.

Jerram, 8. The bells are a fine ring, and go fairly well. Tenor, 20 cwt., in E flat. The ringers wish to convey their thanks to the Vicar for giving permission to use the bells, and also to the steeple-keeper, who made all ready at very short notice.

At the Cathedral, Ripon, Yorkshire.

ON Saturday, the 28th ult., a peal of 5056 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR was rung in 3 hrs. 15 mins. A. Clark, 1; H. Tomlinson, 2; W. Reed, 3; R. S. Story, 4; A. Ingleby,* 5; M. Tomlinson, 6; T. Clark (conductor), 7; R. Binns, 8. Composed by Mr. N. J. Pistow. Tenor, 21 cwt. This is the first peal of MAJOR on the bells, and was rung on the occasion of the One Thousandth Anniversary of the foundation of the Bishopric. The composition is in one part of fifteen courses. Binns and Tomlinson Brothers came from Leeds; Reed from North Shields; Story from Newcastle-on-Tyne; the others from Ripon. [* First peals.]

At the Parish Church, Balcombe, Sussex.

ON Sunday, the 29th ult., for evening service, six members of the Sussex County Association rang 720 BOB MINOR (22 singles) in 25 mins. A. Piper, 1; E. Streeter, 2; H. Meads, 3; G. Cheesman, 4; H. Weston, 5; J. Gasson (conductor), 6. After evening service 720 WARMHAM COURT BOB MINOR (26 singles). A. Piper, 1; A. Stoner, 2; H. Weston, 3; G. Cheesman, 4; H. Meads, 5; E. Streeter (conductor), 6. And 720 OXFORD BOB MINOR (18 singles and 3 bobs) in 26 mins. A. Piper, 1; R. Bourn, 2; E. Streeter, 3; H. Weston, 4; J. Gasson, 5; H. Meads (conductor), 6. Messrs. Piper and Weston came from Brighton.

At St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh.

ON Tuesday, the 31st ult., ten members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang a peal of 5003 GRANDPÈRE CATERNS in 3 hrs. 29 min. J. Field, 1; R. W. Evans, 2; A. Thomas, 3; J. Williams, 4; J. Ellis, 5; F. E. Dawe, 6; E. Rowland, 7; T. Newell, 8; E. Evans, 9; J. Kendrick, 10. Tenor, 42 cwt. 2 qrs. 21 lbs. in C. The peal, which has the 5th and 6th each twenty-four courses behind the 9th, was composed specially for the occasion by Mr. H. Johnson, sen., of Birmingham, and conducted by Mr. F. E. Dawe, of London. This is the first complete peal on the bells, and also the first peal on ten bells ever accomplished in Scotland.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Bennett Memorial Service and Intercession for the Departed.

SIR,—Obviously the purpose of your correspondent, 'J. L.,' is to brand as disloyal members of the Church of England those of the clergy and laity who follow or approve the practice of commemorating the departed in prayer, and the report of a service held by Mr. H. Montagu Villiers in connexion with the late Vicar of Frome furnishes him with the opportunity of framing an indictment. But he who undertakes the work of a censor or an accuser ought to be quite sure of the tenability of his position, and this 'J. L. G.' seems to have been unaware of, or to have forgotten, when he penned the letter which appears in your issue of this week. When your correspondent says, somewhat loftily, 'I had thought that the Church of England had distinctly and advisedly excluded prayers for the dead from her offices, intending thereby to discourage her members from using any such practice,' and refers to those who remember their departed ones in their supplications as 'ill-instructed people' who follow 'alien practices,' he treads on dangerous ground, and he should not be surprised if some of your readers dispute the claim which he appears to make to superior enlightenment. I suppose all moderately well-instructed Church folks know that there is a difference between what the twenty-second Article designates 'the Romish doctrine concerning purgatory,' and the ancient Catholic belief and practice with respect to the intermediate state; but 'J. L.,' why—is best known to himself—accounts both 'Romanism.'

In the Second Book of Maccabees (chapter xii.), which 'the Church doth read for example of life and instruction of manners' (see Article VI.), it is recorded that the Hebrew general, Judas, in making an offering for those slain in battle, did 'very well and honestly, in that he was mindful of the resurrection, for if he had not hoped that they that were slain should have risen again it had been superfluous and vain to pray for the dead. And also in that he perceived there was great favour laid up for those that died godly, it was an holy and good thought.' And it is the custom of the Jews now, as it was in the days of Judas, and has been ever since, to pray for their dead, asking that their souls 'may be bound up in the bundle of life, together with the souls of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel, and Leah, and with other saints, male and female, who are in Paradise.' There is no recorded saying of our Lord in condemnation of the practice, but we are told in the New Testament that His opponents, the Sadducees, 'denied the Resurrection,' of which Judas and all who prayed for the dead were 'mindful.'

Nor was prayer for the departed unknown—rather was it a recognised practice—in early Christian times, as we learn from inscriptions in the Catacombs at Rome, from ancient liturgies, and from patristic sources. Many quotations might be given in proof of this assertion, but I must content myself with referring to the *Confessions* of St. Augustine, and citing a few words of St. Cyril of Jerusalem. Augustine (*Confessions*, lib. ix. ch. 13), after the death of his mother, Monica, prays that she 'may rest in peace with her husband, before whom, and after whom, she was married to no other,' and speaks of her as desiring 'only that a memorial of her might be made at Thine altar, which she had served without interruption day by day.' Cyril writes: 'We all of us supplicate Thee and offer to Thee this sacrifice, that we may also commemorate those who have fallen asleep

before us, first patriarchs, prophets, apostles, martyrs, to the end that God, by their prayers and intercessions, may accept our petition.'

The Church of England prays for 'the whole Church,' and the 'whole Church' contains those who have departed this life in the faith and fear of God, as well as Christians now living on earth. In the Litany there is a petition for deliverance not only 'in the hour of death,' but 'in the Day of Judgment' also; and, surely, the words 'Thy kingdom come' in the Lord's prayer involve a prayer for the perfection of the Church and of every imperfect member of it, living and departed, which will not be accomplished until the Great day of Account.

But, unfortunately, the doctrine of the Intermediate State has been neglected. The *practical* teaching of too many of the clergy is, and long has been, and the consequent belief of a vast majority of nominal Church folks is, that when people die their souls pass at once to glory or perdition; and this is nothing less than a virtual rejection of the teaching of the Church—that at the second coming of the Son of Man 'all men shall rise with their bodies, and shall give account for their own works,' and that *then* 'they that have done good shall go into life everlasting, and they that have done evil into everlasting fire.'

Certainly intercession for the departed has not been regarded as an 'alien practice,' but, on the contrary, has been adopted and commended as a pious custom by some of the Church's most famous sons, including such divines as Bishop Andrewes, Bishop Cosin, Barrow, Thorndike, Ken, John Wesley, and Bishop Heber—all, I dare say, 'ill-instructed people' in the eyes of 'sound Protestants' of Saddlecean proclivities.

In connexion with the subject I may quote two of the apostrophic verses of Bishop Ken's hymn for 'All Saints' Day.' They set forth pretty clearly their author's view of the relations of the seen and the unseen portions of the Church, but I am afraid they are not so well known to Churchmen generally as they ought to be. Apostrophising the saints, he says,—

'Though in your bounded sphere
You cannot single votaries hear,
And we in no distress
To single saints make our address;
Yet if, like you, we heed
The Saints' communion in our creed,
We of each others' state have general view,
You pray for us, and we give thanks for you.'

Your love we to repay,
Will for your consummation pray,
For hastening the last doom,
That you your flesh may reassume,
For which you groanings have,
Till it gets freedom from the grave,
That death may vanquish'd lie beneath your feet,
And bliss in Christ-like bodies be complete.'

To this extract I may add the following words used by Canon Luckock in his interesting and thoughtful book, *After Death*. 'We have little doubt that those who accustom themselves to pray for departed friends will find the pains of bereavement lessened, and the bond of union between the Church on earth and the Church in Paradise more tightly drawn.'

In these days of doubt and denial, the importance of maintaining the doctrine of 'the Resurrection of the Dead and the life of the world to come' cannot be over-estimated. But is that doctrine upheld as it ought to be—is it likely to be an article of belief where the clergy teach their people nothing about eschatology, nothing concerning the oneness of that portion of the Church which is on earth with the part beyond the veil, or, it may be, allow or encourage them to think that their departed friends are nothing to them, and that all reference in prayer to those who have gone before is 'superfluous and vain,' 'popish,' and 'supersitious?' A LANCASHIRE LAYMAN.

Huyton, Liverpool, September 4.

The Present Low Tone of Morals.—Social Purity.

SIR,—The article in last week's issue on 'The Present Low Tone of Morals' and some of the correspondence induce me to send your readers a few particulars about three organizations from which they may obtain help and practical guidance in their individual efforts in the cause of social purity and morality. The whole subject is beset with snares and difficulties. No very general methods can be laid down; clerical and lay duties and opportunities are not identical. A Sunday-school teacher recently proposed in a contemporary the establishment of a juvenile 'Band of Purity,' on similar lines to those of 'Bands of Hope.' Let me, therefore, beg of anxious workers, lest they take rash and ill-considered steps beyond their private influences and example, to learn something of the accumulating experiences and literature of one or more of these Societies.

1. The Church of England Purity Society (C. E. P. S.) is younger sister to the Temperance Society (C. E. T. S.), with offices next door at 111 Palace Chambers, Bridge Street, Westminster, London, S.W.; Secretary, Lieut. Colonel Everitt. It has a clerical Organizing Secretary and a good Working Committee. There is a most valuable Schoolmasters' Sub-Committee and a monthly penny paper, the *Vanguard*. It was established May 25, 1883, and keeps spreading its usefulness. It is a central 'Church-house' for parochial branches or affiliated societies under different names (*e.g.*, Oxford University P.A., St. George's Society, &c.). The subscription is five shillings. Men only are members. Parish clergy may, of course, usefully be members, and yet not see their way to begin any new organization.

2. The White Cross Army has been remarkably successful in Durham and other dioceses. The subject may be dealt with at Confirmation, Bible, and other classes, at the discretion of the teacher. Without forming a

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

The Royal Society of Cumberland Youths.

At the Annual Meeting of Members on Friday, the 10th inst., at Headquarters, 'The Green Man,' St. Martin's Lane, W.C., Mr. H. S. Thomas was duly elected Master for the ensuing twelve months; Mr. W. Baron was re-elected Treasurer, and Mr. H. Dains re-elected Secretary; Mr. G. Church was elected Junior Steward, and Mr. J. Davies Senior Steward.

H. J. DAINS, *Hon. Sec.*

Association of Change-ringers for the Archdeaconry of Stafford.

THE Quarterly Meeting in connexion with the above Association will be held at Wednesbury on Saturday, September 25th. Ringers to commence at 2.30 at the Parish Church.

S. REEVES, *Hon. Sec.*

10 Bull Street, West Bromwich.

Beds. Association of Change-ringers.

A DISTRICT MEETING of the above Association will be held at Woburn on Saturday afternoon, October 2nd, next. The ring of eight at St. Mary's old tower will be at the service of the ringers, and also those of adjoining parishes. Ringing to commence at 3.

CHAS. HERBERT, *Hon. Sec.*

The Nuisance of Bell-ringing.

MUCH correspondence has lately taken place in our columns respecting the nuisance of bell-ringing. A correspondent sends us the following, which we gladly insert:—

SIR,—Having received my *Builder* to-day, as during twenty years past, I am greatly astounded at the 'Note' anent church bells. . . . With respect to Kensington the matter is perfectly remedial; as, in fact, everywhere else. Let the architect provide shutters to the inside of the bell-chamber windows, and during ringing and heavy storms keep them all shut. During ringing, in this instance, the sound will pass up the spire, and fall, not in the nearest windows, but half a mile distant. Having applied this scheme to my own parish church, where the bells are heavy, and often practised, the residents round the church cannot hear the bells at all in their shops and private dwellings. This has been also carried into effect at Sir G. Scott's cathedral in Edinburgh; with what effect I cannot say, but am informed that the disagreeable clang due to re-echo against near walls is entirely removed. Surely it is far better to have a good ring in one place, such as an important parish church, than having bell-lovers like myself erecting light rings in their own dwellings, which result would certainly follow any legislation against church bells. Greater nuisances than change-ringing require putting down, such as organ-grinding and piano-playing all night. The grand ring of ten at St. Clement Danes was never complained of by the patients in King's College Hospital; nor, as far as I know, any of the well-known bells round other hospitals.

FRANCIS GRAYLING, F.R.C.P.

Sittingbourne, Dec. 25. Member of the Ancient Society of College Youths.

[The 'Shutter' plan is adopted with success at Duffield, where A. P. Heywood, Esq., was the means of having it placed.—ED.]

CHANGE-RINGING.

At the Parish Church, Rayleigh, Essex.

ON Sunday, the 8th ult., the following members of the Essex Association rang for evening service 1080 changes, consisting of 720 BOB MINOR (30 bobs and 2 singles), and 360 COLLEGE SINGLES. G. Smith, 1; P. W. Haslam, 2; J. Johnson, 3; F. H. Brewer, 4; H. Deal, 5; W. H. Judd (conductor), 6. The above 720 were taken from the *Clavis*. On Monday evening, the 6th inst., for practice, 360 GRANDSIRE MINOR. G. Smith, 1; F. Strugnell, 2; J. Johnson, 3; J. Collins, 4; F. W. Haslam, 5; H. Deal (conductor), 6. Also 480 BOB MINOR, being two parts of Davies' Three-part peal, standing the same as before, with the exception of F. H. Brewer, who rang the 4th; conducted by H. Deal.

At the Parish Church, Kidderminster, Worcestershire.

ON Thursday, the 19th ult., the following members of the Worcester Diocesan Association rang 728 and 672 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. J. Bennett, 1; E. F. Strange (conductor), 2; H. Sandells, 3; C. S. Rowlands, 4; R. E. Grove, 5; E. Broad, 6; J. Crane, 7; T. Walters, 8. On Thursday, the 26th ult., a quarter-peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (1260 changes), in 50 mins. J. Bennett, 1; E. F. Strange, 2; H. Sandells, 3; C. S. Rowlands, 4; H. Williams, 5; R. E. Grove, 6; J. Crane, 7; T. Walters, 8. On Sunday morning, the 29th ult., for Divine service, 1134 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. J. Bennett, 1; E. F. Strange, 2; W. Broomfield, jun., 3; W. Broomfield, sen., 4; J. Crane, 5; H. Sandells, 6; R. E. Grove, 7; T. Walters, 8. Tenor, 29 cwt.

At St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire.

ON Thursday, the 22nd ult., eight members of the Midland Counties' Association and the St. Paul's Society rang a peal of 5056 SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR in 3 hrs. 28 mins. S. Grettton, 1; E. I. Stone, 2; A. P. Heywood, 3; H. Wakley, 4; J. Jaggard, 5; J. Griffin, 6; T. Holmes, 7; W. Wakley, 8; Composed by A. P. Heywood, Esq., and conducted by Mr. J. Griffin. Tenor, 26 cwt. This peal contains the 6th and 4th the extent in 6th's place.

At St. Sidwell's, Exeter, Devon.

ON Tuesday, the 31st ult., 336 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES were rung by W. Mundy, 1; E. Pitt, 2; G. Townsend, 3; W. Richardson, 4; A. Shepherd, 5; Rev. T. L. Papillon (Writtle, Essex), 6; F. Shepherd (conductor), 7; T. J. Lake, 8. On Sunday, the 5th inst., 504 STEDMAN TRIPLES in 25 mins. E. Pitt, 1; H. Langdon (London), 2; F. R. Shepherd, 3; W. Richardson, 4; W. Goss, 5; A. Shepherd, 6; F. Shepherd (conductor), 7; J. H. Monday

(London), 8. And 168 in the same method. J. Moss, 1; H. Langdon, 2; E. Pitt, 3; W. Richardson, 4; A. Shepherd, 5; E. Shepherd, 6; F. Shepherd (conductor), 7; W. Mundy, 8. On Monday, the 6th inst., eight members of the Ancient Society of College Youths and the Devonshire Guild attempted to ring Reeves' Variation peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, but after ringing four parts (2000 changes) the conductor called 'Stand!' owing to a change course. E. Truman, 1; F. Shepherd (conductor), 2; H. Langdon, 3; A. Shepherd, 4; W. Mundy, 5; W. Richardson, 6; J. Moss, 7; J. H. Monday, 8.

At St. Mary's, Whitechapel, London.

ON Wednesday evening, the 1st inst., eight members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang a half-muffled peal, consisting of the usual whole-pull and stand, as a mark of respect to the late Mr. W. White, who died at the age of seventy-six, having held the position of sexton for upwards of sixteen years at the above church. A touch of STEDMAN TRIPLES was also rung. J. Pettit (conductor), 1; W. Cecil, 2; J. Bonney, 3; W. Tanner, 4; S. Joyce, 5; E. Wallage, 6; W. Jones, 7; W. Greenleaf, 8.

At St. Mary's, Ringstead, Northants.

ON Thursday, the 2nd inst., on the occasion of the marriage of Miss Agutter, sister of the parish churchwarden, 720 OXFORD BOB (38 bobs and 22 singles) was rung by E. Mayes, 1; G. Roberts, 2; R. Shipley, 3; J. Sawford, 4; J. Braybrook (conductor), 5; T. Roberts, 6. And 720 PLAIN BOB (18 bobs and 2 singles). J. Braybrook, 1; F. Chapman, 2; E. Mayes, 3; G. Roberts, 4; J. Sawford, 5; T. Roberts (conductor), 6. Also 360 COLLEGE LITTLE. F. Chapman, 1; J. Sawford, 2; R. Shipley, 3; G. Roberts, 4; J. Braybrook, 5; E. Mayes (conductor), 6. And 360 YORKSHIRE COURT. G. Roberts, 1; E. Mayes, 2; R. Shipley, 3; J. Sawford, 4; J. Braybrook, 5; T. Roberts (conductor), 6. Also 720 LONDON SINGLE (18 bobs and 2 singles). W. J. Gilbert, 1; E. Mayes, 2; R. Shipley, 3; G. Roberts, 4; J. Sawford, 5; T. Roberts (conductor), 6.

At the Parish Church, Saffron Walden, Essex.

ON Saturday, the 4th inst., eight members of the Essex Association attempted to ring a peal of KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, but after ringing 45 mins. 'Stand!' had to be called, it being too hot for the tenor man. E. Pitstow, 1; G. Martin, 2; H. Prior, jun., 3; C. Prior, 4; F. Pitstow, 5; C. Freeman, 6; N. J. Pitstow (conductor), 7; J. F. Penning, 8. And 240 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR. J. F. Penning, 1; C. Prior, 2; H. Prior, jun., 3; C. Freeman, 4; G. Martin, 5; E. Pitstow, 6; N. J. Pitstow, 7; F. Pitstow (conductor), 8. Also 216 STEDMAN TRIPLES. F. Pitstow (conductor), 1; J. F. Penning, 2; H. Prior, jun., 3; C. Freeman, 4; G. Martin, 5; E. Pitstow, 6; N. J. Pitstow, 7; C. Prior, 8. Tenor 24 cwt. Messrs. C. and H. Prior came from Stanstead, Essex.

At the Parish Church, Long Eaton, Derbyshire.

ON Sunday evening, the 5th inst., after Divine service, eight members of the Midland Counties' Association rang a quarter-peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, with the bells half-muffled, as a tribute of respect to the memory of Mrs. F. Norris. Deceased was the wife of F. Norris, Esq., who is a generous member of Long Eaton parish church, and her death has caused the deepest sorrow to a large circle of friends. G. Bradley, 1; A. Widdowson, 2; J. C. Dickinson, 3; S. Clarke, 4; J. Ward, 5; W. Gilson, 6; J. Barrow (conductor), 7; G. Kilbourne, 8. Tenor, 11 cwt.

At St. Mary's, Hitchin, Herts.

ON Monday, the 6th inst., 350 and 224 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES were rung. J. Randall, 1; H. Buckingham, 2; F. Furr, 3; A. Squires, 4; J. Foster, 5; J. Hare, 6; W. Allen (conductor), 7; W. Kitchener, 8. Also on Monday, the 13th, 504. J. Randall, 1; W. Allen, 2; H. Buckingham, 3; A. Squires, 4; F. Furr, 5; S. Hare, 6; J. Hare, 7; J. Foster, 8.

At the Parish Church, Crawley, Sussex.

ON Monday evening, the 6th inst., eight members of the Sussex County Association attempted to ring a half-peal of OXFORD BOB TRIPLES, with the bells muffled, in memory of the late Mr. Rouse, who was for many years churchwarden, and a member of the local Society since its formation. After ringing 2100 changes in 1 hr. 20 mins., it came to an end through the interruption of visitors, the belfry door having been left unlocked. W. Parsons, 1; J. Newnham, 2; W. Collison, 3; B. King, 4; M. Heffer, 5; F. Wickens (conductor), 6; A. F. Hillier, 7; J. Collison, 8.

At the Parish Church, Edenbridge, Kent.

ON Saturday, the 11th inst., six members of the Speldhurst Society of Change-ringers rang a peal of 720 PLAIN BOB (18 bobs and 2 singles) in 28 mins. J. Maynard, 1; J. Baker, 2; F. Still, 3; F. Still, jun., 4; G. Turley, 5; C. Chapman (conductor), 6. Tenor, 14 cwt., in G.

At St. James', Trowbridge, Wilts.

ON Saturday, the 11th inst., eight members of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild rang the Bob-and-Single peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 19 mins. J. Davidson, * 1; T. Blackburn, * 2; J. R. Jerram, * 3; J. Hayward, 4; W. McCaffrey (conductor), 5; C. A. Clements, * 6; W. W. Gifford, * 7; A. Palmer, * 8. Tenor, 23 cwt. [* College Youths. * First peal.]

At St. Stephen's, St. Albans, Herts.

ON Sunday, the 12th inst., after Divine service, being Harvest Festival, six members of the Hertfordshire Association rang 720 GRANDSIRE MINOR in 27 mins. G. W. Cartmel, 1; J. C. Mitchell, 2; E. P. Debenham, 3; W. H. L. Buckingham (conductor), 4; A. Godman, sen., 5; W. Battle, 6. On Friday, the 10th inst., on handbells, 560 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. G. W. Cartmel, 1-2; W. H. L. Buckingham (conductor), 3-4; E. P. Debenham, 5-6; A. Sibley, 7-8. On Saturday, the 11th inst., 720 GRANDSIRE MINOR. W. H. L. Buckingham (conductor), 1-2; G. W. Cartmel, 3-4; J. C. Mitchell, 5-6.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

The Lancashire Association of Six-bell Ringers.

THE Quarterly Meeting of the above Association was held on Saturday, the 4th inst., at St. James's, Leyland. Members attended from St. Andrew's, Leyland, Blackrod, Chorley, Preston, and Standish. They were met by the local ringers, who conducted them to the tower, where 720 BOB MINOR and other touches of LONDON SINGLE BOB were rung; after which the members adjourned to the church school, kindly lent by the Vicar. The ordinary business of the meeting having been transacted, it was decided that the next Quarterly Meeting should be held at Standish. After the usual vote of thanks to the Chairman (Mr. William Bowling) the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Vicar (Rev. J. Watts Wilkinson), for the use of the bells and schoolroom for the purpose of the Association.

North Leicestershire Bell-ringers' Association.

THE adjourned quarterly meeting of the above Association will be held at Market Rasen on Saturday next, October 2nd. Several gentlemen interested in change-ringing are expected to be present, and it is hoped there will be a good attendance of members. The church bells of Market Rasen (six) and Claxby (five) will be at the disposal of members for the whole of the day. Arrangements will be made for ringers to go to Claxby. Tea will be provided at five o'clock, and the meeting will follow immediately after. The Committee will be glad to see any brethren from the East and South Lincolnshire Associations. Societies, unattached members, or brethren of kindred associations intending to be present, will please to communicate at once with the Hon. Sec.,
W. LUNN, Market Rasen.

Visit of the Woolwich Parish Church Ringers to St. Albans.

THE bell-ringers of the above church paid a visit on Wednesday to the Cathedral of St. Albans, where the following rang some GRANDSIRE and STEDMAN TRIPLES:—J. C. Harvey (conductor), H. Harvey, Bright, Fakenham, J. Beaven, B. J. Sheldon, E. E. Richards, W. Bedwell, G. Hogg, and R. G. Carter; assisted by some members of the local band. The journey to and from the city was enlivened by some excellent hand-bell ringing.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. Gregory's, Sudbury, Suffolk.

