

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sponsorial System.

SIR,—I am thankful to see this matter is again attracting attention. Would to God that those in authority may see the great importance of taking measures to meet our difficulties, as they must be removed before the Church can thoroughly do all that Christ empowered her to do.

I have laboured for years to raise the Sponsorial system in the estimation of my parishioners, but it is plainly impossible that the theory of the Church can be practically carried out.

To do so would require every communicant to become a sponsor three or four times a-year, and in some parishes ten times yearly. But this is to make the whole proceeding anything except what it ought to be. It seems to me that any professedly Christian parent has a right to present his or her child for baptism; and that, so presented, the Church has no authority to refuse to baptize it. And further, that any Christian person, who has any sort of interest in a child (not illegal, or implying anything surreptitious), can present that child for baptism in the name of Christ, and promising to see that it is henceforth brought up as a Christian.

It will be a grand day for England when the present impossible Sponsorial Office is adapted to what is practicable, and when the Baptismal Service is very greatly shortened, so that baptisms may take place during public services.

G. V.

Seamen in the Port of London.

SIR,—In your number of *Church Bells* for Dec. 22nd, you mention 'the Clergy of the Archdeaconry of London met at Sion College this week, to consider the subject of the Missions to London Seamen.' Will you allow me to say what is done in a small, but very efficient way, by the 'Missions to Seamen' in the Port of London? The Rev. D. Gratorex, of St. Paul's, Dock Street, London, has under his care two of the most able and experienced readers of the Society, who are engaged every day in visiting the docks and canals, and lodging-houses frequented by sailors, and are successful in bringing to his church thousands of seamen during the year; and when there, they sit amongst them and find the places in the Prayer-books for them, and thus make them at home where otherwise they would be strange.

One of the readers also prepares the boxes for the ship's libraries, and sees the captain of each ship on which a library is put on board.

We find in all our ports, where we have either regular chaplains or honorary chaplains, these readers, many of whom, have been sailors themselves, and who, by God's grace, are truly Christian men, have a great influence over their fellow-seamen, and assist our chaplains and honorary chaplains very much in gathering them to their churches. This is the case at Cardiff, Swansea, Yarmouth, Hull, Whitby, and on the Tyne Mission-ships. The clergyman and reader thus working hand-in-hand together for the sailor's good.

R. B. BOYER, *Superintendent of Missions to Seamen.*

Holt Middle-Class School for Girls.

SIR,—I am very glad that the Chaplain to Holt School has set me right in one or two particulars concerning this excellent Institution. I see that he and I mean the same thing as to numbers. It is certain that the best number of scholars in a school is that which may fairly secure good teachers; and also form a 'world in miniature,' in which the social intercourse of the scholars shall help to fit them for the duties of after life. A school which secures these two points is large enough; and when these are secured, it is obviously better to begin a second school elsewhere, rather than enlarge No. 1. Localities are better served, the disaster in case of closing a school on account of outbreak of sickness is diminished, and the sickness is less likely to occur; and each district may hope to secure the interest of the ladies of the neighbourhood. May Holt School become the pattern of not a few similar institutions.

G. V.

South Wimbledon School of Church Embroidery.

SIR,—Will you allow me to inform those numerous ladies who have applied to me for work in consequence of my former letter, that, grieved as I am to refuse them, I have not sufficient orders to keep employed my workers in this parish. It seems hard indeed that gentlewomen, who, as they say, are prevented by straitened circumstances from offering gratuitously their time and money to God's service, should be denied even the happiness of doing work for His sanctuary as their means of livelihood; and we, who have been admitted behind the scenes in foreign workshops, have seen much of the employment for which they crave entrusted to the hands of persons of the other sex, and in communion with the Roman Church.

To prevent further disappointment, I will make known immediately the earliest chance of increasing our sphere of work, which depends not on me, but on Church people at large.

L. J. BENNETT.

SIR,—Allow me respectfully to request any subscriber to your most valuable paper, not caring to keep it, to forward it to the Rev. G. J. Woodward (an isolated missionary in the north of Madagascar), care of C. E. Bewsher, Esq., Oriental Bank, Port Louis, Mauritius. Any other papers, religious or secular, would, I feel sure, be very acceptable to him.

K. L.

SIR,—Allow me to acknowledge in your columns, with many thanks, the receipt of *Church Bells* from July 14th, sent by W. J. C., and also of some odd numbers from unknown donors.

HENRY LAURANCE.

Geraldton Parsonage.

