

SIR,—I should feel very much obliged to any of your readers who could give me information on the following points:—To whom does the chancel of a district church legally belong? Has the patron any rights in or control over it? Also, Can a clergyman legally refuse to take burials on a Sunday?

COUNTRY PARSON.

CAN anyone inform 'E. F.' who was the author of *The New Week's Preparation for the Lord's Supper*?

'R. A. S.' recommends to 'A Seaman's Chaplain' *The Christian Passover; or, Notes on the Holy Communion*, published by G. J. Palmer (price 3d.), as an instructive little book, and excellently adapted to the purpose for which he wants it.

'W. F. D. L.' (Instow).—Canon Norris's *Manuals of Religious Instruction* (Rivingtons), would, we should think, meet your want. One volume (3s. 6d.) is on the Prayer-book. It is also published in five parts (1s. each).

'CATHOLICUS.'—You should have quoted Bishop B. *verbatim*. We cannot insert your letter as it now stands.

'E. MANNERS SANDERSON.'—There are objections to the course you suggest, into which we cannot enter in our Correspondence columns.

'A. E. H.'—Poem, with thanks.

'F. P. W.'—We fear we cannot find space for your letter.

'A. H. II.'—We regret that we cannot make use of your thoughtful comment on a difficult passage.

'LUCY SINGLETON.'—We cannot find space for the petition.

RECEIVED ALSO.—Walter Greening; Dunelm; A. Z.; G. H.; John Napleton; Thos. Geo. Cree; Medlands Lethbridge; W. A. Wall.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

Genuine Compositions.

SIR.—The remarks by Mr. Jasper Snowdon, published in your last issue, must commend themselves to all lovers of fair play and genuineness in Composition. It is rather humiliating to find, that amongst members of the exercise there are to be found those who twist and disturb the compositions of some of the old authors, and then, with the most unblushing effrontery, attempt to palm them off as their own. Such proceedings, I do not hesitate to say, are nothing but acts of *piracy* upon the labour and research of others. Nor are the ancients the only ones whose productions have been maltreated in this manner. In the volume published by Mr. Sottanstill are to be found—I cannot say the exact number, not having his book at hand at the present moment—at any rate, several peals of Treble Bob Major, which are merely transpositions of Reeves' peal of 8448, and, therefore, as far as the authorship of Mr. Sottanstill is concerned, are counterfeit. I believe, also, that a peal of Mr. Haley's has been 'appropriated' in the same way—if, indeed, in this instance, a greater irregularity has not been committed—by the same gentleman. I don't think this is hardly 'Yorkshire.' The abilities of Mr. Sottanstill as a composer I am not going to call into question, but I can only wonder he did not display a similar exhibition of candour as did the authors of the *Clavis*, when they gave specimens how the composition of various peals, not their own, could be varied without affecting their harmony and truth, and without arrogating to themselves the credit of being the original authors.

I have reason to fear that some of the various peals rung from time to time in the provinces would not always, if brought to light, bear the strictest investigation. Could a close scrutiny be made of many so-called true compositions (I am speaking simply of composing) the result would, I think, be anything but satisfactory to their producers. I recollect once writing to a ringer for a copy of *something* which had been rung, and which was described in the paper as a very clever composition, but not all the persuasion I could use would induce him to send it to me. Probably he had had warning from some kind friend at hand that his ingenious, never-to-be-forgotten production, would not bear the light of day, and no doubt considering that discretion was the better part of valour, wisely determined, after his reply to my first letter, not to correspond with me any more on the subject.

And this brings me to notice, Sir, with your permission, the letter of Mr. Muskett in the same issue of your excellent paper. For the honour of the Yorkshiremen, if for that only, I hope they may have a satisfactory explanation to make to the charge; but all who know the respected Secretary of the Ancient Society of College Youths are unflinchingly convinced that he would not utter such a sweeping condemnation of any performance unless he had the strongest reasons for so doing. He is to be credited, in this instance, with a laudable desire to establish truth and expose error amongst that exercise of which he is so eminent a practitioner, and though, as I have just observed, my sympathies at present are with the performers at Earlsheaton, should they fail in making good their case scarcely any language will be too severe to be visited upon them for having foisted a spurious performance upon the ringing fraternity. Be this mystery solved as it may, it must ever be remembered that to Mr. Haley belongs the everlasting honour of having called the longest peal on record, while it is a noteworthy fact that the truth or quality of the ringing of the London peal has never been called into question, but, on the contrary, has always been spoken of in terms of universal and unqualified admiration.

VIGORNIENSIS.

Long Peals rung in April.

APRIL seems to be a month very prolific for the ringing of long peals. The first was by the Norwich Youths, who, on April 1st, 1727, rang 10,080 Oxford Treble, eight in; and on the 7th and 8th of April, 1761, the band at Leeds, in Kent, rang the full extent of Plain Bob on eight bells, in which the

renowned Jas. Barham took a prominent part. But on the 'never-to-be-forgotten' 27th of April many long peals have been achieved, and both Cumberland and College Youths may most justly celebrate the day, let the Earlsheaton peal be true or false. The following is from the *Camberwell and Peckham Times* of the 21st inst., being, perhaps, the only record of a remarkable, although an unfinished, performance:—

'April 27 (Friday).—The *Annual Register* for 1800 chronicles the extraordinary attempt made by eight members of the Society of Cumberland Youths, to ring 15,136 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Major, on Edmonston Church bells. It requires upwards of ten hours to perform the task, at 25 changes per minute. They had entered the ninth hour, when an unlucky accident befell Mr. George Goss, the composer of the peal. Making an attempt to slacken his knee-buckle his leg entangled in the coil of the rope, by which he was elevated to a considerable height, and thence falling down on his head he broke his collar-bone. Had it not been for this accident, no doubt the feat would have been accomplished, and the performers crowned with perpetual honour, as nothing to be compared with such an achievement of strength and skill can be found in the records of the campanologist's art.'