ON Saturday, the 4th inst., the following members of the local Company met for practice, and rang 504 STEDMAN TRIPLES. C. Sillitoe (conductor), 1; W. Griggs, 2; W. Howell, 3; J. Campin, 4; A. Scott, 5; H. Harper, 6; W. Cross, 7; H. Brackett, 8. This is the longest touch in the method on these bells for upwards of eight years.—On Wednesday, the 8th inst., on the occasion of a wedding at St. Gregory's, several touches of KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR and GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, amounting to about 3700 changes, were rung during the day by Messrs. Tolliday, Cross, Griggs, Howell, Scott, Sillitoe (conductor), Campin, and Harper.—On Saturday, the 11th inst., a touch of BOB MAJOR. P. Tolliday, 1; W. Griggs, 2; W. Gridley (Foxearth), 3; M. Silvester, 4; A. Scott, 5; J. Lee (Foxearth), 6; H. Harper, 7; C. Sillitoe (conductor), 8. And 504 STEDMAN TRIPLES. C. Sillitoe (conductor), 1; W. Griggs, 2; J. Campin, 3; M. Silvester, 4; W. Bacon, 5; H. Harper, 6; W. Howell, 7; A. Scott, 8. Tenor, 16 cwt., in F.

At St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire.

ON Thursday, the 9th inst., eight members of the Midland Counties' Association rang a peal of 5088 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 27 mins. J. Austin, 1; H. Wakley, 2; A. Wakley, 3; J. Griffin, 4; J. Haggard, 5; W. Frith, 6; T. Holmes, 7; W. Wakley (conductor), 8. Tenor, 26 cwt. Composed by Mr. Dains. This peal has the 6th the extent, and nine course-ends home.

At St. Mary-the-Virgin, Stanstead, Essex.

ON Sunday, the 12th inst., six of the local company rang 720 KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR in 26 mins. J. Luckey, 1; W. Watts, 2; G. Gray, 3; G. Prior, 4; H. Prior, jun. (conductor), 5; I. Cavill, 6. Also 360 COLLEGE SINGLE. I. Cavill, 1; W. Watts, 2; G. Gray, 3; G. Prior, 4; H. Prior, jun., 5; C. Prior (conductor), 6. Tenor, 13 cwt.

At the Parish Church, Sheffield.

ON Monday, the 13th inst., eight members of the Yorkshire Association rang Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 58 mins. W. Midgley, 1; J. C. Dickens (Long Eaton), 2; J. Mulligan, 3; W. Burgur, 4; J. Goucher, 5; S. Seed, 6; T. Hattersley (conductor), 7; C. Steer (first peal), 8. Tenor, 14 cwt.

At St. Mary's, Wimbledon, Surrey.

ON Tuesday, the 14th inst., 720 SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MINOR was rung in 25 mins. G. Hyde, 1; B. E. Battrum, 2; C. Hyde, 3; J. Cooley, 4; A. Garrott, 5; S. Frost (conductor), 6.

At St. Peter's, Aylesford, Kent.

ON Tuesday, the 14th inst., eight members of the Kent County Association rang Holt's Six-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 50 mins. D. Hall, 1; E. Baldock (College Youth), 2; G. Pawley, 3; R. Simmonds (College Youth), 4; A. H. Woolley, 5; W. J. Leonard, 6; A. Moorcraft (College Youth, conductor), 7; G. J. Moorcraft, 8. Tenor, 16 cwt., in F. First peal of TRIPLES on the bells.

At St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, Suffolk.

ON Tuesday, the 14th inst., ten members of the Ancient Society of College Youths and the Norwich Diocesan Association rang a peal of 5187 STEDMAN CATERS in 3 hrs. 40 mins. W. L. Catchpole (conductor), 1; W. Motts, 2; I. S. Alexander, 3; J. Motts, 4; C. Saul, 5; H. Powell, 6; R. Hawes, 7; J. W. Taylor, Esq. (Loughborough), 8; R. H. Brundle, 9; E. Pemberton, 10. Tenor, 32 cwt., in C sharp. Composed by Mr. Hubbard. It was intended to ring STEDMAN CRUQUES, but, meeting short, the peal of STEDMAN CATERS was rung.

At Clent, Worcestershire.

ON Tuesday, the 14th inst., 720 KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR was rung in 27 mins. M. Shilcock, 1; C. Boughton,* 2; W. Boughton, 3; T. Cartwright,* 4; W. Huxley, 5; H. Martin (conductor), 6. [* First peal in the method.]

At St. Mary-the-Virgin, Putney, Surrey.

ON Saturday, the 18th inst., eight members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang Holt's Ten-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 45 mins. B. E. Battrum (conductor), 1; J. W. Driver, 2; G. T. McLaughlin, 3; W. Bidwell,* 4; J. M. Hayes, 5; R. T. Woodley,* 6; C. F. Winny, 7; S. How, 8. Tenor, 16 cwt. [This was Mr. Battrum's first peal as conductor; he rang his first peal on the 28th of September, 1885. * First peal with a bob bell.]

At All Saints', West Bromwich, Staffordshire.

ON Saturday, the 18th inst., by the kind permission of the Vicar, the Rev. M. M. Connor, the following members of the Association of Change-ringers for the Archdeaconry of Stafford rang the late T. Thurstans' Five-part peal of 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 52 mins. W. R. Small, 1; S. Reeves (conductor), 2; J. Astbury, 3; T. Reynolds, 4; W. Smith, 5; J. Lawton, 6; W. Hallsworth, 7; C. Price, 8. [This is J. Lawton's first peal of STEDMAN TRIPLES, and also the first peal rung in the method by this Association. Messrs. Hallsworth, Lawton, and Astbury came from Walsall; W. Smith, Darlaston; T. Reynolds, Aston; the others West Bromwich.]

At St. Mary's, Bedford.

ON Sunday, the 19th inst., being the Harvest Festival, six members of the Beds Association rang for early service a date touch of 1886 changes, consisting of 446 PLAIN BOB, 720 OXFORD TREBLE BOB, and 720 KENT TREBLE BOB, in 1 hr. 7 mins. H. Chapman, 1; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 2; T. Foote, 3; M. Warwick, 4; S. J. Cullip, 5; I. Hills, 6. Also for the eleven o'clock service, 720 OXFORD BOB. F. Keech, 1; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 2; T. Foote, 3; H. Chapman, 4; S. J. Cullip, 5; I. Hills, 6. And for evensong, 720 DOUBLE COURT. I. Hills, 1; M. Warwick, 2; T. Foote, 3; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 4; S. J. Cullip, 5; H. Chapman, 6. Also 720 WOODBINE TREBLE BOB. S. J. Cullip, 1; M. Warwick, 2; T. Foote, 3; I. Hills, 4; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 5; H. Chapman, 6. Tenor, 7 cwt.

At St. Sidwell's, Exeter.

ON Sunday, the 19th inst., before morning service, 1293 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES were rung. T. Townsend, 1; F. Shepherd, 2; A. Shepherd, 3; E. Shepherd, 4; W. Mundy, 5; E. Pitt (conductor), 6; J. Moss, 7; C. Carter, 8. Also for Divine service in the evening, 1050 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. T. Townsend, 1; E. Shepherd (conductor), 2; E. Pitt, 3; A. Shepherd, 4; W. Mundy, 5; J. Moss, 6; F. Shepherd (first 1050), 7; C. Carter, 8. Time, 37 mins.

HANDBELL-RINGING.—On Saturday, the 11th inst., 392 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. E. Pitt, 1-2; E. Shepherd, 3-4; F. Shepherd (conductor), 5-6; A. Shepherd, 7-8. And on the 18th, 280 in the same method. E. Pitt, 1-2; F. Shepherd (conductor), 3-4; E. Shepherd, 5-6; A. Shepherd, 7-8.

At St. Paul's, Walkden, Lancashire.

ON Sunday, the 19th inst., 720 BOB MINOR (8 bobs and 6 singles) was rung for morning service in 25½ mins. W. Denner (conductor), 1; J. Worthington, 2; S. Oakes, 3; J. Williamson, 4; J. Potter, 5; A. Potter, 6. Also for evening service 720 BOB MINOR (9 bobs and 6 singles) was rung in 25½ mins. Ringers stood as before. On Monday evening, the 20th inst., 720 BOB MINOR (14 singles and 4 bobs) was rung for practice in 25 mins. J. Brooks, 1; A. Potter, 2; J. Worthington (conductor), 3; J. Williamson, 4; J. Potter, 5; W. Denner, 6. Tenor, 13½ cwt.

At St. Andrew's, Derby.

ON Sunday, the 19th inst., for evening service, 504 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES was rung in 20 mins. W. Shardlow, 1; J. W. Thompson, 2; H. C. Woodward, 3; W. B. Midgley, 4; T. Alton, 5; G. Mottashaw (conductor), 6; C. E. Hart, 7; C. Sidley, 8. Tenor, 20½ cwt., in E flat.

At St. Albans Cathedral.

ON Tuesday, the 21st inst., the following members of the St. Albans Cathedral Society, who are also members of the Ancient Society of College Youths and the Herts and Essex County Associations, rang, in 3 hrs. 15 mins., Holt's Original peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. T. Grant, 1; J. C. Mitchell,* 2; W. H. L. Buckingham, 3; G. W. Cartmel, 4; W. Battle,* 5; E. Hulks,* 6; N. N. Hills (conductor), 7; H. L. Waddington,* 8. Tenor, 30 cwt., in E flat. [* First peal. † First peal inside.] The above is the first peal by the Cathedral Society, which was established January 1st, 1884, and with one exception all the above were taught change-ringing by the conductor.

CORRECTION.—The names in the peal at Trowbridge, reported last week, should have been—J. Davidson, J. R. Jerram, T. Blackburn, C. A. Clements, and W. W. Gifford, College Youths; and A. Palmer, first peal.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

The Yorkshire Association.

THE Annual General Meeting of the above Association will be held at Birstall, on Saturday, October 2nd, by the kindness of the Vicar, the Rev. Canon Kemp. A short service will be held in the parish church at 4.30, when the Rev. F. E. Robinson, vicar of Drayton, Berks, and Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, will preach a special sermon to the members of the Association. At 5.30 the Birstall Branch will entertain the Association to a knife-and-fork tea in the Church schools. The Committee respectfully urge all members to be present at the service in the church.

W. WHITAKER, *Hon. Sec.*

Worcestershire Change-ringing Association.

A QUARTERLY MEETING of this Association will be held on Saturday afternoon, October 9th, at 4.30, in St. John-the-Baptist's Schoolroom, Bromsgrove. All members who can attend are requested to do so; and all members who have not paid their yearly subscriptions are requested to do so as soon as possible, so that the list of members' names in the yearly report may be correct.

JOHN SMITH, *Hon. Sec.*

25 Simms Lane, Netherton, near Dudley.

A Meeting at Sudbury, Suffolk.

ON Thursday, the 16th ult., the members of the Sudbury Society of Change-ringers were kindly entertained by Mr. G. Grimwood at his residence, the Croft. Change-ringing, and selections on the handbells, and songs, passed away a very pleasant evening, the company breaking up about 11.30.

Also on Saturday, the 18th ult., the following members rang at St. Gregory's Church a touch of STEDMAN TRIPLES, consisting of 756 changes, this being the longest touch in this method on these bells for a number of years. C. Sillitoe (conductor), 1; W. Griggs, 2; W. Howell, 3; J. Campin, 4; — Bacon, 5; H. Harper, 6; A. Scott, 7; H. Bracket, 8.

Two New Bells at St. Martin's, Salisbury.

THE ring of six is now being rehung on a massive new oak frame by Mr. T. Blackburn of Salisbury. Some time ago it was thought desirable (if possible) to increase the ring to eight.

A meeting was held and a subscription set on foot, Mr. W. W. Gifford being appointed secretary and receiver to the fund. The greater part of the sum required has now been raised, and last week the two new bells were ordered from Messrs. Mears and Stainbank's foundry.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. Peter's, Nottingham.

ON Thursday, the 9th ult., eight members of the Midland Counties Association rang Holt's Ten-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 4 mins. S. Wilkinson (first peal), 1; Rev. W. W. C. Baker, 2; A. R. Peet, 3; N. W. Abbott, 4; S. Burton, 5; J. Hickman, 6; T. W. Taylor, jun., Esq. (conductor), 7; J. Williams (first peal), 8. Tenor, 21 cwt. The above was rung as a farewell peal to Messrs. Wilkinson and Peet, who are now on their way to Australia.

At the Cathedral, Manchester.

ON Tuesday, the 14th ult., ten members of the Lancashire Association rang a peal of 5057 GRANDSIRE CATERERS in 3 hrs. 17 mins. C. Cash (Eccles), 1; T. Thorpe (first peal in the method with a bob bell), 2; T. G. Downs, 3; J. E. Pollitt, 4; G. E. Turner, 5; A. Cross (first peal in the method), 6; W. J. Sevier (first peal in the method), 7; J. Thorpe, 8; A. E. Wreaks (conductor), 9; J. Parkinson, 10. Tenor, 25 cwt., in E flat. Composed by Mr. Knight of Chesterfield.

At St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire.

ON Tuesday, the 14th ult., eight members of the Midland Counties Association rang a peal of 5056 SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR in 3 hrs. 20 mins. J. Jaggard, 1; E. I. Stone, 2; A. Wakley, 3; N. J. Pitstow, 4; H. Wakley, 5; J. Griffin, 6; T. Holmes, 7; W. Wakley, 8. Composed by Mr. Dains and conducted by Mr. W. Wakley. Tenor, 26 cwt., in F. This is a two-part peal, and is the first peal in two equal parts ever rung in the method.

At the Parish Church, Worsley, Lancashire.

ON Thursday, the 16th ult., eight members of the Lancashire Association rang a peal of 5024 BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 10 mins. H. Derbyshire, 1; G. Lea, 2; J. H. Ridyard, 3; J. Derbyshire, 4; F. Derbyshire, 5; T. Derbyshire, 6; J. Baguley, 7; R. Ridyard, 8. Composed by Mr. J. Barker and conducted by Mr. R. Ridyard. Tenor, 21 cwt. The first peal of MAJOR on the bells, and the first peal all except the brothers Ridyard; also the first peal conducted by Mr. R. Ridyard.

At the Parish Church, Eccles, Lancashire.

ON Thursday, the 16th ult., eight members of the Lancashire Association rang Reeves' Variation of Holt's Ten-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 56 mins. T. Thorpe, 1; J. Barratt, 2; J. Yates, 3; Jos. Grimshaw, 4; J. Thorpe, 5; W. J. Sevier, 6; A. E. Wreaks (conductor), 7; G. West, 8. Tenor, 13½ cwt. Messrs. Barratt, Yates, and Grimshaw, Weal company; the others, Manchester.

At All Saints', Duffield, Derbyshire.

ON Friday, the 17th ult., eight members of the Midland Counties Association rang a peal of 5056 SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR in 3 hrs. 2 mins. S. Gretton, 1; E. I. Stone, 2; A. Wakley, 3; N. J. Pitstow (composer), 4; H. Wakley, 5; J. Jaggard, 6; T. Holmes, 7; W. Wakley (conductor), 8.

Tenor, 17 cwt. This is a one-peal, and contains the 4th twelve course-ends and the 6th nine course-ends in 6th's place.

At St. Chad's, Pattingham, Staffordshire.

ON Saturday, the 18th ult., eight members of the Midland Counties' Association rang a peal of 5056 SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR in 3 hrs. J. Jaggard, 1; E. I. Stone, 2; E. Wakley, 3; J. Griffin (conductor), 4; H. Wakley, 5; R. Cartwright, 6; T. Holmes, 7; N. J. Pitstow (composer), 8. Tenor, 14 cwt.

At Holy Trinity, Stalybridge, Lancashire.

ON Saturday, the 18th ult., eight members of the Lancashire Association rang a peal of 5120 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 7 mins. H. Heap, 1; H. Shaw, 2; W. Jakeman, 3; A. E. Holme, 4; J. Barrett, 5; S. Wood (composer and conductor), 6; J. Thorp, 7; G. Longden, 8. Tenor, 15 cwt.

At the Parish Church, Warnham, Sussex.

ON Saturday, the 18th ult., eight members of the Sussex County Association rang Shipway's Ten-part peal of 5040 COURT BOB TRIPLES in 3 hrs. F. Garman, 1; W. Short, 2; W. Wadey, 3; H. Cook, 4; T. Andrews, 5; H. Chandler, 6; H. Burstow (conductor), 7; H. Wood, 8. This is the first time the peal is supposed to have been rung.

At All Saints', Carshalton, Surrey.

ON Monday, the 20th ult., eight members of the Surrey Association rang Holt's Six-part peal of 5040 UNION TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 55 mins. J. Plowman, 1; E. Bennett, 2; U. Holman, 3; T. Verrall, 4; A. B. Carpenter, Esq., 5; W. Stales, 6; W. Burkin (conductor), 7; J. W. Trappitt, 8. Tenor, 12½ cwt., in A flat. [* First peal of UNION. † First peal of UNION with a bob bell. Messrs. Holman, Verrall, Stales, and Dr. Carpenter came from Croydon; the others from Beddington.]

At the Parish Church, Whitchurch, Salop.

ON Saturday, the 25th ult., eight members of the Chester Cathedral and Whitchurch Society attempted a peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, when, after ringing 3360 changes in 2 hrs. 3 mins., the whole came to grief owing to the fourth bell casting her rope. W. Hutchenson, 1; J. Griffiths, 2; G. Wright, 3; J. Gibson, 4; T. Bethell, 5; G. H. Woodhall, 6; F. Ball (conductor), 7; T. Barran, 8. Tenor, 21 cwt., in B flat. After consultation with the Rector, the Rev. W. H. Egerton, M.A. (and Rural Dean), it was decided to again make the attempt on the Sunday before the morning service. After rising early, and getting all ready, the bells commenced to change at 6.50, and were successfully brought home at 9.55, having occupied 3 hrs. 5 mins. in the performance, an account of which is appended. This performance is all the more creditable, inasmuch as it is the first peal for the Whitchurch ringers, and the first peal ever rung on the bells. The ringers of 1, 3, 6, and 8 belong to the local company, the remainder from Chester Cathedral. The ringers desire to express through the columns of *Church Bells* their sincere gratitude to the reverend Rector and his churchwarden for their kindness and courtesy in allowing them the use of this fine ring of bells.

ON Sunday, the 26th ult. (for early service), eight members of the Chester Cathedral and Whitchurch Society rang, in 3 hrs. 5 mins., Taylor's Six-part-peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. J. Griffiths, 1; J. Gibson, 2; G. Wright, 3; A. Cross, 4; T. Bethell, 5; G. H. Woodhall, 6; F. Ball (conductor), 7; T. Barran, 8. [* First peal, and Whitchurch ringers. First peal on the bells.]

At St. Sidwell's, Exeter.

ON Sunday, the 26th ult., for Divine service in the evening, 1092 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES were rung in 37 mins. T. Townsend, 1; A. Shepherd, 2; F. Shepherd, 3; E. Pitt (composer and conductor), 4; W. Mundy, 5; W. Richardson, 6; J. Moss, 7; T. J. Lake, 8.

At St. Andrew's, Hertford.

ON Sunday, the 26th ult., being the Harvest Festival, the members of the Hertford College Youths' Society rang touches of GRANDSIRE and STEDMAN TRIPLES for the morning service; and for the evening service a quarter-peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (1260 changes) in 44 mins. M. Ellimore, 1; J. Jauncey, 2; J. Staples, 3; W. Goodchild, 4; H. Baker, 5; S. Knight, 6; J. G. Crawley (conductor), 7; F. George, 8. Composed by H. J. Tucker of Bishop's Stortford, and contains twelve 7-4's, twelve 6-7's, and twelve 4-6's, queens and tittums. Tenor, 16 cwt. in F.

[We should be glad to see and publish the calling of this touch.—Ed. C. B.]

RECEIVED ALSO:—J. R. Jerran; W. H. Thompson; and others.

HOW TO BEHAVE IN THE LORD'S HOUSE.—WELCOME VISITORS.—‘If your pew be rented and some stranger be in it, never show him out, nor allow your countenance to exhibit the least regret at his being in your seat. In your heart thank God that he is there, and no matter in what rags he comes, keep him there, and allow no member of your family to take his place. Find a seat for yourself among those who know you. Those who are near you and discover your condition will make room for you rapidly.’—*Church Work*.

COMMENDATORY LETTERS.—It is pleasant to read in a report of the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge, that the number of emigrants bringing letters commendatory from their parish priests is continually increasing. One Chaplain says, ‘On the ship in which I went to Canada a short time ago, I found that Church people having no letters of commendation were the exception; six years ago, when I made my first trip, it was exactly the reverse.’ A Form of Commendatory Letter drawn up by the Bishop of Lichfield may be had from Mr. Lomax, Bookseller, Lichfield, price 2s. per 100, post free.

disciples in every land and reckons them by millions. The Faith which 100 years ago reckoned its adherents as 28 per cent of the world's population has grown till it possesses 43 per cent. The zeal at home and abroad promises well for the future; the contributions to Christian Missions grow from year to year. The voice of Christendom echoes the ancient cry of hope and enterprise—'Let us go up and take the land, for we are well able to possess it.' In the presence of work so vast and duties so transcendent, the voice of party strife and self-willed exclusiveness should be silent. We must not, we dare not, give sanction to anything which will rob the Church of her right to embrace varied forms and expressions of Christian life, or give up to party what was meant for mankind. We need simplicity; we need variety; we need, above all, the spirit of Christ—yes, most of all the spirit of Christ. Our pedigree may be long, and the record of our past glorious; but in churches, as in families, the spirit of kindness is 'more than coronets;' noble names will live within a nation, but only if they are 'nobly borne.' No long line of ancestors can unwrite the work of the Apostle—'If any man have not the Spirit of Christ he is none of His.' If we, then, are the children of the great saints of the past, let us prove our pedigree by those graces of which saintship is composed—by charity towards one another, by courtesy towards opponents, by sympathy towards men. In the presence of great difficulties and dangers we appeal for calmness and union. In the presence of great opportunities we appeal for sound judgment and ready self-sacrifice. In the presence of anxious problems and pressing questions at home and abroad, we appeal for a widening view of the Church's work and a widening sympathy with the present-day needs of men. When Governments seem drifting helplessly, fearing lest some chance tide, rather than any chosen course, may bring them into collision of war—when economists and politicians are staggered in the presence of questions which involve the safety of life, the security of just government, and the promotion of equal laws—when philanthropists are asking how morality and a reverence for duty can be preserved—when races far and near and classes high and low are reaching forth hands, groping after truth and right and God, what lesson must we learn if it be not shame at the utter insignificance of many of those questions which are most loudly debated among us? When we gaze round and see the pale faces of hunger-bitten men, who look hopelessly at silent looms and extinguished furnaces and ask piteously for bread—when we have seen statesmen perplexed and the lips of the tenderest-hearted closed, not knowing what to say—when the oracles of State and society are dumb, and when men question sadly whether there is any wisdom or love ruling a world in which it is so hard to be just without being unkind, or to be kind without being unjust—when men look to the land and behold darkness and sorrow, and the light is darkened in the heavens thereof—then the quarrels about the colour of a garment, the attitude of a clergyman, and the hour of a service, appear only the heritage of the weak and by no means the business of the wise. They sound like the passionate wranglings of children over their toys in the same room where grave men are discussing how to save a life. To this assembly I appeal, and I am sure the appeal will find a response in every heart that loves our Master, and would fain see His Church move forward to truer, purer, larger service among men. We are met to deliberate on great and grave questions; let us put away childish thoughts and childish things. We are not met for party victory or personal display; we are met to weigh and to consider—to think clearly, if we can; to try and understand one another's meaning, and not to make a man an offender for a word; but so to discuss the themes submitted to our thoughts that our meetings may evince the spirit of those to whom the progress of faith, the work of the Church, the welfare of mankind, the glory of God, are great and venerable realities.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

The Surrey Association.

A QUARTERLY MEETING of this Association will be held, by the kind permission of the Vicar, at the Church of the Immanuel, Streatham Common, on Monday, October 18th. Tower open for ringing from 3 to 9 p.m. Tea at the 'Beehive' Coffee Tavern at 6 p.m.; ringing members free, all others, 1s. 6d. a head. Business meeting to follow the tea. All ringers will be welcome. Those who wish to be present at the tea are requested to send word of their intention to the Hon. Secretary by Thursday, October 14th.

84 Dingwall Road, Croydon.

ARTHUR B. CARPENTER, Hon. Sec.

The Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association.

THE Annual Meeting of the above Association is proposed to be held in Newcastle-on-Tyne on Monday, October 25. Particulars of the arrangements for the day will be communicated to members by circular.

G. J. CLARKSON, Hon. Sec.

The Yorkshire Association of Change-Ringers.

We have been favoured with a copy of the Eleventh Annual Report of the Yorkshire Association of Change-ringers (Leeds: F. R. Spark, *Express* Printing-Works; 9d. post free this year for extra copies). The Report contains the fullest information on all points connected with the management and performances of this most flourishing and influential Association. One thing only, and that a most useful thing, we fail to find. We miss a Table of

Contents. With regard to the ringing we would ask, Why do not the Yorkshiremen, with their fine array of men and metal, get themselves out of the rut of the three old 'stock' methods? We are glad to see them ringing something beyond TREBLE BOB, but we hope that even GRANDSIRE and STEDMAN are not to be their final goal. Having said thus much we have nothing else but praise to give. As will be readily imagined, the interest of the volume centres largely around the memory of the late President, Mr. Snowdon, of whom a good portrait, with a facsimile of his signature, is given facing the title-page. The book contains also an excellent memoir of Mr. Snowdon, extending over rather more than eight pages of close print. The memoir is well and feelingly written, and we cannot do better than advise our readers to secure a copy, feeling sure that they will be glad to have by them this account of the friend who has left us—as good a man as he was a ringer.

The Kent County Association.

A DISTRICT MEETING will be held at Quex Park on Monday, the 25th inst. Hour of meeting at 11 a.m., when the Committee will admit members, &c., and the Secretary will attend to receive subscriptions and pay allowances. It is proposed to visit the towers of Margate, Minster, St. Nicholas, and Sandwich. Members desirous of attending should communicate with the Secretary. *Winsted Court, Sittingbourne.*

R. B. KNATCHBULL-HUGESSEN.

Worcester and Adjoining Districts Association.

A QUARTERLY MEETING of this Association will be held on Saturday, October 9th, at 4.30 p.m., in St. John the Baptist's Schoolroom, Bromsgrove. All members are requested to attend; and those who have not paid their yearly subscriptions are requested to do so as soon as possible, so that the list of members' names in the yearly report may be correct.

JOHN SMITH, Hon. Sec.

The Sussex County Association.

NOTICE is hereby given that the next District Meeting of the above Association (for business purposes and ringing) will be held at Arundel on Saturday, October 9th. A notice in detail will be forwarded to the local secretaries. Each member should have a copy. *G. F. ATTREE, Hon. Sec.*

A New Carillon.

A CARILLON, specially constructed by Mr. J. W. Benson of Ludgate Hill, for Didsbury Church, Manchester, was publicly tested on Tuesday last, when a series of seven tunes was played on eight temporary bells. The instrument is entirely automatic and requires no attention beyond ordinary winding. Both carillon and clock have been presented to the church by Mr. William Roberts of Didsbury.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. Albans, Herts.—Handbells.

On the 14th ult. 720 GRANDSIRE MINOR. H. Lewis, 1-2; G. W. Cartmel, 3-4; W. H. L. Buckingham (conductor), 5-6. On the 22nd ult., 1092 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. G. W. Cartmel, 1-2; W. H. L. Buckingham, 3-4; N. N. Hills (conductor), 5-6; J. C. Mitchell, 7-8. On the 29th ult., 504 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (composed by Mr. H. J. Tucker). G. W. Cartmel, 1-2; W. H. L. Buckingham, 3-4; N. N. Hills, 5-6; J. C. Mitchell, 7-8 (non-conducted). On the 30th ult., 720 GRANDSIRE MINOR. J. C. Mitchell, 1-2; G. W. Cartmel, 3-4; W. H. L. Buckingham, 5-6 (non-conducted).

At the Cathedral, for Divine service, on the 26th ult., 518 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. T. Grant, 1; J. C. Mitchell (first 500 as conductor), 2; G. W. Cartmel, 3; W. H. L. Buckingham, 4; W. Battle, 5; E. Halks, 6; N. N. Hills, 7; H. L. Waddington, 8.

At St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire.

On Wednesday, the 22nd ult., eight members of the Midland Counties' Association rang Brooke's Variation of Thurstan's peal of 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 11 mins. J. Austin, 1; J. Jaggar, 2; A. Wakley, 3; J. Griffin (conductor), 4; H. Wakley, 5; W. Wakley, 6; T. Holmes, 7; G. Robinson, 8. Tenor, 26 cwt. The peal was rung in honour of the marriage of Mr. E. I. Stone, a prominent member of the St. Paul's Society, with Miss C. E. Grimmer, of Burton-on-Trent.

The Sudbury Ringers at Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk.

On Friday, the 24th ult., the members of the Sudbury Society of Campanologists paid a visit to the above town. The party were accompanied by Dr. W. I. Mason, Mr. N. W. Taylor, and Mr. C. Herbert, the hon. sec. to the Bedfordshire Association of Change-ringers. On arriving, the visitors were conducted to the Norman tower by Mr. A. Osborne, one of the Bury ringers, and a touch of 630 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES was rung by A. Osborne, 1; M. Silvester, 2; G. Brown, 3; C. Sillitoe (conductor), 4; W. Howell, 5; H. Harper, 6; A. Scott, 7; J. Moore, 8. Also a touch of KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR by A. Osborne, 1; M. Silvester, 2; G. Brown, 3; W. Cross, 4; W. Howell, 5; H. Harper, 6; A. Scott, 7; C. Sillitoe (conductor), 8. The company rang a course of GRANDSIRE CATERERS. A. Osborne, 1; C. Sillitoe, 2; A. Scott, 3; M. Silvester, 4; G. Brown, 5; W. Cross, 6; W. Howell, 7; H. Harper, 8; J. Moore, 9; W. Felton, 10. This is the first course on ten bells by Messrs. Scott, Silvester, Brown, Cross, and Howell. The tenor of the fine ring of ten bells weighs 30 cwt., in D flat. The Sudbury party were congratulated by the Bury ringers on the excellence of the striking.

At Perry Bar, Staffordshire.

On Saturday, the 2nd inst., eight members of the Holt Society rang Brooke's Variation of Thurstan's peal of 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 54 mins. H. Bastable, 1; C. Stalbridge, 2; T. Russam (first peal of STEDMAN), 3; M. Murphy, 4; J. Plant, 5; W. Kent, 6; W. Thomas (conductor), 7; W. Long, 8.

RECEIVED ALSO.—W. H. L. Buckingham, St. Albans (thanks—send again); Lincoln Association; and others unavoidably postponed through want of space.

must come down, but it is now thought that they can stand. The people of Charleston generally, as well as Churchmen, have had great pride in these old churches, which date from Colonial days. The story is told of one good Churchwoman who was found in tears, not because of the very great loss which had come to her husband by the earthquake, but because St. Michael's Church, in which three generations of her family had been baptized, confirmed, and married, was in ruins. Bishop Howe sent out an earnest appeal for help for the stricken Church-people of the city, and it has apparently met with a generous response. In some of the dioceses the Bishops have, through pastoral letters, asked for offerings in all the churches for the relief of Charleston.

Within a few weeks there has been what is worse than the earthquake, an epidemic of great thefts by persons in positions of trust. It is almost literally true that every day brings the report of the disappearance of the trusted officer of a bank or business firm, and examination proves his accounts wrong. Canada is the place of resort of these men, and there is a large colony there of runaway bank officers. It is to be hoped that the new extradition treaty will cover embezzlement and make Canada no more the refuge of our thieves. Many of the wrongdoers just row discovered have long held high positions in society, and some of them have been prominent in religious work, leading for years a false life. One who had taken in Portland since 1882 more than \$100,000, was a kind of Independent preacher, occupying acceptably nearly every Sunday some pulpit in or near that city. The many defalcations within a month are a pitiful feature of this closing year. It is a more sad part of the history of the time than the Charleston calamity.

Interest in the Church is now centred upon the Triennial Convention about to assemble in Chicago. The main matter of business for the Church at large is the action upon the changes in the Prayer-book. It is quite safe to say that the changes approved three years ago, and now brought up for final action, will not all be approved. What the outcome of the discussion will be, no one can say. That it will be Conservative is very certain. Very likely the provisional use of certain liberties will be arranged for. The Church in America will never see the exact uniformity in the services which has prevailed until very recently. It is to be hoped that larger liberty may be granted, so that under law there may be room for such diversity of practice as times and circumstances may make advisable and for edification.

CONN.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

The Hertford County Association of Change-ringers.

MEMBERS are requested to take notice that the General Meeting will be held at Hertford on Monday, the 25th October. There will be service in St. Andrew's Church at 12 o'clock. The arrangements as to travelling, &c., will be the same as on former occasions. The following notices of motions have been received:—1. That the Quarterly Meetings be held on Mondays and Saturdays alternately. 2. That the January Meeting be held in West Herts. 3. That steps be taken to organize frequent District Meetings of the Association.

W. WIGRAM, General Secretary.

St. Andrew's Rectory, Hertford, 11th Oct. 1886.

North Lincolnshire Bellringers' Association.

THE General Quarterly Meeting of the above Association was held at Market Rasen (one of the local centres) on Saturday last. Ringing commenced at eight o'clock in the morning. The tea took place at the 'Aston Arms Inn,' the company numbering between thirty and forty. The chair was taken by the Rev. S. W. Andrews. After tea the chairman first submitted the usual toast of 'The Queen and the rest of the Royal Family.' Mr. Lindley then gave the health of 'The Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese.' He had pleasure in coupling with the toast the name of the Rural Dean—the Rev. W. W. Cooper. The Rev. W. W. Cooper, who met with a hearty reception, said they would readily understand, when he told them that he had been serving as Rural Dean under no less than three bishops, that this was not the first time he had been called upon to return thanks for the bishop and clergy. It was a toast which had always been cordially received, but he did not know that he had ever heard a much better reason for proposing their health than the one Mr. Lindley used when he said the clergy were always ready to welcome bell-ringers. Mr. Padley proposed 'Success to the North Lincolnshire Bellringers' Association.' The Chairman, rising to respond, met with a very cordial reception. He said all toasts conveyed kind wishes, and wishes like those expressed by Mr. Padley must always and on all occasions be very acceptable. Mr. J. C. Tinker, of Gainsborough, proposed 'The Honorary Members.' He alluded to the benefits resulting from the presence of honorary members in the belfries, and maintained that their presence would tend to improve the ringing members. Dr. Edwin Barton responded on behalf of the honorary members. Mr. W. Hodson, of Lincoln, proposed the health of 'The Vicar and Churchwardens of Market Rasen.' The Rev. P. M. Flinn acknowledged the compliment on the Vicar's behalf, and welcomed the Association to Market Rasen. The Rev. T. P. Holdrich said he was very pleased to be present. In giving the toast of the 'Visitors,' he expressed a hope that if they were not all ringers they soon would be; at the same time proposing the health of the Chairman. The Chairman returned thanks, and said he esteemed it a very great honour when he was told that unexpectedly and without solicitation he had been appointed vice-

president for the centre, and on all occasions he should be glad to aid the Association in its work. At intervals during the evening the Cathedral hand-bell ringers rang most efficiently a variety of first-class pieces, including 'The Blue Bells of Scotland' with variations, on their numerous tuneful bells, this part of the proceedings being a rich treat to those assembled. The church bells also rang merrily after tea, various methods being practised by mixed bands.

The Sussex County Association.

THE most successful meeting yet held by this Association took place at Arundel on Saturday, October 9. Representatives were present from Brighton, Angmering, Amberley, Crawley, Ringmer, Warnham, &c. Ringing commenced at St. Nicholas' Church, at 10.30, and during the day touches were rung in various methods, including KENT and OXFORD TREBLE BOB, OXFORD BOB TRIPLES, and GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. At 1.30 the members present, to the number of forty, sat down to a capital luncheon at the 'Bridge Hotel,' under the presidency of the Mayor of Arundel, Mr. Councillor C. Bartlett; the Vicar of Arundel (the Rev. A. C. Thompson) occupying the vice-chair. A business meeting followed. The Chairman (the Mayor), in opening the proceedings, said he heartily welcomed the Association to Arundel. Twelve additional members were then elected, including Mr. H. A. Hopkins and Mr. H. J. Davies of London. It was unanimously agreed to hold the next meeting at Lewes on the third Saturday in January next. Votes of thanks were heartily accorded the chairman for presiding, and the Vicars of Arundel, Angmering, and Lyminster for the use of the bells. A special choral service was held at 4.15 in Arundel Church, which was well attended. The Vicar, in the course of an earnest address, pointed out the effect church bells had on the occasions of public joys and sorrows, and said if God had sanctified his life in the least degree it was due to the effect Dorking bells, whilst ringing on New-year's morning, had on his mind, during five years of his early life when residing at Box Hill. Tea was partaken of, and ringing was continued until 9 o'clock. During the afternoon the following were rung at St. Margaret's Church, Angmering: 720 OXFORD TREBLE BOB MINOR, in 26 mins. J. Jay, 1; W. Short, 2; W. Wadey, 3; H. Weston, 4; D. Jordan, 5; H. Chapman (conductor), 6. 720 KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR. W. Short, 1; J. Newnham, 2; S. T. Andrews, 3; G. C. Hammond (conductor), 4; H. Weston, 5; D. Jordan, 6. Tenor, 14 cwt. The tower contains a really good ring of eight bells, tenor 14½ cwt., cast by Messrs. Mears in 1855, and presented to the church by the Duke and Duchess of Norfolk. A tablet in the belfry records the first peal, which was rung on Thursday, October 23rd, 1855, by the Ancient Society of College Youths, being conducted by the late Mr. G. Stockham. The success of this meeting is mainly due to the untiring energy of the hon. sec. and hon. treasurer, who have, without doubt, done more to foster and spread the science of change-ringing in the South of England than any other persons.

Worcester and adjoining Districts Change-ringing Association.

ON Saturday last a Quarterly Meeting of this Association was held in St. John's Schoolroom, Bromsgrove, the Rev. A. E. Seymour, vicar, occupying the chair. There were also present the Revs. C. W. Gibbs (Hagley) and E. J. Hall (Bromsgrove), and a number of ringing members from Bromsgrove, Brierley Hill, Belbroughton, Dudley, Hagley, Kidderminster, Netherton, and Wolverley. The reverend gentleman, after a few appropriate remarks in reference to the Association, called upon the Secretary to read the minutes of the last meeting. On the motion of Mr. J. Prestidge, seconded by Mr. W. Micklewright, these were confirmed. The names of a new Company formed at Stoke (where a new peal of six has recently been opened) were submitted by Mr. Crump, and admitted as members of the Association. Several other names were also submitted and approved of. Mr. S. Spittle, Master, next proposed, and Mr. J. Crane seconded, that the next Quarterly Meeting be held at Dudley, January 22nd, 1887. A letter being read by the Secretary (Mr. J. Smith) from the Secretary (Mr. J. Wright) of the Birmingham and District Association in reference to the amalgamation of the Worcestershire and Birmingham Association, and strongly urging such an alliance on the ground that it is one diocese, after some discussion on the subject it was, on the motion of Mr. R. E. Grove, seconded by Mr. J. Crane, deferred until the January meeting. A vote of thanks having been passed to the Chairman for his kindness in presiding and for the use of the schoolroom and bells, the reverend gentleman responded, wishing the Association every success, and hoped that his own Society at Bromsgrove would do all within their power to make it successful. At the close of the meeting the ringers adjourned to the 'Golden Lion Inn,' where, after partaking of some refreshment, the hand-bells were brought into requisition, and touches of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, CATERS, &c., were rung during the evening. The tower bells were rung during the afternoon and evening by different mixed companies, and altogether a very enjoyable meeting was brought to a close.

25 Simms Lane, Netherton, Dudley.

JOHN SMITH, Hon. Sec.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. Mary's, Bancroft, Hitchin, Herts.

ON Monday, the 6th inst., for practice, 504 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES were rung. J. Randall, 1; H. Buckingham, 2; F. Furr, 3; A. Squires, 4; J. Hare, 5; S. Hare, 6; W. Allen (conductor), 7; J. Foster, 8.

Also on Monday, the 13th inst., 350 and 112. The same band, with H. Buckingham, 1 (first as conductor); W. Allen, 2; J. Foster, 5; T. Dobbs, 8. The rest as before. Tenor, 28 cwt. Also several short touches on hand-bells.

Several communications are unavoidably postponed.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

Beds Association of Change-ringers.

On Saturday, the 16th ult., a District Meeting of this Association was held at Woburn. Prior to the ringing at Woburn, the Bedford contingent visited Husborne Crawley, and by the kind permission of the Rector, the Rev. R. Shepherd, rang two 720's, one being in the KENT TREBLE BOB method and the other equally complex. The tone of these bells was much admired by all who attended. After ceasing the bells in peal a move was made for Woburn, two miles distant, in a downpour of rain. The eight bells of the Mortuary Chapel were soon in motion. Touches of BOB MAJOR, GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, and KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, were rung. Tenor, 13 cwt., in good going order. The day was the anniversary of the birthday of the Duke of Bedford, of Woburn Abbey, who, in 1878, added the two trebles to the ring of six, which were then being used for the practice of half-pull ringing, and which is gradually extending in this county.

Surrey Association.

A QUARTERLY MEETING of this Association was held, by the kind permission of the Vicar, at the Church of Immanuel, Streatham Common, on Monday, the 18th inst. The attendance was fairly good, as some fifty members were present altogether from the following parishes:—Beddington, Benlilton, Croydon, Kingston, Mitcham, Christ Church, Streatham, Wimbledon, and a few from London. During the afternoon and evening the following methods were practised:—GRANDSIRE, UNION, and STEDMAN TRIPLES, BOB and TREBLE BOB MAJOR in the Oxford and Kent variations. At six o'clock forty-five members sat down to an excellent meat tea at the 'Beehive,' after which the usual business was quickly despatched. Several new members were elected. It was decided to hold the next District Meeting at Richmond, on November 27th, and the Quarterly Meeting at Camberwell, on January 10th.

ARTHUR B. CARPENTER, *Hon. Sec.*

Lancashire Association of Change-ringers.

THE Annual Meeting of the above Association was held in Bolton on Saturday last. About a hundred members took part in the proceedings, those belonging to Bolton being connected with the Parish, St. George's, Holy Trinity, and All Souls' Churches; while there were also representatives from St. Peter's (Halliwell), Deane Parish Church, and St. Bartholomew's (Westhoughton), Manchester, Worsley, Walkden, Eccles, Pendlebury, Ramsbottom, Heywood, Rochdale, Ashton-under-Lyne, Oldham, Garston, Ratcliffe, Farnworth, and Liverpool. Changes were rung at intervals during the afternoon at various local churches. A special service was held in Holy Trinity Church, commencing at half-past three o'clock. The pulpit was occupied by the Rev. Canon J. D. Kelly, M.A., rector of St. Matthew's, Campfield, Manchester, who founded his discourse upon part of the first verse of the 81st Psalm, 'Make a joyful noise unto the God of Jacob.' The service was brought to a close by the singing of a hymn, followed by the Benediction. An excellent tea was served in the upper room of Holy Trinity Schools at five o'clock, the company numbering nearly a hundred and twenty persons. After the repast a business meeting was held, presided over by the Rev. Charles Lowe, there being also in attendance the Rev. Canon Kelly, the Rev. S. T. Williamson, M.A. (curate of Holy Trinity), Rev. J. G. McCubbin, B.A. (curate of the Bolton Parish Church), Mr. A. E. Holme, M.A., of Manchester (hon. corresponding secretary of the Lancashire Change-ringers' Association), Mr. Joel Redford, of Bolton (hon. ringing secretary), Mr. H. W. Jackson (hon. treasurer), with other officers and the members of the Committee. Mr. Holme read the Committee's Report, which stated that during the past year the number of honorary members has increased from forty-three to fifty, and the ordinary members from 208 to 223. 'We have, however, reason to believe that, with a little canvassing on the part of present members, these figures might be considerably increased. Five more peals of 5000 changes have been rung this year than last, but the number of short peals recorded has diminished from fifty-five to twenty-six. Nearly all the above peals, however, have been rung by three or four companies, the rest being unrepresented. This want of activity on the part of some of our members is to be deplored, inasmuch as Lancashire is second to no other county in the skill of its ringers. The Treasurer reports a balance of 6l. 2s. 6½d., which, though satisfactory in some respects, would be larger if all the members had paid their subscriptions. In conclusion, we would urge on the local secretaries the need of using their best endeavours to promote the interests of the Association, not only by making known its advantages to outsiders but by rousing the members in their districts to greater activity and enthusiasm.' The Treasurer's financial statement for the past year, which was also read by Mr. Holme, showed the total receipts (including a balance in hand of 5l. 16s. 6½d.) to be 25l. 10s. 0½d., the expenditure being 19l. 7s. 6d., leaving a balance of 6l. 2s. 6½d. The election of officers for the ensuing year was then proceeded with. Upon the motion of Mr. Scott (Manchester), seconded by Mr. J. Millett (Heywood), the Rev. Charles Lowe, vicar of Holy Trinity, Bolton (who is one of the Vice-Presidents), was unanimously elected President, in succession to the Rev. T. A. Turner, M.A. Mr. Redford and Mr. Jackson were also reappointed Secretary and Treasurer respectively (Mr. Holme not retiring this year). Messrs. W. Davies and W. Booth (Liverpool) were elected Auditors. Two members of the Committee whose term of office had expired were reappointed, namely, Messrs. S. Wood, of Ashton-under-Lyne, and A. E. Wreaks, of Manchester. A resolution was adopted for increasing the Committee by two members, and Messrs. J. W. Parker, of Blackburn, and H. H. Nutter, of Ramsbottom, were selected. Another alteration in the rules was made, by which non-residents of the county are to be admitted members of the Association by payment of a subscription

of 3s. 6d. for the first year. Thirty-three new performing members were admitted, including several from Bolton churches, the others belonging to Oldham, Milnrow, Rochdale, and Ramsbottom; the Rev. R. W. P. Circuit, rector of St. Luke's, Heywood, was admitted a life member, and the Rev. W. Armour, B.A., curate of the Parish Church, Rochdale, was admitted as an honorary member, making a total of thirty-five new members.

Votes of thanks to the Rev. C. Lowe for the use of the church and schools, to the organist and choir, the ladies, and all others who had rendered services in connexion with the annual meeting, were carried unanimously, and after the Chairman had acknowledged the honour conferred upon him by his election as President of the Association—the reverend gentleman expressing a hope that he might be able to be useful to them in connexion with that most valuable institution—the proceedings were brought to a close.

Reopening of Old and Dedication of New Bells at Prestbury, Gloucestershire.

On Wednesday, the 13th inst., the old six bells of St. Mary's, Prestbury, were reopened after rehanging, and two new trebles, making a ring of eight, were dedicated to the service of God. There was a celebration of Holy Communion at 8 a.m., the Rev. F. Gurney, Vicar, being the celebrant. At ten o'clock a well-attended service of dedication was held in the church, the service being that formerly published in *Church Bells* for use on such occasions, and inserted in the *Change-ringers' Guide*. Besides the Vicar, the following clergy walked in the procession: Rev. C. D. P. Davies (Master of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association), Rev. Canon Wigram, Rev. F. E. Robinson, Rev. J. U. Todd, Rev. A. D. Hill, Rev. H. A. Cockey, Rev. G. F. Coleridge, Rev. P. A. H. Du Boulay. Service was choral, and during the singing of the hymn, 'Now at length,' the Vicar, churchwardens, and parish ringers, proceeded to the tower, where the Vicar consecrated the two new bells, and the parish ringers rang the first few rounds on the complete ring of eight. Rev. F. E. Robinson delivered an excellent address, founded on the words, 'They will go from strength to strength,' (Ps. lxxxiv. 7.) At 2.30 a public luncheon was held at the 'Bee Hive,' to which a goodly company sat down. In the course of the few and short speeches which ensued the Vicar heartily thanked the churchwardens, together with Mr. Phillott and all others who had worked so well in the cause of the bells, at the same time reminding the company that a considerable debt still remained to be defrayed. He also expressed the pleasure—indeed, comfort—that it gave him to see so many of his brother-priests around him at a time when fresh troubles seemed to be hanging over the Church in his parish. (With regard to the latter we may perhaps be allowed to add, that the general feeling is one of sympathy with the Vicar, and indignation at those that are 'troubling Israel.') The clerical band were unfortunately not successful in obtaining a peal that day, and, much to the disappointment of all, the Rev. A. D. Hill was compelled to leave early the next morning. But a peal (reported below) was afterwards obtained, with seven priests and the changing bells, G. H. Phillott, Esq., ringing tenor. The rehanging has been done with the greatest excellence and thoroughness by Messrs. Day & Son of Eye, Suffolk.