SIR,—Please convey my best thanks to the kind lady who has now for some time sent me your valuable paper. It has reached me regularly. My good wishes for her welfare.

THOS. COOK.

Westbourne, White Mud River, Dec. 10, 1877.

Hoxton Home for Little Maids.

Mrs. POLE CAREW begs to acknowledge the receipt of twelve stamps from 'H. G.' for the Hoxton Home for Little Maids.
Antony, Torpoint, Devonport.

'MARY' would be glad of the addresses of Refuges (such as Dr. Barnardo's) conducted by Church people, where the extremely destitute are received, and in which clothes would be acceptable.

CHURCHMAN.—We would rather not give an opinion, which might be wrong from insufficient knowledge of the circumstances, and which could not possibly do good.

J. F. MORTON, JUN.—The Hon. Secretary of the Operative Jewish Converts' Institution is Mr. William W. Willson, Palestine Place, Cambridge Heath, London.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

A Manchester Ringer's Letter.

WE owe an apology to our readers for the insertion in our columns, on the 22nd ult., of a vulgar and offensive letter from a Manchester ringer. It was by an untoward accident in our establishment that it appeared in our columns instead of in our *file*, for which it was destined, and into which it ought to have been thrown.

A Ring of Bells for St. Paul's.

IT so happens that our present St. Paul's Cathedral is wanting in the special feature which, according to trustworthy testimony, its predecessors possessed, and which the majority of its contemporaries now possess—a ring of bells. There can be no question but its eminent architect and those who approved his plan were under the impression that such a ring would be speedily forthcoming for the sister tower to that in which the great clock is set, for it is specially prepared for the reception of bells of the largest dimensions. On all festival occasions in the City the want of a ring of bells in St. Paul's has been sorely felt—as, for instance, on the visit of our own Sovereign, or of foreign potentates, to our capital, or on the occasion of the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs attending Divine service in the Cathedral. But never in immediately modern times was the want so nakedly apparent as on the memorable day when the Queen and all the Royal family went to St. Paul's to return thanks for the recovery of the Prince of Wales from a terrible illness. On that occasion, of almost all the sacred edifices in London, St. Paul's was the only one which could not peal forth a strain of rejoicing from its towers. It had one great bell, to be sure, but it was in thanksgiving of its silence that prayers were being offered that day to Heaven by the united heart of the nation. From that time the matter has persistently occupied the attention of those immediately interested in the fortunes of the stately structure, and it came to be regarded as a scandal that the great representative Cathedral of England should be wanting in that of which the remotest part of these islands could boast. The movement set on foot after Thanksgiving Day culminated in a meeting at the Mansion House during the mayoralty of Mr. Alderman Stone, and a committee, of which the Rev. R. Catley, who was so successful in procuring a ring of bells for Worcester Cathedral, and Sir Edmund Beckett, were members, was formed, who, with the advice of Mr. Penrose, the cathedral surveyor, and Dr. Stainer, the cathedral organist, were authorised to take necessary steps towards providing St. Paul's with that of which it has so long and inexplicably stood in want. Dr. Stainer was instructed to visit the cathedral towns of Belgium and other Continental countries, which he did, but found that the system of bells there was not adapted to change-ringing; and he came to the conclusion, in which his committee concurred, that, St. Paul's being a representative English church, it ought to be furnished with a set of English bells. On the Continent the bell is seldom swung, but being hung up by the end is struck with a hammer, and the English custom of swinging the bell so as to be struck by a tongue suspended inside is regarded as simply barbarous. But it must be clear to anyone who takes the trouble to consider the matter for a moment that there must be more volume of sound in the swinging bell than in that which is stationary; besides which it is so much better adapted to change-ringing, which is altogether an English invention. It was therefore decided that the bells for St. Paul's Cathedral should be English in fashion and manufacture. But the most important question to be decided was where the cost was to come from. Here the governing Companies of the City of London came to the front, and at once solved the difficulty by each defraying the cost of a bell or a set of bells, at a total of about 5000*l.*, each bell to bear the arms and motto of the Company by which it is presented. The first and second bells are given by the Drapers' Company, impressed with the triple crown and the motto, 'Unto God only be honour and glory;' the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth bells by the Baroness Burdett-Coutts and the Turners' Company, of which she is a member, with the Turners' motto, surmounted by a coronet, under which the words, 'By faith I abtaigne;' the seventh bell by the Salters' Company, arms three saltcellars, motto 'Sal sapit omnia;' eighth, the Merchant Taylors' Company, motto 'Concordia parvæ res crescit;' ninth, Fishmongers' Company, 'All worship to God only;' tenth, Clothworkers' Company, 'My trust is in God alone;' eleventh, the Grocers', with its appropriate arms of doves, and motto, 'God grant grace;' the twelfth, and most important, the tenor bell, which weighs 60 cwt., the gift of the Corporation, bearing the City arms and its time-honoured motto, 'Domine dirige nos.' The weight of the whole ring will be eleven tons. On each bell as well will be impressed the arms of the Dean and Chapter, surmounted by the letter 'D,' each and every impression being enclosed in a shield-like framing, the design of the cathedral architect, Mr. F. C. Penrose, under whose direction also has been constructed the cage in which the bells will be enclosed. It would be well that the public

