

of helping thereby to revive these pleasant but short-lived winter-evening entertainments, which I believe were killed in many cases by the undue preponderance of music, injudicious and too lengthy selections, and bad readers, taken from the less educated classes with the idea of encouraging a taste for reading.

F. A. BAKER.

Offertory.—The Church in Scotland.

SIR,—Thanks to 'A Commercial Traveller' for his information about Offertories in Scotland, which is very satisfactory and encouraging. I once attended an Episcopal Church in Scotland for four or five weeks, but then I did see every Sunday the 'well-known stool covered with white cloth,' and I am glad to find that the proper offertory is superseding this singular custom. By the way, it is very interesting to notice how many 'Commercial Travellers' are good Churchmen, and do great good by appearing on week evenings and other opportunities in our churches when Divine service is proceeding.

ANGLICANUS.

Ps. cxxix. 6-8.

SIR,—In answer to 'A. S. K.' may I refer to Thomson's *Land and the Book*, p. 682:—'Nothing is more natural than for the Arabs when passing by a fruit-tree or corn-field, loaded with a rich crop, to exclaim "Barak Allah!" "God bless you! we bless you, in the name of the Lord!"' Compare Ruth, ii. 4. S.

Verbal Discrepancies in the Prayer-book.

SIR,—If you admit questions of minute criticism into your queries, perhaps you, or some of your readers, can furnish answer to the following—'Whence is the origin of the slight variations in the Psalms as printed in the Psalter, and as set forth in other parts and offices of the Service-book? xviii. 9, in Evening Prayer, 'He cometh'; in Psalter, 'is come'; lxxvii. 5, in Psalter, omits 'yea' found in *Deus Misereatur* as appointed for Evensong; xxxix. 11, 'by the means of Thy heavy hand'; in Burial Office 'the' is omitted; xc. 12, in Psalter, 'So teach us'; Burial Office, 'O' But Bagster, I observe, prints 'O' in both places. Are these printers' errors, or how and by what authority have these discrepancies crept in? I may add another minute question:—'Is 'The One and-twentieth Sunday after Trinity' or 'The Twenty-first Sunday, &c.' the correct form, and why do editions of the Prayer-book vary in this matter? T.

State of Dissent.

CAN any of your readers furnish reliable statistics as to the state of Dissent? It is reported from many sources, that although in the abundance of their wealth they built pretentious meeting-houses, with very fine frontages, and as much like a proper church as they can, and although, unlike their religious forefathers, they have grand organs, choirs, chants, anthems, and many other imitations of the Church, the attendance at the meeting-houses (except in a few cases) is scant and far less than it used to be. It is easy to account for this if it be so, because, after all, since religion is a matter of faith, and therefore, to some extent, of dogma, people will attend where preachers believe and hold fast to the truth, and not where they are taught to doubt everything until they almost doubt their own existence. ENQUIRER.

Attending the Theatre.

SIR,—Will any Clergyman kindly give his opinion as to whether it is consistent for a Sunday-school teacher and communicant to attend a Theatre as a place of recreation and amusement? A PERPLEXED ONE.

LETTERS RECEIVED.—C. S.; Church and State; E. Thompstone; H. Leach; A. S. K.; G. W. Jones; W. J. Trelford; Chas. Owen; An Ignorant Bell-ringer; Alfred; Rev. W. S. Shaw; S.; R. W.; J. P. L.; J. Scarth; F. C. G.; A Subscriber; A. Boyle; T. S. (Durham); Vicar; S. Yorke; N. C. O.; W. Mauger; H. Hobden; Rector of Wells.

BELLS AND BELL RINGING.

The Great Lancashire Handbell Ringers.