On Thursday, the 13th inst., at St. Mary's, Prestbury, in 2 hrs. 51 mins., by the St. James's Society and the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, Holt's Original peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. Rev. F. A. H. Du Boulay, 1; Rev. C. D. P. Davies (conductor), 2; Rev. J. U. Todd, 3; Rev. Canon Wigram, 4; Rev. H. A. Cockey, 5; Rev. F. E. Robinson, 6; Rev. G. F. Coleridge, 7; G. H. Phillott, Esq., 8. Tenor, 13 cwt. This is the first peal in which all the changing bells have been rung by priests (some of those who rang in the peal of STEDMAN TRIPLES at Drayton being then deacons), and the first peal in which a Canon has taken part.

On the same day, at St. Mary's, Cheltenham, in 3 hrs. 17 mins., by the Gloucester and Bristol Association, a peal of 5035 STEDMAN CATERS, composed by Mr. Johnson of Birmingham. W. Morris (aged seventy-six), 1; G. H. Phillott, Esq., 2; F. Day, 3; Rev. G. F. Coleridge, 4; H. Roberts, 5; F. E. Ward, Esq., 6; Rev. F. E. Robinson (conductor), 7; W. T. Pates, 8; Rev. C. D. P. Davies, 9; A. W. Humphries, 10. Tenor, 23 cwt.

Opening of a Ring of Six Bells at Beckwithshaw, near Harrogate, Yorkshire.

On Wednesday, the 29th ult. (Feast of St. Michael and All Angels), the new church erected by H. Williams, Esq., Moor Park, and which has cost upwards of 8000l., was consecrated by the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Ripon. A new ring of six bells has also been added to the sacred edifice, and the ringers from the parish church, Knaresborough, were deputed to ring the opening peal. They ascended the belfry before the time appointed for service, and rang a touch of 360 BOB MINOR, which was followed by another 360 and some short touches. After the Consecration service, 720 BOB MINOR (Holt's) comprising fourteen bobs and two singles were rung by T. Ledgway, 1; B. Pearson, 2; F. Thompson, 3; J. Hoy, 4; W. Swires, 5; M. Wood (conductor), 6. The bells are from the foundry of Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, Whitechapel, London, and are in the key of F., the work being superintended by Mr. Oliver of the above-named firm. Tenor, 14 cwt. On account of the size of the tower the bells have been hung in two tiers, but, owing to the skilful way in which they are placed, this in no way detracts from their utility, and they are rung as easily as if on one flat.

[We never heard of 720 BOB MINOR with only fourteen bobs and two singles. It is certainly not Holt's, which has no singles whatever.—Ed. C. B.]

The Restoration of Wragby Bells, Yorkshire.

On Saturday, the 25th ult., eight members of the Wakefield Society of Change-ringers, being also members of the Yorkshire Association, visited Wragby to open the church bells, after restoration by Messrs. Mallaby and Sons, of Masham. The bells, six in number, the tenor weighing 10 cwt.,

are a very musical peal, and were cast by Messrs. Mears and Co., of London, and placed in the tower in 1786—just one hundred years ago. Their dilapidated condition having been pointed out a short time ago by Mr. Hollis of Wakefield, the Rev. E. H. Sankey, the Vicar, considered the present year, being the centenary of their erection, most appropriate for the work of restoration to be carried out. Consequently the work was placed in the hands of the firm above named. The Wakefield ringers were met at the church by the Vicar, who accompanied them into the tower, when the bells were raised and several touches were rung, including two peals of 720 KENT TREBLE BOB. An adjournment was afterwards made to the 'Spread Eagle Inn,' where the Wakefield and Wragby ringers were entertained by the Vicar and Churchwardens. After tea an interesting statement was made by the Vicar and Mr. Rhodes, from which it appeared that through the liberality of Lord St. Oswald and other gentlemen of the parish only a small sum remained to clear off the cost of rehanging the bells. The Vicar also stated that a ring of bells existed in the tower before the present ring was put in, but he could not gather much information concerning them. The following statement concerning the present bells and the sale of the old bells may be of interest:—'Wragby bells, 1786—To new bells, 221l. 10s.; to new clappers, 5l. 8s. 9d.; to six bell-ropes, 1l. 9s.; to hanging of bells, 47l. 10s.; expenses allowed for freight, 10s.; total, 276l. 7s. 9d. Received by subscription, 106l. 10s. 6d.; by sale of old bells, 113l. 3s. 4d.: 219l. 13s. 10d.; balance paid out of Church rate, 56l. 13s. 11d.' From the above account it appears that the old bells realised the handsome sum of 113l. 3s. 4d., which went a long way towards defraying the cost of a new ring. The ringers returned to the church and rang touches in the TREBLE BOB and GRANDSIRE methods, after which they returned home, being well pleased with their outing, and the kind reception accorded to them by the Vicar and Churchwardens of Wragby.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. Mary's, Walter Belchamp, Essex.

On Sunday, the 26th ult., the following mixed band of change-ringers, after the afternoon service, rang a peal of 5088 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. C. Sillitoe (Sudbury), 1; W. Howell (Sudbury), 2; W. Gridley (Foxearth), 3; J. Bird (Melford), 4; G. Garwood (Glemsford), 5; H. Harper (Sudbury), 6; S. Slater (Glemsford), 7; G. Hammond (Melford), 8. Composed by the late Mr. T. Day of Birmingham, and conducted by Mr. G. Hammond. Tenor, 11 cwt. It contains the 6th the extent each way in 5-6, and had never been previously performed.

At the Cathedral, Manchester.

On Tuesday, the 28th ult., ten members of the Lancashire Association rang a peal of 5021 GRANDSIRE CATERERS in 3 hrs. 12 mins. J. Eachus, 1; T. Thorpe, 2; T. G. Downs, 3; J. E. Pollitt, 4; G. E. Turner, 5; W. J. Sevier, 6; S. West, 7; J. Thorpe, 8; A. E. Wreaks, 9; J. Parkinson, 10. Composed by Mr. Knight of Chesterfield, and conducted by Mr. Wreaks. Tenor, 25 cwt. in E flat. This peal was rung with the bells half-muffled as a last token of respect to the late John Withers, steeple-keeper at the Cathedral, who was interred at Philip's Park Cemetery, Manchester, on the previous Saturday. All the above are of the Cathedral company.

At St. John's, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire.

On Friday, the 1st inst., ten members of the Birmingham and District Association rang a peal of 5022 GRANDSIRE CATERERS in 3 hrs. 15 mins. A. Hobday (first peal), 1; W. Rea, 2; T. Albutt, 3; W. Brook, 4; G. Hughes (first peal of Caters), 5; H. Crump, 6; O. James, 7; G. Hayward (composer and conductor), 8; G. Morris, 9; G. Bourne, 10. Tenor, 20 cwt. W. Brook came from Birmingham, and G. Hughes from Tipton, Staffordshire, and he has only one arm; this is the first peal of GRANDSIRE CATERERS supposed to have been rung by a one-armed man. The peal contains the 6th twelve times wrong, and the 5th and 6th eighteen times at home.

At St. Sidwell's, Exeter.

On Saturday, the 2nd inst., eight members of the local Society rang Hollis's Five-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 3 hrs. W. Mundy, 1; E. Shepherd (first peal as conductor), 2; W. G. Goss, 3; E. Pist (first peal), 4; A. Shepherd, 5; J. Moss, 6; F. Shepherd, 7; T. J. Lake, 8. Tenor, 24 cwt.

At St. Peter's, Brighton, Sussex.

On Sunday afternoon, the 3rd inst., on the occasion of the Harvest Festival, eight members of the Sussex County Association rang a quarter-peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 46 mins. A. Piper, 1; G. Thwaites (first quarter-peal), 2; H. Weston, 3; A. Marshall, 4; J. Jay, sen., 5; G. F. Attree (conductor), 6; C. E. Golds, 7; D. Ross, 8. Tenor, 10 cwt. 2 qrs. 2 lbs. All the above belong to the St. Peter's Society with the exception of G. Thwaites, who belongs to St. Paul's Society, Brighton.

At St. Mary-the-Virgin, Putney, Surrey.

On Wednesday, the 6th inst., eight members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang a peal of 5088 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 12 mins. C. F. Winny, 1; W. Greenleaf, 2; W. W. Gifford* (Salisbury), 3; G. Mash, 4; B. E. Battrum,* 5; E. E. Vinen,* 6; E. Horrex, 7; J. M. Hayes, 8. Composed by Mr. York Green, and conducted by Mr. Hayes. Tenor, 16 cwt. [* First peal in the method.]

* * A CORRESPONDENT informs us that the new ring of bells at Ashby-de-la-Zouch will be dedicated on Thursday, the 28th inst., when a band of ringers connected with the Midland Counties' Association of Change-ringers (from St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent) will handle the ropes.

* * Several communications are unavoidably postponed.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Bennett Memorial Service.

SIR,—Will you permit me to make a few remarks not so much on the wide (and endless) question of Prayers for the Dead, as on your lady correspondent's letter upon it, and some of her arguments, which are, I think, more pleasant to read than satisfactory to rest upon: if I may say so, without rudeness or offence intended, I would venture to characterise the letter as a pleasing specimen of a lady's logic. Not to go into the general question, which our Church *practically* has ruled for us (as concerning public celebration, not private devotions or sentiment, a province which our Church leaves a good deal at liberty), I would only say that Miss Saxby has an odd way of laying down a principle and expanding it beyond its real stretching power, making her conclusions from it somewhat like the 'crowd of angels dancing on a needle's point;' and again, of making a concession which she proceeds presently to revoke in practice: apparently quite happy in the results she establishes to her own satisfaction.

Our Lord, she allows, 'never, as far as we know, said anything enjoining supplication for the holy dead,' but He said 'nothing to *discourage* it,' even on occasions when, she thinks, He might or would have done so; but the practice, if right, should rest on a less shadowy and hypothetical foundation than this (I am not speaking of sentiment, or private devotion), if it was to be of *authority* and for the *public use* of the whole Church. She admits that the Holy Scripture does, 'of course, not provide us with minute rules,' as to *everything* we are to do and not to do: but she thinks she gathers an actual or probable Bible instance of this practice, which she introduces and commends to you by this argument: 'there is no question of the spiritual life, which cannot be *safely determined*, by either the direct or the indirect teaching of the Bible, *though not, of course, according to each one's private interpretation*.' One is amused at the *naivete* which pronounces on the 'safety' of such determination, of any and every 'question in the spiritual life,' and does not rather, instinctively, ask, How then can it be, not merely 'safe,' but any 'determination' at all? Her Bible instance is the presumed case of Onesiphorus. It has indeed been concluded, 'not without some show of probability' (Bishop Ellicott), that Onesiphorus was dead: but it has also been shown (by such stale, old-fashioned, or prejudiced commentators and divines as Hammond and Taylor), that it does not at all follow that the doctrine (or the Romish doctrine) of prayers for the dead is confirmed by that admission. Onesiphorus's special merit, as towards the Apostle, seems to have been that he had *sought* (had to search for) before he found him, *i.e.*, in his closer and more painful imprisonment at Rome; and as Onesiphorus had ever had compassion on him, he characteristically prays that the Lord may have mercy on his household. Here Miss Saxby's ardour rather carries her too far for her logic: after correctly saying that the Apostle prays that God would grant mercy to *it* (the household), for the good man's sake, she goes on: 'This looks very much as if Onesiphorus were *dead*.' Possibly so: but it may be, that he is only *absent*; or it may mean simply, 'him and all his house.' It is at best an *uncertainty*; but Miss Saxby assumes the moot-point as a certainty, on her own side, and adds, 'yet St. Paul prayed for *him*.' St. Paul certainly does repeat the utterance, and even emphasizes it on the individual; but one is forced to ask, With what strictness is it to be called a *prayer* at all, in the sense of Miss Saxby's contention as to prayers for the dead? This pious wish and earnest ejaculation, couched in terms which evidently are a kind of formula—'May the Lord grant,'—but which fall some way short of a devotional utterance, and, at the best, must warrant a *great deal less* than the lady contends for.

I fear her other instance is equally shadowy and unsubstantial. 'Pray' without ceasing' is not limited, she says; not *qualified*, as to any interruption on account of death. I do not wish to be other than scrupulous; why should she mention (at that rate), no *other* limitations? 'without ceasing' surely means 'at all times and seasons': 'pray, and *never cease praying*,' she would have it understood; but why not mention, *e.g.* playing, eating, sleeping, as probable limitations, as well as her purely arbitrary one, interruption by death? not to mention a worse confusion still, for the Apostle's precept is for *living* people only, and what they are to do, not at all as to whom they are to do it for, so that it *cannot* include in its purview the state of the dead. In the same way, in the passage which she regards as a mere expansion of this: 'All saints' undoubtedly might better be rendered 'all the saints,' but there and elsewhere the Greek manifests that the contrast in the Apostle's mind is not at all between living and departed, but very distinctly between the *general* Church body; 'all the saints,' and *himself in particular*: 'for me,' mentioned in the next clause: so that the question is simply not touched at all, so far from being settled, or 'determined' according to any one's private interpretation. Miss Saxby has no right whatever to expand 'all saints' in that passage, or any other of Scripture, simply because our Prayer-book service for All Saints' Day draws attention, more or less markedly, to a topic *not contained at all in that Scripture*, however naturally the course of ages may have given it subsequent prominence, viz., the continued existence of the dead, and the ground of it.

These slight remarks are only intended to show the nature of the logic which Miss Saxby considers justifies her in affirming it to be beyond a doubt not merely that we may, but that we must, pray for the dead. To me, on the contrary, and to any one who will *consider*, if he has read, her letter, it will, I think, evince the very contrary. Such persons will perhaps think that a *weak* though earnest defence of the practice is worse than none at all. To be a defence it should rest on other arguments, advanced with more care, clearness, and consideration.

THOMAS FIELD, B.D.
Rector of Bigby and Rural Dean.

Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, and the other the Society called the Church Missionary Society. Each of these had a different function and a different field, and though for some time there might have been a little coldness between them, he believed in the hearts of all true well-wishers of the Church they were looked upon with equal esteem and equal favour. Perhaps in England the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel was the greater favourite, and received more subscriptions; perhaps in this country the other Society was the greater favourite, and had a greater number of subscriptions. He himself from early life in the ministry had been a member of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, and as far as his poor means allowed it was to that Society he had contributed. Then the head of the deputation, who was expected to have been there that day, but who, he learned with regret, was now laid low with sickness—the Lord Bishop of Ossory—had been from early life a most active and useful upholder of the Church Missionary Society. Thus there was free license for all of them, according to their several fancies, to adopt either Society. They were both established to carry out the views of our Church and faith in accordance with its doctrines and the maintenance of its system.

That wretched creature, Keatinge, *alias* Moreton, has been brought back from Liverpool to Dublin to be prosecuted on a charge of obtaining money under false pretences. The Crown prosecutes, and the Rev. Dr. Moffatt, who employed him and gave him 12*l.* 10*s.* for a three months' engagement, is the principal witness against him. He was remanded on Monday for one week, bail being refused.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

A Suggestion about Recording Peals in 'Church Bells.'

SIR,—Could not some scheme be devised in recording peals of 5000 and upwards to distinguish them from short touches—720's and six-scores—and so give them greater prominence? Why not print them in the same or similar style as you used to do belfry records some time back? This would occupy no more space than the present system does. It seems hardly consistent to treat a six-score or a 720 in the same way as a peal. At any rate a special portion of the column might be devoted to peals of 5000 and upwards.

J. R. JERRAM, *Salisbury.*

[We think our correspondent's suggestion well worthy of attention.—Ed. C. B.]

The Kent County Association.

A DISTRICT MEETING was held at Quex Park, on Monday, the 25th inst., when rather over fifty ringers attended, and there was some fairly good ringing on some of the twelve bells. Representatives from Swanscombe, Canterbury, Aldington, Folkestone, Gravesend, Brabourne, Mersham, and Sittingbourne, were present, besides the Quex Park band. Margate was visited by many of the ringers, and some went to Minster and Sandwich. Leeds was fixed for the next meeting, which is to be held in February.

The Hertfordshire County Association.

ON Saturday, the 10th inst., eight members of the St. Albans branch of the above Association paid a visit to South Mimms church and rang some GRANDSIRE MINOR, and GRANDSIRE and STEDMAN DOUBLES; after which they were hospitably entertained by the Vicar, the Rev. W. Wood, who invited them to a substantial tea. Afterwards the handbells were brought into use, and several touches of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES were brought round. The ringers desire to return thanks to the Rev. W. Wood for granting permission to ring.

Stoke-upon-Trent Archidiaconal Association.

A MEETING of the above Society was held on Saturday, the 23rd inst., at Stone, at which there were representatives from the towers of Stoke, Norton, and Hanley. A pleasurable time was spent and various touches were rung. The Rev. N. Poyntz was present at tea, and showed much interest in the Association. All the ringers of this tower are not members of the above Society, but we trust that the visit of Saturday will bring about the desirable result. The next advertised meeting is at Leigh, on the 30th inst.

Change-ringing at Benington and Braughing, Herts.

ON Wednesday, the 19th inst., the Benington Society of Change-ringers were visited by two excellent ringing friends, Mr. Percival Heywood of Duffield Bank, Derby, and Mr. J. W. Taylor, jun., of Loughborough, who were cordially welcomed by Squire Proctor. After raising their musical ring of eight bells (tenor, 14 cwt., in key of F), the band rang with their friends in fine style 420 STEDMAN TRIPLES, 672 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, and 672 SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR.

ON Thursday, the 20th inst., the Benington Society visited Braughing, and were, as usual, welcomed by the Vicar, the Rev. P. G. Ward. Mr. Heywood, Mr. Taylor, Messrs. Swarder (brothers, Hallingbury, Essex), and Mr. Haworth (London), met the party to ring upon and hear this fine ring of eight bells (tenor, 18 cwt., in key of F). The bells were struck in excellent precision of compass, to the great delight of many interested hearers, and the following methods were rung: 504 STEDMAN TRIPLES, 1120 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 448 SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, and 252 STEDMAN TRIPLES. Mr. Heywood conducted a musical touch of KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR. Mr. and Mrs. Phillips placed on the table an excellent dinner at the 'Old Bell Inn.' All returned home, with friends from a distance, much delighted with this pleasurable day's ringing practice.

[Messrs. Pitstow, lately, in these columns, remarked that the College

Youths' Society had rung peals at Braughing many years ago. J. R. Haworth searched the books of the Company, and found the following: 'St. Mary's, Braughing, in the county of Herts. The Company [College Youths] rang on Friday, December 27, 1745, a complete peal of 5040 BOB MAJOR, being the first that was done in that steeple, and in 2 hours 56 minutes it was performed. John Ward, 1; Edward Newton, 2; William Pickard, 3; Thomas Prior, 4; Samuel Jeacocke, 5; Benjamin Annable (called bobs) 6; John Trenell, 7; John Blake, 8. The local company rang a peal of BOB MAJOR in the following year (1746), a board in the steeple recording the same.']

CHANGE - RINGING.

At St. Andrew's, Derby.

ON Wednesday, the 6th inst., on the marriage of W. W. Winter, Esq., with Miss Pakeman, the following members of the Midland Counties Association and St. Andrew's Society, Derby, rang a 560 of BOB MAJOR in 21 mins. W. Shardlow, 1; T. Alton, 2; J. W. Thompson, 3; W. B. Midgley, 4; C. Woodward, 5; G. Mottashaw, 6; A. E. Thompson, 7; C. Hart (conductor), 8. On Friday, the 8th inst., being the Harvest Festival at the above church, 504 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES were rung in 20 mins. W. Shardlow, 1; C. E. Hart, 2; T. Alton, 3; W. B. Midgley, 4; G. Mottashaw, 5; A. E. Thompson, 6; J. W. Thompson (conductor), 7; C. Sidley, 8. Tenor, 20½ cwt., in E flat.

At St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, London.

ON Saturday, the 9th inst., eight members of the Holt Society, Aston-juxta-Birmingham, paid a visit to London, and by the kind permission of their London friends rang a peal of 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES (Brook's Variation), in 2 hrs. 59 mins. T. Reynolds, 1; T. J. Hemming, 2; H. Bastable (conductor), 3; A. J. Jones, 4; J. W. Cartwright, 5; J. Plant, 6; C. Stanbridge, 7; J. Buffery, 8. Tenor, 14 cwt., in F.

This is the Conductor's one hundredth peal, made up as follows:—Grand-sire Method: Triples, 23; Major, 2; Caters, 10; Cinques, 2. Stedman Method: Triples, 24; Caters, 22; Royal, 1; Cinques, 3. Kent Treble Bob: Major, 5; Royal, 2; Plain Bob Major, 2; Royal, 1. Double Norwich Court Bob Major, 2; and one in four Methods, never having rung the Tenor behind to any peal. His first peal being GRANDSIRE TRIPLES at Aston, September 24th, 1868, in his twentieth year. Conducted, 38.

At the Parish Church, Boxford, Suffolk.

ON Saturday, the 9th inst., a mixed party of change-ringers from Sudbury, Melford, Glemsford, Bury St. Edmunds, and Belchamp, paid a visit to the above place, and enlivened the inhabitants with some change-ringing. A touch of 504 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES was rung by F. Tolliday, S. Slater, J. Campin, C. Sillitoe (conductor), W. Griggs, A. Osborn, H. Harper, and O. Garwood. Also a touch of BOB MAJOR by J. Campin, N. Hawkins, G. Brown, P. Scott, J. Bird, W. Griggs, S. Slater, and C. Sillitoe (conductor). A touch of KENT TREBLE BOB was then rung by F. Tolliday, W. Griggs, J. Campin, H. Harper, P. Scott, A. Osborn, S. Slater (conductor), and O. Garwood. Tenor, about 23 cwt., in E flat.

At the Cathedral, Manchester.

ON Monday, the 11th inst., ten members of the Lancashire Association rang a peal of 5021 GRANDSIRE CATERS in 3 hrs. 22 mins. T. Thorpe, 1; G. E. Turner, 2; F. Yates, 3; J. E. Pollitt, 4; C. Cash, 5; W. J. Sevier, 6; J. Eachus, 7; J. Thorpe, 8; A. E. Wreaks, 9; H. Mee, 10. Composed by Mr. Johnson, sen., of Birmingham, and conducted by Mr. Wreaks. Tenor, 25 cwt., in E flat. It was rung in honour of the wedding of Mr. T. G. Downs, one of the Cathedral ringers. A peal of BOB ROYAL was to have been rung, but as one of the intended band did not put in an appearance this peal was rung instead. Messrs. Yates and Cash came from Eccles, the rest belong to Manchester.

At St. Mary's, Kingswinford, Staffordshire.

ON Monday, the 11th inst., 720 GRANDSIRE MINOR (34 bobs and 2 singles) was rung in 26 mins. J. Guest, 1; W. Jones, 2; J. Sackfield, 3; J. Hillman, 4; E. Bourne, 5; Rev. C. F. Collom (conductor), 6. On Saturday, the 16th inst., 720 KENT TREBLE BOB was rung in 27½ mins. R. Schofield (from Sedgley, and first peal of K. T. B.), 1; J. Sackfield, 2; W. Jones, 3; J. Hillman, 4; E. Bourne, 5; Rev. C. F. Collom (conductor), 6. On Sunday afternoon, the 17th inst., 720 BOB MINOR (21 bobs and 2 singles) was rung in 26½ mins. T. Vaughan, 1; T. Hillman, 2; W. Jones, 3; J. Hillman, 4; E. Bourne, 5; Rev. C. F. Collom (conductor), 6. On Monday evening, the 18th inst., 720 COLLEGE SINGLES in 26 mins. T. Vaughan, 1; W. Jones, 2; J. Sackfield, 3; J. Hillman, 4; E. Bourne, 5; Rev. C. F. Collom (conductor), 6.

At St. Paul's, Walkden, Lancashire.

ON Monday, the 11th inst., 720 BOB MINOR was rung in 24 mins. J. Worthington, 1; J. Williamson, 2; S. Oakes, 3; J. Potter, 4; A. Potter, 5; W. Denner (conductor), 6. Also on Monday, the 25th inst., 720 BOB MINOR was rung in 25 mins. J. Brookes, 1; J. Worthington, 2; S. Oakes, 3; J. Lever (Farnworth, first 720), 4; J. Williamson, 5; W. Denner (conductor), 6. Tenor, 13½ cwt.

