

which has been the custom in case of poor people. Verily, the conclusion of 1 Sam. ii. 17 is not too strong in deprecation of such a state of things.

I have from time to time during the last eight years endeavoured to work a reformation in this, but without success. Perhaps you will allow me to put before your readers a letter which I addressed to my dear old rector in April 1871. He appreciates the objections which I have raised, but does not quite see his way to the abolition of 'vested interests,' which, he thinks, would be to some extent involved.

A LONDON LAYMAN.

[COPY.]

'MY DEAR MR. —,

'I am sure you will allow me to say a word upon a parochial matter referred to in your pastoral. I am glad to see that you wish to restore to its proper condition, as an "offering," that which has been fixed and paid as a "fee for churchings." As a parishioner, however, I cannot acquiesce in any remission of the fee in case of poverty. It seems to me very wrong to "pauperise" anyone by the remission of that which can have no legal claim. It is wrong to deprive anyone of the power of making a "freewill offering" by the fixing of a fee which is in itself an illegality.

'The "customary" offering is the offering made after the accustomed manner; it is not the fixity of the amount. And there ought to be some facilities for making the offering to the minister, for it is an offering to God through him. I know of instances of the fee taking place of larger offerings on this account, whilst I believe that in other instances it has stood in the way of the Church's rule.

'I am aware that, as regards the amount received, it is your own concern alone, even though you may apply the whole to some charitable purpose, and not to the emoluments of your office as parish priest or rector. But for the sake of others it is one of the many matters which ought to be put on a proper footing.

Yours very sincerely,

SIR,—Will any brother-student, who either has passed, or is preparing, for the Cambridge Preliminary Examination for Holy Orders, kindly suggest as to the best books for securing a pass in the subjects, particularly in the criticism and introduction of the Old and New Testament? PERPLEXED.

SIR,—Can any of your correspondents tell me of a cheap but effective set of prints illustrating our Lord's Miracles? I want something that would add to the interest of a Sunday-school course on that subject. J. L. L. F.

THE MISSIONS TO SEAMEN, 11 Buckingham Street, Strand, London, W.C., begs to acknowledge in *Church Bells*, as desired, the receipt of a gift of books from 'Memo,' Hastings.

'T. CLARK.'—The *Te Deum* was received. We do not remember the letter.

'C. L. E.'—If possible, we will try to find room for extracts from your paper.

RECEIVED ALSO.—An Old Churchman; A Sunday-school Teacher; One of Mrs. Senior's Assistants; H.; P. M. Dunn; C. L. E.; A Yearly Purchaser; A Country Rector; T. H. V.; A High Churchman; C. Poynder; Vicar; L. J. Bennett; and others.

[Our correspondents have been very active during the last week, and we have been obliged to defer some of their letters till next week, or later. Among the subjects on which they have written are the *Te Deum*, *Monotoned Services*, *The Daily Express*, *Pauper Children*, *Tracts*.—ED.]

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

To all whom it may concern.

SIR,—Those of your readers who take special interest in bells, belfries, and bell-ringers—and I am of opinion that their number is not few, judging from what, as a matter of engagement, I am compelled to see daily, in correspondence—will be glad to find that a move is being made to devote a larger space to such matters in your valuable paper. I have seen your paper from its beginning, and I have also seen the extended interest in bells, from peers to villagers, with the greater care of the clergy, since your paper was started. It is true, no doubt, that many look upon bell-ringing as a noisy clatter, and bell records as rubbish. This has been the case for years. It is, and must be, a matter of time to get this put in order. As it is now it is a matter of taste, and we may say with Phœdrus, '*Quale caput est talis sapor præstatum*.' I think that I may say that we who love bells are obliged to you for the extension of our corner this week, and which, if continued, will prevent the communications being cut down and left out, as well as the idea of a rival paper being started, which is talked of. To those who think that our corner is too good for us we might answer,—

'Church bells give grateful sounds, adoring God
For hourly blessings which His hand supplies;
Sending their cheerful peals of praise abroad,
Which gladden earth as up to heaven they rise.
Within His temple let no voice be dumb,
Nor muffled in its tone by sordid care:
The sweetest notes from saddest hearts may come;
Our thankfulness will save us from despair.'

Crescent, Cripplegate.

S. B. GOSLIN.

The Bishop of Sodor and Man at Liverpool.

SIR,—On Monday evening, the 29th ult., St. Luke's Church, Berry Street, in this town, was well filled with a congregation who, no doubt, were anxious both to see and hear the new Bishop of Sodor and Man, who (as had been previously announced) would preach a sermon in aid of the Liverpool Church of England Sunday-school Institute.

The above-named is one of the few churches in this town possessed of a ring of bells, and I naturally thought that they would certainly be brought into 'active service' on that occasion; not only as a means of making known to the public that something special was to have taken place within the walls of the sacred edifice that evening, but also as a means of conveying to his

Lordship those feelings of love and welcome which ought to have, and, I trust, did exist. Yet, strange to say, such was not the case (so far as the bells were concerned), not even the sound of *one* bell being heard, much less the whole ring. But what seems still more strange is, that on the following night the bells were ringing for nearly two hours—a matter which I think ought to be fully explained.

I thought, judging from the name of your paper, that it would be the best one I could address on the subject, thinking that very likely some of the bell-ringers, or other members of the congregation, might be subscribers to the same; therefore, hoping that such is the case, and that some satisfactory explanation may be forthcoming, I think it more prudent (*pro tem.* at all events) to reserve any further remarks, although as matters stand at present they are anything but satisfactory to

A LOYAL CHURCHMAN.