A good number of years have elapsed since the great Lancashire handbell ringers, after having earned for themselves a considerable amount of local fame, were taken in hand, first by Professor Anderson, the Wizard of the North, and afterwards by Barnum, the famous Yankee 'speculator.' Some of the band are yet afloat, and a letter signed by four of them has been shown to us. It is written from Honolulu, and dated August 27, 1871. The signatories to the letter are Samuel Marlor, formerly of Jackson Pit, Oldham; John Whittaker, Lower West Street; Peter Mills, Barker Street; and S. Harrison, North Moor. The writers truly say that many of their friends here will have been wondering what quarter of the world they had got to; and then they proceed to detail their recent travels. They say:—'We left Auckland on the 10th of August, in one of the American mail steamships called the "Nebraska," and sailed a distance of nearly 4000 miles in sixteen days, on the great Pacific Ocean. We had one of the finest passages we ever had in all our travels after the first two days, and we arrived once more on land, all in good health. This is a most beautiful and healthy place; something like India, but not so hot. We have the pineapple, the banana, and all kinds of tropical fruit. We expect staying a month, and then sail from here to San Francisco. So you will see that we are now making our way towards America—also towards home. We must not forget to tell you that our expenses are very great. From Auckland to Honolulu they amounted to 120*l.* and everything here is dear; nothing less than a shilling. We opened here last night, which will make it very remarkable, it being Oldham Wakes Saturday night, and before a very respectable audience. When we write this we expect you are all getting ready for the Wakes Sunday dinner. But you must not think that we are without our Wakes dinner, for if you do you will be greatly mistaken. We have everything we want here. We all join in wishing you a merry and pleasant time of it, hoping we shall be all together by the next Wakes.'

The following particulars are furnished by a correspondent, and they

will be read with some degree of interest by a great many of our readers:—This noted company of handbell ringers commenced their career of travelling on Good Friday, the 9th day of April, 1841; and, after a successful tour through England, they went to America, and made very great progress in the art of ringing upon handbells. The names of these campanalogians (in addition to the writers of the above letter) are:—John Wrigley, an invalid, of George Street at present; Isaac Ogden, of Hollinwood at present; William Stott, died in Australia; William Cooper, died in America; Samuel Mills, of Bow Street, and this person has been confined to his bedroom for the last sixteen years; Henry Hunt Patterson, died in Oldham; John Mellor, died in France; J. Isherwood, clerk in a bank in Australia. — *Oldham Chronicle.*

Change-Ringing at Halifax.

ON Saturday, Dec. 9, the Society of Change-ringers connected with the St. John's Church, Halifax, Yorkshire, ascended their tower, and rang a true and complete peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, consisting of 5120 changes, in three hours and twelve minutes. The ringers were in the following order:—H. Hudson, treble; R. Jenkinson, 2nd; J. Jenkinson, 3rd; D. R. Smith, 4th; J. H. Hardcastle, 5th; J. Barlow, 6th; G. Robertshaw, 7th; E. Smith, tenor. The peal was composed by Mr. J. Hudson, and conducted by Mr. H. Hudson.

Carillons.

MR. WALESBY may be a very good musician and a clever critic,—be that as it may, his strictures on this, that, and the other, are not made in very good temper, and therefore cannot be very pleasant to those to whom they apply. If the late writer on Belgian Carillons has made 'palpable mistakes,' which, as a Belgian, he is not likely to have done, perhaps Mr. Walesby will oblige the readers of 'CHURCH BELLS,' and others who are desirous of introducing carillons into our towers, to point out the 'palpable mistakes' of which he complains. UN CARILLONNEUR.

A Cracked Bell.

SIR,—Can any one recommend a good, cheap Bell Foundry, where I could get a bell re-cast, which is badly cracked (see advertisement)? also how it could be made the same pitch and tone as it was originally, so as to dispense with the expense of having all the other seven bells re-tuned? THE RECTOR OF WELLS, NORFOLK.

BELFRY RECORDS.

CHRIST CHURCH, SOUTHWARK. (Tablets in the Belfry.)

(Continued.)

32. JUNIOR COLLEGE SOCIETY. ON Monday, February 27th, 1826, was rung by Eight Members of that Society a true and complete Peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major, containing 5280 changes, in 3 hours and 15 minutes, being the only peal in that method on the bells during the last 40 years. Performed by—
 Josh. Ladley, Treble. Edwd. Sawyer, Fourth. Edwd. Lansdell, Sixth.
 Jas. Mash, Second. Saml. Austin, Fifth. John Merrin, Seventh.
 John Tyler, Third. Wilm. Rue, Tenor.