At the Parish Church, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire.

ON Tuesday, the 12th inst., the following members of the North Lincolnshire Association rang 720 BOB MINOR (16 bobs and 2 singles) with the tenor covering, in 28 mins. T. Hollingsworth (first peal), 1; W. W. Bust (first in method), 2; J. C. Tinker, 3; W. Pattison, 4; F. W. Atkinson (first in method), 5; W. D. Tinker (conductor), 6; W. H. Wilson, 7. Tenor, 20 cwt.,

At St. Edward's, Netley Abbey, Hampshire.

ON Wednesday, the 13th inst., eight members of the Royal Cumberland Youths rang a peal of 5024 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR in 2 hrs. 48 mins. G. Newson (conductor), 1; H. Hopkins, 2; J. Rogers, 3; J. Hannington, 4; T. Titchener, 5; H. Dains (composer), 6; A. Jacob, 7; W. Baron, 8. Tenor, 8½ cwt., in A flat. The above peal contains all the 8-6's and the 8-6-7's, with the sixth the extent home, and the second never there. The first peal on the bells, and rung to commemorate the consecration of the church.

At Christ Church, Swindon, Wilts.

ON Friday, the 15th inst., six members of the above Society rang for practice six six-scores of GRANDSIRE and two of EXTREME DOUBLES. E. Smith, 1; T. Ricketts, 2; T. Lawrence, 3; T. Freebury, 4; O. W. Layng; (conductor), 5; J. Lawrence, 6. Tenor, 15 cwt.

At St. John's, Peterborough, Northamptonshire.

ON Monday, the 18th inst., a Quarter-peal of 1260 BOB TRIPLES (36 bobs), composed by H. Hubbard, was rung in 50 mins. C. W. Holdich, 1; H. Plowman, 2; E. F. Read, 3; W. A. Tyler (conductor), 4; G. Baker, 5; T. Measures, 6; J. Hancock, 7; J. Binks, 8. Tenor, 28 cwt.

At Woburn, Beds.

ON Monday, the 18th inst., 720 OXFORD BOB MINOR was rung in 26 mins. W. Smith, 1; C. Herbert, 2; W. Mynard, 3; E. Lewin, 4; M. Lane, 5; W. Chibnall (conductor), 6.

At Clun, Shropshire.—Handbell Ringing.

ON Tuesday evening, the 19th inst., four members of the Hereford Diocesan Guild, assisted by Mr. J. W. Washbrook (instructor), rang on handbells retained in hand 720 GRANDSIRE MINOR, in 23 mins. J. W. Washbrook (conductor), 1-2; W. Roberts,* 3; W. Mead,* 4; J. G. Buchanan, Esq.,* 5; J. Roberts,* 6. [* First 720.] This is the first 720 rung in Shropshire on handbells by members of the Guild.

At St. Helen's, Lee, Lincolnshire.

ON Thursday, the 21st inst., the Gainsborough ringers rang 720 GRANDSIRE MINOR (34 bobs and 2 singles) in 25 mins. F. F. Linley, 1; W. W. Bust, 2; J. C. Tinker, 3; W. Pattison, 4; F. W. Atkinson, 5; W. D. Tinker (conductor), 6. Tenor, 14 cwt. This is the first peal of GRANDSIRE MINOR on the bells.

At St. Martin's, Birmingham.

ON Friday, the 22nd inst., a peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE CATERS was rung in 3 hrs. 25 mins. A. Jones, 1; G. Day (first peal of GRANDSIRE CATERS), 2; W. R. Small, 3; T. Reynolds, 4; B. Mitchell, 5; C. Stanbridge, 6; S. Reeves, 7; S. Buffery, 8; F. Day (first peal of GRANDSIRE CATERS), 9; A. Thomas, 10. The above was rung on the back ten, and the ringers and churchwardens wish, through the medium of *Church Bells*, to congratulate the Messrs. Day on the very efficient way in which they have rehung the eleventh. The work reflects great credit upon their skill as bell-hangers, inasmuch as it is now almost two years since anyone was able to ring this bell through a 5000, although twice rehung by a local firm. The Messrs. Day came to the tower with new fittings, &c., for this bell on the 14th inst., and on the 22nd the above peal was rung. The peal, which is the composition of Mr. H. Johnson, sen., contains the 6th twenty-four times behind the 9th and the same number of times at home, and was now rung for the first time in this length. It was conducted by W. Buffery.

At St. Mary's, Beddington, Surrey.

ON Saturday, the 23rd inst., ten members of the Surrey Association rang a peal of 5021 GRANDSIRE CATERS in 3 hrs. 12 mins. C. Bance, 1; J. Burkin, 2; J. Trappitt, 3; G. Russell, 4; E. Bennett (conductor), 5; C. Gordon, 6; Dr. A. B. Carpenter, 7; G. Wellings, 8; J. Plowman, 9; J. Fayers, 10. Tenor, 21½ cwt. This peal was rung with the bells deeply muffled as a last token of respect to the late Mr. J. Cawley, a much-respected and prominent member of the Beddington Society. On Thursday, the day of the funeral, the usual whole pull and stand, also muffled touches of CATERS and TRIPLES, were rung. In the evening the following rang 1259 GRANDSIRE CATERS:—C. Martin, 1; W. Burkin, 2; J. Trappitt, 3; J. Harris, 4; E. Bennett (conductor), 5; C. Garden, 6; Dr. A. B. Carpenter, 7; G. Wellings, 8; J. Plowman, 9; J. Tealey, 10.

At St. Peter's, Hindley, Lancashire.

ON Saturday, the 23rd inst., the undermentioned mixed company of ringers rang Holt's Ten-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 48 mins., the occasion being the thirtieth anniversary of the consecration of the above church. R. Calland (Hindley), 1; E. Prescott (late of St. Peter's Society, Hindley), 2; J. Aldred (Tyldesley), 3; J. Prescott (conductor, Hindley), 4; P. Baxter (Leigh, first peal), 5; T. Tickle (Hindley), 6; E. Arrowsmith (Leigh, first peal on a changing bell), 7; S. Hayes (Leigh, first peal), 8. Tenor, 14 cwt. 1 qr.

* * WANTED.—The name and address of the Secretary of St. James's Society, London.

HARVEST festivals are now very common. A very nice service in the prettily decorated and recently well-restored church of Weston St. Mary, near Spalding, was held on Wednesday, the Festival of St. Michael and All Angels. There were nine persons at the celebration. In the evening the church was well filled, and the service was very hearty, and over four pounds were given for S. P. G. It was interesting to see no less than thirteen carts and conveyances bringing people from all parts of a parish some eight or nine miles long to be present at this festival.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Daily Prayers in Church.

SIR,—Never before did I read anything more unwise from the pen of a clergyman than the letter in the *Record* of October 15th, signed 'Geo. Everard.' I asked myself, Is this the author who has written so much in the interests of religion? I certainly was startled, not to say amazed. What will hundreds of the younger clergy think, who are inclined to perform their duties in a perfunctory manner, after reading this disquisition from the pen of one who ought to know better, and to show by practice instead of precept and pen that he is truly what he represents himself to be, a faithful clergyman of the Church of England; and one who is, or at least ought to be, a tower of strength and man of power and influence in his own parish? Nothing has given me more pain than to read such a letter, and with the signature attached. I re-read it. I have read some of his little works, which breathe forth a true spirit of submission to the Divine will, and are full of testimony to the daily need of prayer for the human heart; and now we have from the same pen an objection raised to the use of prayer, even in a consecrated building—the very ark of God. I would ask Mr. Everard, Is it right and just for him, as a devout clergyman, to write to a public newspaper in this strain? 'Do we believe that this intercession is more acceptable to God from being offered in the church than in the clergyman's own study?' As a loyal layman of the Church I answer emphatically, 'Yes,' or why do any encourage daily service in our churches? And why do so many devout clergy strive daily, by their example and exhortations, to infuse a living spirit into them, by rendering them as perfect as possible? Reverence is the essence of worship, and where can you get more reverence than in the parish church? St. Chrysostom, when he indited those beautiful words, 'And dost promise, that when two or three are gathered together in Thy name, Thou wilt grant their requests,' must have placed unbounded confidence in magnifying the glory of God even in the presence of a few. I cannot help, Sir, quoting the words of an eminent writer and Churchman (Curtis), who, in his *Bampton Lectures*, p. 268, says: 'What was urgently wanted was not a destructive, but rather a constructive work—the work of breathing fresh life into old forms, recovering the true meaning of old symbols, raising from the dead old words that needed translating into modern equivalents.' In this spirit I rejoice to think—the Rev. Geo. Everard notwithstanding, who is a perfect stranger to me, except through his works—that thousands of earnest clergymen are to-day using our many historic churches in striving to do their duty by encouraging the outward and careless to take more interest in the week-day services of the Church. It really would appear from the tone of the letter that these services are positively distasteful to the writer of the letter. Is it not a sad plight for a clergyman of an important parish to be in? Is not the letter one which would have been better unwritten for the sake of Mr. Everard's position as an author and a clergyman? I do not wish to say more, but merely to repeat that I regret having read the letter, and I consider the censure of the writer of the article in *Church Bells*, signed 'C. M.,' of Saturday last, not a whit too strong. Apologising for taking up so much of your valuable space on such an important topic to the clergy and laity, I remain

A LOYAL CHURCHMAN.

P.S.—In the face of the energy displayed by many of the Bishops, and those of the clergy and laity who so deeply deplore the present cold state of Christianity in the rural districts, and in many of our large centres of population, such utterances are to be regretted, and will go a long way to assist in promoting that which the Lord Bishop of Liverpool is striving to cope with and remove. I contend, from my experience as a layman, that there are many who might be got to church daily, for half an hour every morning, if all clergymen would face the difficulty in the spirit breathed forth by many of the readers of papers and speakers at the late Congress, and make a point of encouraging attendance at daily prayers in church.

Concerning Tithes.

SIR,—You inserted a short time ago a mild reproof of mine against a very Conservative feeling about Tithes; with your permission I will discuss the subject more broadly. The main principle of the Tithes Act was the alteration of the 'kind,' which has become burdensome and hurtful owing to its restrictions, into a money payment; but it did not enact that that payment was to be anything else than a correct tithe, which it tried to arrive at by giving a broad base for its average—(does not this imply that it was not a finite settlement, but that a good deal was left to circumstances?)—to fix its *quid pro quo* upon. Now, how is it possible to make one tithe, though that be assessed from marketable values at different units in the kingdom, applicable to the whole? In the 'kind' days one tithe-owner was collecting in the sunny south perhaps in July, while in the north another might not be beginning before October; between these what a vast number of very different qualities would be obtained, and how very different the values to the several tithe-owners, and yet under the Act they are all daubed with the same brush. Let us hope that tithe may be settled equitably, either by a rate (not a fictitious tithe by rate as at present) upon the assessed holding; which perhaps would be found the easiest method, though not happy to the conscience; or else a money counterpart to the assessed value of each field every year, the outcome of paying in 'kind,' as the *quid pro quo*.

F. W.

Prayers for the Dead.

SIR,—As there has appeared a letter on the above subject in your paper, will you allow me to give a quotation from the Homily of the Church of England bearing upon the point, which is only second in authority to the Articles themselves, and which the Thirty-fifth Article declares to 'contain a godly and wholesome doctrine,' and the Preface to the same declares to be 'set forth by authority?' In the third part of the Homily concerning prayer

for the benefit of the Church at large. I believe that every Bishop, as well as myself, would be well content that this should be done, if in the judgment of the Church at large it should appear either necessary or desirable. The question requires calm and careful consideration from many points of view.

But while matters remain as at present we may, I trust, look with confidence for the prayers of both clergy and laity that we may have grace rightly to discharge the responsibilities of our high position, and to maintain the humility and unselfishness that ought to characterise those whose highest honour it is to be the Ministers of Christ and the servants of His people.'

COLONIAL AND FOREIGN CHURCH NEWS.

WEST INDIES.

THE Barbados Diocesan Church Council having agreed on the details, a Bill is now before the island House of Assembly for appointing 'a Dean and Chapter for the Cathedral.' All the churches in the diocese are contributing to the St. Vincent relief fund, necessitated by the recent hurricane.

THE *Barbados Globe* says:—'Codrington College has been without a Principal since the resignation of Mr. Caldecott. Canon Meyrick, rector of Blickling, Norfolk, has consented to act as Principal for the Michaelmas Term. He was formerly Fellow and Tutor of Trinity College, Oxford, and was examining Chaplain to the late Bishop Wordsworth of Lincoln. His name is well known in the ecclesiastical and literary world, and it is only to be regretted that his appointment is for but one term.'

CHINA.

REFERRING to recent tidings of massacres of Christians in some parts of China and Cochin-China, the *Bombay Catholic Examiner*—a Romanist journal—instead of ascribing them to 'indiscreet Protestant zeal,' correctly remarks that the real cause is the 'Protectorate' claimed by France:—'There can be no difficulty in tracing to its true source the hatred towards Christianity which at present appears to pervade the entire pagan population of those countries which have lately been the scene of the military operations of the French Republic, or which lie in the neighbourhood. The idea that the interests of Christianity are identical with those of a foreign invader has taken a firm hold of the inhabitants, and a long period must elapse before it can be eradicated. Till then persecutions and massacres are events of which we are sure to hear, and we can only hope for their cessation from the diplomatic relations now commenced between the Empire of China and the Holy See.' These 'relations' have now, however, been summarily interdicted by France.

AUSTRALIA.

THE following letter on the subject of colonially-ordained clergy seeking appointments in England has been received from the Archbishop of Canterbury by the Bishop of Sydney as Primate of Australia:—'Many come with no recommendation from their Bishop, or no indication of his judgment as to the propriety of their quitting the field of labour for which they had been solemnly set apart. It is also unhappily the case that some applications prove finally to be unsupported. It is by no means undesirable that for substantial reasons in circumstances which justify the course some Colonial clergy should for a time work in English parishes, nor less so that some English clergy should gain experience of Colonial work and life. But you will feel with me that it is of the first importance that we should not attract or accept each other's clergy without full understanding between the Bishops. Such understanding is part of the respectful and affectionate relations which subsist, and which we desire should be ever more firmly knit between our Churches. And those relations have issue wider still. The following Memorandum has been drawn up with a view to placing the subject in a clear light, and I venture to hope that it may be thought worthy of the attention of the Bishops.'—The appended Memorandum appears to have satisfied everybody.

A MOTION was to be brought forward in the General Synod at Sydney by the Bishops of Ballarat and North Queensland, protesting 'against the adoption by the Church authorities in England of any course of action implying that clergymen admitted to Anglican orders in or for these Colonies are in any measure pledged by such ordination to remain here permanently,' and recording the opinion that 'Australian clergy, not bound to remain by any explicit promise, and possessed of proper papers and their last Bishop's testimonial, ought to be able to count upon every facility being accorded them for exercising their ministry, should they migrate to Great Britain or any other part of the Church's field of operation.'

MADAGASCAR AND MAURITIUS.

IN Mauritius the C. M. S. Coolie Missions now number in their connexion 2000 baptized Christians, the net increase latterly having been at the rate of 100 a year. There are four 'pastorates.' The missionaries mention a widespread belief among the Indian emigrants that Our Lord is one of the incarnations of Vishnu, the Bengalis identifying Him with Rama, and the Tamils and Telugus with Krishna; but they 'listen with rapt attention as the vast difference is pointed out between the Gospel narratives and the legends of the Hindu sacred books.' Of the Chinese Coolies, nine were baptized last year, bringing up the total of converts from among them to sixty-four. There are twenty-three day schools in the Missions, besides an orphanage.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

Bells in Manitoba.

'THE Rev. J. B. Seaman, M.A., who during his residence in Winnipeg kindly assisted in the services of our church, has written from England to say that he has given a small bell, cast by the famous firm of Mears and Stainbank, to Christ Church. This will form the treble bell of a ring of three, which it would be most desirable to have. The Rector's Bible Class are considering the ways and means to procure another weighing about 200 lbs., and a third about 350 lbs. We hope that the time is not far distant when all these bells will be ringing.'—[News has been received of the hanging of this bell, the first in the English Church of Canada in Winnipeg. It was first rung on the occasion of the wedding of the Rector's sister.]—From the *Christ Church, Winnipeg, Parish Magazine*.

The West Riding of Yorkshire Change-ringing Association.

ON Saturday the Annual Meeting of the above Association was held at St. Peter's Church, Sowerby, when the following companies were represented:—Low Moor, Brighouse, Queensbury, Elland, Halifax Parish, and Halifax (late parish), Lightcliffe Parish and Lightcliffe Congregational, Haley Hill, Merfield, and Tormorden. The welcome peal was rung by the Low Moor Company. At five o'clock a knife-and-fork tea was provided at the 'King's Head Inn.' After tea a meeting was held, the President of the Society, Mr. Henry Wilson of Brighouse, in the chair, when it was decided to hold the next meeting at Brighouse in April next. Mr. Sottenstall, the veteran ringer and composer, attended the meeting and took the deepest interest in the proceedings. Ringing was resumed until a late hour.

66 Booth Town Road, Halifax.

G. D. E. MERCER, Sec.

The Hertford County Association of Change-ringers.

THE General Meeting was held at Hertford on Monday, the 25th ult., but was not attended so numerously as it was hoped would be the case. The bands present in any strength—in addition, of course, to the local ringers—were those of Benington and of Sawbridgeworth, with representatives from St. Peter's in St. Albans, and from Bishop Stortford. Several friends from London also joined the company, so that forty-one sat down to dinner at the 'Maidenhead Inn.' The arrangements were that ringing should be practised on the ten bells of All Saints' Church, and on the eight of St. Andrew's, Hertford, until one o'clock, at which hour special service was held at St. Andrew's, to be followed by dinner, a meeting for business, and further ringing in the afternoon. At the service, Special Collects were introduced, and the selected Psalms were cxxi., cxxii., and cl.; the Lesson, St. John, ii. 1-11. The Rector, Canon Wigram, in a short address from the lectern, pointed out that our Lord, during His life on earth, had derived pleasure from the beauty of creation, especially from the flowers of the field; that He had sanctified all true human relations, as that of son to mother, and of the love for relations and friends; that He had been present at a family merrymaking, the Cana Feast; also, that in all the world a very great deal has been arranged, providentially, with no other object than that of making our life brighter, happier, and like that of sons in their father's house. Therefore he urged that we may sanctify gatherings like the present by assembling for worship as a part of the day's holiday, and that we must find a special invitation to hallow the whole of our life by the principles of religion, and to dedicate all our life, its lighter and its graver portions equally. At the meeting after dinner there was considerable discussion as to various details in the working of the Association, and as to the best means of extending its influence over all the county, and of promoting belfry reform where needed. The following resolutions were passed:—1. That in future the quarterly meetings be held on Mondays and Saturdays alternately. 2. That the next meeting be held at Rickmansworth on Monday, the 10th of January, 1887. 3. That a sub-committee be appointed, consisting of one member from each band, to organize district meetings of the Association. 4. That the minutes of district meetings be sent to the ringers' papers for publication. The Secretary reported that the number of members had continued during the year almost unaltered; that there had been rung fifteen peals in the tower, and one upon the handbells, double-handed, during the past year, against eight peals in 1884-5; and that there was a balance in hand of 3l. 13s. 6d., in addition to some few subscriptions which might be classed as good debts.

The Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church-bell Ringers.—Bradfield Branch.

THE yearly Festival was held on Saturday, the 30th ult., at Tylehurst. There were present the Revs. J. B. Burne, Rural Dean; G. F. Coleridge, Curate of Caversham; D. O. Harington, Rector of Burghfield; F. J. Pentycross, Curate, and J. W. Routh, Rector, of Tylehurst. After choral service, and a very useful, kindly sermon by the Rev. G. F. Coleridge, the ringers and their friends took tea in the schoolroom, where the Rector expressed his satisfaction at receiving such a body of Church-workers; and his son, J. Martin Routh, Esq., a zealous and accomplished ringer, gave the members present some sensible, and, as appeared, very acceptable hints with reference to the art which they all loved. The eight bells of Tylehurst church were much exercised in the course of the evening, and some merry peals were rung.

The Bedfordshire Association.

A DISTRICT MEETING of this Association, for practice, was held at Woburn on Saturday, October 16th. The ringing commenced at Woburn somewhat late, owing to the Bedford members visiting the tower of Husbome Crawley, and ringing the finely toned six bells therein. Proceeding from Husbome

Crawley to Woburn the merry eight were soon in motion, and some excellent touches rung. The day was the anniversary of the Duke of Bedford's birthday. It will be remembered that his Grace gave the two trebles in 1878, and caused the other bells to be rehung, thus completing a handy ring of eight.

New Bells at St. Martin's, Salisbury.

Two new trebles, to make a complete ring of eight, arrived here last week. They are each inscribed 'Mears et Stainbank, Londini, fecerunt—Th: Blackburn exiit, A.D. 1886.' The treble has also on it, 'C. N. Wyld, Rector; J. G. Lovibond, A. Tucker, Custodientes Ecclesie, cum voco venite;' and the second, 'Johannes Wordsworth, S. T. P., Episcopus Sarum.—Gulielmus M. Hammick, Prætor Urbanus.—Laudate Domino.'

['Laudate Domino' is very questionable Latin.—Ed. C. B.]

CHANGE - RINGING.

At St. Mary's, Saffron Walden, Essex.

ON Saturday, the 9th ult., eight members of the Essex Association rang a peal of 5056 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 18 mins. F. Pitstow,* 1; C. Prior, 2; H. Prior, jun. (College Youths), 3; G. Taylor,* 4; J. F. Penning,* 5; G. Martin,* 6; E. Pitstow,* 7; N. J. Pitstow* (composer and conductor), 8. Tenor, 24 cwt., in D. First peal by Messrs. Prior, who came from Stanstead; Mr. Taylor, from Cambridge. [* Cumberlands.]

At St. Mary's the Virgin, Stanstead, Essex.

ON Thursday, the 14th ult., six members of the local company rang a 720 COLLEGE SINGLE in 25 mins. J. Cavill, 1; H. Prior, jun., 2; J. Luckey, 3; G. Gray, 4; Isaac Cavill, 5; C. Prior (conductor), 6. Also a 720 OXFORD TREBLE BOB in 26 mins. Isaac Cavill, 1; W. Watts (first 720 in the method), 2; H. Prior, jun., 3; G. Prior, 4; J. Luckey, 5; C. Prior (conductor), 6. Also 360 DOUBLE COURT BOB. J. Cavill, 1; Isaac Cavill, 2; J. Luckey, 3; G. Gray, 4; H. Prior, jun., 5; C. Prior (conductor), 6. And on Sunday, the 17th, for morning service, 360 OXFORD TREBLE BOB. J. Cavill, 1; W. Watts, 2; H. Prior, jun., 3; G. Prior, 4; Isaac Cavill, 5; J. Luckey (conductor), 6. And on Thursday, the 21st, a 720 PLAIN BOB MINOR in 25½ mins. G. Prior, 1; W. Watts, 2; G. Gray, 3; J. Cavill, 4; H. Prior, jun., 5; C. Prior (conductor), 6. And a 720 COLLEGE SINGLE in 25 mins. H. Prior, jun., 1; W. Watts (first 720 in the method), 2; G. Gray, 3; G. Prior, 4; Isaac Cavill, 5; C. Prior (conductor), 6. And 360 OXFORD TREBLE BOB. J. Cavill, 1; W. Watts, 2; G. Gray, 3; H. Prior, jun., 4; G. Prior, 5; Isaac Cavill (conductor), 6. And on Sunday, the 31st, for morning service, 360 KENT TREBLE BOB. G. Prior, 1; W. Watts, 2; G. Gray, 3; H. Prior, jun., 4; Isaac Cavill, 5; J. Luckey (conductor), 6. And for afternoon service, 180 DOUBLE COURT BOB. G. Prior, 1; Isaac Cavill, 2; J. Luckey, 3; G. Gray, 4; H. Prior, jun., 5; C. Prior (conductor), 6. Tenor, 15 cwt. [H. Prior is a member of the College Youths.]

At St. Peter's, Sawston, Cambridge.