Twelve months ago, when the Cumberlands rang Mr. Harrison's peal, 8896 changes, with the tenors together, at St. Ann's Church, Highgate, little was it thought to be anniversary of such a serious but interesting event as the above extract describes.

HY. DAINS.

Camberwell, London.

Opening of the Ring of Eight Bells at Woburn, Beds.

Two additional bells having been added to the old ring of six by his Grace the Duke of Bedford, were opened on Monday, the 18th inst. The old bells have been rehung, the ringing-chamber painted, mottos in illuminated letters executed over the four window-arches, &c. Persevering efforts are being made to accomplish real ringing in Woburn. Change-ringing is not practised elsewhere in the county; and as the Woburn Society have taken the advance in this matter, the new bells were opened in a manner likely to encourage others to follow the practice. Leonard Proctor, Esq. of Bennington, with his clever band of ringers, rang during the day the following excellent touches:—504 Grandsire Triples; 924 Stedman's Triples; 570 Kent Treble Bob Major; 448 Superlative Surprise Major. The new work has been executed by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank of London.

Change-ringing by the Yorkshire Association.

ON Tuesday, April 10th, the Society rang at St. Matthew's, Holbeck, Leeds, 5040 changes of Bob Major in 3 hrs. 1 min. T. Harrison, 1; S. Basnett, 2; H. Moss, 3; J. Lockwood, 4; W. Whitaker, 5; T. Lockwood, 6; H. Hubbard, jun. 7; R. Binns, 8. The peal was composed by T. Lockwood and conducted by R. Binns. Tenor, 16 cwt.

ON Tuesday, April 17th, the Society rang at St. Matthew's, Holbeck, Leeds, 5056 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major in 2 hrs. 29 mins. T. Harrison, 1; S. Basnett, 2; T. Lockwood, 3; W. Whitaker, 4; W. Snowdon, Esq. 5; R. Binns, 6; H. Hubbard, jun. 7; J. W. Snowdon, Esq. 8. The peal—a one-part composition, with the fifth and sixth their full extent in 5-6—was composed by P. Cashmore and conducted by Jasper W. Snowdon. Tenor, 16 cwt.

ON Saturday, April 21st, the Society rang at St. Matthew's, Holbeck, Leeds, 5040 changes of Bob Major in 2 hrs. 55 mins. T. Harrison, 1; S. Basnett, 2; E. Snowdon, Esq. 3; R. Tuke, Esq. 4; H. Hubbard, jun. 5; W. Snowdon, Esq. 6; J. Winder, 7; J. W. Snowdon, Esq. 8. Tenor, 16 cwt. The peal was conducted by Mr. Jasper W. Snowdon, and was taken from the peal-book of the Society of Union Scholars, having been rung by that company on Dec. 9, 1748, when it was called by John Holt.

ON Saturday, April 14th, the Lindley Branch of the above Association rang a peal of 5024 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major with the 6th bell twelve times wrong and twelve times right in 5-6, also in one continued course, in 3 hrs. 10 mins. The ringers were:—E. Ellam, 1; J. Royston, 2; G. W. Schofield, 3; T. Haigh, 4; C. Craven, 5; F. Schofield, 6; T. F. Drake, 7; W. Brogden, 8. Tenor, 18½ cwt. Composed and conducted by T. Haigh.

Muffled Date Touch at Hulme, Lancashire.

ON Saturday, April 14th, a mixed band rang a muffled touch at St. Philip's Church, Hulme, containing 1877 changes of Grandsire Triples, in 1 hr. 3 mins., as a token of respect for the late Mr. Henry Royle (of the Society of College Youths, London). J. Hindle, treble; F. Barrow, 2nd; R. Yates, 3rd; E. Ettock, 4th; W. Barry, 5th; J. Asbury, 6th; John Withers, 7th; Joseph Withers, 8th. This musical touch—containing 15 6-4's, 15 7-4's, and 24 6-7's—was composed by Mr. J. Carter and conducted by J. Asbury. Weight, 13 cwt.—Contributed.

Ringling at West Malling, Kent.

ON Wednesday, April 18th, the East Malling Ringers met at St. Mary's, West Malling, and rang a peal of 720 Minor in 25 mins. The ringers were:—H. Bonner, 1; T. Pett, 2; J. White, 3; G. Waterman, 4; E. Bonner, 5; H. Williams, 6th.

Ringer's Funeral.

THE remains of the late Isaac Illingworth were interred in Bradford parish churchyard on Tuesday afternoon last. He had been a ringer at the parish church over fifty years. The parish church bells were muffled on Sunday, and on the day of the funeral ringers met from various parts and rang muffled peals. It may be interesting to mention that the last peal rung by Mr. Illingworth was at Guiselev, on August 23rd, 1863, when the following veteran company rang a peal of 5088 changes in 3 hrs. 4 mins.:—J. Hanson, aged 78, 1; J. Kendall, 73, 2; C. Iles, 74, 3; W. Senior, 68, 4; H. Hubbard, 64, who conducted the peal, 5; T. Dawson, 62, 6; Isaac Illingworth, 68, 7; and W. Dumbleton, 66.

RECEIVED ALSO.—D. W. Barrett; R. Cleasby; G. W. Cole: you and yours are the best judges, or consult the founders.