Composed and call'd by S. Austin.

Rev'd. J. H. Mapleton, Rector.
 Mr. J. Manger, } Churchwardens.
 Mr. J. Burslem, }

33. ST. JAMES'S SOCIETY. ON Monday, March 16th, 1829, was rung in this Steeple a true and complete Peal of Grand sire Triples, containing 5040 changes, in 3 hours 1 minute. The performers were—
 Ed. Griffiths, Treble. Jsh. Ladley, Fourth. Ed. Savage, Sixth.
 F. Pollitt, Second. T. Tolladay, Fifth. St. Thomas, Seventh.
 Jn. Taylor, Third. Ge. Smith, Tenor.

Conducted by Thos. Tolladay.

ST. MAGNUS, LONDON BRIDGE. (Tablets in the Belfry.)

34. THE COLLEGE YOUTHS, on the 21st of Feb. 17—, did ring in this Steeple a complete Peal of 5148 Double Grand sire Caters, in 3 hours 40 minutes, being the most ever performed in that method.
 John Underwood, Treble. Robt. Butterworth, Fifth. Robt. Bly, Eighth.
 Wilm. Mills, Second. Emanuel Crew, Sixth. John Lokes, Ninth.
 William Hatt, Third. George Meakins, Seventh. Fras. Buckingham, Tenor.
 Jas. Darguit, Fourth.

The Peal was call'd by Mr. G. Meakins.

35. THE SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. Established 1687. On Saturday, November 3rd, 1858, the company rung a true Peal of 5079 Stedman Caters, in 3 hours and 13 minutes, being the first in that method on these bells. Performers—
 J. Mash, Treble. Wm. Banister, Fifth. G. E. Ferris, Eighth.
 Geo. Menday, Second. Wm. Lobb, Sixth. Jas. Dwight, Ninth.
 W. Hinds, Third. Wm. Cooter, Seventh. H. F. Wood, Tenor.
 Jno. Bradley, Fourth.

Conducted by Wilm. Cooter.

Upwards of 40 years had elapsed since a Peal had been accomplished in this Steeple.

HAMMERSMITH. (Tablets in the Belfry.)

36. ON Sunday, April 24th, 1774, the Hammersmith Society did Ring in this Steeple a Peal of 5040 Plain Bob in 3 hours and 25 minutes, in Seven different Seven Hundred and Twentys.
 Wm. Gomm, Treble. Wm. Hallett, Third. Jas. Worster, Fifth.
 Thos. Harris, Second. Fraus. Beale, Fourth. Wm. Parris, Tenor.
 Called by Jas. Worster.
 Mr. John Swafford, Churchwarden.

37. APRIL 21st, 1814, was rung in this Steeple 5040 Grand sire Trebbles, in 3 hours and 8 minutes, by—
 Cs. Barber, Treble. Jas. Cole, Fourth. Wm. Parris, Sixth.
 Geo. Stratford, Second. Wm. Hallett, Fifth. Geo. Cole, Seventh.
 Jno. New, Third. Edwd. Hudneth, Tenor.

Call'd by G. Cole.

38. G. (CROWN). R. In Commemoration of the Glorious Victory of our Graceous Queen Caroline over her Vindicative and Relentless Enemies, the Bells in this Steeple was Rung on the 10th, 11th, 13th, and 14th of November, 1820, by the following persons—
 Wm. Hallett, Treble. Jas. Deville, Sen. Fourth. Chas. Duckrell, Sixth.
 Wm. Parris, Second. Wm. Sadler, Fifth. Henr. Begent, Seventh.
 Cornelious Lea, Third. Saml. Whittick, Assistant-Ringer. Bn. Spencer, Tenor.
 Mr. James Gamm, Senr. Churchwarden.

ALL anonymous writers are requested to send their names and addresses to the Editor.