ON the 17th ult., eight members of the Royal Cumberland Society rang a peal of 5024 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 3 mins. N. J. Pitstow (composer), 1; G. Martin, 2; C. Freeman, 3; I. Rockett (first peal of TREBLE BOB), 4; J. F. Penning, 5; E. Pitstow, 6; G. Taylor, 7; F. Pitstow (conductor), 8. Tenor, 14½ cwt. The above peal was augmented from 6 to 8 by Messrs. Lewis some months ago, but the trebles were so unsatisfactory that they were taken down, and the casting of two more was entrusted to Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, the bells proving a decided improvement, being much heavier. After the peal was rung (which is the first on the bells), Mr. Hedding, one of the churchwardens, came into the belfry and congratulated the ringers on their capital performance, at the same time offering to pay for a board to commemorate the peal. All the ringers, with the exception of Mr. Rockett, are members of the Essex Association. Messrs. Taylor and Rockett come from Cambridge, the others from Saffron Walden.

At St. Mary's, Beddington, Surrey.

ON Saturday, the 23rd ult., ten members of the Surrey Association rang a peal of 5021 GRANDSIRE CATERERS in 3 hrs. 23 mins. C. Bance, 1; W. Buskin, 2; J. Trappitt, 3; G. Russell (seventy-seventh year), 4; E. Bennett, 5; C. Gordon, 6; Dr. A. B. Carpenter, 7; G. Welling, 8; J. Plowman, 9; J. Fayers, 10. Composed by Mr. H. Johnson and conducted by Mr. Bennett. Tenor, 21 cwt., in E flat. Rung with the bells deeply muffled, as a last tribute of respect to Mr. James Cawley, a member of the St. Mary's Society, Beddington, and the Surrey Association, who died October 15th, aged thirty-five years.

At St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire.

ON Thursday, the 21st ult., eight members of the Midland Counties Association rang a peal of 5088 SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR in 3 hours 24 mins. J. Austin, 1; R. Cartwright, 2; A. Wakley, 3; J. Griffin, 4; J. Jaggard, 5; H. Wakley, 6; T. Holmes, 7; W. Wakley, 8. Composed by Mr. N. J. Pitstow and conducted by Mr. W. Wakley. Tenor, 26 cwt. The peal was now rung for the first time, and is in three parts; the second and third never in 6th's place.

ON Tuesday, the 26th ult., eight members of the Midland Counties' Association rang a peal of 5088 SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR in 3 hrs. 20 mins. H. Wakley, 1; A. P. Heywood, 2; R. Cartwright, 3; J. Griffin (conductor), 4; N. J. Pitstow (composer), 5; E. I. Stone, 6; T. Holmes, 7; W. Wakley, 8. Tenor, 26 cwt.

At St. Editha's, Tamworth, Staffordshire.

ON Wednesday, the 27th ult., eight members of the Midland Counties' Association rang Brooke's Variation of Thurstans' peal of 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 4 mins. J. Jaggard, 1; R. Cartwright, 2; N. J. Pitstow, 3; J. Griffin (conductor), 4; A. P. Heywood, 5; H. Wakley, 6; W. Wakley, 7; T. Holmes, 8. Tenor, 22 cwt.

REOPENING AND RE-DEDICATION OF BELLS AT ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH.

THE Parish Church of Ashby-de-la-Zouch was on Thursday, the 28th of October, the scene of a most interesting and impressive service and ceremony—the opening and re-dedication of its famous ring of eight bells. The ceremony was performed, on behalf of the Bishop of Peterborough, by the Right Rev. Bishop Mitchinson, the church being filled with a crowded congregation. The Rev. John Denton, vicar of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, has for many years taken a deep interest in the work of restoring and enlarging the ancient and beautiful parish church of Ashby-de-la-Zouch (whose restoration and enlargement have been admirably done by Mr. St. Aubyn), and Mr. Denton has been so well supported that during the last seven years no less a sum than 12,400*l.* has been obtained—of which sum 2200*l.* was raised by two bazaars, one in 1882 and the other in 1885. Though so much was done, and so well and carefully, yet the tower had, for want of funds, to remain unrestored, and the fine ring of eight bells required a considerable outlay. The present year has, however, seen the upper portion of the tower renewed, and also four exceedingly large handsome pinnacles have been erected in place of the former small ones. The famous ring of eight bells, while the work at the tower was in progress, were sent to the eminent firm of Messrs. Taylor & Sons of Loughborough, who, besides turning and tuning them, have refixed the ring on entirely new machinery, at a cost of 200*l.* The festival of the reopening of the bells was combined with a harvest thanksgiving, and the grand church was splendidly and appropriately decorated. There was early service at eight o'clock, and at three o'clock Bishop Mitchinson and thirty-three clergy were met at the west door by the large surpliced choir of the church, who attended in full numbers. The Vicar (Rev. J. Denton) said the appointed service, the lessons being read by the Rev. A. S. Mammatt and the Rev. W. B. Beaumont. After the hymn, 'When morning gilds the skies,' the Bishop, accompanied by the Vicar (Rev. J. Denton) and the churchwardens (Mr. W. E. Smith and Mr. C. Matthews) proceeded to the tower, from the floor of which the bells are now rung, and standing immediately under the tower arch the Bishop said:—'By virtue of our sacred office we do solemnly set apart and separate from all profane and unhallowed uses these eight bells, given at various times to this church and parish; and now, after the recent work done at them, I declare them dedicated afresh to the glory of God, for the benefit of His Church.'

Then the Bishop delivered the ropes to the Vicar, saying, 'Receive these bells as a sacred trust committed to thee, as the appointed minister of Christ in this church and parish, and take heed that they be only used in His service and for the benefit of His people.' The Vicar then gave the ropes to the Captain (Mr. W. Carver) and the Deputy-Captain (Mr. Liggins) of the Bell-ringing Association of the Church, who handed them to the members of the Midland Association of Bell-ringers, when, with their President (Mr. Percival Heywood) they rang a short peal of great beauty; after which the Bishop addressed the vicar, the churchwardens, the sidesmen, and the congregation generally, and then offered the prayers appointed for the occasion. After the Bishop and his acting chaplain (the Rev. E. Greatorex) and the Vicar of Ashby (the Rev. J. Denton) had returned to their seats, the hymn,

'Set between the earth and heaven,
Now our bells are raised on high,'

was sung with great fervour. Then followed the sermon by the Rev. Canon Twells, proctor in Convocation for the diocese of Peterborough. After the sermon another special hymn was sung, 'Angel voices ever singing,' during which the churchwardens and sidesmen collected the offerings; and after they had been presented the Bishop pronounced the Benediction.

So much interest was aroused in the reopening of the famous bells of the parish church of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, that old ringers from all parts of England were present. Immediately after service the Midland Association of Change-ringers rang a merry peal, and the ringing was continued until eight o'clock. At the tea in the evening Mr. Denton, the vicar, and Mr. Percival Heywood, the president of the Association of Midland Change-ringers, gave addresses; and the latter made some most valuable practical observations, and gave the new Ringing Association of the parish church of Ashby-de-la-Zouch—of which the Vicar is President, the Churchwardens are Vice-Presidents, and Mr. H. G. W. Howe is Secretary—some excellent advice. The Midland Association of Change-ringers rang again on Sunday, October 31st, at the parish church of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, when the services connected with the reopening of the bells and Harvest Festival were continued. A great many communicated at the early service, and the church was crowded at the morning, afternoon, and evening services; indeed, at the latter service the church, which is 'free and open,' and very spacious, was so full that standing-room was hardly procurable. The preacher, morning and afternoon, was the Rev. S. Godber, M.A., and in the evening the Rev. W. S. Bawber, M.A., head master of Appleby School: the Vicar (the Rev. J. Denton) saying the prayers at each service. The offertories realised 64*l.* at the services on October 28 and 31.

impossible, but the subscription list was started in faith, and an old Harrovian who prefers to be anonymous soon afterwards sent in a subscription of 10,000*l.*, and the field was secured. Are there not at least some twenty millionaires in England who have the power and the will to do the like for a scheme which is to be of high and far-reaching benefit to the Church and to the nation, and is to commemorate a reign which in all its accompaniments is without a parallel in English history? Nor do I see the slightest reason, and here again I anticipate that the executive committee will agree with what I say, why, the Church House with all its prospective benefits first secured, the sum raised should not also explicitly include some, at least, of the benevolent objects advocated by its opponents.

An Argument from the Church in the Past and Nonconformity in the Present.

Once more I say do not let us be frightened out of a grand plan for the future and permanent good of the Church by any petty or partial or personal considerations, least of all by a commercial depression which may be only temporary, and may very possibly have passed away before the Church House has risen above the ground, or, at all events, has developed half of its potentialities for good. Already I hear that the Wesleyans are asserting that they could easily carry out a scheme of the kind, and that they regard our success as a test of the hold which the English Church has on its members. There is not a single argument used against the Church House scheme which might not, with equal force, have been used against the building of any of those cathedrals which are the pride of England, of Christendom, of the world. A cathedral may be a luxury of religion, but it does not a little to spread, to elevate, and to support it. Would England have been the better in the long run had the men who founded in faith our colleges and cathedrals, and who, as they believed, gave in this shape of their best to God, confined their attention to more local, more personal, and more material objects? Man cannot live by bread alone, and a great event like the Jubilee of the Queen presents or creates a great opportunity. Let us avail ourselves of it.—Your obedient servant, R. BOSWORTH SMITH.

The Knoll, Harrow-on-the-Hill, Nov. 7.

WHITE CROSS MOVEMENT.

ON Tuesday, October the 26th, the Annual Meeting of the Winsford White Cross Society was held in the Town Hall, and addressed by Mr. G. S. S. Vidal and others. Mr. R. Leigh, J.P., in opening the meeting, expressed great gratification at the large attendance. The Society is making steady progress in the town.

ON Thursday, the 28th, by permission of the Colonel of the regiment quartered there, an address was given to the soldiers at the Shrewsbury Barracks; and in the evening another meeting was held at St. Chad's Mission Church, in the parish of Rednal, by invitation of the Rev. Bulkeley Owen, of Tedsmore Hall. The church was well filled with labourers from the surrounding district.

ON Friday, October 29th, Archdeacon Lloyd presided at a meeting in the Working Men's Hall, Shrewsbury.

ON Friday, November 5th, there was a good attendance at the Holy Walk Rooms, Leamington. The Rev. J. Bradley took the chair, and in his opening words gave the most cordial approval to the work. A meeting had been arranged at the Mission Chapel for the following evening, but there being only a small attendance the meeting was adjourned to the parish Institute, where a considerable number of the younger men were gathered together in the billiard-room, and the subject was introduced by the Rev. W. C. Furneaux, rector of Leamington, and Mr. Vidal.

The Bible Classes at St. John's parish met together on Sunday afternoon for a similar address, and in the evening Mr. Vidal spoke at the Boys' Mission Service, conducted by Mr. Taylor, at the Colonnade, Leamington.

INDIA.

THE Report of the Panch Howds Mission at Panah shows much valuable work to be going on there, in which the Wantage Sisters take a large part. The Report observes:—‘A generation is now maturing, which is as much without a real religion as were the multitudes of the Roman Empire at the commencement of the Christian era. Their minds are being fed more and more on the pabulum supplied by Mr. Bradlaugh and the like writers. In one college here there are nearly 200 students who know not their old paganism, nor Christianity either. Some few of the elders have developed a theoretical Theism, which seldom, however, is strong enough to make them abandon idolatry or caste. As for Brahmoism, our hopes have faded; it will not affect the future to any appreciable degree. The present Theists have, undoubtedly, gained their Theism from Christianity, but this fact has not inclined them to accept the Gospel. They affirm more and more that their own Vedas are full of Theism. . . . The outlook is piteous. Our educated youths are, at the best, floating about on the raft of “independent morality,” and equally precarious supports. Meanwhile, there is a terrible increase of modern luxuries, and a fearful tendency to excess in drink.’

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

A Celebration at St. Saviour's, Southwark, London.

ON Saturday, the 6th inst., the members who took part in the two peals annexed met to celebrate the fixing of a board recording the same in the tower of St. Saviour's Church. The tenor weighs 52 cwt. Mr. G. Newton, the present Bell Warden, kindly gave a supper to the ringers. In the absence of the Master (J. M. Routh, Esq.), Mr. G. Mash was voted to fill the position of chairman, and proposed the health of the Rector (the Rev. W. Thompson) and the Churchwardens, at the same time thanking Mr. G. Newton for his kindness in entertaining his brother-members. He wished also to remind the company of the great courtesy he had always received from the past churchwardens in respect to the ringing of the bells. In the course of other remarks, Mr. Mash said he had been steeple-keeper for twenty-two years, and his father before him; and it gave him a great amount of pleasure to meet some of his brother-members who were older members than himself. Altogether a pleasant evening was spent. Before the supper two courses of KENT TREBLE BOB MAXIMUS were rung by Messrs. Pettit, Joyce, Rowbotham, French, Winny, Haworth, Mash, Gibbs, Greenleaf, Tucker, Horrex, and Hayes.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. (ESTABLISHED 1637.)

ON Tuesday, April 29th, 1884, the following members rang a peal of KENT TREBLE BOB MAXIMUS, comprising 5040 changes, in 4 hrs. 9 mins. H. W. Haley, 1; J. Pettit, 2; F. E. Dawe, 3; R. French, 4; C. F. Winny, 5; J. R. Haworth, 6; G. Mash, 7; E. Gibbs, 8; H. J. Tucker, 9; G. A. Muskett, 10; E. Horrex, 11; J. M. Hayes, 12.

Wardens.—Mr. Hunt (Great Account), Mr. Cloake (Renter), Mr. Noakes (Newcomen), Messrs. Gilson, Young, and Spratt; Mr. Williams (College), Mr. Cooksey (Bell).

Both peals were composed by H. W. Haley and conducted by J. M. Hayes.
REV. WM. THOMPSON, Rector.

The Ancient Society of College Youths.

ON Tuesday, the 9th inst., at the head-quarters of the College Youths, St. Saviour's, Southwark, London, the annual election of the Officers of the Company took place, when the following persons were elected:—Master, Mr. G. T. McLaughlin; Stewards, Messrs. Joyce and Clarke; Secretary, Mr. G. Muskett; Treasurer, Mr. J. Pettit; Messrs. Woodley and Viner were elected auditors.

This Society has just received another addition to its numerous presentations. Mr. R. W. Evans, of Wrexham, a ringer well known in Wales, and also a member of the Company, has presented a beautiful album; and Mr. F. E. Dawe has also presented a case to hold the same, together with a large green-baize bag. At the meeting of the Society lately, Mr. Dawe, on behalf of Mr. Evans and himself, made the presentation; and it is needless to say that a hearty vote of thanks was accorded them for their handsome gift. The album, which will hold 136 portraits (eight at a view), is bound in deep morocco, raised bevelled boards, and gilt-edged, with telescope clasp. The inscription is, ‘Ancient Society of College Youths. Established 1637. Presented by R. W. Evans, Wrexham, 1886.’ The case is made of polished mahogany, having two clasps, and lined with purple velvet padded. Inside are the words, ‘Presented by Francis E. Dawe, London, 1886.’

The Essex Association.

THE promised Certificates of Membership are now ready, and the Hon. Secretary will be glad to receive applications for them, accompanied by a remittance of 6*d.* from each member desiring a certificate. It will be a convenience to the Secretary, and a saving to the funds of the Association in the matter of postage, if members of companies belonging to the Association will send their applications and remittances through the leader of their company. The certificates for each company can then be forwarded in one parcel. The certificate is of simple but artistic design, and on it appear views of five Essex towers; viz., St. Mary's, Chelmsford, the county town, which has eight bells; West Ham, ten bells; Saffron Walden, eight bells; Widford, six bells; and Kelvedon, five bells. These towers have been selected partly from their architectural merit, and partly as representing the different classes of rings in the county.

Writtle Vicarage, Chelmsford.

T. L. PABILLON,
Hon. Sec. E.A.C.R.

Presentation to a Ringer at St. Albans.

AT the weekly practice of the St. Albans' Cathedral Society of Ringers, on Tuesday, Mr. N. N. Hills was presented by the Ven. Archdeacon Lawrence, on behalf of the members of the Society, with a chased electro-plated teapot, as a token of the esteem in which he is held by them, and in recognition of his valuable services as instructor to the Society. The Archdeacon, in presenting the teapot, which bore the inscription, ‘Presented to Mr. N. N. Hills, by members of the St. Albans' Cathedral Society of Ringers, August 1886,’ said he could think of no place more appropriate than the tower in which Mr. Hills had laboured so earnestly in the advancement of change-ringing for the purpose of making the presentation. He referred in feeling terms to Mr. Hills' late sad bereavement. It was intended to make the presentation before, but circumstances arose which prevented its being done. Mr. Hills thanked the Archdeacon and members for their kindness and sympathy, and said that the headway which the Society was making in the art was ample return for any pains he had taken.

Certificate of Membership.

THE Sussex Diocesan Association of Bell-ringers have issued a remarkable Certificate of Membership. It is about 30 inches by 23 in size, and has small

views of no less than thirty-eight of the most notable churches of the diocese, ingeniously grouped in the ornamental border which surrounds the space left for the name and residence of the member and of the attesting official of the Society. This card is a new departure in the organization of Diocesan Societies, and is far superior to anything of the kind hitherto attempted. Any member may be proud to have such a certificate framed and hung on his wall. It has been photographed by Messrs. Waterlow of London.

Death of a Ringer.

THERE died at Aigburth, on Monday week, Samuel Atkin, aged sixty-four, who had lived for the last forty years in the neighbourhood. For some years he was in the employ of Mr. J. Taylor Cross, of Beechwood Road, Aigburth. His remains were first taken to Grassendale Church, at which he had been a ringer ever since the edifice was erected. Part of the burial service was here read by the Rev. Mr. Barker, and a muffled peal was rung by the Grassendale ringers; after which the funeral cortege proceeded to Garston Church, where the remainder of the service was read over the grave, and the Garston bell-ringers rang a muffled peal. There was a large number of friends present, and many beautiful wreaths were laid on the coffin.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. Mary's, Lewisham, Kent.

ON Tuesday, the 26th ult., eight members of the St. James's Society and the Trinity Youths rang a peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES (Holt's Original Reversed) in 2 hrs. 57 mins. E. Freeman, 1; W. Pead, 2; T. G. Deal, 3; W. Weatherstone, 4; F. G. Newman (conductor), 5; W. H. Freeman, 6; A. G. Freeman, 7; S. Gibbs, 8. Tenor, 22½ cwt.

At Holy Trinity, Bolton, Lancashire.

ON Friday, the 29th ult., was rung in 1 hr. 7 mins. a Date Touch of 1886 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, with the bells muffled in memory of a late member of the company, Mr. John Walsh, who had composed the above touch. H. W. Jackson (conductor), 1; H. Bentley, 2; J. Redford, 3; J. Lister, 4; J. W. Critchley, 5; T. E. Turner, 6; J. H. Jackson, 7; R. Lindley, 8. Tenor, 16 cwt. On Saturday afternoon Mr. Walsh's remains were borne to their last resting-place in Heaton Cemetery by his brother-ringers. The Rev. S. T. Williamson, M.A., Curate of Holy Trinity, officiated in the unavoidable absence of the Vicar, the Rev. Charles Lowe, M.A., President of the Lancashire Association of Change-ringers. The deceased had been a ringer upwards of fourteen years, and had taken part in many a 5040.

At All Saints', Duffield, Derbyshire.

ON Friday, the 29th ult., eight members of the Midland Counties' Association rang a peal of 5008 DOUBLE OXFORD BOB MAJOR in 2 hrs. 58 mins. J. Howe, 1; E. Moreton, 2; S. Johnson, 3; H. C. Woodward, 4; G. Hingley, 5; W. Hickling, 6; N. J. Pitstow, 7; A. P. Heywood (composer and conductor), 8. Tenor, 17 cwt., in F. This peal, which was now rung for the first time, contains the 4th, 5th, and 6th in all their combined positions in 5-6, and the 2nd and 3rd never in 6th's place.

At St. Luke's, Chelsea, London.

ON Saturday, the 30th ult., ten members of the Royal Cumberland Society attempted a peal of GRANDSIRE CATERPILERS; but, after ringing 2 hrs. 30 mins. 'Stand' was called, the tenor bell not being in a fit condition to be rung any longer. J. Rogers (composer and conductor), 1; W. Lally, 2; H. Hopkins, 3; W. Coppage, 4; H. Davies, 5; J. Barry, 6; A. E. Church, 7; H. Swain, 8; W. Baron, 9; G. Chesterman, 10. Tenor, 24 cwt., in E flat.

At St. Mary's, Coddensham, Suffolk.

ON Saturday, the 30th ult., eight members of the Norwich Diocesan Association rang a peal of 5088 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 3 mins. T. Steward, 1; C. Mee, 2; W. Matthews, 3; I. S. Alexander, 4; J. Motts, 5; F. Mee, 6; W. Motts, 7; E. Pemberton, 8. Composed by Mr. N. J. Pitstow and conducted by Mr. C. Mee. Tenor, 16½ cwt. The above are members of the St. Mary-le-Tower Society, Ipswich, except Mr. Matthews, who belongs to the Redenhall Society; and it is rather remarkable that the band are all bachelors.

At All Saints', Loughborough, Leicestershire.

ON Sunday morning, the 31st ult., for Divine service, a quarter-peal of STEDMAN TRIPLES was rung. It was taken from Thurstans' peal. A. Cresser, 1; N. J. Pitstow, 2; J. W. Taylor, sen., 3; J. Hardy, 4; S. Smith, 5; E. D. Taylor, 6; J. W. Taylor, jun. (conductor), 7; E. Wightman, 8. Also for evening service by the above ringers, in the same order, another quarter-peal in the same method, from Haley's variation of Thurstans' peal.

ON Tuesday, the 2nd inst., for practice, 720 GRANDSIRE MINOR. S. A. Underwood, 1; A. Cresser, 2; J. W. Taylor, sen., 3; S. Smith, 4; J. Hardy, 5; J. W. Taylor, jun. (conductor), 6.

At All Saints', Benhilton, Surrey.

ON Monday, the 1st inst., being the Dedication Festival of the above church, 720 PLAIN BOB MINOR (22 singles) was rung in 29 mins. F. Dalton, 1; James Trendell, 2; G. Petrie, 3; S. Smithers, 4; H. Bryant, 5; John Trendell (conductor), 6. This is the first 720 ever rung by Dalton, and the first in the method by Smithers.

At All Saints', Ryde, Isle of Wight.

ON Monday, the 1st inst., eight members of the Winchester Diocesan Guild rang Holt's Ten-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 3 hrs. 20 mins. J. Hewett, 1; G. H. Barnett, 2; J. Staples, 3; Rev. H. A. Spyers, 4; C. Privett, 5; J. Whiting, 6; G. Williams (conductor), 7; G. Grafham, 8. Tenor, 26 cwt., in E flat. This is the first peal rung on the bells since the opening by

the Guild in June last. It was rung on the Dedication Festival of the church, being All Saints' Day. [J. Hewett came from Gosport; G. H. Barnett, Farnham; J. Staples, Havant; Rev. H. A. Spyers, Chalton; the others from Fareham.]

At St. Peter's, Dorchester, Dorset.

THE bells of St. Peter's (now in an unsafe state) were rung in honour of the unopposed return of Messrs. H. Durden, J. Bennett, and H. Huxtable on November 1st. It is hoped that next year the state of the bells will be taken into consideration, and that a branch of the Diocesan Guild may be formed. A few gentlemen in the town have already joined as honorary members.

[We think it would be better not to ring church bells in any political connexion, however distant that connexion may be.—Ed. C. B.]

At St. Sidwell's, Exeter.

ON Tuesday, the 2nd inst., 216 STEDMAN TRIPLES were rung by J. Moss, 1; F. R. Shepherd, 2; E. Pitt, 3; W. Richardson, 4; A. Shepherd, 5; W. Goss, 6; F. Shepherd (conductor), 7; W. Mundy, 8. Also on Sunday, the 7th inst., 504 STEDMAN TRIPLES. J. Moss, 1; E. Pitt, 2; A. Shepherd, 3; W. Richardson, 4; W. Goss, 5; E. Shepherd, 6; F. Shepherd (conductor), 7; T. Townsend, 8. And 210 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. T. Townsend, 1; F. Shepherd, 2; E. Shepherd (conductor), 3; A. Shepherd, 4; W. Mundy, 5; E. Pitt, 6; J. Moss, 7; W. Richardson, 8.

HANDBELL-RINGING.—On Friday, the 24th ult., 1008 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. E. Pitt (conductor), 1-2; F. Shepherd, 3-4; E. Shepherd, 5-6; A. Shepherd, 7-8.

At St. Mary's, Rotherhithe, Surrey.

