

Christian England in the nineteenth century! We have got no further than this in our evangelizing of the masses! We are astonished and horrified at the awful outbreaks of crime that seem almost epidemic; but the root, the root is bad: the fountain of life in our young men and maidens is poisoned at the source. Before ever the clergyman can reach their opening minds to influence them for good, abominable institutions like these have overpowered them, and the first step downward has been taken. And madness is engendered in rural villages, and we wonder why; and suicides, and monstrous diseases, and broken hearts become rife, and we wonder why. Sir, I shall never wonder again. The hiring-fair I have just witnessed amply accounts for all. I hope we need no more than to have our attention called to it. A very few men in a neighbourhood acting in concert would suffice to put them down. It is not alone of moral evil that we speak, but of its more visible fruits—sanitary and social evil as well; the tendency these things have to degenerate the race, to depreciate the stamina of the men, to ruin the character of the women for fidelity and steadfastness, to upset and overturn every sort of institution for good of any kind. As for religious life—we cannot believe, since we know how many more than we dare count—towns suffer in like manner; but that the religious life of this country at large must suffer most fearfully by these things.

It is almost horrible to think of the preaching of Christianity in a town like the one I speak of, and then the next day the whole town being given up in this way. Everything is against vital religion, everything is in favour of vice. How can the minister of Christ contend against such odds?

I trust you will pardon my troubling you with this long letter. I only wish to point all who are interested to what I believe to be an unfailing source of wickedness in country parishes. The towns set the example, and the villages round about are infected with it.

X.

NOTES AND QUERIES:

Queries.

SIR,—Is it usual or necessary that, after a Charge from the Archdeacon, the churchwardens should go to a table placed near the altar-rails to take their oaths, and those writing should lounge on the altar-rails and talk to one another on affairs of business or pleasure? Such an arrangement does away with a year's teaching to 'Reverence My sanctuary,' and distresses those who witness this irreverent behaviour. Surely a Visitation might be a great opportunity of teaching what is fitting to churchwardens in this matter as well as to clergy.

S.

SIR,—The Absolution is invariably omitted in the parish church of Cheltenham (though a clergyman in priest's orders is present). Is this extraordinary omission justifiable? and, if not, what remedy has a

PARISHIONER AND REGULAR ATTENDANT?

SIR,—Will you kindly obtain for me, through your correspondence in *Church Bells*, the information whether back numbers of *Church Bells* would be of use to any one? There are several years complete, and the present year could be sent when concluded.

M. G. A. FITZROY.

St. George's Bank, East Molesey.

Answers.

SIR,—'Songstress' will probably find the music and the words of the following very suitable for her purpose. 'Go, when the morning shineth,' by 'H. B.' (Novello, 4d.). 'The Land beyond the Sea,' one of three sacred airs in the first number of Linter's *S. Michael's Hymns* (Masters, 6d.). 'Lord, Thy children guide and keep.' (S. P. C. K. Church Hymns, No. 425), when sung with spirit to 'Dix' (64 in *Hymns A. & M.*), is a special favourite wherever it is known, and is a hymn which working men and women heartily appreciate.

C. B.

'A. F. S. H.' recommends to 'T. E.' the Psalter by Ouseley and Monk, the pointing of which is very simple and natural, and the chants are almost all single Anglicans, and thoroughly suitable for Congregational use.

'S. H.' will find what is to be said about Evening Communion succinctly stated in a little three-halfpenny book, entitled *Morning and Evening Communion*, a letter to a friend, by the Rev. Thomas Fenton, M.A., Vicar of Ings, Kendal; and printed by T. Wilson, 28 Highgate, Kendal, who would probably send it on receipt of two penny stamps.

'S. H.'—I would recommend 'S. H.' to get 'Evening Communions,' reprinted from the *Literary Churchman*, with a letter by Canon Bright. (W. Skeffington, price 6d.)

W. W. H.

'S. H.' will find an excellent article on Evening Communions in *Words of Counsel* of Bishop Wilberforce. It is a concise statement of objections to 'that greatest of innovations which directly tends to the desecration of the highest act of our holy religion.'

ANGLICANUS.

SIR,—Whether a rate or not, fees for admitting churchwardens are not recoverable. In my parish we have a church-rate, but we refuse to pay such fees.

H. T. E.

RECEIVED ALSO.—X. Y. B.; M. P. D.; C. R. Cant.; S. A. S.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

The Great Yorkshire Gathering of Ringers at York.

GENTLEMEN,—You are earnestly invited to attend the Quarterly Meeting of the Yorkshire Association of Ringers, to be held at the 'Punch Bowl' Inn, Stonegate, near the Minster, York, on Saturday, the 3rd day of July, 1875, at two o'clock, when we hope to see as many from each Company as can make it convenient to do so.

The bells at the Minster will be ready for use at eleven o'clock.

The time for voting for the place of the next Quarterly Meeting is fixed for 4 p.m.