Belfries Scandalised by the Gross Conduct of Ringers.

A SUSSEX Rector complains that the ringers who ring the bells for Sunday services walk off from the belfry and do not join in the service, as he requires them to do. In reply, we advise the Rector to inhibit the ringing of the bells by any such characters who are guilty of such a scandal, and are a disgrace to themselves. They cannot be a respectable lot, and the sooner they are removed the better. The Rector has the power in his own hands, in the exercise of which, no doubt, he would be supported by the churchwardens.—ED.

Muffled Peal at Trowbridge, Wiltshire.

A MUFFLED peal was rung on the bells of the Parish Church, Trowbridge, on the evening of the 1st inst., containing 840 changes of Grandsire Triples, by the following members, under the direction of Mr. U. Woodman:—W. Alley, 1; D. Doel, 2; S. Webb, 3; W. Lane, 4; W. McCaffrey, 5; S. Crook, 6; J. Cooper, 7; A. Palmer, 8. Bob-caller, W. Alley. The peal was rung after the funeral of Mr. William Henry Tucker, who had long been connected with the cloth trade of the town, and had taken a great interest in the restoration of the parish church.

Muffled Peal at St. John's, South Hackney, Middlesex.

ON Tuesday, 6th inst., eight members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang a muffled peal as a mark of esteem for their much-lamented friend, Frank Francis, a member of the above Society. F. Hesse, 1; G. Clark, 2; J. Sumpter, 3; J. Carmichael, 4; T. Page, 5; R. Turner, 6; E. Turner, 7; C. Lee, 8. Conducted by Mr. Charles Lee.

Ringling at Redenhall, Norfolk.

ON Tuesday, 6th inst., eight members of the Redenhall Society, being also members of the Royal Cumberland Society of London and of the Norwich Diocesan Association of Change-ringers, rang 5152 changes of Superlative Surprise at St. Mary's Church, Redenhall, in 3 hrs. 27 mins. The peal, composed by Mr. John Cox, was conducted by Mr. Benjamin Smith, and rung by the following:—B. Smith, 1; G. Prince, 2; Rev. N. Bolingbroke, 3; R. Whiting, 4; E. Smith, 5; G. Holms, Esq., 6; J. Smith, 7; Captain Moon, 8. Tenor, 24 cwt. in E flat.

ON Saturday, 10th inst., a second eight of the above Society rang 5120 changes of Oxford Treble Bob at the above church, in 3 hrs. 29 mins. The peal was composed by the late Mr. J. Miller, and conducted by Mr. Edward Smith, and rung by the following:—E. Smith, 1; W. Mathews (aged 18), 2; G. Prince, 3; J. Tann (aged 19), 4; F. Mathews (aged 16), 5; R. Whiting, 6; G. Mobbs, 7; J. Smith, 8.

Bell-ringing and Longevity.

ON the Prince of Wales's birthday (Friday, 9th inst.) a peal was rung on the largest eight of the ten bells of Great Yarmouth Church. The second bell of this peal (8 cwt.) was rung throughout the day, at due intervals, by Thomas Gooch, who is in the eighty-third year of his age.

Ancient Society of College Youths.—Established 1637.

ON Saturday, 10th inst., ten members of the above Society rang a true peal of Stedman's Caters, consisting of 5001 changes, in 3 hrs. 30 mins., at St. James's, Bermondsey. It was composed and conducted by Mr. H. W. Haley, and rung by the following:—H. W. Haley, 1; W. Cooter, 2; J. Pettit, 3; R. French, 4; R. Jameson, 5; F. Bate, 6; R. Haworth, 7; G. Muskett, 8; H. Booth, 9; T. Bugby, 10. The above peal was rung with the bells muffled, as a mark of respect to the late Mr. Samuel Austin, who had been a member of the College Youths and other Societies for upwards of fifty years. He held the post of Steeple-keeper at St. James's, Bermondsey, for forty-six years. His qualifications as a ringer and composer were rather above the ordinary standard: he has several times transmitted to paper, *in extenso*, the peal of Grandsire Triples and the 8448 Treble Eight.

Change-ringing at St. Bartholomew's Church, Westhoughton, Lancashire.

ON Saturday, 10th inst., the ringers of the above church, assisted by Mr. John Houghton, of Leigh, rang Mr. John Holt's ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples, consisting of 5040 changes, in 2 hrs. 50 mins. The ringers were—G. Grundy, 1; W. Brown, 2; J. Woodward, 3; J. Houghton, 4; J. Vickers, 5; A. Hodgkinson, 6; J. Whittingham, 7; H. Hodgkinson (first peal), 8. Tenor, 13 cwt. 1 qr. 14 lbs. Conducted by Mr. G. Grundy.

Huntsham, Devonshire.

ON Sunday, 11th inst., at the usual ringing after evening service, the following members of the Huntsham Change-ringing Society succeeded, at the first attempt, in striking a true and complete peal of 720 Grandsire Minor, without any calls or indication of the calling being made, viz.:—W. Heard, 1; H. Payne, 2; W. Chave, 3; J. Chave, 4; H. Tucker, 5; C. A. W. Troyte, Esq., 6.

RECEIVED ALSO.—Waltham Abbey, and others.