ON Tuesday, the 2nd inst., eight members of the St. James's Society rang Holt's Ten-part peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 53 mins. E. E. Richards, 1; T. G. Deal, 2; W. Pead, 3; W. Bedwell (first peal and nineteenth birthday), 4; W. Weatherstone, 5; T. Taylor, 6; A. G. Freeman (conductor), 7; J. Law, 8.

At St. Mary's, Old Battersea, Surrey.

ON Saturday, the 6th inst., eight members of the Royal Cumberland Society rang, in 2 hrs. 42 mins., Holt's Original One-part Peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. S. Baker (first peal), 1; W. Baron (conductor), 2; H. A. Hopkins, 3; A. E. Church, 4; W. W. Thorne, 5; H. S. Thomas, 6; C. W. Ludwig, 7; W. Ambrose, 8. This is believed to be the quickest peal on the bells.

NOTICE.—The address of the Secretary of the St. James's Society is Mr. Joseph Barry, 27 Arlington Street, Islington, N.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Wesleyan Ministers' Ordination.

SIR,—I have been applied to by a Wesleyan minister, who is very well recommended by the clergyman of his parish, as to the best means of his obtaining ordination in the Church. I have every reason to think well of him, and should be very glad if it could be so. He would be glad of a Scripture-reader's post, or any other, as a beginning, and I feel sure he would be found useful. It has occurred to me that some one or other of your readers might be able to further his view. He is quite young. I have always been strongly in favour of the introduction in this way of suitable Wesleyan ministers into the Church. I well remember the private secretary of Dr. Sumner, Archbishop of Canterbury, telling me that his Grace had as many as sixty applications in the year from Dissenting ministers wishing to be ordained. I am not sure whether it was that one year, or that that was the average number year after year; probably the latter, as it is not likely that any one year should be very exceptional.

Namburnholme.

F. O. MORRIS.

The Proposed Church House.

SIR,—I cannot help thinking that many of the readers of *Church Bells* will regret the tone of 'G. V.'s' remark about the distressed clergy in his article on the 'Proposed Church House.' He appears to have but little sympathy for his poorer brethren, and implies that their poverty in many cases is their own fault. This may be quite true, but surely there was no need to taunt the poor clergyman, who had a family of children to clothe, and feed, and educate, with his imprudence in marrying a wife who brought him no money. With regard to the Church House scheme, 'G. V.' says that it has taken a hold on the public mind. Where is the proof that it has done so? The correspondence which has recently appeared in the *Standard* points in the opposite direction. I am not writing in opposition to the scheme; it may be a most desirable one. A letter of Canon Gregory's in the *Standard* of yesterday goes much further to convince me that it is so than 'G. V.'s' article in *Church Bells* does. But surely the scheme ought not to be pushed on unless it is quite clear that it meets with the approval and support of Churchmen generally, and this at present seems to be very doubtful.

C. W. S.

The Church House.

SIR,—You will forgive a North Countryman for asking what the Northern Province has to do with a Church House in London under present arrangements. Very few of us can afford to come up for the London season, even if we wished to do so, and, as at the present our Convocation sits at York, we may be excused if we fail to see what good a Church House would do to the

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

A Ringing Week in Hertfordshire.

By kind invitation of Rev. Canon Wigram, rector of St. Andrew's, Hertford, Rev. F. E. Robinson and Rev. C. D. P. Davies paid a visit to Hertford last week. Mr. Washbrook of Oxford, who is at present doing good work in Herefordshire as tutor to the Guild in that diocese, was kindly spared by the Secretary.

The first peal for which arrangements had been made was one of **STEDMAN CATERERS** at All Saints', Fulham, on Monday, the 8th inst., on the way to Hertford. For this Messrs. Baker, Hills, Knight, and Crawley came from Hertfordshire, Mr. Phillott and Mr. Morris of Cheltenham, who were in London that day, also joining the party, which was completed by Mr. Smith of the College Youths. After electing Mr. Knight into the last-named Society a start was made, but the ringing unfortunately came to grief through the breaking of a rope in little more than half an hour. On Tuesday two excellent peals were rung at Hertford, as recorded below. On Wednesday, after picking up Mr. Goodchild at Ware and meeting Mr. Sworder at Hunsdon, a peal of **TREBLE BOB** was rung at the latter place. On Thursday, with the help of Mr. Slater of Glemsford, and Messrs. Penning, Pitstow, and Martin, of Saffron Walden, an excellent peal of **DOUBLE NORWICH** was rung at Braughing.

It had been arranged to start that evening at All Saints', Hertford, for the peal of **STEDMAN CATERERS** which had been lost at Fulham, but unfortunately the contingent that had gone to Braughing was unable to get back in time for it, and so it had to fall through. The next day, Friday, the party drove to Benington, that stronghold of change-ringing, where they were most warmly welcomed, and where, with four of the Benington band, a good peal of **SUPERLATIVE** was well brought round. All were glad to see the veteran Squire looking exceedingly well, and left thanking him heartily for his generous hospitality. On Saturday a peal of **STEDMAN TRIPLES** was rung at Tottenham on the homeward journey. Too great thanks cannot be given to Canon Wigram for his kindness and trouble, which ensured the enjoyment of one of the most pleasant of weeks.

At **ST. ANDREW'S, HERTFORD**.—On Tuesday, the 9th inst., eight members of the Hertfordshire Association rang a peal of **5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES** (Thurstan's composition) in 2 hrs. 55 mins. H. Baker, 1; M. Ellsmore, 2; Rev. F. E. Robinson, 3; Rev. Canon Wigram, 4; J. W. Washbrook, 5; Rev. C. D. P. Davies (conductor), 6; J. Cull, 7; F. George, 8. Tenor, 16 cwt., in F.

At **HOLY TRINITY, BENGEO, HERTFORD**.—On Tuesday, the 9th inst., six members of the Hertfordshire Association rang a peal of 5040 changes in seven different methods on six bells, being a 720 in each of the following methods:—**DOUBLE COURT BOB**, **OXFORD TREBLE BOB**, **KENT TREBLE BOB**, **COLLEGE SINGLE**, **OXFORD BOB**, **PLAIN BOB**, and **GRANDSIRE**, in 2 hrs. 38 mins. W. Childs, 1; Rev. C. D. P. Davies, 2; H. Phillips, 3; J. Pomfret, 4; H. Baker, 5; J. W. Washbrook (conductor), 6. First peal on six by all except the conductor, and first in the county of Hertford.

At **ST. DUNSTON'S, HUNSDON, HERTS**.—On Wednesday, the 10th inst., eight members of the Hertfordshire Association rang a peal of **5088 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR** in 3 hrs. 15 mins., being the first peal in the method on the bells. W. Goodchild, 1; M. Ellsmore, 2; Rev. C. D. P. Davies, 3; Rev. Canon Wigram, 4; F. Sworder, 5; Rev. F. E. Robinson, 6; J. W. Washbrook (composer and conductor), 7; H. Baker, 8. Tenor, 14 cwt.

At **ST. MARY'S, BRAUGHING, HERTS**.—On Thursday, the 11th inst., was rung a peal of **5040 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR** in 3 hrs. 5 mins. S. Slater, 1; J. F. Penning, 2; G. Martin, 3; H. Baker, 4; F. Pitstow, 5; Rev. C. D. P. Davies, 6; J. W. Washbrook, 7; Rev. F. E. Robinson, 8. Composed by N. J. Pitstow, and conducted by Rev. F. E. Robinson. Tenor, 19 cwt.

At **ST. PETER'S, BENINGTON, HERTS**.—On Friday, the 12th inst., eight members of the Hertfordshire Association rang a peal of **5088 SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR** in 3 hrs. 8 mins. H. Baker, 1; J. Kitchener, 2; S. Page, 3; L. Chapman, 4; Rev. C. D. P. Davies, 5; J. W. Washbrook, 6; C. Shambrook, 7; Rev. F. E. Robinson, 8. Composed by N. J. Pitstow, and conducted by Rev. F. E. Robinson. Tenor, 14 cwt.

At **ALL HALLOWS, TOTTENHAM, MIDDLESEX**.—On Saturday, the 13th inst., was rung a peal of **5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES** (Thurstan's composition) in 2 hrs. 55 mins. W. A. Alps, 1; J. W. Washbrook (conductor), 2; M. Ellsmore, 3; Rev. Canon Wigram, 4; Rev. F. E. Robinson, 5; J. Cull, 6; H. Baker, 7; H. A. Barnett, 8. Tenor, 20 cwt.

The Devonshire Guild of Change-ringers.

On Saturday, the 23rd ult., a meeting was held at Bradninch, by several bands in union with the Guild. Six of the St. Sidwell's Company started in a pair-horse brake from Exeter, and drove to Upton Pyne. Here the Hon. and Rev. J. S. Northcote, son of the Earl of Iddesleigh, and Hon. Sec. of the Guild, was waiting with several of the Upton Pyne Band, and they were soon on the road to Silvertown, the next stopping-place. Some six-scores on these bells were accomplished; tenor 16 cwt., lately rehung by Stokes of Woodbury, and going well. Half-an-hour's drive brought them to Bradninch. Here they were well received by the local half-pull band, and some good six-scores rung on their fine ring of six; tenor 22 cwt. in E, in good going order. After ringing they were kindly entertained to tea by the Rev. G. D. Melhuish, the curate, who is himself a ringer. Before leaving, arrangements were made to meet at Silvertown on November 6th, for a combined practice. This event came off last Saturday, Bradninch, Broadclyst, Upton Pyne, and St. Sidwell's

being represented. Some excellent six-scores of **GRANDSIRE DOUBLES** were rung, several of the local party ringing the tenor. Some call changes with the local band concluded the meeting. The effects of this meeting is that the young ringers seem very desirable to go in for half-pull ringing, and no doubt if taken in hand at once by the Rector and the Rev. J. S. Northcote they will soon be ringing six-scores as well as their neighbours, the Bradninch band. The ringers wish to return thanks to the Vicars for allowing them the use of the bells.

Opening of New Bells at St. Martin's, Salisbury.

It has been proposed to open the new bells on St. Thomas' Day next, on which day there will be an annual meeting of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild.

Death of a Suffolk Ringer.

On Saturday, the 6th inst., was laid to rest in Hitcham (Suffolk) churchyard all that was mortal of Mr. John Sewell, a much-respected inhabitant of the parish, aged 56 years, who was for thirty years clerk and sexton of the church. The deceased (a brother of Mr. Robert Sewell, of Barking, Essex) was a most useful man in the parish, which many of the poor will find to their cost. He was a hardworking, industrious man; and one thing can be said truly of Mr. Sewell, that he never made an enemy in his life. His old friends assembled in large numbers at his funeral to pay their last token of respect to him, and the Bildeston and Monks Eleigh companies met and rang deeply-muffled peals of **BOB MINOR** before the funeral service. Afterwards a capital 720 **OXFORD TREBLE BOB** half open, was rung by his old comrades. R. Keeble, 1; C. Parker, 2; R. Bedingfield, 3; J. Taylor, 4; A. Keeble, 5; W. Green (conductor), 6. And a nine-score **COURT BOB**, bells open, with H. Symonds, of Preston, treble, the rest as before.

On Sunday, the 7th inst., at Divine service, in which allusion in the sermon was made by the Rector (Canon Grant), to the virtues of the deceased, a large congregation was present. The same ringers again met and attempted 720 **COURT BOB**, half open, but meeting late had not time to finish, when the alarm-bell sounded, so the 720, which was being well struck, was unfinished. After service a touch of **BOB MINOR** brought the ringing to a close, the ringers departing for their separate homes, with heavy hearts for the loss of their old and beloved friend, John Sewell.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At the Cathedral Church of St. Peter, Liverpool.

On Tuesday, the 2nd inst., ten members of the Liverpool Youths' Society rang a peal of **5079 STEDMAN CATERERS** in 3 hrs. 19 mins. R. Williams, 1; T. Hammond, 2; W. Booth, 3; C. Williams, 4; J. H. Moore,* 5; J. R. Pritchard, 6; H. Coley,* 7; W. Davies, 8; R. Williams, 9; W. Brooks, 10. Composed by Mr. C. H. Hattersley of Sheffield, and conducted by Mr. R. Williams. [* First peal in this method.]

At St. Gregory's, Sudbury, Suffolk.

On Saturday, the 6th inst., eight members of the local society rang, in 3 hrs. 13 mins., Taylor's Bob-and-Single peal of **5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES**, to celebrate the birthday of Arthur Scott. A. Scott, 1; W. Griggs, 2; G. S. Brown, 3; H. Harper, 4; W. Bacon, 5; W. Howell, 6; C. Sillitoe (conductor), 7; H. Brackett, 8. Tenor, 16 cwt., in F. On Sunday, the 7th inst., seven members of the above party visited Belchamp Walter, to attempt a peal of **GRANDSIRE TRIPLES** at the parish church, with Mr. N. Hawkins of Belchamp, but after ringing 1½ hours it was lost. C. Sillitoe (conductor), 1; W. Howell, 2; G. S. Brown, 3; M. Silvester, 4; J. Campion, 5; A. Scott, 6; H. Harper, 7; N. Hawkins, 8. Tenor, 12 cwt., in G.

At St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, London.

On Saturday, the 6th inst., eight members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang a peal of **5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES** in 3 hrs. 3 mins. J. Bonney, 1; A. Cutmore,* 2; W. Cecil, 3; M. A. Wood, 4; H. J. Shade, 5; I. G. Shade (conductor), 6; W. Prime,* 7; J. West, 8. Tenor, 14 cwt. [* First peal in this method.]

At St. Paul's, Walkden, Lancashire.

On Sunday, the 7th inst., six members of the Association rang, after evening service, a peal of **720 PLAIN BOB MINOR** (16 bobs and 2 singles) in 23½ mins. J. Wesby, 1; W. Denner, 2; J. Brooks, 3; F. Derbyshire, 4; R. Ridyard, 5; W. Sevier (conductor), 6. Tenor, 13½ cwt., in G.

On Thursday, the 11th inst., Mrs. Heath, wife of the Rev. C. Heath, M.A., vicar, gave birth to a son. The bells were rung in honour of the event. After **QUEENS** and firing, a **720 BOB MINOR** was rung in 25 mins. W. Denner (conductor), 1; J. Worthington, 2; S. Oakes, 3; J. Williamson, 4; J. Potter, 5; J. Brooks, 6. Tenor, 13½ cwt.

At St. Michael's, Melbourne, Derby.

On Sunday, the 7th inst., for afternoon service, the local society rang a **720 PLAIN BOB MINOR** (18 bobs and 2 singles) in 26 mins. F. B. Book, 1; J. Vickers, 2; J. R. Wood, 3; G. A. Fish, 4; T. Hollingsworth, 5; G. C. Turnicli (conductor), 6. This was J. R. Wood's first peal with a bob bell. Tenor, 16½ cwt., in F.

On Sunday, the 14th inst., the Midland Counties' Association rang for Divine service in the evening **720 PLAIN BOB MINOR** (4 singles and 4 bobs), in 26 mins. H. Hollingsworth, 1; J. Vickers, 2; G. A. Fish, 3; J. Warren, 4; T. Hollingsworth, 5; G. C. Turnicli (conductor), 6.

At St. Giles-in-the-Fields, London.

On Monday, the 8th inst., eight members of the Society of Royal Cumberlands and the Norwich Diocesan Association rang a peal of **5088 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR** in 2 hrs. 56 mins. G. Newson (conductor), 1; W. H. Fussell, 2; A. Jacob, 3; J. Titchener, 4; E. Chapman, 5; J. Smith (Pulham St.

Mary, Norfolk), 6; J. Barrett, 7; H. Dains (composer), 8. Tenor, 18 cwt. The first peal rung in London by the Norwich Association.

At St. Mary's, Hitchin, Herts.

On Monday, the 8th inst., eight members of the Hitchin Branch of the Hertfordshire Association rang 546 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. J. Randall, 1; H. Buckingham, 2; F. Furr, 3; A. Squires, 4; J. Foster, 5; J. Hare, 6; S. Hare, 7; W. Allen (conductor), 8.

On Monday, the 15th inst., for practice, eight members of the Hitchin Branch of the Hertfordshire Association attempted a quarter peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. After ringing 630 changes (half) it came to grief. Then 350 was rung. J. Randall, 1; W. Allen (conductor), 2; H. Buckingham, 3; A. Squires, 4; F. Furr, 5 (quarter-peal); J. Foster, 5; S. Hare, 6; J. Hare, 7; W. Kitchener, 8.

At All Saints, Carshalton, Surrey.

On Monday, the 8th inst., eight members of the Surrey Association rang Hollis's Five-part Peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 55 mins. J. Trappitt, 1; G. Wellings (conductor, first peal as such), 2; E. Bennett, 3; J. Branch, 4; C. Bance, 5; Dr. A. B. Carpenter, 6; J. Plowman, 7; H. Brooks, 8. Tenor, 12½ cwt., in E sharp. The above peal was rung to celebrate the eighth anniversary of the first peal rung by the Beddington Company.

At St. Paul's, Bedford.

On Tuesday, the 9th inst., being the election of mayor, G. Hurst, Esq., who has four times previously filled the above office, eight members of the Beds Association rang a touch of 1344 BOB MAJOR in 52 mins. F. Keech, 1; W. Allen, 2; W. Hall, 3; S. J. Cullip, 4; C. W. Clarke (composer and conductor), 5; H. Chapman, 6; J. N. Frossell, 7; I. Hills, 8. Also several touches of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. Tenor, 28 cwt., in D.

At St. Mary's, Bedford.—On Tuesday, the 9th inst., 720 GRANDSIRE MINOR was rung. F. Keech, 1; M. Warwick, 2; W. Hall, 3; H. Chapman, 4; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 5; W. Allen, 6. 720 OXFORD TREBLE BOB. F. Keech, 1; J. N. Frossell, 2; C. W. Clark, 3; H. Chapman, 4; S. J. Cullip, 5; W. Hall (conductor), 6. 720 COLLEGE SINGLE. W. Hall, 1; J. N. Frossell, 2; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 3; H. Chapman, 4; S. J. Cullip, 5; W. Allen, 6. 720 PLAIN BOB. W. Allen, 1; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 2; W. Hall, 3; H. Chapman, 4; S. J. Cullip, 5; F. Keech, 6. Tenor, 7 cwt., in B.

At St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, Suffolk.

On Tuesday, the 9th inst., ten members of the Norwich and Essex Associations rang a peal of 5040 KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL in 3 hrs. 38 mins. R. Hawes, 1; E. Pemberton, 2; W. L. Catchpole, 3; C. Mee, 4; C. Saul, 5; F. Mee,* 6; W. J. Nevard,* 7; J. Motts, 8; R. H. Brundle, 9; A. R. Oldham,* 10. Composed by Mr. H. W. Haley and conducted by Mr. J. Motts. Tenor, 32 cwt., in C sharp. [* First peal on the bells.] Mr. Nevard came from Great Bentley, Essex.

At All Saints', Duffield, Derbyshire.

On Wednesday, the 10th inst., eight members of the Midland Counties Association (Duffield Branch) rang a peal of 5024 DOUBLE OXFORD BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 2 mins. G. Dawson, 1; E. Moreton, 2; S. Johnson, 3; J. Howe, 4; G. Hingley, 5; W. Wakley, 6; W. Hickling, 7; A. P. Heywood (composer and conductor), 8. Tenor, 24 cwt., in E flat. This peal, which has 6-8 together throughout, is now rung for the first time, and contains most of the 4-6-8 music, the 4th being twenty courses in 7th's place.

At Eccles, Lancashire.—Birthday Peal.

On Friday, the 12th inst., eight members of the Association rang Holt's Ten-part peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 58 mins. C. Cash, 1; J. Barrett, 2; T. Yates, 3; J. Welsby, 4; J. Grimshaw, 5; W. Sevier, 6; J. Baguley, 7; E. Cash (conductor), 8. Tenor, 13½ cwt. This peal was rung to commemorate the thirty-first year of Mr. James Barrett, his brother-ringers wishing him many happy returns of the day. [William Sevier came from Manchester; he is also a member of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, and formerly a member of the Barnwood and Upton St. Leonard's combined societies.]

At St. Mary the Virgin, Stanstead, Essex.

On Friday, the 12th inst., six of the local company rang 720 DOUBLE COURT BOB MINOR in 25½ mins. G. Prior, 1; I. Cavill, 2; J. Luckey, 3; G. Gray, 4; H. Prior, jun., 5; C. Prior (conductor), 6. 720 DOUBLE OXFORD BOB MINOR in 25 mins. J. Cavill, 1; W. Watts (first 720 in the method), 2; I. Cavill, 3; H. Prior, jun., 4; J. Luckey, 5; C. Prior (conductor), 6. 720 COLLEGE SINGLE MINOR in 25 mins. J. Cavill, 1; H. Prior, jun., 2; I. Cavill, 3; G. Gray, 4; G. Prior, 5; C. Prior (conductor), 6. On Sunday, the 7th inst., for morning service, 720 PLAIN BOB MINOR in 25 mins., with 24 bobs and 18 singles. [Composed by Mr. J. Parker of Farnham Royal, Bucks.] J. Luckey, 1; W. Watts, 2; W. Prior, 3; G. Prior, 4; I. Cavill, 5; H. Prior, jun. (conductor), 6. On Thursday, the 11th inst., 720 OXFORD TREBLE BOB MINOR in 24½ mins. J. Cavill, 1; W. Prior, 2; G. Gray, 3; J. Luckey, 4; H. Prior, jun., 5; C. Prior (conductor), 6. And two single courses of STEPMAN DOUBLE. C. Prior, 1; W. Watts, 2; H. Prior, jun., 3; G. Prior, 4; I. Cavill, 5; W. Prior, 6. On Sunday, the 14th inst., for the afternoon service, a 720 of COLLEGE SINGLE MINOR in 24 mins. J. Luckey, 1; W. Prior, 2; G. Gray, 3; G. Prior, 4; H. Prior, jun. (College Youth), 5; C. Prior (conductor), 6. Tenor, 13 cwt.

At St. Margaret's, Barking, Essex.

On Saturday, the 13th inst., eight members of the Essex Association (also members of the St. James's Society) rang a peal of 6080 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR in 3 hrs. 52 mins. A. J. Perkins (conductor), 1; J. Gobbett, 2; J. Bonney, 3; R. Sewell, 4; S. Hayes, 5; Y. Green, 6; W. Doran, 7; J. M.

Hayes, 8. Tenor, 22½ cwt., in E flat. This is the first time of ringing this peal, and it is the longest rung in this tower, as well as by the Essex Association in this county. It is a one-part peal composed by Y. Green.

At St. Andrew's, Derby.

On Saturday, the 13th inst., eight members of the Midland Counties' Association rang two 420's and 336 BOB TRIPLES; also 252 BOB MAJOR. A. E. Thompson, 1; G. A. Fish, 2; J. Warren, 3; W. Midgley, 4; H. C. Woodward, 5; G. C. Tunnickliff, 6; J. Thompson, 7; G. Motteshaw, 8. Messrs. Warren, Tunnickliff, and Fish, are from Melbourne, and desire to thank sincerely Mr. Shardlow, the sexton, for kindly obtaining permission for them to use the bells on this occasion, and also their brother-ringers for the welcome and assistance given them, this being their first attempt at Triples or Major.

At St. Edmund's, Little Hadham, Herts.

On Saturday, the 13th inst., Messrs. H. J. Tucker and T. Newman from Bishop's Stortford, Messrs. H. Prior, jun. and G. Prior from Stanstead, and J. Harvey from Manuden, paid a visit to the above place and rang several six-scores of GRANDSIRE and ANTELOPE DOUBLES, in which Mr. F. Chapman, one of the local ringers, took part. Tenor, 11 cwt.

At the Parish Church, Worsley, Lancashire.—Birthday Peal.

On Monday, the 15th inst., a peal of 5040 BOB MAJOR (Hubbard's Five-part) was rung in 3 hrs. J. H. Ridyard, 1; G. Lee, 2; F. Derbyshire, 3; J. Welsby, 4; R. Ridyard, 5; T. Derbyshire, 6; J. Baguley, 7; Wm. Sevier (conductor), 8. Tenor, 21 cwt. 14 lb., in E. The above peal was rung in honour of Lord Brackley's fourteenth birthday.

RECEIVED.—J. R. Jerram. Several important communications are unavoidably postponed.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Proposed Church House.