We have followed the plan adopted at Leeds by appointing Mr. W. H. Howard as Chairman and Mr. J. Underwood, Vice-chairman (York Members). This course we hope will be found acceptable, and conducive to good fellowship and ringing.

We particularly request all the members to let their Secretary know how many of each set are coming, and forward the same on or before the 24th day of June, so that the necessary preparations may be made.

All communications to be addressed to Mr. W. H. Howard, 30 Skeldergate, York.

We are, Gentlemen, yours faithfully,

York, June 1st, 1875.

THE CHANGE-RINGERS OF YORK MINSTER.

There will be a proposition before the Meeting to take into consideration the desirability of forming an Association for the County of York.

A Guild for Durham and Northumberland.

SIR,—It was with extreme pleasure that I read in your No. for May 1 that there is at least one clergyman in the diocese of Durham who takes a hearty interest in his bells and ringers. I may add, that when I first came to this town I found both the bells and the ringing in a very low condition, and found that neither Vicar nor Churchwardens ever showed the slightest interest in the subject. I have been the means of introducing change-ringing to a limited extent, and have attended all the practices from their commencement about two years ago, but have never yet seen the Vicar or Churchwardens in the tower. By establishing a guild for the diocese of Durham this state of things might be entirely changed, and the success of a society such as that of Alnwick become a means of stimulating not only the ringers of other places to better efforts, but also the clergy and churchwardens, to take a better interest in this noble art.

GEO. T. CLARKSON.

Stockton-on-Tees.

Some Peculiarities about Bells. No. III.

SIR,—Although somewhat out of the strict line, I wish to speak a little about the bells of the Clock Tower of Westminster, the Houses of Parliament. These bells are tuned 1, 2, 3, 6, 10; the tenor bell is much the heaviest bell in England, being fully fifteen tons. These bells, I need hardly say, are only used for the clock, and are in exact imitation of the chimes of Great St. Mary's at Cambridge, which are said to have been set by no less eminent a musician than Handel.* I may mention that the grand West Tower of St. Mary the Great, Cambridge, contains a ring of twelve bells—tenor 30 cwt. in the key of D flat or C sharp.

F. B. KING.

[We have omitted the latter portion of our kind correspondent's article, because it is only another version of what we published last week.—Ed.]

Prize-ringing at Sowerby, Yorkshire.

WHAT could have induced the Vicar and Churchwardens of this place to allow the bells of their parish church to be prostituted to such ungodly use? Surely very many of the inhabitants must have been driven half mad to hear the bells pulled about by ten different sets of ringers, from eight o'clock on the morning of Whit Tuesday to half-past twelve on Wednesday—more than twenty-eight hours!—as we learn from a local paper, to say nothing of the revelry carried on and the beer consumed by the multitude of outsiders. Have the ringers no feeling of self-respect to induce them to abandon the practice which leads to so much that is most objectionable, and which lowers them and the noble science of change-ringing in the estimation of the general public, and which we know is most deeply lamented by many of the best and most respectable ringers in their neighbourhood, and others far and wide? As Yorkshiremen, they cannot require money to induce them to maintain their position as the champions of the north, if not of all England. Twenty-three pounds wasted in prizes! Let ringers learn not to play into the hands of the publicans with the goods of the Church set up for holier uses, and then, they may depend upon it, they will rise the more rapidly in the social scale, and hold thus a higher position in society, to which it is our earnest desire and endeavour to raise them.

Change-ringing at Wigston, Leicestershire.

THROUGH the invitation of T. Ingram, Esq., churchwarden, who has recently given a new treble bell, the Stony Stanton and Sapcote ringers paid a visit on Whit Monday and rang two peals of Bob Minor and one of Treble Bob Minor (Oxford variation). The ringers were:—T. Holmes, treble; T. Lane, 2nd; R. Bishop, 3rd; H. Briggs, 4th; J. Noble, 5th; C. Lane, tenor. Conducted by C. Lane.—Reported.

Muffled Peal at St. Margaret's, Westminster.

ON Saturday evening, the 22nd ult. a muffled peal was rung at the above church, as a mark of respect to the late Mr. Henry Barret, for many years one of the parish ringers.—Reported.

1875 Grandsire Triples, as a Date Touch, were rung at York Minster on Tuesday evening, the 18th ult.

At New College, Oxford, on Monday, May 24th, three members of the Oxford University Society, with five members of the Oxford Society, rang 1875 Grandsire Triples, in 1 hr. 13 mins. Composed by Mr. John Cox of London; conducted by Mr. C. Hounslow.—Reported.

RECEIVED ALSO.—T. R. Matthews; K. B. Nothing inclosed in last from Moreton Hampstead but a note of announcement.

* Dr. Raven gives us the history of these celebrated chimes in his *Church Bells of Cambridgeshire*, p. 63. They were composed by Dr. Jowett, Regius Professor of Laws; he was assisted by Crotch, then a boy, who might have taken a movement in the fifth bar of the opening symphony by Haendel, 'I know that my Redeemer liveth.' When the chimes were first heard they were called 'Old Jowett's Hornpipe.'—Ed.