should here learn that the construction of this cage alone will require an outlay of 1000*l.*: and that that amount is not yet in hand. This cage is of necessity skillfully prepared, for otherwise there will be a danger of injuring the stability of the masonry. It will be supported by diagonals made of the finest oak, and the flooring has had to be rearranged for the accommodation of the ringers. The bells, which are being cast at the foundry of Messrs. Taylor of Loughborough, the makers of the bells at the Manchester Town Hall, supposed to be the purest of tone in England, are expected to be finished in about six months. At last we are led confidently to hope that a new and splendid ring at St. Paul's will ring out the year upon the threshold of which we stand, and ring in its young successor.—*Standard.*

Rehanging the Bells at St. Martin's, Dorking, Surrey.

The fine ring of bells belonging to the parish church of Dorking have lately been hung in the new tower by Messrs. Hooper and Stokes of Woodbury, near Exeter. We understand that the bells were rung for the first time on Friday, 21st ult., and that they were found to 'go' remarkably well. The tenor weighs about 25 cwt. The following is a copy of the inscriptions on the bells:—

- (1.) THOMAS MEARS OF LONDON FOUNDER 1837.
WM. SNAPE FULLER } CHURCH WARDENS.
JOHN RUDGE }
- (2.) GUILIELMVS FENWICKE ARMIG: ME DEDIT R: PHELPS FECIT 1709
- (3.) M: MARGARET FENWICKE BENEFACTOR R. PHELPS MADE ME 1709
- (4.) JOHN HOLLIER JOHN PINNEY BENEFACTORS RICHARD PHELPS MADE ME 1709
- (5.) JOHN WILNER MADE ME 1626
- (6.) THOMAS MEARS FOUNDER LONDON
JAMES JOYCE VICAR
JAMES DEWONEY } CHURCHWARDENS 1842
JOHN BARTLETT }
- (7.) T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1827.
REV. P. GEO. FEACHEM M.A. VICAR.
JOHN MARSHALL } CHURCH WARDENS A.D. 1827
JAMES WHITE }
- (8.) THE REV. P. M. PHILLIP WALTER VICAR EDWARD ANSELL, RICHARD ROSE CHURCH WARDENS ROBERT CATLIN, FECIT 1746

Royal Cumberland Society (late London Scholars).

SIR,—No doubt most of your readers are anxious to learn the result of the long peal of Grandsire Caters attempted at All Saints, Fulham, on Boxing Day, 26th ult. The bells struck off into changes at twenty-five minutes past twelve. Some excellent ringing was heard by ringers from all parts till eight o'clock, when our conductor called 'Stand!' Two bells having changed courses two leads previous, the number of changes rung was 11,412. The time was 7 hrs. 35 mins. The ringers were J. W. Cattle, 1; G. Newson, 2; C. T. Hopkins, 3; W. Coppage, 4; H. Swain, 5; J. W. Mansfield, 6; G. Harvey, 7; H. Hopkins, 8; W. Baron, 9; J. Barrett, 10. Conducted by Mr. J. W. Cattle. After the ringing the ringers adjourned to the Vicarage, where a good tea was provided for them by the Vicar (the Rev. F. Fisher), and after thanking that gentleman for his kindness they departed for their different homes.
H. HOPKINS, Hon. Sec.

Ancient Society of College Youths. Established 1637.

On Saturday, 8th ult., ten members of the above Society rang a true peal of Kent Treble Bob Royal at St. Dionis Backchurch, Fenchurch Street, London, consisting of 5200 changes, the full extent of nine courses, in 3 hrs. 30 mins. It was composed and called by Mr. H. W. Haley, and rung by the following:—H. W. Haley, 1; W. Cooter, 2; M. A. Wood, 3; G. Ferris, 4; H. Haley, jun., 5; S. Reeves, 6; G. Muskett, 7; J. Pettit, 8; F. Bate, 9; H. Booth, 10. This is the last peal that will be heard from the above tower, as both church and tower are to be taken down in the course of the year.