SIR,—It does happen sometimes that we fail to accomplish the very thing which we especially desired to effect. But I hardly think that many readers of *Church Bells* will agree with the expressions by 'C. W. S.' in his letter of November 12th touching the 'tone of my remark about the distressed clergy.' I was very particularly anxious to do two things. One was to avoid hurting the feelings of anyone and to show that I have sympathy with my brethren; and the other was to expose the fact that there are brethren for whose poverty the Church is not to be held responsible whenever she puts forth her hand to do a good work of any other kind except that of raising money for poor clergymen. I was anxious not to expose instances in which men have been guilty of much ambition, and then too of not a little imprudence, and of seeming to expect that the Church should make provision for them, but I felt, and I still feel, that these facts ought to be known, when a most unjustifiable attack has been made upon the promoters of the Church House as if they were guilty of a lack of sympathy, and were even depriving clergymen and their wives and children of the help they need.

I will say nothing about myself. Others shall judge whether I taunted any one with his imprudence in his domestic proceedings. I merely declared, and I declare it again most distinctly, that there is no ground for charging the promoters of the Church House with any lack of feeling towards the many clergy who are in distress because they promote this important effort. The names of the promoters form a sufficient refutation of this imputation, and there are far too many instances of men, obtaining 'Holy Orders,' marrying, and having a large family to keep, who, having started without fifty pounds in the world, are now claiming sympathy and relief much more loudly than the many others who have struggled, and are still struggling, nobly, and in a Christianlike way, and who deserve the highest admiration that can be bestowed on them, and all the assistance which people of virtue, honesty, and integrity in distress can receive. But there are two distinct classes in this matter of clerical distress, and the more deserving class is not the more declaiming class. A few weeks will show whether I am correct or not in saying that the Church House scheme has taken hold on the public mind. I abide by my statement. It is satisfactory that Canon Gregory has done what my comment has not done to 'C. W. S.' but it is very satisfactory to me that many have expressed very great approval of my comment. And I believe that if 'C. W. S.' will carefully read it again he will see that he has been a little hasty in his accusation.

I hope I sympathise with any men in distress, but I will not allow that amongst the poor clergy there is not a distinction to be drawn between some whose character, with that of their wives and families, is noble, and even heroic, and other some whose whole history shows that they have never been otherwise than needy men, and who have not conducted themselves in a manner to deserve the like sympathy with others who are in equal poverty.

Closure of Churches.

SIR,—The letter of 'N.' on this subject impels me to give my experience of the state of things at 'the church in which is the tomb of Francis Bacon.' Having an intense interest in St. Albans and its neighbourhood, I have naturally paid frequent visits to the church of St. Michael, and when I have been on a Saturday afternoon I have met with every courtesy from the lady engaged in preparing the church for the Sunday services. So I would commend all who wish to see the tomb of Bacon, and to study one of the most interesting of the hundred or so churches with Saxon remains, to pay their visits at that time. On Whit Monday, four years ago, I took a party

The diocesan Synod of Armagh was chiefly remarkable for being presided over for the first time by the new Primate, who delivered an earnest and affectionate address. His Grace has made Dr. Chadwick Dean of Armagh, but has not yet filled up the vacant librarianship of the Cathedral, formerly held by Dr. Reeves, now Bishop of Down, Connor, and Dromore, in succession to his Grace. These appointments are worth 200*l.* a-year each, and, as things are now, are valuable pieces of preferment.

A few days subsequent to holding this Synod the Primate found himself in Belfast, where his old friends were preparing to present him with an address, after his lengthened episcopate of thirty-seven years, during which period he had ruled the diocese of Down, Connor, and Dromore. The address was accompanied by a solid silver salver, on which rested a purse containing five hundred guineas. The address was read by the Archdeacon of Connor, one of the senior clergy, Sir Edward Porter Cowan, Lieutenant of the Co. of Antrim, heading the signatures. The chair had been taken by the High Sheriff of the Co. of Down. A large number of the gentry of the counties of Down and Antrim, as well as leading townsmen of Belfast, were also present. The address and presentation took place in the Church Room, Clarence Place. There were also present representatives of the Presbyterian and Methodist bodies. In the course of his Grace's reply were the following words:—"To the members of my own communion, whom a closer relationship unites in the reverent homage of loyal sons to a common mother, I may well apply these words of my great predecessor, Primate Bramhall: "No man can justly blame me for honouring my spiritual mother the Church, in whose womb I was conceived, at whose breast I was nourished, in whose bosom I hope to die. Bees, by the instinct of their nature, love their hives, and birds their nests. My desire hath been to have truth for my chiefest friend, and no enemy but error."

Immediately afterwards a second address was presented by the Bishop of Ontario and 140 other clergymen of the Anglican Church who had received Holy Orders at his Grace's hands. The address, which was a loving and affectionate one, was signed by the Bishop, the Archdeacons of Clogher, Down, Kilmore, and Lismore, and 145 clergymen from England, Ireland, the Colonies, and India. The Primate's reply was equally affectionate, and altogether the scene was a touching one, not soon to be forgotten. The Primate preached his farewell sermon in SS. Philip and James's Church, Hollywood, on the 14th inst.

At the Diocesan Synod of Cork, Cloyne, and Ross, a resolution to abolish the Cathedral chapters of Cloyne and Ross, and maintain only one Cathedral church and body for the united diocese, was defeated. A strong opposition was manifested towards receiving the report of the Diocesan Temperance Association by one or two of the clergy who object altogether to temperance pledges. The report, however, was adopted by a large majority.

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Cork, Dr. Delaney, died on Sunday week at the advanced age of eighty-six. He had been Bishop of Cork since 1846, just forty years. The Cork correspondent of the *Irish Ecclesiastical Gazette* says: "He was undoubtedly a liberal-minded man, generous, accomplished, and gifted with an eloquent tongue, and was thoroughly loyal to the Queen and her empire. It is believed that on more than one occasion he held in check certain violent movements, and discouraged wild and foolish projects which otherwise might have entailed much suffering, if not ruin, on the community." The Bishop's funeral was largely attended, and was a most representative gathering. Among those present were the Earl of Kenmare and Archbishop Cooke.

At the meeting of the Diocesan Synod of Derry and Raphoe, a report was submitted from the Marriage Law Defence Association of the united diocese. It stated that since the last Synod the Committee had forwarded several petitions to Parliament, including two important ones, from the Synod, numerously signed by the Bishop and others.

Letters are appearing in the *Ecclesiastical Gazette* suggesting that the Church Congress should be invited to meet in Dublin or Belfast in 1888. You have had, perhaps, a plethora of Congresses in England; only one invitation there for next year, whereas Congress has met but once in Ireland. Although the Churches are no longer united by law, there seems no reason why we might not have the privilege and benefit of receiving this great ecclesiastical gathering again. Under the genial presidency of Bishop Reeves it would be likely to have an auspicious time in our northern capital, where it would stir up fresh interest in Church matters.

The *Great Eastern* is now in the Liffey, and attracts thousands of visitors. Divine service is said on board every Sunday morning, the Revs. Mr. Fowler, missionary to seamen, and J. S. Flesher, Rector of St. Barnabas, the parish of Dublin Harbour on the north side, officiating.

The Primates have issued a joint pastoral letter for the due observance of united intercession for missions this week, for which they suggest special Collects, Psalms, and Lessons.

The Archbishop of Dublin will hold two supplemental Confirmations this month, the second for soldiers, &c., at the Curragh Camp. His Grace holds an Ordination on the 19th of December in the Cathedral of Christchurch, Dublin.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

The Surrey Association.

THE District Meeting will be held (as arranged) at Richmond, by the kind permission of the Rev. Canon Procter, on Saturday, November 27th. Tower open for ringing from four p.m. Any ringers will be welcome.

ARTHUR B. CARPENTER, *Hon. Sec.*

The Royal Cumberland Society.

THE Master of the Company requests Members to specially attend St. Martin's belfry, Friday evening, December 3rd next, 7.30, and Meeting-house 9.15 sharp; and oblige

HENRY DAINS, *Hon. Sec.*

Holywell Church, Oxford.

NOTICE.—The subscriptions for augmenting this ring of six bells to eight have amounted to about 60*l.* About 40*l.* more is still required. All who may be interested in this work are earnestly invited to subscribe. Subscriptions may be sent to A. F. M. CUSTANCE, *Brasenose College, Oxford.*

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. Peter's, Caversham, Oxon.

ON Sunday, the 7th inst., after Divine service in the evening, 720 CANTERBURY PLEASURE was rung in 27 mins. H. Simmons, 1; C. Hounslow,* 2; E. Menday, 3; J. Hands, 4; T. Hibbert, 5; Rev. G. F. Coleridge (conductor), 6. Also 360 PLAIN BOB in 13 mins. H. Simmons, 1; F. Simmons, 2; J. Hands, 3; C. Hounslow, 4; T. Hibbert, 5; E. Menday (conductor), 6; C. Hounslow came from Oxford, and T. Hibbert from Reading. [* First 720 of CANTERBURY PLEASURE.]

At St. Nicholas', Harwich, Essex.

ON Tuesday, the 9th inst., being Lord Mayor's Day, eight members of the Essex Association rang a quarter-peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES from Holt's Original in 48 mins., this being the first ever attempted by the band with the exception of F. Goddard, who formerly belonged to the West Middlesex Association, Isleworth Branch. F. Goddard (conductor), 1; J. Brewster, 2; T. Aldis, 3; D. Huff, 4; A. Peachey, 5; C. Ramplin, 6; W. Easter, 7; G. Knock, 8. Also 720 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, with the 4th, 6th, and 8th behind. E. Green, 1; J. Brewster, 2; D. Huff, 3; W. Green, 4; A. Peachey, 5; C. Ramplin, 6; G. Knock, 7; F. Goddard (conductor), 8. And 720 BOB MIXOR (28 bobs and 18 singles), in 28 mins. W. Green, 1; T. Aldis, 2; D. Huff, 3; A. Peachey, 4; C. Ramplin, 5; W. Easter (conductor), 6.

At the Parish Church, Foxearth, Essex.

ON Tuesday, the 9th inst., the following members of the Foxearth Company rang, with the bells deeply muffled, a funeral peal, as a mark of respect to the late William Inch, who died on November 5th, after a very short illness. A peal of 720 PLAIN BOB MINOR was rung, also 360 changes with the bells half-muffled, by W. Maxim, 1; C. Lee, 2; W. Gridley, 3; R. Mingay (conductor), 4; J. Lee, 5; G. Maxim, 6. The deceased had been a ringer upwards of twenty years, and rang his last peal on Monday evening, October 11th, in the same method as above.

At St. George's, Gravesend, Kent.

ON Saturday evening, the 13th inst., for practice, 1260 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES were rung in 42 mins. G. Hayes, 1; W. Martin, 2; H. D. Davis, 3; F. Hayes, 4; H. Pearce (Maidstone, conductor), 5; J. W. Aitkin, 6; W. Harper, 7; B. Spinner, 8. On Sunday, the 14th inst., for morning service, 1260 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES were rung. W. Royston, 1; W. Martin, 2; H. D. Davis, 3; G. Hayes, 4; B. Spinner, 5; J. W. Aitkin, 6; H. Pearce (conductor), 7; W. Louth, 8.

At St. John's, Deptford, Kent.

ON Saturday, the 13th inst., eight members of the St. James's Society rang Davies' Bob-and-Single Variation of 5040 BOB TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 54 mins. J. Rose, 1; W. Pead, 2; S. W. Thornton (conductor), 3; J. Taylor, 4; W. Weatherstone, 5; J. Laws (first peal with a bob bell), 6; A. G. Freeman, 7; H. W. Grout, 8. [The conductor's 30th peal, and was rung on his 23rd birthday.]

At the Parish Church, Cumnor, Berks.

ON Sunday, the 14th inst., for Divine service in the morning, 720 GRANDSIRE MINOR, was rung in 30 mins. W. H. Cooper, 1; W. Inness, 2; C. W. H. Griffith (conductor), 3; A. Pratley, 4; H. Bennett, 5; C. C. Griffith, 6. For afternoon service, 360 COLLEGE SINGLE MINOR. W. J. Inness, 1; C. W. H. Griffith (conductor), 2; W. H. Cooper, 3; A. Pratley (first 360 in the method), 4; W. J. Lamborne, 5; C. C. Griffith, 6. On Monday evening, the 15th inst., being the first anniversary of the re-opening of the bells, 720 GRANDSIRE MINOR was rung in 30 mins. A. Hutt, 1; W. J. Inness, 2; C. W. H. Griffith (conductor), 3; W. H. Cooper, 4; H. Bennett, 5; C. C. Griffith, 6. Afterwards, 720 COLLEGE SINGLE MINOR in 30 mins. E. Hutt, 1; J. Buckingham, 2; C. W. H. Griffith, 3; H. Bennett, 4; W. J. Lamborne, 5; C. C. Griffith, 6. Tenor, 16 cwt. in F.

At Croome d'Abitot, Worcestershire.

ON Sunday, the 14th inst., some members of the Tewkesbury Abbey Society, by the invitation of Mr. Longney, paid their annual visit to the above place—on this occasion to commemorate his twenty-first birthday—and rang 720 GRANDSIRE MINOR in 25 mins. R. H. Witherington, 1; C. W. Dyson, 2; L. Longney,* 3; C. Anford, 4; J. Wathen, 5; Jos. Wathen (conductor), 6. Also 720 BOB MINOR† in 26 mins. R. H. Witherington, 1; L. Longney (first 720 as conductor), 2; C. Anford, 3; S. Cleal, 4; J. Wathen, 5; Jos. Wathen, 6. On hand-bells, courses of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES and CATERPILLARS.

L. Longney,* 1-2; S. Cleal, 3-4; C. Awford, 5-6; Jos. Wathen, 7-8; R. H. Witherington, 9-10. [* First attempt in the method. † Believed to be the first on the bells conducted by a local man.] On Monday, the 15th inst., on the occasion of Viscount Deerpurth—the eldest son of the Earl of Coventry—attaining his majority, the following persons rang 1260 **GRANDSIRE DOUBLES** (each six-score called differently), in 45½ mins. H. Willis,† 1; A. Aspey,* 2; R. G. Knowles,* 3; A. Longney, 4; L. Longney† (conductor), 5; G. Willis,* 6. Also several six-score of **GRANDSIRE DOUBLES** on hand-bells. W. Denley, 1; T. Clifford, 2; A. Clifford, 3; W. Price, 4; L. Longney (conductor), 5-6. [* Came from Hanley Castle. † Member of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association.]

At St. Edward's, Romford, Essex.

On Sunday, the 14th inst., for Divine service, 720 **DOUBLE COURT BOB MINOR** was rung. W. Nash,* 1; J. Gobbett, 2; B. Keeble, 3; J. Nunn, 4; A. J. Perkins, 5; T. Scarlett* (conductor), 6. Also **BOB MINOR** and a touch of **GRANDSIRE TRIPLES**. [* First 720 in this method.]

At St. Sidwell's, Exeter, Devon.

On Sunday, the 14th inst., a quarter peal of **GRANDSIRE TRIPLES** was rung in 43 mins. T. Townsend, 1; A. Shepherd, 2; E. Pitt (composer and conductor), 3; F. Shepherd, 4; W. Munday, 5; J. Moss, 6. E. Shepherd, 7; C. Carter, 8. Tenor, 24 cwt., in D.

At the Parish Church, East Hagbourne, Berks.

On Monday, the 15th inst., eight members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild rang Holt's Original peal of 5040 **GRANDSIRE TRIPLES** in 3 hrs. 4 mins. J. Pether, 1; J. W. Washbrook (conductor), 2; H. J. Castle,* 3; D. Napper, 4; E. Napper, 5; C. Allen, 6; W. Napper,* 7; A. Woodley, 8. Tenor, 23½ cwt. [* College Youth.]

At St. Helen's, Abingdon, Berks.

On Tuesday, the 16th inst., eight members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild rang Holt's Original peal of 5040 **GRANDSIRE TRIPLES** in 2 hrs. 56 mins. J. Pether, 1; T. Short, 2; E. Napper, 3; D. Napper, 4; H. J. Castle, 5; J. W. Washbrook (conductor), 6; W. Napper, 7; C. Allen, 8. Tenor, 21 cwt. The first peal of **TRIPLES** rung on the bells since they were rehung.

At All Saints', Duffield, Derbyshire.

On Tuesday, the 16th inst., eight members of the Midland Counties' Association rang Thurstans' peal of 5040 **STEDMAN TRIPLES** in 2 hrs. 56 mins. G. Dawson, 1; E. Morton, 2; S. Johnson, 3; W. Hickling, 4; G. Hingley, 5; A. Robinson (conductor), 6; A. P. Heywood, 7; J. Howe, 8. Tenor, 17 cwt., in F.

At St. Ann's, Highgate, London.

On Tuesday, the 16th inst., eight members of the Royal Cumberland Society rang Holt's Original peal of 5040 **GRANDSIRE TRIPLES** in 2 hrs. 48 mins. S. Clark, 1; J. Page, 2; G. Griffin, 3; G. Newson (conductor), 4; T. Titchener, 5; J. Smith (Pulham, St. Mary, Norfolk), 6; E. Chapman, 7; W. Aiscott, 8. Tenor, 14½ cwt.

At St. George's, Hyde, Cheshire.

On Thursday, the 18th inst., eight members of the United Counties' Association rang a peal of 5088 **KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR** in 3 hrs. J. Shaw, 1; R. Pritchard, 2; T. Bradley, 3; R. Woolley, 4; J. A. Filder, 5; S. Bradley, 6; T. Wilde, 7; J. S. Wilde (composer and conductor), 8. Tenor, 15 cwt. This peal was rung on the occasion of the presentation of a silver-plated goblet to the St. George's Society by Mr. S. Bennett, a member.

At St. John-the-Baptist's, Crawley, Sussex.

On Saturday, the 20th inst., eight members of the Sussex County Association of Change-ringers rang Holt's Ten-part peal of **GRANDSIRE TRIPLES** in 3 hrs. 7 mins. A. A. Fuller (first peal), 1; G. F. Attree (conductor), 2; C. Tyler, 3; C. E. Golds, 4; J. Searle, 5; G. C. Hammond, 6; J. Jay, sen., 7; E. Butler, 8. Tenor, about 14 cwt., in F. [Hammond is a member of the Ringmer Branch, the others members of the Brighton Branch. All, with the exception of Fuller, are members of the London Cumberland Society.]

A Non-conducted Peal at St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire.

On Saturday, the 20th inst., eight members of the St. Paul's Society, Burton-on-Trent, rang Brook's Variation of Thurstans' peal of 5040 **STEDMAN TRIPLES** in 3 hrs. 7 mins. C. H. Hattersley, 1; J. Carter, 2; H. Bastable, 3; J. Griffin, 4; S. Reeves, 5; W. Wakley, 6; J. Jaggard, 7; A. Thomas, 8. Tenor, 26 cwt.

The above peal was strictly a non-conducted peal, and was rung with no sign or indication whatever being used during its progress. Present in the belfry, the Rev. James H. Fish, vicar of St. Paul's, and Mr. Henry Johnson, sen., of Birmingham, who called 'Go' at the commencement and 'Stand' at the conclusion of the peal, and marked off each course as it was rung.

This is the first occasion on which a silent peal of **STEDMAN TRIPLES** has been rung on the church bells, and it was accomplished at the fourth attempt. On the previous Saturday the same band had rung seventeen parts, faultlessly struck, when a momentary slip brought the peal to an untimely end.

All the above are well-known conductors in the **STEDMAN** method, and are members of the Midland Counties' Association of Change-ringers.

At St. Michael's, Basingstoke, Hants.

On Sunday, the 21st inst., for Divine service, the local band rang 336 **GRANDSIRE TRIPLES** in 13 mins. T. Higgins, 1; F. Bennett, 2; F. Bicknell, 3; J. R. Higgins, 4; W. Tiller, 5; G. C. Capron, 6; H. White (conductor), 7; T. Wheeler, 8. Tenor, 16 cwt.

RECEIVED ALSO.—G. S. Brown, Sudbury, Suffolk [We shall be pleased to receive any communications from you], and others

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Bishop of Bedford's East London Church Fund.

SIR,—The church and parish that I represent receive no assistance from the above-named fund. I, therefore, write disinterestedly, yet as one deeply impressed with the value of the remarkable work inaugurated by the Bishop of Bedford. Certain facts have recently come to light respecting the financial condition of this Mission which must concern and distress all persons anxious to extend the Church's work. We are told that, 'in consequence of the serious diminution of funds,' at the last meeting of the Council 'all applications were refused, and grants to the amount of one thousand pounds were withdrawn. Surely Churchmen will ponder these disclosures and make a determined effort to supply the wants of this noble Mission, which aims at the advancement of the temporal, moral, and spiritual welfare of the masses in the Eastern portion of the Metropolis? If two hundred persons will send forthwith five pounds each, to the Rev. James Beeby, Secretary of the East London Church Fund, 26 St. Mary Axe, E.C., I will gladly contribute the same amount, towards preserving 'the staff of living agents working in the poor parishes of East London.'

All Saints' Vicarage, Stoke Newington, N., Nov. 17. HENRY SHRIMPTON.

Bishop Maclagan on the Episcopate.

SIR,—The Bishop of Lichfield will, I am sure, forgive me, as one of the Laity of the Church of England, if I venture to express a difference of opinion from that of his Lordship. I question whether a Bishop has any right to lower the position given to him in this country by the Church. Human nature does require a certain amount of outward expression of dignity. Socialists, Democrats, and other 'Friends of the people,' believe, or pretend to believe, that this is not so; but they are mistaken. Outward signs are surely an ordinance of God? A Bishop can exercise his episcopal functions, no doubt, whether living unattended in a little cottage or surrounded by the conveniences and *agremens* of highly civilised life; but his people will feel that there is something lacking to the position of a chief pastor in the former case. As to the cry about the difference between the emoluments of the English sees and the salaries of the humbler clergy, I feel perfectly certain that it would be a case of the celebrated fable of the man and the ass if any alteration were made. Bishops, as soon as they accepted an altered position, would be reminded that they should not omit to 'use hospitality'—that 'their position as chief pastors has its social side,' and so on. The Church of this great country has given her Bishops a highly dignified social standing, to be accepted for the general good, that we may see it, and be reminded of the great office which they hold. A Bishop running about at a railway station to look after his luggage, or scrambling into a hack cab, may be pleasing himself with the reflection that he is doing a saintly 'act of humility,' but he is not pleasing the people, who dislike seeing the holder of a great office forgetting the outward expression of its dignity. In reference to this I would ask, what effect it would have in a nursery if the children saw the head nurse put on a pinafore and sit down with them to thick bread and butter, and a cup of milk and water? They would feel it derogatory, and it would not please them. G. F. L.

The Church House.

SIR,—I am but a humble individual, and shall be able to do but very little towards promoting any Jubilee Memorial; but I should like to say a word or two with respect to the two letters which appeared in your issue of the 12th inst. 'C. W. S.' seems to think that the scheme has not taken hold of the public mind. Well, I say, wait till it is thoroughly determined on, and placed fully and fairly before the public, and it will soon be taken up. No one can doubt the distress of many of the clergy, but I think that could be remedied better by Diocesan action than by a Jubilee fund. A 'North Countryman' asks what has a Church House in London to do with the northern province? Well, I would ask him where are all the anniversary meetings of the various Church Societies held? At London or York? And what more fitting than that the Church should have a noble central building for her own meetings? Then, Convocation has no home in either Province, and if this movement should be the means of amalgamating the two Convocations would not that be a grand step, and tend to raise Convocation to the esteem and influence which it ought to possess, instead of being, as it is at present, a laughing-stock and by-word? With respect to the expense of coming up to London, I do not think that would be found to be greater than it is at present for members from remote districts to go to York, or those from Wales and Cornwall to come to London. D. G. S.

Church Services.

SIR,—May I hope that the suggestion of 'G. V.' to alter the Anglican hours of Divine service to Roman will meet with the strongest disapproval from all English Churchmen? The feelings and convenience of the laity seem to be the last thing to be considered, setting aside the obvious charm of having morning prayers and praise put off till noon, an hour at which few would attend. It is simply an attempt to alter old landmarks and bring an imitation, and often a very poor one, of the Roman Mass, into the place of our Anglican morning prayers. People who have been at the eight-o'clock celebration do not wish to attend a 'high celebration' at ten or half-past, or to wait till nearly noon before they can join in the Church's universal prayers. I know from experience that such a change of hours involves a great deal more than appears at first sight, and leads to a sort of separation from other churches. Why does not 'G. V.' openly advocate Roman doctrine? Then he would be consistent; but in the churches where hours have been so changed I notice a spurious sentimentality taking the place of the devout worship of the faithful. AN OLD CATHOLIC.