Opening of Bells at Mileham, Norfolk.

On Tuesday, 18th ult., special services were held in the church of the above village, at 8 and 11 a.m. and at 7 p.m. to celebrate the opening of a new ring of bells. The old bells, four in number (tenor cracked), had been taken down and disposed of, wisely or unwisely (the two trebles were cast by Draper, in 1610 and 1608), and had been replaced by a new ring of five (tenor, 7½ cwt.) from Messrs. Warner's foundry. A new floor and cage had been made for them by Messrs. Crane and Son of Fransham, and on the day of the opening they went well. Ringers from Norwich, East Dereham, and the neighbouring villages, were present, and rang many peals of Old Doubles, Grandsire, and Stedman's Doubles. At 3 o'clock a dinner was kindly provided for the ringers. This was presided over by the Rev. C. M. Cartwright, Curate-in-charge, supported by the churchwardens and other friends. After the usual toasts had been duly honoured, the objects of the Diocesan Association of Ringers were set forth by the Secretary, and several ringers desired to be admitted as members.

Muffled Peals at Greenwich.

On Friday evening, 21st ult., eight members of the Society of Eastern Scholars rang at St. Alphege, Greenwich, a muffled peal to the memory of Mr. T. Frasher, for many years a member of the Society, who died at the age of sixty-nine years. Also to the memory of Mr. W. Andrews, for many years a ringer at St. Nicholas, Deptford, and also a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths. He was one of the first band of eight who rang Mr. Thurston's peal of Stedman's Triples with the half-way single. He died at the age of seventy years. The ringers were H. J. Shade, 1; W. G. Shade, 2; W. Foreman, 3; J. Cronk, 4; R. Shade, 5; I. G. Shade, 6; J. Foreman, 7; G. Thatcher, 8. Conducted by Mr. J. Foreman.

Change-ringing by the Yorkshire Association.

On Saturday, 22nd ult., at St. Chad's, Headingley, Leeds, 5056 of Kent Treble Bob Major, in 3 hrs. 8 mins. Although these bells have for some time been augmented to eight, they have never before been in such condition as to be fit for peal-ringing, this being the first peal ever attempted on the bells. T. Lockwood, 1; R. Tuke, Esq., 2; J. Lockwood, 3; J. Whitaker, 4; W. Snowdon, Esq., 5; G. Barradough, 6; J. W. Snowdon, Esq., 7; J. Winder, 8. The peal was the 'reverse' of one in two parts composed by H. Dains of London, having the sixth the extent each way in 5-6 and four course-ends home in each part, being the least number of changes in which these properties have been obtained. It was conducted by Jasper W. Snowdon. Tenor, 19 cwt.

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

On Saturday, 22nd ult., the following ringers rang at the above church Mr. John Holt's ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples, consisting of 5040 changes, in 2 hrs. 50 mins. G. Grundy (conductor), 1; W. Brown, 2; J. Smith, 3; J. Houghton, 4; J. Vickers, 5; T. Smith, 6; J. Whittingham, 7; E. Arrowsmith, 8.

Change-ringing at Daresbury, Cheshire.

On Christmas morning the Daresbury members of the newly-formed Warrington District Association of Change-ringers met at their parish church, and rang in succession four peals of 720 changes each in the following methods, viz. College Single, Oxford Treble Bob, Plain Bob, and Kent Treble Bob, in 1 hr. 52 mins. The ringers were T. Houghton, sen., 1; P. Johnson, 2; T. Ellison, 3; P. Hamblett, 4; J. Ellison, 5; T. Houghton, jun., 6. Tenor, 12 cwt. Key of G. This is the first time that four peals have been rung together in different methods at Daresbury.

Ringling at Roystone, Yorkshire.

On the 30th ult., the Roystone Ringers, assisted by James Haigh of Woodlesford, rang 1877 changes in 1 hr. 9 mins. in the three flowers: viz. Violet, Tulip, and Primrose. The following were the performers:—S. Cutt, 1; G. Wroe, 2; J. Haigh, 3; J. Haigh, 4; G. Cutt, 5; J. Cutt, 6. With the exception of G. Wroe, who is a native of Roystone, and late Serjeant-Major in the 16th Lancers, the above band are all members of one family. Conducted by J. Haigh.

BELFRY RECORDS.

ST. ANN'S CHURCH, WATH-UPON-DEAN.

(Tablets in the Belfry.)

978. On Shrove Tuesday, Feby. 27th, 1816, was rung the Following 21 Peals viz. :— Evening Delight, Evening Star, Cheapside, Cambridge, Symphony, Bob Royal, Morning Exercise, Morning Star, Morning Pleasure, Primrose, Tulip, Colledge Treble, Colledge Pleasure, London Scholars, Oxford Treble, St. Ann's Delight, Navigation Bob, Vilot, Duke of York, City Delight, and Rodney's Victory; making in all 15,120 Changes, which were brought Round in a grand and Masterly Style in Eight Hours and twenty Seven Minutes without a man quitting is Rope. The whole was performed by the Following Persons, viz. :—
Christ: Taylor, Treble. Joseph Myers, Third. Matthew Blackburn, Fifth.
Joseph Blackburn, Second. Edw. Myers, Fourth. William Blackburn, Tenor.
The whole was conducted by William Blackburn.

SS. MARY AND EANSWYTHE, FOLKESTONE, KENT.

(Tablets in the Belfry.)

979. On Sunday, Dec. 17th, 1815, was rung in this tower, a true and complete peal of 5040 Bob Major, in 3 hrs. 5 mins., being the maiden peal on these bells, and rung by :—
W. Keeler, Treble. W. Greenstead, Fourth. C. Pemble, Sixth.
H. Down, Second. G. Francis, Fifth. J. Aruold, Seventh.
W. Stokes, Third. A. Newman, Tenor.
980. On the 17th Dec. 1816, was rung in this steeple, a complete peal of 5040 changes of Bob Triples in 2 hrs. 5 mins., with 90 Bobs & 2 Singles, by the undermentioned :—
R. Stevenson, Treble. J. Page, Third. D. Baker, Fifth. A. Newman, Seventh.
J. Tart, Second. B. Jones, Fourth. E. Wiles, Sixth. J. Hogben, Tenor.
Conducted by Anthony Newman.
981. Also Jan. 27th, 1818, was rung a complete peal of 6000 changes of Bob Major in 3 hrs. 42 mins., by the undermentioned :—
R. Stevenson, Treble. J. Page, Third. J. Tart, Fifth. D. Baker, Seventh.
W. Grifbrook, Second. B. Jones, Fourth. E. Wiles, Sixth. A. Newman, Tenor.
Conducted by Anthony Newman.
982. Also Nov. 21st, 1836, was rung a complete peal of 5040 changes of Bob Triples in 2 hrs. 54 mins., with 90 Bobs and 2 Singles, by the undermentioned :—
E. Wiles, jun. Treble. A. Newman, Fourth. H. Newman, Sixth.
J. Harris, Second. T. Cook, Fifth. J. Harrison, Seventh.
R. Hills, Third. Conducted by James Harrison.
983. On Saturday, Dec. 20, 1845, was rung in this tower a true and complete peal of 6720 Bob Major changes, with the 6th twelve courses right and wrong. The peal was conducted by Mr. John Friend of Hythe, and accomplished in 4 hrs. 18 mins.
C. Fowler, Treble. J. Harrison, Third. J. Chaple, Fifth. E. Hyder, Seventh.
H. Down, Second. J. Stokes, Fourth. J. Friend, Sixth. T. Post, Tenor.
984. On Saturday, Feb. 18th, 1860, was rung in this tower Mr. Holt's ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples, containing 5040 changes. The peal was conducted by Mr. John Friend, sen. of Hythe, and accomplished in 3 hrs. 7 mins., being the first peal in the method on these bells. The Performers Were :—
H. Down, Treble. E. Ruck, Fourth. A. Robus, Sixth.
J. Friend, sen. Second. J. Laker, Fifth. J. Harrison, Seventh.
J. Friend, jun. Third. T. Miller, Tenor.

KELSALE, SUFFOLK. (Tablets in the Belfry.)

ENSAMPLE.

985. On the 2nd of April, 1892, was completed on the pre-eminent Peal of Eight Bells at Kelsale, 6016 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Major in 3 hours and 52 minutes, being the first and only extraordinary Changes ever completed here on this Peal. They were performed by the Kelsale Society of Youths, who had experienced only eight months' practice under the meritorious instruction of Benjamin Oldring. The following are the names of them that rung the above changes :—
Henry Drew, Treble. Francis Samson, Fourth. William Goddard, Sixth.
Henry Edward Dale, Second. William Harsant, Fifth. John Packard, Seventh.
George Oldring, Third. The Peal was conducted by Henry Drew.